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Sarah Hart with her 'journey wall'

# Where are you from?

AN American has been finding out what brought people to Totnes.

And Sarah Hart has unearthed one remarkable story of a man who came all the way from Japan by boat to find out about Transition Town Totnes, so he can start a similar movement in his home town that was ravaged by the tsunami in March this year.

The man, called Takesh, who has now returned home, also survived being attacked by pirates on his way to South Devon.

On her journey wall at her home in Northgate, Totnes, Sarah has been keeping track of

how people got to Totnes in the first place – and trying to discover where they think they might be going in the future.

So what gave her the idea for Where Are You From, Totnes? 'It's about cultural identity really, who is Totnes? A lot of people ask me where I'm from because I sound like I'm from somewhere else, which I am, from North America, and I have had to think about this question a lot,' she said.

'I'm an American citizen who has lived in Canada as much as I have lived in America, so I am sort of confused. I have also lived

in Europe for the past five years, so I sound a bit different.

'I have had lots of interesting conversations with people about where I come from and where they come from.

'I found that even though usually we give a one word answer to this question, actually most people have quite a long story or an interesting story.'

The Transition Arts project ended – for now – with an interactive performance on Saturday night, but the stories of how people got to Totnes will live on with the help of Sarah's recordings.