

I don't think it's just people that make up a community because you can have a bunch of people but yet none of them interact with each other. I think it's people having a desire to fellowship. Where people actually want to get to know others, share their life with others. I think size has something to do with community. If it's not so big that you can get lost.

When you work, you feel part of the working community. At home we have another community. When we come here it's fun. People love to come now. We're part of the Muslim community. We are very empowered women. We make decisions, we influence. We all have a good knowledge of life.



A lot of people here in Kimpton look after each other. If we look after each other, look out for each other then, whatever position you are in, it makes it all work doesn't it?

People were more social 40 or 50 years ago. There were more terraced houses, people mingled more, now it's different. I don't miss it, as I like to keep to myself. I like my privacy.



With Our Ears to the Ground: Community

Alice Angus and Orlagh Woods

publications.

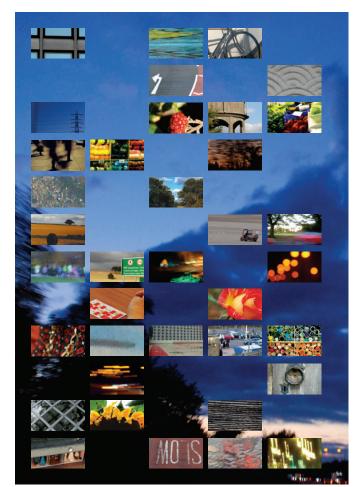
and Perceptions, which now form the basis for the project Transport, Movement, Listening, Community, Getting Involved and events. From this research emerged the six themes of a youth group and collected stories through other activities and visiting community groups. We ran a creative workshop with conversations on the street, hosting a stall at the local market and rural villages. We captured their views through informal small organisations, schools, community groups, urban centres the ages of 5 and 94, from many cultures and backgrounds, from are relevant to Hertfordshire as a whole. We met people between a sense of belonging. These experiences, whilst locally specific, what it's like living in their neighbourhoods and what gives them We gathered their opinions and experiences of their communities,

pubs, cafes, community centres, libraries, at home and at work.

We talked to people in groups, individually, inside, outside, in

motorways. county in cars, trains, by cycle and on foot, on narrow lanes and urban centres, towns and villages and travelled through the its communities through the stories of its people. We researched we put our ears to the ground and got to know Hertfordshire and agricultural land and urban centres. In the weeks that followed It was a journey through old and new; market towns, new towns, down to Pirton, Hitchin across to Watford and back to London. over to Ware and Stevenage then Letchworth, up to Ashwell, day to drive up through Cheshunt, Broxbourne and Hoddesdon, North Hertfordshire and Broxbourne. We set out on an autumn Hertfordshire meeting over 280 people from Watford, Stevenage, In mid 2009 we (arts organisation Proboscis) travelled around

With Our Ears to the Ground



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address government priorities, www.greenneartpartnersnip.org capacity across the arts and environment sectors to creatively and collaboratively local authorities in Hertfordshire and Arts Council England, East. GHP is a strategic partnership project managed by Haring Woods Studio that aims to achieve growth and Council England, East sponsored Arts Generate project funded by its partners; the eleven Council, Watford Borough Council, North Hertfordshire District Council, Stevenage Borough Council and Broxbourne Borough Council. Green Heart Partnership is an Arts Ground was supported by a partnership of representatives from Hertfordshire County Partnership in collaboration with Hertfordshire County Council. With Our Ears to the With Our Ears to the Ground is a Perception Area project facilitated by Green Heart

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Proboscis are an arts organisation based in London www.proboscis.org.uk Proboscis team: Alice Angus, Giles Lane, Ortagh Woods With Our Ears to the Ground was created and published by Proboscis 2009

Credits

Tel: Hertfordshire County Council Strategic Partnerships Unit: 01992 556709 For information on volunteering in Hertfordshire see www.volunteeringherts.org http://withourearstotheground.wordpress.com To find out more or share your thoughts about your community see;

Station and Tony Beckwith, Adriana Marques, Nicola Paddick and Ali Winstanley of Haring Woods Studio for their support. Watford Market; Watford Muslim Women's Organisation; Watford Skate Park; Bowes Lyon Young Parents To Be Group, We'd also like to thank National Express at Broxbourne Ricky Manning: Meriden Community Bar: North Herts College Supported Learners Groups. North Herts Community Development Officers and Wendy Tooks, John Herts Hinority Ethnori Uorth Herts Community Development Officers and Wendy Tooks and the Polish Community Development Officers: Slevenage International Community Community Development Officers: Slevenage Inton Intsining: Kristy Thackur. Selvenage Community Development Officers: Slevenage Inton Intsining: Kristy Thackur. Wattord Market. Waltord Musit Mustrord Market. Wattord Market: Wattord Market. Wattord Musit Market. Wattord Musit Market. Wattord Musit Market. Wattord Market. Wattord Market. Wattord Market. (A Hertfordshire County Council Gypsy site); Kevin Harris; Hertfordshire Music Service; Hoddeedon Rotary Club; Kimpton Bench Working Party; Leavesden Green Community Cafe; Voluntary Service Broxbourne and East Herts: Chells Manor Youth Club, Douglas Drive Day Centre: Great Ashby Community Centre: residents of Halfhide Lane Caravan Park Peppina Albanese, Age Concern Hertfordshire; Broxbourne Station commuters; Council for

uot included here and to the people we spoke to informally along the way; participated in With Our Ears to the Ground especially to the people of Hertfordshire who were so welcoming and gave their time so generously. Thank you to all on this list, to anyone The text in this book is quoted or paraphrased from conversations with people in Hertfordshire between August and November 2009. We would like to thank all those who

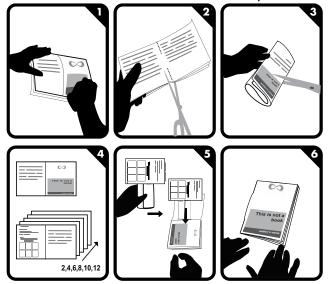
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2010-02-04

A Proboscis project commissioned by Green Heart Partnership with Hertfordshire County Council to explore peoples ideas about community.
Part 1 of 6 eBooks based on the limited edition publication. http://withourearstotheground.wordpress.com/

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Places like markets are often as important for their sense of community as they are for what they sell. In spaces where many people wouldn't expect it, such as a skatepark, it is possible to find a warm and strong community of its possible to find a warm and strong community of its possible to find a warm and strong communities.

From school students, supported learners and youth groups to parents, commuters and senior citizens there are many everyday issues that are the same and many sie many everyday issues that are the same and many various communities they belong to; geographical, physical or virtual communities as well as communities based on friendships, ethnicity, religion, background and shared interests. Despite the communities themselves being very different the qualities that people valued were similar such as friendliness, trust, humour and respect.

Community

What is a community? What makes you want to be part of a community?
What communities do you feel part of?
What gives you a sense of belonging? What makes a neighbourhood a good place to be? Is it trust and respect? Is it sharing and contributing? Is it communicating with each other and strong leadership?

In all this we've taken Proboscis' anarchaeology approach, to informally and creatively excavate layers of meaning and understanding to get beneath the surface of some of Hertfordshire's communities.

Our enduring experience of this journey has been of the generosity of the people, the ambition of their ideas and the determination and commitment they devote to building their communities.

This book is one of 6 that are based on the limited edition publication printed to accompany the project. It draws together the multiple layers of ideas and experiences we found across different communities and it is designed to reflect those ideas and voices.

Alice Angus and Orlagh Woods, Proboscis 2009

With Our Ears to the Ground is a project by arts organisation Proboscis. It was commissioned by Green Heart Partnership with Hertfordshire County Council. It builds upon previous consultations, by Hertfordshire County Council, that used traditional surveys to find out how well people from different backgrounds get on with each other. This publication and the project research will be presented to the community, Council Members and Project Team to inform the Hertfordshire Forward Community Cohesion Strategy, equalities planning across the county, and to support the partners to build stronger communities where people feel valued, get along well together and feel they belong.





