



The Wight Brainy Bunch
112 High Park Road
Ryde
Isle of Wight
PO33 1BZ

Newsletter February 2018

Dear all,

Firstly, we would like to wish you all a Happy New Year ... a little late, but we hope you all had a relaxing Christmas. Secondly, we must apologise for missing the January support group as we were on holiday. We must however thank Julie for holding the fort and making sure everything continued as normal. We look forward to seeing everyone who can make the 27th February.

As you may have seen from our website and Facebook posts, last year we were able to raise an amazing £27,000. We have been very fortunate to be able to give money to other charities close to our hearts (£6,000 Smile4Wessex, £3,500 Brain Tumour Charity, £4,000 Brain Tumour Research and £3,500 Fire Fighters Charity), as well as helping many more Island families with travel, therapies, making memories and rehabilitation.

Our last event of 2017 was our Christmas Market, and what a magical day it was... stalls full of seasonal gifts, festive food/drink, wonderful live entertainment and kids craft corner...the weather was unbelievably kind to us and everyone got in the spirit and thoroughly enjoyed themselves. We ended the day with the turning on of Ryde Fire Stations Christmas lights which was kindly performed by Sophie Gully. Since this time Sophie has unfortunately been poorly and we send all our love and very best wishes to her, George, Louise and Jake.



As you probably know, towards the end of 2017 we were nominated as one of Asda's charities for their token scheme. We are extremely grateful to everyone who voted "Blue" for us as at the end of January we were presented with a cheque for £500. Thank you to Mandy Blackler for receiving this on our behalf.

In January we also received a cheque for £1,000 from Nisa Local, which we were awarded following being nominated for their "Random act of kindness award". Thank you once again to everyone who voted for us.

Another thank you must go to the Dance Team "Mr Bakers Dozen" for their donation from collections throughout 2017.

Just a little update on the status of our charity... we are in the process of applying to become a registered charity and hopefully this will be completed soon. This will open up a lot of avenues for being able to apply for additional funding.

Website: www.thewightbrainybunch.org.uk
Email: info@thewightbrainybunch.org.uk
Tel No: 07850255984



The lads from Ryde Fire Station stepped up again at the end of last year producing our first charity calendar for 2018.

These have proved incredibly popular, with us selling over 450 across the Island, country and as far afield as New Zealand, raising almost £2000. If you haven't purchased yours, we still have a few left in stock.

We were very privileged to benefit from one of Tracy and Pete Asher's brilliant General Knowledge Quiz's at Newclose Cricket Club in November. We had a full house of teams who took part in several rounds of brain related questions, raising a brilliant £303! We very much look forward to repeating this again in October. Look out for more details.

Thank you to everyone who attended our Christmas meal at The Reef in Sandown. It was lovely to see so many people come together to celebrate Christmas who have been brought together through our little charity.

Lastly, we would like to convey our most sincere condolences to Kate Webb, Martin Webb and Angela Thistlewood on the sad loss of Simon in November and our heartfelt gratitude for choosing The Wight Brainsy Bunch to benefit in his memory, at what I know must have been an enormously difficult time. I wish we had got to meet you Simon.



Dates for your diary:

March 2018: "Wear a Hat Day"

As you are probably aware, March is Brain Tumour Awareness Month and once again we are welcoming local businesses to join us in our own "Wear a Hat Day".

Originally created by Brain Tumour Research, with The Brain Tumour Charity creating their own take on this with their "Bandana Day", we have several businesses including Boots, Morrisons and Novum Law once again taking part. If you know of any other businesses who would be willing to participate, please do let us know. The more the merrier!

Saturday 17th March: "Great Balls of Fire Charity Bingo"

We will be holding our charity bingo and first fundraiser of 2018 at Ryde Fire Station. Join us for 8 games including two quick fire speciality games.... Dust off your dabbers to win cash prizes and more! Book your seats now for just £5 per person, maximum 6 persons per table. Deposit will be used towards your purchase of bingo cards on the night. "Eyes down" 7pm.

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Tuesday 10th April: “Penny Brohn UK Course”

Not our event, but certainly something that might be of interest to a few people. Anyone is welcome to book on this course “Living well with the impact of cancer”.

<p style="text-align: right;"> Penny Brohn UK Living Well with Cancer</p> <h3>A course for anyone affected by cancer</h3> <p>Tuesday 10 April and Wednesday 11 April 2018 10.00am to 5.30pm each day At Carisbrooke Priory, 39 Whitcombe Road, Newport, Isle of Wight PO30 1YS</p> <p>The Living Well with the Impact of Cancer two day course is free and available for anyone living with cancer and their close supporter. The course shows how to take simple steps to live well with cancer.</p> <p>To book: Visit: www.pennybrohn.org.uk/national-living-well-services Email: bookings@pennybrohn.org.uk Phone: 0303 3000 118</p> 	<h3>Living well with the impact of cancer</h3> <p>The course may help you: Find out about how to prepare and enjoy healthy food.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Find a way to bring manageable exercise into your life.• Manage stress through relaxation and simple breathing exercises.• Cope with the emotional and psychological impact of cancer and its treatment.• Discuss the impact of a cancer diagnosis on relationships.• Explore some of the practical difficulties.• Consider how living with cancer affects our deepest values and beliefs. <p>This course will be held over two consecutive days and will start at 10.00am and finish at 5.30pm each day. To secure your place please complete and return a booking form as soon as possible. Bookings close on 26th March 2018.</p> <p>We are able to provide our services free of charge, thanks to the charitable donations and voluntary contributions which fund our work.</p> <p><small>Penny Brohn UK Chapel Pill Lane, Pill, Bristol, BS20 0HH 0303 3000 118 info@pennybrohn.org.uk www.pennybrohn.org.uk</small></p> <p><small>Penny Brohn UK is the trading name of Penny Brohn Cancer Care, a registered charity (no. 284881) and a company registered in England (no.1635916).</small></p>
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Sunday 27th May: “Abseil Spinnaker Tower”

We are extremely grateful to our very good friend and Wight Brainy Bunch member Mandy Blackler who has organised this fantastic event, which will see 6 people abseil down the Spinnaker Tower in Portsmouth in aid of our charity. I will be there holding the bags for this one!

Sunday 1st July: “Fairy Garden Secret Ladies Tea party”

We will be opening our garden once again for our traditional tea party this summer. This is one of my favourite events in our diary and I hope you can join us. All we ask is for a secret donation of what you feel your afternoon tea is worth. Please contact me if you would like to join us.

Saturday 14th July: “For One Night Only Ladies Night”

Get your tickets early for our first ladies only night! We have an amazing night in store with incredible Michael Bublé and Tom Jones tributes whilst our favourite firemen take care of your every need with their tantalising table service. Tickets are just £20 per person. More information available soon.

Wednesday 8th August: “WBB Charity Skydive”

We will be taking to the skies over the Isle of Wight once again this August as another team of crazy guys and girls agree to jump out of a perfectly good plane to raise money for our little charity.

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Saturday 1st September: “Great Gatsby Gala Dinner”

We are very much looking forward to our 3rd black tie ball. The Great Gatsby Gala will once again be held at Ryde Castle and we invite you all to join us for a champagne reception and two course dinner with live entertainment to dance the night away. More details and ticket information to follow.

Friday 12th October: “General Knowledge Quiz”

This will be the second quiz Tracy and Pete have held for The Wight Brainy Bunch at Newclose Cricket Ground. It was a fantastic night last year so please get your team entered early to avoid disappointment. On a personal note, this is also our wedding anniversary so please come along and celebrate with us!

Sunday 21st October: “Great South Run”

We have our usual culprits kindly volunteering to run the gruelling 10 mile course through Southsea and Portsmouth in October. This will be our 4th Year of taking part as The Wight Brainy Bunch and where our fundraising journey started so we always consider this event close to our hearts. There is still time to sign up if you would like to join us.

Saturday 1st December:

We are pencilling in this date for our 2nd Christmas Market. More details to follow.

The Wight Brainy Bunch will continue to support families here on the Island whose lives have been affected by the devastating effects of brain tumours; Smile4Wessex (The Wessex Neurological Centre) who provide acute and specialist care to a population of approximately 3 million people from the Isle of Wight and across the South Coast, not only for brain tumours but conditions such as stroke, brain haemorrhage, motor neurone disease and dementia; The Brain Tumour Charity, to fund much needed research, aid early diagnosis and improve care and quality of life for all those living with a brain tumour and The Fire-fighters Charity, who rely hugely on donations to run their three centres in Devon, Cumbria and West Sussex, where they offer rehabilitation, recuperation and support to both serving and retired fire fighters and their families in times of need.

We look forward to seeing you very soon.

Best wishes

Kathryn and Mark
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