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Newsletter November 2020

Dear friends,

Firstly, I must apologise for the lateness of this newsletter. Marks chemo and home schooling the boys has put me rather behind, and in all honesty, with all our events being cancelled, there hasn't been so much news to share with you. But as we approach December, it feels like the perfect time to focus on some of the good things that HAVE been happening.

We are sad to have had to cancel two of our main events from our fundraising calendar; our Black-tie Ball and of course the wonderful Christmas Market, as well as many smaller events that have been unable to go ahead. But despite the challenges this year has brought us, we feel very fortunate to have maintained so much support, with some unexpected donations and even a few "socially distanced" events arranged by some of our wonderful supporters.

Brightbulb's much-anticipated Mince Pie Marathon will return on the 9th December. Last year Brightbulb raised a staggering £3000, when they visited 93 local businesses in one day, delivering mince pies across the Island and this year have already topped £5000 in mince pie madness for this years' deliveries.



We were delighted to be the chosen charity for the St James' Place Wealth Management Foundation for their "Solent Poohsticks Championship" in the New Forest, back in August. The Event raised £307.99!

We'd like to say a huge thank you to Red Squirrel Property Shop for their recent donation of £780 from the Charity Golf Day, held at Newport Golf Club in September, and we are grateful to them for persevering to get this event back on the calendar after having to re-schedule from June, due to the pandemic.

The Ryde School, Trinity Arms Virtual Pub Quiz was a great success in October. Unfortunately, we do not have a final figure raised from this yet, but hope to hear very soon.

On the 31st August Jay Higgins trimmed the goatee beard he had been growing for the last YEAR, to raise funds for The Wight Brainy Bunch in memory of dear Alayna who passed away in 2018 at the age of just 18. Jay raised over £600, which is fantastic!

Special thanks to the Masonic Charitable Foundation and the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Freemasons for their recent donation of £500.

A huge thank you also to Becky Woodburn, who held her wonderful online 'Tots Together' Halloween Party, raising over £1000, which is amazing!

Deb Joy is a keen supporter and always the first to sign up to take part in the Great South Run, and Ryde Co-op kindly support her with bucket collections in store. In the absence of this years' race, we'd like to thank co-op for holding the bucket collection still, and Deb for holding a cake sale at Appley Beach as runners took on their own socially distanced 'Great Ryde Run', raising over £300 in total.

The staff at the Utilita Energy Hub in Newport have chosen to support The Wight Brainy Bunch with their latest fundraising "Workout Challenge". Jake, the Retail Team Leader has been doing 100 press-ups a day throughout November, and team members Poppy and Freddie have been attempting to complete the Couch to 5k Challenge. They then plan to take part in a 5k run when government guidelines allow. Please support them here: www.gofundme.com/f/utilita-workout-challenge-for-wight-brainy-bunch

John Crago kindly nominated us for a grant through his work at TK Maxx. Their foundation awarded us with a £500 grant thanks to his application and we are so grateful for his support.

Virtual challenges have definitely been the way forward this year and we'd like to thank Sam for taking on the Lands' End to John O'Groats 'End to End' challenge. She is currently storming this challenge (virtually of course) but would love your support: <https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/WillnSamCross>

Thank you to everyone who took part in the Virtual London Marathon this year. Next years' (hopefully real) London Marathon is due to take place on Sunday 4th October, and we are delighted to have been selected for a small charity place. We will be welcoming applications for this in the near future.

Thank you so much to Nisa - Norris Family Grocers in Niton, for choosing The Wight Brainy Bunch to receive a £100 share of their 'Making A Difference Locally' funding. Thank you also to those who nominated us ... We are so grateful for your support.

The ladies at Shorwell Women's Institute selected us as their chosen charity for fundraising throughout 2020. Unfortunately, due to the pandemic they were unable to hold most of their planned events, so it was wonderful to receive cheques this week for £130 from them.

We are thrilled to have been chosen by Co-op Ryde as one of their 3 good causes, for the next round of their Local Community Fund - this will run for the next year. Every time Co-op members buy selected Co-op branded products and services, Co-op give their chosen causes a helping hand. They also give all money raised from shopping bag sales to the causes, to help even more.

In the absence of our usual Christmas Meal, we would like to offer a pre-cooked Christmas Dinner from the 'Hungry Bear Restaurant' to our most vulnerable families this year. This would be delivered Christmas Day morning. So, if you are going to be on your own this Christmas, please contact us as soon as possible, so we can arrange for a wonderful dinner to be delivered to your door. Limited number available.



Don't forget our Wight Brainy Bunch Christmas Cards are available via our online shop:
www.thewightbrainybunch.org.uk/shop/

Finally – On the 7th November we should have been hosting our 5th annual black-tie ball at Gurnard Pines. This is the occasion where we would usually present a cheque to Smile4Wessex to support the Wessex Neurological Centre in Southampton, where Mark and so many other patients have undergone life-changing surgery and treatments. Sadly, our plans for the ball had to change this year, but our commitment to support the Neurological Centre has not, and despite a difficult year of fundraising, we were thrilled to be able to make a donation of £8000 to them still.

We are incredibly lucky to have the specialist facilities of the Wessex Neurological Centre just across the water, and we are immensely proud to have donated a total of £30,000 to them over the last 5 years. This would not have been possible without the amazing support our little charity has received from all of you, and we are truly thankful to everyone who continues to support and fundraise for us.

Dates for your diary 2021:

March: Wear a Hat Day

Hopefully our annual Wear a Hat Day can return in March for Brain Tumour Awareness Month. We will be inviting local businesses and schools to get involved once again, so if you know anyone who would like to take part, please contact us.

Friday 19th March: Rebooked Charity Race Night

We are keeping our fingers crossed for this twice rescheduled event to take place. So, if you fancy a Flutter, then join us for a fun evening of entertainment at Ryde Castle on Friday 19th March. In true 'Ascot Ladies Day' style, you'll be treated to red carpet treatment as you enjoy a glass of bubbly on arrival, with a prize for 'Best Dressed Hat'... So giddy-up, prepare to place your bets and enjoy a night at the races! Become a race horse owner for £2 or sponsor a race for £10. *8 Runners/10 Races /Prizes for winning owners PLUS charity raffle! Generously sponsored by Novum Law. Tickets just £5.00.

Wednesday 4th August: Charity Skydive

We will be taking to the skies once again on Wednesday 4th August for our annual Charity Skydive. Many places have been carried forward from this year, but we still have plenty of space for more ... so if this is on your bucket list, there is no better way to see the Isle of Wight!

Sunday 4th October: Virgin Money London Marathon

We look forward to supporting our runners who carried their places over from this years' cancelled event and also hope to fill our additional charity place.

Sunday 17th October: Simply Health Great South Run

On Sunday 17th October, we will be lining up on Clarence Esplanade at the start of the 2021 Simply Health Great South Run. This run is very dear to us and we really missed it this year, so if you would like to join us, please email: info@thewightbrainybunch.org.uk

Saturday 30th October - Annual Black-tie Ball

Join us on the 30th October for our 5th Black-Tie Ball at Gurnard Pines. Details to follow.

Saturday 4th December: Winter Wonderland Christmas Market

Details to follow

If you have any fundraising ideas for 2021, please do get in touch.

Once again, please accept our apologies for the relative radio silence ... We have still been busy throughout this pandemic providing support for new patients and families currently going through treatment... However, we have really missed having the opportunity to catch up with everyone in person for a cuppa and cake. I hope those days will return, along with our support group in the not too distant future.

Our thoughts are with those still affected by the virus, and we urge all our WBB family and supporters to remain safe and well.

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.