

BILLY MCKAY

WHO TURNED *the* LIGHT ON

TESTIMONIALS & REFERENCES.

I have known Bill through recovery, and over the years he has become a very genuine and valued friend to me. He has had a really positive influence on my own recovery journey, particularly in helping me understand myself on a deeper level and learn to accept the parts of myself that I had previously struggled with.

Bill encouraged me to be my true self rather than feeling I had to change who I was to be accepted. He helped me understand unconditional positive regard, my inner critic, and the importance of self-compassion. He also supported me as I worked through trauma and some of the old beliefs I had carried for many years.

He never made me feel judged. Instead, he listened, encouraged me, and helped me see things from a different perspective.

What I value most about Bill is his compassion and authenticity. He genuinely wants to see people do well and has a natural ability to encourage people when they may struggle to see their own worth or potential. He has been a loyal friend and a real source of encouragement and inspiration to me in recovery.

I have experienced first-hand the difference his support and encouragement can make, and I am very grateful that our paths crossed. I would be happy to recommend Bill based on my own personal experience of him and the positive impact he has had on my life.

Debbie O'Brien, MBACP

Spiritual Support Worker & Addictions Therapist

Grief, Bereavement & Loss Voluntary Counsellor

HND Counselling

SCQF Level 8 Professional Development in Addictions Counselling

BILLY MCKAY

WHO TURNED *the* LIGHT ON

I have known Billy McKay for nearly 18 years, and I admire him for the many qualities he has.

Billy was my spiritual guide for a number of years, and he taught me so much about the 12 Steps and life in recovery. He is open-minded, has great strength when working with others, and also has a wonderful sense of humour, which brings such a lovely balance to life.

Billy's honest approach to life is refreshing and vital for people like me and for others in recovery.

He has lit the way for people struggling in the darkness of addiction and hostility, helping them see that there is a way out. That is such a blessing.

I admire and respect Billy for all the good work he continues to do and for the many people he has helped over the years. There are so many.

May Riddell
May Riddell Therapies

I have known Billy all my life, having grown up alongside him in a highly deprived background before our lives took completely opposite paths.

While I chose the discipline of the military, rising from the rank of Private to Lieutenant Colonel over a 40-year career, Billy's parallel journey took him through the depths of organised crime, addiction and incarceration.

Witnessing his total transformation from a gangster and habitual criminal into a deeply compassionate counsellor, author and community leader has been nothing short of extraordinary.

His lived experience gives him an unparalleled, raw authenticity that allows him to connect profoundly with people who are often left at the absolute bottom of society, offering them genuine food for thought and a believable pathway to redemption.

Billy brings a unique brand of leadership, forged in survival and redefined by a tireless commitment to helping others move forward.

Both personally and professionally, I have observed his profound empathy, reliable character and unwavering honesty. He uses his past not as a shadow, but as a guiding light to provide practical tools, support and profound encouragement to families, individuals in recovery and those navigating the justice system.

For anyone seeking a communicator and mentor who embodies true resilience and understands the deepest complexities of emotional and mental recovery, Billy is a remarkable beacon of hope who is genuinely dedicated to turning the light on for others.

Lieutenant Colonel (Retired) John (Jake) McKay MBE

BILLY MCKAY

WHO TURNED *the* LIGHT ON

I have known Bill for 20 years and in that time, we have become close friends and I watched him develop his sense of self. I am aware of his childhood and life before we met, stories we have shared and astounded ourselves by recognising the changes in both our lives.

Bill has always been open and eager to learn. His insight and self-awareness have propelled him forward and taken those who love him alongside – he is a rare man.

He has worked tirelessly for so many people, with compassion and real hope that, knowing his own remarkable changes in life, he can pass this on. His charitable organisations that he has created and led, the staff he has nurtured and supported, so many people have been impacted in such positive ways by this man. I do not know how he does it, though I am aware of the toll it has sometimes taken. Bill is a battler and a believer.

I trust Bill. His honesty, his reliability, his care – all characteristics I admire. We disagree about several things, but this has never affected our friendship. Bill has become the man, father and partner I think he always wanted to be. Congratulations Bill on your new endeavours and may we always support each other – when you're 30, I may start paying attention to you, (inside joke).

DAVID JOHN FIDLER
PSYCHOTHERAPIST (CBP12 LTD)

I first knew of Billy through his years of experience supporting families affected by trauma and addiction. Over the past few years, I have had the opportunity to get to know him better through recovery.

It has been a joy to see Billy grow into the fullness of his relationship with God and come to know Jesus as his Lord and Saviour. I was honoured to be there at his baptism and share in that special celebration.

Billy has a deep desire to see people find healing from addiction, move out of darkness and experience the freedom that comes from knowing a loving God. His recent book is an inspiration, and I wish him every success as he continues to encourage others on their journey.

With love and blessings,

Marion Gillan
Director, Mortgage Information Bureau