

Chale WI Annual Report to Chale Parish Council - May 2026

& CWI Annual Report to Board - June 2026

Chale WI

Chale WI have always hosted a multi- talented membership, with wide and varied interests. We welcome women to our very social get-togethers and meetings. In 25/26 We have provided talks and demonstrations such as The history, building and adventures of Chitty Chitty Bang Bang, (the very popular car built by Nick Pointing, often see around the Island), and the art of Special Effects Make- up, (where we were treated to a stage by stage creation of a shard of glass sticking out of an open wound!).

Our crafts this year included Jewellery Making, designing postcards, carnival masks, and egg decorating. For the Brighstone Christmas tree Festival our members created all kinds of red & gold hearts to hang on our tree, which was dressed to collect donations for the Defibrillator charity.

We have covered different aspects of health by trying out Chair Yoga, (led by Sandy, one of our members), Reducing Food Waste & Air Fryer cooking, and learning about CPR and defibrillators. One of our members, Debs, has also been successful setting up a weekly line dancing class for those who fancy a taste of fun co-ordination!

This year, I asked our members what they would like me to include in this Report about CWI. Thank you to those who contributed. Amongst the replies, one in particular touched me – “I moved across to the IOW on my own and didn’t know a single person. I joined Chale WI so I could meet people and make some new friends. The ladies have all been so inviting and friendly, making my transition to the Island so much easier. Thank you to a wonderful group of people”. This is what I believe our CWI is all about, and is something we strive to achieve.

Coffee Mornings

Our monthly Community Coffee mornings continue to be popular, both with local people and those from further afield. During the colder months we have given space to local crafters to sell their work, and in addition to this, in the warmer months we hope to provide plants & vegetables from local gardens to buy.

Once again a Big Thank-you to all the cake providers for this event, as well as our volunteers on the day. We know we couldn’t do this without you and your cheerful help!

Joint Events with CPC

Last Summer one of our members, Mary, and two Parish Councillors, Pete and Andrew, took to the skies for a wing walk on a bi-plane. Mary & Pete raised money for Mountbatten, while Andrew raised £110 for the Village Hall.

The Moroccan Evening, (jointly hosted by the CPC and CWI), in July last year, was an enjoyable event for all who attended. We are looking forward to repeating another fun evening, (this time with a Mexican theme), on Saturday 16th May, with all proceeds going to the upkeep of Chale Village Hall.

Our Committee

Our Committee continues to work hard to give our members good quality experiences, talks, events, and social get-togethers. As volunteers, they put in a lot of time and effort “backstage”, and it is not always recognised by others. They are a talented group, that use their individual talents to create one excellent team.

So another Big Thank-you goes to our Committee, Sally, Roz, Helen, Lynn & Rosemary, (who has the unenviable job of balancing the books).

The Committee also manage Chale Village Hall.

Chale Village Hall

The last original & secular Hall in Chale is now approaching its century of local use. But as I'm sure you realise, is in constant need of our financial and practical attention. We have been fortunate this year to have had donations from Chale Parish Council, and the Horticultural Society. This has enabled us to purchase a new fridge freezer, a solid bench and table combination for the garden, and with the help of volunteers, to have our crumbling front wall rebuilt.

Two of our members once again attended the Village Hall event at Mottistone, and were able to supply information, and promote our Hall to members of the public. We rely on our bookings to pay the bills, and are always looking to expand on the Hall use, to help us provide a safe and welcoming environment for events, parties, organisations, groups and individuals. We have a Chale Village Hall website if you wish to find out more.

Lynda Burroughs

President CWI