

Meeting Minutes

DCRA Quarterly meeting Agenda 8th June 2021

The Agenda was

- Set up Zoom meeting
- Chairman's Welcome
- Bereavements
- Apologies
- Treasurers Report
- Membership Report
- Walking Group Report
- Secretaries report and questionnaire outcome and results
- Discussion on what activities to try to organise
- Meeting dates, content and talks for the rest of the year
- AOB

There were 16 people at the meeting, and none joined via the zoom call. This is the first time we have met in person since March 2020. All Covid requirements were observed.

Bereavements

Marian (Maude) Michinton
Annie Eskins
Terry Williams

Apologies

Marian Martin
Steve Kraus
Paul Hodges
Brenda Saunders
Dian Doble
Ron Free
Tony Cheeseman
Robin Pitcher
Stuart McMillan

Treasurers Report

Margaret went through the accounts.

We have received £419 in subs this year and 6p in interest.

At present we have £3575.99 in the current account and £1666.22 in the savings account. A more detailed breakdown is attached to this report.

Membership Report

Val went through the membership report and so far, we have 247 members.

Walking group Report

Margaret went through the walking group report and a full report is attached. Over the past 15 months the group was only able to undertake 5 walks.

The walking group requested a £200 bursary to cover refreshments during the group activities.

Secretaries Report and Questionnaire outcome and results

From a total of 134 emails and 30 letters requesting replies to the questionnaire (total of 164) we received 57 replies on google forms and 3 replies by post. This amounts to 36% of the membership surveyed.

The questions were:-

1. Do you wish the DCRA to continue? Yes No
2. Will you be attending any meetings in person?... Yes No
3. Will you be attending any meetings via Zoom?... Yes No
4. Are you likely to take part in coach trips?
 - a. Day Trips..... Yes No
 - b. 5 day trips.?..... Yes No
5. Interested in any Lunch or Dinner get together?... Yes No
6. Interested in any other activities?
 1. Walking group.
 2. Skittles.
 3. Informal meetings, coffee
 4. Other

7. Are you likely to assist in organising trips, joining the Committee or helping in any way?..... Yes No
8. Would you be interested in attending talks?..... Yes No
9. Any other comments

The results were

1. Continuation of the DCRA
91% Y 9% N
2. Attend Meetings
51% Y 49% N
3. Zoom meetings
50% Y 50% N
4. Coach trips
45% Y 55% N
- 1day trips
48% Y 52% N
- 5day trips
28% Y 72% N
5. Lunches/dinners
75% Y 25% N
6. Other activities
Informal meetings 57%
- Walking group 37%
- Skittles 25%
7. Willingness to organise things
19% Y 81% N
8. Attend talks
62% Y 38% N
9. Any other comments

Analysis

Overall we only had 36% of the membership respond to the questionnaire. This is quite poor, but the majority of the people wanted the DCRA to continue. Not many were willing or able to help with organization. There was some interest in 1 day

coach trips and interest in attending talks and informal meetings. The committee will take this feedback and put together a program of events and see what the interest is.

Discussion on activities

Suggestions were:-

Memorabilia day with a buffet

Fermentation group (wine, Beer and food, first meeting to be held 21st July, speak to Richard rgtaylor1@gmail.com 07814702589 or 02920530524 for more information)

Short local walks

Nature center visits/days

Brass band concerts

Computer/smart phone skills talks

Local history talks

Dow merger update talk

Any further suggestions to Richard please.

Meeting Dates

Tuesday 7th September 2021 at 2pm Highlight park community centre

Tuesday 14th December 2021 at 2pm Highlight park community centre

AOB

DOW CORNING RETIREE'S ASSOCIATION WALKING GROUP
REPORT TO 8th JUNE 2021 MEETING MEETING

The last report submitted was in March 2020 just before the first of the multiple Covid pandemic lockdowns in Wales with subsequent stringent multi-household meeting restrictions. However during the intermediary periods when restrictions had been lifted to allow large group outdoor activities the DCRAWG has taken the opportunity to meet up, take a walk, enjoy the fresh air, the wonderful Welsh countryside and each other's company – a real tonic! During the past 15 months we have been able to undertake only five walks and trying to recall them for this report seems quite strange and the walks such a long time ago.

After the first shut down restrictions were lifted we had a “warm-up walk” in late July when 14 avid walkers turned up for a 5 mile walk from Fforest Fawr around Craig yr Allt and back. This proved to be excellent preparation for our August walk of almost 10 miles in the Wolvesnewton area when 18 walkers, led by Paul Hodges explored a valley area not known to many but offering superb views and good paths (sometimes) together with some formidable/difficult stiles to get over on the way.

Our September walk took us back to Llanthony Priory area for a 12 mile, challenging walk up onto one ridge for some great ridge walking only to have to descend into and cross the valley floor to climb up a second ridge and walk back with superb views on either side to a turn off point above Llanthony Priory set out picturesquely below. It is interesting that whilst some of the walkers struggle climbing uphill, others really suffer going down hill (usually sore knees), whilst the lucky one do not suffer at all! 10 walkers came on this outing.

After the 'firebreak' lockdown we managed to get a walk in for December, staying close to home and daring to challenge the high ranging tides of the Bristol Channel by doing a short walk along the Wales Coast Path, returning to Swanbridge by walking along the rocky shoreline before crossing over the causeway to walk around Sully Island. We returned to the mainland without getting wet feet but managed to wet our whistles sat outside the Captains Wife having a Christmas drink. Unfortunately a food menu was not available to allow us to enjoy our traditional Christmas Lunch together.

We had to wait until May 2021 before we could meet up again when Robin took 12 walkers on a National Trust 8 mile Bluebell ramble around the Clytha area, passed castles, stately homes, ploughed fields, churches, woods and along great long stretches of the River Usk.

Bath was the location for our June walk when 11 walkers turned out for a delightful 8 mile walk starting from Bath Spa railway station, walking initially along the River Avon, then the Kennet and Avon canal with it's locks and bridges before striking uphill to the start of the 6 mile moderate Bath Skyline walk with some good views over Bath and a number of points of interest around the well waymarked circular walk. The weather was sunny and warm with a shower as we were finishing lunch in the Woodland Path play area, A good day out in good company. Unfortunately we could not find a place for a beer at the end of the walk.

Upcoming walks are;

7 July	Hatterall Ridge and Cats Back	9.5	M
	Meet 1030 at Car Park SE of Black Hill at (SO 289 329)		
4 Aug	Afan Valley: Pontryhdyfen, Pwll y Gla, Pontryhdyfen, Afan Forest Park Visitor Centre, Pontryhdyfen,	7.5	M
	Meet 1030 at Rhyslyn car park, Pontryhdyfen, (SS 800 924; SA12 9SG)		

1 Sept	Lord Hereford's Knob, Hay Bluff, Offa's Dyke, Capel-y-ffin	11	C
	Meet 1030 at roadside Capel-y-ffin (SO 255 314), north of Llanthony		

It was our plan to visit Portugal in June for a weeks walking in the Minho area near Porto. However the Covid restrictions guided us to defer until 2022, but we have arranged a week away walking the southern part of the Shropshire Way based in Craven Arms instead. Fingers crossed for some fine weather.

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 RETIREE'S ASSOCIATION WALKING GROUP
RECORD OF YTDI NCOME AND EXPENSES 2021

Date	Transaction	Income £'s	Expense £'s
01.01,21	Opening balance	81.17	
	Totals	81.17	
	YTD Closing Balance	81.17	

Copies of all incomes and expenses forms and receipts are available for audit.

The number in brackets relates to number of walkers on each trip.

The planned week long Summer Walk in Portugal in June 2021 has been postponed until June 2022 as a result of the Covid 19 pandemic uncertainties. However we have arranged a week away in June walking the southern part of the Shropshire Way based in Craven Arms instead. Fingers crossed for some fine weather.

Membership is currently 41

Many thanks from all the Walking Group members for the valued support given from the DCRA and the Executive Committee.

Regards
Stuart McMillan
01.06.2021

Dow Corning Retirees Association					
Income and Expenditure Account for 2021					
2021 Income			2021 Expenditure		
Welfare	0.00		Welfare	80.00	
Members Subscriptions	419.00		Xmas cards/gifts	0.00	
Admin	0.00		Admin	65.99	
Coach Trips	0.00		Coach Trips	0.00	
Annual Dinner/Lunch	0.00		Annual Dinner /Lunch	0.00	
Interest earned	0.06		Nordic Walking Group	0.00	
			Walking Group Expenses	0.00	
			Secretary's Expenses	0.00	
			Treasurers Expenses	0.00	
			Subs	0.00	
Total Income	419.06		Total Expense	145.99	
Surplus for 2021					273.07
Balances -End of Dec. 2020			Balances - May 2021		
Current Account	3302.98		Current Account	3575.99	
Unpresented Cheques at the end of 2019	-40.00		Unpresented Cheques	-40.00	
Savings Account	1666.16		Savings Account	1666.22	
Treasurers Float	0.00		Treasurers Float	0.00	
Secretary's Float	0.00		Secretary's Float	0.00	
Walking Group Float	81.17		Walking Group Float	81.17	
Coach Trips Float	0.00		Coach Trips Float	0.00	
			Adjust for 2020 Cheques Cashed	0.00	
			Net Assets year to-date	5283.38	
			Add Loss in Year	-273.07	
	5010.31			5010.31	