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FAITHFUL SEE PAGE 2

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serious diseases, yet dementia costs the UK economy £23bn, more than cancer (£12bn) and heart disease (£8bn) combined.

Sir Terry Pratchett, patron of Alzheimer's Research UK, said: "Alzheimer's is a large number of small tragedies, usually played out behind closed doors, so in spite of the numbers living with it, the world still doesn't take much notice."

"When the world was shocked by HIV in the eighties, we saw a crash programme of research which has helped tame it enormously. We need the same kind of aggressive action on dementia now."

Rebecca Wood, chief executive of Alzheimer's Research UK, said: "Public concern around dementia is at an all-time high, yet dementia research is still the poor relation in both capacity and investment."

"We have such brilliant research talent in the UK, which could make real inroads into defeating dementia with more support - our brains depend on theirs."

"Dementia poses one of the greatest threats to public health now and in the future. We need the combined efforts of charities, government and the private sector to defeat dementia."



Children enjoy discovering their talents at Musical Instinct at Play sessions.

Sound's good

YOUNGSTERS from across the area are singing the praises of a new music group.

Carol O'Callaghan has been running weekly Musical Instinct at Play sessions on the Elvetham Heath estate in Fleet for a couple of months.

"I have attained a wonderful group of children aged from five to nine with a fairly even balance between boys and girls," she said.

"Over the last few months I have joyfully watched as some children who at first appear painfully shy are now happy to

show off their musical prowess by singing solo into a microphone and interacting with ease with the other children.

"The children have learnt lots of facts about the classical composers, know the several families of the orchestra very well and which instruments fit into each one.

"They have learnt to concentrate long enough to sing nicely in a group as well as volunteer for solo singing with the microphone.

"The respond well to a taught structured dance and relish free

style dance movement. They understand rhythm, tempo and how music is ordered and are able to follow simple rhythmic games.

"Included in the hour and a half session is a group lesson on keyboard, recorder, triangle, agogo bells, tambourine and bongo drums, with an opportunity to also have a 10 minute play on any of the instruments afterwards.

"I also tap into their senses by playing some lovely rain forest music to allow them the opportunity have some time to express themselves creatively."

Born and educated in County Cork, Ireland, Carol started learning the piano when she was 12 and had gained a distinction in all eight grades and a music teaching diploma by the age of 18.

She comes from a highly musical family. Her father was a well-known saxophonist who travelled in Ireland, the Middle East and New York with his orchestra, while her mother was a professional dancer who appeared at the London Palladium many times.

It was while performing at the Palladium that her parents met.

Carol, who lives in Fleet, plans to put on a concert in the summer and hopes to take part in the Fleet Carnival.

She will be running a class for children aged nine and upwards after Easter.

For more details call Carol on 07830355011 or 01252 815298.

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