

Eve News

Nolans singer Anne backs games to battle dementia

By EMMA HARRIS

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Blackpool singer Anne Nolan knows first-hand the importance of a fast diagnosis for dementia.

Anne, the eldest of famous singing sisters The Nolans, cared for her mum Maureen, who was eventually diagnosed with Alzheimer's and sadly died after a long battle with the illness.

And now Anne has given her backing to a new dementia project.

Anne – who lives in the resort – has become an ambassador for Brain-e-Games Ltd, a firm creating digital games for people with, or at risk of developing dementia.

Using an entertaining format, the games will test to identify the early signs of the condition and help build the brain's resilience against it.

The star believes early detection is the key to proper treatment.

She said: "When I had cancer, it was detected early. You have to think about dementia in the same light, if you can detect it earlier you can prolong your life.

"Getting early treatment can really make a difference



Anne Nolan (centre), with Prof Alan Palmer (left) and Nathan Nagel

for people with dementia – and their families.

"I am delighted to be on-board with this project, it's a cause very close to my heart because of the situation with my mum.

"I'm hoping the games will help to raise awareness of de-

mentia and the need for early detection, but also the need to keep the brain active.

"People go the gym to keep their bodies active, but don't tend to think about keeping their brains active, too. It's so important.

"The idea of making it a

game means it will be entertaining for people and more accessible.

"There are a lot of brain games out there, but these are different as they target the parts of the brain affected by dementia."

Anne admits the possibil-

ity of developing the condition herself is something she worries about.

The games are being developed by experts in neuroscience, so will be clinically-validated.

The first game – the detection game, aiming to test for

the early signs of dementia – is due to be released in 2016 and available for free.

Prof Alan Palmer, who helped develop the games, said: "Dementia is an umbrella term – used to describe a range of brain diseases characterised by progressive decline in intellectual and other mental functions.

"Brain-e-Games is creating and developing carefully-crafted digital games, to slow the progression of dementia by building cognitive reserve – thus increasing the brain's resilience to dementia-causing diseases."

Nathan Nagel, chief executive of Brain-e-games Ltd, said the idea was dementia treatment could be more than just drugs.

He said: "The current drugs for dementia provide only mild symptomatic relief for a short period of time; a substantial minority of those treated show no benefit.

"No new drugs have passed clinical trials to reach market for the last 10 years and it's predicted another 10 years to bring new drugs to market.

"Brain-e-Games Ltd is proud to work with Anne in raising awareness that dementia treatments can be more than drugs."

Visit www.brain-e-games.global

Fun day for unit fast approaching

Momentum is gathering for a family fun day for a cause close to a Layton mum's heart.

Nicole Swallow has organised the fund-raising event, on June 13, at the BJFF (Bispham Junior Football Federation) Community Hub, Bispham Gala Field, in aid of Blackpool Victoria Hospital's Special Care Baby Unit (SCBU)

She and husband Chris want to give something back for the first-rate care the staff there gave her little boy.

Harrison, now two, weighed just 3lbs 10oz when he was born by emergency C-section at 32 weeks.

He had to spend the first five weeks of his life on the unit and has grown and developed without major complications.

The fund-raising event will include stalls, entertainment, face-painting, games and an auction and raffle.

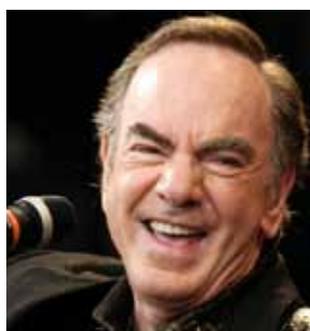
Nicole says she has been overwhelmed with the donations for prizes.

"I really appreciate all the donations.

"Local businesses and local people have been so generous.

"We are taking auction bids via Facebook, but also on the day.

"There will be a box for



Neil Diamond tickets, just one of the super prizes on offer

people to put in which item they would like and how much they are bidding, ending at 7pm.

"All money raised will be going to the SCBU."

Among the top prizes on offer for the auction are: a sparring/training session with boxer Brian Rose, Liverpool FC stadium and museum tour, two months membership to ECN Bodyworks fitness centre, Manchester United signed pennant, silver designer bracelet donated by Blackpool Kingscote Boxing Club/Carringtons and Neil Diamond tickets, donated by Cuffe and Taylor.

The full list of prizes and details can be found at www.facebook.com/Funday1362015



Nicole and Chris Swallow with their son Harrison are organising a fun day to raise money for the Special Care Baby Unit