

THE
TOWN
IS THE
VENUE

Deveron Express



/ Understanding the Middle East

Summer 2017

**What If?, Compost Heaps,
Alternative Timelines,
Home-to-Home, Walking
Without Walls, Gorse
Cordial, Herbariums,
Syrian new Scots**

What If? – Well... what if Europe (أوروبا) had been colonised by 'the Orient', as we called it then, or as we call it now, the Middle East. What if places - Berlin, London, Edinburgh, Huntly - had Arabic names, برلين، لندن، هونتلي؟ What if the borders that separate our beloved Europe were not winding rivers, nor the results of so many conflicts, agreements, disagreements, skirmishes and wars? What if there had been a meeting

between an Ottoman and an Arabian representative somewhere in a Victorian hotel in north east Scotland? What if they had divided up our countries over a cup of tea one afternoon with nothing but a ruler and a map? What if the community had filmed this historic event on their smartphones, and what if their recorded perspectives were mixed up and spliced together?

This is what happened here in this small town, هونتلي, with the locals watching. What if this had really happened, in our current timeline? *What If?*

What if an artist from قطاع غزة, the Gaza Strip, goes for a walk with an artist from هونتلي, our small northern Scottish town? What if they begin talking through WhatsApp and painting each other's landscapes? What if one of them suddenly paints grey rubble and the other green hills? What if they collect each other's berries and flowers; the ones that push out of the rubble,

emerging after the rain?

What if all the folk walked home from their homes and back home again, picking oak leaves and ideas along the way? What if they just had a *Pathport* in their hands?

And what would happen, *What If?*, if all the young folk, and all the old folk, and all the new folk - the artists, the bankers, the politicians - if all of them from here and there and everywhere connected and texted, walked and talked, wrote and voted? No more grey! (لا أكثر رمادي) No more borders! (لا حدود أكثر) We are all one! (نحن جميعا واحد!)

What If?

Save the Date:
*Understanding Peace
in Communities; Study
Day; 10 Nov 2017*

**Deveron
Projects**

"When gorse is out of bloom, kissing is out of season"
- Old Proverb

The Town is the Garden: Events and Workshops

Compost Workshop

Sat 22 July, 10am - 3pm

The Brander Garden / Glamourhaugh

Allotment

Permaculture Workshop

Sat 18 Aug, 10am - 3pm

Tap O' Noth Farm

Food Fir Free — Elderberries

Wed 23 Aug, 6.30pm - 8pm

Meet in The Square

Hairst Festival, The Square

Sat 2 Sept, Town is the Garden Harvest

Sun 3 Sept, 11am, Wild Plant Gathering
walk to the White Wood with Rachel Ashton;

Allotment Tour, 1pm - 3pm

Seed Saving Workshop

Sat 16 Sept, 10am - 3pm

Brander Garden

//////// Ongoing //////////

Allotment Session

Every Wednesday afternoon, 2 - 5pm

Glamourhaugh Allotments

Gift/Glut Shop

Every Friday, 9.30am - 5pm

Brander Garden

Honest shop for excess produce

Swap, pay what you can, or take for free

Town is the Garden Surgery

Every Friday morning, 9.30am - 12.30pm

Brander Building

Drop by the office to discuss any garden
related questions

Town is the Garden Community Service

Every Friday afternoon, 2 - 5pm

Our team out helping in the community

Let us know if you want us to pay a visit!

Gorse Cordial

/ Season

All year, but more abundant May -
June

/ Ingredients

Makes 850ml/1.5 pints

450g gorse flowers
450g sugar
1.1 litres of water
1 lemon, 1 lime and 1 orange (zest of
orange only)

/ Method

Make a simple stock syrup by boiling
the water and sugar for five to ten
minutes. Add the zest and juice
of the citrus fruits and the gorse
flowers. Leave to soak overnight
(or at least until absolutely cool).
Pass through a strainer with muslin
and bottle in sterilised bottles.

Once opened, store in the fridge.

/ Source

A Handbook of Scotland's Wild
Harvests, Fi Martynoga, 2012

Arabic Key Phrases

Hello = Marhaban مرحبا

Thank You = Shukran شكر

My name is... = Ana ismee... انا اسمي

How are you? = Kaifa haluka? كيف حالك؟

Great! = Azeem! عظيم!

See you later! = Ma'a ssalama! مع السلامة



What If?

Manaf Halbouni in conversation with Claudia Zeiske, Deveron Projects

CZ: Marhaban Manaf! You came to Huntly to realise your project *What If?* Tell us a bit about the ideas behind it all.

MH: *For the past two years I have been contemplating the idea: 'What if the Industrial Revolution had happened in the Middle East?' So I imagined that the Turks (Ottomans) and Arabs had a highly advanced technical innovation and started to sell weapons and technology to everyone. At the same time they also started to colonise new countries and support revolutions all around Europe.*

CZ: And how did you get to *What If?*

MH: *I developed an alternative historical timeline by writing fictional stories and drawing new European maps. When I got to Huntly, I developed this project into a performance of a secret meeting between the Turks and the Arabs and I made a short film out of it.*

CZ: How important was it to you that this took place in Scotland?

MH: *I was very interested in working with the Syrian new Scots, the refugee community in Aberdeenshire. I remember when I first heard this title, I thought it was so great that the Scottish people decided not to just label them as 'refugees' and welcomed them into their community by giving them the title 'new Scots'. It was also important for me to bring a little knowledge of the Middle East to people in Scotland, so that there can be a bit more understanding about the political and cultural situation there.*

CZ: Can you tell us a bit about the background behind *What If?*

MH: *The short film is a response to the Sykes-Picot Agreement of 1916, in which the UK and France divided up the Middle East in to the countries we know now. In my play, I reimagined these events as if they took place in Huntly. I therefore had a Turkish and an Arabian representative meet in Scotland to divide up a map of Europe and support Scotland in the revolution against the English.*

CZ: Why did you think that Scotland would be a good place to set your film? And what about the maps? Tell us about them.

MH: *The reason why I based my film in Scotland is because I wanted to engage with Scotland's historical relationship and rivalry with England, and also look at how current political events such as Brexit and the Scottish independence referendum affect this situation.*



While I was in Huntly I also developed a project which looked at maps. I interviewed many different people from the local community (artists, secondary school students, people in the nursing home, a local Arabic speaker etc.) I gave them each a map of the world and asked them what they would create or change if they had the political power and influence. Each person I interviewed reacted differently to these questions, and different world visions transpired each time. Some people did not want to change anything because they were not interested in politics. Others created new countries and made unions with other nations, while some wanted to become peaceful dictators...

CZ: When I did the mapping I think I wanted to abolish all the borders... What would you do if you were in power?

MH: *Well, I believe that humans can't live without rules, that's a fact we can't change unfortunately. But I would try my best to unite people wherever they come from.*

CZ: You first created a play, then a film of this performance, and a documentary of its making, and then a communal film made using the audience's smartphones. Can you expand on what particularly attracted you to this unusual process?

MH: *I wanted to use a medium that would engage as many people as possible. So I thought it would be interesting to ask people to film the performance on their smartphones and to create a film out of these different perspectives.*

I was also interested in examining our use of smartphones as mediums for looking at the world and recording information. During the Arab Spring and the subsequent war in Syria, people have relied on their phones as a source of news. Whereas when the Sykes-Picot Agreement took place there would not have been this resource. I wanted to think about this democratisation of news; how this changes the way we see things and influences our view of the world.

CZ: It's a really interesting way to make digital work that's also socially engaged. Thank you very much Manaf for the time you spent with us in Huntly. Before I

close, can you tell me what was the best and what the worst thing you experienced here?

MH: *Actually I did not have any bad experiences, except for the food! I think the best experience was the fresh air and it was great to work with everyone at Deveron Projects!*

CZ: Well, you personally addressed the food situation with your magnificent cooking! Thank you very much Manaf for being with us and also for this conversation.

Manaf Halbouni is a Syrian-German artist based in Dresden, Germany.

Artist Talk + *What If?* Film Screening

Thurs 27 July, 7pm
Goethe Institute, Glasgow
with Manaf Halbouni

What If?:

Understanding the Middle East Edinburgh Art Festival

Sat 29 July, Royal Scottish Academy
Screening of *What If?* followed by a discussion on colonialism, Islamophobia, and conflict in the Middle East with Manaf Halbouni, a.o.

Chair: Dr Janet Starkey

Booking Essential



Did you know...

The words sugar (سكر *succar*), cotton (قطن *koton*), lemon (ليمون *laymoon*) and alcohol (الكحول *alcoo'hool*) are all derived from Arabic. And orange is called Portugal (برتقال *burtaqal*)!

News / News / News

/ New Economies

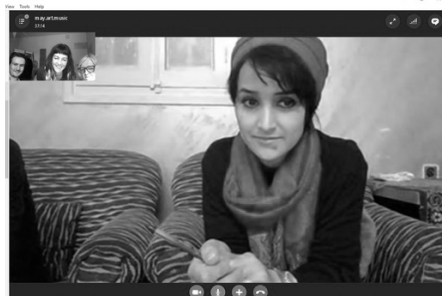
Jacques Coetzer's report *Room to Reinvent*, which proposes some new and exciting ways to reinvigorate and regenerate Huntly town centre, is now out! Find it on our website: www.deveron-projects.com/room-to-reinvent

BACK ON BOGIE STREET



/ Slow Marathon

Andrea Geile's *Slow Marathon: Energised Landscape* was a first, with all walkers completing the 26 mile route. The youngest participant was 11, the oldest 72! The award for the 'Slow Marathon's Slowest' this year goes to Anna Law, congratulations to her and to all involved!



/ Walking Without Walls

Walking Without Walls is a project with local artist Rachel Ashton and Palestinian painter May Murad, who lives and works in Gaza. This project takes inspiration from the Herbarium of philosopher and pacifist Rosa Luxemburg, who created an extensive botanical collection whilst imprisoned for her beliefs.

May and Rachel are currently collecting and pressing a variety of plants and flowers that they can find in their local areas. Throughout 2017, the artists will digitally collaborate through image and video, sketches and text to share their very different respective landscapes. This will form the basis of our two simultaneous Slow Marathons in 2018, one in Huntly, one in Gaza.

/ Pathport

Two years have passed since Anthony Schrag set off on his 2500 km walk from Huntly to the Venice Biennale, for his project *Lure of the Lost*, so we thought it was high time for us to plan another epic expedition!

This summer, Deveron Projects' Founder/Director Claudia Zeiske will become the artist with her project: *Pathport*. On 3rd July she will set off on a 3 month 'secular pilgrimage' from her home in Huntly, Aberdeenshire, to her

mother's house in Unterpfaffenhofen, near Munich. Passing through Scotland, England, Holland and Germany, Claudia will be setting out as a wayfarer and wandering scholar. Her home-to-home walk will consider personal and political ideas of 'Home' in a post-Brexit Europe.

We wish Claudia all the best of luck on her journey!



/ AGM

Deveron Projects' Annual General Meeting will be held at 8pm on 16 October 2017, in the Brander Building. Dr Lorens Holm from the Geddes Institute for Urban Research will be delivering a talk, *Place/Work/Folk: Community Planning and the Relevance of Patrick Geddes Today*.

Food and refreshments provided. All welcome.

/ Staff News and Shuffle

Rachael Disbury, our former Art & Community Worker is taking over from Joss Allen as Project Manager. Joss is heading up the Town is the Garden Programme as the Green Co-ordinator. Lindy Young is now working with Joss as our Gardener, assisted by Camille Sineau. Elisabetta Rattalino who is currently finishing her PhD in Art History at St Andrews University is joining us as Art & Community Worker in October.

Walking Without Walls Events and Workshops

Plant Drawing Classes with Rachel Ashton

Every first Saturday in the month from Sat 5 August, 10am – 11.30am, Brander Kitchen
£15; or £50 for 5 sessions; booking required

Citizen Herbarium

Bring your wild flowers, grasses and plants and stories: medicinal, edible, magical or purely beautiful
Tuesday 8 Aug, 2pm - 5 pm, Brander Kitchen

Or get in touch with Rachel:
rachelbrideashton@gmail.com

Wild Plant Gathering

A walk to the White Wood, Sun 3 September, + 11am
Meet at the Square
Parallel walk along the Gaza strip coast with May Murad, meet TBC

Plant Journaling

Series of six workshops, Collecting, identifying, pressing and drawing to produce a plant journal.
Every Wednesday from 5 July, 6.30pm - 8pm, Brander Kitchen
£5, or £20 for six sessions

Digital Studio Session with May Murad (via Skype)

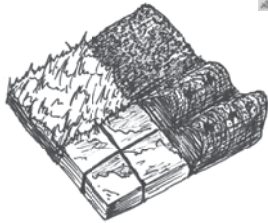
Every last Wednesday of the month, 12pm - 2pm, Brander Kitchen



The Town is the Garden

A community food growing project

The Plot



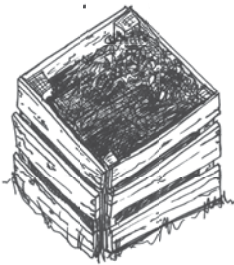
A piece of land marked out for a purpose. **Through the project we are supporting individuals, organisations and groups, no matter the size of their plot, to grow more food.** How is our community and relationship to the land shaped by food?

The Seed



From which, under the right conditions, new things begin to develop. **We are providing free plants and seeds, as well as the support and advice needed to get growing.** How might we begin to revalue our relationship to food and to the land?

The Compost heap



A site of transformation where loose material becomes fertile and productive. **We are supporting the community to compost more waste locally and develop a composting network across the town.** How can we think of Huntly as a more sustainable, interconnected place when it comes to food systems?

The Spade



A thing used to help perform a job. **We are providing free open-access workshops and events sharing skills, labour and knowledge on food production, horticulture and sustainability within our community.** How might horticulture help us to think about the metaphors we use to construct our knowledge of the world around us and the spaces we share with others?

The table



A space for conversation, discussion and actions. **We are bringing food to the table for discussion as well as holding activities on food preservation, cooking and eating.** How can we think and act in a more sustainable, caring way through the processes of food production?

To find out more about the project and how you can get involved, get in touch:
townisthegarden@deveron-projects.com / 01466 794494
Or join the Facebook group: Town is the Garden — Huntly

"There's nothing under the ground that's worth more than the little layer of topsoil sitting on top of it." - Wendell Berry

Notices

People

Welcome

Rachel Ashton, **Artist**

May Murad, **Artist**

Alexandra Vlaserou, **Intern**

Jemima Wilson, **Intern**

Lindy Young, **Gardener**

Camille Sineau, **Trainee Gardener**

Goodbye

Andrea Geile, **Artist**

Manaf Halbouni, **Artist**

Alice Bottoni, **Intern**

Katerina Talianni,

Thinker in Residence



Simply Sharp

Sharpening & Tool Rescue Services

Domestic and commercial

Scissors, clippers, catering equipment,
knives, gardening tools etc.

Tel: 0333 577 1517 (Huntly)

Email : info@simply-sharp.com

Find us on Facebook!

CAFE

Deveron
Projects

Huntly Farmers Market

First Saturday of every month

9am - 1pm

New Book Release!

**Strathbogie, the Gordons and the
'Land o' Cakes': the story of The
Huntly Cookery Book (1913)**
By Janet Starkey

*An exploration of our long culinary history
through the prism of a booklet of surprising-
ly cosmopolitan recipes, produced to raise
funds for the Huntly Town Band just before
War broke out. It embraces notions of
hospitality, hamewith and identity; hier-
archies of landed gentry, the kirk, tenant
farmers — community and kinship.*

Friday Lunch Talks

1pm, Brander Building, Donation: £2

7 Jul, Sami Afrandi, Journalism in Gaza

14 Jul, Town is the Garden Plans

21 Jul, Emma Rawlings, Wildcats

4 Aug, Karl Jay-Lewin, Walking and Dance

11 Aug, Dudendence

18 Aug, Camille Sineau, An Architect in the
Anthropocene

25 Aug, Rafat Asad, Art in Ramallah

1 Sep, Open Jar Collective

8 Sep, Stuart Caddell, TGS - Developing Young
Workforce

15 Sep, Rachel Ashton, Walking Without Walls

22 Sep, Samar Issa, Life in Damascus

29 Sep, Paul Coates, Coldwell's Farm

Save the date!

17 July, 6 - 8pm, Brander Kitchen

Food Chain: Gastro Garden,
Seasonal cooking with Glenview Fresh
Local Produce
Limited Places/ £5

Huntly Folk Club

Every 3rd Wednesday of the month.

Many genres including folk, blues and
bothy ballads.

All welcome to join in!

Ex-Servicemen's Club

7.30pm-close

New Board Members: Hazel Gardener, Gordon Schools: Young People's
Representative; Tracy Mackenna, Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art

Our Guests

Hayat and Soubie Shahoud, Syrian New Scots, Katie Maclean, Aberdeenshire Resettlement
Coordinator / Professor Paul Starkey / Dured Alhalbe, Amal Committee Aberdeenshire / Jordan Gillespie,
Gordon School / Munir Emkideh / Imam Ibrahim, Aberdeenshire Mosque / Wafa Khalfan, University
of Glasgow / Fiona Wilson / Lynn Rutter, Huntly in Solidarity with Refugees / Donald Boyd, HDDT /
Mark Stephen, BBC / James Naughtie, BBC / Jelte Hammeijer, Scene Connect / Jamie Wilkinson,
HDDT / Darren Farquhar, NOW / Petra Pennington / Albert Booth / Abid Alhalbe / Hasan Yousef /
Jordan Monkhouse and Emma Duncan, Gordon School / Open Jar Collective / John Gordon / Bahaa
Mahmoud, Syrian Resettlement / Colin Bruce, North Lanarkshire Council / Oscar HR / Annabel Pinker,
Hutton Institute / Mike Waid, The Times / Peter Dickie / Helen Rennie / Petra Vergunst, University of
Aberdeen / Ian Scott, Strathbogie Horticultural Society / David Ross Glamourhaugh Allotments / James
Reid, Tap o Noth Farm / Miranda Montgomery/ Pat Scott, Huntly Express / Michela Marocchi, Pasta
Mia / Alison Bolger / Nadine Baldow / May Murad / Manaf Halbouni / Ghaith Adib / Andrea Geile



Contact Us:
Deveron Projects
The Studio
Brander Building
The Square, Huntly
AB54 8BR, Scotland

T: 01466 794494
E: info@deveron-projects.com
www.deveron-projects.com
www.walking-institute.com

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.