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Newsletter November 2019

Dear friends,

So, this will be our last newsletter of 2019.... Firstly, thank you all for all your support this year. As you know, we have been a little off the radar due to Marks treatment, although I'm sure you'll understand that our charity time was spent ensuring the families that needed support got it, even though that meant that some of the social side has had to take a back seat (for which we apologise).. the charity has become busier than ever, but we are hoping things will become a little calmer.

As most of you may have seen in the last newsletter, we will be holding our Christmas Dinner on Thursday 12th December at Woods Kitchen in Godshill. So, for those of you who would usually come to the support or bereavement group, please let me know asap if you would like to join us (menu attached as you will need to pre-order). **Please note there will be no support group on Tuesday 31st December. Our support group will resume on Tuesday 28th January 2020.**

Just like last year, we will be asking local businesses to take part in a Christmas Jumper Day for us this December. Boots (Newport), Hovertravel and BAE have already kindly agreed to take part, so if you know of any local businesses who would like to get in the festive spirit and raise some money for us, please do ask them to get in touch.

Thank you so much to Rebecca Savage for hosting such a wonderful afternoon tea party on Saturday 7th September, with her good friends Kate and Fergus, who opened up their amazing home in Ryde for the afternoon. Such beautiful gardens, with gorgeous cakes, bone china, best hat competition, auction, live music and a raffle. We'd like to thank Rebecca and all her helpers for all they did to make this such a wonderful event that raised an incredible £1200! We are so grateful to you all.

Many of you will have heard about this event and maybe followed it on IW Radio In September teams from the IOW Police, Ambulance and Fire Service 'escaped' the Isle of Wight and went on the run for 50 hours in aid of our little charity. Their aim was to compete and see who could travel the furthest with no plans and no money, relying purely on the generosity of the general public. Team Fire were finally crowned the winners when they reached Tenerife, having travelled an incredible 1,760.55 miles from their starting point at Isle of Wight Radio.

We were delighted to meet Sue Myall from Calbourne Recreation Centre Car Boots and Antiques Fairs on the 2nd November, who presented us with a cheque for an amazing £1386.67. This year's car boot sales raised a staggering £2773.34, which has been shared equally between The Wight Brainy Bunch and IW Kidney Patients Association. Over the last nine years, the car boots have raised £23,000 for Island Charities! Thank you so much to Sue and Val.

On Saturday 2nd November, 130 guests joined us at Ryde Castle Hotel for our 4th annual black-tie ball. They enjoyed a sparkling drinks reception followed by a two-course meal and charity raffle. They were treated to a first-class performance from tribute artist Michael Appleton with his 'Michael BublÉ Experience', followed by local bands 'Switch' and 'The Outfit'. The frosty themed event was generously sponsored by Novum Law, and Barclays Premier Banking, raising over £4000!

We were also delighted to be joined by Marks Consultant Neuro-Surgeon and Trustee of Smile4Wessex, Mr Paul Grundy, who accepted our cheque for £7000 on behalf of Smile4Wessex to benefit the Wessex Neurological Centre, as this is where the majority of Island families will undergo treatment following this diagnosis and continues to be one of the best Neurological Centres in the UK. We have now donated £23,000 to the unit over the last four years!

We'd like to say a massive thank you to Clare Cleaver who held a wonderful afternoon tea party in aid of the Wight Brainy Bunch on Thursday 24th October, raising an incredible £400!

We had a wonderful evening at Newport Methodist Church on the 2nd October for a Variety Concert with St John's Church Choir. Absolutely brilliant performances from everyone involved. Special thanks to the Newport Methodist Ladies Fellowship for choosing to fundraise for us this year.

We'd like to say a huge thank you to the IOW branch of Fidelity International, for choosing to support The Wight Brainy Bunch by donating their Isle of Wight Radio advertising air time throughout October. Hopefully you might have heard our advert through October (it can be found on our website)

On Saturday 19th October, female trio Cantobelle hosted a wonderful concert 'A Wight Night for Singing' at True Vine Church, accompanied by the Newchurch Male Voice Choir and special guest Thea Grace Callaghan. With a packed programme, the audience were entertained with a variety of musical genres and the evening raised over £700. Thank you so much to everyone involved in making the evening such a success.

On the 20th October, 7 runners lined up on Clarence Esplanade at the start of the 2019 Great South Run. Despite recently undergoing a second operation to remove his brain tumour and six gruelling weeks of Radiotherapy, Mark was on the start line with fellow runners Rachel Grimes, Colin Richardson, Deb Joy, Gareth Driscoll, Sarah Maher and Jolene Hayward for the epic 10 mile course around Portsmouth. Also running for The Wight Brainy Bunch were Trisha Dabell and James Chapman who entered the 5km race on Saturday, Savannah Smith in the 2.5km Junior Race, and our children Harry (5) and Oskar (10) who ran the Mini 1.5km Race, as they wanted to raise money for the charity themselves, in case Daddy wasn't up to taking part this year.

On the 27th October the IOW NHS took on IW FIRE for a charity football match at East Cowes Vics in aid of The Wight Brainy Bunch. It was a brilliant afternoon of action on the pitch with the NHS just taking the lead 6-5 in the last couple of minutes of the game with a penalty kick. A huge thank you to Bartlett's Service Station for sponsoring the event and special thanks to all the local businesses who donated wonderful raffle prizes, including RPL Construction. Special thanks to Mandy, Rob and Paul for organising the event and to East Cowes Vics for hosting the match and of course to everyone who attended and made the day such a success, raising an incredible £2090.65 for the charity. Congratulations to Team NHS and thank you to both teams for taking part. Watch this space for a re-match in 2020!

If you didn't attend the Mamma Mia Concert at the Apollo Theatre on the 9th and 10th November, then you missed a treat. We'd like to say a huge thank you to Kay and the Melodic Choir for choosing to raise 'Money Money Money' for us as they performed two concerts with songs from the hit Musical and award-winning film 'Mamma Mia'.

Our 2019 Christmas cards are now available at £3.00 per pack or two for £5.00. Available by contacting us directly or through our website: www.thewightbrainybunch.org.uk/product/pack-of-6-christmas-cards-2019-design/

We are lucky enough to have been chosen as one of the charities to benefit from Terry Ramplin's wonderful Christmas lights display on Long Lane this year. This is the 20th year that Terry has decorated his house for the enjoyment of the public, and is a favourite stop on the Southern Vectis Christmas Lights Tour. Terry has raised over £30,000 for charity over the last 19 festive seasons. The big switch on will take place on Saturday 30th November at 6pm and will light the skies every night until the end of December. It is free to attend with donations appreciated for The Wight Brainy Bunch and John's Club.

We were delighted to have been chosen by Brightbulb Design (the Islands leading, multi-award winning creative and design studio) as their charity of the year for 2019/20. Please see below for details of their unique festive fundraiser.

Dates for your diary:

Saturday 30th November: “Humour4Tumours2” with Nina Conti

Join us on the 30th November at Shanklin Theatre, as we bring you Nina Conti and welcome back Sean Collins for an amazing night of comedy! Supported by Sean Collins and hosted by Keith O’Keefe. For tickets please visit: www.shanklintheatre.com/tickets.aspx?did=1704

Saturday 7th December: “Winter Wonderland Christmas Market”

We can’t wait to return to Ryde Fire Station for our 3rd Wight Brainy Bunch Christmas Market. We will once again offer a wonderful array of seasonal stalls and entertainment to get you in the mood for the Christmas festivities. There will be plenty of festive refreshments available to enjoy, including Bratwurst sausages and hog roast, mulled wine, luxury hot chocolate, mince pies and sweet treats, while the kids have a bounce in our inflatable snow globe.... Our naughty elves are already busy preparing the “Elf Workshop”, where the little ones can enjoy a range of craft activities, face painting, and of course don’t forget a visit to our wonderful Santa’s Grotto!

Wednesday 18th December: “Mince Pie Marathon”

Brightbulb Design have recently launched a unique festive charity initiative ‘The Mince Pie Marathon’, in aid of The Wight Brainy Bunch, where businesses across the Isle of Wight are invited to order 10’s or 100’s or 1000’s of mince pies all of which will be delivered by the Brightbulb team in a single day to all locations across the Island. To join in on the fun and have mince pies delivered to your business on the 18th December simply visit <https://mincepiemarathon.co.uk> #MincePieMarathon

March 2020:

Wear A Hat Day will return in March. We follow in the footsteps of Brain Tumour Research to try and raise money locally with this event and also raise awareness throughout March for ‘brain tumour awareness month’. Unfortunately wearing hats in March has also been adopted by another Island charity, which did significantly affect us this year, however we will continue and see how next year goes, so if you know any businesses who would like to take part, please do ask them to get in touch.

Friday 6th March 2020: Quiz at Newclose

We are delighted that Tracy and Pete are holding another General Knowledge Quiz at Newclose Cricket Ground in the Spring. Teams of four are invited to enter at £2 per person. This always fills up really fast, so please book your team by calling 527957 or by emailing tracy71pete57@hotmail.co.uk

Wednesday 5th August 2020: Charity Skydive

We have set the date for next years skydive on Wednesday 5th August at Sandown Airport. We have 35 places (which are almost filled). The cost is £280 per person with a deposit of £60 required to secure a place by January.

Saturday 7th November 2020: Charity Ball

We have set a provisional date for our 2020 Black-tie Ball for Saturday 7th November. Venue details and early bird discount information to follow in the New Year, but please save the date.

Thank you all again for your amazing support this year. Wishing you all a peaceful Christmas and look forward to seeing you all in the New Year.

Kat and Mark
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Christmas Party Menu

A. Parsnip & Parmesan Soup & Artisan Bread
(can be vegan)

B. Salmon Mousse - topped with king prawns
served with cucumber & watercress salad

**C. Mushroom & Cranberry Pate vg
or Pork Liver Pate**
cranberry & red onion jam & toasted ciabatta

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A. Traditional Turkey with all the homemade trimmings

B. Baked Cod
with champagne & honey sauce & saute winter greens

C. Fillet of Beef with Broccoli & Stilton
red wine sauce & saute wild mushrooms

D. Creamy Leek, Celeriac & Walnut Pie
in a short crust pastry with all
the festive trimmings

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A. Brioche Bread & Butter Pudding with Bourbon Sauce

B. Mocha Whipped Cheesecake

C. Traditional Christmas Pudding with Brandy Sauce

D. Winterberry Sundae

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This menu is available to pre-book only
We will have christmas dishes on our specials board
throughout December and Turkey on our
Carvery every Sunday