



# Chale Parish News

The newsletter of Chale Parish Council, an accredited Quality Council

Spring 2006

**YOU'RE ON A WINNER WITH THIS ISSUE - SEE OVER FOR DETAILS**

## Village is so Chale and hearty

RECENT months have certainly proved Chale is a splendid place to live.

Firstly, your parish council was awarded Quality Council Status. This is a process that has meant everything the council does was scrutinised by the accreditation panel to prove the council met stringent criteria to give you top value for your tax pounds. Some of these areas set down by the Department of the Environment Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) are:

A Quality Council:

I Represents and engages all parts of its community, providing vision, identity and a sense of belonging.

I Is effectively and properly managed.

I Expresses the needs and wishes of its community.

I Upholds high standards of conduct.

I Is committed to work with its principal council and other public service agencies.

I Delivers services in proportion to its size on behalf of its principal council when this is the best deal for the community.

I Works closely with voluntary

**By Peter Atkinson, chairman**

groups in its community.

I Provides leadership to the community through its work on parish plans.

I Acts with other bodies to give information on community services.

In addition to these points we had to prove our clerk, John Whitney, was fully qualified to do the job.

We were very fortunate in that John is only one of four clerks on the Island to hold the appropriate qualifications, what amounts to a university degree in being a parish clerk.

This meant John studying for three years on a course with Gloucester University.

Having achieved Quality Status the parish council can rightly say it is doing a good job, something we all thought we were doing anyway, but it's nice to be told so by outsiders from time to time.

In practical terms, Quality Status also means if we wish to take on any major projects we can apply for grants that would be otherwise unavailable to us.

If this were not enough, con-

gratulations must also go to the group of villagers, led by Chale Village Partnership, who put together a very good application for the Calor Village of the Year Competition.

This led to Chale not only winning the Island heat but also the regional prize, making us one of the top half dozen villages in the country. Chale is now entered in a tenth anniversary champion of champions event being staged as a one-off by Calor. A truly amazing result.

This success was rewarded with prize money for the community of £1,400 for village projects.

One thing that is particularly pleasing to see is the return of the Christmas tree on Chale Green after an absence of several years.

The credit for this must go to the village youth group, who with help from the parish honorary tree warden, David Whitehurst, raised the money and arranged for a permanent power supply for the lights.

Practical and positive proof that Chale has a bright future with all parts of the community pulling together.

**Quiz night  
a question  
of support**

**CHALE Parish Council is represented in a number of outside bodies, among them the churchyard committee of the village's parish church of St Andrew's.**

**Cllr Jean Anger attends meetings on behalf of the parish council and she has reported some items of interest to the village as a whole.**

**The AGM is at Chale WI Hall on 20 March and on 30 March there is a quiz at the same venue to help raise funds. Money is also raised by sales of Derek Sprake's fascinating Chale and Blackgang video and Chale Burial Records book.**

# Just what the doctor ordered

IN FEBRUARY, Chale was singled out to contribute to a national fact finding tour by Dr Stuart Burgess, chairman of the Countryside Agency and the government's Rural Advocate.

The village was thought particularly significant for its vibrant community involvement, exemplified by having

an innovative parish plan and embracing projects such as investigating rural housing needs in the area.

Chale CE Primary School was also a focus for Dr Burgess and four pupils presented him with a list of reasons for keeping the Island's smallest school open. They were able to show him their

school was not good because it was small; it was good because it was good. And he wanted to see for himself and left duly impressed.

Representatives of the parish council, the village partnership and other residents talked to Dr Burgess about Chale's value as a vital part of the life of the Island.

## Gigantic task is set by village's school

By Sue Starke, community governor at Chale CE Primary School

THE hunt is on for the Chale Giant.

The village school has forged links with a small rural school in Scandinavia and both are exploring an exchange of myths and legends surrounding the two communities.

So far, a number of tall tales have emerged about Chale, including a legendary giant said to lurk in the cliffs at Blackgang to keep a watchful eye on any naughty children.

Anyone with any more information about the Chale Giant, or any other mythical village monsters, is asked to contact headteacher Trish Wray at the school.

Mrs Wray is hoping to stage a pageant involving all the village in 2007 based on Chale's myths and legends.

Meanwhile classroom work carries on to the high standard the Ofsted report highlighted and good work can be seen on the display boards around the building.

Recently the school said goodbye to Christine Ridley, the school secretary, and all wish her a happy retirement.

## Don't miss out on having your say

ALL parishioners are welcome to every meeting of Chale Parish Council but the next one on Monday 13 March is especially important and it is hoped as many people as possible will attend.

Special presentations will be made by Chris Mathews, from County Hall, on matters relating to the use of the public open space of Chale Green and Clare Hodges, of the IW Rural Community Council, will be revealing the results of the recent survey of rural housing needs in the area.

Both issues have vital significance to Chale's future and a good turnout should ensure a full exchange of opinions.

### Win £5 to spend at Chale Green Stores

Fill in the missing name: The man who built the Hoy Monument was .....  
Hoy.

My name and telephone number are: .....  
.....

Send this coupon to Mike Starke, The Cottage, Town Lane, Chale Green, Isle of Wight PO38 2JS, by Friday, 10 March 2006.

## Got a question or comment? Here's who to contact...

Cllr Peter Atkinson,  
chairman, tel: 551319.

Cllr Sue Starke vice-  
chairman, tel: 551386.

Cllr Jean Anger,  
tel: 551283.

Cllr Liz Groves,  
tel: 551379.

Cllr David Overton,  
tel: 551475.

Cllr Mike Starke,  
tel: 551386.

Write to: John A. H. Whitney, Clerk to Chale Parish Council, Well Place, Main Road, Newbridge, Isle of Wight PO41 0TR.

Tel: 531464. Website: [www.chale.org.uk](http://www.chale.org.uk)

e-mail: [whitneyparishcouncil@ukf.net](mailto:whitneyparishcouncil@ukf.net)

IW Council: Cllr Wendy Arnold, tel: 731083.