

Réception à la Résidence l'occasion de la 23^{ème} Journée mondiale Alzheimer

- Mercredi 21 septembre 2016 -

Projet d'intervention (*en anglais*)

Ladies and gentlemen, dear friends,

[First of all, I apologize for being late: I really wanted to be back in time to welcome you all, but I was in Scotland this afternoon, so quite a tight schedule as you can imagine!]

[Despite the rush], I am really happy to be hosting this event and to see you all here: this is a great cause and it deserves all the help we can give!

In recent years, all over the world, we have seen a significant growth in the number of individuals with dementia.

In France, more than eight hundred and fifty thousand people are living with Alzheimer's and other related diseases. In twenty-fourteen, we launched a new five-year national strategy for neurodegenerative diseases, with three key priorities:

- to improve the diagnosis and care of patients;**
- to ensure all of those affected have a good quality of life and receive adequate support;**
- and to develop and coordinate research.**

This year, on the occasion of the twenty-third World Alzheimer's Day, the French Department of Health will highlight the role of carers.

I know these issues are a key priority for the British government too. I have seen some great examples of good practice over here. On my first visit to Liverpool this year, I visited the Sedgemoor Reablement Hub and Dementia Day Service. It was wonderful to see how innovative it was, how much everyone cared, and how much was done so patients could stay in their own homes for as long as possible, to bring a smile to people's faces and also give support to carers.

It is important for our nations to stand together and share this challenge.

That's why the French Embassy is proud to be participating in the World Alzheimer's Ball, and to be working with organizations like the Alzheimer's Society and Dementia UK.

To conclude, research shows that regular social dancing could lower the risk of dementia by as much as seventy-six percent.

Prevention is a key thing, so let's waste no more time, ladies and gentlemen, let's enjoy our meal and dash off to the ball!

[Thank you, and I wish you all a delightful evening].