

Support is served at dementia cafe

■ Lovely new venture will help Alzheimer's sufferers enjoy a less isolated life

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A CAFE for people living with dementia – and their friends and family – has been opened in Greenmount.

D-Caff was officially opened at Greenmount Cricket Club on Friday.

It was the brainchild of Laura Roberts, vice-chairman of Bury Dementia Action Alliance and Greenmount resident Joani Beale.

Mrs Beale said: "I cared for my dad who had Alzheimer's and I volunteered for a charity that ran dementia cafes but I finished there about a year ago. Then recently I was approached by Laura who suggested we set

up our own café locally as there was nothing like this here."

The pair, alongside volunteer Diane Fox, have had a huge response from the local community, which had been fundraising to start the café.

Mrs Beale said: "It's extremely important to have events like this because people can become isolated and stay in their own homes. There's a fear of the condition and we want to show people that you can continue to live your life with dementia."

The cafe, which is billed as a lovely place to meet for people living with dementia, their carers and family and friends, will open on the second Friday of every month.

Mrs Roberts said: "We will be having guest speakers with advice but mainly it's about people coming down here and having fun."

Guests at the first cafe event tucked into tea and cakes that

had been donated from local sources.

The event was put on by the Greenmount Village Community Group and chairman Alistair Waddell was impressed with the turnout.

He said: "These things are fantastic and the turnout is brilliant."

"A number of people have put a lot into getting this venture off the ground."

"It's not an easy thing to get going but hopefully this is the start of something great."

The opening of the cafe coincided with the national dementia awareness week which is running until May 21st.

The campaign is being run by Alzheimer's Society to raise awareness and lead the fight against dementia.

The next D-Caff will be held on Friday June 10, from 1.15pm to 3.15pm. For more email d-caff@greenmountvillage.org.uk.