



In the Footsteps of Nan Shepherd

Discovering the drovers routes of the Hielan'Way

Autumn 2013

Drovers, trains, place makers, missionaries, caravans, symphonies

The Hielan` Way was a network of drovers routes amongst many in the landscape between the Cairngorms and Aberdeenshire farm land. It was vital to connect communities for trade and families that lived and worked across the region.

Simone Kenyon`s pathmaking project will develop artistic responses to these fading routes to illuminate them and bring them back into new use.

Simone will follow the footsteps of

Cairngorm writer Nan Shepherd, to explore this area through autoethnographic approaches. The project will include developing accounts of the female walker's experiences, staying alone on the path and walking collectively.

The project is complemented by collaboration with fiddler Paul Anderson, who is writing a full symphony inspired by the route, its landscape, people and history.



The Path Travelled



The OTHER Information Centre Pride of Place Project with the Caravan Gallery

The Caravan Gallery is a socially engaged visual arts project run by artist duo Jan Williams and Chris Teasdale. Since 2000 they have been recording the ordinary and the extraordinary details of everyday life in 21st Century Britain and beyond.

The Caravan Gallery spent a month in the town square, speaking to passers-by, collecting stories and inviting people to write on their map of Huntly or make a Huntly souvenir. Souvenirs included a chunk of Sparkling Huntly Harling, Official Deveron water from the river Deveron and 100% authentic sheep's wool.

The Caravanners positioned themselves opposite the tourist information office as the 'other' information point. They strove to show a more rounded vision of the place, beyond the usual stereotypes and used their flair for observational photography to highlight the unusual features in the town that make Huntly special.

Another exciting part of their project was a 'Huntly Pride of Place Project Survey'. This gave a good

insight into what local people are thinking about their town. Here is a sample of questions and responses:

How would you describe Huntly?

'Small' 'friendly' or 'nice', but also answers such as 'weird', 'requiring a face-lift', 'diverse', 'authentic', 'great' and 'home' were given.

What is the best/worst thing about Huntly?

The top choices for 'Best of Huntly' include community, close proximity to the castle, the countryside, and walks. In the 'Worst of Huntly' category the landslide answer was the empty shops, along with no cinema, and weather. Some pairs of answers were interesting to note: Best – 'friends', Worst – 'if you fall out with someone you can't avoid them'. Best – 'good for kids growing up', Worst – 'not enough for young people'.

How would you improve Huntly? Here again the most popular answers were to improve the appearance of, or occupy, the empty shops and open a cinema. Other responses included 'sunshine everyday', 'more things for pre-teens to do', 'more buses and trains', and 'free pints and crisps'!

Please describe your perfect Huntly day out was answered with: 'The Caravan Gallery'!

The people of Huntly and Deveron Arts enjoyed the Caravanners bringing Pride of Place to Huntly. Their map, collages, souvenirs, and postcards really showcased the diversity of the town and got us thinking about what we like, dislike, want to improve, and all that comes along with having Room to Roam.

The results show that there is a real prioritisation towards community that is refreshing in this globalised age. To see the full results of the survey visit: deveron-arts.com/caravan-gallery/



ROOM TO ROAM

Festival weekend 9-11 August 2013

People from all walks of life explored the notion of travel and place through walks, discussions, dancing, music, food and drink, celebrating Deveron Arts' coming of age -18 years in and now also out of town. Friday night's Ceilidh kicked off the festival with the Strathbogie Fiddlers, Paul Anderson, and visiting Finnish metal masters rocking the Stewart's Hall.

Saturday centred around The Caravan Gallery's 'other' tourist office, making Huntly Town a 'Staycation' holiday destination for the day. The Square was transformed with a real sandy beach (complete with waves and a whale), a car boot sale, Huntly Cultural Fund winner representatives and workshops, the very popular Rhynie Woman café, and a rip-roaring pet parade, with prizes for most elegant and smallest competitors. Saturday's concert by the Huntly Music Summer School at the Tin Hut was a treat including music, poetry, dance, and funny hats.

On Sunday the festival moved out of town for a walk with Simon Yates (Mountaineer from 'Touching the Void') who joined artist Stuart McAdam to walk the former railway line from Portsoy as part of the project Lines Lost. McAdam tied himself to Yates as a performative action, increasing each walker's consciousness of negotiating the route with a companion. This was followed by a discussion chaired by Duncan Bryden, Convener of the Cairngorms National Park Authority Board exploring the different ways we experience place through walking; from the extreme to the ramble to the slow investigation ...



The soul that sees beauty may sometimes walk alone. Johan Wolfgang v Goethe

The Path Ahead

Room to Roam, or Ekiffo Ekyokwetariramu

In 1876, Alexander McKay an Aberdeenshire loon from Rhynie near Huntly went to Uganda carrying with him a heavy printing press to disseminate his views of civilization, and Christianity. By introducing script to the Lugandan language, he also employed his scientific knowledge, engineering and road making skills.

In following the Room to Roam principle a group of African and European artists and art workers, including Rocca Gutteridge, Jacques Coetzer and Claudia Zeiske, walked the human pace through a Slow Marathon over six days in the tropical rainforest of the Rwenzori mountains, known as the Mountains of the Moon. Trying to tread lightly but think deeply, they carried a small printing press leaving temporary traces as their footprints wash away, occasionally, standing on a mountain with the mists lifting to reveal a clear view of the sky and the valley below across the now closed Congolese border.



This project was organised in collaboration with Ugandan Arts Trust and Impact 8 Print Festival Scotland, Borders and Crossings: the artist as explorer. We will continue the exploration with a Ugandan artist, returning McKay's and our visit, in 2014.

The Mountains of the Moon Trekking in the Rwenzori Mountains

Talk by Claudia Zeiske & Jacques Coetzer

Wed 11 December, 7pm
Empty Shop, Bogie St



In the Footsteps of Nan Shepherd

Starting Autumn 2013

The Hielan' Way was once the local name for routes that connected Huntly over the Clashmach to remoter districts in the hill country to the west. It was a vital link for those who lived along its way, enabling the flow of people, goods and livestock along the tracks between the "Capital of Strathbogie" and communities in the Upper Deveron, the glens of Strathdon, the tributaries of the Spey and beyond. Its distances were covered at walking pace. Simone Kenyon proposes to explore the many different routes, their stories and how to interact with these ancient pathways through our different seasons.

During her residency she will invite individual specialists and local residents to share their collective experiences of walking in the remote hills to the south of Huntly. She is particularly interested in talking to women who wish to share their relationship to walking and how it feels to be a woman in the landscape alone, through a chat over a cuppa or walking together. Please get in touch with Deveron Arts for more details.

The intention is to bring alive an interpretation of a contemporary long distance walk way. Inspired by writer Nan Shepherd, Simone will document her experiences of the area through writings and visual recordings.

Simone Kenyon is a performer, artist and producer working within a variety of contexts between experimental dance, theatre and work that explores walking and environments. She will be with us till 2014 covering summer autumn, winter and early spring.

Symphony Way

A symphony for and inspired by the
Hielan' Way circuit

Paul Anderson, a musician and composer who gets much of his inspiration from the landscape, history and people of the North-East of Scotland, has been invited to take part in the Hielan' Drove Roads project.



Paul's compositions are normally mainly in the traditional Scots fiddle idiom but for this project he is writing a "Hielan' Symphony". A genuine challenge for any composer; however it's one which he relishes.

'After a period of field work exploring the network of roads to the South and West of Huntly, I'll start working on my main musical themes. I will then craft these themes into a true symphony. Hopefully my work in conjunction with the other artists in residence for this project will raise awareness about this ancient and almost forgotten network of roads and develop a new walking trail connected to Strathbogie.'

In the footsteps of Nan Shepherd

A walk from the Glenlivet foothills of
the Cairngorms to Glenbuchat
exploring the Hielan' Ways with

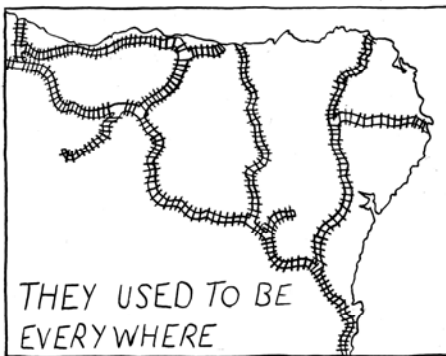
Andy Kirkpatrick

Mountaineering Comedian

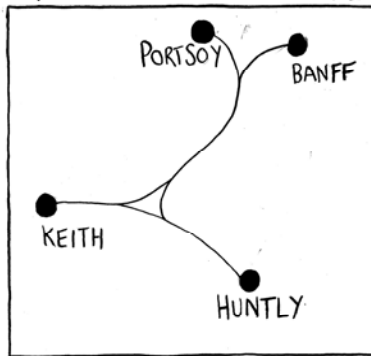
Sun, 13 Oct, 8 am, The Square

£25.00 for bus, walk, talk and High Tea
£15, talk and High Tea only (4pm)
Book on www.deveron-arts.com

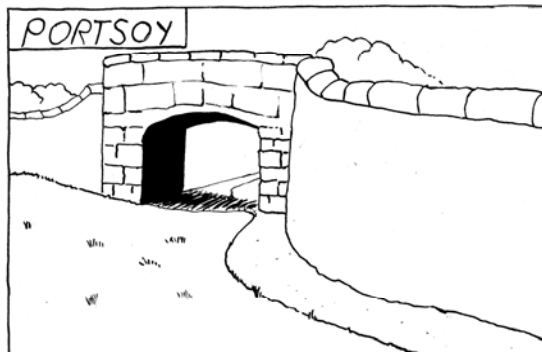
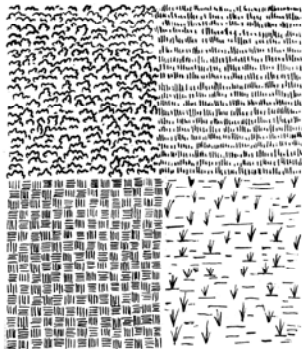
Stuart McAdam: Lines Lost



MY FOCUS HAS BEEN HERE.



VARIED TERRAIN --



Walking Institute



Its remains today are only a ghostly trace of the line that once carried trade and linked communities. By walking the former track back and forth many times, alone and with other locals; including a herbalist, a forester and railway enthusiasts, he has reawakened the route that has now largely faded into the landscape. Natural, industrial, and social history of the past 50 years has been investigated through these actions. Stuart also spent time with the current owner of Tillynaught Junction station digging up the remains of some of the original track. These experiences have been documented through maps, drawings, video and photography. A discussion at the former Portsoy railway station rounded the project up with many nostalgic memories and ideas.

Stuart McAdam's *Lines Lost* project was triggered by the 50th anniversary of the infamous "Beeching Report", which saw many rail routes closed as a result of Dr Richard Beeching's document "The Reshaping of Britain's Railways".

Through a series of performative walks with people along the former Portsoy to Huntly route, McAdam has attempted to bring into focus the historic and contemporary concerns surrounding this aspect of our transport infrastructure.



Walking Institute Introduces: Lunch time scheme

Lunchtime walking ...

We have been busy piloting lunch time walking in Huntly over the summer months and would like to offer companies and businesses in the town the unique service of a Lunchtime Walk Leader.

The Leaders will research and devise a series of short walks in your immediate vicinity, tailor-made to encourage your staff to have a healthy lunchtime break.

One day a week for a month the Lunchtime Walk Leader can lead your staff on a timed walk to fit with the needs of your business and the allotted staff lunch break.

They can also support interested staff members to become Lunchtime Walk Leaders themselves and help you set up your own workplace walking programme.

Q: What could the benefits be?

A: A healthier, happier workforce leading to Increased efficiency and less lost working hours.

We can also offer healthy lunchtime packed lunches so no-one misses out whilst out walking on their break.

Call Norma to discuss your group's or company's individual requirement.



We walk every Thursday lunchtime at 1pm prompt. Meet outside the Brander building (Library) no matter the weather. Bring a packed lunch.

Coming Soon

Navigation and Hillcraft Course
Keep an eye on our website
www.deveron-arts.com

Walkshops

Sun, 6 Oct, 9 am: Simone Kenyon - Introduction to Hielan' Way, 4 hrs, £4 (includes bus)

Sat, 26 Oct, 2 pm: Patrick Scott - Mair Lees: Huntly History Walk, 1.5 hrs

Sun, 3 Nov, 11 am: Back of the North Wind - Walking North with a compass, 1.5 hrs

Sat, 16 Nov, 1.30 pm: Maureen Ross - Introduction to Landscape writing 3 hrs

Sat, 23 Nov, 9 am: Paul Anderson - Interpreting landscape through musical scores, 6 hrs, £6 (includes bus)

Fri, 6 Dec, 6 pm: Sandra Brantingham - Full Moon Walk with Telescope, 2 hrs

Sat, 21 Dec, 4 pm: Norma D Hunter - Winter Solstice Walk (Battlehill) with a fire, 2 hrs

Meet at The Square, Huntly. For further information check our website or contact walking@deveron-arts.com or call 01466 794494 and ask for Norma!

Noticeboard

Hello & Welcome

Walking Institute Programmer
Norma D Hunter

Cultural Health Visitor
Catrin Jeans

Development Officer
Hazel McLaren

Walking Project Intern
Christiane Bernhardt
Alexander 'Twig' Champion

Shadow Curator Intern
Morgan Cahn

Goodbye & Thank you

Board Member

Maureen Ross
Thanks for your many years of support
and guidance. Good luck with your
future endeavours.

Walking Institute Program Manager
Diane Smith

Walking Project Intern
Yannis Tsagkarakis

Cultural Health Visitor

Catrin Jeans has joined the team as the new Cultural Health Visitor. This is a new position, which is piloted as a model to become an integral part of our programme.

The Cultural Health Visitor is modeled on the [NHS] health practitioners working methods, taking a 'from the cradle to the grave' approach, by: Working in partnership with families, individuals and groups. Running consultations. Helping people realise their ideas by listening, supporting and advising. Giving regular talks to local community groups and schools. Fostering links with local services that connect culture with health.

The dilemma:

'I have recently moved from the city to Huntly and am finding it difficult to deal with the lack of cinema in the local vicinity. Do you have any advice on how I can get my movie fix?'

Catrin answers:

'The closest cinemas to Huntly are in Elgin and Aberdeen, which can be accessed by bus or train – however it still takes a while and isn't cheap in getting there. Fear not, all is not lost. Huntly has its own Film Community, which shows a range of films at the Ex Servicemen's Club, Gordon St. Film screenings are free of charge and take place at 7.30pm on the third Thursday of the month, with occasional Sunday afternoon children's films screening too. Coming up next month on Thursday 17th of October is the Danish film *The Green Butchers* (15)'. For more information visit Facebook: Huntly Film Community.

Catrin solves problems sent in by you!
If you, too, have a dilemma, send a brief email to:

culturalhealthvisitor@deveron-arts.com

Interested in

Making your own kilt?

Join our Hielan' Kiltmaking
Bootcamp in January 2014
For more info call: 01466 794494

Tattie Holidays Outdoor Activities Club

Venue: Huntly Nordic Outdoor Centre
Dates: 22 - 24 October
Time: 10 am - 4 pm
Age group: 12 - 15 years old
Cost: £24 (£15 for additional family members), or £10 per day

Programme includes shelter building, bush-craft, fire & kite making, hiking and guided ranger walks. Participants should bring packed lunch and appropriate clothing for outdoor activities.

Organised by:
Walking Institute (Deveron Arts) and
Huntly Nordic Outdoor Centre



www.deveron-arts.com
Tel: 01466 794494
Email: walking@deveron-arts.com

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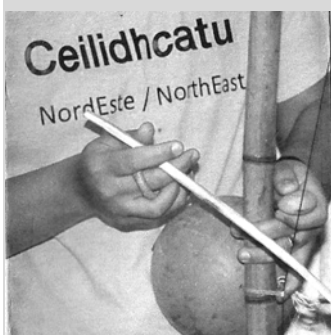
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[Facebook.com/
thetownisthevenue](https://www.facebook.com/thetownisthevenue)
WalkingInstitute



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E: info@deveron-arts.com

Shop



Ceilidhcatu - CD
NordEste / NorthEast

£10.00 on our website

**Al-
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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 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.