

In the good old days, we were taught social responsibility weren't we? Nowadays, that doesn't seem to happen.

One thing about this Gypsy site, everyone gets on. This site is one in a million. If you walked out and left your car with keys and everything, nothing would happen to it. If we had an old person here, we'd knock to see if they were ok. In other places they're just left alone. When people are in the

When people are in the position where they have anxiety for work, money, health, it is not good for the community or family.

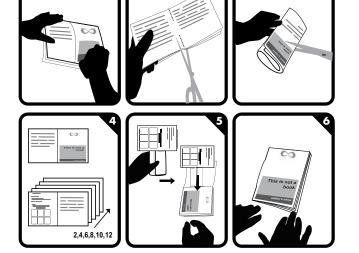




With our Ears to the Ground: Getting Involved

Alice Angus and Orlagh Woods

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publication. http://withourearstotheground.wordpress.com/

Partnership with Hertfordshire County Council to explore peoples ideas about community. Part 1 of 6 eBooks based on the limited edition

A Proboscis project commissioned by Green Heart

2010-02-04

Thanks

not included here and to the people we spoke to intormally 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

Watford Market; Watford Muslim Women's Organisation; Watford Skate Park; Bowes Lyon Young Parents To Be Group, We'd also like to thank Wational Express at Broxbourne Ricky Manning: Meridan Community Bar. North Herts College Supported Learners Group: North Herts Community Development Differes rad wendy Tooks: North Merts Minorky Ethnin: proprie outside Stevenage Job Cantre: Pirton Joyacne: The Priory School Hitchin: Susanne Rider: Sophie Ronson: Michael Siewniak and the Polish Community: Stevenage Community Development Michaers: Stevenage Inhown Tishing: Listy Thackur; Stevenage Community Development Michaers: Stevenage Inhown Statier; Thacker, Towae Luon Waithout Marker: Martic Marting Michaers Stevenage Inhown Stevenage Community Development Michaels Stevenage Luon (A Hertfordshire County Council Gypsy site); Kevin Harris, Hertfordshire Music Service; Hoddesdon 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 Halthide Lane Caravan Park Peppina Albanese, Age Concern Hertfordshire; Broxbourne Station commuters; Council for

Station and Tony Beckwith. Adriana Marques. Nicola Paddick and Ali Winstanley of Haring Woods Studio for their support.

Tel: Hertfordshire County Council Strategic Partnerships Unit: 01992 556709 For information on volunteering in Hertfordshire see www.volunteeringherts.org moo.ssandbrow.bnuorgantotras.com

To find out more or share your thoughts about your community see;

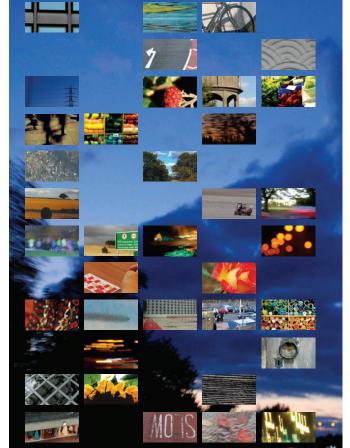
With Our Ears to the Ground was created and published by Proboscis 2009 Credits

Licensed under Creative Commons Attribution, Noncommercial, No Derivative Works The photographs in this book are of Hertfordshire during 2009. Designer: Proboscis with Shanshan Lai Proboscis sre an arts organisation based in London www.proboscis.org.uk Proboscis team: Alice Angus, Giles Lane, Orlagh Woods

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sapacity across the arts and environment sectors to creatively and collaboratively local authorities in Hertfordshire and Arts Council England, East. GHP is a strategic parteristic project managed by Haring Woods Studio that aims to acchieve 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

ασαίεςς government priorities. www.greenneartpartnersnip.org



With Our Ears to the Ground

.svewrorom 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

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

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to celebrate things. I'd bring all the teenagers together and go somewhere like bowling, just to get all the teenagers that actually want to do something with their lives and who can't find work together, to help them look for work to change their lives.

eople spend more time indoors and not outside. we used to come out and

join together in our streets

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.

Alice Angus and Orlagh Woods, Proboscis 2009

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.

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.

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.

get involved. communities that are safe and welcoming people have to we met, there was a shared sense that to develop environments. Despite the differences in the communities Hertfordshire is as diverse in people as it is in

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up groups just to meet and socialise. plans, airport extensions and schools while others had set had come together around local concerns such as town and organise BBQs for residents. In some places people to build their own community centre, set up youth groups There were inspiring stories of people taking the initiative

not working. people are more able to contribute when they retire or are and finance to be part of community activities and many community. Commuters and working families can lack time support channels to help them to get involved in the wider people may not be aware of or feel able to access existing a responsibility towards their community. However some an example to younger people. Many young people do feel important for parents and others in the community to set possibly as a result of these time pressures, and that it is a loss of social responsibility through the generations, Invest in their communities. Some feet there has been People have busy and pressured lives with less time to

and having the time to do it.

ones. It's a case of attitude

people in fact are the older

Some of the most effective

have a quiet life in the country.

have that right, if they want, to

the village who don't enter into

it, that's their choice. People

There are people who live in



community groups, the

I tind, a dying tradition.

garden, but that is very much, to give you stuff from their

who will knock on the door

Who are very neighbourly, We have elderly neighbours

I've noticed that with

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e is high time ery time turns around ami gig ery time turn around ami abi puno. win nxau yon uanag sunna oue chuna Before time Don't waste your time Be only a matter o you nave the time .egnidt redto gniob 🔰 🕹 du nakot si doinw 🕬 more into their time They're trying to fit 100 W 18 vəmit ssəl əndy interacting. People their doors and not Suittude elevition tappen. You just get əyı vəyı Karavə bap Yénom témit tog πονρά και προγραμία και προγραμία και προγραμία που προγραμία που προγραμία που προγραμία που προγραμία που πρ Memory files, but not memory because unless people time is of the essence.

Only a matter of time

Be in the right place

Satch at a bad time

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Catch me later

Buy time

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Give a hard time

From time to time

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or the moment

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rom time immemorial



do something in the community. at a very young age because we wanted to community ethos. We all joined Round Table What's lacking is younger people with a and looking for stuff to do.

them hanging around parks for 1 to 16 year olds. It saves won ii nu'i sw bng gninibit fo tid p tog smum su fo waf A and running here in Leavesden. We've got the youth club up

like you can be part of it. gnileet bas quorg a nioj bas ni about having the guts to come in and doing what you can, it's about skills, it's about coming they have the skills. It's not 20me people might not think

has grown.

It means that their confidence

offering to do voluntary work.

Lots of Polish people are

of the drive at 5am not back sometimes until 12 at night. got involved when I retired. There's a petition to get a skate park. I don't think the council want it. They don't realise how many people skate. On a Saturday you can hardly move for so many people of all age-groups. Younger ones go to Success breeds success. older ones for help, OVER You see somebody doing the older ones keep omething and think,

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the younger ones

out of trouble. It's a

real community, an

informal community.

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YOUTH SERVICE

Because I worked, I was out

"I could do that" and there Because I have children I is an expectation that naturally get involved and get you'll contribute to know about events through them and through my work