

THE GOLDEN MOUNTAIN



design concept for 2 digital prints, (1) 12 hills, (1) 9 burns

the colours we suggested by the place names and, where possible, colour specified, e.g. peat-moss, iron coloured etc.

one anomaly is Blue Cairn, whose name derives from the gaelic word for milking; here we would use a blue sampled from a carton of milk as an amusing variation on colour specification

the burns represent the courses, from source to tributary/river confluence

prints by Jade Lowe, Art design AF, w/ Stokes LR

THE
TOWN
IS THE
VENUE

Hielan' Way

Spring 2014

Slow Marathon, printing presses, fantasy food photography, open skies, Olympians, new books, survival kits & Marrakech

Deveron
Arts

Hielan' way is our year long project that sees the artist Simone Kenyon, in collaboration with musician and composer Paul Anderson, artist Gill Russell, poet Alec Finlay and local historian Ron Brander responding to the ancient drover's roads commonly called the Hielan' Way.

In the past this route connected Huntly inhabitants with the communities of Glenlivet, Glenbuchat, Rhynie and the Cabrach. Step by step Simone is rediscovering the life and experiences of people around the area, simply by walking and speaking with local folks. Ron Brander has uncovered some interesting facts about the Hielan' Way and its history:

Between Kirkmichael and Lettoch in Glenlivet the Timmer Road was also known as the Funeral Road. There is a burial cairn on a hillside in

Glenbuchat where Alexander Davidson, "Last of the Gentleman Poachers" died.

Some personalities around the Hielan' Way include Macbeth's stepson, Lulach the Fatuous, who was killed in the Rhynie Gap and Jane Mellis of Cairnie who took a shortcut across the ice on the River Deveron, near Huntly, when she was reportedly almost dragged in by a water kelpie... then it changed shape into a black horse!

An interesting way to get to church in Avonside near Tomintoul, people used to cross the river on stilts! The Healing Well on top of Ben Newe in Glenbuchat is famous for Marvelous Cures for the Vulgar.

Finally a historic fact that may fascinate you: in September 1939, Rhynie and district had to find emergency accommodation, food

Walking Institute

Hielan' Way continued...

for 380 children and mothers who were wartime "evacuees" from Greater Glasgow. This is only the beginning, more interesting facts to come!

Walking and listening...

In February we were joined by BBC Radio Out of Doors presenter Mark Stephen for a walk around Glenlivet. On the day we explored the route past Scallan seminary, reminding ourselves to listen to our surroundings. In March composer Ross Whyte joined a group of ten youngsters who worked on their listening skills by simply walking about town and recording it's sounds. Our usual community and sharing experiences this season included the homage to Robert Burns and Nan Shepherd lunch, which featured readings of their writing and musical responses by Paul Anderson and Jake Williams, during our haggis lunch together. Much more to come; watch this space!



The Great Outside



Outdoor adventure hobbies have their roots in a past way of life, when there was a need to survive in remote wildernesses. Pursuers of leisure have since adopted these traditional methods of food gathering and working as a source of weekend entertainment. Our Cultural Health Visitor, Catrin has worked with the Huntly Brownies to identify the different outdoor hobbies practiced within the Hiellan' Way landscape. They started by discussing what they liked to do outside and how in the past some of these hobbies were used as ways of living in the wilderness. They then went on to undergo activities on animal tracking, map-making, camouflaging, snowshoe making, fly-fishing and hiking. The Brownies then created and tested a range of prototypes for a 'recreationally surviving' kit. These prototypes were used as part of an exhibition at the Collective Gallery in Edinburgh. In return for all their hard work the Brownies earned a new 'Recreationally Surviving' badge to add to their sash.
www.collectivegallery.net

(Super) Slow Marathon

Deveron Arts' Slow Marathon returns on 10th May 2014. If you are unable to attend, find the actual marathon a bit daunting or would like to train for the event we are bringing back our mileage counter which can be found on our website at www.deveron-arts.com/about/mileage-counter

You can use the mileage counter to log your walks and add up your miles to complete a marathon in your own time. In groups or individually, count the miles you walk everyday (walking the dog or going to the shops) and achieve a marathon simply by going about your daily business! To keep an accurate measure of the distance you've walked, submit the number of miles you have walked along with your name (or group name) into the online mileage counter – this will keep your track record!

If you want to clock up your miles Deveron Arts are organising walks in and around Huntly. Please join us in the Square every Wednesday at 5:30pm for a 30min to an hour walk at medium level.



The path travelled

MackKay of Uganda

In April, Ugandan artists Sanaa Gateja and Xenson will arrive in Huntly for their project based on Rhynie missionary Alexander MacKay. Studying his father's map in the Rhynie rectory, MacKay became enamoured with the mysterious continent of Africa. He was sent as a missionary to Uganda, taking two years to travel to the kingdom of Buganda, where he stayed till his death. On his journey he carried a boat, a printing press on which he was to produce the first Lugandan bible, and cloths to barter with. The artists propose to re-enact, re-discover and re-trace the Mackay journey. A 'service' of sorts will be held, incorporating Xenson's unique Afro Hip

Hop Luganda sermons and Sanaa's unique paper bead fashion and jewellery making skills. The artists will investigate the spiritual and communal condition of the area from which MacKay was sent; questioning why in Uganda everybody knows MacKay, and nobody does here? And why their churches are full while ours not?



MBEREKO

at National Gallery of Zimbabwe

2013 artist in residence Nancy Mteki exhibited her photos, taken in Huntly, at the National Gallery of Zimbabwe in January/February. The show was complimented by a mother and toddler group which took place inside the museum walls; recreating Nancy's experiences with her daughter Kayla in Scotland. A great example of how socially engaged art can create a network with people and places.

Marrakech Biennial

In February Claudia and Kate joined the Marrakech Biennale to seek out artists for our future programming from across the African continent. Interested in more details?

Their report can be found at deveronarts.wordpress.com or read more about the biennale here www.marrakechbiennale.org



Aberdeenshire Ways

At the end of 2013 we travelled around Aberdeenshire with artists Jacques Coetzer and the Caravan Gallery (Jan Williams and Chris Teasdale), discovering local identity and the sense of place of our shire. 18 towns were visited and 1200 people were met along the way. Jacques was cycling and meeting people while Jan and Chris stopped in the towns, opening the doors of their yellow caravan to gather information, photos, comments and stories from local folks. Outcomes were a map, a collection and a concept that reflects the exploration of Aberdeenshire's identity through the voice of the people. The map has been the place and space for people to leave their comments, transforming them into a running commentary that engaged people from all walks of life. Aberdeenshire, it was felt, is a good place to live; it has great outdoors, astonishing landscapes and great walking routes as well as good employment prospects. It is a place where children can be raised in a safe and healthy environment, with good schools and facilities which offer a high standard of education. By travelling through Aberdeenshire we also understood the true meaning of community. People's ability to organise themselves in local and social groups is one of the great aspects of the region. Through them the heritage and traditions of these small towns are kept alive with new ideas and enthusiasm. Even the ecological and environmental issues are a community concern and the discussion about how to preserve natural resources is always an important matter. A shared experience is also the tradition of the coffee mornings a ritual which gathers people around a cup of coffee or tea and simply chat together. These features are not things that are only local, as through the physical position, the economic activities of the region and the open minded approach of it's people, Aberdeenshire looks always to the international context.

Cultural Fund Winners Update

The Huntly Cultural Fund was set up from Huntly's 2013 Creative Place award. 40 local artists and cultural groups were awarded money for projects ranging from a tweed design to the creation of an events website; from a local pedicab to a new sound system for the Stewarts Hall. The Cultural Fund Winners are in full flow with preparing and delivering their projects; expect festivals, brochure launches, plays performances in the coming months! To assist the Cultural Fund Winners with their projects, Deveron Arts and Huntly Development Trust are running a series of workshops on basic design, fundraising and event planning. Visit www.visithuntly.net for upcoming events!

Huntly at the Winter Olympics

Congratulations to the Huntly Cross Country Skiing Olympians Andrew Musgrave, Posy Musgrave, Calum Smith and Andrew Young who all trained at the Huntly Nordic Ski Centre, and skied in Sochi this year. They showed, once again, that our small town can compete with the rest of the world. The crowds gathered back home to watch and wish them support at the Deveron Arts office, where public Sochi screenings were set up. The Huntly Skiers received many mentions on the BBC coverage, which were welcomed with loud cheers from the home support. A great effort to make this wee town proud. A big applaud also to coach Roy Young for many years of dedication.



Be Aberdeenshire...

around
z started as
ing paying

ALFRED PETER 15 YEARS
WOULD NOT GO BACK TO ABERDEEN
FOR ALL THE TEA IN CHINA

Fit a gown
Job yir dooin'!

Next day delivery?
Not when you've got
an AB postcode!

A Dog speaking Scotsman when
called up for service:
I understand you so
it's up to you to
understand me!

(W)
days?

Aberdeenshire ways
a project about regional identity
Where do you live? in ELLON, CRIMOND DRIVE 44,
Where do you work or spend your days? out causing a hooon.

the following

Went to a charity shop in Huntly
and got more than a full black
bag of baby clothes for £2!
BINGO!!!
☺

Movement between *Abernot*
and Montgomerie
needs a speed limit too

Macbeth Arms, Macbeth Square,
Macbeth Cairn, Macbeth Well
Macbeth way allegedly
killed in a battle in 1040
His head was cut off just after
the battle there a
stone at the side of the
field.

MACBETH-RELATED
Richard Green knows all about Macbeth

Caithness
Dorset
Village St
New England
OUR 30th. 100

I'm glad I didn't go to
university because I
went off shore instead

ire ways
tity

Aberdeenshire ways
a project about regional identity

Where do you live? FETERANOUS

Ab
a proj
Where do you
live?
Where do you
live?

Ab
a proj
Where do you
live?
Where do you
live?

WE HAVE SO
MUCH SKY IN
ABERDEENSHIRE

THE OLDEST SMALLEST THING TO
HAVE WALKED ON EARTH CAME
FROM COWIE JUST NORTH OF
STONEHAVEN WHERE A 1 1/4 INCH
FOSSIL WAS DUG OUT OF THE ROCK.
IT WAS 450 MILLION YEARS OLD
MILLIPEDE.

In the 60's this phone
box was outside the shop -
our courting was done using
it. Interestingly when you
pressed button B you got your
money back. after a hour chat.

Bring your own mugs bar to
Middie, fish bar & they will
batter a deep fry for 50p

LOCHNAGAR
THE GOLF CLUB

standing where the
circus elephants used
to " "

they're calling round
They should be shot

TRY POPPING YOUR
SHORTBREAD IN
THE MICROWAVE
JUST FOR 2 SECONDS!
YUM!

BEETROOT:

stick it in a dish on
the microwave for
20 minutes with cling
film on top of the dish
then peel it. You keep
all the flavour!

'I don't know much about
Scotland I'm from
Edinburgh'
2/11/2013

MACDUFF:

The best job I ~~was~~ had
was renewing the moats
for the Discovery. I was
working with Scott Douglas
FIS
William Morrison.

A wild cat was seen in
Huntly, Inverurie
3 yrs ago. It roamed
about and it tore a
lady's lights. It was
after her alright.

'What's that beast
there?
'Well it's nae a dog'

Jan moonball
It was the size of that
cat's head there!

with glass and paper
then boxes actually separated into
hand boxes, though boxes with
- group rather than individual
membership

PORTSOY FAIRIES

Unnamed volunteer
maintains coastal paths and
old Portsoy lookout post.
There's a fairy on the Portsoy &
Whitstable (impossible 2 yrs ago) so
we've done a lot of work. Collected
washed up oil drums to make picnic spots
in the gully. There are diving rods
and there's a visitor's book.

I'll TAKE THE HIGH ROAD AND
YOU'LL TAKE THE LOW ROAD
AND WE'LL BE IN SOMERSET
AFTER YOU

♪ ♪

I HEARD THIS TUNING BEING SPOKE
IN MY HOUSE AT NIGHT BY GHOSTLY
MEANT VOICES HATHINGLY.

Mike Holminger comes
to your door, great
if you can't get down
town.

Alon

Old boys gym in old building

[illegible]

The Path Ahead



Jules Verne + the Scottish Archetypes

There it is!

Eh, my good friend?

My very first mountain.

Indeed!

May I borrow it? I promise to give it back!

Jules Verne, *Backward to Britain*

On and off till the summer Deveron Arts will host London based photographer Gayle Chong Kwan. Gayle was awarded with a scholarship from the RSA to develop a residency here, in partnership with the Stills Gallery in Edinburgh. Gayle gained her recognition creating fantasy and visionary landscapes and environments with waste food. Gayle has a particular ability to decontextualise objects and transform them into fascinating landscapes, hills and trees. What is distinct is a constant

connection with myth and historical context, like the *Grand Tour* or the *Eden Garden*. Gayle not only explores the medium of photography, but also performance and installation combined with socially engaged collaborations in her practice. 'The myth' plays an important role in her work and here it will be represented by French adventure writer Jules Verne and his Scottish archetypes.

Jules Verne, fell in love with Scotland during his first visit in 1859, he mostly travelled around Edinburgh, Glasgow and the Highlands. From that point onwards Scotland started to populate his stories and many characters recalled what he experienced in this country. Working with local food producers, Gayle will analyse what Verne defined as the Scottish Archetype and will connect them to her food waste concept.

Oaks and Amity

Deveron Arts will commemorate the 100 year anniversary of the start of the First World War with a project that considers the legacy of one of the deadliest conflicts in history and what it means for people in Scotland and elsewhere today. Throughout Europe the oak tree has been held in high esteem. Greeks, Romans, Celts and Teutonic tribes worshiped the oak and its long lived potential. This project is inspired by war victim, pacifist environmentalist and artist Joseph Beuys whose vision for 'City forestation' rather than city administration' during his '7000 Oaks' planting, was undertaken in the devastated post WW2 city of Kassel in 1982. The project invited citizens of the city to collect and plant a tree next to a celtic basalt block around the city.

Last year Deveron Arts collected 70 acorns from Beuys' oaks in Kassel and fostered a collection of oaklings in a communal Huntly garden that are ready to plant in November 2014. We are inviting French artist Caroline Wendling to respond to this project. She is coming for a research visit this month, which will coincide with the Gordon Schools marking their 175th anniversary by holding a town parade. The parade remembers all the wars that have taken place over the lifetime of the school and the pupils who lost their lives fighting in them.

On the day, oak wreathes made in collaboration with Huntly Cubs and residents from the James Presley Sheltered Housing court were laid down at our war memorial. Rhynie Woman handed out ration food boxes. We also started our recruitment drive for people to help plant the Beuys oaklings, in autumn when Caroline returns to complete her residency. We are seeking 148 people to represent the number of men who did not return in 1918. To join in call Catrin: 01466 794494.

One is never too young!

Over the 18 months of her Cultural Health Visitor role Catrin is adopting various health practitioners' approaches. One of which is Early Interventions: engaging mums-to-be, new babies and families in activities and new experiences so that children are exposed to culture and art at an early stage of their lives. Over the coming months Catrin will run a series of events including hosting evening sessions for expectant mums as a chance for them to get together and share their experiences, and a 'bring-your-own-baby club', which will include film afternoons, outings and DIY sensory play!

This will all connect to London-based walking artist Clare Qualmann's project *Perambulator* who we will welcome in May with her new baby, Ruby and toddler Ernest. Clare is going to hold organised pram walks, where mums (and dads are invited to take to the streets and walk together with their babies.

Rhynie Woman

Deborah Beeson and Daisy Williamson – aka Rhynie Woman - are a group of artists from Rhynie, a village just south of Huntly. In keeping with Deveron Arts' notion of hospitality, they explore the social history of the area taking into account locally sourced food, traditional recipes and local events. Hospitality is a notion of great importance to Deveron Arts, and this often includes food and eating.

Deborah and Daisy will be looking at the heritage of food in the Huntly area and other common denominators between local projects and journeys. Rhynie Woman will look into aspects of food source, longevity and preservation as well as portable methods of food preparation and delivery that need to be considered when on a journey.

Food and "pop-up" hubs in Huntly, Rhynie and elsewhere will be crafted alongside Deveron Arts' curated projects through intuitive reaction, collaboration and partnership.

Noticeboard

Ask our Cultural Health Visitor

In this spring's newsletter Catrin Jeans recommends creative ways of dealing with a nasty wee problem common to the idyllic Huntly streets.

The dilemma: Huntly is a beautiful place to live in with its picturesque square, leafy avenues, historic castle and easy access to the surrounding countryside. The one and only thing to spoil it is the constant defacing of our public pavements! Many dog owners let their dogs do their business and neglect to clean it up. I'm at my wits end, what am I to do?

Catrin answers: Ah yes, this is a concern of many. When the Caravan Gallery conducted their survey about Huntly last summer, dog fouling was found to be one of the most common perceived weaknesses of the town. The Council advise you to report problems with dog fouling in your neighbourhood to the Environmental Health Department. Otherwise you could take inspiration from fouling vigilantes and creatively shame people for their (lack-of) actions over their pet's excrements. In the UK shaming techniques have included covering the left mess with flour or by fluorescent paint-bombing, surrounding 'the scene of the crime' with warning tape or crowning 'the incident' with flags displaying accusing messages. The idea is to guilt the owners into cleaning up after their dogs! If you decide to adopt a creative approach please send in a picture of how you dealt with it for the next newsletter.

Catrin solves problems sent in by you. If you have a cultural dilemma send an email to Catrin@deveron-arts.com

Our Guests

Gray's School of Art 3-day visit
Artist Tim Knowles
Claire Cochrane from STILLS
Visit Scotland Delegation
Rogaland County Council, Norway
Huntly's 1913 cookbook reviver
Janet Starkey
SSW's emerging artists in residence
Haste ye back soon to Huntly toon

Hello & Welcome

Project Intern
Amy Cowie

Goodbye & Thank you

Walking Project Intern
Alexander Twig Champion

Digital Detox

This lent the Deveron Arts team are resisting the digital temptation! We are trying out internet-free Fridays until Easter Sunday. Fancy testing this too? See how much else you get done during your detox.

Shop

MBEREKO

Pack of 4 cards for Baby's arrival: £5
Texts by Jay Griffiths
& Christine Eyene:

Singing the Deveron

Songbook by Jake Williams: £7

With and Against the Flow

Map by Anne Murray with Deveron
Song book: £10

FACELOOP

By Celia-Yunior: £10

Available from www.deveron-arts.com

Follow us:  

twitter.com/DeveronArts
facebook.com/thetownisthevenue
facebook.com/WalkingInstitute

Events

Wednesday 16 April, 7pm

Fundraising Workshop
with Claudia Zeiske and Donald Boyd
at the Brander Library

Wednesday 23 April

Janet Archer CEO of Creative Scotland will join us for a walk along the Deveron and a lunch talk. At HNOC. Booking essential.

Saturday 3 May, 1pm

Slow Marathon Training
Walk up the Clashmach, leaving from the Square

Saturday 10 May

Slow Marathon 2014 from Glenkindie to Huntly

Sunday 11 May

Slow Day, featuring on site screening of *Two Years at Sea* at Bogenclough, with film producer Ben Rivers

24 and 25 May

Coast Festival, Banff

Saturday 31 May

Clare Qualmann's
Perambulator Parade

Saturday 14 June

MacKay of Uganda Weekend

Wednesday 18 June, 12.15pm

Lunchtime Lecture on Pilgrimage
Christ Church

Thursday 19 June

Jake Williams and Paul Anderson Walk to Source of Deveron and Music Session. Grouse Inn, Cabrach

Friday 27 June

North East Touring present Walking on the Edge of the World in Huntly

More details:

www.deveron-arts.com

Contact Us:

Deveron Arts
The Studio, Brander Building
The Square, Huntly
AB54 8BR, Scotland
T: 01466 794494



HAPPY EASTER

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.