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## Newsletter February 2019

Dear friends,

It seems a long time since our last newsletter, and this is a little late, but welcome to 2019!

So much has happened in the last couple of months ... we don't really know where to start, but a good place would be our fundraising total for 2018, which was an incredible £30,000! Thank you to everyone who helped us raise such a phenomenal amount, which has enabled us to support so many families this last year and also donate to The Wessex Neurological Centre in Southampton and The Brain Tumour Charity.

It was so lovely to see so many from our Support Group at our Christmas Dinner at The Reef on the 18<sup>th</sup> December, and we must say a HUGE thank you for the amazing gifts that were presented to us from you all, arranged by Karen and Mandy. We do not cope well with surprises and we were truly overwhelmed. Thank you to everyone who played a part in this ... you are very naughty!

We finished last year with our 2<sup>nd</sup> Christmas Market at Ryde Fire Station. Once again, this was an amazing event with wonderful stalls, refreshments and brilliant entertainment, including Carisbrooke Primary School Choir and Arreton Primary Hand Bell Ringers. This has become one of our favourite events with an incredible festive atmosphere, which is commented on by many and raised £3000.



On the 8<sup>th</sup> January we were invited along to see the wonderful East Cowes Methodist Ladies Group, who have hosted a variety of fundraising events throughout the last year for us, including an auction, afternoon tea, candlelight carol service and a concert (plus much more) and presented us with a cheque for an incredible £2075!! We are so grateful and completely overwhelmed at their donation and wish them all the best as they start their fundraising this year for another charity. Thank you so much ladies.

Thank you to everyone who voted for us prior to Christmas. As a result of this we were lucky enough to be selected to receive a £100 Christmas gift from Wheelers Solicitors and £1000 from Ecclesiastical Insurance in their "12 Days of Christmas".

We are also thrilled to have been selected as the chosen charity for the Ryde branch of Co-op Funeralcare for this year. They hold many fundraising events throughout the year, and we will bring you details of these when we have them.

We are considering holding a "Mindfulness Walk" along some of the most beautiful pathways on the Island, finishing perhaps with a cream tea or pub lunch. Please let me know if this would be of interest to you.



For anyone who missed the result of the competition run by The Duke of York pub in Cowes over Christmas to guess the number of baubles... There was an incredible 1426!! Thank you to Sally Cass and her team.

Over the last few months it has become apparent that there is an additional need for support for those families who have lost a loved one to a brain tumour. Our usual monthly group has always focused on those living with a tumour and this may not be the ideal atmosphere for supporting those recently bereaved. We held our first support session specifically focussing on this on the 12<sup>th</sup> February, which went very well. This was a trial session but will hopefully become a monthly addition to our existing support group.



Several Island businesses donned their festive knitwear for our Christmas Jumper Day in December, so thank you to Santander Newport, APS Produce, Boots Newport and The Cowes Employee Charity Fund. We must also thank Woolverton Manor Garden Fair, Pharaohs Folk Dance Group, R.Hunt Ltd Agricultural Engineers and of course Isle of Voices for their amazing fundraising over the last couple of months.

We'd like to say a huge thank you to Sam and her lovely mum and dad, Fred and Lesley Taylor, who presented us with an incredible £770 at our last support group. This was raised from their surprise birthday/anniversary party on the 8th December where guests were asked not to bring gifts, but instead to donate to our little charity. Such a kind and generous idea and we are truly grateful. Thank you so much.



Please support the lovely Linda Edge as she takes on 5 challenges for her 50th year! To mark her half century and with her hubby Martin and good friend Dave in tow, Linda will take on 4 challenges in aid of The Wight Brainsy Bunch and 1 in aid of The British Heart Foundation (London to Brighton cycle ride - 87km).

Linda will kick off her events in May with the IoW 100km Randonnee cycle ride, a Tandem Skydive in August, the South Downs 160km off-road cycle ride and finishing with the Boxing Day Swim at Ventnor! "Even with dodgy knees, bad backs and numerous other conditions, this unfit aged trio are determined to succeed!" We look forward to following you on your adventures Linda! Please visit Linda's fundraising page to read her story and show your support: <https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/LindaEdge3>

We are honoured to have Colin representing our charity at the iconic Virgin Money London Marathon in April. Please continue to share Colin's story and support his fundraising

<https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/ColinRichardson11>

Mark will also be running again in April due to his awesome finish time in 2017 which gave him an automatic entry. Training is well underway, and we wish them both the best of luck. Don't forget to look out for our WBB cheer point along the route lads ☺



Finally, please join me in extending our heartfelt condolences to Jan and Aubrey on the sad passing of Alayna in November, and also to Kevin, Shaun and Daniel on the loss of dear Jill in December. It has been an incredibly sad year for us, and we have said goodbye to far too many wonderful people over the last 12 months. It's overwhelmingly thoughtful of both families to choose to support the charity in memory of their loved ones and for this we are so grateful and truly humbled. Thank you so much.

## Dates for your diary:

### Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> March: "The 7 Hills"

If you prefer your challenges on two wheels, then maybe "The 7 Hills" is the perfect one for you. Covering approximately 26 miles from Freshwater Bay to Sandown Airport, the route will take you on some of the Islands toughest off-road climbs and test your endurance to the max. GP Sport would love you to join them on the 24th March and are happy for you to raise sponsorship for us in the process... So if you think you are up to tackling the hills of the Isle of Wight, and would like to raise money for our little charity, please contact us for information.

### Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> March: "Support Group with Guest Speaker"

We are delighted to be welcoming Helen Maddox to our March Support Group where she will demonstrate the benefit of cognitive stimulation therapy for memory impairment, which can be a disabling symptom post brain surgery.

### March 2019: "Wear a Hat Day"

Once again, we will be asking you to dust off your finest headwear and join in our 'Wear a Hat' fundraiser to celebrate "Brain Tumour Awareness Month" throughout March. So, if your workplace would like to take part, please choose your preferred date and contact us for more information.



### Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> April: "Virgin Money London Marathon"

Good luck to both our runners in this iconic race. We will have a small cheer point along the route and will keep you all updated on their progress.

### Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> April: "Graham Sprack Memorial Cricket Match"

Please be sure to put this date in your diary. Taking place at Northwood Cricket Ground, Dianne and Grahams former cricket colleagues are arranging a charity memorial match in his memory. Details will follow on our events page of our website so please keep an eye open for these: <http://www.thewightbrainybunch.org.uk/events-wight-brainy-bunch>

### Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> April: "Support Group with Guest Speaker"

We will be welcoming Kate Nelson to our support group for the first time in April. Kate is the Nurse Specialist at St Mary's for brain cancer, as well as cancer of unknown origin and rarer cancers. This is a wonderful opportunity for everyone to meet her as she is a wonderful link between the Island and Southampton that was missing prior to her appointment in March 2018.

### Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> May: "Trinity Theatre Community Quiz"

Trinity Theatre in Cowes are holding their annual Community Quiz in aid of The Wight Brains Bunch. £3 per person in teams of 4. Book a table by calling 01983 777701 or email [quiz@caods.org.uk](mailto:quiz@caods.org.uk).



### Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> June: "G and Teatime Secret Garden Party"

We will be dusting off the posh china for our annual Ladies Garden Party. The clue is in the title and as usual it won't be JUST tea served in our teapots! Please pop in for a cuppa or stay for the duration.... You are simply asked to donate whatever you feel your afternoon tea is worth. Please let me know if you are able to join me.

### Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> August: "Charity Skydive 2019"

We will be taking to the skies again in August with our charity skydive. We have just 3 remaining places available, so if you would like to soar to a height of 10,000 and experience amazing views of the Isle of Wight, please do contact me asap. All jumps are subject to a completed medical form and payment. You can reserve your place for a deposit of just £60, with the balance being payable 6 weeks prior to the jump. Additional sponsorship is encouraged.

**Date TBC: “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. More details to follow.

**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 8 months to train .... so dust off the trainer's, grab yourself a WBB vest and we'll see you at the start line!

**Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> November: “Snow Ball”**

Please save the date for our 4<sup>th</sup> Black-tie Ball at Ryde Castle. You do not want to miss our glistening Winter Ball - More details to follow soon.



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

Please save the date - More details to follow.

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 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 and 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.