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## Newsletter February '22

Dear friends,

Firstly, we'd like to say HUGE congratulations to Kristaps and Lelde, who welcomed baby Aurora, a beautiful sister for Alexa, on January 28<sup>th</sup>. We can't wait to meet her.

We'd like to apologise for the mishap last month with the support group. Unfortunately, Nikki who usually opens up Newclose for us, had been poorly and hadn't communicated to anyone else the dates we'd booked. Luckily we were able to relocate to the Breeze, but we just wanted to apologise for the inconvenience that was caused.

A huge thank you to Carisbrooke College and Medina College who organised a joint Santa Dash for students and staff on the 17<sup>th</sup> December, raising money for WBB.

On the 12<sup>th</sup> March, Jo Tuck is planning to run 40 miles for her 40<sup>th</sup> Birthday for us. Jo is a teacher at Medina College and took part in the Santa Dash in December, and is also planning another run for Medina College on the 8<sup>th</sup> April. Jo always loves a challenge and we wish her the best of luck for her 40@40!

D&A Events annually hold horse and dog shows on the Island and in 2021 chose us as their benefitting charity. We were delighted to meet them earlier this month, where they presented us with a cheque for £1640, which is amazing. A huge thank you for supporting us.

Thanks to Sean Knighton, A-Plan Insurance and Wight Modified for creating 2022 calendars featuring Island modified cars in aid of us.

Following being one of Ryde Co-op's selected local causes until October last year, we were delighted to have been chosen for their in-store book stall from January this year. This is ongoing and has already raised over £450 for The Wight Brainy Bunch. So if you have any books in good condition that you would like to donate, we would love you to drop them in to Co-op to keep their stocks topped up. This has been a huge success so far, so please think of us if you hear of anyone sorting through their book collection.

Do you shop online? You can raise donations for The Wight Brainy Bunch via Easy Fundraising, while you shop.. Please choose Easy Fundraising and help us with every transaction.

[www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/thewightbb/?utm\\_campaign=raise-more&utm\\_content=en-e1](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/thewightbb/?utm_campaign=raise-more&utm_content=en-e1)

Mark and his Watch at Ryde Fire Station are planning to circumnavigate the Island this summer in their latest fundraising event. Watch Manager Chaz Wright is due to retire next year and wants to take on one final challenge and has chosen to do this for our little charity, due to its close connection with the Watch and Ryde Fire Station as a whole. The Green vs Wight Shoreline Challenge will go ahead on July 22<sup>nd</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>.

We were lucky enough to have the IOW Symphony Orchestra perform at last year's Christmas Market at Ryde Fire Station, and were delighted to learn that they will be supporting us later this year as their Charity of the Year.

We are really excited that we are finally able to offer respite/memory making breaks at our newly purchased caravan, situated at the stunning Nodes Point Parkdean Resort. As you all know, most of our support is financially based and therefore invisible to many. We wanted to be able to create an ongoing project that would benefit WBB families that our supporters could see. We know first-hand how important it is to be able to take time out as a family when things get a little overwhelming and having this beautiful location on the doorstep will hopefully provide a little escape for families dealing with the physical and emotional effects of their diagnosis and treatment.

In June, a special IW Art Club gathering will see fifty art books go on sale from the exceptionally talented Neil Archer, who sadly passed away last year from a brain tumour. With special thanks to Chris Archer for choosing the Wight Brainy Bunch to benefit from donations from the sale of these special books.

Finally, we were so very sad to hear of the recent passing of Nick and Lou. Thinking of Samara and Julia at this difficult time and sending all our love and strength to both of your families.

### **Dates for your diary 2022:**

#### **Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> March: 'March through March'**

Following the success of last year's lockdown event ... We are pleased to announce that March through March is returning for 2022! Exercise is not just for pandemics, so set yourself a challenge to march across the Island, walking the approximate equivalent of: A) Point to point (25 miles /40.2km) B) Round the Island (70 miles / 112.6km) C) Challenge yourself (100 miles / 160.9km).

To register, please email: [info@thewightbrainybunch.org.uk](mailto:info@thewightbrainybunch.org.uk) and we'll provide sponsor forms, links to setting up an online fundraising page, ideas for walking trails/routes to discover across the Island and details on how to log your activity/distance. So, dust off the walking boots, get the whole family active and run, jog skip or just 'March through March'.

#### **Friday 1<sup>st</sup> April: Medina Marching Band Spring Concert**

On the 1st April, Medina Marching Band are hosting a Spring Concert at Christ the King College, in aid of The Wight Brainy Bunch, with special guests IOW Highland Pipes & Drums. Tickets just £8.00. To book, please call 07837 792 518 or Email: [medinamarchingband@gmail.com](mailto:medinamarchingband@gmail.com)

#### **Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> April: Charity Race Night**

Following the success of last year's event, we'd like to invite you to our second charity race night at Ryde Castle. So dust off your fascinators and reserve your tickets for a fun night out with the chance to win bottles and cash prizes. Tickets just £5 per person and includes a welcome glass prosecco. Bar meals available. [www.thewightbrainybunch.org.uk/product/race-night-tickets/](http://www.thewightbrainybunch.org.uk/product/race-night-tickets/)

#### **April (date TBC): Charity Easter Egg Run**

The Easter Egg Run has been run for many years raising funds for a local charity, and this year it will benefit The Wight Brainy Bunch! This event is open to anybody on 2 or 3 wheels! They visit up to 5 care homes and give each resident an Easter egg (plus a few for the staff). The entry 'fee' is an egg plus £1, which is used initially to provide a buffet at the end of the ride, where a charity raffle is held and most of the money is raised. If there are any eggs left over they are donated to St Mary's Children's Ward.

#### **26<sup>th</sup> June: Charity Football Match**

IOW Fire vs Tesco Charity Football Match at Sandown Fairway. Opportunity for stall holders. Further details to follow

**22<sup>nd</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> July: Green vs Wight Shoreline Challenge**

Ryde's Green Watch vs the Isle of Wight Shoreline in their 2022 fundraising challenge in aid of WBB.

**Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> July: Warrior Festival**

After the success of last years 'Warrior Festival', a whole host of local bands will return to Sandown Airport on 30<sup>th</sup> July to support The Wight Brainy Bunch. The family-friendly festival invites everyone to enjoy a fun-filled day with an array of food options, bars and live music local bands. Tickets just £15 per person. Under 12's go free. Overnight camping available.

**Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> August: Charity Skydive**

We will be taking to the skies once again on Wednesday 10th August for our annual Charity Skydive. Please get in touch if you would like to take part. Just £50 deposit to secure your place and a total of £300 to raise. Leap from a plane 10,000ft above the Island for the thrill of a lifetime.

**Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> October: TCS London Marathon**

We look forward to supporting our runners, who deferred their 2021 London Marathon places, at this year's event.

**Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> October: Great South Run**

On Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> October, we will be lining up on Clarence Esplanade at the start of the 2022 Great South Run. This run is very dear to us, so if you would like to join us, please email: [info@thewightbrainybunch.org.uk](mailto:info@thewightbrainybunch.org.uk)

**Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> November: Diamonds & Ice Black Tie Ball**

Returning to Gurnard Pines for this year's Black-tie Masquerade Ball. Early-bird tickets just £36 for a sparkling drinks reception, two course meal and live music from The Strand. Deposit just £10 to secure these discounted tickets: [www.thewightbrainybunch.org.uk/product/diamonds-and-ice-masquerade-ball-deposit-10/](http://www.thewightbrainybunch.org.uk/product/diamonds-and-ice-masquerade-ball-deposit-10/)

**Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> December: Christmas Market**

We invite you once again to step into Christmas, with an array of seasonal stalls, traditional refreshments and festive entertainment... Join us for a mulled wine and mince pie or choose those last minute special gifts... our Winter Wonderland has something for everyone!

As always, thank you for your ongoing support.

We hope to see you all soon.

Kat & Mark

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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.