

In your local community

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Waging war on dementia – Wards Solicitors and BRACE

They've waded through mud, cycled for miles, run through the countryside and dressed up as cartoon characters - all to raise money for BRACE, Wards Solicitors' charity of the year.

Staff from all 11 of Wards Solicitors' local offices have thrown themselves into helping support BRACE, a Bristol-based charity which funds vital medical research into the causes, diagnosis and treatment of Alzheimer's.

Activities have included taking part in Bristol's annual Dragon Boat Festival, dressed as characters from the sixties cartoon series, Wacky Races; completing the demanding Nailsea 20K Challenge and cycling around all 11 of the Wards Solicitors offices in a ride covering 111 miles in the 111th year of business.

Jenny Pierce, Head of Wills, Probate and Mental Capacity said: "It has been an honour to support BRACE and to play a part in the drive to enable research which has a chance of making a very real difference to the increasing number of people diagnosed with this frightening illness."



Pretty muddy

It's not easy to look pretty and muddy but Rebecca Stuart and Sarah Woodward did just that when they took part in the Bristol Pretty Muddy 5K obstacle race on the Downs to raise money for Cancer Research UK.

Climbing, crawling, sliding and wading through mud was all part of the fun for the pair who both work in our Clevedon office, Rebecca as an equine law and residential property specialist and Sarah, who specialises in Wills and Probate.



Fast work for the air ambulance

Two teams from Wards Solicitors enjoyed the speedy pace of a highly competitive dodgeball knockout tournament staged by the Great Western Air Ambulance Charity (GWAAC), an organisation entirely funded by donations.

The highly enjoyable event, in which one of our teams made it through to win the third place play off, helped raise funds for GWAAC's vital life-saving emergency work, caring for people who cannot be reached by road or who are critically ill and need help at the scene of the accident.



Helping St Peter's Hospice

St Peter's Hospice plays a vital role in our region, providing care for adults with a terminal illness and helping more than 2,500 patients and 6,000 family members a year in the process.

This level of commitment does not come cheap and that's why we were more than happy to donate £1,000 to St Peter's scheme to sign up local businesses and raise £25,000 to help run its services.

Striding out for Oxfam

Walking 100K in under 30 hours and raising more than £2,000 for Oxfam and The Gurkha Welfare Trust is no mean feat – but Rebecca Stuart, office manager at our Clevedon office and a specialist in equine law and residential property did just that.

Trailwalker 2016 took place along the South Downs Way and although Rebecca found it tough going at times, she was proud to have taken part. "I have to say it was the hardest thing I have ever done but worth it for the real sense of achievement I felt the next day," she recalls.

Tea and cakes...

Coffee and walnut, lemon drizzle, Victoria sponge – delicious cakes of all descriptions helped staff in our Weston-super-Mare, Bradley Stoke and Central Bristol offices raise £520 for Macmillan Cancer Support.



Helping the Marmalade Trust make a difference

Meeting a growing number of older clients who are isolated and lonely, inspired Rebecca Purchase from our Nailsea office to throw her heart and soul into co-ordinating our fund raising efforts for the Marmalade Trust.

This year, staff across all 11 offices raised well over £800 for the charity which takes older and socially isolated people from Bristol and South Gloucestershire, who would otherwise be on their own, out for a Christmas Day meal.

Rebecca, who works with the Wills and Mental Capacity Team, says: "In our line of work we meet people every day who are isolated and lonely.

"When I came across the Marmalade Trust I knew it was perfect in that it not only offers somewhere for people to go on Christmas Day, which can undoubtedly be the loneliest day of the year for some, but it is a charity which also provides year-round support, helping find activities and groups for them to attend regularly.

"It is a charity we have been able to refer clients to and we have seen first-hand the difference it has made to people's lives."

Christmas cheer: Wards Solicitors Centenary Fund, set up over a decade ago to commemorate the firm's 100th birthday and to specifically support local causes, was delighted to fund a special Christmas lunch organised by the For All Healthy Living Company in Weston-super-Mare for some of the town's older residents.



Where there's a Will...

Making a will, and regularly updating it, is important which is why Wards Solicitors staff across all our offices take part in regular write a Will charity fundraising events.

Solicitors like us give up their usual Will writing fees to prepare basic Wills for people who need one. These people in turn make a donation to a specified charity. It's a win win situation.



1 New record for St Peter's Hospice

St Peter's Hospice Will Fortnight Campaign in October 2016 raised more than £31,000 with the efforts of Wards Solicitors, and their clients' kind donations, bringing in an incredible £17,580 towards the total.

Corporate Fundraiser Edd Smith said: "The total raised this year has far exceeded any previous campaign."

2 Secret World Wildlife Rescue

A new partnership with this animal charity, which works to rescue, rehabilitate and release sick, injured and orphaned wildlife is being launched with a Make a Will Week with our Weston and Worle offices actively involved.

3 Forever Friends Will Campaign

The Forever Friends Appeal is the charity for Bath's Royal United Hospital and funds projects that make a difference to the lives of many of its patients.

Ruth Coles in our Keynsham office was delighted to take part for the second year running.

4 Helping Weston Hospicecare

For the fourth year running, solicitors from Wards Solicitors Weston-Super-Mare, Worle and Clevedon offices are hoping to increase the amount raised for Weston Hospicecare during its Make A Will Week and help top the £13,320 total raised last year.

Keeping up to date

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