

# Homeshare around the World

Newsletter editors: Hilary Todd and Judy Winchester, Oxford, UK

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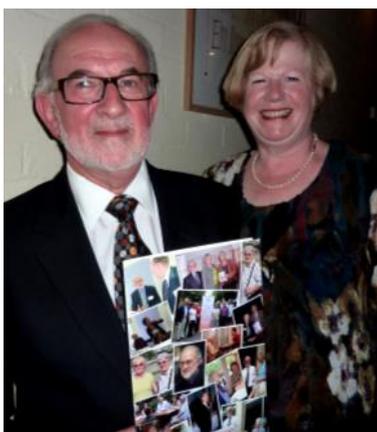
## Farewell to Malcolm

**Malcolm Johnson** will step down as our Chairman at the end of 2013, on the grounds that "no one should occupy such a role for too long". Malcolm, a friend and great supporter of our founder, the late Nan Maitland, became our Chair when the charity was founded in 1999. He has served us with great distinction through our formative years.

Naturally, we could not let him leave completely so we are thrilled that Malcolm has agreed to be our President, a role he takes over from Nan.

**Read about our new Chair on page 3.**

*Delegates at the Oxford congress presented Malcolm with a signed card depicting some highlights of his term in office.*



## Oxford Congress 2013: a huge hit!

With over 60 delegates from 12 countries, the Third World Homeshare Congress in Oxford, UK, in July was our best yet.

There was a real 'buzz' at our venue, Rewley House, as delegates debated the theme, *Homeshare: what works? Developing the evidence base for the effectiveness of homeshare*. Over the two days of the event delegates heard eight keynote talks, joined a choice of six workshops and heard updates and tips from home-



*Régis de Kerautem from Belgium led a workshop on developing and expanding a homeshare programme*

share practitioners from ten countries. There was time (though never enough!) for informal networking and exchange of news and views.

Delegates also enjoyed a formal dinner and a walking tour of some of Oxford's rich heritage. Eight Japanese delegates enjoyed a follow-on day, visiting a homesharer in London, courtesy of Cathy Mandaza of Silver Mentors Homeshare.

Our Chairman, Malcolm Johnson said: "We were delighted that all but two of the countries where homeshare is now operating were present. The success of this congress can also be measured in terms of how much it engaged and re-energised all the participants and forged new links between countries and people."

There's more on page 2 and you can read the congress papers on our website: [homeshare.org/world-congress/third-congress](http://homeshare.org/world-congress/third-congress)

## Melbourne 2015 – save the date!

**We're delighted to announce that the next World Homeshare Congress will be held in Melbourne, Australia in early November 2015.**

Carmel Hurst and Beris Campbell from HANZA have kindly offered to host our next congress in the vibrant city of Melbourne (where, in November, it will be late spring!). Homeshare is flourishing 'down under' so there is certain to be an excellent 'home team' but we hope as many people as possible will travel to the congress from the northern hemisphere. Watch this space for more details.



# Jottings from the Oxford Congress ...



**Beris Campbell** (left) set the bar high when she described what the Melbourne programme does routinely to evaluate its effectiveness. The approach is simple enough for any programme to replicate.



**Mariano Sanchez** from the University of Granada, Spain, described a good homeshare match as a “spark that starts a fire”. But he urged us not to think in terms of ‘matches’ between homesharers, rather of ‘stories’ – they alone can capture the richness and individuality of people’s experiences.

**Informal networking** proved very effective. Here the Japanese delegates enjoyed talking to Typhaine de Penfentenyo from ensemble2-génération, France.

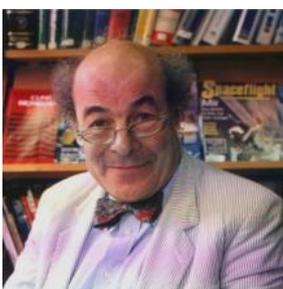


**Audrey Heard** and **Paul Cann** from the UK led a workshop on whether homeshare works best as a ‘stand-alone’ service or part of a wider range of services for older people.

**Professor Heinz Wolff** (below) talked about his idea for time banking – care4care – where younger members of the community support older ones, gaining credits they can ‘spend’ in their older age.



The congress dinner at Kellogg College



Outside Trinity College on the walking tour of Oxford, led by Blue Guide, Alastair Lack

## Top tips

**Ten countries offered their three top tips** for colleagues at the Congress; here is just a selection.

**USA:** Rebecca Sheppard urges people to join a network, such as that run by HI, to share ideas and get support.

**Canada:** Cheryl Snider stresses the value of focusing on the qualitative aspects of matches, not their duration.

**Germany:** Get professional support to promote programmes to likely participants, says Helmut Baumgartl. His service made a successful video.

**France:** Alain and Typhaine de Penfentenyo reinforce the need for management skills because homeshare programmes are social enterprises.

**Belgium:** Regis de Keratem says you can never communicate too much—use your website, the press, write articles ...

**Spain:** It’s vital to network with public authorities, including universities, says Alfonso Fajardo.

**Australia:** Beris Campbell urges everyone to establish ‘communities of practice’ to learn from each other’s challenges.

**Japan:** In challenging circumstances Keiko Katagiri says it’s vital for programmes to prove their trustworthiness.

**Italy:** It’s essential to define indicators of success so you know whether you’re being effective, says Angelo Mussoni.

**UK:** Alex Fox says that homeshare falls outside the regulatory framework which gives it freedom but also immense complexity. Don’t assume it’s simple.

**Elizabeth Mills added:** get your programme or even yourself nominated for awards. The publicity is well worth the effort!

## News round-up

### More countries start programmes!

We have recently learned that homeshare programmes have started up in **Switzerland** and **Portugal**.

In **Switzerland**, Pro Senectute, a national foundation with local branches, set up a Wohnen für Hilfe ('Housing for Help') programme in the city of Zurich in 2009. The charity provides homeshare for people over 60, matching them with students. It now hopes to extend the service to more people and to the wider canton of Zurich.

The Programa Aconchego in **Portugal** is based in Oporto, run by an organisation called Oporto Social Fundação. It too matches older people and students. Read more at:

[www.bonjoia.org/en/projects/projecto/2](http://www.bonjoia.org/en/projects/projecto/2)

### Congratulations to ...

... **Wohnen für Hilfe Cologne** which recently won the Pulsus award from a national newspaper, *Bild am Sonntag*, and TKK, a health insurance company;

... **1toit2âges** which has extended its work to seven cities in Belgium and hopes to establish three more programmes in 2014;

... **ategi**, based in South Wales, which has won a contract to develop homeshare in the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead in England;

... our Hon Director, **Elizabeth Mills**, who was recently awarded an Honorary Doctorate by the University of Brighton in

recognition of her 'major contributions to ageing research and leadership in the voluntary sector'.



### Meet our new Chairwoman!

We are delighted to announce that Rhian Bradley will take over the role of Chair from January 2014, in succession to Malcolm Johnson.

Rhian is eminently qualified to take on this role, having been Nan Maitland's homesharer! In exchange for her flat in London, Rhian helped Nan to set up the first homeshare pilot project in the UK, then later to establish Homeshare International. So Rhian has had 'hands on' experience of helping to run a programme and developing strategy.

In 'real life' Rhian is a management consultant running her own business, Transition Evolution. In that capacity Rhian has facilitated two planning days for the Trustees (one in 2004, the second this July) to help us identify our priorities and plan a way forward.

Speaking about her appointment, Rhian said: "It's an honour to be invited to serve HI in this way. I believe that homesharing has immense potential across the world. I hope I can support the Trustees to promote the concept, foster good practice and encourage even more exchange. It's an exciting challenge."

Born in New Zealand, Rhian has also worked in Australia and has family in Melbourne so she is naturally looking forward to the 2015 Congress!



### When the floods came...



In June this year, Calgary in **Canada** was hit by devastating floods. Thousands of people lost their homes as properties were washed away or made unfit for habitation.

**Calgary HomeSHARE** responded by accepting younger householders. Cheryl Snider, who runs the programme, says: "We've had several applications from young people, the youngest being 24. It will be interesting to see what the future holds."

One of homeshare's great strength is its flexibility to respond to local needs.

### Making it legal

In the **UK** the **tax authority** has recently ruled that, so long as no money changes hands between homesharers and householders (other than contributions towards household expenses), the homesharer can be regarded as a volunteer. "Accordingly there is no taxation implication for the homesharer of the accommodation provided."

Alex Fox of Shared Lives Plus said "This seems to be a helpful clarification of homesharers' tax status."

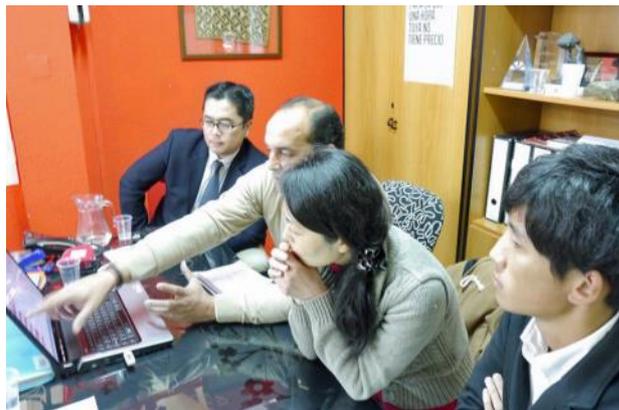
There is however disappointing news from Flanders, the Flemish-speaking part of **Belgium**, where 1toit2âges and other charities are eager to offer homesharing but can't as it's against the law. As Claire de Kerautem explains: "The 'Code du logement' differs in Flanders so we need to change the law to offer homeshare there".

## Spain on show

**Ángeles, an 80 year-old woman, had to face life alone** when her husband developed Alzheimer's disease and moved into a care home. But thanks to Convive, the homeshare programme run by **Solidarios**, she was successfully matched with Oksana, a college student who arrived in Spain from Ukraine five years ago.

Alfonso Fajardo from Solidarios tells us that recently Ángeles and Oksana shared their experience of living together in a presentation run by TEDxYouth@Madrid. "The event took place in Madrid in front of more than 500 people. These annual events bring thinkers and entrepreneurs together to share their enthusiasms."

Professor Yoshinobu Kikuchi and colleagues from the **University of Fukui in Japan** recently visited Solidarios to learn how the programme works and to meet a homesharer and householder. Professor Kikuchi met Alfonso Fajardo at the Oxford Congress – proof that HI conferences do help people to learn from each other.



## Going Dutch

We are pleased to have made contact with the **Netherlands** programme, run from Dordrecht by **Stichting SOlink**. The programme has been running for over three years – one of its early matches has been judged a great success after lasting almost the three years.

The Project Leader, Brian van der Graaf, tells us that some smaller **housing associations** have been impressed by the good results of the programme. "Some of these housing associations manage several senior flats and they want to do a small experiment in co-operation with SOlink to match students with the elderly residents. This experiment is expected to start sometime in 2014 and to last at least one year."

The Netherlands recent '**Week Against Loneliness**' posed something of a challenge for the programme however. There was much media interest in homesharing as a possible solution to loneliness in later life but none of the householders wanted to be publicly interviewed for fear of being labelled as 'pitiful old people'!

Brian hopes to avoid this next year. As with all programmes, good publicity is vital.

Homeshare International is a charity,  
registered in England and Wales  
No. 1081517

## Director's diary

It is sad to see **Malcolm** step down as our Chair so we were delighted when he agreed to become our **President** and carry on supporting us in a new role. It is also exciting and interesting to work with a new **Chair of Homeshare International**. Rhian's long experience of homeshare will stand her in good stead.

Welcome also to our new Trustee, **Alan Hatton-Yeo**, who is well known in the field of inter-generational programmes. He has been Chief Executive of the Beth Johnson Foundation since 1998 and is also Director of the Centre for Intergenerational Practice. His experience of running a successful UK charity in a very relevant field will be invaluable.

The Third World Homeshare **Congress in Oxford** was demanding but a great success, thanks to the generosity of our sponsors and our speakers' creative approaches to the topic of 'evaluation'.



In November Typhaine de Penfentenyo (right) of ensemble2générations and I ran a workshop at the **Responding Together Conference at the Council of Europe in Strasbourg**. The theme of working together to provide access to resources through sharing was neatly relevant to homeshare. We met the head of the EU Delegation to the Council of Europe, Luisella Pavan-Woolfe (centre), and people from several very interesting organisations from across the EU. Some were

either interested in experiencing homeshare for their own organisations or knew of programmes in their own countries of which we were not aware.

Our next challenge is to find a more efficient working environment so we are looking for a small **office**. Wish us luck!



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