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Newsletter November '21

Dear friends,

Firstly I must apologise for the lateness of this newsletter. The last few weeks have been so busy, they've been a bit of a blur. We are pleased to be finally returning to some normality and hope things are settling down for you also. Despite the pandemic and lockdowns and everything else that has been thrown at us all over the last 18 months, we are proud to have been able to continue supporting IOW families throughout this time and we thank you for bearing with us as we've found new ways to operate.

We are so happy to finally be able to hold our support group once again. As many will know, we are now in our new venue of Newclose Cricket Club in Newport, which seems to be working well. Due to availability, there has been a slight change to the schedule and this now takes place on the first Thursday of every month, from 6-7pm. We look forward to seeing you soon.

Brightbulb's much-anticipated Mince Pie Marathon will return on Wednesday 8th December. Last year Brightbulb raised a staggering **£6,415** for us by selling and delivering more than **6,415** mince pies across the Island and are now taking orders for this year's event: <https://mincepiemarathon.com>



Every month Vestas employees nominate a local charity to receive a donation of £500. We are so grateful to have been nominated and chosen for this in September. Huge thanks to Simon Woodford for the nomination.

Thank you to everyone who voted on Asda's online Green Token Scheme throughout July. We were delighted to receive the most votes and be presented with a £500 cheque.

A huge thank you to Alan Duffield and Shanklin Conservative Club for raising £120 by raffling a football signed by Bournemouth FC. Alan originally won this in a raffle himself and chose to use it to raise funds for us. Thank you so much Alan.

We are so grateful to Julie Hoskyns for her generous donation of £500 which was raised through Show Jumping events throughout the summer. Thank you so much for choosing to support our little charity.

Our time as one of Co-op Ryde's 3 good causes, for their Local Community Fund, has come to an end, and we can confirm that over the last year, The Wight Brainy Bunch has raised a total of £5,255.34 thanks to Co-op Members, which is incredible. Thank you to everyone who selected us as their chosen good cause.

Thank you so much to Edna at the Lake Knit and Natter group, who have been raising money for us over the last year, raising an amazing £625. We were delighted to attend the group in September, where we were presented with a cheque.

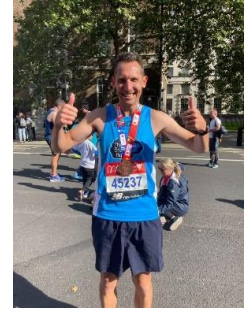
A thank you to Tracy Asher and her regular quizzers who nominated us for a share of money raised prior to Covid stopping them from quizzing and we recently received a cheque for £120.



A huge thank you also to Emma and Michael Paine from The Reef for their incredible donation of £620 from the sale of Mermaid Gin and Vodka bottles. Also to Sally Cass for her generous donations from the sale of Mermaid Gin bottles at the Duke of York Pub in Cowes.

We were finally able to hold our Charity Race Night at Ryde Castle Hotel on the 10th September. Special thanks to David Sunnucks for running the evening and to Jane, Josh and Sam our amazing cashiers 😊... The evening was brilliant fun and raised a whopping £1230 for The Wight Brainsy Bunch, which is incredible!

Massive congratulations to Gareth Bricknell who took on his first London Marathon on Sunday 3rd October, after successfully applying for our small charity ballot spot that we were lucky enough to be awarded this year. Gareth completed the iconic 26.2 mile course in an impressive 3hrs 44 minutes, despite having been hampered by injury. Thank you Gareth for all the time and effort you have put into your training, for all your amazing fundraising of over £4300 and of course for representing our little charity at this huge event.. What an incredible achievement!



We'd like to say a MASSIVE thank you to Helen and Kristian Long for inviting us to be the chosen charity for the raffle, once again at this year's The Isle of Wight Gin Festival at Quay Arts. For the first year, we couldn't attend ourselves, so the raffle was left in the very capable hands of Annie, Jade, Isobel, Jen and Kelly who raised an incredible £1500! We are totally blown away and want to thank everyone who attended, tasted gins, and bought raffle tickets... but special thanks to Helen and Kris for all the time and effort they put into this event.. It is totally GINTASTIC!

SANDOWN Airport provided the setting for the Warrior Fest on Saturday 7th August, which raised approximately £7,000 for the Wight Brainsy Bunch. A huge thank you to everyone who braved the weather and came along to party with us. Massive thanks to all the bands who gave their time freely and delighted more than 500 spectators who attended the event. Special thanks also to Toby and Sarah for organising the event. It will return in 2022 on Saturday 30th July. See events below.

Wow what a day we had, when 17 amazing individuals made up our 2021 WBB Great South Run team. Thank you so much to ALL our runners, who chose to wear a WBB vest and take on this incredible 10 mile challenge and to everyone who has sponsored and supported them all.... Your donations mean so much. Special thanks to Jack, Ryan, Joe, Rob, Sean and Oli, returning to Portsmouth to run in memory of their mentor and university lecturer, who sadly passed away from a brain tumour.



On Saturday 30th October we enjoyed our 5th WBB black tie Ball at Gurnard Pines. Our All Hallows Eve Ball was a spooktacular success raising approximately £5000. Huge thank you to Spike Oatley, Switch and The Mix for entertaining us; Aaron Isted for his wonderful table magic, Laura Holme and IPC for capturing so many memories on camera, Novum Law and Reynolds & Read for their continued support, and of course to all our guests for choosing to join us for this special event and helping us celebrate the work of The Wight Brainsy Bunch.

As always, we are replacing our December Support Group with a wonderful festive Christmas Dinner at Woods Kitchen in Godshell. We'd like to invite you to attend as our guests. Please contact us to book your place. We will require pre-orders and the menu can be found at the end of this letter.

Thank you so much to Tim Isard for his wonderful donation of £40 from the raffle at a recent Friendship Lunch. The lunch has been running for over 30 years! Tim is also Chairman of the IOW Symphony Orchestra and at their recent AGM, The Wight Brainsy Bunch was selected as their next chosen charity, starting in September 2022.

Finally, at the end of November, the fundraising platform Virgin Money Giving will cease to be. We are currently in the process of transferring our account to Just Giving for any future fundraisers, and further details of this will be available soon.

Dates for your diary 2021/22:

Thursday 2nd December: WBB Christmas Dinner

Join us for a traditional Christmas Dinner at Woods Kitchen in Godshell. This is our little Christmas gift to you and will take place instead of our December Support Group meeting.

Saturday 4th December: Winter Wonderland Christmas Market

Be sure to put this date in your diary... We are so excited to be back this year for our 4th Christmas Market at Ryde Fire Station 🌲👶.... Seasonal stalls, Festive refreshments, entertainment, a bouncy snow globe and the best Santa's grotto 🧑👶... It's always a magical day.

Wednesday 8th December: Brightbulb's Mince Pie Marathon

It's that time of year again and we are delighted to have been selected as their chosen charity. Join the fun by donating and getting yourself on our Mince Pie Marathon leader board. Who will top the charts this year as mince pie royalty? Last year they raised over **£6,400** for us by selling mince pies!

Spring Race Night

Details to be follow

Saturday 30th July: Warrior Festival

After the success of this years The 'Warrior Festival' will see a whole host of local bands come together at Sandown Airport on 30th July to support The Wight Brainy Bunch. The family-friendly festival invites everyone to enjoy a fun-filled day with an array of food options, bars and live music local bands. Tickets just £15 per person. Under 12's go free. Overnight camping available.

Wednesday 10th August: Charity Skydive

We will be taking to the skies once again on Wednesday 10th August for our annual Charity Skydive. Please get in touch if you would like to take part.

Sunday 2nd October: TCS London Marathon

We look forward to supporting our runners, who deferred their 2021 Marathon places to next years event.

Sunday 16th October: Great South Run

On Sunday 16th October, we will be lining up on Clarence Esplanade at the start of the 2022 Great South Run. This run is very dear to us, so if you would like to join us, please email: info@thewightbrainybunch.org.uk

2022 Black-tie Ball

Date and details to be confirmed

Please don't hesitate to contact us if you need anything.

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.

Wood Christmas Dinner Menu - Thursday 2nd December @ 6.30pm

Festive Acoustic with Greg Barnes



Starters

- Ham Hock Terrine - ale chutney & toast
- Duck Leg Croquette - dark cherry reduction
- Roasted Carrot Hummus- charred flatbread (vegan)
- Curried Parsnip Soup - artisan bread (vegan)
- Salmon Mousse - capers, dill, cucumber jelly & focaccia

Mains

- Roast Turkey with all the trimmings
- Slow cooked lamb Shank with caramelized onions, red wine reduction, roasted carrots & creamed potato
- Pan roasted Salmon with crushed potatoes, cavolo nero & lemon caper butter sauce
- Woods Mushroom Wellington with mushroom duxelles, cranberry relish, spinach wrapped in pastry with all the Christmas trimmings (veggie/vegan)

Desserts

- Traditional Christmas Pudding with brandy sauce
- Rum Raisin Parfait with filo nut cigar
- Poached Pear with mascarpone & shortbread crumb
- Dark chocolate tart with vanilla ice-cream & Pistachio crumb

Coffee & mince pie to finish

If you would like to attend our Christmas dinner, please contact me to book your place. I will also need your food order please 😊