



# AGE EXCHANGE ANNUAL REPORT 1996/1997





# ANNUAL REPORT 1996-7

*covering the period April 1st 1996 - March 31st 1997*

## DIRECTOR'S REPORT

### Background

Our key reminiscence activities (theatre, publishing, exhibitions, inter-generational work, training programmes, placements, projects and resourcing), have been maintained during the period covered by this report, despite funding difficulties and staff shortages. There had to be a considerable reduction in staff, since most posts were tied to short or medium term grants which were terminating during the year. New staff members were taken on only as project funding came through and mainly on short term contracts, and we called on all available support from volunteers. Considerable effort during the year went into looking for more core funding to give our many and varied activities a more solid foundation, but this has proved elusive since pressure on existing sources is immense and new core funding is hard to win.



*Pam Lyne and Godfrey Jackman in 'Many Happy Retirements', our ever-popular show which explores the psychological pains and pleasures of leaving work. This production featured at the Copenhagen Conference of the European Reminiscence Network.*

### Theatre

We mounted a new professional theatre production, "**Winter Warmers**", based on extensive interviews about winters past with older people in London born here or in Commonwealth countries. We gained support for this project from the Department of Health, Help The Aged and the London Boroughs Grants Scheme and produced a 3-dimensional exhibition and a publication reflecting our research.

Our professional theatre project "**Many Happy Retirements**", which offers people on the point of retirement an imaginative and inter-active educational seminar, continues to be very popular and is now self-financing.

The Good Companions, our older people's theatre company, has continued to flourish with a new production, "**Work In Progress**" about the early working lives of the members who are all over 65 and some over 80. This new play was extensively featured on a Radio 4 documentary programme and two five minute films about the project were shown on BBC TV. The group played to much acclaim in Germany, Denmark and Norway as well as in the UK.



*Prado Klose's photographic exhibition, 'A Time To Remember', was commissioned by Age Exchange to reflect older people from different European countries co-operating in creative workshops and performances at the London Festival of Reminiscence Theatre, held to mark the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II. This exhibition was subsequently displayed in the Bakehouse and in Hildesheim, Germany.*

### **The Reminiscence Centre**

Numbers visiting the Centre remained high (over 20,000) and comparable with the last two years, with a consistent increase in the number of visitors from across the UK and from other countries. Many groups of school children visited the Centre to work with our older volunteers and we continue to attract groups of frail elderly people from hospitals and homes across London and beyond. Many health and social service workers, teachers, youth workers and community artists visit the Centre for ideas and inspiration and to see our latest temporary exhibitions on different reminiscence themes.

We have provided a wide range of social, cultural and educational activities at the Centre for our volunteers and users. The programme is always discussed and planned at our monthly meetings of all volunteers which have been well attended all year. We have provided computer classes at the Centre for an ever-growing number of older people. We now have six classes a week each offering close support and supervision by dedicated volunteer tutors, with some students going on to more advanced classes in desk-top publishing.

### **Exhibitions**

We presented several new exhibitions around reminiscence themes in the Reminiscence Centre and opened up the Bakehouse as a display space for the first time for two excellent photographic exhibitions which we had commissioned.

### **Training programmes**

Our training programmes have attracted large numbers who have expressed a more or less universally high degree of satisfaction with the suitability and quality of the courses. Many trainees return to Age Exchange for advice, further courses in more specialised approaches to reminiscence and to make use of our highly developed reminiscence resources. There has been a considerable increase in the amount of training Age Exchange undertakes internationally and this trend is likely to continue as interest in reminiscence develops in other countries.

## Resourcing

Books about reminiscence produced in recent years in English by Age Exchange have been translated into French, German and Danish this year and three foreign students have had extended placements with us as part of their social work studies.

We have established a reminiscence library and catalogue for use by trainees and researchers. We have conducted a national survey of reminiscence practice and produced a preliminary analysis of the results.

Age Exchange continues to edit, publish and distribute Reminiscence Magazine three times each year to a growing readership in Britain, Europe and beyond.

## European Reminiscence Network developments

Since 1992, Age Exchange has gained financial support for our arts, education and training activities from the European Commission (Older People's Programme) and this has become an increasingly important source of income for us. From January 1996, there was considerable uncertainty regarding the future of the European Programme for Older People since its extension was not supported by all member states and no further budget was allocated for it. We were obliged to end the contracts of workers who had been taken on under the previous grant arrangements and to complete our work programme without additional staff support. This included organising and running a European Reminiscence Network meeting in Hildesheim Germany entitled "*A Time To Reflect*" at which documentation and displays arising from our previous year's theatre festival, "*A Time To Remember*" were shared with members from other European countries.

In July, we heard that we had been allocated one last modest grant from the remaining EU funds to run another international conference on "*Reminiscence as a means of combating social exclusion*". This was held in Copenhagen in co-operation with our Danish partners and was followed by a special interest meeting of our Network in Brussels on inter-generational reminiscence work.

In the meantime, we looked to other European sources and negotiated funding from the Commission's Health Promotion Unit in Luxembourg for a major conference in May 1997 on "*Widening Horizons in Dementia Care through Reminiscence and Life Review*" to be held in Blackheath at the Reminiscence Centre and the Blackheath Concert Halls.



*Memory Boxes* were created for an exhibition in Germany and in London, featuring 'Life Portraits' prepared by older people connected with the Reminiscence Centre with help from a young artist and other volunteers. The notion of recycling military grenade boxes for peaceful internationally co-operative projects for older people has taken off as a result of this initiative so that similar 'Life Portraits' projects have been run by Reminiscence Network partners in Copenhagen, Oslo, Amsterdam, Helsinki and Kassel with more planned in Vienna, Brussels and Ghent.



## **Volunteer activity**

We have continued to attract excellent volunteer support in the Reminiscence Centre and for our many outreach activities. Our volunteers have also undertaken fund-raising activities on behalf of the charity and, through their efforts, we have recently bought a second-hand minibus with a wheelchair lift to replace one which was stolen the previous year. Volunteers have participated in all our European Network events and many have travelled abroad to represent us at international events and festivals in Germany, Denmark and Norway. Training courses in reminiscence have been provided for volunteers and we hope to increase the number of volunteers involved in these.

## **Capital programme**

Work on the Bakehouse building has continued apace. We now have central heating, improved sound insulation and a telephone system linking the Bakehouse with the main building.

With support from the National Lottery we have purchased a good lighting and sound system for the Bakehouse and refurbished the studio roof and windows on the frontage of our main building.

We have re-floored and carpeted our main public areas and the upstairs offices have been refurbished, re-carpeted and decorated, so the building is altogether more attractive to staff and visitors.



*'Winter Warmers', a multi-layered project supported by the Department of Health, Help The Aged and the London Boroughs Grant Scheme comprising extensive interviews across four London boroughs, a 3-dimensional exhibition in the Reminiscence Centre, a professional touring theatre show and a book of photos and memories*

## **Future developments**

During the next year we shall build on the knowledge gained and the links made through our Dementia Care Conference to create new reminiscence programmes and training courses to support the work of professional and family carers since we recognise this as an area of great need.

We shall also develop some special projects aimed at older people from ethnic minorities to mark the European Year Against Racism. As part of this initiative, we shall tour reminiscence theatre shows based on the memories of ethnic elders across the country. We shall encourage younger people from these communities to record the life stories of their elders and to this end we shall run some special reminiscence training projects aimed at ethnic minority groups.

*Pam Schweitzer*

# FINANCIAL REPORT 1996-7

The Statement of Financial Activities shows a net deficit for the year of £14,840 and total funds standing at £312,637. Although the total funds seem high for a small charity it must be borne in mind that the funds are represented more by fixed assets (£331,398) and stocks (£30,648) than by cash in the bank. Current assets excluding stock amounts to a mere £13,091. It should also be remembered that although Age Exchange owns two impressive buildings there remains to be repaid a loan of £62,500 which helped finance their purchase. Fortunately the lenders, The Nuffield Foundation, gave the charity some respite in the repayment of this loan and the interest thereon, and have deferred further repayments until May 1999.

Grant aid proved increasingly difficult to secure with income from this source falling from £254,005 in 1996 to £190,920 in 1997. Funding from Europe proved especially difficult to achieve but despite this the charity received £81,297 from this source, which was £24,849 less than the previous year. With reduced funding Age Exchange's programme of work had to be tailored accordingly. It still remains the charity's over-riding financial objective to secure reliable renewable core funding or service level agreements.

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 1997

### SUMMARY INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	
			1997	1996
<b>INCOMING RESOURCES</b>				
	£	£	£	£
Fees and Book Sales	79,482	-	79,482	132,064
Grants	65,105	125,815	190,920	254,005
Donations	5,005	2,171	7,176	5,685
Interest Received	535	-	535	970
Other Income	8,430	-	8,430	1,855
Gross Income from Trading	7,221	-	7,221	7450
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>165,778</b>	<b>127,986</b>	<b>293,764</b>	<b>402,029</b>
<b>RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>				
<b>Direct Charitable Expenditure</b>				
Reminiscence Theatre	22,254	8,294	30,548	69,197
Publications, Education and Training	38,251	72,877	111,128	151,905
Reminiscence Centre	23,527	-	23,527	20,530
Support Costs	81,979	51,278	133,257	118,033
	<b>166,011</b>	<b>132,449</b>	<b>298,460</b>	<b>359,665</b>
<b>Other Expenditure</b>				
Fundraising & Publicity Management and Administration	6,882	576	7,458	8,972
	2,686	-	2,686	6,453
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>175,579</b>	<b>133,025</b>	<b>308,604</b>	<b>375,090</b>
<b>NET DEFICIT FOR THE YEAR</b>	<b>(9,801)</b>	<b>(5,039)</b>	<b>(14,840)</b>	<b>26,939</b>
<b>FUNDS AT 1/4/1996</b>	<b>253,493</b>	<b>73,984</b>	<b>327,477</b>	<b>300,538</b>
<b>FUNDS AT 31/3/1997</b>	<b>243,692</b>	<b>68,945</b>	<b>312,637</b>	<b>327,477</b>

## BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 1997

	1997		1996	
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>	£	£	£	£
Tangible Assets		331,398		337,208
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>				
Stocks	30,648		43,092	
Debtors	18,372		22,259	
Cash at Bank and in Hand	25,186		10,001	
		<hr/>		<hr/>
		74,206		75,352
<b>CREDITORS:</b>				
Amount falling due within one year	(30,467)		(35,083)	
		<hr/>		<hr/>
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>		43,739		40,269
<b>TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<hr/>		<hr/>
		375,137		377,477
<b>CREDITORS:</b>				
Amount falling due after more than one year		(62,500)		(50,000)
		<hr/>		<hr/>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		312,637		327,477
<b>FUNDS</b>				
Restricted Funds		68,945		73,984
Unrestricted Funds		243,692		253,493
		<hr/>		<hr/>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>		312,637		327,477

## STATEMENT BY TRUSTEES

*These summarised accounts are a summary of information extracted from the audited annual accounts, on which the auditors' opinion was unqualified. The full report and accounts were approved by the trustees on 9 September 1997 and have been submitted to the Charity Commission and the Registrar of Companies. These summarised accounts may not contain sufficient information to allow for a full understanding of the financial affairs of the charity. For further information the full accounts, the auditors' report on those accounts and the Trustees' Annual Report should be consulted.*

## AUDITORS' STATEMENT

As auditors' to the charity we have reviewed the summarised accounts and consider that they are consistent with the full accounts on which we gave our opinion.

John Green & Co, Certified Accountants and Registered Auditors  
4 February 1998

## COUNCIL OF MANAGEMENT (TRUSTEES)

Graham Dodd, Solicitor, Chair

Bridget Keegan, Age Concern Greater London	Cllr. John O'Shea, L.B. Lewisham
Cllr. Les Eytile, L.B. Lewisham	Cllr. Jim Gillman, L.B. Greenwich
Joy Drewett-Browne, Friends of Age Exchange	Lil Murrell, Friends of Age Exchange
Del Pasterfield, Ford Motor Company	Christopher Joyce, Department of Health





*'Work in Progress', a new show by The Good Companions, our older people's theatre company about leaving school at 14 and starting work between 1928 and 1948.*

## FUNDERS

Age Exchange gratefully acknowledge support from the following funders during 1996/7:

- Arts Council National Lottery Fund
- Department of Health
- Help the Aged
- Linbury Trust
- London Borough of Greenwich
- London Borough of Lewisham
- Baring Foundation
- European Commission
- Lambeth Health Care Trust
- London Borough of Ealing
- London Borough of Lambeth
- London Boroughs Grants Unit.



*Members of the Freies Werkstatt Theater, Cologne perform 'Sonnenschein und Wochenend' at the Copenhagen Conference of the European Reminiscence Network.*



Age Exchange Theatre Trust, The Reminiscence Centre,  
 11 Blackheath Village, London SE3 9LA  
 tel ++44 181 318 9105 fax ++44 181 318 0060  
 e-mail: [age-exchange@lewisham.gov.uk](mailto:age-exchange@lewisham.gov.uk)