



IDGN Supporter Newsletter - Spring 2026

Welcome to the fourth edition of our Supporter Newsletter, which will be the last under my tenure, as I hand over the reins at our July AGM.

I begin this edition with the sad news that our long-standing Honorary President, Brian Mann, passed away on 31st March aged 91. Brian served this charity tirelessly for well over 25 years, first as Council rep and then as Treasurer until he became President in 2018. He will be sadly missed and our deepest condolences go out to his widow, Sylvia.

Read on for updates on the surveys we conducted earlier this year of both our clients and volunteers, a spotlight on trustee Kathryn, news about current fundraising initiatives and closer working with the Clarke Foley Community Hub.

We hope you will share this newsletter widely with friends and family.

All the best,

Ed Duguid

Chair of Trustees



Brian (r) chatting with a guest at last year's Over 90s Party

Credit: Charlie Swinbourne

A New Home at CFC



During the first quarter of 2026, IDGN trialled a new workspace at the Clarke Foley Community Hub (CFC), recognising the strong overlap between our client groups and the benefits of the Hub's central, highly visible location. The trial demonstrated clear benefits, and as a result we have agreed to permanently relocate our office to the CFC. Over the next 12 months, we are looking to develop collaborative projects with CFC, working towards a closer partnership.

We Need More Volunteers

We have had a flurry of referrals recently and as a result have more clients who need our support, particularly with weekly or fortnightly trips to the supermarket. If you or someone you know can spare a couple of hours a week/fortnight and is interested in becoming a ShopAssist volunteer ([role description here](#)), do get in touch with Helen on 07536 457 961 for a friendly chat or send an email to:

befriending@goodneighboursilkley.org.uk

Keep in Touch? or Unsubscribe

Have you picked up this newsletter and want to find out how to subscribe to future editions? Look no further - drop an email to the team email address or phone the office and we will do the rest. You can do the same if you wish to unsubscribe at any time.

Client and Volunteer Survey Results

Thank you to clients and volunteers completing our surveys earlier in the year, we now have the highlights to share below, with more detailed analysis and impacts to share at our AGM in a few months' time.

Volunteer Feedback

The results of the volunteer survey show just how positive volunteering with IDGN is for volunteer wellbeing as well as for our clients.

Volunteers reported very high levels of life satisfaction (averaging around 8.7 out of 10), happiness (8.6), and a strong sense that what they do is worthwhile (9.2) – all significantly above UK national averages (around 7.5–7.7).



Something as simple as pouring a cuppa can make a difference

Credit: Charlie Swinbourne

Encouragingly, almost all respondents agreed that volunteering has a positive impact on their lives. Many volunteers spoke about the sense of purpose, belonging, and enjoyment they gain from it, as well as the friendships formed along the way – a powerful reminder that volunteering truly is beneficial for everyone involved.

Client Feedback

Clients were asked to rate the statement, “The support I receive from IDGN has a positive impact on my life.” The average score was 4.46 out of 5, with 84% of respondents rating the impact as high (4 or 5), highlighting the value clients place on our support.

These results are particularly significant given the high levels of loneliness experienced by those we support. Around half of clients report feeling isolated or lacking companionship, compared with only 7–8% of the general population who experience frequent loneliness.



A scenic trip can be a social highlight

Credit: Charlie Swinbourne

Despite these barriers, clients report strong levels of overall life satisfaction, with an average score of 7.9 out of 10—slightly above the UK average of approximately 7.5. This suggests that IDGN's services play a meaningful role in maintaining and improving wellbeing among a higher-need group.

Overall, the findings show that IDGN is successfully reducing the impact of isolation, enhancing wellbeing, and providing vital social connection for people most at risk of loneliness.

Friendship Across the Ages

The Friday Friendship Group were thoroughly entertained by Bluebell class from Sacred Heart Primary school on Friday 24th April. After initially appearing a little shy their confidence soon blossomed as they sang several songs for us including, 'I'm a little teapot' and 'You are my sunshine'.



Bluebell class singing to the Friendship group

They went on to chat with everyone in the room, give out drawings they had done of themselves and eat their way through all the biscuits! Judging by the smiles both children and clients had a lovely afternoon creating some very happy memories.



Young and old chatting away

Fundraising Update

Subrosa - a local company helping food and drink brands achieve their potential - has chosen us as their charity of the year. They will be raising funds for us throughout the year, from entering a team to run the Yorkshire Marathon in October, to their very own Bake Off competition and Tuck Shop, and taking part in our events and all things IDGN, as much as they can.

Thank you

SUBROSA

White Wells - we will be repeating a *Dare to Dip?* event at White Wells this year on Saturday 20th June, 10-12. If this is something you'd like to do, drop a line to the team email and we'll be in touch with more details nearer the time. We're asking for a donation to dip this time rather than sponsorship.

Congratulations to Sophie, our first recipient of a **Room to Reward** which gives 'hidden heroes' a free hotel stay. Sophie has volunteered as an IDGN shopper since 2012, supporting clients through snow, Covid, and beyond. She supported her long-term client for over 5 years and later fundraised an amazing £2,000 for IDGN by organising a very successful ceilidh. Thank you Sophie!



Sophie (l) receiving her certificate from Lucy

Remembering Peter

We were sorry to hear of the death of Peter Maufe on 2 Nov 25. Peter was a stalwart of the volunteer team, who gave over a decade of service to IDGN in various roles – ShopAssist, Befriending and helping at many of our events. Compassionate, kind, reliable and diligent, Peter had a quiet confidence and gentle manner that many clients, volunteers and staff benefited from over the years. He will be greatly missed.

Client Feedback

"C is wonderful, and I am very appreciative of my volunteer and the service. I look forward to visits - It's unbelievable what a difference it makes - it's good to have someone outside of family to talk to. Her visits broaden my life and we get on very well." **BF client**

Trustee Spotlight...

Kathryn has lived in Ilkley for the past 18 years, having previously lived and worked in Leeds as a physiotherapist at Leeds General Infirmary. After moving to Ilkley and welcoming her third child, she chose to step away from paid employment to focus on family life. Since then, she has dedicated a significant amount of time to voluntary work with organisations including Cancer Research, Citizens Advice, the NHS during the Covid pandemic, Carers Resource and, most recently, IDGN. At IDGN, she volunteers as both a Befriender and Shopper, and in 2024 joined the Board of Trustees, where her health service background and experience working with people adds invaluable insight to the team. Outside of volunteering, Kathryn enjoys spending time outdoors, competitive squash and being part of an upholstery group.



Kathryn (r) and her client

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