

THE
TOWN
IS THE
VENUE

Deveron Express



Huntly
+ Venice
Special

/ To Wander and Wonder

Summer 2015

Freedom of Movement,
Venetian Banquet, Slow
Marathon, Secret Howffs,
Farewell, Pizza & Polenta,
Pilgrim Hospitality, Scottish
Symphony, Patron Saint
of the Lost

Ever wanted to take some time out and think about your life, what you are doing, and where you fit in the world? On 14 June, artist Anthony Schrag departed Huntly to begin a 100 day long pilgrimage to the most revered of art festivals: the Venice Biennale. *Lure of the Lost: A Contemporary Pilgrimage* maps a path of over 2500km to reach this 'sacred site' for many artists.

Anthony walks to Venice, in this physical journey of endurance, and questions the

systems and values of different places in our world. The route has been adapted from stretches of the Pennine Way and established pilgrim routes such as the Via Francigena, which crosses the Alps into Italy. Traditionally, pilgrimages are routes taken to seek reflection on material or spiritual reward, often as a penance to get rid of guilt. This pilgrimage is an inquiry into the meaning of spiritual goals, and why we always seek something newer, something bigger, something better.

Walking for such a long period of time presents the artist with opportunities for the creation of dialogue and sharing of knowledge with those he meets along the way. Anthony walks at a time when many migrate and often walk the opposite direction, from South to North, to reach safety or a better life.

Since medieval times, traditional aspects of pilgrimage include talking, walking and being hosted en route. Anthony will be staying with artists, art communities and other hosts during his journey, allowing him to shape the process of this pilgrimage into a moveable art work,

with multi-layered outcomes. A small oakling, raised in Huntly from Beuys-Kassel acorns, accompanies Anthony on this pilgrimage. Anthony claims he needs it; to look after this Oak, he will need to make sure to look after himself.

Barbara Steveni, co-founder of the Artist Placement Group (APG) is the Shadow Curator for this project, constantly questioning how and why we are doing this Contemporary Pilgrimage.

Anthony is scheduled to reach the Venice Biennale on 1 October.

All are welcome to join the last leg of the journey and celebrate his arrival in the Parco delle Rimembranze behind the Giardino de Venezia.

Follow Anthony's blog and the Deveron Arts website for further news and events.

**Deveron
Arts**

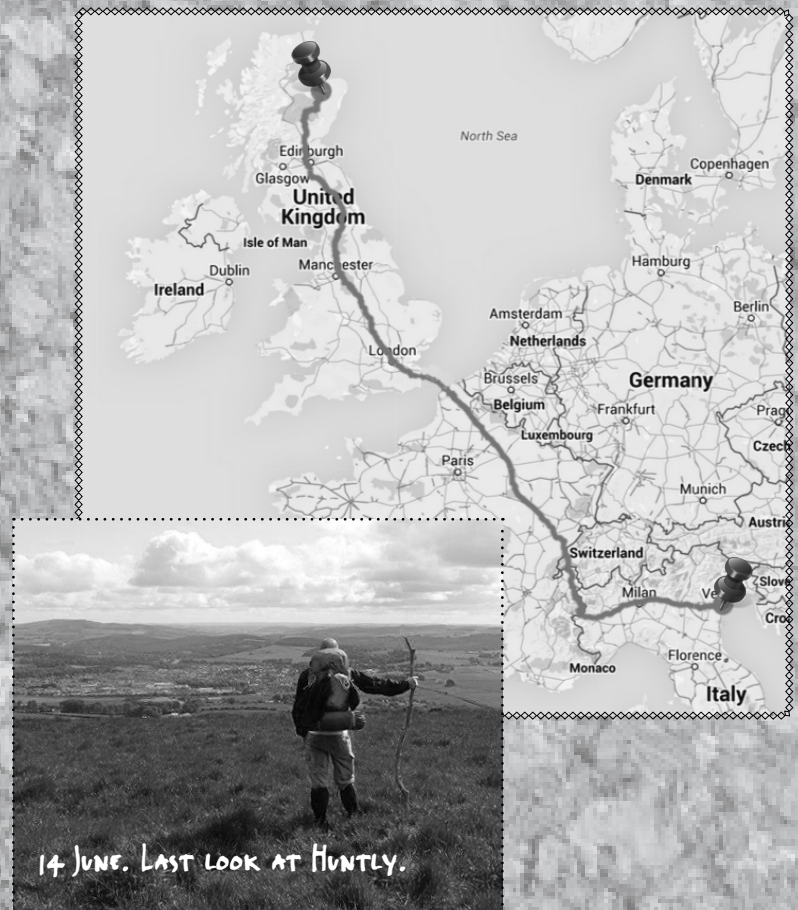
The Project's Diary
Day 10

Today, a man stopped me and asked me if I was the 'the man from the telly'. He recognised me by my stick and asked how the walk was going. He advised me to follow the Borders Abbey Walk, all the way to Hawick. When writer Susan Mansfield joined me, we decided to take this man's advice and sauntered over the hills, talking art, poetry, meaning and spirituality. I wondered if the walk would ever amount to any answers to my questions about art and the place of something like Venice, or just provide more and more questions. We both assumed the latter.

Susan and I found a sheep trapped with its head in a fence. We struggled and wrestled with it until we both managed to pull him free. As it ran away, it seemed like a suitably biblical act, despite having no religious conviction.

It was the last full walking day in Scotland. Tomorrow, I cross a border to another place. I am surprised it did not take longer to leave Scotland.

Read more of Anthony Schrag's Project Diary on his Pilgrimage blog: theartpilgrimage.wordpress.com



ST ANTHONY CAKE
320g puff pastry
3 eggs
150g sugar
200g flour
50g butter
60g chopped almonds
handful raisins
handful candied orange
2 tbspn apricot jam

Put puff pastry in a circular baking tray, with four corners draped over edge.
Spread layer of jam, raisins and candied orange on top.
In a bowl, mix eggs, sugar and honey, then slowly add flour, butter and almonds.
Mix and add to tray.
Close corners of pastry and bake for 30min at 170°



/ Anthony Schrag
In Conversation with Claudia
Zeiske
8 June 2015

CZ: First of all, why are we doing this?
Walking all the way to Venice?

AS: Ha! I ask myself that same question every morning! It first seems mad and the closer we get to it, it seems even madder, but the more I think about it and the more I talk to people about it, it makes sense. The walk is a way to really probe into questions. Lewis Hyde wrote a book about how artists have disruptive imaginations and it is this very thing that is key to re-thinking our life and society. In some ways, this walk is a disruptive imagining of Venice.

CZ: Over a year ago, we put a bid together, applying for Scotland+Venice representation. We put a lot of effort into it and we did not even get an interview. We were quite disappointed.

AS: Incredibly disappointed. But, I am always the optimist, I think that in the end we get to do something quite amazing because of the very fact that we were rejected.

CZ: We were thinking how we could do the project anyway. The Venice Biennale is such a massively competitive spectacle. Why is it so important to us? Is it actually important to us, given the kind of work we are doing?

AS: It's not that it's important or not, it's that it exists. This is more about an inquiry into it; similar to the pilgrims, in the sense that it is an opportunity to reflect on something. We're inquiring into our relationship with 'art'. I remember you once said that you wished you'd not called Deveron Arts an 'arts' organisation because it limited you, and I have often said that I don't call what I do 'art' when working with people. This project is not about 'what is art?' That can be boring. It is more about bigger broader questions of life, society, place, borders. 'Art' gives us a framework to work within, and push against.

CZ: Yes, it can be limiting. Thinking of pilgrimage, in medieval times people undertook those journeys to reach a location of importance. It can also be a metaphorical journey into someone's own beliefs; a meditative process that clears the mind, and to be 'found' along the way. Your journey is similar. Do you think the walk brings into perspective what is important? For oneself and the greater picture of life and society?

AS: Well, I hope so, but I am not sure I will know until I begin. I'm ready to start to explore

that notion of 'perspective,' of what is important. To ensure that it is a true and honest reflection, I cannot prejudice things before I begin. It may be the case that I arrive into Venice thinking that the Biennale is the most important thing in the world. I want to keep an open mind to all different notions, and allow the exchanges and the walk and reflection to guide the perspective. I don't doubt that it will make me think deeper about the notions of 'art' and its place, as well as bigger pictures, but I don't want to prejudice that thinking. Certainly, for me, the desire is to put things into perspective — that is the reason I want to do it — but I need to keep my heart and mind open, once I start, for true reflection. So much of this is also about my personal journey.

CZ: Thinking of walking, you are originally from Zimbabwe, but you have multiple citizenships: British, Swiss, Canadian. You could come across people walking from Africa in the opposite direction. How do you feel about this privileged situation of a commissioned artist doing such a thing?

AS: Privilege is an odd thing. I am aware I am a white, male with many opportunities. And as a white African with such opportunities, I would be a fool not to recognise the fortunate position I occupy. A great friend reminded me that the best thing a person with privilege can do is to shut up and let those, without these opportunities, speak. That doesn't mean I need to deny my own agency or ignore my own ideology. Nor, importantly, do I take a stance that I can help those 'less fortunate' than me, because that creates a whole different scale of hierarchy. Rather, I take the position that we are just human and I must meet every person with that knowledge. It's true that through my birth, I have been fortunate enough to have access to many, many resources, but I believe I must share them when I can, because it is only through such an approach that we can ensure we're not perpetuating hegemonies of power. I don't know who I will meet along the way and what sorts of relationships will be required, but I can only hope that I will be able to meet them as people and explore the mechanisms of power that keep us separated and in different worlds together.

CZ: Freedom of movement and the right to travel is something that we, born with the right passports, take for granted. Could you imagine a world without passports? How would it look?

AS: The freedom to travel is an essential part of my identity. You and I have travelled so much in our lives, we're quite blessed with this. I would love a world where we would have no borders, but, perhaps it's like

'art' — those borders exist as things for us to push against and challenge. I wonder if a world without borders would be more or less fraught with difficulties? Would we stay in our own locations more, or less? Walking across borders will highlight a lot more of these issues than flying or taking the train.

AS: My turn for a question: When we started planning, you said that you wished you could do the whole walk too. What things do you wish you could experience with me? Is it about the travel or the reflective experience?

CZ: Yes, I must admit, I am a bit jealous. When walking, the two merge together, the travel and the reflection. There is this famous Nietzsche quote, 'All truly great thoughts are conceived while walking'. We are leaving ourselves very little time for thinking in these 24/7 connected times. One could say you shut yourself away for three months, but that is not the same; the longer you walk, the more your mind gets loose. The routine of life gets different, you wake up, and you know what you need to do, instantly. This combined with travelling, in which you meet new people, make new experiences, and get new inspirations, is perfect. Did you know, that not until that long time ago, apprentices of any trade in Germany were sent on the road for their final year, to walk across the country and offer their services to other tradespeople? It was called the *Wanderjahr*. Only after that they got their masters certificate.

AS: That's a really beautiful notion: to send someone out for a walk to reflect on their learning. It resonates with me, considering my recent completion of a PhD! There's a really lovely poetic device that links the word 'wander' with the word 'wonder.' With this project, there are exciting topics to explore, and I love working with DA, but I think there's also a selfish side of me that is really honoured to have over 3 months to think about my life and my work. To ponder my 40th year on this planet, my practice, my studies; it's a great opportunity to let the mind wander (as well as me!) through these things.

CZ: Anthony, I thank you for this conversation. I look forward to more talking on the road.

Claudia Zeiske joins Anthony for portions of the route along the Pennine Way in North Yorkshire.

Want to walk with Anthony?

Give Rachael a ring: 01466 794494

The Path Travelled



/ Anthony's Feast

A weekend of festivities took place on 13 and 14 June to celebrate Anthony Schrag's send-off on the *Lure of the Lost* pilgrimage to Venice. St Anthony, the patron saint of lost things, has been a particular influence throughout this contemporary pilgrimage. *Anthony's Feast* coincided with the Feast Day of St Anthony of Padua, a celebration that takes place worldwide.

Anthony's Feast was celebrated by a Pilgrim's Parade, with the Brander Building styling a Venetian backdrop and excessive amounts of tinsel. Modelled on traditional street festivals, Anthony was toured around Huntly Square, and 'art money' — that had been created by local school children — was pinned on him for luck on his journey. A Venetian banquet was later enjoyed by all.

Prior to this, Graham Fagen, who is representing Scotland at the 56th Venice Biennale, gave a presentation of his show of artwork, and a virtual tour of the Palazzo Fontana. Patrick Scott also led a Sacred Sites Walk around Huntly's churches. Saturday night involved live music and ceilidh dancing in Huntly Square, including the debut of *St Anthony's March*, a dance choreographed by our Cultural Health Worker Catrin, for the occasion.

Anthony left to start his three month journey the following day. Participants joined the pilgrim for half of his first day, stopping for a picnic and final goodbye in Rhynie.

/ Hielan' Ways Symphony

World renowned fiddler Paul Anderson's first symphony premièred at Deeside theatre in Aboyne on Saturday 20 June to launch the 2015 Aboyne and Deeside Festival. The symphony was written in 2014, as part of Deveron Arts' *Hielan' Ways* project, which saw artists, writers and musicians exploring the local historic landscape.

The four movements within the *Hielan' Ways Symphony* are representative of a cattle drove in the mid-1800s, starting in Huntly and travelling south through the landscape, to the cattle tryst of Falkirk. Paul collected materials and ideas that informed this piece through walks nearby his hometown of Tarland. The symphony inspired feelings of travel, solitude, and joy, that together beautifully illustrated the historic land.

/ White Wood

Planted by the community as part of Caroline Wendling's *Oaks & Amity* project, the *White Wood* has seen much activity since it was established in March. The 49 Oaks, along with numerous other trees and plants, are beginning to thrive along with this activity.

So far this year, there has been a Solstice Walk, with accompanying archaeological dialogue from local expert Colin Shepherd, a cycle to the Bin Forest as part of Huntly Bike Week, and the continued embroidering of peace flags with quaker stitch, to be added to the *White Wood* at a later date.

This year has been particularly significant to *Oaks & Amity* and the concept of peace between nations, as the 8 May 2015 marked the 70th anniversary of Victory in Europe. This was acknowledged by Deveron Arts through an intervention at Gordon Primary School's walk up Battlehill. 450 pupils were given white flowers and seeds to plant together.

Parallel to this, our Director, Claudia, conducted a discussion in Munich, on 'How we remember the war'. This included input from four participants born in the early 1930's, on their recollections of the end of war and personal insight into the immediate aftermath in Germany. A similar event will be held in Huntly on 2 September in the *White Wood*.

/ Slow Marathon

The 2015 Slow Marathon route was established by artist Stuart McAdam and the project *Lines Lost*, surrounding the disused railway line from Portsoy to Huntly.

26 miles, punctuated by railway themed aesthetics, and a wee dram; the fourth annual Slow Marathon proved to be a fun and challenging activity.



This year, the Slow Marathon was complimented by a Pathmaker's Gathering, in which there was much discussion around ideas of established paths versus following a mapped route. The Slow Marathon weekend was a sell-out event this year; keep an eye out for details of 2016. Route testing has already begun!

Pilgrimage Participation

If you wish to provide hospitality for Anthony Schrag in France or Switzerland, please contact Deveron Arts for the route.

...for pilgrymes are we alle.
- Piers Plowman

The Path Ahead

/ Programme

Migration and the right to travel, land rights and ownership, peace and pacifism, as well as our place in the environment, are all subjects that have appeared recently on the agenda in Scotland. These thematics frame our forthcoming programme, taking inspiration from the great Aberdeenshire community planner Patrick Geddes, and his philosophy of Work-Folk-Place.

/ The Way to Venice

As part of Edinburgh Art Festival, Deveron Arts is hosting a discursive event at St Patrick's Church, on 30 July, followed by a small pilgrimage to Rosslyn Chapel the next day.

The focus of the discussion will be on the value of art festivals and where people fit into these structures. The panel includes Lucy Byatt (Director of Hospitalfield Arts and Curator for the 2015 representation of Scotland + Venice), Barbara Steveni (Artist Placement Group and Shadow Curator for *Lure of the Lost*), and Reverend Sarah Murray (Christ Church, Huntly). Anthony Schrag will be joining in by skyping from his location on the *Lure of the Lost* route. David Harding, founder of the Environmental Arts course at Glasgow School of Art, will chair this event.

The pilgrimage to Rosslyn Chapel will begin at St Anthony's Chapel Ruins, following a route that has been devised by artist Andrea Geile, based on parkour-style activity.

/ The Right of Free Movement

Freedom of movement, or the right to travel, is a human right that many of us in our times of ubiquitous travel take for granted. The fundamental right to mobility is denied to many people across the globe, not only within their own country, but between states.

Anthony Schrag is an artist of Zimbabwean origin with multiple citizenships. Through discussion with others he will be attempting to put his privileged journey into perspective. This discursive event will be based on ethical and philosophical questions; the common right of movement existing prior to the advent of nation states, ethics of universalism, notions of the benefits to both immigrants and receiving countries, the thought of a common ownership of the world, and ideas of comity.

Joining the discussion among others is artist, Maya Youssef and human rights journalist, Alastair Sloan. This event will be chaired by Manick Govinda from the Manifesto Club.

/ Exploration Aids

Tim Knowles began research for *Exploration Aids* in late April, and returns to Huntly this Summer. The project will address hurdles of access and land use and provide solutions for overcoming these. Tim is developing a network of remote sites between Huntly and the Cairngorms. Temporarily habitable shelters and aids will be created within the landscape, and will provide those travelling light with outdoor assistance.

Dates for your Diary

Huntly + Venice

Mon 20 July

The Right of Free Movement

Toynbee Hall, London, 2pm

In collaboration with Manifesto Club, Counterpoints Arts and Artsadmin

Thurs/Fri 30/31 July

The Way to Venice

On the Value of Art Festivals

Thurs, 4pm, St. Patrick's Church, Edinburgh

Walk to Rosslyn Chapel

Fri, 10am, meet at St Anthony's Chapel Ruins
£5, Booking Essential

Thurs/Fri 1/2 October

Anthony's Arrival

12pm, Venice, walk from Ponte della Libertà

2pm, Parco delle Rimembranze, Venezia.

(Mestre) to Giardini, La Biennale di Venezia

Pilgrim's Gathering

2pm, Parco delle Rimembranze, Venezia

Huntly Events

Monday Summer Walks

Walks under 2 miles, in and around Huntly
10.30am, Huntly Square, All welcome

Lunchtime Talks

1pm, Brander Building, £1.50

Fri 24 July: Shelly Sacks

The University of the Trees

Wed 19 August: Tim Knowles

Exploration Aids & other Sculptures

Fri 21 August: Ahlam Shibli

Art, Work and Life in Palestine

Fri 28 August: Fran Rows

Huntly Findings

Wed 5 August

Sacred Sites Walk with Patrick Scott

6-7pm, meet in Huntly Square

Wed 2 September

How We Remember the War

1pm, White Wood, Bin Forest

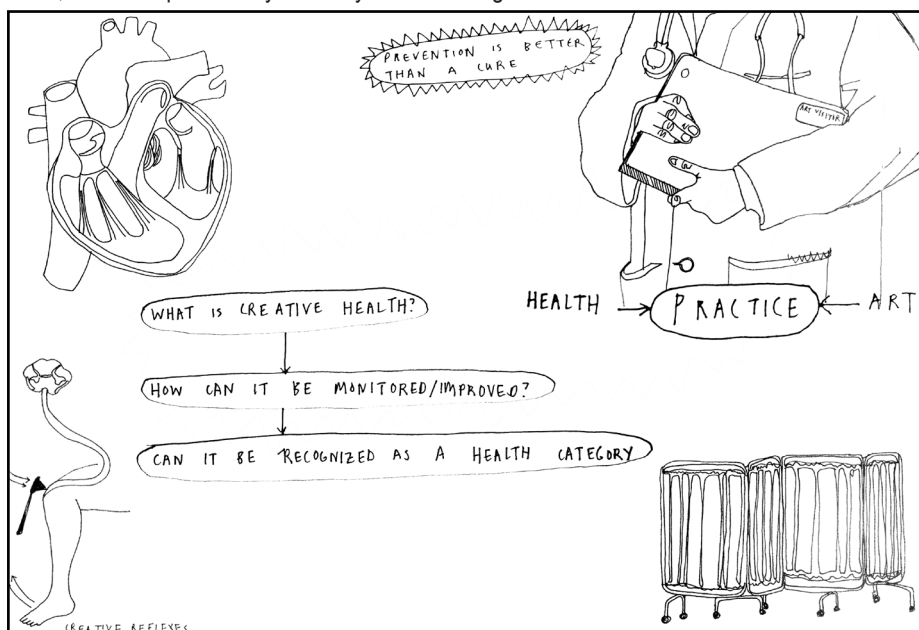
Mon 21 September

Deveron Arts AGM

Prof Murdo Macdonald: Work-Folk-Place

Launch of Rhynie Woman book:

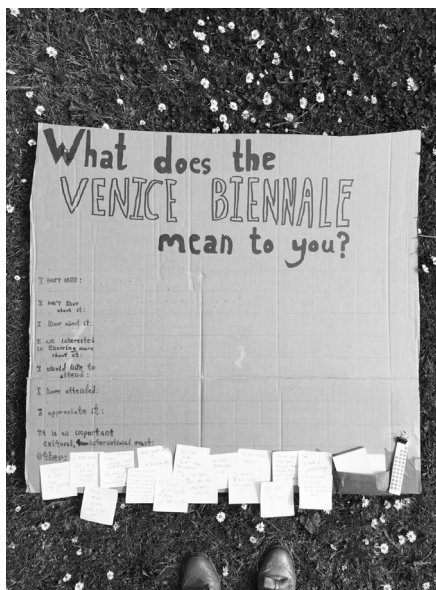
Cooking the Landscape



Notices

Cultural Health

What has become apparent in my time here is that cultural activity can be used to increase opportunities for people to come together and prevent isolation within a community – whether that is through singing, gardening and walking groups, cooking together or even the one-off events that we organise through projects at Deveron Arts. Recently, I had the honour of speaking about Huntly and Cultural Health at the Scottish Care Conference. It was interesting to hear about other projects nationwide that are also embracing culture as a way to increase sociability and connection within communities, with Huntly standing as one of the pioneers of this way of working.



**Send Anthony Schrag
your answers at:**

***[theartpilgrimage.wordpress.
com/discussion](http://theartpilgrimage.wordpress.com/discussion)***

Opportunities

FRIDAY LUNCHES

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

Everybody is welcome to meet us for a hearty meal from the garden!

£1.50

People Talk

Our Guests

Haste ye back soon in Huntly toon!



Follow us:
on facebook and twitter

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 Huntly's geo-boundaries.