

THE ELDERS

PEOPLE DECIDE TO TRY OUT THE ELDERS BECAUSE THEY:

ARE **CURIOUS**

WANT A PERSONAL **CHALLENGE**

ARE ENCOURAGED BY FAMILY AND **FRIENDS**



*"There's no competition.
There's no embarrassment."*
JEAN



*"It's opened a
whole world up"*
GORDON

The Elders Company is for everyone **over 60** who wants to **feel connected**, **develop performance skills** and **make boundary-pushing theatre**.

THEY STAY BECAUSE:

The work is interesting, **INSPIRING**, **enjoyable**, challenging, **CREATIVE**, exciting, **relaxed**, **PHYSICAL** and offers new skills.

The other members are **WARM**, **welcoming**, non-judgemental, **DIVERSE**, interesting, **inclusive**, **KIND**.

HAVE A LONG STANDING INTEREST IN
THEATRE AND PERFORMANCE



INVOLVEMENT IN THE ELDERS HAS RESULTED IN MEMBERS:

- Developing new social networks and friendships.
- Increasing their confidence.
- Noticing improved health and **HAPPINESS**.
- Attending other workshops and activities at the Royal Exchange Theatre.
- Attending more theatre productions with an increased understanding of, and curiosity about, **HOW THEATRE IS MADE**.
- **GETTING INVOLVED** in other cultural activities across Greater Manchester.
- Restarting yoga classes.
- Feeling encouraged to write.



*"Coming here, you've got
a purpose; it's about belonging
to something."*
GLYN

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THE **ELDERS** IS...

"There's space for everybody and everybody has a voice. Being involved in the Elders lifts my spirits. It's made me aware of my body again."
DAVID

**An explosion of purple,
blue velvet,
a brave sunrise red.**



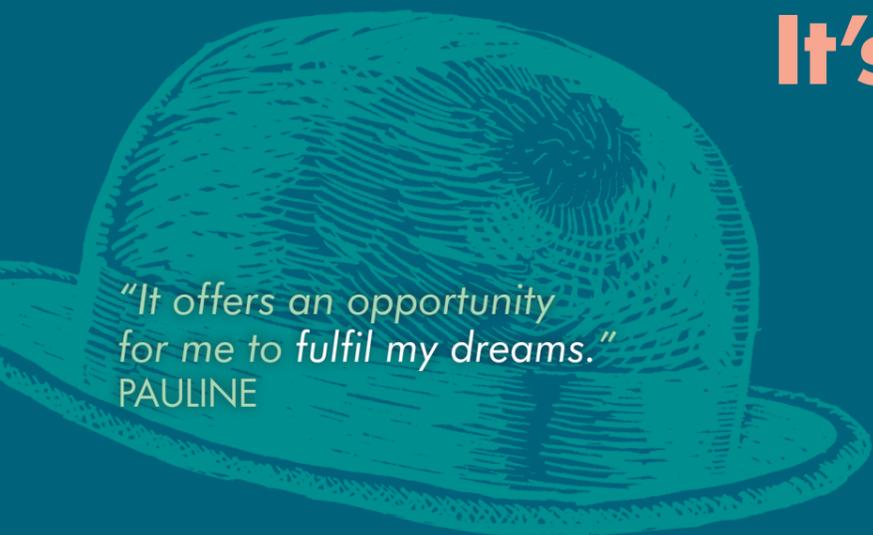
**It's an ice-cream sundae, knickerbocker glory,
a scotch bonnet chilli, matured in brine.**

**It's an oak tree, firmly planted,
a beautiful rose with hidden thorns.**

**It's an old-fashioned charabanc,
a red Mazda RX7,
a campervan with room for friends.**



**It's a hat for all seasons,
a roomy sweater,
re-waxed Barbour,
blanket.**



*"It offers an opportunity
for me to fulfil my dreams."*

PAULINE

**It's a time machine.
It's a case of unread books.**

It's a roller coaster, and I'm not getting off!

This poem was created with Sarah Butler, she is one of many creatives to work with the company. Sarah is a novelist who also specialises in socially engaged practice and place specific writing. Fascinated by the relationships between stories, places and communities, her work explores identity, belonging, landscape and home.

From September 2016 Sarah will lead a new strand of work called INVESTIGATE that will enable older people to explore and interrogate the relationship between arts & culture and ageing.



Written by members of The Elders Company: Alan, Brenda, Christine, David, Doreen, Glyn, Gordon, Graham, Judith, Marianne, Maureen, Norman, Tony.

For more information, visit royalexchange.co.uk/elders-company

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