



Helping People Changing Lives



1994-2024

Swarcliffe
Good
Neighbours
Scheme

Working with and for Older People

1994

Hi, my name is Carole O'Connor. I was the Centre Manager of the Saint Gregory's Youth and Adult Centre, now the Swarcliffe Community Centre, when the scheme first started.

The Swarcliffe Good Neighbours Scheme was set up in 1994. It all started with a chance encounter in the Merrion Centre Leeds between myself and Councillor Elaine Pickard who, along with the late Cllr Suzi Armitage and Cllr Martin Hemmingway, were the local Ward Councillors at that time.

Councillor Pickard had been informed that there was funding available to be applied for to set up a scheme for the elderly in the Swarcliffe area. This funding was also available for other areas to apply for across the city. The funding sounded good as we already ran luncheon clubs etc in the centre at that time but we did not have a dedicated person to coordinate them. Volunteers and myself ran the luncheon clubs.

There was just one snag with the funding application form it had to be submitted within a week. We both agreed it was worth applying for so a meeting was arranged with the other two Ward Councillors along with Committee Members of the St Gregory's Youth & Adult Centre. Everyone agreed the application should go ahead.

Following a short feasibility study we submitted the form and after a long wait we were informed our application had been successful and the funding was granted. Now the work started to set up the scheme. We advertised for the Project Manager post and received 5 applications. Following the interviews, the panel selected and appointed Philip Makin as the Project Manager.

Philip ran the scheme for 11 years building up many activities for older people and over the years the scheme grew benefitting many older people in the Swarcliffe area. He retired in 2005 leaving a gap hard to fill.

The post was advertised and in March 2005 Ken Hill was appointed as the new Project Manager. After a few short months it became obvious that the gap left by Philip had been well and truly filled, then as they say the rest is history.

I worked alongside Ken for many years until I retired. I watched the scheme develop and grow to its ultimate best with Ken as the Project Manager. Well done Ken, keep up the good work.

2005



On 21st March 2005 Ken Hill joined the Swarcliffe Good Neighbours Scheme in the role of Project Manager, taking over the mantel from Philip Makin.

Ken had gained knowledge and experience of working with and for older people having been previously employed as the Outreach Worker at a Neighbourhood Network Scheme based in Garforth called The Neighbourhood Elder's Team.

He worked hard to develop office and database systems to record all work currently provided by the scheme while developing new services/activities to meet the ever-changing needs of local older people.

The development of a database system would enable the scheme to record;

- the personal details of any older person registered with the scheme
- any support provided on a client card
- all contacts to the scheme
- and produce data analysis for funders

The development of services to meet the current and future needs of older people;

- telephone contact - one to one support
- outreach service – home visit
- develop working relationships with other Statutory, Private or Voluntary organisations enabling the scheme to refer clients to access services tailored to meet their identified needs
- weekly drop-in at the Community Centre for support with any problems
- benefit checks – applying for and supporting with completing forms
- gardening maintenance service

The development of activities to meet the current and future needs of older people;

- three weekly luncheon clubs
- line dancing classes
- computer cafe
- monthly trips
- annual holiday

2008

In 2008 the Swarcliffe Good Neighbours Scheme applied for and were awarded three years funding from the Leeds Older People's Forum to set up and develop a Social Enterprise Gardening Service. The chargeable gardening service would be available to older people living in;

- Swarcliffe, Stanks & Whinmoor
- South Seacroft
- North Seacroft

The gardening service would provide and deliver;

- one off gardening service to clear an overgrown garden
- continuous gardening maintenance service

Our gardener Paul provided an excellent gardening service to anyone who requested the service also he developed a trustworthy working relationship with any client creating the opportunity for them to socially interact which enabled Paul to feed back any issues any client may be having for us to offer them support.



In 2010 the Swarcliffe Good Neighbours Scheme applied for and were awarded a £40,000.00 Leeds City Council contract to deliver a gardening service in four Council Wards namely;

- Crossgate & Whinmoor Ward
- Garforth & Swillington Ward
- Kippax & Methley Ward
- Temple Newsam Ward

2011

In 2011 the Swarcliffe Good Neighbours Scheme submitted a funding application to the Jane Tomlinson and Yorkshire Evening Post “Big Charity Giveaway”

Groups welcome cash windfalls from Appeal

3rd August 2011

YORK



Rebecca Tomlinson at the launch of the Big Charity Giveaway

We were successful with our application and were awarded £15,000.00 which was used to buy our first disabled access mini bus enabling us to transport older people door to door to all our activities.



2017

Mr Kenneth Kavanagh registered with Swarcliffe Good Neighbours Scheme in 2011. We worked with and for Ken for around six years taking him every two weeks in his wheelchair to his bank and then for some shopping.

Ken really appreciated the work and support the Swarcliffe Good Neighbours Scheme provided and delivered for older people in the local and wider community. He always said he would like to give something back to the scheme and he graciously donated £43,363.00 to the Swarcliffe Good Neighbours Scheme enabling us to purchase our new Mini Bus. On the rear door it states “*Vehicle sponsored by Mr Kenneth Kavanagh*” for everyone to see.

Ken came on our monthly trips and to our annual events.



2020 – 2022

On 31st January 2020 the first case of COVID- 19 was documented in the UK followed by several major waves of infection causing a pandemic to sweep the country. The outcome of the pandemic on the population of this country restricted our freedom to go out. People were required to stay in doors to minimise the spread of this disease.

The Swarcliffe Good Neighbours Scheme had to change all our service provision to meet the needs of isolated older people living in Swarcliffe, Stanks and Whinmoor. We set up a befriending telephone contact service with all our registered clients to identify their worries, needs and any support they required to ensure their mental, medical and physical health and well being was being cared for. We became a lifeline!

Our befriending telephone contacts;

- gave our clients the opportunity for them to talk to someone
- let them know we cared and they were not alone
- offered support with any problem or issue however big or small

Contact with our clients enabled us to;

- collect prescriptions and submit them to local Chemists
- pick up and deliver medications to their home
- support them with medical appointments
- go grocery shopping for 34 people a week
- provide and deliver 51 hot meals a week
- offer a basic handyman service

We were successful in being awarded funding to set up activities to keep people occupied while in their home.

- Quiz pack- 3 puzzle books with a pen & bag of sweets
- Home movie night - 3 DVD's to watch with a box of Maltesers
- Book Club - 4 books of their choice
- Gift voucher for Tesco's supermarket

Throughout the pandemic we worked on the front line supporting older people living in the local community from our office based in the Swarcliffe Community Centre. The staff and volunteers of this scheme went above and beyond offering their support and dedication to promote the mental & physical health & well being of older people in the local and wider community. The impact COVID 19 had on older people was and is immeasurable.



2024



Joyce Finney

12th July 1924



Joyce was born on Saturday 12th July 1924 to her mum, dad, sister and two brothers living in Woodhouse Leeds. Joyce loved her family and is very proud of her upbringing. Her aunt paid for her to go to the Pearl Moss Dance School in Woodhouse, Leeds and at the age of 14 Joyce achieved her dream going on stage as a dancer also becoming a tiller girl.



In 1939 Joyce went on a UK tour with the Pearl Moss Dance School but due to the outbreak of World War II she joined the Army as a Land Girl. Joyce was demobbed in 1945 after which Mr Francis Laidler called asking her to come back on the stage at his Drury Lane Theatre in Leeds. Joyce danced in the following reviews;

- Mother Goose December 24th 1945 – May 11th 1946
- Jack & the Beanstalk December 23rd 1946 – May 10th 1947

Joyce used to go to the 101 dancehall near Kirkgate Market in Leeds which is where she met George. George and Joyce were married on the 30th October 1948. They were over the moon when their 2 sons Paul and Grahame were born.

As a family they lived around Leeds eventually moving to Denill Road in Crossgates where George worked on a farm. Later they bought their own house on Swarcliffe Drive in Swarcliffe where they all lived happily together for 39 years. George loved his garden.

George and Joyce then moved into Naburn Court in Whinmoor which is where Joyce lives surrounded by her loving family, along with 4 Grandchildren, 6 Great-grandchildren and 2 Great-Great-grandchildren who all love her to bits.

2024

In 2024 the Swarcliffe Good Neighbours Scheme celebrates a milestone of achievement, 30 Years of working with and for older people living in Swarcliffe, Stanks and Whinmoor. S.G.N.S. is located in the Swarcliffe Community Centre in the heart of Swarcliffe where over the decades we have established warm and friendly relationships with older people, their families, friends and neighbours from the local and wider community.

From every seed grows an acorn, the Swarcliffe Good Neighbours Scheme has been on an unbelievable journey spanning three decades where we have been privileged to meet 1,000s of older people, their families friends and neighbours giving us the opportunity to “make a difference” in their lives which we will be forever grateful. Together we have had the privilege to meet, laugh and cry with YOU either in your own home or to see YOU enjoying yourselves at our weekly activities, monthly trips, numerous events and annual holidays. Together we have created some wonderful memories for ourselves, your family, friends and neighbours.

Our staff and volunteers offer YOU a listening ear to help and support YOU with any problems or issues either in person or by telephone. Together we create a continuous contact that can and has lasted for years. We give YOU the comfort to know YOU have somewhere to call if in need or lonely. One of our clients who we have known since 2012 said that we are a;

“BEACON OF LIGHT – HELP – HOPE”

The Executive Management Committee, Staff and Volunteers all work very hard together supporting and delivering all the services and activities that the Swarcliffe Good Neighbours Scheme provides for older people.

We all would like to say a big thank you to YOU!

Executive Management Committee

Brenda (Chair), Sylvia (Vice Chair), Sue (Secretary), Margaret (Treasurer)
Peter (Trustee), Joolee (Trustee), James (Trustee), Jean (Trustee),
James (Trustee).

Staff Ken, Mik

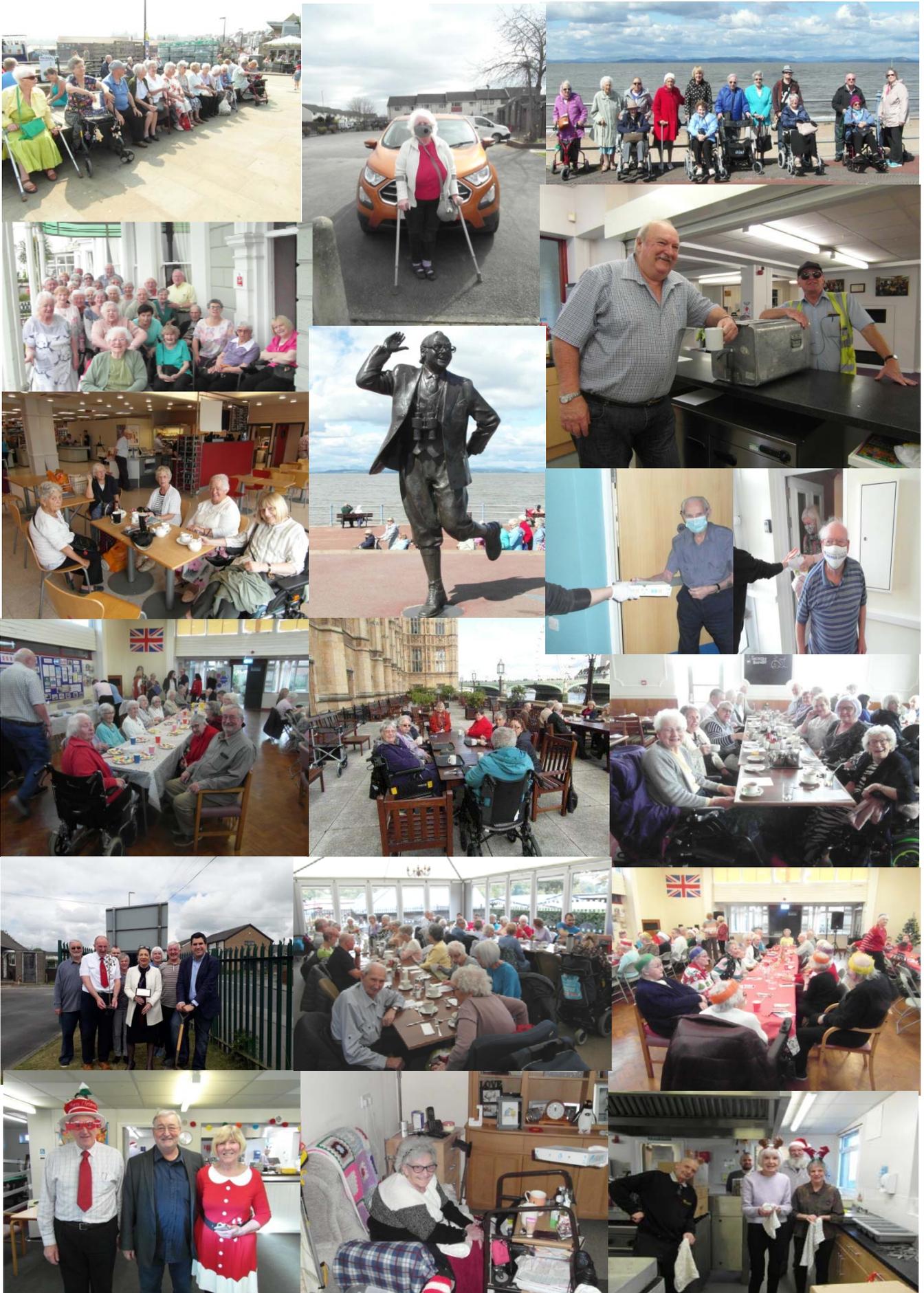
Volunteers

Irene, James, Val, Duncan, Omana, Kevin, Giselle, Andrew, Pamela,
Jason, Wendy, John, Thomas, Andrew, Leigh.

Decades of Pictures



Decades of Pictures



Thanks to our Partners

Asda (Killingbeck)
Alzheimer's Society Leeds
Anchor Housing
Carers Leeds
Churches Together
Community Shop
Corpus Christi Catholic College
Crossgates & District Good Neighbours Scheme
Crossgates & Whinmoor Community Hub
David Fishwick's
Inside,Outside Child Care
Jack Lunn
John Smeaton Academy
Leeds Adult Social Care
Leeds City College
Leeds City Council
Leeds Community Foundation
Leeds Older Peoples Forum
Leeds University
Leeds Youth Service
Lookers Ford
Lloyds Pharmacy
Marks & Spencer (The Springs)
Outer East Community Committee
P.P.S.Commercials
Presto Meals
R.H Sirrell & Son's
Ross Travel
Sanctuary Housing
Sainsbury's (Colton)
Seacroft PCN Team
Skyliner Fish & Chips Restaurant
Stonewater
South Seacroft Friends & Neighbours
Swarcliffe Forum
Swarcliffe Housing Office
Swarcliffe Primary School
Tesco (Seacroft)
Thomas Danby College
Thorpe Park Hotel & Spa
Voluntary Action Leeds
Windmill Community Transport
Ward Councillors - Cllr Grahame, Cllr Lennox, Cllr Gibson.
Windmill Health Centre
Yorkshire Housing