

# AGE EXCHANGE ANNUAL REPORT



1990 / 91

“MAKING MEMORIES MATTER”

# AGE EXCHANGE WORKERS

## STAFF

Pam Schweitzer	-	Artistic Director
Melanie Mousley	-	Administrator (to August '90)
Julia Lancaster	-	Temporary Administrator (August - November '90)
Penny Rossetter	-	Administrative Director (from November '90)
Caroline Osborn	-	Reminiscence Project Co-ordinator (to October '90)
Vanda Carter	-	Reminiscence Project Co-ordinator (from September '90)
Deborah Pearson	-	Finance Worker (to February '91)
Mark Slaughter	-	Press and Publicity Officer (to July '90)
Eileen Taylor	-	Centre Worker
Kathy White	-	Centre Worker
Rachael Dalton	-	Trainee Administrative Worker (to September '90)
Gail Dawes	-	Administrative Assistant (from October '90)
Karen Venn	-	Trainee Production Assistant (to July '90)
Bob Little	-	Development Worker (to July '90)
Gemma Hunter	-	Development Worker (to February '91)

## REMINISCENCE PROJECT WORKERS

Liz Bartlett  
 Noelle Blackman  
 Pam Human  
 Aileen La Tourette  
 Shirley McCaw  
 Caroline Osborn  
 Sue Rennie  
 Diana Senior  
 Eileen Taylor

## FREELANCE WORKERS

Graham Dodd - Legal Advisor  
 Jeremy Allerton - Youth Theatre Director  
 (to June '90)  
 Neil Appelt - Youth Theatre Director  
 (September '90 - June '91)  
 Paula Gardiner - Musical Director  
 Lisa Wilson - Designer  
 Alex Schweitzer - Architect  
 John Shergold - Transcriber

AUDITOR - John Green, Certified Accountant

## THEATRE PROJECTS 1990/91

ON THE RIVER	DEAR MUM	CHRISTMAS AT WAR	MANY HAPPY RETIREMENTS	JUST LIKE THE COUNTRY
Andy Andrews Janine Elton Rob Sturt Charles Wegner	Andy Andrews	Andy Andrews Christine Bissell Rebecca Clow Elizabeth Shirley	Godfrey Jackman Pam Lyne	Andy Andrews Elsbeth Benjerfield Cheryl Ferguson Robin Pirongs

## COUNCIL OF MANAGEMENT

The following have served during the period covered by this report. Staff at Age Exchange wish to thank them for their continuing support and advice.

Graham Dodd	Solicitor (Chair)	Del Pasterfield	Ford Motor Company
Joy Drewett-Browne	Friend of Age Exchange	Ron Pepper	LB Lewisham Councillor
Robin Ellison	Pensions Lawyer	Sheila Ronald	Retirement Councillor,
Jim Gillman	LB Greenwich Councillor	Tom Schuller	University of Edinburgh
Cheryl Monteith	Pensioners Link	Sabiha Shazad	LB Greenwich Councillor
Lil Murrell	Friend of Age Exchange	Pat Thomas	Nuffield Foundation
Caroline Oliver	Age Concern England	Lloyd Trott	RADA
John O'Shea	LB Lewisham Councillor	Deirdre Wynne-Harley	Centre for Policy on Ageing

# WORKING WITH OLD AND YOUNG THROUGH REMINISCENCE

AGE EXCHANGE AIMS to improve the quality of life of older people by emphasising the value of their reminiscences to old and young, through pioneering artistic, educational and welfare activities.

\* THEATRE \* BOOKS \* EXHIBITIONS \* MUSEUM \* TRAINING \* EDUCATION \*

## AGE EXCHANGE PROJECTS APRIL 1990 TO JULY 1991

### SUMMARY

#### PLAYS

On The River  
Dear Mum  
Christmas At War  
Just Like The Country  
Many Happy Retirements

#### YOUTH THEATRE

Fairground  
The Blitz Show

#### BOOKS

A Practical Guide to Reminiscence Work  
Goodnight Children Everywhere  
A Day At The Fair  
When We Were Young  
Just Like The Country  
Living Through The Blitz

#### FORTHCOMING BOOKS

Our Lovely Hops  
Creative Activities in Reminiscence  
From Stepney Green to Golders Green

#### EXHIBITIONS

School Children's Work at Age Exchange  
A Day At The Fair  
A Century Passing (rural reminiscences)  
Keeping Warm in Winter  
Health and Beauty in the 1920s and 30s

#### REMINISCENCE CENTRE

Group Visits to the Centre  
Volunteer Training Days  
Volunteer Meetings  
Outings for Volunteers  
Reminiscence Group  
Music Group  
Xmas Party and Pensioners' Play  
Barn Dance and Other Tea Dances  
Magic Lantern Show

#### TRAINING DAYS

35 days in Centre (plus several half days)

#### CONFERENCES

Multi-Cultural Reminiscence Conference  
Older Women's Theatre of Memory Conference

#### REMINISCENCE PROJECT

15 Placements



# REMINISCENCE CENTRE

## INCREASE IN VISITS TO THE CENTRE

The number of visitors to the Reminiscence Centre has been steadily rising over the years, and this last year has been exceptionally busy. Between 30 and 60 casual visitors drop into the Centre every day and we are open 6 days a week.



*Glenda Jackson, our patron, on a visit to the Reminiscence Centre with Bridget Prentice.*

## PENSIONER GROUPS AT THE CENTRE

140 groups have booked into the Centre in the period covered by this report, and these groups have had special sessions laid on for them by Eileen Taylor and Kathy White, our Centre workers, or by the Centre development workers, Bob Little and Gemma Hunter when they were in post. Of these groups 80 were pensioner groups, many of them frail elderly people and their carers.



*Kathy White (Centre Worker) and Lilian Burnett (volunteer) in the cafe serving a group of health workers on a training visit.*

## PROFESSIONALS CATERED FOR

35 of the groups who came on official visits were nurses or other professionals in the field of care of the elderly, and many of these groups were supported by Eileen Taylor and Caroline Osborn and, more recently Vanda Carter.



*Eileen Taylor, Reminiscence Centre worker, with visiting school children.*

## SCHOOL GROUPS

20 school groups visited the Centre and were shown round by the Centre Workers and volunteers. Some of these school groups came on specially prepared visits exploring particular reminiscence themes, and these visits were organised by Eileen Taylor and volunteers with an interest in classroom work. There will be a larger number of school groups in the months ahead when we have a new Theatre in Education project on hop-picking in the Centre.

## GROUPS FROM ABROAD

We are increasingly visited by groups from abroad who have an interest in our work or who have a link with Greenwich or Lewisham. We have entertained large numbers of Germans and Americans, and we think we are slowly making it on to the tourist schedule.



*Bob Little, one of our development workers, runs a reminiscence training day for health and social service workers.*

## IMPROVEMENTS TO THE CENTRE

Catering in the Centre has become more ambitious and imaginative, and we have started serving hot snacks in winter. The garden area at the back of the Centre has much improved, and for much of the development we have to thank Margaret Phair, our volunteer who raises money for the Centre by her popular Tarot card readings! Penny has considerably widened the stock we are carrying in the Centre, and takings in general are well up on last year.



*A visiting group of pensioners.*

## CENTRE EXHIBITIONS

We have mounted five exhibitions in the Centre in the period covered by this report, though maintaining momentum in this area has been difficult with staff cutbacks. The large scale hop-picking exhibition planned for September should bring a lot of publicity to the Centre. We know now that we shall be getting funding from the Department of Health towards reminiscence co-ordination, so there will be more support soon for the ever-expanding amount of work undertaken in the Centre.



*A barn dance to mark the opening of our rural reminiscence exhibition in the Centre.*

## BRIGHTENING UP LONDON

For the second time the Age Exchange Reminiscence Centre was selected as one of the top three leisure projects in the "Brightening Up London" competition sponsored by London Electricity and LBC radio.



*We were one of the top three leisure projects in the "Brightening Up London" competition. Maggie Humm (left) was one of our sponsors, and the certificate was presented by Richard Jobson, host of ITV's "OI for London".*

## REPAIRS TO THE ROOF

The "London" roof of the Reminiscence Centre has been reslated and the valley relined with a grant from the Department of the Environment through L.B. Greenwich. The offices are now weather-proof.



*Rotten timbers in the London roof being replaced (thanks to a grant from the Department of the Environment via the London Borough of Greenwich)*

## DARKROOM STILL PENDING

Age Concern Operation Enterprise have agreed to donate £750 towards the darkroom project. Our shortfall there is now only about £2,000, and we are currently collecting for the project in the Centre.

# THEATRE

## ON THE RIVER AGAIN

"ON THE RIVER" was revived for a short tour in July 1990 at the request of the London Docklands Festival. We were luckily able to re-recruit the original cast for one last run, and the show was as successful as ever.



Janine Elton, Andy Andrews, Charles Wegner and Rob Sturt in "On The River".



Rebecca Clow and Andy Andrews in "Christmas At War".

## FIFTY YEARS ON

"CHRISTMAS AT WAR" was revived in November and toured through December. It featured memories of Christmas 1940, and so was a very appropriate show to be presenting on the 50th anniversary of the Blitz. The show was fully booked and universally well received.



The cast of "Christmas At War" and pensioners from the Reminiscence Centre receive a cheque from London Electricity to help them travel to Cologne in Germany to take part in an international festival of theatre by and for older people.

## A NEW ONE-MAN SHOW

"DEAR MUM" was a new one-man show devised by Andy Andrews, an actor who has been involved over the last two years with every aspect of our creative work. His show went out in the autumn and again in January, playing mainly to small audiences in sheltered houses and residential homes. It was very well received and obviously filled an important gap in our provision. Many venues cannot afford or manage to organise a full-scale performance in the small communal rooms at their disposal, but were really pleased to have a small-scale rather informal theatrical event, followed by a good reminiscence discussion for their residents. We hope Andy will do some more performances for us in the near future, as we feel sure there is a demand for this work.



Andy Andrews, who devised and performed "Dear Mum".

## INTERNATIONAL LINKS

We were then invited to take "CHRISTMAS AT WAR" to Cologne in Germany to an international festival of theatre by and for older people. The whole trip was a very positive experience, enabling the theatre company and pensioners to meet and work with older people and professionals from Germany, France and the United States. Pam Schweitzer ran workshops for German, French and American delegates in our own brand of reminiscence theatre, theatre in education and therapeutic work with hospital groups. The fares of the three pensioners who represented the company in Germany were met by a grant from London Electricity. Some of the ideas we explored in Germany have already been put into practice. Our own pensioners had their first



rehearsals in May for a joint production with the children of the Age Exchange Youth Theatre of our "BLITZ SHOW", which was part of the Greenwich Festival in June. They overcame many initial doubts, and gave an excellent performance, which will certainly not be their last.

Pam attended a week-long INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE IN PARIS over Easter on theatre with disadvantaged groups. Delegates from eighteen different countries (five continents!) attended the event, all of whom were using the techniques of Augusto Boal in their work. Groups performed their shows in their own languages and delegates managed to communicate with each other in English and French. There was a great deal of interest in the work of Age Exchange which Pam showed on video, and she has been asked to write up our pre-retirement work for an American publication.

One of our actors from "ACROSS THE IRISH SEA" has just returned from Ireland where he has been performing a one-man version of the show in a Festival run by Age and Opportunity in Dublin. We are exploring the possibility of a further tour of that show in 1992, but the outcome is not yet clear. In the meantime we are preparing a second edition of the Irish memories book which has completely sold out.

### JUST LIKE THE COUNTRY

"JUST LIKE THE COUNTRY" went into rehearsal in April and toured through May and June. At the two dress rehearsals, members of the Downham Reminiscence Group and of our own reminiscence group expressed great satisfaction with the way in which their memories had been incorporated into the play. Baroness Hooper, Under-Secretary of State for Health attended one of the dress rehearsals as part of her visit to Age Exchange, and greatly enjoyed meeting the actors and the volunteers.



*Baroness Hooper, Under Secretary of State for Health with actors, volunteers and contributors at the dress rehearsal of "Just Like The Country" at the Reminiscence Centre.*

The show "JUST LIKE THE COUNTRY" was very well received, with a particularly lively, committed and highly talented cast. We managed to achieve a full tour schedule (six weeks with seven performances in six or seven different venues in each week) and there are still people who would like to book the show. We were unable to extend the length of this tour (the actors having commitments elsewhere) but we are mounting a second tour with most of the same cast in the autumn.

### RETIREMENT SEMINARS

"MANY HAPPY RETIREMENTS", our show for pre-retirement seminars has continued to play throughout the year giving the greatest satisfaction to all who book us. We hope to be featured in a BBC television programme later in the year.

## YOUTH THEATRE

### MULTI-MEDIA SHOW

"FAIRGROUND" was a multimedia show by the children, aged 10-16 in the Age Exchange Youth Theatre presented in June 1990. Visually ambitious and highly popular with the children, their parents and Age Exchange volunteers, the show by Jez Allerton, featured stories told to the children by local pensioners.

### PENSIONERS AND CHILDREN ACT TOGETHER

"THE BLITZ SHOW" was the result of a long series of meetings between children and OAPs at the Centre. A workshop performance was mounted in January 1991, and the finished product was performed with the pensioners' acting group in June '91, a new departure for our organisation, and one which we should like to repeat. This project was sponsored by Age Resource (as a result of our prize-winning entry in the cross-generational category of their competition) and by Thames/LWT Telethon.

For their next project, the Youth Theatre will present a hop-picking show in the Reminiscence Centre to coincide with our exhibition and theatre in education programme on that theme. These projects will also be sponsored by Telethon, to whom we are extremely grateful for their generous support.



*Joan Herring, a retired teacher and volunteer, works with the Youth Theatre group on a story of hers for "The Blitz Show".*

# VOLUNTEERS

## MINIBUS OUTINGS

The volunteers were the prime movers in our acquisition of a Minibus with a wheelchair lift in June 1990. Their voluntary activity helped us to raise the funds for the bus. We have had some outings in the bus, which have been highly enjoyable, and many local voluntary groups have hired the bus during the year for their own outings. It is paying its way very satisfactorily.



*A minibus outing to the hopfields of Kent.*

## MONTHLY MEETINGS

We have also set up monthly meetings for Centre volunteers with Penny Rossetter (administrative director) and Kathy White and Eileen Taylor (centre workers) at which difficulties can be ironed out, proposals made, news disseminated and new procedures outlined. This meeting precedes the usual monthly meeting (with Pam Schweitzer) of the Friends of Age Exchange, not all of whom are Centre volunteers.



*The Friends of Age Exchange in the garden after their monthly meeting.*

## EVERYTHING IN THE GARDEN

Volunteers are also taking some responsibility for the outside of the building, painting the walls, planting tubs with bright flowers, and generally improving the look of the Centre.

## REMINISCENCE GROUPS

The Reminiscence Group run by Pam Schweitzer, is largely composed of volunteers from the Centre, and so is the music group. This latter group is largely run by the volunteers themselves and is increasingly popular. Trips in the Minibus have been arranged to coincide with Reminiscence Group projects, and more are planned.



*The Reminiscence Group at work on our new book "Living Through The Blitz".*



*Members of the Church Army hold an exhibition of photos, objects and lantern slides in the Reminiscence Centre.*

## NEWSLETTERS

Three newsletters have been produced by Gwen Parrish, a local volunteer with a background in journalism. Gwen has also helped us with the press promotion of "Just Like The Country" and with proof-reading the text of this year's publications.

## VOLUNTEER TRAINING

Several new volunteers have started work in the Centre and in the office this year. Our first induction day for volunteers was held in February and was much appreciated, so a second day was held on Tuesday 28th May. Volunteers received refresher courses in use of the till, the wheelchair lift and the telephone. They also had some background information on the history of the Age Exchange project and its many activities (not all of which are clear to volunteers who only know us through the work of the Centre) and time for discussion on the overall aims of the project.



# EXHIBITIONS

## SPRING

This year there have been four major exhibitions in our studio space and several smaller ones in our meeting room. We began the year with an exhibition of LOCAL SCHOOL CHILDREN'S WORK arising from our two Theatre in Education projects "Good Morning Children" on 1920s school days and "Goodnight Children Everywhere" on the theme of evacuation. The children's drawings and writings gave a great deal of pleasure to visitors to the Reminiscence Centre, and stimulated much discussion, both about the reminiscence themes and about new approaches to schoolwork.

## SUMMER

The summer exhibition was "A DAY AT THE FAIR" to coincide with the publication of our reminiscence booklet about going to Blackheath Fair in the 1930s and the Youth Theatre's show "FAIRGROUND" which was based on these memories and played in the Greenwich Festival 1990. This three-dimensional exhibition was a lot of fun with three dimensional stalls, real roundabout horses and a painted recreation on the walls of the local fair in 1930.

*Visiting groups from Hackney and Lewisham visit our Keeping Warm in Winter exhibition as part of our joint conference with the Older Women's Project on Theatre of Memory.*

## AUTUMN

The autumn exhibitions, "A CENTURY PASSING" and "WHEN WE WERE YOUNG", both had a rural theme, fitting in with the reminiscence project we had just completed in South Somerset. We held a barn dance in the hall with live music to launch the exhibition and our pensioner volunteers ran some workshops for schools on harvest festivals in the past.

## WINTER

The Christmas exhibition was "KEEPING WARM IN WINTER". The Reminiscence Group recorded their memories of how their own parents had tried to keep out the cold, and we created an exhibition of home settings to reflect their memories, featuring remedies, recipes and early versions of home insulation. This exhibition ran all through the winter months, as it had a very general appeal.

### "KEEP YOUNG AND BEAUTIFUL"

"HEALTH AND BEAUTY IN THE 1920s" is an exhibition of early beauty aids and equipment which has been loaned to us by a local collector. It is stimulating many painful and funny memories of the trials of hairdressing techniques and visits to the dentist. This exhibition will remain in place until our exhibition on hop-picking is ready to go up.



# PUBLICATIONS

## GOODNIGHT CHILDREN EVERYWHERE

In May we launched "GOODNIGHT CHILDREN EVERYWHERE", edited by Pam Schweitzer and Andy Andrews, at the Imperial War Museum. Nearly all the eighty contributors attended, with many of our volunteers and funders in attendance as well. David Jacobs, who had written the introduction to the book, gave it an official launch, and we performed an extract from an Age Exchange show on evacuation. The book has sold extremely well in both hard and soft back versions, after some severe difficulties with the initial binding had been overcome.

## A PRACTICAL GUIDE

"A PRACTICAL GUIDE TO REMINISCENCE WORK", a small but useful guide to starting reminiscence, by Caroline Osborn was launched in May 1990, and continues to sell well especially to the many visitors to the Centre who are interested in picking up the basic ideas. Caroline is now working on a new book of ideas arising from the Reminiscence Project, which Age Exchange hopes to publish in 1992, provided we can raise the funding, some of which has already been promised.

## A DAY AT THE FAIR

"A DAY AT THE FAIR", a small book of reminiscences and photographs by Age Exchange Reminiscence Group was launched at the Reminiscence Centre by the Pearly King and Queen and the Deputy Mayor of Greenwich, together with a representative of the Showman's Guild from the fair on Blackheath, who loaned some of the his own model rides for the event!



Two Age Exchange volunteers from London with West Country connections sell copies of "When We Were Young", our book of Somerset memories, at our Reminiscence Festival at Dillington Hall in July 1990.

## WHEN WE WERE YOUNG

"WHEN WE WERE YOUNG" is our book of rural reminiscences arising from our project in South Somerset. This was edited and prepared for publication by Sarah Clevely and Paul Swatridge of the Age Exchange Somerset project with Pam Schweitzer, and launched in Ilminster at our Reminiscence Festival on July 12th 1990. It sold very well on publication, and we have only a few copies of the book left to sell.

## The Lord Ashdown Charitable Settlement

44a New Cavendish Street, London W1M 7LG

Trustees: C. M. Marks, G. F. Rowan, J. Silver, R. M. E. Stone

### RICHARD STONE

INVITES YOU TO THE LAUNCH OF AGE EXCHANGE'S NEW PUBLICATION

### 'JUST LIKE THE COUNTRY'

In the

SOUTH ROOM, ROYAL INSTITUTE OF BRITISH ARCHITECTS  
66 PORTLAND PLACE, LONDON W.1

WEDNESDAY 12th JUNE 1991 at 1.00 p.m.

R.S.V.P.

Age Exchange Reminiscence Centre, 11 Blackheath Village, London SE3 9LA  
Tel: 081 318 9105/318 3504 Fax: 081 318 0060



*An invitation to the launch of "Just Like The Country" which was most generously hosted by our patron, Richard Stone, at the Royal Institute of British Architects.*

## JUST LIKE THE COUNTRY

"JUST LIKE THE COUNTRY" was finally launched to coincide with the theatre tour in May and June 1991 of that long-awaited play. It has been a long time in the pipeline as funding for this project has been so difficult to achieve, but we are really pleased that it did not sink without trace, and think the result will justify the wait. We launched the book in style with a special performance at the Royal Institute of British Architects in June, in the presence of many of the contributors and funders, as well as interested people from housing, local government and the arts. Rod Hackney, past president of the Royal Institute of British Architects, launched the book for us with a most powerful speech, and the whole event was generously hosted by Richard Stone, our new patron, from the Lord Ashdown Charitable Settlement.



Robin Pirongs, Andy Andrews, Cheryl Fergison and Elsbeth Benjerfield in "Just Like The Country" at the book launch.



*David Jacobs presents us with the Age Resource award, which enabled us to print our book, "Living Through The Blitz". Doris Hollands, Margaret Phair and Pam Schweitzer receive the prize at the Royal Festival Hall.*

### LIVING THROUGH THE BLITZ

"LIVING THROUGH THE BLITZ" was launched on 16th June 1991 as part of the Greenwich Festival. This is a small book of photos and memories by members of the Age Exchange Reminiscence Group and other local people.

Many of the stories in the book were acted out by pensioners from the Centre and by children from the Age Exchange Youth Theatre. It was a wonderful day, as it had hardly seemed possible, even the day before, that the whole event would come together. As it was, even the most sceptical declared themselves highly satisfied.



*Children from the Youth Theatre create a painted backcloth for "The Blitz Show" from their own photo-collage, which we used on the front cover of "Living Through The Blitz".*

## TRAINING

### INCREASED NUMBER OF TRAINING DAYS

35 training days have been run in the Reminiscence Centre this year, and several half day training sessions for local nurses' and social service workers' training groups. We have also considerably increased the variety of training packages on offer. The temporary dip in take-up which we reported last year appears to have been reversed, and Vanda Carter who co-ordinates that side of the work is setting up new trial training days for the autumn. Our first cross-generational training day was well-attended and proved useful to all takers, so we shall repeat that in the autumn, along with courses in transactional analysis and reminiscence, and reminiscence with family and friends. We have recently

have recently produced a printed training leaflet listing and describing all courses up to October 1992.

### FREE-LANCE TRAINING

In addition to our in-house training programme, Age Exchange staff and free-lance trainers also run training courses for other organisations, teaching reminiscence techniques tailored to their specific needs. Age Exchange's Introduction to Reminiscence courses and other short courses are increasingly commissioned as established modules on a number of CSS (Certificate in Social Services) and in-service courses for both nurses and care workers. We are working to develop closer links with colleges and National Vocational Qualification assessment centres.

## REMINISCENCE PROJECT

Placements have been undertaken in 15 settings across Greater London in the period covered by this report, and all involved have expressed great satisfaction with the project. Our workers are now very experienced in the field, and some have also been undertaking external training for us with health and social services staff in local authorities in the Greater London area. However, there does appear to be a serious shortage of cash for this kind of in-service training and we are having to work hard to achieve the Reminiscence Project placements.

*Trainees explore the Reminiscence Centre's resources for use in health and social service settings.*



# REMINISCENCE BOXES

## NEW REMINISCENCE BOX SCHEME

In May 1990 Age Exchange launched the unique new Reminiscence Box Hire Service. Each theme-based box contains a collection of objects and pictures chosen to stimulate memories, guidance notes and activity ideas. Nine theme boxes are currently available:

Family Health	Housework
Childhood Games	Schooldays
At the Seaside	Looking Good
Going Shopping	In the Kitchen
World War Two: The Home Front	

Two more boxes "Born in the Caribbean" and "Born in the Indian Sub-Continent" are under preparation.

## OVER 100 LOANS IN FIRST YEAR

Since their launch by Mary Stott at the Reminiscence Centre, the Reminiscence Boxes have attracted a great deal of attention and unanimous favourable responses from over 100 hirers who used the boxes during the first year of the scheme, including many users in residential homes, sheltered housing, day centre and hospital settings, and in schools. One of the most recent applications of the boxes has been as part of our inter-generational programme, with pensioner volunteers taking the boxes into junior schools as the basis of classroom discussion with the children.



*Objects from one of the new Reminiscence Boxes. The objects have been repackaged this year in specially made sturdy carrying cases and they are in great demand all over the country.*

## STAFFING

Melanie Mousley, our administrator from 1986-90 resigned in July after giving Age Exchange four excellent years of commitment and organisation. Julia Lancaster worked as a temporary administrator from July to October, and we appointed Penny Rossetter as our new administrative director in November 1990. Penny has settled in extremely well, and has streamlined a lot of office and shop procedures, and revised staff contracts on consultation with our Chairman, Graham Dodd. Monthly staff meetings are helping to keep everyone informed about work in progress and future plans, and we are coping better as a staff with sharing the very limited space at our disposal for the huge number of activities we now run.

Rachael Dalton, who had joined us as a trainee administrative assistant on leaving school in July 1989, left in September 1990 and was replaced by Gail Dawes. Gail has taken on additional responsibilities in relation to training day administration and invoicing, and is a first class assistant to Penny in the office.

Deborah Pearson, who had worked first as an assistant administrator and then as our part-time finance worker over the last three years, was made redundant in February 1991, when our financial position became extremely precarious. Penny Rossetter and Gail Dawes have taken over her workload following a rationalisation of office procedures in relation to invoicing and salary payments.

Caroline Osborn left Age Exchange in October 1990 after five years with us as part-time co-ordinator of our Reminiscence Project. Caroline started up the Project with Pam Schweitzer in 1985, after an initial pilot in hospitals and homes. The Project has been extremely successful and well run, and has brought Age Exchange into contact with over 100 residential settings across Greater London, supporting the work of health and social service staff and their clients.

Vanda Carter took over responsibility for this work on a temporary basis in September 1990, and has been working hard to secure placements for the current financial year in a climate of ever-shrinking funds available to local authorities. Vanda has built up the number and variety of our training courses at the Reminiscence Centre, calling in some first rate outside tutors. Numbers on these courses have risen, and additional courses have had to be laid on to meet demand.

Bob Little and Gemma Hunter, who shared the post of Reminiscence Development Worker, (funded by the Department of Health as a temporary project) left Age Exchange during the year to take up permanent posts, after making excellent contributions to our work both on the training side and in the area of exhibitions and centre organisation. We hope to be able to appoint a Reminiscence Co-ordinator for the next three years when the Department of Health grant is confirmed in the autumn.



*Penny Rossetter, Vanda Carter, Pam Schweitzer and Gail Dawes, the "upstairs office" staff who handle projects and administration.*

Mary Gallagher was appointed as a Saturday worker in the Reminiscence Centre in November. We found that there was sometimes a difficulty in recruiting enough volunteers to staff the Centre on Saturdays, which is often an extremely busy day. Things have been running very smoothly since Mary's appointment, and she has introduced some good new ideas on the catering side.

We have appointed Dianne Hancock as Researcher/Director of our Theatre in Education project on hop-picking from July to November, courtesy of Thames Telethon. She will be appointing actors to take part in the project in autumn 1991, and will help Pam Schweitzer to edit the book of memories of hop-picking.

## SUMMARY

The organisation has pulled itself together remarkably well after a difficult year of redundancies, staff changes and threatened withdrawal of funding. Our financial position is much more secure and staff morale is much higher.

# PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

We are proposing to create a show for children in local schools on the subject of migration to Britain of "New Commonwealth" citizens, based on the memories of local ethnic elders. We are currently fund-raising for this project which would be performed by black performers in multi-cultural classrooms in Greenwich and Lewisham. This initiative follows on from the Multi-cultural Reminiscence Conference which we held in October 1990. Over 50 people attended an excellent day, and work across the generations involving ethnic elders in the classroom emerged as a priority area.

We hope to remount the hop-picking project for children in the Reminiscence Centre and to investigate the possibility of a show for pensioners on the hop-picking theme.

We have applied for funds to revive the Jewish East End show and to print a new book of photos and memories on this theme.

Pam Schweitzer hopes to produce a book about the first ten years of Age Exchange and the many areas of reminiscence in which the organisation has worked.



*Lisa Wilson (our designer) with Steve Wilson and Dora Schweitzer preparing an exhibition on hop-picking for the coming autumn in the Reminiscence Centre.*

We hope to complete the work on the darkroom in the Age Exchange basement and have that project operating in the coming year.

# FINANCIAL REPORT

## YEAR ENDED 31 March 1991

### INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

Despite a very difficult financial climate the Company managed to return a small surplus of £1,207. Turnover dropped by 17% to £214,874. The main factor in this fall was a 26% reduction in grant income. Generally the Company managed to retain its core revenue funding but much of the "one off" project funding which financed the previous year was not available in 1990/91. Consequently, self-generated income fell substantially because the company was not able

to carry out its planned level of production, much of the work being cut or postponed to a later date. Cuts had to be made in staffing and the situation was not helped by a 40% rise in rent.

### BALANCE SHEET

Despite being reliant on grant income for survival, Age Exchange maintains a sound financial position with net current assets in excess of £57,000. Within those assets is a provision for unspent grants amounting to £21,694 which will be released during the year 1991/92.

# AGE EXCHANGE ACCOUNTS 1990-91

## INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 1991

			Year Ended 31.3.90
INCOME	£	£	£
Fees receivable		36,850	51,615
Book sales		29,310	27,640
Grants receivable		117,550	148,598
Other income		<u>31,164</u>	<u>22,908</u>
		214,874	250,761
EXPENDITURE			
Salaries and Wages	100,064		115,180
Freelance fees	21,696		17,208
Book printing costs	9,895		27,093
Administration expenses	41,754		52,189
Rent and Rates	21,059		17,656
Other operating charges	12,963		9,928
Provision for future work	<u>6,236</u>		<u>14,369</u>
		213,667	253,623
NET SURPLUS (DEFICIT) FOR YEAR		<u>£ 1,207</u>	<u>£ (2,862)</u>

## BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 1991

	£	£
TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS	5,730	4,346
NET CURRENT ASSETS	57,614	51,711
PROVISION FOR FUTURE WORK	<u>(21,694)</u>	<u>(15,614)</u>
TOTAL NET ASSETS	<u>£ 41,650</u>	<u>£ 40,443</u>
CAPITAL AND RESERVES		
GENERAL RESERVE	34,983	33,776
CAPITAL RESERVE	<u>6,667</u>	<u>6,667</u>
	<u>£ 41,650</u>	<u>£ 40,443</u>

Due to limitation of space, the accounts are shown in an abbreviated version. Full accounts will be sent on request.



**CASH FUNDS STATEMENT  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 1991**

			Year Ended 31.3.90
	£	£	£
<b>SOURCE OF FUNDS</b>			
Surplus on General Account		1,207	(2,862)
Adjustment for items not involving the movement of funds:			
Provision for future work (Revenue)		6,236	14,369
Depreciation		2,861	2,168
		<u>10,304</u>	<u>13,675</u>
<b>FUNDS FROM OTHER SOURCES</b>			
Capital Grants		4,750	10,129
Provision for future work (Capital)		-	1,245
		<u>15,054</u>	<u>25,049</u>
<b>APPLICATION OF FUNDS</b>			
Leasehold property	4,906		10,129
Purchase of other tangible assets	<u>4,245</u>		<u>2,006</u>
		<u>9,151</u>	<u>12,135</u>
		£ <u>5,903</u>	£ <u>12,914</u>
<b>MOVEMENT IN WORKING CAPITAL</b>			
Stocks	931		3,046
Debtors	(6,009)		1,939
Creditors	<u>10,746</u>		<u>5,735</u>
	<u>5,668</u>		<u>10,720</u>
Movement in net liquid funds cash and bank balances	<u>235</u>		<u>2,194</u>
		£ <u>5,903</u>	£ <u>12,914</u>
<b>REVENUE GRANTS</b>		£	£
Department of Health		10,000	10,000
London Borough Grants Scheme		20,464	23,831
London Borough of Greenwich		35,410	31,360
London Borough of Lewisham		10,387	9,662
Lord Ashdown Charitable Settlement		10,000	-
St. James' Trust		10,000	10,000
Doron Foundation		3,840	4,949
London Borough of Lambeth		3,080	3,401
London Docklands Development Corporation		2,270	4,250
Metropolitan Hospital Sunday Fund		2,500	2,500
South Somerset District Council		3,974	3,675
Thames/LWT Telethon Trust		3,000	-
Other Grants		<u>2,625</u>	<u>44,970</u>
		£ <u>117,550</u>	£ <u>148,598</u>

## WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT

Increasingly our work for elderly people depends on individual and corporate donations and legacies.

Please consider a regular gift to Age Exchange. A covenant will enable us to reclaim basic income tax on your gift, making it worth more to our work.

You can also help us regularly through payroll giving. We are registered to receive payments via the Charities Aid Foundation.

Or you may prefer to make a single donation to help us with our work.

For more details on how you can help us contact:

Age Exchange  
The Reminiscence Centre  
11 Blackheath Village  
London SE3 9LA  
Tel: 081 318 9105  
Fax: 081 318 0060

Charity Number 326899  
Company Limited by Guarantee Number 1929724



## FINANCIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Age Concern Operation Enterprise  
Age Resource  
City Parochial Foundation  
Department of Health  
Doron Foundation for Education and Welfare  
Ford Motor Company  
Greater London Arts  
Helen Hamlyn Trust  
Lankelly Foundation  
Lex Garages  
London Borough of Ealing  
London Borough of Greenwich  
London Borough of Lambeth

London Borough of Lewisham  
London Borough Grants Scheme  
London Docklands Development Corporation  
Lord Ashdown Charitable Settlement  
Marks and Spencer  
Metropolitan Hospital Sunday Fund  
New Horizon Trust  
Peter Minet Trust  
South Somerset District Council  
St. James's Trust  
Thames/LWT Telethon Trust  
The Nuffield Foundation  
Tudor Trust

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