

## **A Brief History of Age UK Bexley the new name for Age Concern Bexley**

Age Concern Bexley was formed in 1965 by the merger of Old Peoples Welfare Committees.

By 1980 Age Concern Bexley was running a number of services including 8 parlours, 2-day centres and voluntary visiting. Annually it dealt with over 4000 requests for information and assistance, ran subsidised holidays, produced a biennial guide to services for the elderly, distributed diaries containing local information and ran an 'employment agency' for retired people seeking part time work.

A unique feature of Age Concern Bexley's activities is the work of the pop in parlours. These have been built over the years from public subscription and in some cases with the support of other charities. They are run, almost entirely, by volunteers.

Since 1980 Age Concern Bexley's activities have expanded considerably. Today the organisation has over 200 volunteers and a paid staff of 30 managing and supporting the following services;

- ◆ 2 Day Centres
- ◆ Enhanced Day Care
- ◆ Befriending
- ◆ Supported Information and Advice
- ◆ Community Support
- ◆ 7 Pop in Parlours
- ◆ Handyperson Service
- ◆ Nail Clipping
- ◆ Wheelchair Loan
- ◆ Information & Advice
- ◆ Welfare Rights Advice

## **The Mission and Aims of Age UK Bexley**

Age UK Bexley is a full member of Age UK, the federation. In the context of full membership Age UK Bexley must fulfil the four functions of an Age UK Organisation:

- ❖ Providing direct services and support to older people
- ❖ Public education and social advocacy
- ❖ Researching needs and taking an innovative approach
- ❖ Partnership and co-operation and involvement in the joint planning process

### **Mission**

To improve the quality of life for older people in the London Borough of Bexley by providing information, services and support.

### **Aims**

#### **Campaigning**

To be a voice for older people in the Borough on issues affecting them through increased awareness, consultation and contact with clients, ensuring opinions and ideas are heard

#### **Accessible**

To ensure our services are promoted and delivered so that they are accessible and meet the diverse needs of all older people

#### **Caring**

To continue to provide and develop appropriate services which enhance independent living and the overall well-being of older people in Bexley

#### **Sustainable**

To ensure that Age UK Bexley is effectively managed as an organisation that is sustainable in the long-term, with commitment to staff and volunteer development.