

Homeshare around the World

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Diary date for 2013!

The next World Congress will be in Oxford, UK, from 5 – 6 July 2013. Book the date now!

A local planning group has already met to start the ball rolling. One of the first tasks is to find sponsors to support the congress – if you can help, please contact the Director (see back page).

We'll be putting out a call for papers next summer.

Remembering Nan Maitland

Homeshare International's founder, President and champion died in March while we were still planning the Cologne Congress. An inspiration to us all, Nan will be much missed.

The Trustees and International Advisers are considering how to mark Nan's achievements. See page 2 for an appreciation.

Second World Congress 2011: a big success

Thirty delegates from eight countries met in Cologne, Germany, in early July for the Second World Homeshare Congress. As well as welcoming the coordinators of established programmes, we were delighted to meet newcomers from Japan and Ireland who are starting to set up homeshare in their own countries.



Participants enjoyed a mix of presentations, workshops, forum discussions and informal opportunities to meet others and share experiences. A tour of the magnificent Gothic cathedral in the old city was also much appreciated.

The main message from the Congress was that homeshare, though fragile in some places, especially where government cuts are starting to bite, is nevertheless vibrant in others.

Photo: Our Chairman, Malcolm Johnson (left), introduces Alain de Penfentenyo from ensemble2générations

The vast majority of feedback from the Congress was extremely positive, with 93 per cent of completed forms indicating that the congress was either 'very or reasonably helpful / relevant' to participants' work.

We are most grateful to the City of Cologne ([Stadt Köln](#)), the University of Cologne, [Bruderhaus Diakonie](#) (Germany) and [Elderly Accommodation Counsel](#) (UK) for their support and sponsorship of the congress.

You can read more about the Congress on our website:
<http://homeshare.org/SecondCongress.aspx>

The next world congress is now being planned – please make a note of the date!



Nan Maitland 1926 - 2011

Founder, President and friend



Homeshare was a central concern for the last 25+ years of Nan's life. She first saw the potential of homesharing in the 1980s when, as a Community Care Manager in London, she set up her first homeshare match. So successful was this and other matches that, after Nan retired from local government, she set up the Community Care Trust in London in 1993, the first independent homeshare programme in the UK (now Crossroads Care Central and North London). Over the next few years Nan and her colleagues set up several hundred successful matches in the capital.

During this time, Nan developed links with programmes in the USA, notably in Vermont and began to see that the homeshare concept could be developed anywhere in the world. A brilliant networker, Nan also discovered the work of Anne-Lotte Kreickemeier who had set up the first German programme in 1992.

So, in 1999, Nan set up Homeshare International with Anne-Lotte as one of the founding trustees. Taking on the role of Honorary Director, Nan secured funding from the EU to support the development of the website and the first directory of programmes. She played a key role in fostering new programmes in Australia, shared her expertise with fledgling programmes in the Czech Republic, Israel and the UK and encouraged the involvement of NAAPS which now hosts the UK Homeshare Association, the umbrella body for programmes in England.

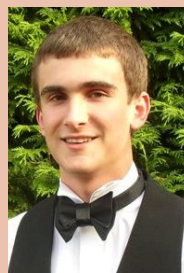
Nan retired as our Honorary Director in 2006 but remained a trustee and accepted the title of 'President' in recognition of her contribution. She was an active trustee until the end, contributing to our affairs only a week before her death. Determined, resourceful, persuasive and always gracious, Nan was an inspiration and a true friend to everyone in the homeshare movement.

New volunteers for Homeshare

One of Nan's lesser-known achievements was to find a knowledgeable webmaster as her own homesharer! **Stefano Pietroiusti** was newly arrived in London when Nan was looking for a homesharer and, in exchange for his room, he ran our website from 2001 until his return to South Africa in summer. **We'd like to thank Stefano for all his dedication and wish him well for the future.**

John Chegwyn, who lives in Oxford, has now agreed to take over the reins from Stefano. His overseeing and maintenance of the Homeshare website will be vital in allowing us to progress efficiently. Thank you, John, for stepping into this vital role.

Finally, we're pleased to welcome 17-year old **James Roberts** as our new Administrative Assistant. James was looking for some after-school and weekend work and helps Elizabeth with a variety of office tasks. He has supported the administration of the Cologne Congress, contacted you all for contributions for this newsletter and prepared the first draft. Thanks James!



From NAAPS to Shared Lives ...

SharedLives Plus is the new name for NAAPS, the UK charity which acts as the umbrella body for programmes in England. The new name was agreed at the UK autumn conference.

Read about SharedLives Plus at: www.sharedlivesplus.org.uk

Other UK news

Cathy Mandaza of Crossroads Care CNL (the programme Nan founded) has left the homeshare programme. Cathy was instrumental in the running of the programme covering Central and North London and saw many homeshare matches formed. We are sorry to see her leave but wish Cathy all the best in her new work with 'Right at Home', a home care project in South London.

We are sad to announce that **homeshare programmes in Oxfordshire, West Sussex and Wiltshire have folded**. These programmes were reliant on local government funding which readers may know has been slashed under the Government's current austerity measures.

We are in discussion with **Age UK** in Oxfordshire to see whether the charity might step in to revive this programme. See also the Director's report (page 4).

Homeshare enters Wikipedia!

Wikipedia is a key source for information seekers across the globe so we thought it time to contribute an article on homeshare.

Currently, the page is in English only and we'd be grateful to any partners willing to translate the article into their own language to boost our international profile. You are also welcome to edit the page! See: en.wikipedia.org

Lots of new start-ups in Europe!

In **Germany**, new homeshare projects are starting in Heidelberg, Würzburg and Hamburg following the success of established programmes.

Un Toit Deux Ages (One Roof, Two Ages) is a new programme in **Belgium**, covering Brussels, Namur, Mons and Liège. Read more at: www.1toit2ages.be

Homeshare **Ireland**, which was founded only this year in Cork, has arranged its first match. The organisation was founded by Sean and Jacqui Feely, who had both been homesharers while living in Germany. They say they also felt informed and inspired by our 2011 Congress. Read more at: www.homeshareireland.ie

We look forward to hearing more news from these in the near future and wish them every success.

While in Munich ...

In 2010 the programme took 400 phone calls from room seekers – though the probability of a successful match was only 15 per cent. This statistic deters a number of callers from presenting themselves in person, which is a prerequisite for registration.

Not enough seniors are coming forward to supply the demand for homesharing. Owing to the staffing situation, it has not been possible to promote the service more to find more volunteers to the programme. However, in 2010, the programme oversaw the establishing of 27 matches including 'double hook-ups'.

Congratulations Beris! News from Down Under

We are proud to announce that Beris Campbell has been recognised for her work for homeshare in the Queen's Birthday Honours list.

Beris founded the homeshare programme in Melbourne, is one of our Trustees and is also the founder of HANZA (see below). The award of an OAM (Medal of the Order of Australia) is not only much-deserved recognition for Beris, it also further validates the work of homeshare in Australia.



Photo: Beris with her husband, Stu, at the award ceremony

HANZA – towards a strategy

In May, the management committee of HANZA (Homeshare Australia & New Zealand Alliance) met to discuss their strategy. As well as discussing management, sustainability, management models and the necessary support structures needed to maintain programmes, the committee also explored the different types of homeshare possible, both those in existence and those to-be-dreamed-about. A new three-year strategy is emerging.

News from HANZA members

United Care Community Options in Melbourne has joined HANZA and hopes to start a homeshare programme in the near future. This big organisation has many aged care packages and disability services funding, which is the optimum destination for a homeshare programme. **Communities @ Work Inc** (ACT) has, unfortunately, been unsuccessful in securing funding to start a pilot programme. However, some ministers and politicians in the ACT are supportive and lobbying will continue.

In Tasmania **Community Based Support South** reports that "Uptake by householders continues to be very slow. Lack of resources limits the publicity needed to increase the number of householder applicants who are suitable. Recent application for HACC funding failed. It's a balancing act keeping enough homesharers on the waiting list to provide a possible match for the few householders."

In New Zealand, **Presbyterian Support East Coast** has reached a standstill at the moment, but Deborah Biggs has undiminished enthusiasm and will renew her promotion efforts now that the new financial year is upon us.

A wonderful Paris match

'Miss B' is 102 years old, was very lonely in her Versailles cottage and longed for company, especially in the evenings. She has dual nationality and a spare room, making her a perfect match for what **ensemble2générations** had to offer.

She was matched with a young homesharer, Rosalie, a student who needed a free room in exchange for her help. Rosalie was very excited at the prospect of improving her English. For three months now, the pair have spent evenings speaking English and taking dinner together, while Rosalie also helps a lot in the garden. In a recent phone conversation, Miss B revealed that she is very happy with the match. Miss B now feels very useful teaching good English to her homesharer and is confident that Rosalie will pass her exams with great success.

Homeshare really works, Vermont survey reveals

Homeshare Vermont recently undertook a survey to assess whether participants benefited from their programmes, and if so, in what specific ways. Homesharing was highly rated in the survey, in some cases scoring better than live-in care.

A total of 144 people were eligible to be surveyed, of whom 119 were interviewed, yielding an **83% response rate**. People receiving an hourly care package were the least likely to complete a survey. Of those on the homeshare programme, 95 per cent were 'very satisfied' with the service as compared with 88 per cent of those receiving the care-giving programme.

Some of the results

All home providers and care receivers were asked whether they agreed with the following statements and the percentage who agreed is shown below.

	Homesharing	Caregiving programme	
	Home providers	Hourly care receivers	Live-in care receivers
You feel safer in your home	77%	69%	100%
You feel less lonely	71%	69%	78%
You feel happier	77%	77%	89%
You enjoy your home more	77%	69%	89%
You worry less about money	54%	23%	22%
You sleep better	63%	42%	78%
You eat better than before	57%	42%	78%
You call your family less often for help	43%	46%	67%
You have more energy	45%	62%	78%
Household chores are completed more regularly	76%	75%	89%
You get out into the community more often	53%	54%	44%
You feel healthier	57%	54%	89%
You see friends more often	50%	50%	44%

Compared to both other categories of support (hourly care and live-in care), homesharing scored well on issues like worrying less about money and seeing friends more often. Homesharing outranked hourly care on many measures, including feeling safer, feeling less lonely and sleeping better.

Interestingly, 100 per cent of homesharers would "recommend the service to a relative or friend" .

Director's diary

In the UK, homeshare has recently found some unexpected interest and allies in **government**. In May I was invited – along with Alex Fox (SharedLiving Plus) and, from Crossroads Care, Lee Whitehead – to a round table discussion about homeshare with representatives of various government departments – the Department of Communities and Local Government, Department of Health, Department of Work and Pensions, Department of Business, Industry and Science, and the Cabinet Office.



Secretary of State for BIS, David Willetts, was speaking at Oxford in the summer, and I asked him about homeshare. He was intrigued and has asked his civil servants to prepare a paper about **regulatory barriers** to homeshare. This led to a meeting with civil servants in the Department of BIS who are expected to report to Willetts soon. And finally, Oliver Letwin MP is very keen to get homeshare up and running in **Dorset**.

In early December, I'll be speaking at the '**Ageing Well Learning Lab**'. The Young Foundation and local government are bringing together a small, select group to explore a whole raft of issues. My role will be talk about housing opportunities for older generations, homesharing in particular.

We have successfully submitted an application to join **AGE Platform Europe**. This will hopefully give us access to a network of organisations which are in a position to support homeshare across Europe. Joining such a platform will also give us further credibility and help to spread the word.

Elizabeth Mills

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