

Memories of Nature Project

What does nature mean to you?

For many people, nature is a place of solace and filled with a lifetime of memories. As this year has been one of uncertainty, the team at Southwell Minster decided to reflect on how important nature is to us. This project is part of the **'Leaves of Southwell'** project funded by the **National Heritage Lottery Fund**, to celebrate and reflect on the natural world.

In this sheet, Joyce shares her favourite memories of spending time in nature. **We would love to hear about your memories of time spent in the countryside or in parks, gardens and allotments.**



Joyce and her Grandad's Magic Mix

During the 1940s, I grew up in Manchester and as a girl, I spent a lot of time with my grandparents and their allotment.

My most important job was stirring Grandfather's Magic Mix. This was brewed in an old dolly tub with a tight fitting lid and a wooden paddle so I could reach the bottom of it.

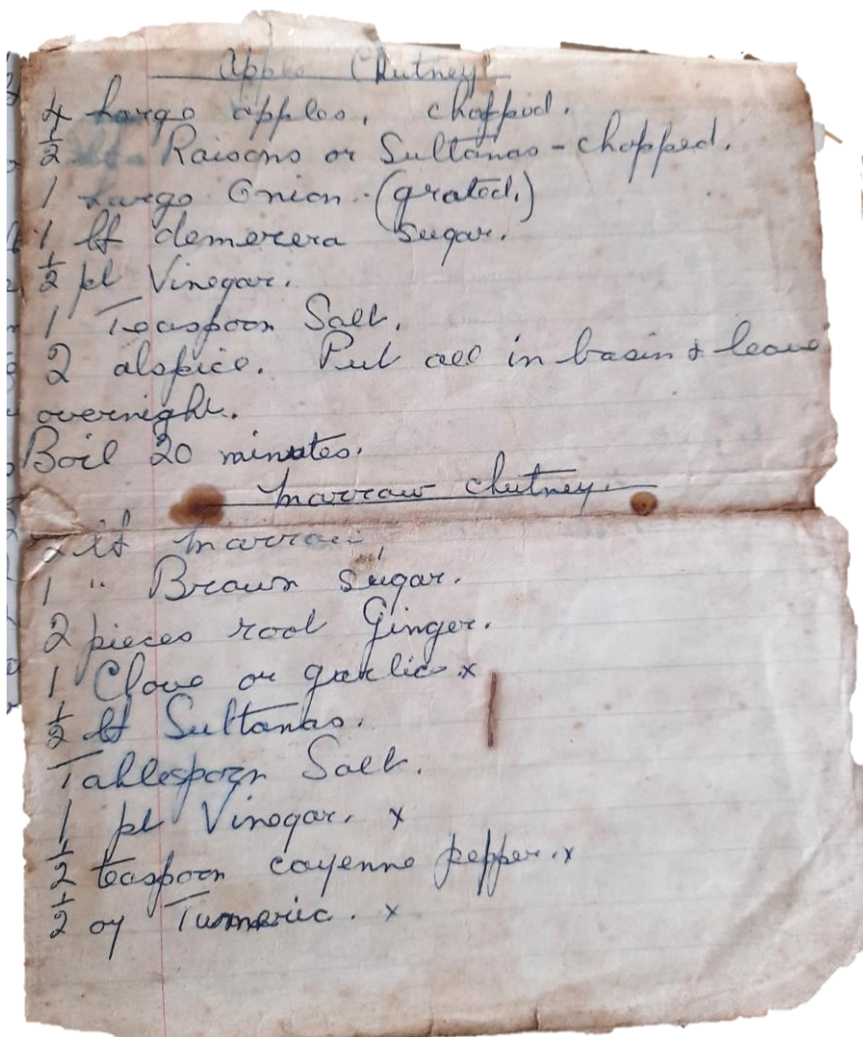
The smell was horrendous, and years later I was given the recipe and no wonder it reeked! It was made from pond water, potash, dried blood and horse manure!



Can you tell us about changes you have seen in how people spend time in gardens or allotments. How are things different now?



Leaves of
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Nature's Bounty

Nature provides a rich larder in our hedgerows and in the past, far more people grew fruit and vegetables in their gardens or allotments, although during the first lockdown many people enjoyed planting and growing things.

Can you share a recipe that uses nature's bounty?



Celebrating Nature

Songs, poems and hymns often connect us to nature:

Joyce remembers:

We'll gather lilacs in the spring again

We'll gather lilacs in the spring again

And walk together down a country lane

Until our hearts have learnt to sing again

When you come home once more.

And in the evening by the firelight's glow

You'll hold me close and never let me go

Your eyes will tell me all I want to know

When you come home once more.

Can you remember the tune?

We would love to know your favourite song, poem or hymn about nature?



Leaves of Southwell



What we are going to do with all the memories we have gathered?

Your stories – we will collect all the memories together and share them later in the project during 2021.

We will use your stories to see how things have changed and how people's attitudes and interaction to nature has changed over time.

We will use this to inform our work with schools and education, to ensure the younger generation understand how and why they should value and care for nature.

Your recipes – we would love to receive your recipes and publish some of them on our website. If we have enough, we might publish our own recipe book.

Your songs – we will have a special concert in 2021 at the Minster Church in Southwell where we can gather to sing these songs that reflect our love of nature and we will also read out some of the memories that we gathered. Everyone who took part will be invited to join us.



Do you have any old photos of you or your family interacting with nature?



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Why we are gathering memories?

During the winter of 2020/2021, Coronavirus will mean that many of us may spend less time out and about outdoors. Let's use this time to think about the nature that surrounds us and share our memories about the changes we have seen during our lives.

Tell us about your ideas for how we can make sure people continue to care for, protect and enjoy our nature. Let's pass this on to younger generations.

How can I share my memories?

In these times of social distancing, we would ask you to **spend time writing out some notes on your memories, recipes or songs either making notes on this sheet or on a separate piece of paper.** You can also take a photograph of some of your old photos to send to us!

You can either:

1. **Email** Aoife Cleland, our friendly Heritage Intern with your notes, photos or queries @ aoife.cleland@southwellminster.org.uk



Or.

2. **Phone** Aoife Cleland (07539283948) and talk with her about your memories who will make notes on your behalf. You may be passed on to one of our lovely volunteers who will also type your memories up and add them to our Memories of Nature collection.



Or.

3. **Post** your notes or sheet to 'Leaves of Southwell', Jubilee House, 8 Westgate, Southwell Nottingham NG25 OJH.



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Make some notes here on your own memories of nature, songs or recipes.

