



Dow Corning

news

a newsletter for the Barry Site community

September 2008

Welcome, neighbours!

There's an opportunity for you to come and see our nature centre when we hold a neighbourhood evening on Tuesday September 23.

The event will include short informative presentations on Dow Corning in Barry together with opportunities to put questions to site manager Margaret Matthews and environmental, health and safety manager Ben Nelson.

The nature area, west of the manufacturing site, was officially opened last summer and has proved a great success in its primary role of preserving and enhancing a natural habitat for flora and fauna.

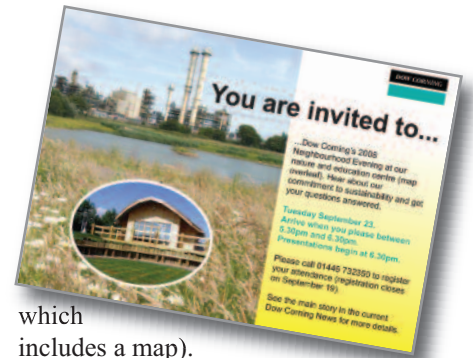
Backed up by a purpose-built education centre overlooking one of the ponds, the nature area has provided many happy and instructive hours for hundreds of visitors, particularly schoolchildren.

Guests at our neighbourhood evening will gather at the education centre for the short presentations and the question and answer session. The presentations will focus on the company's sustainability goals and its commitment to the environment, the economy and the community.

Guests will also hear about our products and innovative processes including the recent launch of a unique impact resistant material developed at the Barry site.

Light refreshments will be provided and there will be an opportunity to stroll around the nature centre. (Remember to bring suitable footwear).

Access to the nature centre for the evening will be via Dow Corning's docks entrance where there is ample parking (see the enclosed invitation slip



which includes a map).

Guests may begin arriving from 5.30pm. The business of the evening gets underway an hour later and will conclude before 8pm.

The invitation extends to anyone with an interest in attending but you will need to register your interest in attending beforehand. To do this, contact our main switchboard (01446 732350) before 4.30pm on Friday September 19.

We look forward to welcoming you!

Green building plans on being even greener

The education centre in the Dow Corning nature area has completed its first full summer of activities during which it has played host to many events and welcomed lots of schools visitors.

Employees and their children have also been enjoying the grounds which are now settling into a wonderful natural home for many species of plants and wildlife.

Education officer Julie Ferber, who co-ordinates events at the nature area has now called together a small eco-committee in a bid to enhance the status of the eco-friendly education centre. The aim is to win a green flag for the building from the Keep Wales Tidy campaign. This will involve looking at all aspects of the centre's environmental impact including litter, waste, transport, wildlife and energy use.



The eco-committee meets regularly to come up with ideas to reduce our carbon footprint and also advise Dow Corning employees and local residents.

Initiatives and activities already achieved include

- Involving local schools in an eco-activity programme.
- Posters and signs act as reminders of the need to save power and water.

- Refreshments at the centre are Fair Trade sourced.
- Paper cups have been replaced by second hand mugs.
- A bird box making day.

Julie said: "We are constantly looking for new ways to reduce our carbon footprint. The education centre is already a testimony to Dow Corning's commitment to the environment. Bidding for the green flag means we are going the extra mile."

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

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

Survey puts Dow Corning in top 50 best workplaces

A high-level survey has revealed Dow Corning as one of the best places to work in the UK.

Great Place to Work Institute UK collaborated with the Financial Times to investigate Britain's top workplaces 2008 and placed Dow Corning in the prestigious list of 50 – one of only three companies in Wales to be recognised and the only chemical manufacturer in the UK included.

Employees of Dow Corning across the UK (principally the Barry site plus a customer service centre in England) were surveyed by the Institute to measure trust between managers and employees.

Those companies which, like Dow Corning, made the list were defined as workplaces where employees “trust the people they work for, have pride in what they do and enjoy the people they work with.”

A placing in the Top 50 Best Workplaces in the UK is recognised as one of the highest accolades a company can receive. It acknowledges “the excellent practices and



dedicated employees that together make Dow Corning an inspirational and truly rewarding place to work.”

Lyn Evans, Dow Corning's UK Human Resources manager, said: “Many studies have shown that employees who feel trusted, are proud of what they do and enjoy coming to work contribute to a competitive advantage for the company.”

In the last few years Dow Corning has produced initiatives to improve employees' feelings of trust, pride and camaraderie.

Cash gifts total £25.7k

Help for schools and for young homeless people is on the way thanks to two donations from Dow Corning's European Giving Fund.

A gift of £10,000 goes to Technquest, the hands-on science education centre in Cardiff Bay which has long-standing links with Dow Corning. The money will help develop a series of presentation science kits that can be taken to schools.

A cheque for £15,700 goes to Llamau, a Cardiff-based charity supporting vulnerable, socially-excluded homeless people. Llamau runs a Learning 4 Life programme in Barry to help 16-25 year-olds gain confidence, motivation and self-respect whilst teaching practical skills such as cooking, DIY and personal budgeting.

Fitness workouts put on the pounds for charity

Putting on the pounds was the objective for employees using Dow Corning's fitness centre recently.

Taking part in a number of exercise challenges the colleagues raised between them more than £2400 for a breast cancer research charity.

The Race for Life Challenge is a women-only annual fundraiser involving a five kilometre walk or run at venues all over the UK. But fitness centre manager Sarah Thornhill extended the challenge so that both sexes could raise money by using the centre's cardiovascular equipment.

“The competitive nature of employees soon came through,” said Sarah. “I recorded their times and many paid their entry fees again to try and achieve better.”

Between entry fees and sponsorship the employees raised £688 and this was matched by Dow Corning. Money raised elsewhere by employees produced a total donation of £2429.



The highest fund-raisers – Jill Parker, Mike Eyre and Phillippa Walsh – are pictured in the fitness centre with manager/trainer Sarah Thornhill (right) and Dow Corning site manager Margaret Matthews (left). Fastest times on the cardio equipment were recorded by Keith Scott, Ian Ogilvie and Mike Eyre.



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