



The Wight Brainy Bunch
112 High Park Road
Ryde
Isle of Wight
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Newsletter May 2018

Dear friends,

Firstly, you have probably all read in the media that Brain cancer research will have its government funding doubled to £40m and gold standard tumour diagnosis tests will be rolled out to all NHS hospitals, in tribute to Dame Tessa Jowell. This is long overdue and sad that it has taken the passing of this amazing lady and all her tireless campaigning, for the government to announce this. However, it's a huge step forward.

As many of you may be aware, on the 16th March, The Wight Brainy Bunch was awarded registered charity status (1177562), which opens up many more opportunities for us as a charity, which will in turn benefit more families here on the Isle of Wight. It's taken a while, but as you can imagine, we are thrilled.

On the 5th May, "The Half Bike Heroes", embarked on their latest challenge... THREE laps of the IOW on Brompton Bikes! When it came to the event and they were only 1 lap in, 2 men down, several hours behind schedule and looked like having no chance of completing their challenge, Mark decided to start the final lap himself at 1am and cycled through the night until he met with the full team of 4 at Porchfield, from where they all cycled the last few miles to East Cowes together. An amazing bunch of guys, all raising money for the Brain Tumour Charity in memory of their good friend Chris Hoyle.



We had several Island businesses once again take part in our own "Wear a Hat Day" throughout March. Thank you to Novum Law, Bijou, True Vine Church, IOW Council and College to name but a few. We don't have a total yet, as Boots are yet to take part and have requested to do this from 29th June- 1st July in all their 10 branches, which is fantastic. We will bring you a total as soon as possible.

We were overwhelmed to have been chosen last year by "Shanklin British Legion Ladies Darts League" as their charity to support through their season, and we must thank Alan's lovely wife Carol for nominating us. We recently received a cheque for £279 for which we are incredibly grateful.



Katy Edmunds is a Lecturer at the IOW College and having heard about us through one of her students, very generously decided to run the ABP Southampton Half Marathon for us in April. She raised £100, which is pretty impressive as she only decided to do this with 5 days' notice!

We recently gave a talk at "East Cowes Ladies Group" having been nominated and chosen as their charity for this year. They hold numerous events throughout the year and you will see their "Cream Tea Afternoon" in *dates for your diary*. They were so welcoming and interested in our little charity, so please do go along and support them if you can.

DanceSense (through Independent Arts) is a gentle dance programme for people with neurological conditions which have affected their movement. It gives participants the opportunity to develop confidence and strength and express themselves creatively in a supportive environment. It is also a chance to socialise with other living with similar conditions. Please call Amy on 01983 822437 to book your place. Session takes place every Monday 11:00-12:30 Newport Methodist Church, Quay Street.

Registered Charity Number: 1177562

Website: www.thewightbrainybunch.org.uk

Email: info@thewightbrainybunch.org.uk * Tel No: 07850255984

Julie Wright kindly held another of her Clothes Swap parties on the 5th May, raising an incredible £258!! Thank you so much to Julie and her friends.

We were recently chosen as APS Wight Salads Charity of the Year for 2018, and also the chosen charity by RJR Solicitors' for their latest donation to a local charity. We are so grateful for the support of local businesses, as donations such as these are very important to us.

Our first fundraising event of 2018 saw us return to Ryde Fire Station for our "Great Balls of Fire" Charity Bingo. This was a brilliant night, raising £2000.



You may have seen in the press about the new data protection regulations that come into effect at the end of this week. This also affects us as a charity and we need your permission to be able to continue to contact you via email in the future, so please let me know if you would like to unsubscribe.



Some of you may already know of The Grove Hotel in Bournemouth, which is owned by "Macmillan Caring Locally". The Grove is a unique hotel for people with life limiting conditions to go and have a normal holiday, on their own or with their carers or family members, with the added reassurance of a qualified nurse on duty 24 hours a day. Specialist equipment is on hand should you need anything, such as an electric bed, riser recliner chair, raised toilet seat or even a special diet. For more information visit www.thegrovebournemouth.co.uk

We would like to wish the very best of luck to Mandy Blackler, Lisa Hendy, Nickie Moreton, Craig Bassett, Carol Foley and Peni Houghton who will reach dizzy heights on Sunday as they abseil 170m down the Spinnaker Tower in Portsmouth. Thank you all so much for taking on this challenge for our little charity. You are all amazing!

Lastly, we would like to convey our most sincere condolences to Graham Gibbon, Yvonne, Suzanne and all their family on the very sad passing of their beloved Anne at the beginning of March. Anne was such a wonderfully spirited lady and came to our very first support group, but sadly lost her fight two years following her last surgery. We would also like to offer our heartfelt gratitude for choosing The Wight Brainsy Bunch to benefit in Anne's memory, at what I know must have been an enormously difficult time.

Dates for your diary:

Saturday 16th June: "Enchanted 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.

**** Please note change of date for this event from last newsletter****

Saturday 23rd June: "Cream Tea Afternoon"

Enjoy an afternoon of cream tea with the East Cowes Ladies Group. Taking place at East Cowes Methodist Church at 3pm.

Tuesday 26th June: "June Support Group"

We are looking forward to welcoming the Island Rehabilitation Practice back to our June support group, when Helen will kindly hold a "progressive muscular relaxation session", which hopefully you will find beneficial. This will only last about 30 minutes and we will have our usual coffee and cake.

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Sunday 8th July: “Shide to Spyglass Fun Run”

Organised by Pat Harris and now in its 6th year, this is an unofficial cross country run from Shide in Newport to the Spyglass Inn in Ventnor. We're told it's not a race.... just a friendly 11 mile run through the countryside! It's free to enter, however do ask for donations on the day and have kindly chosen The Wight Brainy Bunch as their charity to support this year.

Meeting at Shide Trees at 9:30am, the plan is to run to the Spyglass Inn at Ventnor via the Sunshine Trail, stop on the way for photo opportunities etc. Once in Ventnor, jump in the sea, swim around a bit, go to the Spyglass & figure out how to get back to the start – easy!

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

There are still a few tables for our first ladies night! We have an amazing night in store with incredible Michael Bubl  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. To book please call 07850255984 or visit <http://www.thewightbrainybunch.org.uk/event-wight-brainy-bunch/for-one-night-only/>

Saturday 28th July: “New 2 You Sale”

Mandy Blacker has kindly arranged this event to support the WBB. If you have any suitable items please do get in touch and we can arrange for collection. The sale will take place at Newport Congregational Church from 10am – 1pm. Please pop along and grab a bargain!

Wednesday 8th August: “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.

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 sit down dinner with live entertainment from “The Outfit Duo”, “Switch” and “The Mix” to dance the night away. To book tickets, please call 07850255984 or visit: <http://www.thewightbrainybunch.org.uk/event-wight-brainy-bunch/the-great-gatsby-gala/>

Sunday 16th September: “IOW Gin Festival”

We are thrilled to have been invited once again to be involved in the IOW gin Festival! This year's festival will be held on Western Gardens at Ryde Esplanade for the first time. We will be there with our very “GIN” related raffle.

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! To book your team, please call 01983 527957 or email: tracy71pete57@hotmail.co.uk

Sunday 21st October: “Great South Run”

This will be our 4th Year of taking part in this race and where our fundraising journey started, so we always consider this event close to our hearts. We already have our usual culprits kindly volunteering to run this gruelling 10 mile course through Southsea and Portsmouth in October, but there is still time to sign up if you would like to join us. A huge thank you to IOW Computer Geek for continuing to sponsor our running vests for the 3rd year.

Saturday 1st December:

We are pencilling in this date for our 2nd Christmas Market. We are hoping to make this bigger, better (and warmer) than last year! More details to follow.

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As you can see, it's been an incredibly busy time ... but also it makes us so very proud to have so many wonderful people supporting us and sharing our belief that this charity is truly needed on the Island.

We look forward to seeing you very soon.

Best wishes

Kathryn and Mark

xx

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.