

La Houquette pupils sing along with residential home visitors

School choir welcomes guests as part of Alzheimer's Society's Dementia Action Week

by Christina Kennedy

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MUSIC filled La Houquette Primary School as its choir came together to serenade visitors from three of the island's residential homes.

The event was hosted as part of Dementia Action Week - an annual awareness campaign led by the Alzheimer's Society, and intended to bring people together to improve the lives of those affected by dementia.

'Music is an important part of life for many of us, including those living with dementia and also for young people,' said Dementia Friendly Guernsey co-ordinator Julie Bulpitt. 'It creates a connection to both young and the not so young. Being able to come into the school and out of their care home environment is also important.'

The choir's half-hour concert included songs ranging from musical numbers such as The Sound of Music's Edelweiss to retro hits like the Beatles' Yellow Submarine and Abba's Dancing Queen.

'I felt very excited to do it,' said Year 6 chorister Poppy Mason-Smith. 'I think it was really good.'

Her fellow singer, Year 6 student Evie Waldrom, agreed. 'I really like doing 'Yellow Submarine' - it's really fun,' she said.

The visiting residents were equally enthused about the performance, and the latter half of the concert even saw a portion of them joining in singing and dancing.

'They're all really good,' said Maison de Beauvoir resident Heather Redmond.

'I love singing - I would sing at home all the time.'

Dementia Action Week was focused on tackling stigma, encouraging early diagnosis, and supporting patients and carers dealing with dementia.



As part of Dementia Action Week, students from La Houquette Primary School held a concert for three of the island's care homes. They all sang together in the school hall before enjoying tea and biscuits. Ken Jeffrey is pictured. (Pictures by Sophie Rabey, 34763295)



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