

# **DINAS POWYS VOLUNTARY CONCERN**



## **ANNUAL REPORT**

**1st April 2010 – 31st March 2011**

**Community Resource Centre  
Murchfield Hall  
Sunnycroft Lane  
Dinas Powys  
Vale of Glamorgan  
CF64 4QQ**

**Tel No: (029) 2051 3700  
Email: [dpvc@btinternet.com](mailto:dpvc@btinternet.com)**

**Dinas Powys Voluntary Concern is a Registered Charity No. 502496**

**DINAS POWYS VOLUNTARY CONCERN  
GOFAL GWIRFODDOL DINAS POWYS**



## **OUR STATEMENT of PURPOSE:**

**THE PRIMARY PURPOSE OF DPVC IS TO:**

**SUPPORT VOLUNTARY GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS WHO  
SEEK TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE –**

**FOR THE ELDERLY,  
FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES  
OR THOSE OTHERWISE DISADVANTAGED  
LIVING IN OUR COMMUNITIES**

**AND TO ACT AS A FIRST PORT OF CALL  
FOR INDIVIDUALS SEEKING  
HELP OR ADVICE.**

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## Serving the Community for 40 Years

DPVC was first established as the **Council of Social Services** in 1972 as a result of a meeting of voluntary organisations chaired by Dr Haydn Jones. It was later renamed **Dinas Powys Voluntary Concern (DPVC)**. A registered charity, it promotes charitable activities for the benefit of people living in and around Dinas Powys.

DPVC provides a service to individuals, groups and organisations, the elderly and people with disabilities. It does this in many ways such as by:-

- ◆ Recruiting, inducting and training **Volunteers** and holding an **Annual Garden Party** to recognise their work
- ◆ Organising a **Good Neighbours' Scheme** and running a **Befriending scheme** for the lonely or housebound
- ◆ Maintaining and running a **Minibus/ Ambulance** used by many organisations in the village such as the WRVS, The Wednesday Club and the Stroke Group. It is also used by DPVC for supermarket visits, the library run and conveying older people to various events. In addition volunteers provide a car ferry service for appointments with doctors, dentists etc.-
- ◆ Producing and distributing the **Community Directory** and a periodic newsletter called **DEPEND** to every home in the community
- ◆ Operating a **Community Resource Centre** and an **Information Data Base** and providing a "**first port of call**" for those seeking advice and information
- ◆ Providing a **Photocopying, Laminating and Comb-binding Service** at the resource centre

- ◆ And by cooperating with and supporting other Dinas Powys organisations and events

DPVC is managed by a Management Committee which has responsibility for planning, development and financial control. The Committee is supported by four working groups:

Community Services  
Publications  
Transport Services  
Human Resources and Policy

The **Community Resource Centre** is the administrative base for all the activities of DPVC. It is manned five mornings a week from 9.30 to 12.30, four of them by our co-ordinator. Help, advice and information are provided on a wide range of subjects relating to both voluntary and statutory services.

**Our Coordinator's role** is to organise and support the activities of volunteers in the **Good Neighbours' Scheme**. It is also

- ◆ to support DPVC and its administration;
- ◆ to publicise DPVC services;
- ◆ to manage the CRC and maintain its information base and
- ◆ to assist in seeking grant aid to further DPVC activities.

**Our volunteers are key to all our activities** and we are always looking for more volunteer help. In particular we want people prepared to drive the minibus on its regular shopping or library runs and to drive for other organisations; also those prepared to use their own cars to drive people to hospital or surgery appointments. We need volunteer help to man the office and maintain the database. Anyone who would be interested in such work is invited to contact our coordinator:

Tel. 02920 513700  
Email dpvc@btinternet.com

What is  
DPVC and  
what  
does it  
do?

## FORWARD by the chairman – Dr Michael Robinson

In a time of financial doubts and anxiety about care for the elderly it is good to be able to say that this has been a successful year for Dinas Powys Voluntary Concern. Wendy Lees has now been in post as our coordinator for just over a year and she and our trustees have worked very hard together. This has resulted in real progress on many fronts as will be seen in the reports which follow. We remain extremely grateful to the Vale of Glamorgan Council for their on-going support. Its significance cannot be over emphasised. Not only does it enable us to provide support to many elderly, frail, vulnerable and often isolated members of the village but it allows us to plan for the future providing the seed corn from which we are able to harvest such considerable additional social and financial value for the community.

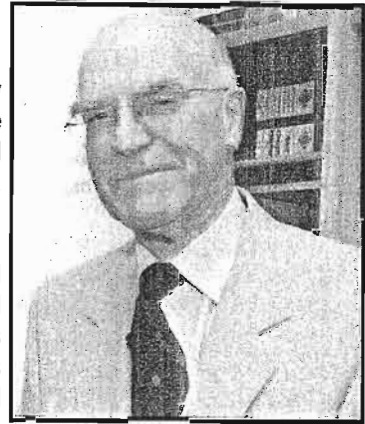
A year  
of  
success  
and  
thanks

We need volunteers for all our work and recruiting and training new ones while retaining our existing team is always a challenge. As many of our volunteers are retired folk there is an inevitable loss as time takes its toll and some become clients for support themselves. It is good therefore to be able to report that this year we have successfully recruited more new volunteers than for many years. Among them have been some new Minibus Drivers, a group whose consistent hard work was recognised at our annual garden party this year. Training needs have occupied our minds considerably. Successful external initiatives have been the MIDAS training for our minibus drivers from Graham Cartwright, the Vale's Community Transport Officer and Manual Handling training for drivers and escorts from Elspeth Cameron, the Vale's Manual Handling Coordinator. Internal systems of Induction and Training for new volunteers and a system of recording work undertaken have been updated. All this takes a considerable portion of our coordinator's time. It would be good to employ a project worker to organise recruitment and training of new volunteers to extend our work of befriending and the activities of the Good Neighbours Scheme. A successful Lottery bid to AdvantAGE, made in conjunction with other voluntary organisations, has just proved successful and will make this possible

The new Mercedes Minibus/Ambulance arrived last July and was officially launched in September at a widely supported ceremony outside the Murchfield Community Hall. It was resplendent in what might be described as "DPVC maroon" and carried a cheerful bus logo designed by Anna Bosley of St Andrews School, winner of the competition for its design among our local schools. The bus has not been without its teething problems but it has certainly worked hard for its living since its arrival. Two years ago we still needed to raise a considerable proportion of its cost and it was wonderful to be able to report at our last AGM that the sum required had been successfully achieved. Thank you to everyone involved

Two editions of DEPEND and an updated "Community Directory" have been produced and delivered. This was

made possible by support from the Community Council and the Civic Society. Again thank you!



We are now registered with the Welsh Council for Voluntary Action's Criminal Records Bureau who will undertake CRB checks

for our volunteers free of charge. This is a significant step forward for we are now in a better position to conform to likely future requirements. This is only one field where legislation affects our activities and the "Human Resources and Policies Sub Group" are to be thanked for the immense amount of ground that they have covered since their inception. The redrafted Constitution for ratification to this AGM represents yet another necessary update which they have undertaken.

At the start of this year each working group identified priorities for action from our corporate plan for the year ahead. At the end all were achieved or continue as work in progress. It is not always easy for a voluntary organisation to set goals, and then work consistently and steadily to achieve their satisfactory implementation. Some of the details are to be found in the reports in this document. I would like to thank all who made such success possible, in particular my fellow members of the Management Committee and working Sub Groups. Joan Andrews and myself are standing down from the management committee this year as we both feel it is a time to step back and make way for new blood. Joan's efforts on behalf of DPVC over the years have been immense and I must express my personal gratitude for the way that she helped me in the past. Three members have now resigned after many years of fruitful service. Rene Gannon and Gale Smith have both served DPVC for more than 20 years. Betty Thorne sadly has been obliged to resign because of ill health. All three have made considerable contributions over the years. We give them our thanks and best wishes.

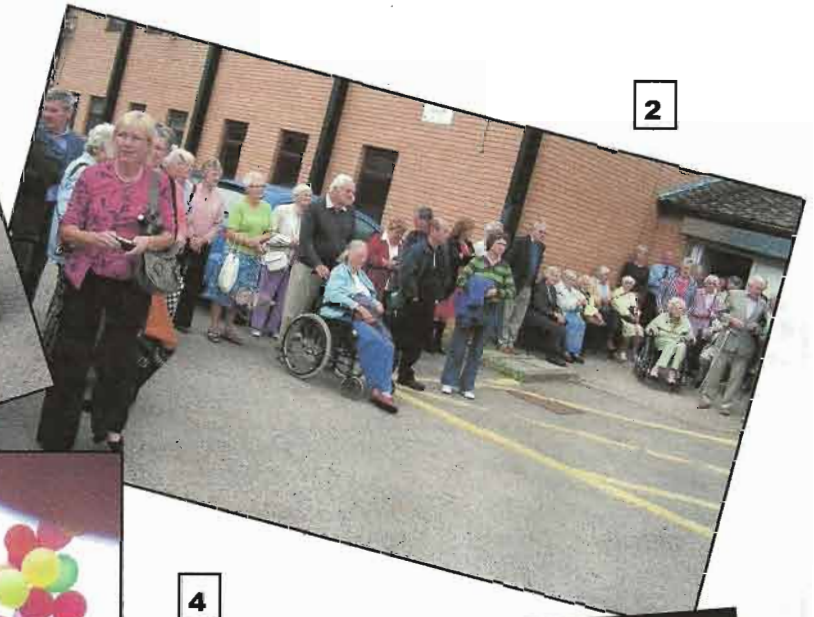
In 2012 DPVC will have its 40th birthday. In April a "Development Day" was arranged in the Lee Hall and ably led by Alan Higgins. Well attended it gave rise to much lively discussion providing invaluable feedback on what our aims and priorities might be in the years ahead. I would like to draw your attention to Alan's brief report upon it and thank him for his achievement.

When an organisation has been around for years and enjoyed success any complacency is lethal. If we are to be successful in the years ahead we must always listen to our clients and learn from them what they need. The nature of their needs, how they are met and how identified may well change with time but the essential need for skilled, sensitive and inclusive care is unlikely to do so. That is what we aim to provide.

# OUR YEAR IN PICTURES



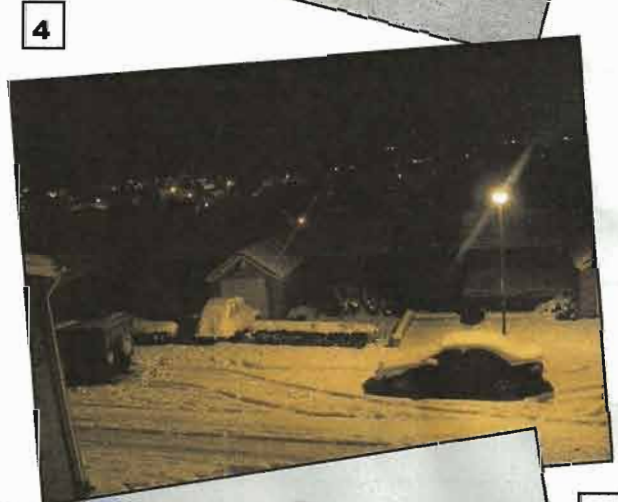
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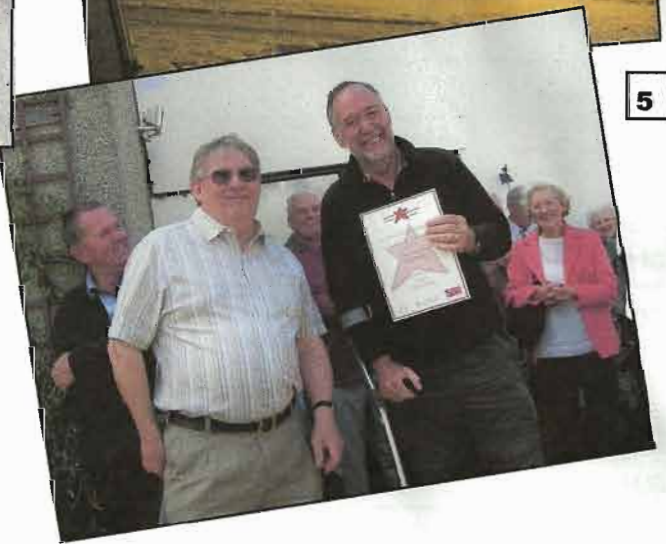
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5

1 Residents welcome the arrival of the new minibus  
 2 Supporters await the launch of the new minibus  
 3 Bus logo competition winners

4 Arctic conditions in Dinas Powys  
 5 Volunteer awards 2011  
 6 Training at the Murchfield Hall

## COORDINATORS REPORT by Wendy Lees



After serving as a volunteer with DPVC for two years, I was appointed coordinator just over a year ago. During this time I have made a lot of new acquaintances and my concept of

'old age' has changed dramatically.

It seems to me that "life does not begin a forty" but when you start collecting your pension in Dinas Powys!

At DPVC we are helping people to carry on and enjoy life despite having problems such as reduced mobility or isolation.

As you can see below, this year alone we have had at least 100 requests for help or advice. The majority of requests were for help with transport - either for shopping or medical appointments. Other requests included those for practical help such as befriending and gardening and included one for clearing and gritting a path during that icy cold spell over Christmas. With the majority of these requests, we have been able to help directly or at least point the enquirer in the right direction.

Nature of enquiry	Number of Enquiries
Equipment	1
Leisure Services	5
Minibus use	2
Practical help/Gardening	2
Practical help/in the home	5
Practical help/Other	21
Practical help/Plumbing	1
Social services/Disability	1
Transport	62

Volunteers are the backbone of DPVC and I am pleased to be able to tell you this year nine new volunteers have joined us. Our Driving Team of escorts and drivers have provided a regular service despite teething problems with the new minibus and the extreme weather conditions experienced this winter. I would like to thank, The Committee, Volunteers and all the organisations associated with DPVC for their support in my first year.



### Minibus - Summary of Use

User organisation	Times Used	Mileage Total	Mileage Average	Total Number of Passengers	Number of Wheelchairs
British Legion	1	7	7	7	0
Bryneithin Home	10	251	25	58	1
DPVC - All Shops	117	1486	13	789	39
DPVC -Maintenance	31	213	7	3	0
DPVC- Other passenger use	2	16	8	22	1
Library - DPVC	2	8	4	8	1
Monday Night Club	1	18	18	7	1
St Mary's Church	53	588	11	350	31
Stroke Support Group	13	234	18	89	4
Wednesday Afternoon Club	36	269	7	528	14
Womens Institute	6	50	8	50	0
WRVS Friday Lunch Club	37	528	14	544	12

TOTAL MILEAGE

3668

## Management Committee 2010 to 2011

### Officers

Dr Michael Robinson (Chairman)                      Barbara Daniels (Treasurer)  
 John Fanshaw (Vice-chairman)                      Dr Joan Andrews (Honorary Secretary)

### Members

Cllr Val Hartrey    Irene Gannon  
 Alan Higgins OBE    Betty Thorne  
 Brian West    Christine Holder  
 Lesley Robinson    Colin Turner  
 Cllr Gale Smith (Community Council)

Coordinator, Wendy Lees

Heather Todd-Bennett , Area Development Officer - Community Learning

## Reports from the Four Management Sub-groups

### Community Services Sub-Group 2010 – 2011

**Chairman:** Dr Mike Robinson

**Members:** Alan Higgins OBE, John Fanshaw, Cllr Val Hartrey, Pat Charters, Penny Ann Evans MBE Wendy Lees

The Community Services Sub-group has had a busy and productive year and I would like to start this report by thanking them all for their hard work. Our first task was to coordinate the priorities for action of each sub-group from the corporate plan for the year ahead and make recommendations to the Management Committee. At review during our last meeting there was considerable satisfaction that most of those priorities have been achieved.

Over the year new publicity boards were set up, older leaflets were updated and new targeted publicity material produced to meet the constant need to bring DPVC's existence and activities to the attention of the community and potential funders. A new letter head has been produced and agreement reached on what we will shortly include on our web site. Penny Ann Evans and John Fanshaw have been very active in this field

A considerable time was spent on considering the recruitment, induction and training of our team. First a policy was developed, with the coordinator and the HR and policy sub-group, on what we present to new volunteers on their induction. Secondly discussion focussed on what training we need to make available to existing volunteers in their different roles. Third the quarterly "coffee meetings" for everyone connected with DPVC have been

recommenced and a "training topic" included. On the last occasion a demonstration, given by Elspeth Campbell, on how manual handling skills can avoid injury when giving lifts in a car to those who have mobility problems was very well received. These meetings have proved invaluable in the feedback that they have given to trustees

Simple systems have been introduced to record details of our volunteers and the work which they undertake on our behalf. Wendy Lees has worked hard on this. Some would find it useful to be able to accredit both their voluntary activity and any training they have received and this would form a basis and precursor for a future system to do this. Currently those who have undertaken a manual handling course with the county coordinator will shortly be receiving their certificates for having done so.

The introduction of an additional working sub-group last year to lead on "Human Resources and Policies" provided an opportune moment to review our Constitution. In the light of Charity Commissioners' recommendations our current document was redrafted.

To mark the approach of the 40th year of Dinas Powys Voluntary Concern Alan kindly agreed to run a "Development Day" for DPVC and the many organisations and people associated with it. It proved extremely successful and from feedback received the sub-group's last meeting focused on what recommendations should be made to update the existing corporate plan.

## Transport Sub Group 2010 to 2011

Chairman: Barbara Daniels

Members: Joan Andrews, Derek Mills, Chris Russon, Betty Thorne, Colin Turner.

This time last year we were looking forward to the completion of the new minibus/ambulance.

Minibus Options who were responsible for the conversion had indicated the vehicle would be ready at the end of June. An early morning in July saw four members of the Transport Committee leaving Dinas Powys to make the long journey to Whaley Bridge to take delivery of the vehicle. First impressions were good – but the colour which looked red in the brochure was more maroon than red. However we all agreed that it looked rather classy and were not disappointed. Back on the road with the mini bus in the safe hands of Derek Mills and Chris Russon we made the return journey back to Wales.

The official launch of the mini bus took place on the 28th September. This occasion gave DPVC the opportunity to thank all those organisations and individuals in our community who had so generously given donations towards the purchase of the new bus.

We did experience some teething problems, mainly the passenger step which was out of action for a period of time before being resolved. An additional shopping trip was introduced to account for the loss of two seats, the new bus seating eight as opposed to ten on the old bus. On alternate Monday afternoons the mini bus visits Morrisons in Barry. This trip has proved popular for

those preferring to shop in the afternoon. We would like to thank Wendy Lees, Co-ordinator and Janet Flye who organises the driver and passenger lists for making sure the transition to the new bus went smoothly. Their patience did not go unnoticed. Last but not least our gratitude to Derek Mills who undertakes our regular maintenance checks and is generally on call to deal with minor mechanical problems.

A further achievement this year has seen DPVC drivers take part in the Minibus Drivers Awareness Scheme (MIDAS). We were fortunate to receive a Grant from the Vale of Glamorgan Council to take all our drivers through this programme. Organisations using the minibus will be invited to take part in the scheme later in the year. We are grateful to Graham Cartwright Community Transport Officer for the Vale of Glamorgan Council who has assisted DPVC in the provision of MIDAS. Once again we acknowledge the enormous part played by our drivers and escorts, in doing so we would like to express our gratitude and thanks for their continuing support.

As part of our commitment to training we are pleased to report that we have organised two Manual Handling training sessions for all drivers and escorts. The first two sessions will take place on the 24th May and 11th June. These will be delivered by Elspeth Cameron, Manual Handling Co-ordinator for the Vale of Glamorgan Council.

We look forward to another successful year for our minibus and volunteers.

## Publications Sub-Group 2010 to 2011

Chairman: Lesley Robinson

Members: John Fanshaw, Jean Roderick, Gale Smith, Marilyn Godfrey, Joan Andrews and Anthony Daniels.

This year the Publications Committee has said "Goodbye" to one of our longest-standing members, Dr Joan Andrews, and "Hello" to a new member, Anthony "Danny" Daniels.

We have much to thank Dr Andrews for; she has worked tirelessly editing Depend and the Dinas Powys Directory, writing articles, asking other people for theirs and gathering information for the Directory. Many thanks Joan.

Danny is new to our committee but not new to publishing and we are sure that he will make a valuable contribution in the future.

This year has seen two editions of Depend and the latest Directory, both of which are now available on the Internet. Our Editor, John Fanshaw, has worked very hard to bring this about and he deserves our grateful thanks.

Our aim in Depend is to give information and advice, especially to our more elderly or incapacitated readers, along with news of what is happening in the village, which is of interest to all.

Following our recent Development Day the aim of our next edition of Depend will be to make people more aware of DPVC, what it does and what it stands for. In doing so we hope that more people will either use us to help them where we can, or to become involved with driving, befriending or any of the other services we are able to offer.



## Human Resources and Policies Sub-Group 2010 to 2011

Chairman: Brian West

Members: Alan Higgins, John Fanshaw, Wendy Lees

As a small charity we have the responsibility of complying to all the existing and new laws governing how we operate both in legal and employment laws.

We have updated the contract of employment of our coordinator in line with current requirements.

We, as a group have been going through our policies and procedures, updating and producing new ones where necessary.

Our constitution has been re-drafted with approval by the Charity Commission and now has to be given formal approval at our AGM on 7th July 2011.

The Independent Safeguarding Authority [ASI] has now been incorporated within the Criminal Records Bureau [CRB] they are still deciding on who needs to be registered under the changing requirements. We continue to register under our Vulnerable Adults Policy.

My gratitude goes to those within this group for their expertise.

## ACCOUNTS FOR DPVC 2010 – 2011

This Financial Year has seen our Income maintained at the same level as 2009/2010. Our expenditure of £52446.93 included the purchase of the new minibus an amount of £36655.00. We also invested in an upgrade to our computer hardware and software plus new signage for the Resource Centre. A new edition of the Community Directory was compiled and printed; this was made possible with grants from the Community Council, Dinas Powys Civic Society and Probus.

I am pleased to report that the accounts at the end of this current financial year show a healthy balance of £16150.50. This is represented on the Statement of Accounts by £2109.90 held in the current account and £14040.60 in the deposit account. Unfortunately in line with current trends we have seen a steep decline in the interest rate on the deposit account.

Within the deposit account we have dedicated funds; attached to the Statement of Accounts is a Note to Accounts which

shows a breakdown of these dedicated funds.

We have received £285.36 by way of Gift Aid on our donations received from our 'Supporters'. We extend our sincere thanks for their support. We are also grateful to Dinas Powys Civic Society for their annual grant funding towards the publication of Depend.

This year we received a 1% uplift to our grant funding from the Vale of Glamorgan Council which contributes towards our Good Neighbour Scheme and the salary of our part time Co-ordinator. We are extremely grateful to the Council for the continuation of this grant funding.

Finally we would like to acknowledge our debt of gratitude to Martyn Warren, Independent Examiner of our Accounts.

Barbara Daniels  
Treasurer

**DINAS POWYS VOLUNTARY CONCERN  
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2011**

	2010/11	2009/10
<b><u>INCOME</u></b>		
<b>Mini Bus Donations:</b>		
Contributions from Organisations	1212.42	1956.55
Contributions from Individuals	1372.04	1213.30
	<u>£2584.46</u>	<u>£3169.85</u>
<b>Grants and Other donations:</b>		
Vale of Glamorgan Council GNS	6779.00	6718.00
DPVC 'Supporters'	856.00	1011.00
HMRC Charities – Gift Aid	285.36	297.37
Vale of Glamorgan Council	0.00	5000.00
<b>Donations Depend Publication</b>		
Dinas Powys Civic Society	600.00	600.00
Village Show	50.00	0.00
Head to Head	0.00	50.00
Davies & Jones Opticians	0.00	25.00
<b>Donations Community Directory</b>		
Probus	44.00	0.00
Dinas Powys Civic Society	500.00	0.00
Dinas Powys Community Council	1300.00	0.00
<b>Donations New Mini Bus Fund</b>		
Betty Thorne	50.00	0.00
Dinas Powys Rotary Club	7500.00	0.00
Methodist Church Women on Wednesday	50.00	0.00
Dinas Powys Methodist Church	150.00	460.00
Parish of St. Andrews Major	125.00	0.00
Dinas Powys Women's Institute	0.00	651.00
Dinas Powys Nursing Institute	0.00	7500.00
Dinas Powys Community Council	0.00	265.00
Bethesda Chapel	0.00	2000.00
St. Mary's Church Dinas Powys	0.00	179.56
St. Peter's Women's Fellowship	0.00	100.00
Murch Bowling Club	0.00	300.00
Three Horseshoes Quiz Night	0.00	100.00
Joseph Strong Frazier Trust	0.00	1000.00
Mrs J Spencer	0.00	20.00
Mr & Mrs A Coxon	0.00	50.00
Lloyds TSB Foundation Award (Mark Thompson)	0.00	500.00
Mrs Ashmore	0.00	50.00
Mr & Mrs G M Williams	0.00	100.00
<b>Carried Forward</b>	<u>£20873.82</u>	<u>£30146.78</u>

<b>Brought Forward</b>	<b>£20873.82</b>	<b>£30146.78</b>
<b>Other Donations</b>		
St. Mary's Church Dinas Powys	134.07	0.00
Dinas Powys Golf Club – Ladies Section	600.00	0.00
Nat. West Community Fund	1000.00	0.00
Chris Franks	50.00	0.00
Mrs Spencer	50.00	0.00
Mrs Ashmore	50.00	0.00
Misc. Donations	183.70	123.99
	<u>£22941.59</u>	<u>£30270.77</u>
<b>Events:</b>		
Coffee Morning x 2	585.314	450.11
Bridge Party	380.20	368.63
Volunteer Garden Party	83.20	0.00
Strawberry Tea	476.35	0.00
Concert	1245.60	0.00
Barn Dance	0.00	1095.30
Carols in the Library	0.00	38.20
	<u>£2770.66</u>	<u>£1952.24</u>
Good Neighbour Scheme	57.00	12.50
Photocopying	20.05	29.85
Fuel Rebate	349.44	398.34
Sale of old Mini Bus	5400.00	0.00
Refund of Mini Bus Insurance	26.25	0.00
New Mini Bus Key Deposit	200.00	0.00
Misc.	31.76	0.00
	<u>£6084.50</u>	<u>£440.69</u>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>£31796.75</b>	<b>£32663.70</b>

<b><u>EXPENDITURE</u></b>	<b>2010/11</b>	<b>2009/10</b>
<b>Minibus Costs:</b>		
Fuel	1233.17	1064.97
Repairs and Maintenance	155.00	977.37
BJK Insurance	923.95	910.40
CTA Membership	67.50	0.00
New Minibus	36655.00	1000.00
Section 19 Permit (Renewal)	7.00	0.00
Happy Embroidery	0.00	20.00
	<u>£39041.62</u>	<u>£3972.74</u>
<b>CRC + GNS Costs:</b>		
Coordinator Salary	5719.94	4021.16
Rent to March 2011 18/12	1650.00	550.00
Telephone/Broadband	460.30	457.25
Aon Ltd Insurance	352.28	345.74
Photocopier Maintenance Contract	175.08	171.35
Stationery	347.40	187.86
Subscriptions	45.00	45.00
Repairs and Renewals	199.44	68.23
Computer Equipment/Software	789.50	209.84
Data Protection	35.00	35.00
Postage	19.20	109.27
Signage	175.00	0.00
Post Office – Mail Collect Service	25.96	0.00
Web Domain	38.86	0.00
	<u>£10032.96</u>	<u>£6200.70</u>
<b>Event Costs:</b>		
Coffee Mornings	20.00	66.17
Garden Party/AGM	155.29	56.75
Bridge Party	37.19	59.24
Concert	261.00	0.00
Barn Dance	0.00	658.32
Mini Bus Launch	99.43	0.00
Carols at the Library	0.00	6.56
	<u>£572.91</u>	<u>£847.04</u>
<b>Printing:</b>		
Depend x 2	835.00	411.80
Community Directory	1740.00	0.00
Petty Cash	156.68	52.51
Royal British Legion Wreath	16.00	16.00
Advertisement Parish News	0.00	50.00
Misc.	51.76	0.00
	<u>£2799.44</u>	<u>£530.31</u>
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>£52446.93</b>	<b>£11550.79</b>

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2011

	£	£	£
<b>OPENING BALANCE</b>			
Current Account	3882.08		
Deposit Account	32845.00		
			36727.08
Total Income		31796.75	
Transferred from Deposit Account		28978.00	
Total Expenditure		52446.93	
		-----	
Surplus over Expenditure			8327.82
Interest on Deposit Account			73.60
Less Transferred from Deposit Account		28978.00	
Gross Surplus as at 31 March 2011			-----
			£16150.50
			-----

Represented by:

Current Account as per Statement 31 March 2011	3567.07	
<u>Add</u>		
Income not banked as at 31 March 2011	202.38	
<u>Minus</u>		
Cheques not presented as at 31 March 2011	1659.55	
	-----	
		2109.90
Deposit Account		14040.60
Cash Balance		£16150.50
		-----

Barbara Daniels Honorary Treasurer

**ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT:** I confirm that the above Accounts are in accordance with the books and records produced to me.

Signed..........Martyn Warren, Independent Examiner

Date..... 30-6-11 .....

## **“Forty years on - and still looking forward.”**

Forty four trustees, volunteers and others attended a 'workshop' on April 5th which aimed at enabling people to share ideas and consider what the future of Dinas Powys Voluntary Concern might be. The event - led by Alan Higgins - marked the fact that DPVC is in its 40th year. The presence of Alun Cairns MP, Jane Hutt AM, Chris Franks AM and a strong contingent of Vale and Community Councillors was welcomed.

In his introduction Alan said: "This workshop provides 'thinking time' - a rare and precious commodity in today's changing society and an essential pre-requisite to effective planning and to shaping the future. Times of change are not times to be complacent. It is at such times that we need to be vibrant; not fettered by our past, not rigidly glued to the present, not rushing headlong into radical change but thinking carefully in order to derive relevant inspiration for the future. It is our collective role to engage in - and to help others to engage in - looking forward. This workshop must be a springboard rather than a sofa."

In three main workshop sessions, progressive discussion and plenary feedback identified the range of services currently provided by DPVC, issues which could affect development and priorities for future programmes. In the fourth and final session participants considered strategies for progress, making many useful and practical suggestions.

In discussion about 'issues' those present were unanimous in agreeing that an ageing population brings greater infirmity among older people in the community and greater caring needs and responsibilities. They felt that the demise of small shops and businesses which formed central hubs in the village was an issue; that the economic climate reduced the availability of volunteers as more people needed to find paid work; and they recognised that the active members of DPVC are growing older and that there is an urgent need to attract younger people. However, participants were unanimous in acknowledging that DPVC's role in the community is as important today as ever.

Among main priorities identified was the need to

consolidate existing provision and increase efficiency and to research current community needs making more use of health 'practice teams' and social agencies operating in the village. All agreed that it is vital to attract and train more volunteers and to involve younger people as trustees and working group members. To ensure progress in line with need it was also necessary to broaden DPVC's income base and to extend the community role of the Coordinator.

Many of the practical suggestions made in the final session placed emphasis on raising awareness and improving communication. It was felt that DEPEND could be used to exemplify what DPVC does and to stress the need for more volunteers and the roles they might undertake. Involving young people in a specifically organised 'forum' to increase their awareness of community issues and of the needs of older people in particular was suggested while the need to increase opportunities for all volunteers to participate in training and to offer such opportunities to volunteers in other village organisations was also stressed. Introducing a system of 'accrediting' the contributions made by volunteers was felt to be important as was the need to work with social agencies operating in the village and to forge closer links with local charities and groups.

Summarising the outcomes Alan said: "By any standard this has been a productive workshop. In just four hours you have generated an atmosphere of warmth and fellowship, a corporate spirit and a sense of purpose which we have all experienced. Translating that atmosphere and sense of purpose into the world of reality may not be quite as easy. Remember, a drop of oil burns quickly and does not heat the coals; but bring all the oil together and you have voluntary commitment and a warmth which cannot be extinguished. Tennyson in his Ulysses said "I am part of all that I have met". By being here, by meeting together we have become part of DPVC as a whole".

*(A full copy of the 'Workshop Report' can be obtained from the Resource Centre. SAE please.)*

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