

# Case Study



Before



After



After



After

## **Dawn and Jane – High Wycombe**

Dawn became a volunteer gardener in September 2011. *“When I was first introduced to Jane and her garden I felt very daunted and wasn’t sure what I was letting myself in for. After all, I’m not an experienced gardener, it’s just something I enjoy doing. Her garden was so bad; I wasn’t sure what to do or where to start. I had a chat with Jane and I really liked her so I agreed to take on her garden. Jane is a fantastic lady, she’s so upbeat and cheerful, she really lifts my spirits.*

*The weather in October wasn’t very good so I spent my weekly visits getting to know Jane as we worked out a plan of what we were going to do. In spring I started to clear the garden of the debris and dig up all of the weeds. Little-by-little the garden started to take shape; it took me 6 months to get it in order. On every visit Jane would come outside and keep me company. We are both really pleased with the results. I continue to visit Jane and maintain her garden and now she helps me. She’s quite frail but she was very keen for me to show her what to do. I do the heavy stuff and she does the light stuff, I think we make a great team.”*

*Jane became a client in August 2011. “My husband used to love taking care of the garden, but when he fell ill the garden became overgrown. Gardening was his hobby and he really took pride in it. When he passed I wanted to get the garden looking nice again, but it was too daunting for me, I didn’t know where to start. I was so pleased when Dawn agreed to be my volunteer. We talked about how the garden used to look and what we could do now to make it easier to look after. She came along at the right time; I was feeling so low and upset. I don’t know what I would have done without her. Before Dawn came I had never done any gardening before. Dawn taught me things that I can do safely. I may be 80 and a bit rickety but I can do things too. I feel so proud that I can help keep my garden looking so beautiful. My husband used to grow vegetables and we have started growing things again. We’ve both had some vegetables and I gave my neighbours some too. In the summer I was growing scotch-bonnet peppers on my windowsill, it makes me think of back home in Jamaica. We had big bushes full of peppers.*

*Dawn’s friendship means so much to me. I’m on my own and it’s so nice to have someone to chat with and share my woes. She tells me funny stories about her life. Dawn is the only person I see regularly, I don’t really have visitors, it was just me and my husband. I am very grateful to have Dawn as a volunteer and friend.”*