

we live here

Celebrating ageing in Southwark through
the stories of six older people in our community



United St Saviour's Charity

Celebrating Ageing in
Southwark through the
stories of six older people
in our community.





We unite the people and organisations of Southwark through our grant-making and almshouses for older people.

We Live Here

Celebrating Ageing in Southwark

We believe that older people, and the huge contribution they make to our communities, are too often overlooked. Over 27,000 of Southwark residents are over 65 and many play an important part in making the borough such a great place.

At United St Saviour's, through our almshouse and grant-making programmes, we come

across amazing older people every day.

In this booklet we have teamed up with photographer, Rosie Barnes, to tell the stories of just 6 of them – Michael, Hilda, Dora, Barry, Tina and Phu. We hope you agree they are an inspiring group. And in the immortal words of Abraham Lincoln "It's not the years in your life that count. It's the life in your years"

What We Do

United St Saviour's Charity has been contributing to the life of Southwark for nearly 500 years. Through our Community Investment programme we provide grants to large numbers of charities and local groups.

We are now investing £1m a year into a wide range of pioneering and important projects and services that improve lives and strengthen communities. Making Southwark a great place to grow old is just one of our grant-making priorities.

We manage and develop beautiful housing for Southwark's older residents; providing a caring, friendly environment within our almshouses. This includes personalised support delivered by our committed staff team when people need it.

We also own many historic properties, located in some of Southwark's most iconic locations. This includes pubs, commercial and residential properties around Borough Market. Their rental income helps fund our community programmes.

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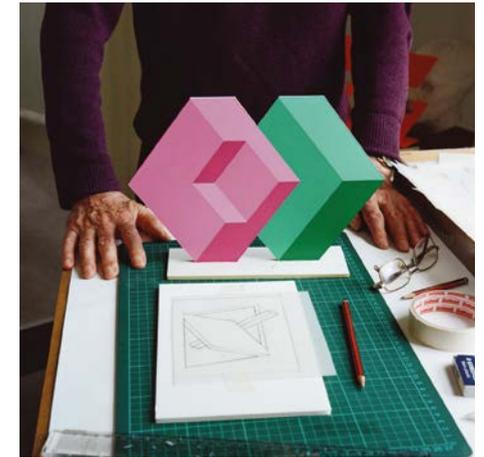
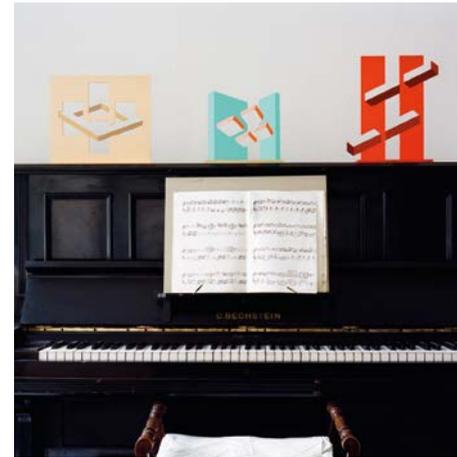
06. Phu Tang



01. Michael Challenger

Michael 79, is an artist and sculptor, exhibiting internationally, making geometric art. He has lived in Borough Market for more than 40 years.

"I enjoy living here, it's a vibrant and unique community and as an independent person I like the independence it gives me. I want to make use of as much of my time as possible, so I can keep doing what I love doing for as long as possible".



02. Hilda Smith

Hilda, 77, is passionate about keeping people connected and active. She belongs to the team that represents older people who live on the 6 estates along the Old Kent Road and helps out on many outings and events through The Big Local South Bermondsey. Hilda was a nanny

in New Jersey in the 60s and worked for 22 years in Custom and Excise.

"People need to get out, have something to do. Being home alone, isolated and without purpose is not good for anyone".





03. Dora Arango

Former dressmaker Dora is 79 and came to England from Columbia over 30 years ago. She practices yoga every day and goes to the Spanish Golden Ladies Dancing Group at Stones End Day Centre.

"Coming here to dance makes me feel so good, so happy, so healthy. I'd really miss the company too if I couldn't be here. It's like a second home to me".

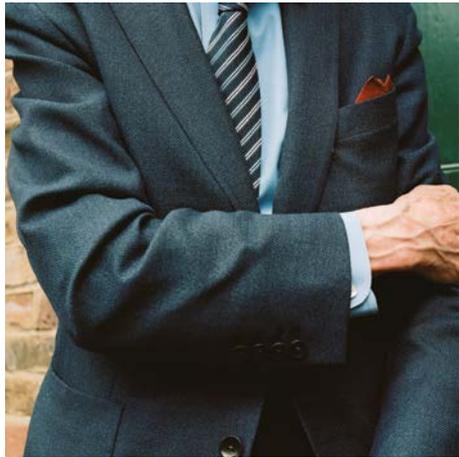


04. Barry Chorlton

Born in Stockport, Cheshire, Barry 76, has been living at Hopton's Almshouses behind Tate Modern for 11 years and in London for 55 years. He still works part-time as a waiter in the Speaker's House at the House of Commons -

"*the Human Zoo*" and as a welcomer at Southwark Cathedral. Barry also finds time every day to deliver a stack of Metros and Evening Standards to his neighbours.

"*Life is good, I can take things more easily now*".



05. Tina Johnston

Community and connection are everything to Tina, 67, who came to London from Sri Lanka in 1974. She is the co-ordinator for Positive Ageing at the Blackfriars Settlement where she's worked for 21 years, bringing older people together in an array of groups and activities.

"This job is a calling for me, I love the people I work with, it is my passion, but my family are everything to me and I couldn't do what I do without them".



06. Phu Tang

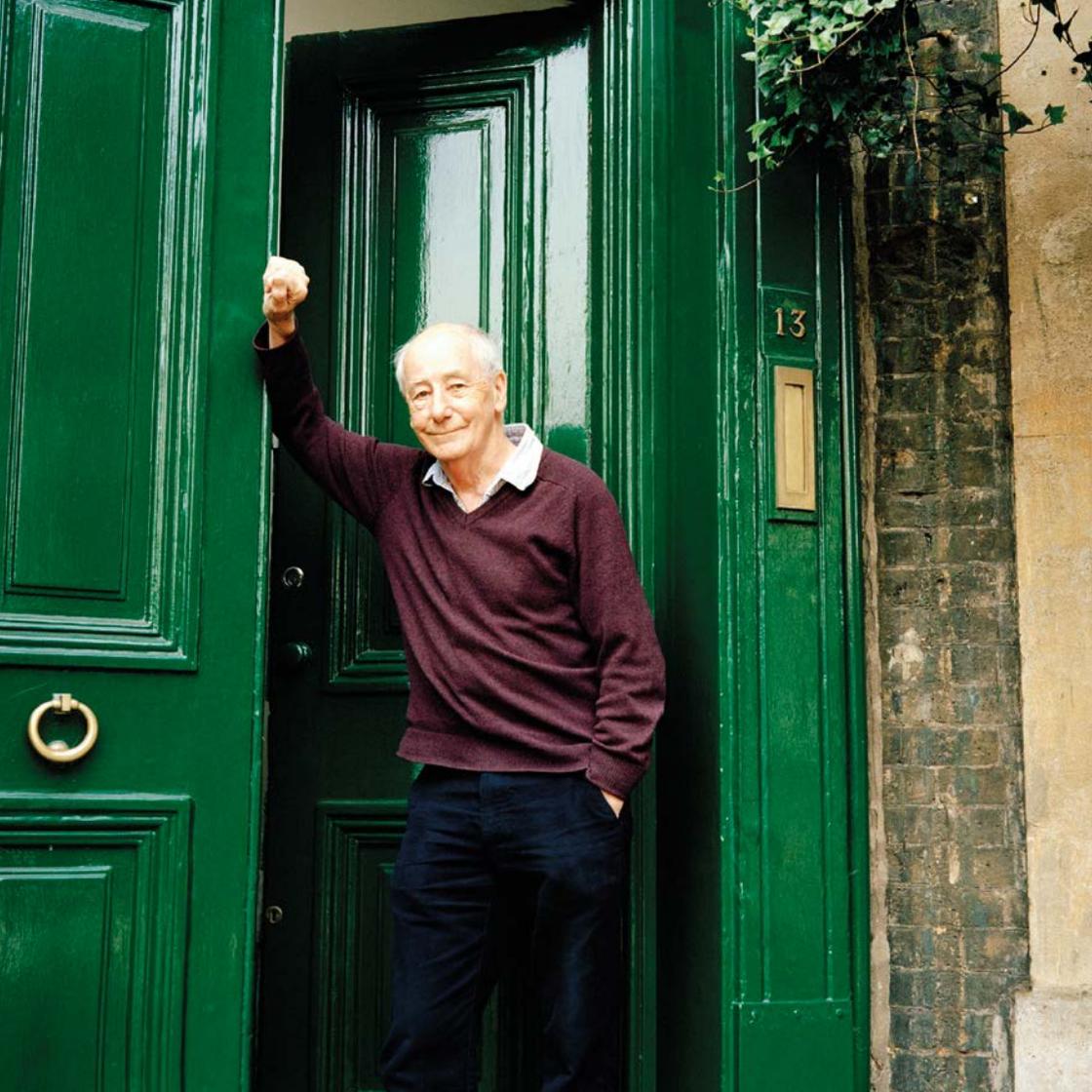
Phu's passion is gardening, something he's done since he was a boy in Vietnam, growing vegetables and flowers.

"I spend any money I have on my garden and greenhouse, it makes me feel so positive and

alive, so important when you're getting older and can't do so much".

Phu, 75, came to England in 1980, working as a bricklayer. He lives in Rotherhithe with his wife Yu and also attends the Time & Talents gardening club close-by.





Thanks to:

Dora Arango

Hilda Smith

Michael Challenger

Phu Tang

Tina Johnston

Barry Chorlton

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by Rosie Barnes

Sauce Design



To find out more visit our website:

www.ustsc.org.uk

United St Saviour's Charity,
St Saviour's House, 39-41 Union Street,
London. SE1 1SD

Telephone: 020 7089 9014

E-mail: info@ustsc.org.uk

www.rosiebarnes.com
www.saucedesign.co.uk