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## Newsletter August 2019

Dear friends,

Wow what a rollercoaster few months this has been ... So many people ask after Mark which we are truly humbled by, so thank you so much. He has now commenced radiotherapy which will continue until early October before starting chemotherapy. Thank you so much for all your messages of support, they mean the world to us.

On the 5<sup>th</sup> June we gave a presentation at Shanklin Rotary Club, in the hope to raise more awareness for The Wight Brainy Bunch. This was really well received, and they very generously presented us with a £1000 cheque this month. Thank you so much to everyone at Shanklin Rotary.

We were delighted to be invited back to APS to receive a cheque for £1825 from their fundraising through 2018. We were very happy to have been able to support Lelde and Kristaps through his treatment and see him return to work. We would also like to congratulate them both on the wonderful news that they are expecting their first baby in November!

On the 1<sup>st</sup> September 7-year-old Lilly and 9-year-old Georgia chopped off their gorgeous locks to raise money for The Wight Brainy Bunch and to donate their hair to the Little Princess Trust who make wigs for children affected by childhood cancer. Lilly's 14-year-old brother Kayden was diagnosed with a brain tumour in August.

We had an amazing ladies afternoon tea party in June. This has become one of our favourite events and made extra special this year with our theme "G & Tea"!! Thank you to everyone who came and supported us once again, raising £460.

Our Bookstall at Tesco in May raised an incredible £501 in two weeks. We had an amazing amount of books donated, so thank you so much to everyone who contributed to this. We will be holding another one in July next year, so please sort any good quality books out in good time.

We had a great night at Ryde Co-op Funeralcare's Race Night on the 19<sup>th</sup> July at Newclose Cricket Ground. The evening raised £404!

We'd like to say a HUGE thank you and congratulations to Jason Hayles who took part in a mammoth cycling challenge The Pan Celtic Race in July! Jason started his adventure in Inverness in Scotland and cycled an incredible 1479 miles through the Highlands of Scotland, down the East coast of Ireland, and across to Wales where he completed his epic journey in the seaside town of Llandudno. A massive well done and thank you so much for choosing to support the Wight Brainy Bunch on your adventure. Alayna would be so very proud of you.

As you know, The Wessex Cancer Support Centre has been undergoing extensive refurbishment over the last few months, but we are pleased to be returning to the Centre for our support group this month. We'd like to thank Mike for allowing us to continue using the centre for our monthly support groups and look forward to seeing the finished centre very soon.

On another note, our Bereavement Support group is going well and certainly a worthy addition to our support group. We'd like to thank Julie for all the time she dedicates to our groups and her continued support.

We were overwhelmed when we met Trisha from Dabell & Co recently to learn that we are one of their two chosen charities that they will be donating 5% of profits to over the next year. Dabell & Co are a Residential Letting Agents, offering Holiday Lets and Property Management Services and opened their doors on August 10<sup>th</sup> in Freshwater. We are incredibly grateful for their support and would like to wish them every success with their new venture.

On the 2nd June we were delighted to attend the Charity Clay Pigeon Shoot at Bowcombe View Shooting Ground in memory of 18 year old Alayna Morris, who passed away in November last year. The event was organised by Anna, Bob, Jan and Aubrey Morris and raised over £10,000 in aid of the Wight Brainsy Bunch and the TYA Ward in Southampton. This month we were honoured to meet up with them all again to receive a cheque for an incredible £5676! Thank you all so much for involving us, and of course to everyone who took part and made this such a wonderful day in memory of a very special young lady #alaynasarmy

On Friday 7<sup>th</sup> June, staff at Day Lewis Pharmacy in Carisbrooke held their annual Charity Day in aid of The Wight Brainsy Bunch. Customers were invited to buy raffle tickets with prizes kindly donated by local businesses, whilst staff also collected donations for homemade cakes and biscuits. All the staff worked so hard, raising over £1250, which Day Lewis Pharmacy are generously matching, so a grand total of £2512.84, which is incredible! Special thanks to Bernadette, Kayleigh and all the staff, we are totally overwhelmed and so grateful to you all for choosing to support us this year.

As part of Ryde Co-op Funeralcare's "Love Your Neighbourhood" initiative, we joined forces with Ryde Fire Station on the 17<sup>th</sup> August for a Charity Car Wash to raise money for The Wight Brainsy Bunch and the Firefighters Charity and raised a fantastic £800. Thank you to all the lads at Ryde Station for all their hard work and of course to everyone who came along and supported the event, and hopefully went away with clean cars!

We are delighted to have been selected as part of 'Charities Together', who are a group of 6 charities working together to raise money for the local community. Charities Together is a group of local small charities working together to raise money for the local community, and is made up of; Cats Protection, Aspire, The Wight Brainsy Bunch, MPCT, Women's Institute, Ryde Rotary, IW Search & Rescue and Vectis Radio and we are holding a family fun event at Ryde Tesco on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> September (details below).



We have a couple of guest speakers planned for forthcoming support groups: On the 24<sup>th</sup> September Helen Maddox from Island Rehabilitation Practice will be joining us to talk about Neuro Fatigue and ways to try and cope with this. On the 29<sup>th</sup> October Jennifer Van-Zant, an Oncology Dietician from St Mary's will join us to give Dietary advice as this is very important.

On Wednesday (7<sup>th</sup> August), 29 individuals took to the skies above the Island for our third annual charity skydive under the expert tuition of instructors from Skydive IOW, our brave fundraisers jumped from 10,000ft. Everyone had an amazing day and with everyone's fantastic fundraising, we're sure our total this year will be over £10,000, which is incredible. Thank you so much to everyone who took part. Hopefully see you all again next year!

We have some exciting news regarding a long-term sponsor. Thanks to our trustee Mandy, we have secured the ongoing support of RPL Construction, who will help financially, and with promotion of the charity. Watch this space.

We also need to thank Fidelity International who have a branch locally in Newport who have given us their allocated advertising space with IW radio to us to use throughout October. We will therefore have 75 adverts over the course of the month dedicated to us. Listen out for us!

Finally, I know you will all join me in extending our heartfelt condolences to Zoe, Lorraine and their family on the sad passing of dear Gary. We loved chatting to Gary when he came along to the support group and he always had a smile for us. Love and strength to you all.xx

### **Dates for your diary:**

#### **Friday 6<sup>th</sup> September: Family Fun Evening**

'Charities Together' are hosting a family fun evening at Ryde Tesco, in aid of 8 small Island Charities. The event will take place in the rear car park from 4-8pm, and will host a variety of fun activities, including military assault course, Magic with David Randini, Characters from Enchanted Isle, swing boat rides, games, football cage, toy tombola, slime, glitter art, BBQ, cakes, refreshments and a milkshake bar! This promises to be a great evening of fun for all the family, as the little ones return to school. Free event, although donations are welcomed

#### **Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> September: Tea Party**

Come and enjoy a fundraising tea party in the seaside gardens of Copsefield West, a large Victorian mansion thought to have been owned by a member of Queen Victoria's medical team!

Afternoon tea • The Wight Brainy Bunch Raffle • Hat's off for the 'Best Hat' Prize • Music entertainment On Saturday 7th September, 2.30pm-5pm at Copsefield West, Copsefield Drive, Ryde, PO33 3AR (please park in the road and walk down the drive as far as you can go) Please RSVP to Rebecca on Mobile 07890287861 if you would like to attend.

#### **Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> September: Ryde Co-op Funeralcare Black-Tie Ball**

Join Ryde Co-op Funeralcare for their Black-tie Ball in aid of The Wight Brainy Bunch at one of our favourite places, The Lakeside Hotel in Wootton. Enjoy a 3 course meal, Charity Raffle & Auction and dance the night away to Crabbies Disco. Tickets just £38 per person, but you can reserve yours now for a £20 deposit. To book call: 01983 615746 or email: [rydefuneral@southerncoops.co.uk](mailto:rydefuneral@southerncoops.co.uk)

#### **Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> – Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> September: “Emergency Service Jail Break”**

Support teams from the IOW Police, Ambulance and Fire Service as they make their escape from the Island and go “on the run” over a 50 hour period, competing to get the furthest away without spending money and collecting as much as they can along the way. Vote for your favourite team via text donate.

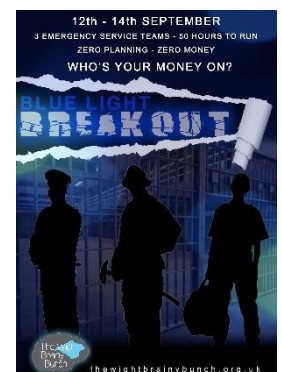
Text POLICEIOW, FIREIOW or AMBIOW to 70085 to vote for your chosen team.

#### **Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> October: “A Wight Night For Singing”**

We are thrilled that the three lovely ladies of Cantobelle have agreed to perform another charity concert for us at True Vine Church at 7:30pm. With guest performances from the Newchurch Male Voice Choir and Thea Grace Callaghan.

#### **Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> October: “Simply Health Great South Run”**

Looking for a new challenge this year? Then why not sign up for this year's Great South Run and raise money for The Wight Brainy Bunch? This amazing event is where everything started for us, and we would love you to be part of our awesome team. You still have a month to train, so dust off the trainer's, grab yourself a WBB vest and we'll see you at the start line!



**Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> October: Charity Football Match**

The IOW NHS Team take on Isle of Wight Fire in a Charity Football Match at East Cowes Vics from 1pm. This will be a family fun afternoon with kids/adult penalty shoot-out at half time, pumpkin competition, face painting and refreshments. Get your raffle tickets and be in with a chance of winning a 55" TV thanks to RPL Construction.

**Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> November: Winter "Snow" Ball**

We are returning to Ryde Castle for this year's annual black-tie Ball, with a winter theme. Drinks reception and 2 course meal, with live music from Switch. Mike Appleton and the Outfits!

**Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> & Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> November: "Melodic Choir Sing Mamma Mia"**

The Melodic Choir are asking you to take a chance on them this November as they hold two concerts at the Apollo Theatre on the 9th and 10th of November. Performing songs from the award-winning film and hit West End Show, Mamma Mia, you do not want to miss out on this Musical Extravaganza! Tickets: Adults £12 / Children £8 (under 16) To book call the Box Office: 01983 210010

**Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November: "Humour4Tumours2" with Nina Conti**

Join us on the 30th November at Shanklin Theatre, as we bring you Nina Conti and welcome back Sean Collins for an amazing night of comedy! Supported by Sean Collins and hosted by Keith O'Keefe. Tickets available through Shanklin Theatre: [www.shanklintheatre.com/tickets.aspx?did=1704](http://www.shanklintheatre.com/tickets.aspx?did=1704)



**Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December: "Winter Wonderland Christmas Market"**

We can't wait to return to Ryde Fire Station for our 3rd Wight Brainy Bunch Christmas Market. We will once again offer a wonderful array of seasonal stalls and entertainment to get you in the mood for the Christmas festivities. There will be plenty of festive refreshments available, including traditional BBQ and hog roast, or relax with a mulled wine, luxury hot chocolate, mince pie or sweet treat, while the kids have a bounce in our inflatable snow globe.... Our naughty elves are already busy preparing the "Elf Workshop", where the little ones can enjoy a range of craft activities, face painting, and of course don't forget a visit to our wonderful Santa's Grotto!

**December 2019:** Just like last year, we will be asking local businesses to take part in a Christmas Jumper Day for us this December. Boots (Newport), Hovertravel and Santander have already kindly agreed to take part, so if you know of any local businesses who would like to get in the festive spirit and raise some money for us, please ask them to get in touch.

**March 2020:** Wear A Hat Day will return in March. We follow in the footsteps of Brain Tumour Research to try and raise money locally with this event and also raise awareness throughout March for 'brain tumour awareness month'. Unfortunately wearing hats in March has also been adopted by another Island charity, which did significantly affect us this year, however we will continue and see how next year goes, so if you know any businesses who would like to take part, please do ask them to get in touch.

Thank you to everyone for your continued support, and we look forward to seeing you very soon.

Kathryn and Mark  
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The Wight Brainy Bunch will continue 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.