

Chale WI Annual Report to Chale Parish Council - May 2025

& CWI Annual Report to Board June 2025

This year Chale WI has continued to give a warm welcome to women of all ages, interests, and talents. We have provided both open meetings, and members meetings, with diverse topics such as the work of Cats Protection & Wild Women of the Wight, (to name a couple). We held a very successful "Food from the Past" evening talk that was open to the Community, and whilst the very entertaining Dr Ruth spoke about the different eras relating to food, the WI members provided authentic tasters from recipes of each era. In December Our ladies created a host of Angels for the Brighstone Christmas Tree event. As a result, we were able to raise funds for The Daisy Bus, run by Wessex Cancer Trust. Recently, our members have taken a more pro-active part in making decisions about our speakers, activities, and outings. This coming year we will have much more emphasis on the social side of our group, so maybe less Jam & Jerusalem, and more Chat & Champagne!? (Or Prosecco!)

We are very pleased to note that our monthly community Coffee Mornings continue to thrive, and have proved to be a very popular community event, providing a place to meet, relax, and chat, with opportunity to purchase plants & local crafts, whilst raising much needed funds for the Village Hall and other charities. We could not manage this without the delicious home-made cakes provided by our talented members, so as a thank-you, our members were able to attend and enjoy a lovely New Year lunch at Calon in Brighstone.

Joint activities with the Parish Council, have continued with another successful evening, this time focusing on the Caribbean. This coming year we plan, in conjunction with the CPC, to hold a Moroccan evening and hope to jointly host a Community Event BBQ including displays from local organisations.

Our Committee has seen one or two changes this year. We have welcomed Lynn as a new Committee member, and two Committee members, Roz and Helen, have become Vice-Presidents. We remain busy and productive, and always looking ahead.

As you are aware, presently, the members of CWI Committee are also trustees for our Village Hall, which we continue to manage and renovate. We have now overseen the completion of the exterior renovation and paintwork, this time choosing the original colours to match the old Scout Hall across the road. This year we would like to purchase a memorial bench to commemorate the lives of members who have passed on. We also need to continue in our work to raise funds for the Village Hall, as something always needs mending, replacing, monitoring or certificating! The Village Hall website continues to evolve, and is becoming a useful tool for those who wish find out more info or book an event.

Chale WI is group that provides contact, support, fun, and activities, for women of all ages. We hope to carry on doing this for many years to come.

Lynda Burroughs,

President, CWI.