



The Wight Brainy Bunch
112 High Park Road
Ryde
Isle of Wight
PO33 1BZ

Newsletter November 2017

Dear all,

Although summer seems a long time ago and we are heading quite quickly towards the end of 2017 ... we still have lots to update you on...

On the weekend of 5-6th August at Western Gardens, Mark and a team of Ryde Fire Station's firefighters climbed a distance the equivalent of over 8 Mount Everest's in 24 hours, which was almost 72000 meters, just under 45 miles on a 10M high ladder. Whilst they didn't succeed with the planned "13", this was an extremely difficult challenge and a massive achievement.



We were one of the main beneficiaries, along with Ryde Fire Station Charity Fund, who support local families going through a difficult period of time in their lives. The Event raised approximately £5500 which will be split between the two beneficiaries.



This event was swiftly followed on the 8th August by our skydive, when 17 of us took to the skies over Sandown and jumped out of a perfectly good plane, including two especially brave ladies, Nickie Moreton and Mandy Blackler who have both had brain tumours removed themselves. Thanks to everyone's sponsorship, this event raised a massive **£5868!**

The 17th September was also a busy day as our lovely Karen Connolly arranged a table top sale at her True Vine Church in Newport, raising over £1000 and we followed this by a wonderful afternoon on Ryde seafront at the second annual IOW Gin Festival and must thank Helen Maddox for allowing us to be part of her wonderful event once again.

We were joined for our September support group by Helen and Kristian from The Island Rehabilitation Service, to talk to everyone about their role within the community and how this service can benefit and support not only brain tumour patients, but many other patients suffering from various neurological conditions. We look forward to welcoming them back in the future.

On the 14th October we were invited to the Smile4Wessex Annual Gala Dinner in Southampton, where we met with Neil Westbrook the Appeals Director and were very pleased to be able to present him with a cheque for £6,000 from our fundraising this year.

Website: www.thewightbrainybunch.org.uk
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The following week (on the 21st October), we held our own second black-tie ball “Monster Mash Masquerade” at Ryde Castle, which was attended by 140 people and raised £3660, which is fantastic. We were lucky enough to be joined by Professor Geoff Pilkington, whom I sure you will all remember, and were very pleased to be able to present him with a £4,000 cheque for Brain Tumour Research.



Over the last few months we have welcomed a few new members to the support group, and the one thing everyone says is how welcome they feel, so thank you to everyone who makes the group what it is. There are also many people across the Island that might not come to our group, but we do keep in touch with everyone and they know we are here if they need anything.

We are really lucky to have been nominated as one of Asda's current charities for their token scheme through to December... if you are shopping in Asda over the next few weeks please do pop a token in the Wight Brainy Bunch BLUE section. Thank you in advance, all your support is very much appreciated.

Our 2017 Christmas cards and 2018 “Ryde Fire” Calendar are now available, so please do get in touch if you would like to order either of these items.

We would like to invite our Support Group members plus a guest to our Wight Brainy Bunch Christmas Dinner on Tuesday 19th December, which will replace our usual support group meeting (which falls on Boxing Day). Please join us at The Reef in Sandown at 18:00 (18:30 meal) This can be a two or three course meal (depending on your appetite) This will need to be booked in advance so please book your place with us by December 1st if you would like to join us. Please see attached menu.



Dates for your diary:

Thursday 23rd November: The Wight Brainy Bunch has a charity table at St Mary's Hospital from 08:00- 13:00, where we will be selling our Christmas cards and calendars and raising awareness.

Friday 24th November: General Knowledge Quiz at Newclose Cricket Ground. This quiz is being very kindly held in aid of our little charity. If you have a team booked, we look forward to seeing you there.... if not, unfortunately it is now fully booked but you can always pop along for a drink and to say hello.

Saturday 25th November: Wessex Cancer Trust Christmas Fair – Once again we will be selling our Christmas Cards and calendars. Please pop in and have a cuppa and cake and buy a few stocking fillers.

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Tuesday 28th November: Support group 6-7pm as usual.

Saturday 9th December: A Wight (Brainy Bunch) Christmas Market at Ryde Fire Station 10:00am-4pm. We are really looking forward to this event... we have a wonderful array of festive stalls and fantastic programme of entertainment. Please pop along for a mince pie and mulled wine ... there is loads for the kiddies to do in our craft corner and of course visit Father Christmas in his Grotto and stock up on those last minute presents.

Tuesday 19th December: Wight Brainy Bunch Christmas Dinner at The Reef, Sandown 6pm.

Tuesday 26th December: No Support Group due to it being Boxing Day. However, please do contact us if you need anything over the Christmas period.

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; 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 and The Fire-fighters Charity, who rely hugely on donations to run their three centres in Devon, Cumbria and West Sussex, where they offer rehabilitation, recuperation and support to both serving and retired fire fighters and their families in times of need.

We look forward to seeing you very soon.

Best wishes

Kathryn and Mark

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Starters

Roasted Parsnip and Cauliflower Soup

Finished with a white truffle oil drizzle.

Smoked Salmon Parcels

Fresh smoked salmon and horseradish cream cheese parcels on a rocket and beetroot salad.
Served with toasted ciabatta slices.

Home Made Paté


Home made chicken liver and wild mushroom paté,
served with toasted ciabatta slices and a caramelised onion chutney.

Deep Fried Goats Cheese

Breaded goats cheese served on mixed leaves with a warm cranberry and port dip.

Mains

Traditional Roast Turkey

Served with a chestnut and sausage meat stuffing and all the traditional trimmings.
(Homemade vegetarian nut roast alternative also available) 

Roasted Chicken

Butterfly chicken breast served over roasted potato, butternut squash and red onion.
Finished with a tomato and red pepper sauce.

Crusted Salmon

Salmon fillet in an almond, pine nut and cranberry crust.
Served with buttered new potatoes and garlic fried green beans.

Broccoli and Quinoa Gratin

Homemade roasted broccoli, quinoa and cheddar gratin.
Served with a fresh mediterranean salad with a zingy lemon dressing.

Chargrilled Pork Loin

Served on mashed potato with a cinnamon spiced apple sauce. Served with fresh vegetables.

Desserts

Traditional Christmas Pudding

With brandy sauce.

New York Cheese Cake

Gluten free cheese cake served with freshly whipped cream.

White Chocolate Malteser Cake

Layered with strawberry ice cream.

'Santa Hat' Chocolate Brownies

With fresh strawberries and Chantilly cream.

2 Courses £16 / 3 Courses £21