

# LGBT 50+ GROUP

## ROGER



Roger met Ageless Thanet at an LGBT event in Newington, Ramsgate and decided to get involved with setting up the 50+ LGBT Group.

Roger says that a number of attempts had been made in the past to set up a similar group, but had been unsuccessful due to various reasons. It became clear through holding the over 50's LGBT focus groups that the 50+ LGBT community had distinct needs that were not being addressed.

After taking part in Margate Pride the group now has 60 members.

## WHAT DOES ROGER SAY?

"Following discussions with Ageless Thanet staff, support was offered to help establish a local older LGBT group. Older gay, lesbian, bisexual and trans people not only face the challenges usually expected with the prospect of advancing years, but are also likely to encounter a whole raft of other issues related to their sexuality. Despite a significant proportion of the older population being LGBT, there is little awareness of their particular needs and concerns.

The group exists to promote the distinctive needs of this age group. It seeks to provide a safe space for older LGBTs to meet socially; to combat isolation experienced by many older LGBTs; to encourage activity which promotes physical, mental and emotional health; to discuss and organise action in areas of concern to older LGBTs; to provide a bridge between the different generations of LGBTs; to ensure that all members are supported when confronted by discrimination and prejudice of any form; and to liaise with other organisations in order to ensure that their own aims and activities promote inclusion and equality."

