

THE
TOWN
IS THE
VENUE

DEVERON EXPRESS



/ THINK : BREXIT

WINTER 2019

**QUESTIONING THE TERMS
· A TREE FOR ALL · NEW
WORKS · UNSCRAMBLING
BREXIT · BORDERLESS
CONVERSATIONS · PEOPLE-
CENTRED ECOSYSTEMS**

Confused, bewildered, lost, unclear, perplexed, puzzled... What is it about this daily-changing Brexit scenario? And how will it affect us nationally in Scotland and locally in Huntly? Where to even start understanding, thinking or indeed programming?

Article 50 / Backstop or Fullstop / Blue Passports / Brexit-means-Brexit / BRINO / Cake and eat it / Chequers plan / Cliff edge / Common Agricultural Policy / DExEU / Divorce bill / Dog's Brexit / European Commission / ECJ / EEA / EFTA /

ERG / Eurosceptic / Four freedoms / Free-trade agreement / Freedom of movement / Frictionless trade / Grieve amendment / Hard border / Hitler and Napoleon (path of) / Henry VIII powers / Irish border / Mayday / MayBot / Mayhem / Max-fac / No deal / Remoaners / Reste à liquider / Schengen area / Single market / Soft, Hard & Squidgy Brexit / Soviet Prison / Strong and Stable / Taking back control / Tariff-free trade / Transition period / TTIP / White paper / Withdrawal agreement – are just some of the words that have populated our news vocabulary in recent times. Even countries like Norway and Canada have become adjectives.

A quick look at Wikipedia says: *Brexit*, (*ˈbrɛɡzɪt*), a portmanteau of “British exit”, is the impending withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union. It follows the referendum of 23 June 2016 when 51.9 percent of those who voted supported withdrawal.

Talking of portmanteaus, they are large travelling bags, traditionally made of stiff leather and opening into two equal parts. Will this be an equal exchange? Will we still be able to take even our rucksacks to other places, or welcome artists and

others in return? Or is it time to stay on in our island and make use of our own resources, landscapes, our own common island-ness? Whilst dreaming of a wide world out there, that adopts our goods and trades, our values and culture?

These and other questions we need to ask ourselves. Tired and exhausted of waiting for the Westminster decisions, we must take our debates into our own hands. Globalisation is unlikely to stop at the channel tunnel, or at Hadrian's Wall. What, therefore, are the potential scenarios for us locally, for our visitors, for our environment and for our health and education services? For our artists and for our cultural connections? How can we prepare locally for the best and worst scenarios? This is what we are doing at the moment.

We invite you to (1) join this debate on- and offline, through discussion, visits and artistic contributions; and (2) plant a weeping willow with us on 29 March. Or simply solve our anagrams (see inside).

**Deveron
Projects**

/ Project Updates



Clemens Wilhelm's Brexit Tree weeping willow, in its proposed location on the south bank of the river Deveron.

A tree to heal us

Spanning the 6 month countdown to 29 March 2019, our *Think : Brexit* project has mirrored society, asking questions about how Brexit may adversely affect, or present new possibilities to all areas of our lives as citizens of Huntly, Scotland, the UK and the planet. We have done this by bringing people together to talk.

We've linked Westminster with Huntly, through our synchronised *People's Vote Marches*. Each month we've invited specialists and political representatives from across the spectrum to our *Brexfast* meetings, providing a platform for them to converse with each other and the public. Now it's time for a solid,

future-thinking gesture.

On the day earmarked for the UK's departure from the European Union, artist Clemens Wilhelm will plant a weeping willow in Huntly. The weeping willow is clearly a metaphor for mourning the loss of friendship and cooperation across borders. But it is also a tree associated with healing - healing the divide between friends, neighbours and families created by differences of opinion over Brexit. The tree grows fast - around 1m a year - swiftly charting our growth as a reunited society after this difficult rift. It will provide shelter and a place to meet people, to sit and admire the river Deveron. In 50 years it will die, as too may the living memory of the division caused by that historic decision.

Art about town

Our Town Collection is ever-growing. A total of 85 works are now on display in 72 everyday environments of Huntly and its hinterlands, with four new works set to appear within the next few months. Among these are block printed recipes on newspaper by Lebanese-British artist Aya Haidar, who joined us in 2017 for the Al Nofara Café project, working with the Syrian New Scots.

Also keep an eye out for other new works: an illustrated map by Glasgow-based artist Stuart McAdam; a plaque for foraged wild garlic pesto by food-based artist collective Rhynie Woman; and a menu by Scottish/Chinese Mauritian artist Gayle Chong-Kwan, using text by Jules Verne, following the travels of two Frenchmen to Scotland.

Locations and further information on these works will be appearing on our online archives at deveron-projects.com/towncollection very soon, as well as inside our new Art Trails map, being launched at the Farmers Market in March!

UNSCRAMBLE THE BREXIT ANAGRAMS...

CRAYON IMMUNOCOMPETENCE OUI

CHEESY MICROFILM POISON

ATTIC FIREFLY

AIRPORT DISSENTION

BRIDIE SHIRE SOURS

ZNONNCH GEESE

LAP QUENCHERS

LOWER DYNAMO

SCAPULA UPLANDS (3 WORDS) /

NAE OLD

GRANULATING REMOTELY

DEUX ORBS (1 WORD)

AGARIC MULTICOLOR UNCOMPLY

MUTINOUS CONS

ER, REFUND ME (1 WORD)

ALGESIC PAVEMENT POOP

ECO CREPITUS (1 WORD)

DOVER FEMME FOOTMEN

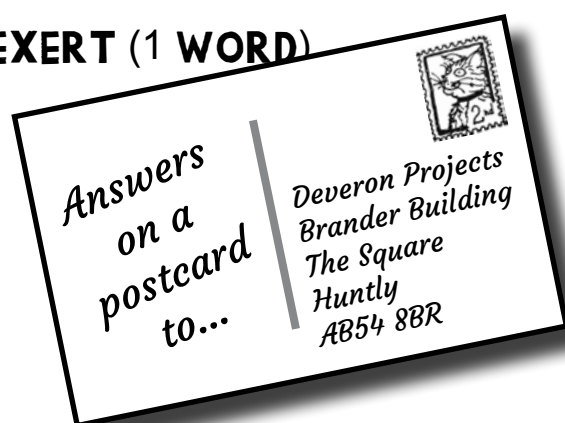
ART BIRD HEX (2 WORDS)

EXTORTS FIB

RARE OMEN (1 WORD)

ELK EMIGRANTS

BRIE EXERT (1 WORD)



Skype conversation between Thinker in Residence Marsha Bradfield and Claudia Zeiske

CZ: Good afternoon Marsha. This year we have been running our Thinker in Residence programme in a more structured way. We had the pleasure of hosting you this autumn. Tell us a bit about yourself and how you found your thinking time in Huntly.

MB: I often describe what I do in terms of 'riding the hyphen'. So I'm an artist-curator-writer-researcher-educator-company director... and, and, and... And I'm just back from Deveron Projects where I was cogitating on two epic, urgent and interdependent themes: the mass migration and displacement of people. I should mention that going forward my own country of residence is uncertain. I was born in South Africa but am a Canadian citizen (Commonwealth twice over). After more than a decade in the UK it may be time

away for a while. Will I be allowed back in?

MB: I'm reassured by your sense of 'rucksack as home' as nomadism may be my practical reality in the near future. This is of course very different from someone displaced by climate change, war or persecution. Yet all these scenarios involve movement and existential crisis, which is I'd argue being ramped up by the general uncertainty laced with fear.

CZ: We have been thinking hard here in Huntly about how we can respond to the Brexit context, but this is difficult because so little is known about how it will work out in the end. We at Deveron Projects are very aware that we tend to talk to the like-minded – online, but sadly also here locally. We *must* talk to other perspectives.

MB: Yes. Creating community and working with it as a *whole* has long been your mantra.

people think I'm mad.

MB: This actually makes a lot of sense from an historical perspective. Before the Agricultural Revolution some 12,500 years ago, hunting and gathering was the norm. In his book *Sapiens*, the historian Yuval Harari argues that this way of life was happier and healthier. These humans were more 'affluent' because they worked less, had a strong sense of community and were deeply engaged with their environments. I don't doubt the great benefit of a stateless society but I struggle to imagine how it might be organised, especially with global population growth.

CZ: I have not thought that far. Maybe it could be a mega-state with a people-centred government. The EU was a good attempt but it also needs reforming. If the EU was the *State of Europe*, then we would automatically take our less affluent neighbours under our



to leave for reasons not of my choosing. Claudia, you've also been attending to your immigration status and this has also caused you angst.

CZ: Yes, 'angst' fits with being German. The decision to leave the EU has made me rather unsettled here, forcing me to ask myself, "Where is my home?" for the first time. I've always seen myself as a citizen of the world, or at least a citizen of Europe. But now I am a 'citizen of nowhere' as our PM poignantly said. This concern made me walk from *Home to Home*, from my home here in Huntly of 20+ years to my ancestral home near Munich, where my mother still lives.

MB: These references to identity and movement are clearly themes at the heart of your mobile enquiry into 'home'.

CZ: Many people ask me whether I *found* my home, but the only answer I can give is, "it's my rucksack". They also ask me what I thought about. Were there any decisions or outcomes? The one thing I decided was to apply for UK citizenship. I didn't really want to, but I did want to keep my options open. I am told by the powers to be, that as a European, it will be easy to gain settled status. But it's unclear what happens if I go

CZ: But Brexit has made working together much harder. We have tried to overcome this through dialogue on thematic issues that impact us all, such as the environment, tourism, health and economy.

MB: Earlier you used the word 'unsettled' to discuss the impact of Brexit on you personally. It's a poignant way of putting it because it uses the language of migration metaphorically to broach its psychological consequences.

CZ: Feeling 'unsettled' is a bit like our town slogan *Room to Roam* – it refers to parallel states of being: both physical/geographical and mental. I always wondered how our world would be if we had no borders. The passport is a fairly new invention. At first they were identity documents to help people prove who they were in foreign lands. But now passports keep people out. If you don't have a passport, you are a nobody. If you don't have the right one, you might also be a nobody in another place. What would a world without them be like? Would people really move en masse? Maybe they would settle in less habitable places like the tundras of Russia or Canada. This might be difficult at first, but maybe we would move too. I like to play with this idea. But many

wings. But then we would also further the *Fortress of Europe*.

MB: Desirable futures begin with past experience and knowing what we don't want. I have this fantasy, this dream, also a bit mad. All of us – the people of Huntly, the leaders of the EU, everyone everywhere – together and simultaneously engage in the thought experiment by the philosopher John Rawls. The 'veil of ignorance' works like this: Imagine your identity is unknown to you. You don't know your age, gender, class, if you even have a passport, if you are able bodied and so on. Now imagine creating an ideal society. Remember, you don't know your own needs. I sense that many would join me in hedging bets. We'd create a social order that meets as many needs as possible of all the members involved. It's a powerful proposition because it uses self-interest and common sense to better grasp what is fair and just.

CZ: Amazing thoughts. Let's hang onto them Marsha. Thank you for this conversation and for being our Thinker in Residence.

Marsha Bradfield is currently based in London, 'riding the hyphen' in her many roles in the arts and education. She is a member of the Precarious Workers Brigade, and founder of artfieldprojects.com.

/ Events Calendar

/January

 **Sunday 6**, New Moon

Wednesday 9, 10am, 8 Castle St.

January *Brexfest* brunch discussion - How might Brexit affect our local health- and social care?

Friday 11, 1pm, Friday Lunch, Brander Kitchen
Bibo Keeley, artist's talk, *The Wind in my Soul*

Wednesday 16, 8-9am, 8 Castle St.

Town is the Garden fortnightly reading group.

Breakfast provided, see website for texts.

Other dates: 30 Jan, 13 & 27 Feb, 13 & 27 March

Wednesday 16, 12:30pm, Maritime Museum, Aberdeen
A Deveron Projects talk on the *White Wood*, Huntly's living monument to peace.
Booking essential, call 01224 337714

Thursday 17, 7pm, 8 Castle St.

Beuys - film screening

Released in 2017, this film explores the work, perspective and lasting social impact of the visionary artist - who informed our living monument to peace, the *White Wood* - thirty years after his death.

Friday 18, 1pm, Friday Lunch, Brander Kitchen
Fiona Alderson, Networks of Wellbeing, *Wellbeing and the Community*

 **Tuesday 22**, Full Moon

Tuesday 22, and every Tuesday for 8 weeks

6-7:30pm, 8 Castle St

Doric Language Classes with the Elphinstone Institute (8 week course)

Booking essential / £60 / £40 / bursaries available

Friday 25, 1pm, Friday Lunch, Brander Kitchen
Sitsmith & Co, *The landscape of chairs*

Monday 28, 6-8pm, Brander Kitchen

Food Chain cookery workshop

Venezuelan *Arepas* (stuffed savoury cornmeal buns) with Sonsiree Reeve

Booking essential / £5

/February

Friday 1, 1pm, Friday Lunch, Brander Kitchen
Gray's School of Art Contemporary Art Practice students, *Talking Brexit*

Saturday 2, 9am-1pm, Huntly Farmers Market

Huntly Connectivity Map

Track your family relationships with Europe and beyond, over a cup of tea

Saturday 2, 10am-5pm, 8 Castle St.

Organising for Activism workshop with Tripod

 **Monday 4**, New Moon

Wednesday 6, 10am, 8 Castle St.

February *Brexfest* brunch discussion - How might Brexit affect exchange in the arts, in Scotland and beyond?

Friday 8, 1pm, Friday Lunch, Brander Kitchen
Claudia Zeiske, *Art & Craft in East Africa*

Thurs 14, 7pm, 8 Castle St.

Thinking Like A Mountain - Film screening and discussion. This film explores the complex reality of the Arhuacos, the ancient guardians of the forest and the ice of Colombia's highest mountain.

Friday 15, 1pm, Friday Lunch, Brander Kitchen
Jon Blackwood and Maja Zečo, *Contemporary Art in Bosnia-Herzegovina*

 **Tuesday 19**, Full Moon

Friday 22, 1pm, Friday Lunch, Brander Kitchen

Ron Brander, *A Huntly Nurse in WW1: "...as only we can know"*

Saturday 23, 10am-2pm, 8 Castle St.

Thinking Like a Forest with Alan Carter

A workshop on utilising forest gardening to produce a year full of edible and useful crops.

Monday 25, 6-8pm, Brander Kitchen

Food Chain cookery workshop

Dutch *Erwtensoep* (hearty pea and pork soup) with Baukje De Roos

Booking essential / £5

/March

Friday 1, 1pm, Friday Lunch, Brander Kitchen
Alix Rothnie, *Curating the Huntly Town Collection*

Saturday 2, 9am-1pm, Huntly Farmers Market
Town Collection living board game!

Play our giant board game to celebrate the launch of our new Town Collection trails and map. Throw the dice to get round the exhibits on the Square and win a prize!

 **Wednesday 6**, New Moon

Wednesday 6, 10am, 8 Castle St.

March *Brexfest* brunch discussion - How might Brexit affect education and our linguistic links to the world?

Friday 8, International Women's Day

1pm, Friday Lunch, Brander Kitchen

Sue Taylor, *Women in hill running*

Thursday 14, 7.30pm, 8 Castle St

Fractured Land - film screening presented in partnership with Take One Action Film Festival

Friday 15, 1pm, Friday Lunch, Brander Kitchen
Annette Brooks-Rooney, *The future of advice through Gordon Rural Action*

Saturday 16, 12noon, Deveron Road woodland path
Rhynie Woman Town Collection plaque unveiling with wild garlic picnic

Saturday 16 & Sunday 17, 10am - 5pm, Linden Centre
As long as there is Bread... A two-day bread making workshop with Doug Cookson

 **Thursday 21**, Full Moon

Friday 22, 1pm, Friday Lunch, Brander Kitchen
Clemens Wilhelm, *The Scar: walking the iron curtain*

Monday 25, 6-8pm, Brander Kitchen

Food Chain cookery workshop: *Käsespätzle* (Hand made noodles with cheese) with Clemens Wilhelm
Booking essential / £5

Friday 29 - Brexit Day

Commiserate / Celebrate / Collaborate

A day to come together and unite for the future.

Events include the planting of a weeping willow

by artist Clemens Wilhelm, and run from lunch

till 11pm - the moment Brexit is due to officially

take effect. Please see www.deveron-projects.com/thinkbrexit for the full programme.

This morning I met my friend Camille. They were full of awe, returned re-formed from an adventure. They had fallen into an enlarged state, so massive they orbited the sun, a new twin planet to our Earth, sentient and remembering. “The Earth is alive!” Camille gasped “the weather we see from land and sea is breath, chi, humours.” Here is Gaia, she who intrudes, no longer dreamed as a self-healing organism. *We know only too well, now, that the global result of the complex, non-linear couplings between processes which compose her, and which sustain what we have so long taken for granted, was never stable, only metastable, subject to brutal, global mutation.* (Stengers 2013: 136). Camille is enraptured as after witnessing a terrible birth, “and she’s changing state”.

Then, Camille continued, they tumbled into a miniaturised form, communing within one of their very own human cells. They witnessed a collaborative life process, a sympoiesis where a prokaryotic cell, capable of oxidative mechanisms, joins forces with eukaryotic cells who offer protection, a home. This collaboration leads to mitochondria, which live in most human cells and supply the chemical energy the cells need to function. But these mitochondria have their separate genome, showing substantial similarity to bacterial genomes (thank you Wikipedia). “We are always already multiple!” Camille finds relief in their multiplicity. “That ecologist from the 60s, Fiscus, might have been right with his ‘ecosystemic life hypothesis’! We should focus on ecosystems in order to understand processes of life, not individual organisms. After all, even apparently individual organisms, like a human person, is already an ecosystem”.

Camille was clearly inspired, the future clear. I had to intrude. “I’m thrilled by all these ideas and stories” I really was “but I’m a person-centred Everyone-is-an-artist. Where are the people in these ecosystems thinking, in these sympoieses?” The Universal Declaration of Human Rights proclaimed in 1948, was a milestone which had never been seen or achieved before. The principles of the declaration have become a part of customary international law stating the *recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world*. Individual rights and responsibilities are the basis for our legal systems, our democratic procedures, our health care systems. How would we care for people if we shifted our attention to ecosystems and were no longer people-centred? I carried on “Not all humans are equally responsible for the environmental crises we are experiencing. How would those who pollute rivers, erode soils, destroy forests be held accountable if individuals were no longer our focus? How would we work out responsibility?”

Camille and I had a long quiet think. “How do we do both?” we thought. What would multispecies responsibility be? And art? Are the distinctions of art and science less useful now, too indigenous to the very modernisation that has led us to taking for granted this Earth, these sympoieses, these mutual dependencies? Do we need, perhaps, ways to learn to become affected by our multispecies engagements (Meulemans 2017), ways of attending that renew our thinking and planning for living in the ruins that this Earth already is? For living in wounded flourishing.

Germain Meulemans 2017 *The Lure of Pedogenesis: An Anthropological Foray into Making Urban Soils in Contemporary France*. PhD Dissertation, University of Aberdeen

Isabelle Stengers 2017 *Another Science is Possible: A Manifesto for Slow Science*. Polity Press



A story from Town is the Garden...

/ Notices

People

Welcome

Clemens Wilhelm, **Artist**
Lauren Campbell, **People's Act**
Project Worker
Zeynep Yildiz, **Intern**
Natasha Natarajan, **Intern**

Goodbye

Gabriele Konsor, **Artist**
Ronald Eckelt, **Artist**
Marsha Bradfield, **Thinker in**
Residence
Laura Henry, **Intern**

///COMPOST DOCTOR\\

If the weather is not too cold then winter is a great time to finish tidying up your growing spaces. All the fallen leaves are a great addition to compost heaps. Be careful not to put any diseased looking material into your heap though to keep it healthy.

If you have compost already rotted down, then now is a very good time to put a mulch onto your veg plot and around any fruit trees to give them a feed.



If your compost heap is not looking great, too slimy, too dry, or just not doing much, we are offering a Compost Doctor service. We can come and have a look and diagnose what needs to be done to get your heap decomposing nicely, ready for using in your garden next year.

To find out more about the Compost Doctor, get in touch: 01466 794494, or email lindy@deveron-projects.com

The Bike Shack



Stephen rd, Huntly / 01466 793792

JOIN US FOR
»» **BREXIT DAY** ««
29 MARCH 2019

◀▶ **PEOPLES' TAPAS LUNCH**
◀▶ **PLANTING OF THE**
WEEPING WILLOW
◀▶ **COMMISERATE/CELEBRATE**
CEILIDH WITH
DISCONNECT DISCO

HAVE YOU GOT YOUR
SLOW MARATHON
TICKET YET?



Saturday 20 April Pathmakers'
Gathering and registration
Sunday 21 Slow Marathon

Early bird tickets just £20 till
15 February (save £10!) Book at
www.deveron-projects.com

Our Guests

Jamie Wilkinson / Cllr Moira Ingleby / Cllr John Latham / Cllr Gwyneth Petrie / Cllr Robbie Withey / Janelle Clark / Zoe Walker / Neil Bromwich / Phoebe Roze / Francis Davis / Katie Rose Johnston / Gabriele Konsor / Roland Eckelt / David Finn / Richard Demarco / Terry-Ann Newman / The Gordon Schools Erasmus Project / Bryan Beattie / Across the Grain festival bus tour / Doris Sutherland, NHS Grampian / Bob Donald, One Seed Forward / Garioch Women for Change / Grace Banks, Storyteller / Christine Steiner, Forest Educator / Nigel Cockburn / Karen Collins, Naturally Useful / Jansu & Elif Tanyeli / David Ward / Ian Hudgton, MEP / Jon Blackwood / Marie-Ann Lerjen, Artist, Zurich / David McCubbin, Visit Aberdeenshire / Kevin Banks / Bobby Sayers / Steve Gray / Jenna Adams, Employment Support Team / Nick May / Alan MacPherson / Yuniar Aguiar / Jason Williamson / Mike Whittall / Kevin McIntosh / Steve Brown / Iain Irving / Christine Sell / Camilla Crosta / Pauline Burmann / Chantelle Thomson / Chloe Kift / Sophie Hope / Alistair Heather, Elphinstone Institute / Angela Allan, Community Learning / Marsha Bradfield / Joe Brown & Annette Brooks-Rooney, Gordon Rural Action / Saoirse Anis / The Easdale Band / Fiona Alderton & Di Mitchell, Networks of Wellbeing / Douglas Rennie / Christine Borland / Ross Sinclair / Nigel Cockburn / Clemens Wilhelm / Dave Whitehead / Raye Marcus / Emil Thomson / Oil Network North East / Scott Herret & Annabel Pinker, Hutton Institute / Sam Trotman, SSW / John Gallagher, Stewart's Hall / Al Carter, Reforesting Scotland / Al Reeve & Karen Muller, Scottish Invasive Species Initiative / Anne Ruthven / Andy Smith / The Gordon Schools LGBTQ+ & Allies club / Biba & Brian Keeley / Rachel Ashton / Abbie Quick / Mina Brennan / Connie Sim / Deborah May



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Follow us on facebook, twitter and instagram

Deveron Projects is based in the rural market town of Huntly, Scotland. We connect artists, communities and places through creative research and engagement. The town is the venue describes the framework in which we work and contribute to the social wellbeing of our town. We have engaged with local people, and their clubs, choirs, shops, schools, churches, bars and discos since 1995.