

From our Charity Manager

I am delighted to launch our new look - a modern and vibrant logo coupled with a new strapline: 'Helping people live well beyond diagnosis.' This reflects the work we are doing alongside improvements in treatment for many health conditions. More people are now living with and beyond their diagnosis, and our volunteers provide support at diagnosis, through treatment and beyond. Do check out our new website confirming the breadth, depth and diversity of our services. We've made it easier for you to:

- Apply to become a volunteer www.brigitte-trust.org/become-a-volunteer
- Make a referral www.brigitte-trust.org/referral-form
- Sign up for this newsletter www.brigitte-trust.org
- Make a one-off or regular donation...on any page!



This is a new and exciting chapter in our 37-year history. However, it is coupled with sadness as we say farewell to our Vanessa. Vanessa has been Promotions Manager for the last 20 years but started as a volunteer working alongside our founder, Brigitte. Vanessa has done much for The Brigitte Trust and we will miss her dearly, whilst we wish her and Martin a very happy retirement.

I am thrilled to confirm Tanya Stafford as our Engagement, Fundraising & Promotions Lead.

Ingrid Walker becomes Charity Business & Digital Co-ordinator responsible for our social media messaging - a vital part of modern charity work. She will keep the website packed with current content, stories, case studies and news. A new Admin Assistant will keep the office running smoothly!

Lastly, a huge thank you to the staff team, volunteers, trustees, funders, partners and clients. Covid-19 has been a huge challenge for us all, and I am so proud of our response to our clients. We received 500 referrals to our service and recruited over 60 telephone support volunteers, confirming that we can adapt and respond quickly and professionally. We have forged strong links with a wide range of partners putting us in a strong position as we plan ahead to resume our core service of face to face visiting.

Lucy Beach
Charity Manager

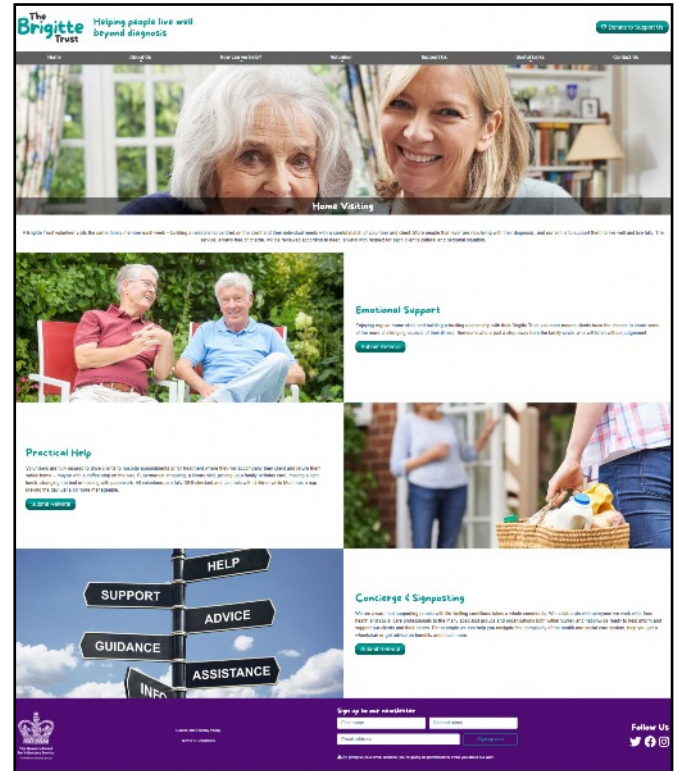
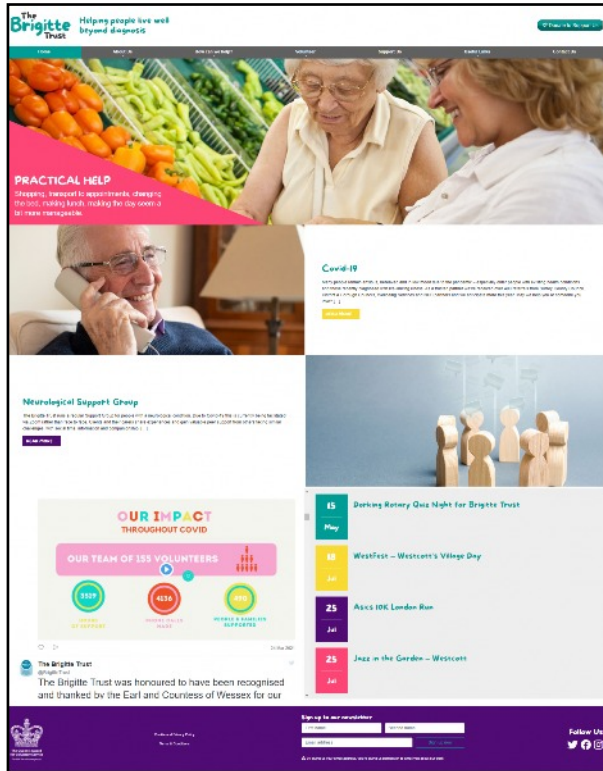
VIP visit to Headley Court

On Thursday, 18th March The Earl and Countess of Wessex made a visit to Headley Court – Surrey's temporary community hospital – and took part in a Zoom meeting at which Lucy, Sarah and two of our volunteers represented the Brigitte Trust, alongside other local groups, having received a special invitation. We were honoured to be recognised and thanked for our hard work throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.



Our New Identity

Sample screenshots from our new website.



www.brigitte-trust.org

What Do Referrers Think of Our Service?

Our survey in January reached many professionals referring clients across Surrey and the response was overwhelming both in numbers and feedback – everyone thought our service excellent and gave positive and encouraging feedback:

“Excellent service with fast response times from referral to the client receiving support. I have only heard positive feedback from clients I have referred.”

“Easy to refer to, well supported and experienced volunteers and excellent befriending provided.”

“The service is prompt & responsive. The client support need was at the forefront & I felt the referral would be dealt with in a caring and supportive manner.”

“This service has been a lifeline for so many during this pandemic and lockdowns. Thank you so much.”

Up, Up and Away



Although we didn't win the national prize in our balloon race we had loads of fun tracking our “Brigitte” balloons as they sailed off on Christmas morning. www.ecoracing.co will be setting off more virtual balloons throughout 2021 and we may join in again for a summer race – maybe Mayday from St. Petersburg? - to mark the release of lockdown restrictions, celebrate our new charity branding and a chance to go out a little further than the local supermarket!



"YOU'RE AMAZING" Award - BBC Surrey

Lucy sent us the link to listen live on BBC Surrey as Sarah was given this well-deserved award with a basket of scones, cookies and brownies to share with the office team here at the Trust, which we all enjoyed at our individual homes early in March – truly socially distanced!

“Congratulations to Sarah Pattenden who is this week’s recipient of the Lavender ‘You’re Amazing’ Award. Sarah is the Service Co-ordinator for the Brigitte Trust www.brigitte-trust.org and nominated as she has worked relentlessly throughout the pandemic. The charity supports people in Surrey who are lonely, isolated, in low mood, bereaved and those with life-limiting illnesses. During the pandemic referrals have increased enormously and over 60 volunteers have been recruited on Zoom



Sarah always goes the extra mile and is always available to take referrals, respond to calls and emails in the evenings and at weekends. She is a shining star, an asset to the charity’s team and has made a huge difference to many people in Surrey not only over the 10 years with the Trust, but also during the last year she has been phenomenal and outstanding”

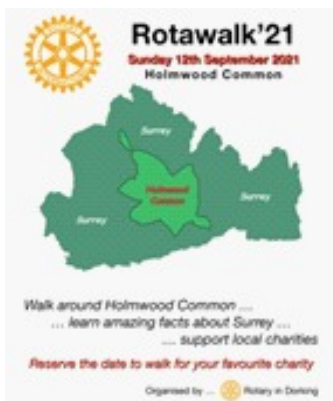
Congratulations to all the team and our brilliant volunteers of course!

Dorking Rotary:

Quizzing for The Brigitte Trust - and a walk in September

Dorking Rotary has been amazing, having adopted us through lockdown and done their best to raise funds in exceptional, socially-distanced circumstances. This invitation is for teams to join their final fundraiser for us: **A Zoom Quiz Night on May 15th**

A Diary Date for September for all the family



More news - there will be a sponsored 4-mile walk around Holmwood Common on September 12th with Dorking Rotary organising the whole thing so we can walk and raise money for the Brigitte Trust alongside other charities doing their own fundraising.

The route is on cinder track and covers around four miles, with displays explaining Surrey’s history as you go – with the obligatory tea and cake to finish!

Please contact Tanya in the office for more information: promotions@brigitte-trust.com

Online Cookery Classes for Curry Lovers

Throw out that leftover Easter chocolate and join Jaya’s online cookery classes this May.

Lucy, our charity manager, recommends Breech Lane Curry House, where you can buy curry kits, freshly ground spices and gift vouchers for an online cookery class as well as treating yourself! www.breechlanecurryhouse.com



The Easyfundraising App. .for your Staycation Break



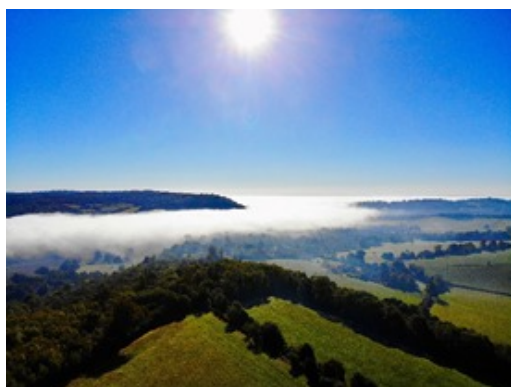
Thank you all so much! You've helped us raise over £400 by shopping online using the Easyfundraising website so don't forget to download the app to your tablet or phone to make it even easier when you shop. By using Easyfundraising for BOOKING YOUR

UK STAYCATION you can make a significant donation to the Brigitte Trust. Bucket, spade and donation made! You can shop and raise with nearly 4,500 sites using this link for the app:

<http://efraising.org/Znx7We3GN5>

Our Photo Competition

A simple notecard with the charity branding for us to use to thank, console, celebrate and mark special occasions within the lives of our clients and volunteers. A photo competition with almost 40 entries. A panel of five judges whittling it down to four winning entries. Result! A clear winner and a tie for second place.



First Place :

Rebecca Wellburn: "Reflection"

Second Joint Winners:

Roger Davis: "Mist in the Mole Valley"

Ali Seabold: "Surrey Bluebells" and "Headley Heath Sunset"

The notecards will be ready very soon.

Stop Press! An Easter donation from the reuse network

We've just heard from Kacie Thompson at SUEZ with great news - The Brigitte Trust has been selected for a donation of £1403.60 through their Revive reuse shops.

SUEZ and Surrey County Council jointly run five re-use shops which are co-located at Community Recycling Centres across Surrey. Their aim - divert still-good items from landfill and sell them on back into use in the community. As part of this scheme each shop donates 10% of their profits to a local charity. We will be using this donation to reach out to people who have been diagnosed with life-limiting illness during lockdown and need emotional and practical help as they cope with their prognosis and treatment.



The Queen's Award
for Voluntary Service

London Marathon

October 3rd 2021: Virtually and Actually for The Trust!

We have five “virtual” places in the London Marathon after the organisers explained the new plan for 2021 – 50,000 runners through London on the day plus 50,000 worldwide taking part on an App. The phone app will record miles as you walk or run the same 26.2 miles on the same day – but with 24 hours in which to complete the distance. The official runner’s vest will be sent and a medal awarded upon completion.



We've also got one precious London entry – so please contact us if you are interested in a virtual place for yourself a friend or family member and also for the London Marathon place itself, for which we require a substantial fundraising commitment.

End of year fundraising and donations and our huge thanks!

Enormous thanks to our charity supporters **Seymours Dorking** for arranging a “Lightup your Christmas Home” event in the town.

Congratulations to **Clandon Wood Nature Reserve and Natural Burial** for being Awarded Cemetery of the Year – Natural Burial 2020 and donating £1,000 to us as their nominated charity.

Hooray for **Waitrose West Byfleet, Hersham and Worcester Park** for donations of £333 each during lockdown, and to all our clients and supporters who gave generously during the last few months.

... and raffle prizes, good-as-new gifts and promises needed!

That box of Easter chocs lurking at the back of the sideboard...the Christmas gift that wasn't really your thing... or an extra bottle of wine you can spare for us would all be very welcome as we will be running fundraising events as the world opens up and we're always in need of prizes. Big thanks to Dorking Brewery who have already donated gift vouchers to start us off into 2021.

The Captain Tom 100 Challenge

CAPTAIN TOM 100

DO IT YOUR WAY

Virgin money giving, endorsed by the family of Captain Tom, have set another challenge in his name, raising funds for his Foundation and for other charities like ours to do the same – The Captain Tom 100 Challenge.

We're asking you to take part in honour of his 100th year to do your own 100 challenge and raise money for The Brigitte Trust any time from 30th – April 3rd May.

Some ideas could be walking 100 steps, scoring 100 goals, bake 100 cakes/biscuits or skipping 100 times, children could draw 100 funny faces, learn 100 spellings, do 100 handstands and donate the money raised to our charity. We look forward to celebrating with you and seeing how you do The Captain Tom 100 – Your Way!

All details can be found on <https://captaintom100.virginmoneygiving.com> and be sure to let Tanya know what you are planning on promotions@brigitte-trust.com – we have new Brigitte Trust t-shirts for you too!

The name Captain Tom 100 and this copyright content is being used under licence from The Captain Tom Foundation.



The Queen's Award
for Voluntary Service

Asics 10K London Run July 25th 2021



Our volunteer Margaret raised an amazing £1,000, smashing her target, when she ran the virtual Vitality London 10,000 for us at the end of last year – and we are excited to be able to offer real on-street, live racing this July!

We have six charity places for this iconic flat 10K run, looping through the centre of London passing iconic landmarks like Regent Street, Nelson's Column and Aldwych, returning via the banks of the Thames to finish in Whitehall.

Finishers get a t-shirt, medal and goody bag and we will supply you with a Brigitte Trust logo t-shirt or running vest and set you up with a Virgin money giving sponsorship page. You can do this! Or if you prefer... tell your sons and daughters, aunties uncles and next-door neighbours if they can raise just £250 or more to please get in touch with us to bag a place! promotions@brigitte-trust.com

Grow old disgracefully....

Now, don't we all know someone like this? A wonderfully young-at-heart website set up by Jackie Flaherty, founder of Godstone Farm here in Surrey, which quotes "Primal aim is to provide inspiration to people as they grow older to live life to the full, regardless of age"

Do have a look at the short story competition for over-90's! <https://www.growolddisgracefully.co.uk>

Finally, a sign-off from me!

I've seen our charity grow from the villages around our Dorking base to cover the whole of Surrey and couldn't be more proud! Dorking is the heart and the home of our charity and I couldn't be leaving a better team in charge. Thank you to everyone who has been a part of my Brigitte life over these many years: volunteers and trainers, staff, trustees, fundraisers. I will never forget my clients, who truly helped me become the person I am today.



With Warmest Wishes to all our Volunteers, Clients,

Supporters and Friends of the Trust

from the Trustees and the Office Team at The Brigitte Trust.



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