



Minutes for DCRA Quarterly meeting on 3rd June 2019

Agenda

- Apologies
- Chairman's Report
- Secretaries report
- Treasures Report
- Membership report
- Trips and activities report
- Walking group report
- AOB

Chairman's Report

17 people attended the meeting

Apologies from Mike Dams, Dave Townsend, Graham Pugh, Steve Kraus, Mary Currie, Brenda Dowdell, Rob Wardle, Ruth Beasley.

Also present were Anne and Katherine from the Air Ambulance Wales.

Bereavements

Sadly, we report the passing of Ron Cole, Magarita Tsekouras (wife of Vas), Brian Doran and Gaynor Rouse (wife of Bob).

Secretaries Report

The minutes from last month were reviewed and there were no matters arising.

Treasurers Report

Margaret went through the financial report and a copy is attached.

Membership Report

We now have 291 members, 7 new this year and 10 didn't reply to reminder. The membership is dropping but we do have new members coming in.

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Walking group Report

Stuart went through the walking group report (full report attached).

Trips and Activities Report

Nothing to report this quarter, more to follow.

AOB

We had a wonderful talk by air ambulance Wales given by Katherine and Anne. They described the work they do and a brief history of the service which has helicopters across wales including on in Cardiff, the children's wales air ambulance. The welsh service is considered a platinum level service and the model used here is being copied across the world. There are 4 locations in wales that have helicopters, Swansea, Caernarfon, Welshpool and Cardiff with state-of-the-art equipment in each. The helicopters are a medical emergency service taking A&E to the patients rather than just flying them to A&E. The Cardiff Childrens Welsh ambulance is a planned service specifically for the transfer of children and has a state-of-the-art incubator for small babies. With the 3 emergency helicopters it means that they can be flown to emergencies within 20 minutes anywhere in Wales. It cost £5.5million to buy and equip a helicopter so the service leases the helicopters. There is a pilot, critical care practitioner and a consultant on all flights. The cost of running the service is £6.5million per year, £125,000 per week or £18,000 per day. This means they rely on fundraising for the service to continue. There are WWA shops around wales and one in Churchill way Cardiff opening soon. They will send a van to collect items and will accept electrical items too. They run a life saving lottery and attend shows such as the royal Welsh and at present have 650 volunteers. For more information go to

<https://www.walesairambulance.com/>

Tuesday 30th July - Exploring Cadoxton Ponds 10.30 until 2.00pm (can come for part or all the session), bring your own drinks and lunch

All meetings to be at the Nature Centre near the South Gate at Dow.

AGM Sept 2nd, 2019 at 2pm at the Nature Centre

Talk by the Blood Bikes and the work they do.

Dec 2nd, 2019 at 2pm at the Nature Centre

Talk by Richard Taylor on brewing beer, from grain to beer and everything in between (including some chemistry and samples to try).

DOW CORNING RETIREE'S ASSOCIATION WALKING GROUP
REPORT TO 3rd JUNE 2019 MEETING

In March we stayed low and local hoping to avoid any bad weather usually experienced on the hills at this time of year. Well, the heavens opened as we attempted to change into our walking gear and some members just turned around and went home, but within 10 to 15 minutes the rain stopped as 14 walkers set out from Newtown towards Candleston Castle in Merthyr Mawr. The 7 mile, easy walk then routed over the dunes to the Ogmore river and onwards to the sea before concluding with a sandy coast walk back to Newton and refreshments in the pub. We had sun!

Fourteen walkers enjoyed an 8 mile moderate walk on the Gower in April, starting in Llanmadoc and making for Cwm Ivy and the Wales Coast Path across Broughton Burrows and past Blue pool before dropping down on the beach at Spaniard Point. Most walked across the causeway to the small islet of Burry Holmes which was duly explored by 'marauding pirates'. Returning to the mainland the group walked around the bottom of Llanmadoc Hill with increased enthusiasm and hunger towards The Kings Head at Llangennith for lunch. The route back to Llanmadoc took us up and over Llanmadoc Hill and back to our cars. A great walk proposed by Robin. We had sun!

One of our past frequent walker and a founder member, Peter Clark, emigrated to England a while back, but invited us to walk with him and his wife Barbara in the Cotswolds. Eight walkers assembled at Stanton for an 8 mile triangular walk to Stanway and Snowhill, where we had lunch outside the Snowhill Arms, before returning to Stanton. Three very pretty Cotswold villages and great country walking was enjoyed by all. It was good to nurture the friendship with Peter and Barbara.

We travelled east to Longtown, north of Abergavenny for our May walk. Starting at Longtown, we walked up the Olchon Valley over many stiles and crossed the river Monnow (that flows through Monmouth) before climbing up onto Offa's Dyke for a splendid ridge walk with superb views. We extended the ridge walk as it was so good and descended down a grassy track and across the fields back to Longtown. Nine walkers enjoyed this 11 mile, moderate to challenging walk in good weather.

In June 14 members will be travelling to Lake Bled, Slovenia for a week's walking holiday. Really looking forward to it as it offers fantastic walking and scenery.

Upcoming walks are;

5 June	Mynydd y Grug and Mynydd Machen	11	C
	Meet 1030 at Machen Village car park ST 209 890		
3 July	Pen Y Fan Northern Horseshoe (with a slight difference)	8	C
	Meet 1030 at Cwm Gwdi carpark (SO 025 248) off A40 Brecon		
7 Aug	Speech House, Cannop Ponds and Edge End (Forest of Dean)	8.5	M
	Meet 1030 at Forestry car park 500m east of Speech House on B4226		

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.

Dow Corning Retirees Association

Income and Expenditure Account for YTD 31st May 2019
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2019 Income			2019 Expenditure		
Welfare		0.00	Welfare		140.00
Members Subscriptions		488.00	Xmas cards/gifts		25.00
Admin		0.00	Admin		74.00
Coach Trips		0.00	Coach Trips		0.00
Annual Dinner/Lunch		30.00	Annual Dinner /Lunch		30.00
Interest earned		0.35	Nordic Walking Group		0.00
			Walking Group Expenses		74.00
			Secretary's Expenses		0.00
			Treasurers Expenses		0.00
			Subs		0.00
	Total Income	518.35		Total Expense	343.00

Surplus for 2019	174
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Balances -End of Dec. 2018		Balances - May 31st 2019	
Current Account	4141.29	Current Account	4189.00
Unpresented Cheques at the end of 2018	-20.00	Unpresented Cheques	-20.00
Savings Account	1664.74	Savings Account	1665.00
Treasurers Float	0.00	Treasurers Float	0.00
Secretary's Float	0.00	Secretary's Float	0.00
Walking Group Float	-5.10	Walking Group Float	120.00
Coach Trips Float	0.00	Coach Trips Float	0.00
		Net Assets year to-date	5955.00
		Minus surplus year to-date	-174.00
	5780.93		5780.00