

### **Joyce Vincent's lonely death**

In 2001 an elderly woman in Melbourne, Australia, locked her front door, settled down on her sofa and was never heard from again. Police found her remains two years later. *Dreams of a Life*, Carol Morley's film about Joyce Vincent ("Joyce Vincent was beautiful, intelligent and popular...", 9 October), provides a compelling narrative to social isolation. Sadly, Ms Elsie Brown's Melbourne neighbours did not make the connection between the piles of mail building up at her front door and something being amiss for an elderly woman known to live alone.

However, Ms Brown's lonely death has led to Neighbour Day, Australia's annual celebration of community. We can never underestimate the overwhelming benefit knowing our neighbour brings – friendship. It's a message that's relevant the world over, no matter where you live or your personal circumstances.

**Andrew Heslop**

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