

**Client:** Big Lottery Fund Combined UK Service  
**Source:** Northwich Guardian (Winsford)  
**Date:** 27/09/2018

**Keyword:** BIG Lottery Fund  
**Page:** 5  
**Reach:** 2436  
**Size:** 262  
**Value:** 413.96

## Childhood neighbours reunite at social group after 60 years



George and Derek with their friend from the group, Ray, and Brightlife's Jackie Brown

TWO childhood neighbours have been reunited at a social group for older people after more than 60 years.

George Blease, 87, and Derek Scott, 75, lived next door to each other on Boundary Street in Northwich for six years from 1946 to 1952. Their paths crossed again recently at a weekly social group in Winsford, aimed at people aged over 50.

The group, run by

Community Compass, receives support from Brightlife, which is part of the National Lottery funded Ageing Better programme set up by the Big Lottery Fund.

After the surprising discovery, George and Derek now spend quality time together every Monday at the Dingle Recreation Centre, where they enjoy catching up over a cup of tea and taking part in gentle

exercise sessions.

George, a former train driver who discovered the group after the death of his wife, said: "I couldn't believe it when Derek and I discovered we lived next door to each other all those years ago. I was a teenager at the time and I remember his family and him as a small child. We've now become really good friends."

Derek worked in the Army as a chef for 10 years. He

now suffers from Parkinson's disease and his wife cares for him full time. The Monday meet ups provide her with respite, while Derek enjoys activities such as painting.

Derek said: "I look forward to coming here every week, especially to see George. It's given me a purpose to get up in the morning. The staff and other participants are so friendly and welcoming and genuinely care."