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Newsletter March '26

Dear friends,

It's been so long since I've written a newsletter .. in fact, most of our current support group have probably NEVER received one... but this is just to prove they do exist!

The charity has been so very busy over the last couple of years with new families, organising events and of course Mark undergoing another years' worth of chemotherapy last year, so I can only apologise for not having kept up to date with the newsletters and for not being in touch as much with some of you as much as I would have liked.

I'm not even going to try and condense the last few years into a letter as it will take you the rest of the year to read... but I will recap on a few things that have happened over the last year or so and let you know about our forthcoming fundraising events, which will be a good starting point to try and get back on track for this quarterly roundup.

As some of our support group members may know, Deb Radestock took up Nordic Walking as part of her recovery from brain surgery. She has since taken a qualification in instructing this and is very kindly offering to use her knowledge to teach other members of our little brain tumour community, so they too can experience the benefits of this exercise. As March is brain tumour awareness month and we are running our March through March challenge, we thought this might be the perfect excuse to try a spot of Nordic Walking if anyone would like to join us. **We are meeting in Yaverland car park, Sandown at 11:00am on Sunday 29th March.**

We were delighted to have been chosen by **Island Roads** as their Charity of the Year for 2025. They undertook many fundraising events throughout the year and we will update you further when we have the total raised.

We are very sorry to hear and share with you that **Warrior Festival IOW** will not be happening this year. While this is disappointing news for everyone who supports and enjoys the event, we realise that this decision will not have been taken lightly. We have always been (and remain) so grateful to have been chosen as the benefitting charity for this event. The festival was created to bring people together to raise awareness and vital funds for our little charity, and that mission continues.

We were so humbled when Cathy Elobeid approached us a couple of years ago to ask if '**Sunflowers for James**' could donate the money they raise to The Wight Brainy Bunch. Cathy is based in Wootton and makes delicious preserves to raise funds in memory of James Godsell, who heartbreakingly passed away from a brain tumour in 2014 at the age of just 6 years old. Cathy can be found at many events throughout the year and last year alone raised over £3100!!

On Sunday 26th April, Kierhan Dry will be taking on the **TCS London Marathon**. We were thrilled to receive a small charity ballot spot and knew Kierhan was the perfect candidate to represent our little charity at this iconic event. To support Kierhan please visit his fundraising page below:
<https://2026tcslondonmarathon.enthuse.com/pf/kierhan-kochanski-dry>

We had another fabulous black-tie event on in November, at our new venue GG's, with our Moonlit Masquerade Ball. Special thanks to all who attended – we raised £4180.00, which is amazing! We are very much looking forward to this year's Moulin Rouge themed Ball in September.

A huge thank you to all our runners who took on the Great South Run in 2025... I'm pleased to say our 14 strong team all finished. With special thanks to Hovertravel for generously supporting us with travel to and from Southsea once again.

Thank you to everyone who continues to donate books to **Ryde Co-op** for their in-store bookstall for us. This has been running since January 2022 and proved to be incredibly popular and has already raised in excess of £12,000! Please keep the books coming and let's keep this going!

We have been approached to provide refreshments and cake for the Open Studios 3-day event in Cowes on 15th/16th/17th May, with all profits to the Wight Brainy Bunch. So, if you're a secret Mary Berry (no soggy bottoms) and would be able to rustle us up a cake, cupcakes or a tray bake for one of these days, that would be amazing.. **OR** if anyone is able to volunteer for a stint at serving teas and cakes for a couple of hours on any of these days, that would be equally amazing. Please message me.

On Sunday 3rd May, Jared Lloyd will be taking on the Southampton Half Marathon in aid of the Wight Brainy Bunch, and is stepping up his distance having previously run the Great South Run for us. Please support Jared if you can: www.justgiving.com/page/jared-lloyd

Also on the 2nd & 3rd May, Sophie White (Lucy's Niece), is taking on the 50km IOW Ultra Challenge. Sophie has previously tackled the 25km so is doubling her distance this year in aid of our little charity. Please support her and join us in wishing her the best of luck for her challenge.
www.justgiving.com/page/sophie-white-5

We were so sorry to hear that Chas McNeil from Skydive Isle of Wight sadly passed away recently. Anyone who has taken part in a skydive with us over the years has probably met or even jumped with Chas. He was a lovely man and an incredibly experienced skydiver. Thinking of all his family and friends.

Please do remember to sign up for **Easy Fundraising** and raise funds for The Wight Brainy Bunch whilst you do your shopping online.

Please also take a moment and nominate us for a £1000 donation from the Benefact Group's Movement for Good initiative. Nominations are open all year with three draws taking place in March, September and December. It only takes a couple of minutes to nominate, but we would be truly grateful

We'd like to say a huge thank you to Russell for choosing The Wight Brainy Bunch as his charity of the year at **Ryde Golf Club** for the duration of his club captaincy for 2025, with monies raised being shared with the club 🏌️. Throughout the year the club raised over £3000, which is incredible, and we were delighted to be invited along in January to be presented with a cheque for £1600! Their fabulous fundraising will also enable them to purchase a specialist piece of equipment to clear leaves from the course 🌿. Thank you so much to Russell and everyone at Ryde Golf Club for supporting us.

In August last year **Wetwheels Solent** gave some of our WBB families the opportunity to experience the thrill of a high-speed trip on the Solent, which was generously sponsored by **Hill Robinson Recruitment**. Our budding sailors left Cowes and enjoyed a 90 minute trip, visiting Osborne House along the way, with the opportunity to take the helm! Massive thanks to Jules for putting us forward for this opportunity and to Wetwheels for making it happen.

On the 12th July last year we attended the charity football match, where Sandown and Lake FC and McCarthy's Bar & Restaurant took on the Fire Service, followed by a fun afternoon and fantastic raffle at the Fairway Holiday Park, in aid of The Wight Brainy Bunch and Mountbatten Isle of Wight. We were delighted to be invited back to McCarthy's Bar & Restaurant on 29th August where we were presented with a cheque for **£765.50** for the Wight Brainy Bunch, which is amazing!

Special thanks to Steven Chapman for choosing the WBB as the Fire teams charity.. but also massive thanks to Jacqui Middlemiss, Sandown and Lake FC, McCarthy's Bar & Restaurant and to everyone who helped make the day such a huge success!

On Friday 19th September 2025, Ryde Golf Course played host to the annual **999 Charity Golf Event**, welcoming 44 golfers for a day of sport, solidarity, and fundraising. Open to all island Emergency Services Personnel, Armed Forces members, and individuals or families affected by

brain tumours. There was a fantastic turnout, with teams representing a wide range of services including the **Police, Fire Service, Prison Service**, and the **NHS**. The event enjoyed favourable weather, and participants made the most of a brilliant afternoon of golf and camaraderie. Special thanks to **Nickie Moreton** who organised this fantastic event. Thanks to the generosity and spirit of everyone involved, the event raised an impressive **£1,526**.

A huge thank you to Dunelm IOW for including the Wight Brainy Bunch as one of their benefitting charities for their 'Delivering Joy' initiative in December. This is the second year we have been involved in this scheme and were delighted to deliver presents to some of our WBB families.

We're delighted to have been shortlisted in the top 3 nominations for Charity of the Year at the IOW Radio best in Business Awards and look forward to attending the awards evening in April.. Wish us luck!

Lastly, we were so sad to hear the news that the lovely Charlie Tiley sadly passed away last month. Sending all our love and heartfelt condolences to Julie and all the family. It was such a privilege to have met Charlie and been part of his journey. He will always be remembered with such fondness.

Dates for your diary 2026:

29th March: 'Poles & a Pint' Nordic Walk

We are meeting at Yaverland Car Park at 11am with an intention to walk along the sea wall to Shanklin and back, possibly stopping for a drink/lunch at the Reef (approx. 1 mile mark). All welcome to join us and walk as little / much as you like.

Friday 3rd April: Easter Quiz at the Gallybagger Inn.

Join us for our general knowledge quiz at the Gallybagger Inn in Chillerton * Teams of 6 * £3 per person * 7pm for 7:30pm start * To book please contact Paula on Tel: 07776353783 or email: paulapoulter@googlemail.com by **Tues 31st March**.

Friday 10th April: Charity Race Night at the Bargemans Rest, Newport

Join us for our Charity Race Night on Friday 10th April in aid of The Wight Brainy Bunch. Giddy up and trot on over to the Bargeman's Rest (The Sail Loft), where you can place your bets on a noble steed or your favourite filly. Opportunities to be a horse owner or sponsor your own race and win extra prizes! Bar meals available (limited menu - not included in ticket price). So, stop horsing around and reserve your tickets for a fun night out and the chance to win CASH prizes. Tickets £5.00 (Under 12's free) <https://www.thewightbrainybunch.org.uk/shop>

Saturday 18th April – Charity Netball Tournament

Join in the Gwyn Foster Netball Tournament at Ryde School organised by Yvette Henry. £100 per team (max 10). To enter email: yvette.henry84@icloud.com

Friday 25th April: Charity Car Wash at Tesco Ryde

Join us on Saturday 25th April for a charity car wash with Ryde Fire Station at Tesco Extra in Ryde, in aid of both the Wight Brainy Bunch and the Firefighters Charity. Pop along between 10:00am - 4:00pm when Ryde's finest Fire Fighters will ensure your cars are sparkling clean for a donation to charity.

Saturday 25th July: Fire Engine Pull at Newport Quay

We're really excited for our new event which will see approximately 30 teams of 10 pull an 18-tonne fire appliance 50 metres in the quickest time. This will be an all-day event from 10am - 5pm with live music, food vendors and local stall holders. £150 team entry. Email: info@thewightbrainybunch.org.uk

Wednesday 19th August: Skydive

We will be taking to the skies once again in August for our annual Charity Skydive. So, if this is on your bucket list, there is no better way to see the Isle of Wight. To join us please email: info@thewightbrainybunch.org.uk

Saturday 22nd August: Family Fun Day at Arreton Barns

Family Fun Day with a packed programme of live music and entertainment, stallholders with local produce and crafts, inflatables for the children plus all that Arreton Barns and the Dairymans Daughter has to offer * 10am – 4pm * Plenty of parking * FREE ENTRY!

Saturday 19th September: WBB Black-Tie Ball

We're delighted to be returning to GG's for our 2026 Moulin Rouge themed black-tie ball. www.thewightbrainybunch.org.uk/event-wight-brainy-bunch/charity-black-tie-ball

Sunday 18th October: Great South Run

On Sunday 18th October, we will once again be lining up on Clarence Esplanade at the start of the 2026 Great South Run. This event is where everything first started and really important to us, so if you would like to join our Wight Brainy Bunch team, please email: info@thewightbrainybunch.org.uk

Saturday 7th November: Blue Light Fight Night at GG's

We are excited to be holding our first Blue Light Fight Night between the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Fire & Rescue Service and the Isle of Wight Police on **Saturday 7th November** at GG's in aid of The Wight Brainy Bunch. Tickets on sale soon.

Saturday 5th December: Winter Wonderland Christmas Market

We can't wait to return to Ryde Fire Station on Saturday 5th December, and offer you a wonderful array of seasonal stalls and entertainment to get you in the mood for the Christmas festivities. www.thewightbrainybunch.org.uk/event-wight-brainy-bunch/2026-winter-wonderland-christmas-market

As always, we thank you for your ongoing support.

Kat & Mark
xx

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.