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Newsletter June 2020

Dear friends,

We hope that you have all been keeping safe and well during lockdown and apologies for this newsletter being a month late ... I have no excuse other than I have no idea what day of the week it is (or month apparently) since lockdown!

The enforced downtime was a welcome change for us with Mark currently undergoing chemotherapy, and for once I can say we have honestly not been busy. On the flip side of this, there is the possibility of delayed diagnosis and postponed procedures and treatments for brain tumour patients, due to the Covid-19 crisis and this of course may impact some families hugely.

The current pandemic has been a challenging time for charities, as well as for local businesses and families alike. It was inevitable that fundraising was going to be affected due to the postponement and cancellation of so many organised events, but this was an unavoidable situation. However, our supporters are ingenious and even throughout lockdown, so many people have gone above and beyond to try and minimise the impact this has on the charity and we are truly thankful to everyone who has contributed in some way. You will see that we have a revised and reduced "Dates for your Diary" but we are hopeful that some of our events later in the year may still be able to go ahead, so we have left these in place for now.

Thank you to everyone who managed to take part in our 'Wear a Hat Day' in March. Obviously many of the local businesses who were due to take part, had to abandon their plans when lockdown started looming but we were delighted to see so many managed to participate, especially the IOW Community Mental Health Team who took part in a virtual Wear a Hat Day Coffee Morning in June.

Thank you to all our home heroes who took part in the 2.6 Challenge. This was a national event organised by the London Marathon Team to help charities recoup a little of their lost revenue on the day that the 40th Marathon should have taken place. We were thrilled to have so many take part, raising an incredible £1495.44 in total. A huge thank you to Linda and Martin for their 26 mile fancy dress ride on a turbo trainer, Kay D'Lacy and the Melodic Choir for their 26 song singathon, Gareth Bricknell for his 26 mile cycle ride, Colin Richardson for his driveway half marathon and Rebecca and Steve Savage for their 26 minute boogie. You are all amazing!

The Melodic Choir certainly haven't been resting the last few weeks, and we'd like to thank Kay De'Lacy, Natasha White and members of the choir who have performed harmonies and sections of the emotive song 'Rise Up' by Andra Day, all socially distanced from their own homes for the recording of this beautiful song, which they dedicated to us to raise funds ... such poignant beautiful words!

www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ej4UByAhey0&feature=youtu.be

We were thrilled to be PedalAid's chosen charity for May. Each month they set a charity challenge and ask participants to download their app and raise money while you ride. Every kilometre you ride along the designated routes releases money and if the target is reached the donation per km is doubled. Despite the lockdown restrictions PedalAid had one of their highest usage months on the cycle track ever. Saturday 9th May was the Red Squirrel Trail's (Newport-Cowes section) busiest day ever since data collection began in 2014 with 718 people recorded cycling on this section! The daily average for this calendar year is 264. In total PedalAid users cycled 4,056 kilometres in May.

We were delighted to learn that BrightBulb design have chosen to keep us as their chosen charity for a second year, as they have been unable to complete the fundraising they had hoped to do. This means the much anticipated return of the Mince Pie Marathon in December. Last year they raised a staggering £3000, when they visited 93 local businesses in one day, delivering mince pies across the Island.

The postponed London Marathon is now due to take place on Sunday 4th October. We feel very honoured to have three ladies taking part in what will be the 40th London Marathon. 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.

We must also say a few thank you's for some wonderful unexpected donations that we have received during lockdown that have made a huge difference to us:

Firstly to Daniel Burns from St James Place for nominating us for a grant of £1500, which we recently received. The wonderful ladies at Ventnor Inner Wheel for their kind donation of £600, received this week and special thanks also to all at Vectensian and Albany Masonic Lodges for their combined donations of £500.

Don't forget our Wight Brainy Bunch face coverings are now available on our website. These are made from breathable lightweight scuba material and can be washed at 60 degrees. They are not medical quality face masks, they are just face coverings.

<https://www.thewightbrainybunch.org.uk/product/wight-brainy-bunch-face-mask/>

Lastly, we are delighted to announce that we have once again been selected for a small charity place in the 2021 London Marathon. We will be welcoming applications for this in the near future.

Dates for your diary:

Saturday 4th - 18th July – Tesco Book Stall

Please pop along to Tesco over the next two weeks and choose from the wonderful donations of books we've been lucky enough to receive.

Wednesday 5th August: Charity Skydive (Remains under review)

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, so if this is on your bucket list, now is the time to get onboard!

September – TBC

This event was cancelled in June but will hopefully be rescheduled for some time in September.

Join the Red Squirrel Property Shop Ltd Charity Golf Day, in aid of The Wight Brainy Bunch at Newport Golf Club. Teams of 4 will play in a Texas Scramble format with a shotgun start at 11:00am. £10 per person (includes food) More information to follow.

Friday 11th September: Charity Race Night – Ladies Day **NEW DATE (Remains under review)

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 4th October: Virgin Money London Marathon **NEW DATE (TBC)

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

Sunday 18th October: Simply Health Great South Run (TBC)

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 Masquerade Charity Ball (Remains under review)

Join us on the 7th November for our 5th annual Black-Tie Ball at Gurnard Pines. 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 (Remains under review)

We will once again offer a wonderful array of seasonal stalls and entertainment to get you in the mood for the Christmas festivities. Fun for all the family, so please save the date.

We have tried to stay in touch with everyone on a fairly regular basis, but please feel free to give me a nudge if you have not heard from us recently. As you know, this is not usually the way we like to operate, we like to visit in person and spend time with all our WBB families with a few cuppas and almost certainly cake. I hope those days will return, along with our support group in the not too distant future, as we love catching up with everyone.

Our thoughts are with those still affected by the virus, particularly those who are sick and we wish them a speedy recovery. We remain inspired by our healthcare workers and others who are caring for people in the community, and we urge all our WBB family and supporters to remain safe and well.

Kat & 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.