

No Place Like Home.**Menagerie Theatre Company, April – July 2016.****Transcripts of recorded and written interviews, made at the Big Lunch, Dudley Rec Ground, Abbey, Cambridge, June 12th 2016.****Many of the phrases from these interviews were incorporated into the stage performance. They were painted onto sheets which adorned the outer edges of the performance area.****Recorded Interviews – all recordings made by Patrick Morris.**

1) Female

Where do you live?*Newmarket Road***Where do you consider your home to be?***In the Abbey area***When you think of home, what words come to mind?***The happiness and contentment within the house.***When you think of home, what images come to mind?***Having the house nice and having everything there for the children to keep them happy***When you think of the word, Homeless, what words or images come to mind?***Horrible thoughts of people laying on benches, in cold and outside***Complete these phrases as many times as you like:***Home is... Where your heart is**Home is not....a place where sadness should be.**Homes should be... nice and comfortable place for everyone to live**Home could be... happier for some people who are sad***If you had to leave your home in an emergency, what 3 things would you take with you?***My grandchildren, my husband and all of us were gone out. If any time to get anything else, I would just get the photographs of the children***Beyond the house or flat where you live, where else would you call home?***I call home at the church. The church is a nice place to be as a home. It's the home of God, isn't it. It's a nice place to be. (Also) When you go to visit your children at their home.*

2) Male

Where do you live?*Chesterton*

Where do you consider your home to be?

There, in Chesterton

When you think of home, what words come to mind?

Settle, peace, calm, belonging

When you think of home, what images come to mind?

I think it's the...I visualize the things that are part of the home, I think. So I sort of visualize the sofa and the TV and the different parts of the house I use at different times. I know that's 'house' rather than 'home' but I think it's sort of integral to my kind of..erm..yeh.. thinking about what home is about. I mean it's also about people, I mean, I live with my wife. Just the two of us, because the kids have grown up and gone away. One's semi-with us, but she doesn't live with us. She's not far away. So it's about the people. But I suppose the main visual things are the things that I use and the places that I am in the home.

When you think of Homeless, what words or images come to mind?

Ooh, wow. Immediately, I picture a beggar. Beggar's not politically correct. But someone selling Big Issue or something like that. Or someone sitting with a tin, and a dog. Jimmy's Night Shelter, Winter Comfort, that kind of thing. But go a bit deeper and you think about the situations which have often led to them being homeless, which are often nothing to do with their own choices but they've been forced into situations, either mistakes or wrong choices they made, but not deliberate. Or situations, redundancies, marriage breakup, relationship breakdowns, things like that.

Complete these phrases as many times as you like

Home is.... *where I belong; a place I always go back to; a place where love is; where I'm accepted.*

Home is not.... *aah, don't think I can give an immediate gut one to that.*

Home should be.... *where everyone is welcome; I mean, there's part of me, temperamentally I'm an introvert: so I like my own space and I don't want too many people intruding on it a lot of the time. So home is where I can be myself, and it is not the place – although I'd want to be welcoming and have friends – it's not the place where I'm open all hours*

Home could be... *bigger. Space is a little bit of an issue. I think that'll do.*

If you had to leave your home in an emergency, what 3 things would you take with you?

I'd take my I-Pad, which I've got with me now. Because that's got a lot of resources on it, reading material and all the rest of it. My wife. (laughs). One of my main interests is music... at least I can listen to Classic FM or radio 3 on the Ipad.

Beyond the house/flat where you live, where else would you call home?

It's not quite the same thing, but my local church. I feel I belong there, make my contribution there.

3) Woman

Where do you live?

Cambridge

Where do you consider your home to be?

Cambridge. I've lived here all my life.

When you think of home, what words come to mind?

I don't know any more. It used to be community-orientated. But where I live it don't seem like that any more. Erm...just... I'm happy here but there have been some changes really.

When you think of home, what images come to mind?

Kids. Kids, just children everywhere

When you think of Homeless, what words or images come to mind?

Poor people, living on the streets – which there's too much of.

Complete these phrases as many times as you like.

Home is... *happy. Yeh, happy. My home's happy, I don't know about anyone else's.*

Home is not... *a horrible place to be. You should be happy where you are.*

Home should be... *safe. You should be safe at home. And loved at home.*

Home could be... *could be anywhere. Anywhere you feel happy you could call it your home.*

If you had to leave your home in an emergency, what 3 things would you take with you?

My daughter, my mum, and me dad's ashes

Beyond the house/flat where you live, where else would you call home?

My mate's house.

4) Male

Where do you live?

Keynes Road (in Abbey, Cambridge)

Where do you consider your home to be?

Leicester

When you think of home, what words come to mind?

Curry, fish and chips, Leicester City football club, clock tower, Powers Hospital

When you think of home, what images come to mind?

Terraced houses; red bricks

When you think of Homeless what words or images come to mind?

People begging on the street. Waiting outside of ATMs; waiting outside of supermarkets

Complete these phrases as many times as you like.

Home is... *where I spent most of my life*

Home is not... *a holiday destination*

Home should be... *a place you can always go back to*

Home could be... *a place you leave behind*

If you had to leave your home in an emergency, what 3 things would you take with you?

My mobile phone; bicycle; and teabags

Beyond the house/flat where you live, where else would you call home?

Humberstone in Leicester, where I spent most of my life.

5) Woman

Where to you live?

Cambridge, on the north edge of the city

Where do you consider your home to be?

I don't know, probably not the building I live in. I mean, that is home in one way. But it's more, for me it's more being with people, so sort of being with friends. It's more like a feeling than a place, than a geographical place. Or in a kitchen.

When you think of Home, what words come to mind?

2 different kinds of words, because my home when I was growing up wasn't particularly nice. So my immediate thought was that it was difficult, like, lots of arguments. But now, peaceful, I'd say. Now I'm older, peaceful.

When you think of Home, what images come to mind?

Books. I find it really odd if I go into a house without books. The first thing I notice. Untidy, definitely untidy. And cosy.

When you think of Homeless, what words or images come to mind?

Ah, that's really difficult. I think a few years ago, before I started doing the volunteering that I do, I would have said one thing. I don't know that I can pick one set of images, because it's so different, everyone's so different. I probably wouldn't want to put a word to it. If I had to say something, I'd say 'cold' and 'wet'.

Complete these phrases as many times as you like

Home is... *far away*

Home is not... *busy. Not busy and full of noise*

Home should be... *whatever you want it to be.*

Home could be... *a lot tidier. It could be anything I decide it needs to be. And it could change as well.*

If you had to leave your home in an emergency, what 3 things would you take with you?

My dad's PhD; photo albums; the cat. I suppose I should say the cat

Beyond the house/flat where you live, where else would you call home?

Various kitchens that I cook in. Loads of places: some of my family's houses. It depends what I need home to be. But, a kitchen particularly.

6) Woman

Where do you live?

Just near the Dudley Rec. (in Abbey, Cambridge)

Where do you consider your home to be?

My house

When you think of home, what words come to mind?

Relaxed, comfortable, safe, secure, friends, dog

When you think of home, what images come to mind?

My pink living room, my dog wagging her tail, lots of cuddles, my colourful office area, my beautiful garden

When you think of Homeless what words or images come to mind?

People lying on the pavement, abandoned, cold, rough

Complete these phrases as many times as you like.

Home is... *where I feel safe. Comfortable. Where my friends come.*

Home is not... *scarey, uncomfortable, unsafe.*

Home should be... *a haven of tranquility and healing*

Home could be... *a haven for peace and tranquility*

If you had to leave your home in an emergency, what three things would you take with you?

My westie and my terrier, my colour therapy bottles, and my cello

Beyond the house/flat where you live, where else would you call home?

Nowhere else. Cambridge, the larger area. Cambridge is my home.

7) Male

Where do you live?

Chesterton

Where do you consider your home to be?

Cambridge, now. Cambridge is definitely home. But I did live, like, in the middle of rural Northamptonshire, so it's kind of weird when you go back there. It's kind of home, things have changed, it's different, it's like – er – it's kind of strange, but Cambridge is definitely home now.

When you think of Home, what words come to mind?

Family and familiarity. A sense of belonging

When you think of Home, what images come to mind?

I kind of think of summertime in my parents' garden, bbq's, playing games, listening to music, just relaxing in the sunshine.

When you think of Homeless, what words or images come to mind?

The sadness, like the fact that someone wouldn't have that same, er, ties to somewhere, somewhere to call home, it makes me feel really sad.

Complete these phrases as many times as you like

Home is... *where the heart is. Home is safety, stability, somewhere to be, somewhere to be comfortable.*

Home is not... *familiar. If you're not at home you're somewhere else, you're exploring new things*

Home should be... *safe, a place of caring, community as well. It should be family, I suppose.*

Home could be... *anything.*

If you had to leave your home in an emergency, what three things would you take with you?

My phone, water and tissues, you always need tissues.

Beyond the house/flat where you live, where else would you call home?

The city of Cambridge, everywhere it feels like home, such a welcoming place, people are so friendly.

8) Woman

Where do you live?

I live near Fen Ditton

Where do you consider your Home to be?

Cambridge. It's basically where your family is, so mine are all living here in Cambridge.

When you think of Home, what words come to mind?

Love, together, comfort, security

When you think of Home, what images come to mind?

Family, food, dinners, kids playing in the garden

When you think of Homeless, what words or images come to mind?

Alone, cold, sad

Complete these phrases as many times as you like.

Home is.... *where the heart is. Where I live. Home is where my family live. Home is where I'm comfortable. Home is where I like to be.*

Home is not... *scary, home is not depressing, home is not intimidating, home is not unsafe*

Home should be.... *Happy, with family, made with friends, warm, friendly, kind*

Home could be... *anywhere as long as you're with family, friends. Home could be happy.*

If you had to leave your home in an emergency, what 3 things would you take?

My son, clothes, photos, memories.

Beyond the house/flat where you live, where else would you call home?

Where my mum and father lived. Where my sister lives. Anywhere really where my friends or family live.

Which luckily for me is mainly within Cambridge. Just wherever your friends and family are.

9) Woman

Where do you live?

Fison road (in Abbey, Cambridge)

Where do you consider your home to be?

Wherever I'm at ease

When you think of Home, what words come to mind?

Dad, children, comfort, sometimes unstable – would be the main one, happy.

When you think of Home, what images come to mind?

Christmas, Family meals, decorated rooms, catalogue photos

When you think of Homeless, what words or images come to mind?

Cold, lonely, streets, struggle, self-experience – I've been there myself.

Complete these phrases as many times as you like.

Home is.... *Where I feel at ease. Home is where my daughter is. Home is where my heart lies.*

Home is not.... *Not always easy. Home isn't always safe. Home isn't always difficult.*

Home should be... *safe, should be comfortable, should be warm, should be with family.*

Home could be... *a lot more. Home could always be a lot more. Home could always be cleaner, could always be more perfect*

If you have to leave your home in an emergency, what 3 things would you take?

My child, personal items/memorable items. I don't really I have a third.

Beyond the house/flat where you live, where else would you call home?

My dad's house would always be home. Really anywhere that I have friends and family, that I'm comfortable, would be home.

10) Family – Mother, father, 2 daughters below age of 10.

Where do you live?

Daughter: *Cambridge.*

Dad: *Just over there, the next road along. (From Dudley Rec).*

Where do you consider your home to be?

Dad: *Wherever we live at the time.*

Mum: *Wherever I have my family.*

Daughter: *On the next corner.*

When you think of Home, what words come to mind?

Dad: *Everything.*

Mum: *White walls, BBC radio 4 comedy.*

Dad: *Nice meals.*

When you think of Home, what images come to mind?

Daughter: *Cars.*

Dad: *Cars? we don't even have a car. Bicycles.*

Mum: *Lots of bookshelves full of books.*

Dad: *Yeh, lots of books.*

When you think of Homeless, what words or images come to mind?

Dad: *Lonely.*

Mum: *People sleeping on the ventilation tracks in the streets to get heat in the winter and being absolutely dead frozen at five o'clock in the morning.*

Dad: *Cold and wet*

Complete these phrases as many times as you like.

Home is... (Dad) *where the heart is.* (Mum) *Versatile, cosmopolitan. Definitely not a building.* (Dad) *Happy.* (Mum) *Eminently moveable.* (Daughter) *Happy.*

Home is not... (Mum) *a building. Without a garden. Not ever again without a garden.*

Home should be.... (Mum) *with a garden. Home should be safe*

Home could be....(Mum) *open.* (Dad) *Stressful.* (Daughter) *An elephant*

If you had to leave your home in an emergency, what 3 things would you take?

Mum: *My husband and my 2 daughters.*

Daughter: *A suitcase.*

Daughter: *An elephant*

Beyond the house/flat where you live, where else would you call home?

Daughter: *A building site.*

Dad: *The home where I grew up. Where we met and got married.*

Mum: *Paris is probably home as well. The Public libraries in various places are also home.*

11) Woman**Where do you live?**

Off Barnwell Road. (In Abbey, Cambridge)

Where do you consider your home to be?

I think, probably, my house.

When you think of Home, what words come to mind?

Safe, comfortable, relaxed.

When you think of Home, what images come to mind?

A house, maybe a scene that is beautiful, comforting, warmth, a fire.

When you think of Homeless, what words/images come to mind?

Cold, insecure, unwanted, hungry

Complete these phrases as many times as you like.

Home is.... *a place where you can feel comfortable and accepted. A place where you can be yourself. Home is a place where you can be what you want to be.*

Home is not.... *A place where there's a lot of conflict. Where people are horrible to you. Where you don't feel comfortable or wanted.*

Home should be....*a place where you can feel secure and, probably most importantly, able to be who you want to be. It should be a place where you can feel physically comfortable, be warm, have enough to eat, be with people that you like to be with*

Home could be....*a place of creativity. Home could be an amazing combination of nature and, erm, a comfortable living space where you can really make something that looks really beautiful and unusual. And really live out your dreams.*

If you had to leave your home in an emergency, what 3 things would you take?

My phone. Something warm, a coat. A raincoat.

Beyond the house/flat where you live, where else would you call home?

Where I've been happy with other people. Where I've felt very at ease, had fun, where I've felt valued and accepted.

12) Woman

Where do you live?

Chesterton High Street

Where do you consider your home to be?

Cambridge

When you think of Home, what words come to mind?

Pub. Family. Fun. Security. The Future.

When you think of Home, what images come to mind?

River. Green spaces. Chesterton Road.

When you think of Homeless, what images/words

Winter Comfort, blankets, doorways, and food.

Complete these phrases as many times as you like?

Home is... *where the heart is. Or, home is where I lay my hat, that's my home.*

Home is not... *a place a fear. Home is not a place of worry. Home is not what other people want it to be.*

Home should be....*something I am happy with. Something that is in my control. Something that makes me feel safe. Something that makes me feel part of something and useful.*

Home could be.... *Amazing. It could be inspiring. It could be the centre place to bring together all my friends, family, love, hope and ambition. And home can also be an abstract concept, not just a visual or tangible object. So home is much more than just brick. Home could be this idea, a philosophy of a place of security and belonging.*

If you had to leave your home in an emergency, what 3 things would you take?

Most things are quite irrelevant in life when you do it like that. I've got a memory box, but the truth in an emergency is it's not that quick to get to. But in an ideal world I'd like to take the memory box. Which is under the bed in some other boxes. So not really what you'd take in a fire. I'd take my partner if he needs taking, I'd take him with me. Probably my mobile phone, which is really shallow, but realistic. My photographs.

Beyond the house/flat where you live, where else would you call home?

My local pub. The places where I locally reside I'd class as my home. So, my pub, my gym, where I go to socialize on the common, and I need to make a bbq, that's all still my home beyond my house. I live on a cul de sac so the cul de sac we do bbqs, and we invite neighbours, so that's all still my home.

Written Replies – collected by project participant, Joanna Lagey

1) Woman

Where do you live?

Cherry Hinton

Where do you consider home to be?

My house and garden

When you think of Home, what words come to mind?

Safe, messy, quiet, loud, garden, private, space to think

When you think of Home, what images come to mind?

Family together, my garden

Complete these phrases as many times as you like.

Home is... *your safe place, my work space, where my family comes to, where I can relax and be myself, changing but always OK.*

Home is not... *the same for everyone, it's about what you have.*

Home should be... *somewhere everyone has, safe, the centre*

Home could be... *anywhere as you want to call it home.*

If you had to leave your home in an emergency, what 3 things would you take?

Lap top (lots of pictures), my bike (coz I love it), and quilt (made by a friend who has passed away)

Beyond the house/flat where you live, where else would you call home?

Cambridge City.

2) Woman

Where do you live?

Dennis Road (in Abbey, Cambridge)

Where do you consider home to be?

Abbey, Cambridge

When you think of Home, what words come to mind?

Love, love, laugh

When you think of Home, what images come to mind?

Children

Complete these phrases as many times as you like.

Home is... *a happy place*

Home is not... *a sad place*

Home should be... *for everyone*

Home could be... *a fun place*

If you had to leave your home in an emergency, what 3 things would you take?

My family, two children and fiancé Chris.

Beyond the house/flat where you live, where else would you call home?

My friend, Michelle's, house. I am a happy and bubbly person. Family and friends are important.

3) Woman

Where do you live?

Jack Warren Green (in Abbey, Cambridge)

Where do you consider your home to be?

Close to my lovely family

When you think of Home, what words come to mind?

Home sweet home, love, peace

When you think of Home, what images come to mind?

Comfort, fun

Complete these phrases as often as you like?

Home is... *where mum's heart is. Home is where my mum is.*

Home is not... *sadness, violence, loneliness*

Home should be... *lots of love*

Home could be... *anywhere*

If you had to leave your home in an emergency, what 3 things would you take?

My family, pets (Sunny), kids' baby clothes

Beyond the house/flat where you live, where else would you call home?

Wherever my children are.

4) Woman

Where do you live?

Keynes Road (in Abbey, Cambridge)

Where do you consider your home to be?

Close to family and friends

When you think of Home, what words come to mind?

Security, secure

When you think of Home, what images come to mind?

Fun, laughter

Complete these phrases as many times as you like?

Home is... *where you want to be*

Home is not... *like a prison*

Home should be... *safe*

Home could be... *a palace*

If you had to leave your home in an emergency, what 3 things would you take?

Family, pets, pictures

Beyond the house/flat where you live, where else do you consider home to be?

Around friends and parents.

5) Woman

Where do you live?

Comberton

Where do you consider your home to be?

Wherever my children are

When you think of Home, what words come to mind?

Happiness, love and contentment

When you think of Home, what images come to mind?

Me, the kids snuggled up on my bed, with me reading to them

Complete these phrases as many times as you like

Home is... *where chocolate is eaten, a place of fun, laughter, comfort and cuddles, warmth*

Home is not... *absence, darkness, cold, loneliness*

Home should be... *something everyone has*

Home could be... *anywhere*

If you had to leave your home in an emergency, what 3 things would you take?

My kids and my phone because it has all my photos on it.

Beyond the house/flat where you live, where else would you call home?

Wherever my children are. (She wrote, "See number 2!")

6) Woman

Where do you live?

Ditton Fields (in Abbey, Cambridge)

Where do you consider your home to be?

Close to people I love

When you think of Home, what words come to mind?

Happiness

When you think of Home, what images come to mind?

Comfort

Complete these phrases as many times as you like?

Home is... *a safe place*

Home is not... *a sad place*

Home should be... *a warm, loving place*

Home could be... *life changing*

If you had to leave your home in an emergency, what 3 things would you take?

Family, pets, photos

Beyond the house/flat where you live, where else would you call home?

With family or friends.

7) Anonymous

Where do you live?

Riverside, Abbey, Cambridge

Where do you consider your home to be?

Edinburgh

When you think of Home, what words come to mind?

Family, belonging

When you think of Home, what images come to mind?

Security

Complete these phrases as many times as you like.

Home is.... *where the heart is*

Home is not...-----

Home should be... *welcoming to all, happy, warm*

Home could be....-----

If you had to leave your house in an emergency, which 3 things would you take?

Photos (some) clothes, phone

Beyond the house or flat where you live, where else would you call home?

Edinburgh

Ideal Home – Written by participant, Tony Clark.

My ideal home is with family and friends all together in one big area with all mod cons. My ideal house would be in a different world with all new things that I haven't seen or used before. Where I am now is stuck between 2 homes, one in south, one in north, with great and wonderful people that make my life and home complete. The reason for this is because I have family and friends in North, friends in South and would be great to bring both together in a new world and start all over again.