

Impaired Hearing Clinics

Rural Age Concern Darent Valley, in conjunction with Hi-Kent, operates several impaired hearing clinics in their area of benefit, which may be used by elderly or disabled clients free of any charge. No appointments are necessary at any of these Clinics, just turn up. Trained Volunteers are available at each Clinic to check, clean and re-tube hearings aids, to supply batteries, and to give advice and information on services and equipment that is available to make life easier for people with a hearing loss.

Swanley. Age Concern Office, 37 High Street, Swanley, Kent, BR8 8AE – Telephone 01322 666448 Clinics held on the first and fourth Mondays of every month, both between 10.00 a.m. and 11.30 a.m.

Fawkham. Cottage Day Centre, Scratcher Lane, Fawkham, DA3 8PU - Telephone 01474 879473. Clinics held on the second Tuesday of every month between 10.00 a.m. and 11.30 a.m.

New Ash Green. Turners Oak Sheltered Housing, New Ash Green, DA3 8JX - Telephone: Warden 01474.873948 Clinics held on the first Tuesday of every month from 12.00 noon to 1.00 pm. (Primarily for local residents only)

Other Areas. In addition, Impaired Hearing clinics are also held on a regular monthly basis at Age Concerns in Dartford, Higham, Meopham and Northfleet. Please ask the Age Concern office on 01322 666118 for details.

Replacement Batteries

Free replacement batteries for the most common types of hearing aids, normally CP44 or CP48, are available in a true emergency on a one to one exchange basis and on production of your NHS book from the Age Concern office at 37 High Street, Swanley, Kent, BR8 8AE, telephone 01322 668106, or always from any of the above clinics.

National Health Service

The Age Concern impaired hearing service is intended to complement, not replace, the specialist NHS impaired hearing service. Referrals for initial assessments to the impaired hearing Clinic at the new Darent Valley District General Hospital are made through your Doctor. This NHS Clinic is open only on Wednesdays from 9.30 am to 12.30 pm. Appointments to have NHS hearing aids attended to can be made direct to the Clinic on 01322 428100 extension 8060.

Home Visits

If you are housebound or unable to get to any clinic, free home visits from the NHS or Hi-Kent is normally possible. Contact your GP for NHS treatment but long waiting lists may be in evidence. Age Concern/Hi-Kent home visits are normally possible to the genuine housebound and enquiries can be made at the Age Concern Office or any Age Concern Clinic listed above. Alternatively, contact Susan Russell, Volunteer Co-ordinator, 18 Brewer Street, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1RU, telephone 01622 691151.

NHS or Private Hearing Aids

If you wish to obtain a hearing aid, the NHS offers a reliable and professional assessment service together with the provision of hearing aids that, whilst limited in choice, is totally free of charge. Be wary of the many private companies advertising who will be only too keen to sell you an aid, which may or may not be suitable for you, for many thousands of pounds. Any aid containing a personally moulded ear insert requires to be professionally checked and possibly re-moulded after one or two years.

General

Should you have any queries in respect of any matter concerned with impaired hearing, or require information on the wide range of other services that Age Concern provide, do please contact the Age Concern office during office hours on 01322 666118 or 01322 668106. We would be very pleased to assist in any way we can. Copies of this or any leaflet are available in large print, can be read over by staff on request, can be made available on audio-cassette on request, or by arrangement available in any language.