

## Re-connected!

### **BACKGROUND**

Pete was referred to our service by Ashley Fothergill through Citizens Advice. He is a 78-year-old gentleman who lives on his own in supported living accommodation.

He has family around who visit when they can or take him out. He has 7 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren. He has a befriender who has been seeing him for 4 years and continues to visit him every Thursday.

He was quite active pre-covid with different groups, i.e., RVS, Book Club and various hiking groups. He used to travel all over the area to different walking groups, but he no longer drives due to poor eyes and is not as confident getting a bus. He can't walk as far as he used to either.

Unfortunately, since the pandemic he's lost touch and become socially isolated and would really like to connect again. He likes chatting and having a joke with others over a cup of coffee and being active, even though he needs to be careful with his health. He only has 1 kidney and uses a stick for walking.

There isn't much of a community at his local accommodation and so would like to meet other people outside again. He doesn't like going out at night or playing bingo so is looking for daytime activities. He seems happy with his situation and life at present and counts himself lucky.

Following the Good Life Conversation, Pete wanted to achieve the following:

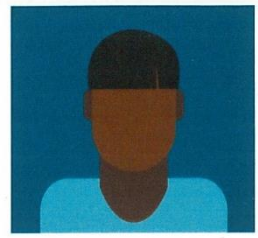
- Improve confidence in going out to groups
- Find some more likeminded people to chat with
- Improve his IT skills

### **WHAT WE DID**

- Listened to Pete talk about his past and present life.
- Supported Pete in attending Wonderful Wednesdays at The Crescent in Batley.
- Signposted Pete to the Charity MHA who use volunteer drivers and organise day trips out.
- Introduced him to other members of the team at Batley Library.
- Signposted to RVS in Batley.
- Supported Pete in attending an IT clinic at Batley Library
- Signposted to Everybody Active MAGIC chair and walking.

### **WHAT DIFFERENCE HAS IT MADE**

- Pete has attended a number of Wonderful Wednesdays at The Crescent which he enjoys immensely. The staff are incredibly supportive and community minded. He has met other people



and had some good conversations.

A quote from the Community, Fundraising and Events Manager at the Crescent.

*“Pete has been instrumental in getting an Access Bus up and running to collect and drop off visitors to the Crescent each Wednesday. He has also made contact with a gentleman who is running a history group at Batley Library. Pete is a lovely gentleman. He has been coming along to our wonderful Wednesdays for a good few month now. Pete was just happy to be getting back out and about, after being so isolated. He has made some lovely friendships which is just heart-warming to watch and we love him. He helped us set our access bus up last month. He is so full of knowledge about Batley and we love listening to his memories of the days gone by. Pete and a couple of others have just formed their own Crescent Historian Group, he is really excited to see where that may lead, we all are”.*

- Pete has started attending weekly coffee mornings at the RAFA club in Batley. He has met a number of ladies there whose company he has enjoyed. He says *“It’s a great place to come with a lovely atmosphere and great music. We have a good sing along... every other week and there’s always someone to talk to”.*
- Pete has improved his IT knowledge after attending a session at Batley Library.
- Pete attended a book sale at Batley Library.
- Pete has made contact with RVS about their Silver Surfer Course.
- Pete says he feels happier that he’s getting out and about now and is feeling more connected to people outside his accommodation.
- He is feeling less mobile these days, so having things close to his home is really important. He’s made a connection with another lady who attends the Crescent, and she offers him a lift most Wednesdays up to the Wonderful Wednesdays. Also, the Access Bus each Wednesday is going to mean he has a back-up.

Pete says *“Jo has made a huge difference to me. I’ve re-connected to the community that became strange to me during the pandemic and I feel much happier and healthier. I’ve met some lovely people and made some new friends. The ladies at The Crescent... have been so welcoming and kind. I really enjoy my time there each week. I’m really looking forward to our first History group this week. Now, my only free days are Mondays and Fridays!”*

**Please note that although consent has been given to use this storyboard, the individual’s name has been changed for anonymity.**