

# **Report to Chale Annual Parish Meeting 13 May 2024**

## **Chale Recreation Ground Ltd**

The charity experienced a return to a normal pattern of operation during the financial year ended 31 March with the accounts likely to show a worthwhile surplus on the year's operations against a background of increased costs.

Our costs are not immune from inflation although we are able to contain them while maintaining the recreation ground for all year round use thanks in no small part to the support we receive in the terms of the provision and free use of equipment, inexpensively costed work by local contractors and our small army of volunteers.

In addition to the regular and popular car boot sales, Action Challenge ran another successful event with participants raising over £250,000 for charities and there was further charity fund raising at horse and car shows. Chale Horticultural Society made a significant donation for additional maintenance work required at the field. These events plus the support of donations from users, for which we are grateful, enabled us to improve our overall financial position.

The field continues to be popular with individuals every day and we have ensured that it is maintained and the toilets are regularly serviced. Grass cutting, rolling and other work has been undertaken as normal to ensure that the field is in a safe and usable state. We encourage Island Roads to manage the drains along the Military Road on a regular basis to minimise the flood damage caused by run off at the field entrance.

The wet weather has again meant a slow start to the activities on the field with the planned Easter Monday car boot sale called off as the ground has been very soft. The field will again provide the start and finish location for the Action Challenge event over the early May Bank Holiday.

We are looking forward to the Chale Show on the first weekend in August and the car show on 30 June. The horticultural show continues to be popular as a major island event and the car show is growing in popularity every year. Both are worthwhile fund raising events for island charities.

We are always on the lookout for volunteers to join our team to manage the car boot sales as they continue to grow in size, year on year.

Anyone who is interested in volunteering is welcome to contact Wendy Hardy or me. We reward our volunteers with a free cup of tea!

Malcolm Groves,

Chair, Chale Recreation Ground Ltd