

## DOUGLAS MACMILLAN AND THE FIGHT AGAINST CANCER

Many will have heard the name *Macmillan* - a name synonymous with cancer care at its very best. The man who gave his name to the wonderful nurses who have touched the lives of so many was also responsible, in 1911, for founding the national charity *Macmillan Cancer Support* that today bears his name. Douglas Macmillan lived for over forty years, during the critical years of his work, in Sidcup from where he managed the work of this new organisation.

It was the suffering and death of his much loved father that inspired Douglas to commit the rest of his life to bringing relief to others. Despite having no medical knowledge, he pioneered the work of the fledgling society that today, more than a hundred years later, is renowned for its compassion and dedication to improving the lives of those with cancer.

In 2011, the charity's centenary, Bexley marked the importance of Douglas Macmillan's 40 years of running the charity from his home in Sidcup. The Mayor of Bexley unveiled a Bexley Civic Society plaque commemorating Douglas and his work to relieve cancer at 11 Knoll Road. A fine tribute indeed but this modest man never sought public recognition and regarded his work as something that had to be done. Douglas's legacy to our nation has been one of great magnitude and his is a story that deserves to be heard.

