



Dow Corning

news

a newsletter for the Barry Site community

May 2009

Science fires young imaginations



The mysterious properties of foam were explained to some enthusiastic school children who came to the Dow Corning site to conduct experiments and see science in action.

Almost 200 primary pupils took part in Science Week sessions which set them the task of developing an anti-foaming agent for an imaginary customer.

Giving their time to help the 10-year-olds with their experiments were some 50 Dow Corning and Cabot Carbon employees who volunteered to support the educational initiative.

The six-day programme for schools was part of the National Science and Engineering Week run by the British Science Association to enthuse youngsters.

It supports the National Curriculum and benefits pupils by helping them with numeracy, literacy, reasoning and dexterity skills. Dow Corning has been a major supporter of the initiative for 12 years.

This year the youngsters were also able to use new science kits developed by Technquest. Dow Corning donated £10,000 to help fund the science kits, which can be loaned to schools in support of studies.

Safely attired in aprons, gloves and protective glasses, the youngsters had the use of Dow Corning's education centre in the Cadoxton Ponds nature area for their sessions which they thoroughly enjoyed.



It all adds up as volunteers help pupils



Michael Olusamni at Bryn Hafren School.



Louise Brookes at St Richard Gwyn School.

Volunteer employees from Dow Corning have been visiting schools in the area to help youngsters with their maths.

The site's maths mentoring scheme, now in its fifth year, aims to stimulate pupils' interest in the subject and to demonstrate its usefulness in life after school years.

Over a 10-week period during the early part of the year the maths mentors made regular visits to three Barry secondary schools and helped 30 pupils who were struggling a little with their studies.

Each volunteer spends approximately one hour a week with a pair of

youngsters showing them how maths plays a crucial role in everyday life.

Part of Dow Corning's programme to support maths and science education locally, the scheme is backed by Careers Wales and the Vale of Glamorgan Council.

If you have comments or queries about the site, please write to:

Dave Ott, site manager, Dow Corning Ltd, Cardiff Road, Barry, Vale of Glamorgan CF63 2YL • Phone 01446 732350

Flying the green flag

Education centre wins eco award

A new flag flying over the Dow Corning education centre in the nature area signifies a major environmental plaudit for the site.

The initiative has been awarded Eco-Centre status by the Keep Wales Tidy organisation, recognising the high level of sustainability practices it follows.

To achieve the classification, the centre



Standard bearers...outside the education centre with the new flag are, left to right, Julie Furber, the centre's education officer, Jonathan Coldman, Dow Corning's community relations co-ordinator and Kristy Staples, a Dow Corning manufacturing engineer.

had to demonstrate that it operates under an 'eco code'. An operating committee meets regularly to monitor progress on sustainability goals.

Sustainability was at the heart of design and planning for the education centre, which officially opened in summer 2007.

Construction involved environmentally friendly materials and techniques. Solar panels generate power and there is ground sourced heating as well as rainwater harvesting to supply the toilets.

The Eco-Centre status requires that day-to-day operations support and improve the in-built green functionality of the building. For example, waste operations are monitored and bettered; energy and water are conserved; eco-friendly cleaning materials are used and refreshments are fair-trade sourced.

The Keep Wales Tidy assessors commented on the "excellent environmentally friendly building and the good work being achieved through school visits." All visitors to the centre are encouraged to play a part in ensuring the eco code is followed.

Since the education centre opened more than 1700 school children have passed through its doors and enjoyed learning about nature and the environment.

Helping pupils

For the third consecutive year Dow Corning has received an award which recognises its commitment to working with schools to help pupils learn about careers. The Education Business Partnership award for Curriculum Support was presented by the Careers Wales Cardiff and Vale organisation. It highlights Dow Corning's role in supporting a range of educational initiatives.



Jonathan Coldman, Dow Corning's community relations co-ordinator receives the award from Gareth Lynn.

New members

Two new student members have joined the Community Advisory Panel (CAP) which plays an important role in promoting good relations between the chemical complex and the neighbouring community.

Rhys Donovan and Rhys Christie, both sixth formers at Barry Comprehensive, will represent the young people of the area on the panel.

Now in its 17th year, CAP holds regular meetings and minutes from these can be viewed on at www.dowcorning.com/barry.

Site manager

Dow Corning has appointed a new manager for the Barry site. American Dave Ott has moved from a role at our Kentucky plant to replace Maragret Matthews, who has taken up a different management role within the corporation. More on Dave in the next issue of this newsletter.

Now it's your chance to go wild for an afternoon

Julie Furber, the education officer at the nature centre, is inviting you to go wild in a special open session on May 28 between 1pm and 3pm.

She says: "Come and have a go at pond dipping and bug hunting. Find out what creatures are hiding in the undergrowth."

Suitable clothing and footwear are a must and wellies and spare clothing are recommended. Children must be supervised at all times.

The event is free but booking is essential. Phone Julie on 077920 62414 or email j.furber@welshwildlife.org



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