



Dow Corning

October 2011

NEWS

Barry site is one of the UK's best workplaces

Dow Corning's investment in supporting its employees has been recognised in an independent survey which identifies the Barry site as one of the best places to work in the UK.

It was ranked 8th on the 2011 list of the country's 50 best workplaces by judges from the Great Places to Work Institute. This was the second time Dow Corning entered the awards process; the company gained a place in the top 50 in 2008.

As part of the judging process, Dow Corning employees answered questions on a range of topics such as trust in management and camaraderie. The company scored highly in these areas and received praise for employee well-being, work/life balance and workplace culture and pride. Overall, 88% of employees rated Dow Corning as a great place to work.

"Supporting our employees and the passion they have for their jobs and for this company is important to our success," said Barry site manager Dave Ott. "We listen to our employees and do our best to give them the tools

and resources they need to effectively manage work and life, advance in their careers, and volunteer in their communities. It is an honour to be recognised as one of the best places to work in the UK."

Lyn Evans, Dow Corning's European Talent Development manager, said: "Our key priorities are to create a culture of innovation, a commitment to workplace safety and a supportive atmosphere that truly engages our employees and enables them to reach their full potential."

In addition to comprehensive bonus, profit sharing, pension and retirement plans, Dow Corning employees' benefits include flexible working hours, paid maternity and paternity leave, on-site fitness centre and access to expert personal and professional development advice.

The Great Place to Work programme delivers national and sector-specific rankings of best workplaces in over 48 countries, including 18 in Europe, representing over 1.6 million employees.

Some Barry site employees pictured at the awards night organised by Great Places to Work whose chief executive, Tom O'Byrne, said: "What employees think and feel about their workplace makes a significant contribution to the overall results."



Bubbling with enthusiasm

Donated by Dow Corning, a new feature at Cardiff's Techniquest is helping youngsters learn about science in a fun way.

Exciting interest from children and adults alike, the interactive bubble-racing exhibit demonstrates how fast different size bubbles move through a viscous



silicone fluid, which is one of the products of the company's Barry site. The new exhibit was installed and launched during the summer by Dow Corning scientists who also arranged some demonstrations of practical chemistry.

Quality engineer Bob Connell (pictured) said: "Chemists don't spend nearly enough time talking to people about all those everyday applications which are enhanced by silicone.

"It was also a great opportunity to explain to the youngsters some of the reasons why we opted for a career in science."

Better boundary

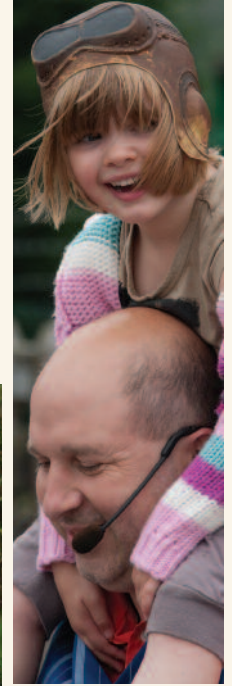
Repairs and construction at our Cardiff Road perimeter have resulted in a more secure, better-looking boundary. Improvement work on the walls and fencing was carried out over several weeks. All the trees which line the area were unaffected by the project.

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

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**It was
such
a fun
day!**



A fabulous fun day was laid on by Dow Corning for families of children at Ty Hafan hospice – the Barry site’s main charity.

The families were invited to site and Dow Corning’s nature centre to enjoy and participate in a wide range of activities. There was juggling, stilt-walking magic shows and other circus performances. Anglers involved children in waterside activities while, overhead, birds of prey were put through their paces in demonstrations.

The traditional bouncy castle was present along with face painting and, for a change of pace, youngsters could explore one of the site’s fire engines.

With ice cream, candy floss, hot dogs, tasty barbecue and a hog roast, the event had a real funfair atmosphere. Later in the day Dow Corning employees brought their families along to enjoy the fun.

All the attractions and refreshments were laid on at no charge but generous visitors ensured that collection buckets

for Ty Hafan were well supported and more than £1000 was raised.

Dow Corning’s Johanne Stacey-Davies, who organised the event, said: “I am extremely proud of our employees, who continue to give their full support to our flagship charity Ty Hafan.”

■ A donation of £3334 was made to Ty Hafan following a rebate on surplus items which were sold. The gift was arranged by the site’s engineering group in association with contractors.

Cafe scheme gets support

Cash gifts and support from Dow Corning are helping youngsters with special needs at a Penarth school.

Children and young adults who attend Ashgrove school are helped to overcome the difficulties of autism and Asperger’s disorder with a range of activities to encourage communication and social skills.

A recent major project has been the development of a small café at the school which enables the students to add a real-life dimension to the classroom sessions. They are also learning new skills such as managing money, food handling and preparation, stock-taking and running a business.

The Barry site has so far donated almost £2000 to the café project which has helped with set-up costs and providing outside tables.



Some Dow Corning employees during a recent visit to the Ashgrove school cafe.

Additionally, the school has been successful in securing a £7000 grant from the Dow Corning European Giving Fund to help develop a playground. The money will go towards play equipment which will be used to teach interaction skills.



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