

# Who is Your Neighbour?

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IT COMES UP (IN CONVERSATION).....

## #4 - LIVING THE LEGACY

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### It Comes Up ...

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This is the last in a series of four resources. In it, people wonder how to **Live with the Legacy** they have received. Like others in the series, it is inspired by a subject that can come up in **Who is Your Neighbour?** conversations around South Yorkshire. The subjects are local - and yet similar topics arise in other places. They are familiar - and yet they can be difficult to talk about.

People tell us stories about being proud of their street, of struggles resulting from industrial decline, of adjusting to newcomers. **Who is Your Neighbour?** makes space for exploring these things and what comes next.

Open conversations, held with empathy, create the conditions for talking, listening, working through problems and deciding how we want to shape ourselves and our future.

To explore working with us on conversations that might be useful for the future of your place and the people who live there, get in touch - [team@whoisyourneighbour.org.uk](mailto:team@whoisyourneighbour.org.uk)

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1. Proud of this Place
2. Industrial Decline
3. New Arrivals
4. **Living the Legacy**

**Who is Your Neighbour?** is a charity (# 1196667 ) that holds conversations around South Yorkshire and shares learning across the UK. We welcome subjects that can be troubling - like race, immigration and culture - inspiring curiosity in ourselves and others to support change.

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# Living the Legacy: a South Yorkshire story

## Stories

### Empathy

“That’s Bang On!”

“You know what’s right and wrong yourself, don’t you?”

~ Ray\*, Sheffield.

## Stories

Being **heard** and listening is valuable. Some people get too few opportunities to explore stories of who they are, the places where they live, the changes they have processed and their experience of new arrivals. When **space** is made for such stories, it can inspire positive **change**.

## Empathy

Telling stories **about** people without listening to or caring for them can create **resentment**. A different way of holding conversations provides time and space to discover stories **together**. Angela\* and Ray shared anecdotes that revealed to them and others their strong desire to reach out to, learn about and **empathise** with people who are different.

In Angela’s Rotherham neighbourhood, there had been racial tension. What she talked about, though, was noticing and **helping** a young “boy in the front garden, really upset” by a piercing burglar alarm. His family, newly-arrived asylum seekers, had been housed without information about the alarm. Angela worked out how to silence it, relieving the child, who had:

“come from somewhere war-torn. That brought it all back. He’s in this panic state. To give ‘em a house and not care, I thought, that is disgusting.”

Ray, an older member of a Sheffield community struggling to adjust to new arrivals, described a story of deepening **tolerance** - for people who are different and for others who find it hard to welcome:

“My Dad fought in World War II and I think that twisted him up to foreigners. A lot of his friends got killed in front of him.”

## “That’s Bang On!”

Ray told stories of division and **violence** being imposed on people from outside:

“It’s older men putting guns in younger men’s hands, has been from year dot.”

He also told stories of **warmth**, captured in responses to an England v. Pakistan Test Match:

“There were taxis going around, English flag out one window and Pakistan flag out another. I thought, that’s bang on, that, fantastic!”

Ray well understood the challenges of **adapting** to change; he was happy to see this sign of optimism:

“ ‘I support Pakistan but I’m English’. Brilliant! We need more of that.”

\* names have been changed

## What we learned:

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One of the reasons we were invited to work in Angela’s and Ray’s communities was a perceived **tension** with newer arrivals.

The stories that emerged revealed that reality is more **complex**. New discoveries are happening in people and communities **all the time**. Angela wasn’t sure about how her place was changing; she was also compassionate. Ray understood his Dad’s “racism”; he also embraced difference.

Sometimes, talking and listening create space for people to notice their story and how they really feel. Changes and revelations can happen during a carefully-held conversation:

## Some moments of change in conversation:

1. People living near Doncaster realised none of them had ever met a Muslim
2. Residents in part of Barnsley noticed that violence could exist in their community, just as it could in gypsy / traveller communities, and in many others
3. Young people in Rotherham challenged one another about the validity of Stephen Yaxley Lennon’s arguments

**Read all four resources in [It Comes Up \(in conversation\)....](#)**

## Next steps

Read about the other subjects in [It Comes Up....](#)

- [Proud of This Place](#)
- [Industrial Decline](#)
- [New Arrivals](#)

We’re exploring ways of working together with others involved or interested in conversations that support positive change. We’d love to hear from you!

## Individuals:

- tell us your #LivingTheLegacy story
  - in a [form](#)
  - on social media using the #above

## Local Groups:

- follow / contact us
- join our [mailing list](#)
- tell us you'd value a conversation in your area

## UK partners:

- [email](#) to explore ways of working together
  - browse [our site](#) to find out more
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## Who is Your Neighbour? contact information:

**Website** - [whoisyourneighbour.org.uk](http://whoisyourneighbour.org.uk)

**Mailing list** - <http://eepurl.com/h-eULb>

**Facebook** - [facebook.com/WhoisYourNeighbourSY](https://facebook.com/WhoisYourNeighbourSY)

**Instagram** - [instagram.com/who.is.your.neighbour](https://instagram.com/who.is.your.neighbour)

**Twitter** - [twitter.com/WiYN\\_SouthYorks](https://twitter.com/WiYN_SouthYorks)

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