

Homeshare around the World

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

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Thanks to ...

Martin Beck, our German Trustee, who recently stepped down from the Board. Martin kept us in touch with progress in Germany and played a big role in our last congress, in Cologne, for which we are very grateful.

Welcome to ...

Judy Winchester who has joined us as our part-time Administrative Assistant. Judy lives not far from Elizabeth Mills and they initially met as neighbours.



Judy has had a long career in university administration and brings a wealth of useful experience.

Unusually Judy was a homesharer before the concept was invented! "As a young married couple, my husband and I shared the home of an elderly lady and, in exchange for our flat, I cooked her lunch. It was ideal for us as we were hard up and Oxford was an expensive city to live in," says Judy.

World Congress 2013 in Oxford: book your place now!



The beautiful university city of Oxford, UK, will be the venue for the Third World Homeshare Congress, which will be held from Thursday 4 - Friday 5 July.

The congress theme will be **Homeshare: what works? Developing the evidence base for the effectiveness of Homeshare**. Over the two days delegates will have an opportunity to hear from experienced homeshare practitioners and distinguished academics, with plenty of time for informal networking and exchange of news and views. There will also be an opportunity to see something of Oxford's superlative heritage.

Our Chairman, Malcolm Johnson says: "This congress aims to demonstrate that there is already a strong case for homeshare but it will also show programmes how they can help to build the evidence that will convince decision makers".

See page 3 for an outline of the programme and details of how to apply.

More awards for Ensemble2générations!

The Paris-based Ensemble2générations is on a winning streak, having won two awards in 2012. These follow a clutch of awards in 2010.

Typhaine de Penfentenyo is shown below receiving the Social Entrepreneurs Award from the European Year of Active Ageing and Solidarity between the Generations 2012. She also received the medal of honour from the Health and Solidarity Ministry.



Ensemble2générations was set up in 2006 and matches older people with students. It has now spread from its Paris base to 20 new locations in France and has supported over 1,200 matches, an extraordinary total.

Its model of homeshare is about to be adopted in Luxembourg and also in Japan (see page 2). Congratulations to everyone involved!

Vermont is 30 and thriving!

Kirby Dunn writes: Not many homesharing programmes can say that! In fact, nearly 75% of the USA programmes which existed in the early 1990s heydays have closed their doors. In contrast, HomeShare Vermont has not only made it to the ripe old age of 30, but has never been stronger. Today over 50% of Vermont's population has direct access to a homeshare programme that provides in-depth screening and matching services, compared with a national figure of less than one-tenth of one percent .

One of the many reasons we have been so successful is that we are the only homesharing programme in the USA which also provides a self-directed care-giving service. The combination of homesharing and care-giving in one agency allows us to provide a continuum of services from someone needing just a little household help, to others who need to hire hourly caregivers, and still others who need round the clock live-in care. Very often people start with just our homesharing services and they are then able to add on care-giving services as their needs increase.

Looking back, much has changed but much has remained the same:

- we have a strong volunteer core at the heart of our service delivery
- we have a timely mission to give elders and others the option to stay at home if they choose, and
- self-determination and choice have been operating principles for us long before they were the buzzwords of today.

In rural Vermont, Janis enables 96 year-old Dorothy to live the agrarian life she is accustomed to in the house she has called home for 93 years. Chickens and ducks joined the household last summer when Janis built a chicken coop, bringing much joy to Dorothy. Last summer Janis grew such an incredible garden that Dorothy filled her freezer and together they ate good vegetables and soups all winter. Homesharing maintains the Vermont way of life – what's not to love?



Japan starts a trial!

The non-profit organisation "Live and Live, Japan" will trial their first intergenerational homeshare programme in Tokyo this spring. The first participants are an 84 year-old widower, who is also a well-known writer, and a graduate student.

The programme itself is based on practice in Spain and France, but there are still some hurdles to overcome in Japanese culture such as the unique concept of 'home'. Ordinarily, it is not easy to open the home to anyone outside the family.

The team visited the Barcelona programme and they and Ensemble2générations were exceptionally generous in sharing all their important methodology and advice – the Homeshare Network ethos in action!

Michigan news



Ken, a graduate student, and Carol, above, are just two of the people benefiting from the programme run by the **University of Michigan** Health System's Housing Bureau for Seniors. The programme offers those seeking housing a comfortable home with a modest rent in exchange for providing help to the homeowner.

On average the programme brings around \$17,500 in the form of rent into the homes of local seniors each month to offset the high costs of living. In addition, the programme provides over 400 hours of help each month to senior homeowners, equating to out of pocket savings of nearly \$4,000 each month. HomeShare continues to be a mutually beneficial programme that just makes sense!

Going Dutch

We were delighted to learn that a programme has been running successfully in the Netherlands for the last three years. **Stichting SOLink** matches older people and students. One measure of its success is the homesharers who have stayed in touch after the student has moved on.

The Project Leader, Brian van der Graaf, thinks that the programme is now more widely understood in the area and hopes this will generate more requests from older people.

You can contact Brian at info@solink.nl

Other congress details

The venue

The congress will be held at Rewley House, which is Oxford University's Continuing Education Centre. From there it's a short walk to many of the colleges, shops and the famous Ashmolean Museum.

Accommodation

Single and twin en-suite rooms are available at Rewley House. Please book your own room – you'll find details on the application form.

Cost

The cost of attending for the two full days is £180 (€225) including all meals but not accommodation. The day rate is £100 (€125) (excluding congress dinner). There is a discount for members of the Homeshare Network – have you joined yet? See: <http://homeshare.org/homeshare-international-network/>

We also have a few bursaries for people from small programmes with limited funding.

How to register

Download the application form at: <http://homeshare.org/world-congress/> or contact Elizabeth Mills (see back page).

Travel

Oxford is about an hour by coach from London Heathrow Airport and coaches run every half hour. There is also an hourly coach from London Gatwick (two-hour+ journey). Oxford has good rail links from most places in the UK.

While you're here ...

Oxford is a marvellous place for a holiday! For ideas and information see: www.visitoxfordandoxfordshire.com

Congress programme 2013

Homeshare: what works? Developing the evidence base for the effectiveness of Homeshare

The programme is still subject to change but here is an outline to date

Day 1 Thursday 4 July - for homeshare practitioners and providers

10.00 am Introductions and welcome

10.15 – 10.45 Professor Malcolm Johnson – The case for evaluation

10.45 – 11.15 Beris Campbell – Success criteria: evaluating your programme

11.45 – 12.45 pm Choice of workshops

- 1 Developing and expanding a homeshare programme – leaders: Alain de Penfentenyo, Ensemble2générations, France, and Claire de Kerautem, un toit 2 ages, Belgium
- 2 Start up challenges – leaders Cheryl Snider, Calgary HomeSHARE, Canada and Jacqui Feely, Homeshare Ireland
- 3 Homeshare: stand alone or part of wider service provision? – leaders: Paul Cann, Age UK Oxfordshire and Audrey Heard, Homeshare West, UK

1.45 – 2.30 Professor Mariano Sanchez – Evaluation of Barcelona programme

2.30 – 2.45 Nan Maitland Memorial Lecture – Dan Tapsell

2.30 – 3.30 Three useful tips from homeshare programmes around the world

4.00 – 6.30 Oxford city tour finishing at Christ Church Cathedral

7.00 p.m. Congress dinner at Kellogg College

Friday 5 July - for practitioners, policy makers and researchers

9.30 – 10.15 Speaker to be announced

10.15 – 11.00 Professor Heinz Wolff – care4care.org

11.20 – 12.00 Professor Serge Guérin – Intergenerational relationships

1.00 – 2.00pm Choice of workshops

- 4 National networks – leaders Alex Fox, UK Homeshare Association; Heike Bermond, Wohnen fur Hilfe, Germany
- 5 Evaluation of your programme – what are success criteria? Leader Mariano Sanchez, Penn State University, USA and University of Granada, Spain.
- 6 Compelling case for support: the Social Return on Investment (SROI) formula as applied to Homeshare – leader Steven E George

2.00 – 2.30 Homeshare in times of economic hardship – Alfonso Fajardo, Madrid

2.30 – 3.00 Update on Homeshare International Network – Elizabeth Mills

3.00 – 3.30 Tea break and HI Network members meeting

3.30 – 4.30 Workshop feedback and conclusion

UK news

Bristol will soon benefit from a new homeshare programme. **West of England (WE) Care & Repair** is setting up the project, with start-up funding from Bristol City Council. The charity is devoted to helping older people and disabled people of all ages to remain living independently in their own homes. WE Care & Repair has been running for 27 years in Bristol (previously as Bristol Care & Repair) and last year helped over 14,000 people to live in warm, safe and secure homes adapted to their needs.

“We are delighted to be part of the global Homeshare Network,” explained Craig Wilson, WE Care & Repair Chief Executive. “Homeshare is a logical extension of the work we do. Our homesharers will enable our clients to feel more confident in their homes, reducing the risk of falls and dependence on health services.”

For more information contact Craig on 0300 323 0700 or visit www.wecr.org.uk

The BBC Inside Out programme recently featured homeshare and **Share & Care** identified a successful match for interview. The happy ‘couple’ have been together since January 2011. The elderly lady had never considered having a male sharer, but he was the only suitable candidate and she was willing to try. She says, “He makes me laugh. He is such a carer, so thoughtful. You were so clever to find him for me; he keeps me so amused and makes me appreciate life”.

Share & Care is London-based and has a ‘remote’ version of its service to try to help people in other parts of the country .



Will Wales get homeshare?

Tim Southern, Head of **ategi Shared Lives Services**, is working on bringing Homeshare to Wales for the first time. He is waiting to hear whether funding will be available to pilot homeshare in Cardiff and Aberystwyth where property is expensive and there is a great need for high quality, affordable accommodation. There is much enthusiasm among carer groups and higher education accommodation officers who feel that homeshare can make an important contribution. If successful the ategi Homeshare Scheme aims to start early this summer. See www.ategi.org.uk/home

Down under

The Homeshare Australia and New Zealand Alliance (HANZA Inc.) coordinate the activities of the programmes that have sprung up around Australia. Sadly, the New Zealand programme has faded away but HANZA lives in hopes of a resurgence in the future.

The Alliance now has 13 organisational members, some of which have programmes in various stages of development. More news next time ...

Essential reading

Mariano Sánchez and his colleagues have written ***Much more than accommodation in exchange for company***, an evaluation of Viure i Conviure, Spain’s biggest homeshare programme. Unusually this study looked at homeshare as a means of promoting solidarity between the generations. You can read the article in the *Journal of Intergenerational Relationships*, 9, 4, 2011, available at: www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/15350770.2011.619410 Don’t miss Professor Sánchez at our Congress!

Director’s diary

Much of our recent focus has, of course, been on the Oxford Congress where we very much look forward to seeing you. In search of sponsorship for the event, I recently visited the Building and Social Housing Foundation. They have kindly agreed to provide support and the Director, Diane Diacon, was very enthusiastic about homeshare and will be a great ally in the future. We are most grateful to the Foundation and to our other sponsors – Methodist Homes for the Aged, Joseph Rowntree Foundation, Housing LIN, Ensemble2générations, Shared Lives Plus and Oxfordshire County Council.

We have now informally launched the Homeshare International Network which aims to bring practitioners together as a learning community committed to high standards of practice. We were pleased to welcome new members from Uganda and Washington, DC. Meanwhile Japan is showing much interest in homeshare and I met with visiting academics from Osaka University, Kubota Hiroyuki, with his colleague, Yasuyuki Gondo, who hope to set up a programme in Osaka.

The National Shared Housing Resource Center of the USA is working with ALA (Affordable Living for the Aging) to establish a partnership to actively promote and facilitate co-housing schemes, including homeshare, across the country. I’ve taken part in their telephone Board meetings and it’s great working with such a lively bunch over the Atlantic. We hope we can welcome some representatives to the Congress.

Elizabeth Mills



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