

Summary of responses to HOME questionnaire • Spring 2024

1. When you think of HOME, write a few words that sum up the idea for you. Eg hearth, garden, mother, etc

- Cosy, safe, control, dog
- Roots, belonging, love
- Family, comfort, security, warmth
- Family, pets, warm, safe
- Security, love garden surrounded by nature, pets, view.
- Peace, relax, safe, garden, cats, space to be me.
- Family, closest friends, peace, comfort.
- Safety, cocoon, springboard, keeps, family, friends, privacy, peace
- Warmth, safety, comfort, loving family, friends, community, belonging, good food, freedom to be me.
- Mum, husband, pets, safe place, sanctuary
- Memories of my childhood, of feeling safe, loved, protected, of boundless freedom, it seemed; of joy and happiness; growing up and making friends in a very peaceful environment; exploring life first in a very small slowpaced part of the world.
- Mother, father (though saw less of him), sister, dog
- For me home means anything that is supportive and loving, whether that is a person or a place, anything in which I feel secure and loved
- family, love, support, comfort
- comfort, relaxing, happiness, family
- Family, mum, relaxing, safe
- Friends family books pets football
- Comfort, food, support, laughing
- family, comfort, warmth, loved
- sitting by the fire, safe and content with my dog
- Safety, comfort, warmth, family, relaxing
- safe, enjoyment, warmth
- A space organised around all our objects, images, photos; a place to feel safe, quiet/noisy, a place to be with friends and family and to live out creative ideas
- A place you feel you belong to; a community shared. A repository for everything i have gathered in my life. A memory store.
- Fire in the hearth, comfort, warmth, security, warm lights, candles, cooking, grouped around the table, warm bed
- Early childhood memories; Feel of the building I live in and its surrounding garden; Very strong sense of belonging to the immediate locale; My bed and favourite photos!
- Safety, Security, Love, Connections.
- Home is everything that is dear to me, things past and present.

2. Does Home mean more than your House? Can you describe what you think?

- Yes, it represents the emotional and spiritual significance of where I live as well as the bricks and mortar. The concept can also mean different things at different times, eg if I'm out at work it means my flat, if I'm travelling overseas it might mean the UK.
- For me home is where I feel rooted and can relax
- Home is somewhere to take refuge in, to rest and relax, to switch off and to be totally yourself with those you love. It is not always your own house - it can be anywhere

you go back to at the end of the day. "Let's go home" are some of the best words you can speak.

- House doesn't have the same emotional connotations – it is a physical building and sometimes a burden with expenses, bills, cleaning and maintenance!
- Home is the safe centre for the family – everything revolves around home. You create the environment that works best for the family
- Home is where the heart is: I feel complete when my daughter visits. I can happily live out of a suitcase
- Yes. Community around. Feeling part of a town, county, area. Being with like-minded people.
- Home is where I feel at ease, relaxed and peaceful, alone or with people I love and who love me.
- As well as being a physical entity, home to me is a feeling, one of security and peace and rest and a summation of life thus far.
- To have somewhere to call Home should be everyone's right. To be homeless must be devastating. Home means family, community, country, cultural acceptance, heritage,
- Home is not the bricks and mortar but where key people and things are.
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- Still, the need to feel accepted and belonging to a community is of vital importance to me.
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I always enjoyed travelling, and exploring new cultures in great depth. Often, I felt not only well received, but also accepted, even adopted by some communities, making friends for life.

So, I often experienced the feeling that all those people are also my people, my brothers and sisters; that I love and appreciate their culture as much as mine.

Furthermore, from a very early age I thought that this planet is our home, and that we all have shared responsibility for its inhabitants, for its flora and fauna, for its wellbeing.

- Both in different ways: 'home' conjures up more cosy, comfortable feelings and house gives aesthetic feelings, eg pretty furnishings, pictures, lighting etc
- Home can be a person, someone who is always there for you or even a place that you love so much. Home is not just the place you live, it is so much more than that
- Yes, home is where my support system is, whether that is friends or family
- family and friends, pets
- Home means being in a place that is safe and comfortable, where you have the space to be yourself without people judging you and where you have unconditional support.
- Yeah, it can be places you feel safe and happy
- Due to childhood experiences, I do not feel I have a "home" but rather I find the comfort and happiness that a "home" would bring someone in people, activities and experiences in life
- Yes, like a feeling of family and coziness. The people in a house make it home.
- Yes, I think so. home is a place of comfort and relaxation but not necessarily a real physical face. it could be when u feel at ease and relaxed with a person
- Yes, because a house is a place a home is where you live and feel safe
- How you live and your environment
- Home is the lived experience of being in a particular house, but the house – the way it is organised, style, colours, etc - also affects how we feel within the space

- Yes. I may feel at home in the museum of east dorset when i am working there with wct or millstream. Not quite the same as my house though.
- Where the people you love are. But also the place where you have lived so long that there are layers of being, of owning, of memories, little pieces that together make a whole.
- Yes, definitely. It's the place where you feel rooted and grounded, where you need to get back to.
- Yes, Home is where you have a connection either to the landscape, neighbourhood or a person. A safe personal space where you make and store memories. An extension of oneself.
- Yes, home is more than my house. What is part of me, levels of memories at different ages and my relationship with my partner.

3. If you had to leave your home suddenly knowing you might not go back, what 6 things would you take?

- My dog Claude, my passport, my phone, photos of loved ones, my bag (which contains my "life") and my paper diary
- Photos (albums, memory sticks and discs), handbag, sentimental items (eg mother's engagement ring), clean underwear, ashes or planter
- Family photos, my address book, phone, passport, medication, change of underwear
- Passport, keys, photos, laptop (!), cat, phone
- pets, passport, driving licence, phone/charger, water+mars bars for survival!+toiletries with underwear!
- Cats, Guitar, Handbag with credit cards etc, Coat /warm clothes, Photos, Laptop with everything on it, Also some food, but I've already had 6!
- Essential documents: passport, insurance documents etc., Photos of my family, The jewellery box my Dad made for my Mum, to her design, containing jewellery going back to things my children bought me when they were young. With the aid of a magic wand, my books. (Can't easily choose just one.)
- Laptop, writings, photos, documents (passport +), bat ornament, painting of Norway
- Phone, charger, passwords book, deeds, Mother's Chinese bible, passport.
- Pets, lan, passports with other key documents, laptop with charger, "speak no evil" small wooden money, Mum's jewelry.
- My husband, who has become my home now! If I can I'll get the passports, cards, phone, some essential clothing, and my inhaler. Perhaps, also the few old pictures of my nuclear family.
- Apart from people - dog, supply of fish in a cool bag, change of underwear, book of psalms, the Minnack Chronicles, Scrabble
- Blanket, my cat, teddy bear, camera, memory box, notepad
- my cat, photo albums, home videos, laptop, jewellery, money
- phone, earphones, clothes, food, my cat, brother
- Change of clothes, family photos, money, childhood teddy bear, heirloom necklace, book to read
- My phone, childhood memory box, books, decor items to remind me of home
- Football books headphones phone pen notepad
- Large hoodie (for warmth), large bowls for food and later for water, phone and a charger
- my teddy, a book, my purse, a bag, a pen and my cats
- My family(including my dog)A good book My duvet
- phone, book, food, my mum, clothes,
- Photo books, Letters, key objects, a book given by someone special (not sure which!), hard drive, art by daughters and son,

- OUR SON'S BOOK OF SAYINGS WHICH WE GATHERED IN HIS EARLY CHILDHOOD; SOMETHING FROM MY TRIPS TO MEXICO (textile or mask); a family photograph; blue jacket; vinyl; poetry books
- People and animals of course, but for things, apart from necessities like a few clothes etc. It would be photographs , pictures, a few treasured books, perhaps one or two items of treasured jewellery.
- Meaningful rings; Photographs; Pillow
- Smartphone, purse, laptop, parents wedding ring, old family photos, the book: Jenkinson's Practical Guide to the Lakes (family heirloom)
- Six things. My Fender PB Bass, dad's wallet, a Niall Mackenzie t-shirt, photo album, The Flag, a book by Robert Shaw and Yvonne Mitchell's 'But Answer Came There None.'

4. Can you think of a childhood memory(or memories) that evokes the feeling of being 'at home' and secure? Or indeed any other thoughts about what your experience of Home means to you?

- Sitting next to the radiator with Mum, drinking tea and eating mince pies, having just come in from collecting holly and hand delivering Christmas cards. Mistletoe and Wine is on the record player and the angel chimes are lit.
- My mum brushing my hair. Evening meals with family. Long private conversations with my Mum
- Sharing a bedroom with my twin sister, whispering in the dark, listening for footsteps on the landing, pretending to be asleep, giggling.
- Sunday evenings, listening to Sing Something Simple on the radio
- Being with nuclear family.
- Watching TV with parents, with a blazing coal fire in the grate and crumpets for tea.
- Being brought a cup of tea in bed by my Dad on Saturday mornings
- Walking to the Library with my Dad every Monday evening, come rain or shine, for years
- Mother always being there.
- More specific, when times weren't easy, such as when being bullied at school, there was always home to return to, where mum was always there for me.
- The smell of chicken in soya sauce
- Seeing my Mum, wherever she lived in the world, after being away at boarding school in Belgium.
- Of course: of my brother teaching me to read, to paint and even to knit; of my father reading me a story, and later of discussing the current politics with him; of my mum singing to me, of dressing me up, and taking me to a theatre or a cinema; of my grandmother cooking for me, and telling me about her life. The best part was having a good night kiss from all of them.
- Mum - her homeliness and down-to-earth honesty
- When I first learnt to ride a bike by myself, my whole family where in the park watching and cheering me on
- Learning to bake with my nan and licking the bowl.
- playing in the garden with my brother
- When my parents used to read me and my brother to sleep when we were in first school
- Football pitch
- Sitting down watching TV at Christmas with a nice smelling pine tree
- When we're playing board games and everyone is making each other laugh.

- Waking up on a Saturday morning and rushing downstairs to watch cartoons for a while. then as the rest of my family awakes, one by one, we gather for a good meal something like pancakes and then we would all take the dog out on a long walk.
- Coming home after a bad day
- Playing hide and seek with my mum
- Holidays at my grandmother's house in Darlington – feeling sense of extended family/home.
Jumping on my mother's knees in the early morning when still in her dressing gown; I liked the informality of her dressing gown as opposed to the formal dress she wore for teaching.
My father tucking me in.
- Climbing the tree outside our dining room and hiding there. My dad trying to get. Me to come down and me refusing. Playing cricket in our garden. Watching the test match on black and white TV through the French windows in the summer holiday. Christmas meals.
- Coziness by an open fire. Armchairs, firelight glinting on silver and glass, happily absorbed playing on the carpet while the table is laid for food. Playing in the garden in the rain, alone but never lonely, safe with my dog. Tucked up in bed at night. Warm, listening to the rain pattering on the windows.
- Has a lot to do with the sense of smell
- Mum baking in the kitchen, the smell of cooking.
- Mum and Dads Garden swing chair in the garden. Wonderfully comfortable, many an hour asleep on.

Any other thoughts about what Home means to you?

- Loving relationships and acceptance.
- Home is complete when it holds all my children and grandchildren.
- Place to entertain, enjoy, learn, develop and love.
- Security, dominion, contentment, nature/ garden, base to move out from+return to. View!
- I have a sense of home when I am with communities of people that I feel accepted and comfortable with, and that we have some sense of shared aims/ likes (for example: choir, my acupuncture community, WCT). These might not be in the same place – my acupuncture colleagues are mostly based in America, but we feel like a community when we meet online as we have shared aims, and a shared passion for the work.
- Feeling safe.
Without home I'd be lost, and I feel so lucky to be privileged that I find it really hard to imagine a life without home. When I am content I often feel 'I'm home'.
- My home is full of memories of my children and grandchildren and my family getting together. It is where I can remember their development and stages of childhood and feel their love for me.
- Somewhere I can shut the door on the outside world.
- I think, nowadays one can make an informed choice of a place they would like to call home. But having friends and family is always essential. Some interesting activities too, of course. Anything for a simpler life, though, haha!
- A place where you can belong
- The place you feel most like yourself
- Being at home means that there are people around you who love you and who want to help you and see you grow and be happy.
- Where I feel safe and am happy no matter what it helps me get my mind of things
- It is specific to anyone and can sometimes be unideal or tragic
- It's not an physical object, it's a feeling.

- A place where you experience true love for the first time and where you learn and develop.
- Security
- A nest, cave, private and hidden, but also a social space for enjoying chosen people
- It feels like it's somewhere you always carry with you in your memory. I went back to my home in Surrey but it had changed and at once I knew it was no longer mine. I have felt at home in many other places --- Spain; Mexico.
My ancestry is very varied and I wonder if that makes me a wanderer – 'Wherever I lay my hat, that's my home' as the song goes.
I never quite feel at home in Dorset. Or England.
- Home is a lot of things that change as you age and go through life. At present I've just finished a book on my days on being dropped off at the ABC Cinema in Bournemouth, used as a babysitter when my mum and dad shopped in town. Jaws, a film I saw nine times over a summer of weekends. Jaws, that shark and the ABC Cinema, was home for a spell. 1975-1976. The playground at Cuthbury Close was another, where I played with friends. I could go on.

How many years have you lived in your current home?

2 – 40 years

How many different homes have you lived?

1 – 22 homes

Age range

17-25 x 10?

26-45 x1

46-65 x4

Over 65 years x 12