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Newsletter February 2020

Dear friends,

Firstly, please let us begin by wishing you all a rather belated Happy New Year... we have probably seen or spoken to many of you already ... but here's hoping this year is a good one.

As always, it's been extremely busy and you may have already heard about many of the events that have been happening across the Island over the last few months....

On the 13th December, Blue House at The Bay CE School held a Community Day to raise funds following their fellow student Kaydens diagnosis of a brain tumour last summer. They held a bake-off, cookie sale, Christmas jumper mufti day, Christmas fair, quiz and raffle and raised a whopping £1513.66!

Thank you so much to everyone who attended our Christmas dinner at Woods Kitchen. We hope you all had an enjoyable evening.

We were delighted to be chosen by Brightbulb Design as their charity of the year. Their Brilliant Mince Pie Marathon event in December raised over £3000 when they visited 93 local businesses delivering mince pies across the Island. PC Consultants was top of the Mince Pie Leader Board, ordering a staggering 250 mince pies.

We had a lovely surprise donation from Ventnor Theatre Group, from their production of Cinderella in December, raising £160 in their bucket collection.

We had several local businesses take part in our Christmas Jumper Day including Royal Mail, Hover Travel, Boots, Cowes Employees and Carisbrooke College. Thank you all so much.

The wonderful landlady, Sally, at the Duke of York in Cowes, kindly chose us once again as the benefiting charity of their Christmas fundraiser 'Balls Up'. The entire pub is covered with Christmas baubles and customers are invited to guess the number for £1 donation. The total number of baubles this year was 1806!

Huge thanks to all of the CTAL team (a subsidiary company of Rolls-Royce) based at the GKN Aerospace Osborne site, who have recently relocated to Bristol.. They have been repurposing some IT equipment that is no longer required and asked for donations for these items to benefit us.

We feel very honoured to have three ladies taking part in the 2020 Virgin Money London Marathon in April. We will be with them every step of the way (not literally as that would be exhausting!)
A huge thank you to Rachel Grimes, Tanya Hunt and Kelly Peach for representing our little charity at this iconic event. Mark will be leaving his trainers at home this year!

We were delighted to be invited along to St Lawrence Church on the 6th February for their monthly charity Coffee Morning. They had kindly decided to support us this month following one of their parishioners being diagnosed with a brain tumour recently.

The Broadway Park Hotel have been raising money for us throughout the past year in memory of their friend and former work colleague, Melody Sheath. Melody sadly passed away from her brain tumour in June 2018.

A huge thank you to the Welcome Co-op in Bembridge for their recent Fundraiser in store, which raised a fantastic £209!

It's a good job we love coffee and cake, as we were also selected as the chosen charity for the West Wight Sports & Community Centre Coffee Morning on February 14th, which raised a fantastic £269.

I was so pleased to join Shorwell WI at their meeting this month as their chosen charity for the coming year, and tell them about The Wight Brainy Bunch and the work we do.

We were totally stunned and overwhelmed to receive a £500 donation from the Premier League. Apparently, every year they make donations to charities nominated by their employees in lieu of Christmas Cards, so we are so grateful to have been nominated.

A huge thank you to Terry Ramplin and his wife Sue for choosing us as one of his charities to benefit from his Christmas Lights on Long Lane. He raised an incredible £4300 from donations made throughout December, which was split equally between The Wight Brainy Bunch and Johns Club.

Thank you also to the staff at Pavers Shoes, and especially Emma who successfully nominated us for a grant of £5000.

Once again we are on the hunt for good quality books for the Tesco bookstall in aid of The Wight Brainy Bunch in July. Please spread the word among friends and family who might have books to donate.

We are thrilled to have been selected as one of the chosen charities of Island Environmental Hygiene for 2020/21, along with the IOW Prostate Cancer Support Group. For every new customer, they will be donating £10 into their charity pot, as well as organising fundraising events throughout the year.

Finally, it is with sadness and shock that we lost our dear Mo suddenly in December, just over a year after losing her husband Paul from a brain tumour. Mo had regularly attended our groups and we send all our love and thoughts to Owen and their family. Please also join us in extending our heartfelt condolences to Liz and her family on the sad passing of dear Steve. We loved seeing and getting to know Steve at the support group and we know this will indeed be a shock to some of you. Love and strength to you all. xx

Dates for your diary:

March 2020: Wear a Hat Day will be returning throughout March. We follow in the footsteps of Brain Tumour Research to try and raise money locally to celebrate 'brain tumour awareness month'. We are grateful to Ascensos, Novum Law, WRS and Hovertravel, as well as several churches who are taking part this year.

Friday 6th March: General Knowledge Quiz at Newclose

Looking forward to seeing everyone who has booked their teams for this. Tracy and Pete's quizzes are always brilliant and we are grateful as always to be selected as one of their beneficiaries. This is now fully booked.

Tuesday 10th March: Charity Football Match

Primary school teachers will take on Secondary school teachers for this fantastic match at Westwood Park, Cowes in aid of The Wight Brainy Bunch and Sport Relief. Please pop along and support our teachers. Entry £3 Adults/ £1 Under 16's. Kick off 6.30pm

Friday 20th March: Charity Fashion Show

Sugar & Spice and Bellissima are hosting their fashion show this year at Bar 74, in aid of The Wight Brainy Bunch. Tickets £10 available from both shops.

Saturday 28th March: Medina Marching Band Concert

Medina Marching Band will be holding their Easter Concert from 7pm at the Methodist Church, Quay Street, Newport. Tickets just £5. To book please email: medinamarchingband@gmail.com

Sunday 5th April: Cars & Coffee Meet – JW Autoshine

JW Autoshine vehicle detailing/Pro-Touch in Rookley, invites you to a 'Cars and Coffee' meet in memory of Michaela Logan. JW Autoshine will be donating 10% of all sales on the day to The Wight Brainy Bunch, as well as any donations made towards hot food and drinks. BBQ breakfast and lunch available with lots of show cars on site.

Sunday 26th April: Virgin Money London Marathon

We cannot wait to see Rachel Grimes, Tanya Hunt and Kelly Peach representing our little charity in this iconic race around the capital.

Monday 18th May: Takeover Photo Charity Event

JMR Media will be Collaborating with Eren Wall Photography to take photos up Culver Downs in the rear car park from 12-4pm. They will be charging £3 per car for a digital photograph of your car with all proceeds to the Wight Brainy Bunch. If you love your car, please pop along and see them.

Saturday 27th June: Charity Race Night – Ladies Day

Fancy a Flutter? Then join us for a fun evening of entertainment at Ryde Castle on Saturday 27th June. In true 'Ascot Ladies Day' style, you'll be treated to red carpet treatment as you enjoy a glass of bubbly on arrival, with a prize for 'Best Dressed Hat'... So giddy-up, prepare to place your bets and enjoy a night at the races! Become a race horse owner for £2 or sponsor a race for £10. *8 Runners/10 Races /Prizes for winning owners PLUS charity raffle! Generously sponsored by Novum Law. Tickets just £5.00. www.thewightbrainybunch.org.uk/product/race-night-tickets-27th-june/

Sunday 12th July: ‘Be Our Guest’ Ladies Tea Party

It's that time of year again ladies to dust off my finest china for this year's secret garden party. This is a firm favourite in our calendar, so please drop in for cakes, bakes and a pot full of your favourite tippie ... Please 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. This event is ladies only and unfortunately not suitable for young children. So please BE OUR GUEST!

Wednesday 5th August: Charity Skydive

We will be taking to the skies once again on Wednesday 5th August for our annual Charity Skydive in aid of The Wight Brainy Bunch, and we have just a few places left! There is no better way to see the Isle of Wight, than jumping out of a plane at 10,000 feet from Sandown Airport, so if this has been on your bucket list, now is the time to get onboard! The total cost of one of our places is £280. A deposit of £60 will be required to secure your place, with the remaining balance to be paid 4 weeks prior to the jump. Obviously, any sponsorship over and above this is an added bonus, for which we are very grateful. Please email info@thewightbrainybunch.org.uk for more information or to reserve your place.

Sunday 18th October: Simply Health Great South Run

On Sunday 18th October, we will be lining up on Clarence Esplanade at the start of the 2020 Simply Health Great South Run. If you would like to join us please email: info@thewightbrainybunch.org.uk

Saturday 7th November: Diamonds & Ice Charity Ball

Join us on the 7th November for our 5th annual Black-Tie Ball at Gurnard Pines. Brave the chills of winter and the preparation of Christmas, frost yourself in diamonds and mask yourself for a night to remember. Enjoy a sparkling drinks reception, two course dinner and then dance the night away with live music from Switch and The Strand! Early bird tickets available at last year's price of £38 per person until the 31st May (following this, tickets will increase to £40 per person). Maximum 10 persons per table. Secure yours today with a deposit of £10 per person. Book now by visiting: www.thewightbrainybunch.org.uk/product/diamonds-and-ice-black-tie-ball/

Saturday 5th December: Winter Wonderland Christmas Market

We cannot wait to return to Ryde Fire Station for our 4th Wight Brainy Bunch Christmas Market on Saturday 5th December. 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 bratwurst BBQ and hog roast, and we invite you to relax on Candy Cane Lane with a mulled wine, luxury hot chocolate, mince pie or sweet treat, while the kids play in our inflatable snow globe. Fun for all the family!

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

Kathryn and 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.