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Newsletter April '21

Dear friends,

After a challenging year, it finally feels as though there may be a light at the end of the tunnel, and we might be able to start returning to some activities and especially our support group in the near future.

To recognise Brain Tumour Awareness Month this year, we launched our socially distanced 'March through March' event, and we'd like to thank everyone who took part and clocked up the miles over the last month. Whether you set yourself the 25-mile target or decided to really challenge yourself with the 100 miles - everyone who completed the challenge should now have received their finishers medal and buff.

We'd like to say a huge thank you to Brightbulb Design, who supported us for the second year with their Mince Pie Marathon on the 9th December. This raised an incredible £6415!



Ryde Schools 'Trinity Arms Virtual Pub Quiz' was a great success in October, raising a fantastic £4000!

We are thrilled to have been chosen by Co-op Ryde as one of their 3 good causes, for the next round of their Local Community Fund - this will run throughout this year. Every time Co-op members buy selected Co-op branded products and services, Co-op give their chosen causes a helping hand. They also give all money raised from shopping bag sales to the causes, to help even more.

If you are a Co-op member, you can choose us as your chosen charity here: <https://membership.coop.co.uk/causes/43967>

We are delighted to announce that Gareth Bricknell will be running for The Wight Brainy Bunch at this year's Virgin Money London Marathon on Sunday 3rd October. We were thrilled to be awarded one small charity place at this year's race, and are confident that Gareth is the perfect candidate to represent our little charity at this iconic event. It's over to Gareth now to do all the hard work, but you can support him here: <https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/GarethBricknell1>

Novum Law have been a huge support to us since we started in 2016, and despite the lockdown and lack of events, they have still been supporting us this year, by providing so many of our families with treat bags for Easter. We know how much these little gifts were appreciated and would like to thank Novum Law for their ongoing generous support.

In November 2019, The Sun celebrated its 50th birthday and in recognition of this milestone they announced that they would be giving away £1 million to the good causes closest to their readers' hearts. The Wight Brainy Bunch were lucky enough to be nominated, but when we didn't hear anything for many months, we assumed that we had been unsuccessful. However, just before Christmas we were contacted and we were overwhelmed to receive a £10,000 grant from The Sun Reader 50 Fund! We feel incredibly fortunate to have received this, given everything that has been going on in the world, and would like to thank everyone who nominated us.

We are hopeful that we will be able to resume our monthly support group in some capacity with the easing of restrictions. Support groups are currently allowed to meet in a group no larger than 15 (as per government guidelines), however we have not resumed ours currently, as we need to ensure we can welcome you back confidently knowing that we are not putting already vulnerable patients at an increased risk. We feel to ensure social distancing can be adhered to, that we will need to find a larger venue and we are currently exploring the option of a daytime meeting in an outdoor space, although this is reliant on good weather and therefore difficult to plan. Your thoughts on whether this would be of interest to you would be appreciated.

Finally, our heartfelt condolences go to everyone who has recently lost a loved one to this devastating disease. Love and strength to you all.xxx

Dates for your diary 2021:

Virtual Quiz – May

A virtual quiz in aid of The Wight Brainy Bunch is being run by Tracy and Pete (who usually hold the quizzes at Newclose). If you would like to take part please email: Tracy71pete57@hotmail.co.uk by 12th May and questions will be sent out Friday 14th May. The quiz is just for fun and the answers will be supplied so you can check your own scores. In return for receiving the quiz they ask that each person who participates sends a minimum donation of £2.50 by cheque to 'The Wight Brainy Bunch' or donations can be made online: www.thewightbrainybunch.org.uk/donate (simply state 'Tracy and Pete quiz' in the donation message field). Any questions please email Tracy71pete57@hotmail.co.uk or telephone (01983) 527957 and please share to spread the word!

Sunday 11th July: Be Our Guest Ladies Tea Party

After cancelling last year's event due to the pandemic, I am hoping this year, if the easing of restrictions goes to plan, we can dust off the china for our lady's afternoon tea party once again. This is one of our favourite events, so please join us for cakes, bakes and a pot full of your favourite tippie. You can pop in for a cuppa or stay for the duration. There is no charge for this event, although you will be asked to make a secret donation of whatever you feel your afternoon tea is worth.

Unfortunately, this event is not suitable for young children. So please BE OUR GUEST!!

Wednesday 4th August: Charity Skydive

We will be taking to the skies once again on Wednesday 4th August for our annual Charity Skydive. Many places have been carried forward from last year, but we still have plenty of space for more ... so if this is on your bucket list, there is no better way to see the Isle of Wight!

Saturday 7th August: Warrior Festival

The 'Warrior Festival' will see a whole host of local bands come together at Sandown Airport on 7th August to support The Wight Brainy Bunch. The family-friendly festival invites everyone to enjoy a fun-filled day with a huge array of food options, bars and live music from the likes of Hashtag, Close to Home, The Ohmz, Foo Fighterz and many more. Tickets are just £10. Under 12's free.

For tickets, please visit: <https://book.events/warriorfestival/2021-08-07/29882>

September: Race Night

Race night at Ryde Castle - To be confirmed

September / October: Race for Stace

Date to be confirmed. Join Stacey's friends for a round the Island cycle ride. Total distance is 66 miles, but even one mile will help. To register, please email: claire_compton@hotmail.co.uk

Sunday 3rd October: Virgin Money London Marathon

We look forward to supporting our runners who carried their ballot places over from last years' cancelled event and also Gareth who will be running in our charity space.

Sunday 17th October: Simply Health Great South Run

On Sunday 17th October, we will be lining up on Clarence Esplanade at the start of the 2021 Simply Health Great South Run. This run is very dear to us and we really missed it last year, so if you would like to join us, please email: info@thewightbrainybunch.org.uk

Saturday 30th October – All Hallows Eve Ball

Join us on the 30th October for our 5th Black-Tie Ball, this year at Gurnard Pines. Enjoy a sparkling drinks reception, two course meal and live music from Switch and The Mix.

Saturday 4th December: Winter Wonderland Christmas Market

We are excited that the Council have given us permission (as things currently stand) to plan for this year's Christmas Market at Ryde Fire Station. Details to follow

Despite the lack of events and support group, we have still been busy behind the scenes providing support to both existing and new patients and their families who have been recently diagnosed. However, we have really missed having the opportunity to catch up with everyone in person for a cuppa and cake. I hope those days will return, along with our support group in the not-too-distant future.

Stay safe and we'll see you all soon

Kat & Mark

xxx

The Wight Brainy Bunch continues to offer emotional support and financial assistance to families here on the Island whose lives have been affected by the devastating effects of brain tumours.