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## Newsletter November 2018

Dear friends,

It's lovely to be able to start this newsletter welcoming Kristaps back home, having spent the last 4 months since surgery in Southampton. We are so pleased that he is going to be able to continue his recovery here on the Island and look forward to seeing his smiling face more often.

On a much sadder note, we are devastated to say that Alayna is very poorly in Southampton. Our love and thoughts are of course with Jan, Alayna and all the Morris family at this time.

In September we returned to Ryde Castle Hotel for our 3<sup>rd</sup> Black Tie Ball. We stepped back to the 1920's and welcomed 110 guests to our "Great Gatsby Gala". With good food, wonderful live entertainment and amazing company and proud to announce we raised over £3000!

We found ourselves back at Ryde Castle again a fortnight later for the 3<sup>rd</sup> IOW Gin Festival. We were thrilled to be asked once again to run the very gin related raffle, raising a whopping £615 for the charity. A huge thank you to Helen Maddox for involving us once again in this wonderful event.

We are delighted to have launched our 2018 Christmas Cards and these are available either by contacting us directly or through our website:  
[www.thewightbrainybunch.org.uk/product/pack-of-10-christmas-cards-new-for-2018/](http://www.thewightbrainybunch.org.uk/product/pack-of-10-christmas-cards-new-for-2018/)



Tracey Asher and her husband Pete very kindly held a 2<sup>nd</sup> Wight Brainy Bunch themed General Knowledge Quiz in October at Newclose Cricket Club. It was wonderful to see so many friendly faces from the support group at this event which raised £330. Tracey lost her own father to a brain tumour many years ago, so this charity is close to her hear, and she has kindly agreed to hold another quiz for us next year (date yet to be arranged).



The Wight Diamonds Marching Band kindly chose us to benefit from their annual charity concert this year and "Flights of Fancy" was held at the Trinity Theatre in October. The charity was to receive the profits from the raffle, programme donations and half of the ticket sales. However, following their committee meeting a few days after the concert, they contacted me to say they wanted our charity to received 100% of ticket sales, which is incredible, bringing the total raised to £566!

As you know, the Great South Run is very close to our hearts as it's where all our fundraising began 3 years ago and developed into the charity we have today. We always like to try and get a team together for this event and this year was no different, with 13 runners in the main race on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> October and Savannah, who is 9 years old, running in the junior race on the Saturday. We don't have a total raised yet as there is still some sponsorship to come in, but huge thanks to Mark, George, Ben, Caillemb, Rachel G, Vince, Gary, Robbie, Deb, Elaine, Claire, Rachel, Sammi and Savannah.



If you're looking for the perfect little stocking filler, then you may be interested in this year's offering from Ryde's finest firefighters! Our charity calendar is just £8 and available to buy either directly through us or via our website: <https://www.thewightbrainybunch.org.uk/product/wight-brainy-bunch-2019-calendar/>

We'd like to say a huge thank you to Julien Cooke for choosing our charity's logo to be displayed on the back of his newly sign written 'Mike's School of Motoring' car. We are honoured that we will be driving around the Island with him raising awareness.



You may already know that we are the chosen charity of the year for APS Produce (Wight Salads), and what an amazing bunch of people they are! Not only have they held FIVE cake sales over the summer, attended the Garlic Festival with Harry Hippo, they have also held a staff charity football match bringing the total raised so far to just under £1400! ... AND there is still more fundraising planned with a Christmas raffle and a car wash in the new year.

This week we attended a fantastic Race Night at Northwood Cricket Club. The event was kindly arranged by Kate Webb, who was keen to fundraise in memory of her wonderful son Simon, whom she sadly lost from a brain tumour a year ago. This was a wonderful evening of entertainment, raising over £400, which we know Simon would have been so proud of.



There is just a week left for entries into our Children's Christmas Card Competition, so if you know anyone who would like to take part, please do pass the details on. This is open to under 12's and the winner will be announced at our Christmas Market, where their winning Christmas cards will be on sale.

[www.thewightbrainybunch.org.uk/childrens-christmas-card-design-competition/](https://www.thewightbrainybunch.org.uk/childrens-christmas-card-design-competition/)

We'd like to remind everyone that Colin Richardson applied and was chosen to represent our little charity at the 2019 Virgin Money London Marathon in April. Please continue to share his story and support him on his marathon journey.

<https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/ColinRichardson11>

Mark will also be running again in April due to his time in 2017 which gave him an automatic entry. Training is underway and we wish them both the best of luck. Don't forget to look out for our WBB cheer point along the route lads 😊



Finally, I know you will all join me in extending our heartfelt condolences to Maureen and her family on the sad passing of dear Paul at the beginning of October. Paul had been a regular at our support group since the beginning of this year and loved chatting to everyone and always had a smile on his face. We must also thank Maureen for choosing The Wight Brainy Bunch to benefit in Paul's memory. It's so humbling to see just how generous and kind people can be, thinking of others at such a difficult time, and we are truly grateful.



### **Dates for your diary:**

We have several events still in the planning stages for next year, which we will bring you information on as soon as they are confirmed. If you have any events you would like to arrange, please do get in touch and we will assist you with anything you need.

### **Saturday 1st December: “A Wight (Brainy Bunch) Christmas Market”**

This date is now confirmed for our 2nd Christmas Market. We already have many wonderful festive stands confirmed and will endeavour to make this even better than last year! Once again this will take place at Ryde Fire Station from 10am-4pm with the turning on of Ryde Fire's Christmas Lights as we close. Please join us for a glass of mulled wine whilst enjoying some amazing entertainment from Cantobelle and Wight Diamonds Marching Band. Please keep an eye on our website (Forthcoming Events) and the Events tab on our Facebook page for more details.

### **Friday 7<sup>th</sup> December: “Christmas Jumper Fundraiser”**

Dust off your winter knitwear and join in our festive fundraiser! We already have several Island businesses taking part, so why not join them and arrange a Christmas Jumper Day at your workplace in return for a donation to The Wight Brainy Bunch.

### **Tuesday 18th December: “Support Group Christmas Meal”**

For anyone who usually attends our support group, as there is no group in December, please let me know as soon as possible if you would like to attend our Wight Brainy Bunch Christmas Meal at The Reef in Sandown. If you could please let me know if you will be attending and select a 2 or 3 course meal (your preference) from the menu attached and let me know your choices by the 7<sup>th</sup> December please. Please meet at The Reef at 6:30pm for a 7pm meal.

### **Tuesday 25th December: “December Support Group”**

There will be no official support group in December, due to it unfortunately falling on Christmas Day. However, we will be hosting a Christmas Dinner for support group members a week earlier, on Tuesday 18th December (see above).

### **March 2019: “Wear a Hat Day”**

Once again we will be asking you to dust off your finest headwear and join in our ‘Wear a Hat’ fundraiser to celebrate “Brain Tumour Awareness Month” throughout March. So, if your workplace would like to take part, please choose your preferred date and contact us for more information.

### **Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> April: “Virgin Money London Marathon”**

We are honoured to have Colin representing our charity at this iconic event in April 2019. In addition to Colin who is running in our one charity spot that was awarded to us by VMLM, Mark is also running in the automatic place he was granted as a result of his speed in 2017. We wish them both the best of luck.

### **Annual Ladies Garden Party – Date to be confirmed**

### **Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> August: “Charity Skydive 2019”**

We will be taking to the skies again next August with our charity skydive. We have 20 places reserved at a cost of £280 per jump. All jumps are subject to a completed medical form and payment. You can reserve your place for a deposit of just £60 by the end of January, with the balance being payable 6 weeks prior to the jump. Additional sponsorship is encouraged.

### **Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> November: “Annual Black-Tie Ball”**

Please save the date – Details to follow soon.

Thank you to everyone for your continued support, and we look forward to seeing you very soon.

Kathryn and Mark  
Xxx

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The Wight Brainsy 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.

## **The Reef Christmas Menu 2018**

Served throughout December, Lunch and Evening - (Booking and Pre - order only)

### **Starters**

#### **Duck and Orange Pate**

*Served with orange chutney and homemade sourdough bread.*

#### **Prawn Cocktail**

*Served on shredded iceberg lettuce and chunks of apple. Topped with Marie Rose sauce.*

#### **Roast Parsnip Soup (V)**

*Topped with parsnip crisps.*

#### **Deep Fried Goats Cheese (V)**

*With a port and cranberry dip.*

### **Mains**

#### **Traditional Roast Turkey**

*Served with chestnut and sausage meat stuffing and all the traditional trimmings.*

#### **Lemon Sole**

*Buttered samphire, crushed new potatoes, lemon and tarragon sauce.*

#### **Butternut Squash and IOW Blue Cheese Risotto (V)**

*Served with garlic ciabatta slices*

#### **Braised Duck Leg**

*Served on mashed potato, with braised red cabbage and a redcurrant jus.*

#### **Roasted Chicken**

*On garlic roasted new potatoes, with green beans and a creamy mushroom sauce.*

### **Desserts**

#### **Traditional Christmas Pudding**

*With brandy sauce.*

#### **Mint Aero Cake**

*Layered with Vanilla Ice Cream.*

#### **Chocolate Fondant**

*Served with salted caramel ice cream.*

#### **Lemon Tart**

*With fresh strawberries and Chantilly cream.*

**2 Courses £17 / 3 Courses £22**