

THE  
TOWN  
IS THE  
VENUE

# Deveron Express



## / Gayle Chong Kwan: *Wandering Waste* - Skills Biennale and Hairst Festival

Autumn 2014

Urbanscapes/Ruralspraws,  
German TV, Referendum Quiz,  
Shortbread, Maps, Halloween,  
Skills Biennial, History Boys,  
Hielan' Safari, Travel Writing,  
Train Journeys, Perceptions of  
Exploration, Farmers Market

As part of the Skills Biennale, Scottish/Chinese Mauritian artist Gayle Chong Kwan joined us from London this summer, to work with Dean's of Huntly Shortbread factory, developing new artisan shortbread creations, during Huntly Hairst festival.

[www.skillsbiennale.wordpress.com](http://www.skillsbiennale.wordpress.com)

Gayle has been working with us on a project exploring waste in food, growing, production and consumption. *Wandering Waste* is part of a wider collaborative project between 5 arts organisations in the north east of Scotland called the Skills Biennale, which sought to explore the wider topic of food and sustainability and provide a platform for the exchange of skills and ideas between artists and local food practices. Five artists were paired with local food organisations to question our relationship with food production and distribution. Each artist/food organisation pairing was asked to develop a Slow Prototype together, collaboratively and on equal terms – without the common hierarchy of an artist commissioning a producer.

Citing the story of Jules Verne's discovery of Scotland, and later adoption of its landscape and culture in his novels, Gayle, as part of her practice, adopts the role of a traveller to distant and fantastical lands of aesthetic food ideals, non-aesthetic food and notions of waste, to explore the notion of archetypes and remains, what is in excess, left over from, seen as superfluous, discarded. Gayle developed her

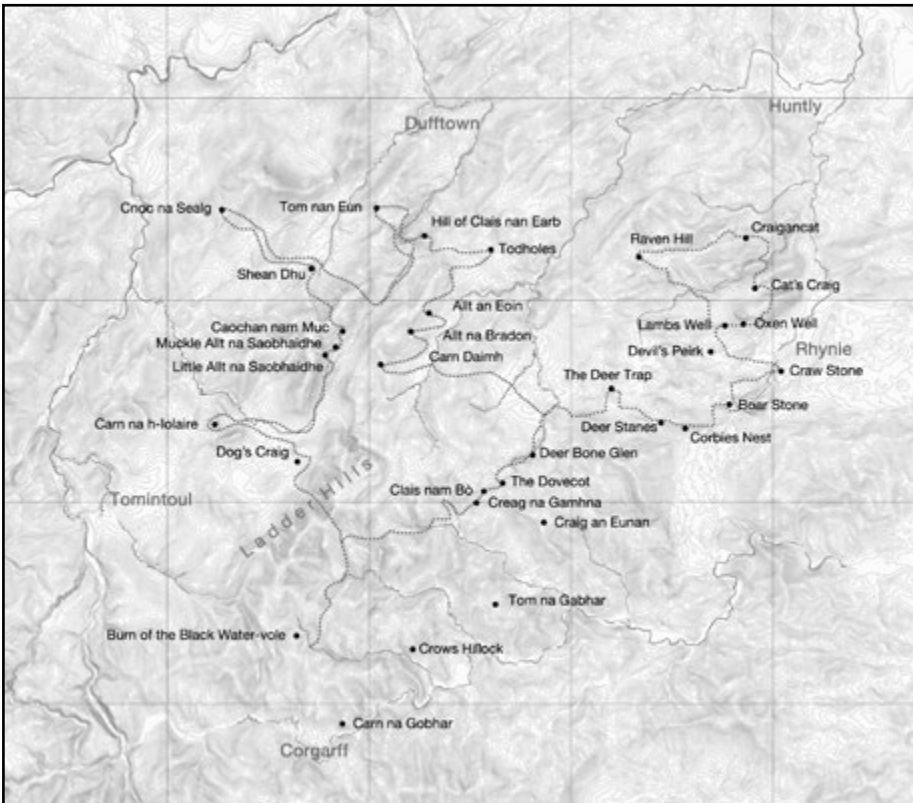
Slow Prototype with Dean's Shortbread, aiming to produce new recipes from their waste (and with herbs grown locally in a community allotment); providing an alternative narrative which acknowledges waste in food production rather than ignoring it.

The project culminated in a two day event – the Skills Biennale itself – where visitors were taken on a coach tour of all the collaborations, allowing the audience to see each of the 5 Slow Prototypes. Gayle presented her Slow Prototype at the Huntly Hairst – a local food festival – where visitors were invited to take part in special tasting tests ready for all the senses.

The project was in collaboration with Sound, SSW, Woodend Barn and Gray's School of Art. Each produced their own SlowPrototype.

Deveron  
Arts

# Projects - Projects - Projects - Projects



## ***Hielan' Ways Project*** **/ History Boys Dinner**



Gill Russell has been working with us on our Hielan' Ways project – seeking to explore the remote area once covered in drovers routes between Huntly and the Cairngorms – spending many hours out in the landscape walking and mapping. As part of this she organised a special evening dinner; a gathering of local heritage enthusiasts from Glenlivet, Glenbuchat, the Cabrach, Rhyndie, Tarland who have a specific knowledge or interest in the Hielan' Ways area.

Hosted by Gill - with the wonderful Rhyndie Wom-

an collective providing locally sourced and foraged food - the evening took the form of a structured three course dinner; with the conversation being guided by a set of predetermined topics and a few visual and anecdotal prompts during the event.

Participants discussed the evolution of land use in the area (from shielings to shooting butts), local myths and mythology, long lost traditions and unusual rituals, the makeup of the landscape and its effect on those who inhabit it, walking and transport, unexplainable occurrences, deed bodies, and the communities who used to live there. Alec Finlay and poet David Wheatley came along too, providing some interesting insights into local Gaelic names, with some of their poems about the area.

*Above is a map of one of Gill's walks in the Hielan' Ways area; the Hielan' Ways Safari. As Gill puts it 'an alternative to Munro bagging.'*

## ***The Lubare and the Boat*** **/ Xenson's Final Act**

As his final act here at Deveron Arts, performance artist Xenson led a small team on a 10 mile

trek from Huntly to Rhyndie following the course of the River Bogie.

Inspired by the life and work of Rhyndie born explorer and missionary Alexander MacKay, Xenson has been attempting to bring some of Mackay's legacy back into the area. MacKay grew up here over a hundred and fifty years ago. Interested in the impact Mackay and other missionaries have had on Uganda and other African nations, Xenson sought to question what kind of legacy they had left and what he himself could leave in Scotland in return.

The action mirrored the journey MacKay made in 1876. To reach the Kingdom of Buganda, MacKay and his team had to carry not only a large printing press, but also their boat, the 'Daisy' in sections along the course of the unnavigable River Wami - to begin his mission towards Lake Victoria. Xenson made this journey in reverse; travelling instead from Uganda to Aberdeenshire, and then finally walking from Huntly to the house of MacKay's birth in Rhyndie. Carrying with him a boat made from bamboo and a specially designed and printed bark cloth incorporating many images and symbols signifying his time here in Huntly. The boat made travelling along the river bank even harder, with sections of the journey feeling very much like travelling through unexplored land, swamp, bog and jungle.

Xenson's walk brought MacKay's teachings full circle, returning them to his place of birth, cheekily giving them back to his home country. As Xenson says, 'Thank you for all your gifts, now in return have them back.' MacKay's journey took 2 years. While Uganda today is a highly Christian country, in his life time he converted only two people to Christianity. Xenson's journey to Rhyndie took 8 hours; in his life time he has converted...





# Cork Board



**VOTEMOBILE in action!**

## Halloween in Huntly

*Friday 31 October*

*5-8pm - Battlehill*

**Haunted Hytti**

*Food, music and spooky stories*

*Saturday 1 November*

*9am - **Farmers' Market**, Huntly Square*

*Apple pressing with Deveron Arts, bring any spare apples and bottles*

*5pm - Huntly Castle*

**Dudendance Borderlands**

*featuring*

*Aurora Choir and soundscape by Fabiana Galante*

*Huntly and District Pipe Band parade*

*Inspire pizza oven*

*6.45pm - Stewarts Hall*

**Fancy dress competition**

**Creepy Ceilidh** with the Strathspey fiddlers and Rhynie Woman

*Sunday 2 November*

*2pm - ExServicemen's club*

**Dudendance celebrates 30 years**

*Talk with Anna Duden, Fabiana Galante and Rupert Thomson*



## *The Third Horseman*

I send ye these saws  
Kneedeep i' The Rotten Burn  
up tae ma oxters in the Stinkin Lochie

•

Lost and Rotten  
hae a' been ill-begotten

•

Sourfold and Scrapehard  
hae came tae Windyraw

•

Wha bit a beggar wad gang tae Poorhouse  
Whit bit a Pyke wid swim i' Drywells

•

You'll gain yir fill at Dish Pot  
e'en it is Green Swile

•

Frosty Nibs and Blackmiddens  
are gaan to Reekimlane

•

Badchear and Mirydubs Burn  
haste ye return

•

Bakebare and Peeled Egg  
nae' come back ava!

•

fetch me tae Goryhill  
lay me oot on Dead Wife's Hillock

•

## *Semi-Ironic Coda*

Playlands  
Paradise  
Maiden Paps  
Naked Hill  
Williehead Burn  
Trembling Tree

after verses on place-names in *The Deeside Field* (1924), contributed by a farm servant with the pen-name 'The Second Horseman'. The names in the 'Semi-Ironic Coda' are from the OS, some are freighted with a weight of Aberdeenshire irony.

from: Alec Finlay  
Some Colour Trends

# The Path Travelled



## / Urbanscape + Ruralsprawl

As part of Edinburgh Arts festival 2014 we held a two part event in Edinburgh on Fri 1 August, at Summerhall and Creative Scotland HQ. Artists Ania Bas and Tim Knowles started the day off leading walks around the vast Summerhall – once the Royal School of Veterinary Studies.

Ania used some of the techniques employed by her London based Walking Reading Group – asking participants to first write down a few words/phrases about what walking means to them. This was then used to pair up the group and act as a starting point for a walking discussion through Summerhall in 'crocodile formation' – the first walk. In the same pairs, same formation and following the same route, participants were then instructed to walk in silence, then to walk with one partner blind folded (and vice versa), before gathering to share a few thoughts on the experience.

Tim set out with quite a different set of rules. Each participant was given a number and told to remain in numerical order throughout the walk – often being asked to call out our numbers as we travelled around Summerhall at what felt like high speed. The group was further instructed to repeat everything Tim said, in a walking Chinese whispers style. The group snaked its way through the building, in one long route, before being given a list of rules in which to follow and go off and investigate the building ourselves – things such as only turn left, similar to many of his own works, where the piece is allowed to unfold under the condition of a predetermined rule.

The morning of walking was followed by an afternoon of talking at Creative Scotland's HQ. Ania and Tim were joined by Alec Finlay and Gill Russell – both of whom are working on our Hielan' Ways

project – and chaired by Dave Beech of Free Collective. Each artist talked briefly about their work before entering into a discussion around walking as an artistic practice, one which takes place both within the city and out with.

## / Wigtown Book Festival

Claudia was invited to the Wigtown Book Festival to talk about the ARTocracy book. None of us having been before, we decided to make a team trip out of it. In true Deveron Arts style we used each leg of the journey to frame a series of discussions concerning our current areas of investigation and future programming. We talked about hospitality, the future of Scotland post-referendum and how it all impacts on our way of curating and programming.

During the festival we attended some interesting talks on subjects ranging from the first world war to the Russian poet Lermotov; listened to a trio playing traditional folk music from Eastern Europe, Japan and beyond; took a walk down to the salt marshes to spot some birds; and spent a lot of time in second hand bookshops digging for gold - we all came home with more books than we could carry!

On the way back we visited Spring Fling and Wide Open. Thanks to engage for supporting it all. And to Jan Hogart for chairing the ARTocracy session so eloquently.

## / Autumn Walks with Catrin

Our Cultural Health Visitor Catrin has been organising a series of short themed walks in and around Huntly in collaboration with Networks of Wellbeing. Each walk is under 2 miles and is premised on a particular theme or project Deveron Arts has been working on. So far we have taken a walk along the River Deveron, following in the footsteps of Jake Williams and Anne Murray's project,

*Against and with the Flow*; walked around Battle Hill paying attention to our senses, informed by Nan Shepard's account of the Cairngorms; taken a walk around Huntly directed by the street names and their meanings, inspired by Alec Finlay's project *Some Colour Trends*; visited Huntly Development Trusts' community farm Green Myres to discuss land use in the area. Still to come, we will take a walk around Huntly looking for Oak trees with current artist in residence Caroline Wendling; take a tour of the Town Collection; and visit the allotments to discuss local food production. Check out the Diary section on page 4 for dates.



## / Referendum

*How best to mark this historic occasion?*

Referendum Day was very important to us. In the run up we held a special quiz night based on the British immigration test – with tongue in cheek, we asked quiz goers how British, or Scottish, are you?

On the day itself, Catrin, our Cultural Health Visitor, and Joss, our Shadow Curator Intern, ferried those less able to walk to the polling station in their VOTEMOBILE – a politically non-biased Scottish/British automobile complete with saltires, union jacks and some guest politicians/celebs (masks) aka Catrin's car.

Claudia and our project manager Kate spent the day collecting rowan berries and making jelly – the rowan is known in Celtic folklore for its magical properties, protection against evil and prevention for travellers against getting lost. What were you doing that day, how will you remember it?

## / NDR TV

In July we had a visit from the German NDR crew making a film about Germans living abroad. Claudia spent a couple of days with them, showing them around the area and all it has to offer. On the final day of their visit we held a Burns supper complete with Lugandan style ode in the Deveron Arts garden followed by a ceilidh out on the town square.



*"Art can no longer be art today if it does not reach into the heart of our present culture and work transformatively within it that is, an art which cannot mould society — and through this naturally operate upon the core questions of our society — is not art."* - Joseph Beuys

# The Path Ahead



## / Oaks and Amity

Caroline Wendling began her residency with us this September. Originally from France, Caroline now lives in Cambridgeshire and has a studio at Wysing Art Centre. Over the next couple of months Caroline will be working with us on a project which will eventually see 49 oak trees planted in the local area. The oak trees have been slowly growing in the Deveron Arts garden since Documenta 2012 – each oak is a direct descendent of Joseph Beuys 7000 oaks project in Kassel.

Caroline will spend the next couple of months gathering information, talking with local groups and researching, hoping to be ready to plant the trees early next spring.

So far Caroline has been working closely with local forester Steve Brown, looking at potential sites which would be suitable for the oaks. She set up shop at the monthly Farmers Market to ask people where they would like to see the oaks planted. Caroline has also been collecting people's ideas on what they think the sound of peace might be.

If you know of a good spot, would like to find out more or speak with Caroline, contact us on 01466 794 494.



## / Hielan' Ways Symposium Update

Not long to go until our Hielan' Ways Symposium in Tomintoul. All the speakers are booked - check the poster for new additions (bottom left).

Day one of the symposium has sold out. Friday night will see the premiere of Paul Anderson's Hielan' Symphony - the outcome of a series of solitary walks within the Hielan' Ways circuit. The orchestra will be followed by a ceilidh with Jonny Hardie from the band Old Blind Dogs. Start at 7pm, tickets are still available for this and day two.

Day two of the project will be a day of talking and discussion with our Hielan' Ways artists and symposium speakers, chaired by Prof. Tim Ingold. There are still tickets left! A fringe event on the Saturday night is being organised by Jake Williams and Friends at the Richmond Arms Hotel from 7 pm. Bring your instruments!

## / Cultural Health

Since joining the team last year as the Cultural Health Visitor, Catrin has been busy investigating what cultural health could be and how it can be nurtured in Huntly and for its townspeople. Catrin has adopted approaches by traditional community health practitioners – targeting early years, cultural health promotion and trying to implement culture as a form of prescription.

This has led Catrin (among other activities) to starting up a 6am breakfast bar for commuters, taking teachers and pupils out of their comfort zone and into the wild to taste and feel what is around them, organising a speed-meeting event for Cultural Fund Winner groups and working with new mums to help expose their babies to cultural from the word go. You can visit her blog here: <http://culturalhealth-visitor.tumblr.com>.

From the work she has been doing we've determined that cultural health can be defined as the condition of people's access to / involvement in cultural experiences and their openness to new ideas and behaviours. Cultural Health, alongside physical, mental and social health, contributes to the general wellbeing of a person as well as a community. However we are still working on the further development of this definition.

Coming March, in collaboration with *engage*, Catrin will hold a symposium here in Huntly to bring together her findings and experience so far. Aim is to explore the idea of cultural health with both health and art practitioners. We are hoping this is going hands on and will help answer some questions like: Should cultural health be recognised alongside physical and mental health by the health and social professions? or What are the benefits of health and arts organisations working together?

## *Dates for your Diary*

### **Walking Group**

Easy walks in and around Huntly with Networks of Wellbeing. For all ages, shapes and sizes!

All walks leaving the Square at 10am

Monday 13 October

### **Oak trail in Huntly**

Monday 20 October

### **Town Collection walk**

Monday 27 October

### **Slow mindful walk**

with bonfire and lunch in the allotments

–

Friday 31 October - Sunday 2 November

### **Halloween in Huntly**

(see cork board)

Sunday 9 November

### **Remembrance Day Walk**

a walk around the houses of Servicemen that never came back

Tuesday 11 November, 11.11 am

### **Sounds of Peace**

Brander Library

Friday 14 - Saturday 15 November

### **Hielan' Ways Symposium:**

Perceptions of Exploration

Richmond Hall, Tomintoul

Wednesday 26 November, 7pm

### **49 Oaks past, present and future**

Caroline Wendling with Steve Brown, forester

Saturday 29 November

### **Christmas Ethical fayre**

Stewarts Hall

Saturday 6 December

### **Christmas Basteln**

Crafting session for all the family at Santa in the Bin Forest

Sunday 7 December, 4pm

### **Dressing the Tree**

## *Keep the date:*

Tuesday 3 March 2015

### **Cultural Health Symposium**

Saturday 25 April 2015

### **Slow Marathon 2015**

Route planning in progress!



# Notices

## Cultural Health

Ask your Cultural Health Visitor!

This edition Catrin Jeans offers a word of wisdom to a local resident who is struggling to get involved in all Huntly has to offer...

**The dilemma: I would like to join in with events and groups running in the town centre but I find it difficult to get to them due to my lack of mobility. Can you suggest how I might join in?**

Catrin answers: This is a problem I've heard frequently in the town – access to transport for small journeys can be quite restricted. Huntly has a dial-a-bus, which operates in and around town. Their hotline is 01224 665599 and is opened for bookings between the hours of 9am to 3:30pm, Monday until Friday. Cultural Fund Winner Darren Farquhar has devised a brilliant way of getting around Huntly with his bright yellow 'Thighs the Limit' pedicab. He has space for two people and in good weather it is the most scenic way to journey around Huntly. Darren's project and contact details can be found at [www.huntly.net/cultural-fund](http://www.huntly.net/cultural-fund). Finally, Huntly Development Trust has employed a new member of staff, Oliver Giles, to project a Room to Roam Green Travel Hub. He hopes to start a car-sharing club, provide electric bikes for hire and explore other ways of supporting transport links in Huntly – so watch this space, there might be more options soon!



Catrin solves problems sent in by you. If you, too, have a dilemma, send a brief email to: [culturalhealthvisitor@deveron-arts.com](mailto:culturalhealthvisitor@deveron-arts.com)

## Opportunities

Volunteers / Short-term  
Internships

Keep an eye on our website!

## Shop

### New additions

***Fernweh: A Travelling Curators' Project***  
Edited by Claudia Zeiske & Mary Jane Jacobs  
\*\*\*

*The Caravan Gallery*  
**Pride of Place Huntly**

### Coming Soon

***Hielan' Ways Publications***  
*Alec Finlay, Gill Russell, Ron Brander and*  
*Simone Kenyon*

## People Talk

### Welcome

**Caroline Wendling**, artist in residence

### Goodbye

**Xenson**, artist in residence  
**Aminder Virdee**, Project Intern  
**Riccardo Mariani**, Project Intern

## Our Guests

**Andrea Geile**, artist  
**Alec Finlay**, poet, writer & artist  
**Mike Carter**, writer/editor  
**Ash Branston**, film maker  
**Sven Tietzer & crew**, German NDR TV  
**Deirdre O'Mahony**, artist



*Referendum Rowan Jelly!*

### Travel Writing

In September we ran a travel writing workshop with Mike Carter from the Guardian.

An ongoing quest for us is that of understanding place. Our place and other people's places.

Can writing about one's own place be travel writing?

Let us know what you think and you could win a copy of *Fernweh*.



### FRIDAY LUNCHES

On the last Friday of the month our doors are open for lunch at 1pm.

Everybody welcome to meet us for a hearty meal from the garden and hear what we and our artists are up to!

### Contact Us:

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Deveron Arts works with the context and identity of the town of Huntly in Aberdeenshire. Here, the town is the venue, research base, studio, gallery and stage for artists of all fields and from all over the world. Engaging local people and the community in topics of both local + global concern, Deveron Arts works through a 50/50 motto, bringing together artistic and social relationships in a world wide network that extends throughout and beyond the geo-boundaries of Huntly.