

We belong here

Over the winter of 2022, the Young Poet Laureate for Warwickshire, Emily Hunt, and community artists spent time with the community of Polesworth to explore place sentiment and family ties. Linking to the You Belong Here art installation on Abbey Green Park, an interactive installation called Home From Home was taken out to the community. Offering a conventional home setting, people were invited to share their sense of place, identity and belonging through conversation.

The poem is taken from the original words of the community, assembled as a gift to the people of Polesworth.

We belong here
where Earth is a good place -
our friendly, green space
walking in the park
where children dance
on the 3D art
and people throw balls for
Harry, Rolf, Daisy, Jake,
Waffle, Bella
and Skye

We belong here
watching the Anker flow by
some of us born and bred
some of us new to the beautiful abbey
the canal we share with egrets, herons, coots
the openness, togetherness, camaraderie

We belong here
our families warm and snug
happy, safely tucked up
coming home to a roast, a cup of tea,
hugs from a mother, a sister, a father, a brother
the people who make us feel at ease
and our grandparents, our elderly
sharing their memories, our history
meeting for carrot cake at the café
a chat in the library, the sweetshop, the school

We belong
like the cats we stroke in the street -
Snowy, Tommy and Mr Fox,
the dogs of the neighbours we meet -
Milly and Poppy and Peanuts,
Toby, Tilly and Pip,
all the friends we make at the clubs
a pint in the pub
but...

What if someone new were to come -
an alien, or somebody lost?

We would help, we would say:

Why blend in

you were born to stand out -
it's okay!

Polesworth is friendly
our green place, our shared space
no one will hurt you
let us help you
don't be scared

welcome to our world

welcome to our little patch of Earth
(it's a good place)

welcome to Polesworth
(you belong)

Scan me so you
can download
your own!

