

## Nan Maitland 1926 - 2011



The Founder and President of Homeshare International, Nan Maitland, died on 1 March. Homeshare was a central concern for the last 25+ years of Nan's life. Her vision, energy and inspiration will be missed by all of us around the world who were captured by her warm personality and compelling charm.

It was in the early 1980s that Nan first learned about homesharing and saw its potential in London. As a result of her initiatives the programmes in the UK and Homeshare International were created. A trained occupational therapist, Nan was working as a Community Care Manager in the London Borough of Bromley when she saw the potential of homeshare to meet the needs of some of her clients. She set up her first homeshare match in the early 1980s to enable a stroke patient to be discharged from hospital to her own home.

So successful was this and other matches that, after Nan retired from local government service, she set up the Community Care Trust in London in 1993, the first independent homeshare programme in the UK; it flourishes to this day as Homeshare (Crossroads Care Central and North London). Over the course of 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 homeshare was a concept that could be developed anywhere in the world to meet the needs of a growing older population on the one hand and the needs of young people struggling to find affordable housing on the other. A brilliant networker, Nan also discovered the work of Anne-Lotte Kreickemeier who, in 1992, had set up the first German programme in Darmstadt.

So, in 1999, Nan set up Homeshare International under the chairmanship of Professor Malcolm Johnson (who had been Patron of the Community Care Trust from 1993) and with Anne-Lotte as one of the founding trustees. Nan had an ambitious vision for the new charity – that it would raise the profile of homeshare across the globe, foster new programmes, encourage practitioners to meet and exchange information and good practice, and conduct research into the effectiveness of homeshare. 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 homeshare programmes. She played a key role in fostering new programmes in Australia. Always generous with her time, she shared her expertise with fledgling programmes in the Czech Republic, Israel and the UK and encouraged the involvement of NAAPS which persuaded the Department of Health to support pilot programmes in West Sussex and Oxfordshire, and undertake a rigorous evaluation. NAAPS now hosts the UK Homeshare Association, the umbrella body for programmes in England.

Nan retired as Honorary Director of Homeshare International 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, attending the World Congress in Paris in 2009 and 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. She will be sorely missed.

*Nan pictured at the trustees' celebration of her 80<sup>th</sup> birthday*

