



■ Nick Hilder performing at the Elf Party Picture: MAX BURNETT PHOTOGRAPHY

Elf-themed event raises funds for mental health

A FESTIVE fundraiser celebrating local music and creativity has raised more than £1,000 for Mind Jersey.

The fourth annual Elf Party took place last week at the Blue Note Bar, bringing together a wide range of performers for an evening of live music, poetry and seasonal cheer in aid of the mental health charity.

Organised by Nick Hilder and hosted by What the Folk! in partnership with Mind Jersey, the event featured performances spanning folk, soul, pop and spoken word, attracting a packed audience of all ages.

Mr Hilder said: "I have received the final numbers from Mind Jersey and

we have raised a total of £1,070.89, so over the £1k target, which we are very happy about, and all in just one evening of music and performance.

"Mind Jersey seem happy to," he added.

The Elf Party brings together artists who both live on and away from the Island, all coming together for the one-off show.

The performances on the night ranged from folk music and poetry to RnB and ukulele rock, which Mr Hilder said "really shows the breadth and depth of talent we have on this Island".

He added: "We were blown away by the support with a packed room of all

ages singing along to sea shanties led by The Story Beast, club bangers by Shea, folk ballads by Winterfalle and Nick Hilder and class acts Viv le Vav and The Yulekuleles – and all for a good cause to support Islanders' wellbeing."

He added that following this year's success, he is hoping to mark next year's fifth anniversary.

Organisers said the continued support highlighted both the strength of Jersey's creative community and the importance of raising awareness and funds for local wellbeing services.

An Elf Party photo spread will appear in tomorrow's JEP.

Mind Jersey keen to introduce 'hubs' around the Island

By James Jeune

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MIND Jersey has ambitions to build on the success of its drop-in centre in St Helier – potentially working with other providers to expand support to other parts of the Island – according to the mental-health charity's chief executive.

Dr Patricia Tumelty said that the drop-in centre, which is located in Seale Street behind the Town Hall, has been open for around three years.

Described as a "welcoming safe space with free refreshments and support", the provision helps enable access to a range of services, including one-to-one support.

"One of the things that people who use mental-health services across the Island said was that they needed a place to go where people could just feel comfortable and connected and less isolated," Dr Tumelty said.

She said that the drop-in centre was one of the reasons that Mind Jersey was recently recognised dur-



■ Dr Patricia Tumelty is chief executive of Mind Jersey: 'People are welcomed in a way where they feel respected and cared for'

ing the Mind Excellence Awards.

"The assessors from the UK visited and they met a lot of people who come to the Mind Jersey drop-in centre who have complex mental illness and cannot access the coffee shops and the cafés that we just take for granted.

"If we had our wish we would have one out west, we would have these hubs, because we know that they are spaces where people do feel they can get that connection.

"In the 1980s and 1990s, huge institutions were closed down with the promise of an extension of community care, but that didn't happen – so we are filling the gap with providing community space for people.

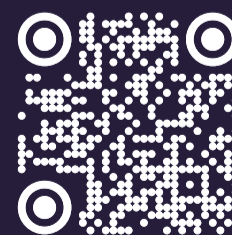
"People are welcomed in a way where they feel respected and cared for, but they are not challenged to produce or to speak or to do things that they don't want to do."

Dr Tumelty said Mind Jersey would be "delighted to speak to other providers in Jersey to consider how we could extend" the provision.

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