

## Vocalist hits the right vintage note



Kym Veale regularly performs at care homes around Sussex

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A SINGER is using her musical skills to help trigger memories and build up confidence for the elderly and frail.

Kym Veale, from Ditchling, tours care homes as part of a project called the Vintage Radio Years.

The 48-year-old draws on well-known radio songs from the 1930s, 1940s and 1950s and says the response she gets has been tremendous.

Ms Veale's most recent visit was to Maycroft Manor in Carden Avenue in Brighton.

She said: "For many years I have studied and researched the great sounds of popular music and the effect this has had upon the wellbeing of its audience.

"The Radio Years transports memories back to a time around the wireless, when family life and music celebrated and united together as one within our living rooms."

Ms Veale is inspired by the old

### background

**AMONG** the music Kym Veale performs are tunes from well-known singers including Gracie Fields, Dame Vera Lynn, Billy Cotton and Glenn Miller.

Henry Hall worked for the BBC and his 1930s guest nights, held every Saturday evening, were hugely popular at the time.

Ms Veale has been working on the project for more than 15 years, visiting numerous homes across the county.

Her shows particularly resonate with older residents, including those with dementia, whose memories are often triggered by hearing the famous names and songs.

For more details visit [vintageradloyears.co.uk](http://vintageradloyears.co.uk).

radio show Henry Hall's Guest Night and sets the scene with an authentic wireless, a 1950s microphone and well-known recordings.

She said: "I encourage my audiences to remember through a carefully structured programme, using every angle of the famous artistes and their famous recordings to

prompt memory, singing along together as one.

"As a writer and vocalist it has been my heart's desire to help revive these wonderful decades of unity, singing and dancing, remembering the joy this timeless era of music brought us.

"My desire has been to encourage this intimate personal touch through music and celebrate the wonderful ability musical talent has in lifting and liberating our hearts and minds."

Ms Veale said she has received a lot of support from staff at care homes, who have seen the impact of her performances.

She said: "At Maycroft they were singing along and dancing and really enjoying themselves.

"It can make such a huge difference.

"I have gained so much in terms of experience through the programme and I hope to continue doing it."

"I am currently exploring avenues of gathering writers and musicians to help pursue the creative development of this project."

For more about the project, visit [vintageradloyears.co.uk](http://vintageradloyears.co.uk).