

THE  
TOWN  
IS THE  
VENUE

# DEVERON EXPRESS



## /LOCAL LUNAR ODYSSEY

**AUTUMN 2018**

**A VOYAGER FOR HUNTLY  
· BREXIT · CRAP TOURS ·  
PARTNERLOOK! · GLOBAL  
DINNERS · HAIRST · LIVING  
IN THE RUINS**

In 300 years, what will our local language sound like? Will the same bird be heard, the same leaves rustling? Will there be a town? Will we be thriving or even surviving? How can we project our future in this, our uncertain world?

Sound artist Ela Orleans has been working to capture the sound of the past 100 years of our town and its trees, folks and hinterlands within the present-day framework of her electronic composition. Through the production of electronic music, video and a

timeless language of symbols, *Lunar Odyssey* engages us with our increasingly alien past culture before it is lost, and asks us to consider how we preserve and develop it to survive the unknown journey of our future.

The artwork documents local Scots and Doric language tied to the people and land, a rich tapestry of folk music, and sounds of the ecology - all of which have been threatened as the twentieth century progressed into the present. Political, cultural and environmental factors have shaped the woods, farms, streets and meeting places of our great grandparents; the working sounds of their home, livelihood, and social life have been lost and replaced as change filtered through.

Like Huntly's own *Voyager Gold Record*, *Lunar Odyssey* aims to preserve and project our aural culture forwards into the time and space of an uncertain future. As a sort of time capsule, the work contains sounds and images selected to portray the diversity of life and culture that existed and exists in our town, intended for future people or other life forms who may find it.

Taking our *White Wood* as a starting point – itself a living monument for peace that will not be fully realised for 300 years – *Lunar Odyssey* provides a platform for discussions, talks, walks and musical events with artists, anthropologists, historians and curators: to make the wealth of North East musical culture visible to the wider public.

The project connects with local musicians and composers, ballad singers and an extensive visual archive, contributing to our cultural place-making by connecting past with present and future, old with modern and new, and historic with contemporary and the unforeseen.

*"You have to know the past to understand the present."*

Carl Sagan

**Deveron  
Projects**

# / Project Updates



## Brexit: call to collaborate!

With exactly six months to Brexit, we launched *Think: Brexit* – our commitment to creative discourse. As a cultural organisation we will be exploring our place's future and would welcome your thoughts on how we can shape it through positive, people and earth centred ideas. What would you do? What could we do? Together let's *Discuss / Debate / Act / Imagine*. Over the coming months you'll notice more events and discussions with a Brexit angle - from our local farmers' markets to national marches. **Artists and activists who can help us explore Brexit, please get in touch!**



## How many harvests?

September's *Huntly Hairst*, the annual food and harvest festival saw the town square taken over by an extended farmers' market - and apple trees as part of a preliminary greening of the square. Town is the Garden added a discursive element too, helping folk screenprint calico shopping bags which queried the outcomes of climate change, including the possibility of soil depletion and total crop failure. A fermentation workshop was held which juxtaposed making sauerkraut with the fermentation of alternative political ideas. Lastly an open air public discussion was held with representatives positing alternative models of economy.



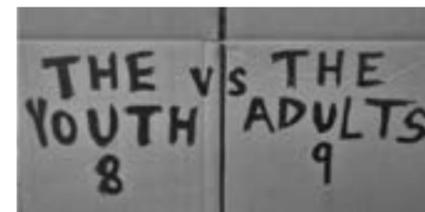
## Quid Pro Quo: Barter Shop open!

Waste can be an unexpected side effect of individuals successfully growing their own food. In their new headquarters, our Town is the Garden programme have been tackling this, whilst exploring non-financial models of economy. *The Barter Shop* at 8 Castle Street is a place where citizens can swap their surplus produce for a little of someone else's, or a jar of jam or chutney. Folk with no glut to offer can help themselves in exchange for a future donation in-kind, or for giving gardening advice or recipes. The shop was officially opened on 16 August by the BBC Radio Scotland programme, *Let's Grow It, Cook It, Eat It*.



## Global Potlatch Supper

As an end to the Hairst festivities, our *Global Potlatch Supper* brought together local and international delegates from across the spectrum of farming, food production and food culture. They each presented their background and concern – for example the prolific use of palm oil and the effect on the forests and economy of their home region in Sumatra – and provided a dish to represent this. Like a cross between a community harvest dinner and the G8, the event asked everyone to consider what they put on their plate, highlighting the butterfly effect this has in their own community and across the globe. Much discussion was stimulated, and we finished with a ceilidh. A global cookbook is in the making.



## Year of Young People

As part of this Scottish Government initiative, Deveron Projects' first Young Intern, Clyde Williamson, helped us engage with the young people of the town through his project *Meals & Movies*. Events included the *Massive Football Match*, which pitted adults against youth in an exploration of authority, and discussions of the town's attractions through a young person's perspective - *Crap Tours*. Clyde and Graduate Intern, Lauren Dixon, attended the international *Rural Youth Camp* conference in August, and a Town is the Garden project is planned for the autumn, pairing young volunteers with elderly citizens to capture stories of food and growing through film.

## Borders, Patterns and Solidarity

As part of the Edinburgh Art Festival, we hosted a series of discussions on art, borders and migration. This saw creative practitioners from diverse backgrounds speak of their experiences to examine the role we in the arts can play in breaking down political and cultural barriers. A research residency in October will prove that what unites us is always far greater than our differences. Through their project *Partnerlook!* German collective *atelierhavelblick* (Gabriele Konsor + Roland Eckelt) will explore solidarity and identity through domestic textile patterns, linking their small community with ours in Huntly. If you'd like to be involved, drop us a line or call in to see us.

Composer and *Lunar Odyssey* artist, Ela Orleans took time to talk to Petra Pennington about the project and her time in Huntly...

### So, why *Lunar Odyssey* as a title?

Originally I was writing the audiovisual composition as a way of mapping the *White Wood*. It was supposed to be based on the Coligny calendar, made by the Druids who marked their territory with Oaks. It's related to the movements of the moon and the stars, and associated with magical symbols.

After spending my days meeting people and gathering material, my main editing time was at night. This shaped my view on it, strengthening the lunar perspective. I decided that my final project will be black and white. The music and visuals will be juxtaposed with symbols, but I don't want to over-intellectualise this - I think I got that from the community of artists here - there will be room for imagination. I want to make something reflective, dreamlike and peaceful, which is ultimately what I aimed for from the beginning, creating the work for the *White Wood*, Huntly's living monument to peace.

**People typically imagine a composer working alone, having a singular creative input in the work. Here your project was shaped by so many voices. How did you find this highly social, collaborative way of working?**

It's quite different from everything I've done before, because for the first time I let the town and its sounds and people lead me rather than myself prompt the material. In my Gaelic project, *Displaced and Adjusted*, I was asking the singer to sing a particular type of song and in a particular style, wearing black during the performance and other details. But in Huntly I



sunk into the texture of life here and I accepted it. I fell in love with that somehow.

Like the folk sessions at the Tin Hut in Gartly. I wouldn't go to things like that in Glasgow - it's not trying to be ambitious or artsy or impress anyone. It's very genuine; it's about having this kind of community that's about fun and togetherness and not being lonely, really. And I met people who are elderly, people with autism, people going through some difficult times in life or illnesses. But all of them come together there. It's very important, like a church almost. And the musicians of the Tin Hut Sessions were so generous to me.



At the beginning I was this person who just came and pushed myself into this community, this very gentle life, with my recorder and big headphones. I had to introduce myself and explain what I was trying to capture with my project, which kind of reaffirmed to me that what I was doing was important.

**Having been aware of how many people you met to film, places you recorded, how many hours of sound did you end up with?**

I think around 20 hours. And then there's visual footage. For example I have lots of beautiful home-shot film from Gordon McTavish, who was Huntly's projectionist from the age of 17. I thought meeting him may help me realise a more cinematic aspect of the town. Gordon was extremely generous and gave me insight into his career not only as a projectionist but as an amateur filmmaker, because he was always interested in filming things. That's what happens to people who spend their lives watching movies. That's what happened to me, except I went to school for that and he didn't have that chance.

**This work forms part of your PhD, would you be able to put *Lunar Odyssey* into that context for us?**

My PhD is about investigating the moral rights in using archival images; how I can use film from official archives, family archives, old photos found in the charity shops - respectfully, without hurting anybody's feelings.

In dealing with living artists during my time in Huntly, I always have to ask people if I can photograph, if I can film them, if I can use the song. I made detailed notes about every song, and was very diligent about that, so there is no random sampling. And I think this will help me to carry on my research in this very ethical way; more considerate even than I have been in the past.

Although I'm an artist, in this project I'm more like an archaeologist. No, a documentarist; this was a study of life, of musical life, of musical texture of the area. I was looking for things I would otherwise probably not hear.

For example when I listened to the intricate music of the forest - the birdsong, the trees I thought "Jesus Christ, this is just the most amazing music, ever." There are no author

rights for that, but I will orchestrate it, and write music to it. It will be surrounded by songs that are very of this place - by contemporary artists like Rachel Ashton, and a lot of traditional folk, where both artist and author will be attributed.

**You spent hours collecting traditional music. As an archivist and composer you were looking back and also thinking forwards - what do you see as the next phase in the evolution of folk music?**

I think to go forwards, it needs to look back actually. I think you need to bring more and more serious musicians here, to play and teach workshops, going back to the roots.

The texture of the sound is so original; it's not invalid because it's old. But it has been slightly



forgotten. When I worked with the Gordon Schools, we asked kids to bring traditional songs, but their take on that was kind of oscillating around folk pop.

Folk music has the same problem, I think, that Country and Western has. When you go to Austin, you have pockets of real old folk music and that's fantastic, that's brilliant. And then you have this really horrible Western music which is a mélange of rock and pop just to bring more people... I believe that having a smaller crowd of people who are genuinely interested is more valid - it has a longevity to it that can be carried from generation to generation. I feel that these poppy 'folk' songs are the enemies of authentic folk, the original. We can have a copy of the Mona Lisa in our house but it's nicer to go to the museum to see the real thing.

**Ela is now back in Glasgow, preparing to work on an epic project drawing from 20,000 hours of official NASA footage from the moon landings.**

**Ela Orleans' film will be formally screened in Huntly as part of *Lunar Odyssey Conference: Explorations in Time, Space, Sound and Place* in 2019.**

# / Events Calendar

## /October

**Wednesday 3, 10am, 8 Castle St**  
Brexfast - first of a series of regular monthly discussions

**Thursday 4, meeting 9:40am Bin Forest carpark, or 10am the White Wood**  
White Wood Forestry Maintenance Session  
Help us look after the young trees in our living monument to peace, with Forester Steve Brown

**Friday 5, 1pm, Friday Lunch, Brander kitchen**  
Al Reeve, *Managing the threat of non-native species to our local river ecology*

**Saturday 6, 9am - 1pm, Huntly Farmers Market**  
Seasonal cafe - Community apple pressing with Pressing Issues discussion on climate change and the EU

**Monday 8, 10am-4pm, 8 Castle St**  
Community Crochery workshop  
Join us to craft some serving ware to extend the set  
Booking essential

**Tuesday 9, New Moon**

**Wednesday 10, 8-9am, 8 Castle St**  
FN-SF - first autumn session in this series of fortnightly reading groups

**Friday 12, 1pm, Friday Lunch, Brander kitchen**  
Partnerlook!, an artists' project on local patterns

**Saturday 13, 10-11:30am, Huntly Hotel**  
Doric Fly Cup, Tea, coffee and Doric language  
Part of Across the Grain festival of Doric culture

**Monday 15, 6-8pm, 8 Castle St**  
Making Local Mince Meat workshop  
Booking essential, bring clean jars

**Thursday 18, 7pm, 8 Castle St**  
Film screening: *The Last Season*, a film exploring the lives of matsutake mushroom hunters

**Friday 19, 1pm, Friday Lunch, Brander kitchen**  
Bob Donald, *One Seed Forward: saving our heritage varieties of potatoes*

**Saturday 20, 12pm, Central London and Huntly square**  
People's Vote March - twinned simultaneous marches  
Join us as we add our voices to the call for further public consultation prior to Brexit

**Sunday 21, 11am - 2pm, Community Orchard, Meadows**  
Apple Day Picnic

**Wednesday 24, Full Moon**

**Friday 26, 1pm, Friday Lunch, Brander kitchen**  
Karen Collins, *Changing our relationship with death*

**Sunday 28, Clocks go back**

**Monday 29, 6-8pm, Brander kitchen**  
Food Chain cooking workshop  
Jansu Tanyeli, *Turkish cuisine*  
Booking essential / £5

**Wednesday 31, Samhain / Hallowe'en**

## /November

**Thursday 1, 7pm, 8 Castle St.**  
Film screening & discussion:  
*In Our Hands*, a film about British farmers seizing the Brexit moment to outgrow the industrial food system

**Friday 2, 1pm, Friday Lunch, Brander kitchen**  
David Ward, *Selected operas*

**Saturday 3, 9am - 1pm, Huntly Farmers Market**  
Seasonal cafe - BrEGGsit - do you like yours soft or hard? Egg rolls and discussion

**Wednesday 7, New Moon**

**Friday 9, 1pm, Friday Lunch, Brander kitchen**  
Claudia Zeiske, *Walking the WW1 Carnic Peace Trail on the Austro-Italian border*

**Monday 12, 7:30pm, 8 Castle St**  
Deveron Projects' 22nd AGM  
Guest speaker: Pauline Burmann, Thami Mnyele  
Foundation - African artists residence programme, Amsterdam. All welcome

**Friday 16, 1pm, Friday Lunch, Brander kitchen**  
Lyra Sevenscats, *World bellydance and the American Tribal Style*

**Saturday 17, meet 10am, Huntly Library steps**  
Town Collection Guided Walk  
Join Town Collection Curator, Alix Rothnie, to explore selected works and hear about their stories.  
Booking essential, tea and treats afterwards

**Friday 23, Full Moon**

**Friday 23, 1pm, Black Friday Lunch, Brander kitchen**  
Town is the Garden, *Alternative economies - experiments in not buying things*

**Saturday 24, 7-10pm, Inverurie West Parish Church Hall**  
Cultural Exchange Community Ceilidh  
An evening of Syrian and Scottish music and dance

**Monday 26, 6-8pm, Brander kitchen**  
Food Chain cooking workshop  
Raye Marcus, *Traditional American Thanksgiving*  
Booking essential / £5

**Friday 30, 1pm, St Andrews's Day Friday Lunch, Brander kitchen**  
Lindy Cheyne, *Garioch Women for Change: working towards a more positive, engaged Scotland*

## /December

**Saturday 1, 9am - 1pm, Huntly Farmers Market**  
Seasonal cafe - *How multinational is your mincemeat?*  
Serving mulled wine and local mince pies

**Friday 7, New Moon**

**Friday 7, 1pm, Friday Lunch, Brander kitchen**  
The Gordon Schools' LGBTQ+ and Allies Club,  
*Promoting awareness and understanding in our community*

**Friday 7 & Saturday 8 Dec, Community Orchard, Meadows**  
Orchard Planting Session  
All welcome

**Friday 14, 1pm, 8 Castle St**  
Small business lunch  
Deveron Projects and Huntly & District Development Trust jointly invite small businesses to come together for a pre-Christmas lunch

**Monday 17, 6-8pm, Brander kitchen**  
Food Chain cooking workshop  
Petra Pennington, *Czech Yuletide Biscuits*  
Booking essential / £5

**Friday 21, 7:30am, meet at Huntly Mart**  
Winter Solstice Walk  
Join us in our annual walk up the Clashmach Hill to mark the darkest day and to celebrate the days getting lighter again.

**Saturday 22, Full Moon**

Merry Yuletide from us at Deveron Projects;  
we look forward to seeing you for more fun and debate in 2019

## /Regular events

**Friday Lunch**  
• Weekly lunches (vegetarian) with speakers from a wide range of backgrounds. £2 donation.

**FN-SF**  
• Town is the Garden fortnightly reading group  
• Every other Wednesday, 8-9am, 8 Castle St.  
• 10 & 24 Oct, 7 & 21 Nov, 5 & 19 Dec  
• Breakfast provided, see website for texts

**Brexfast**  
• A breakfast meeting bringing together local political representatives to discuss how we can prepare locally for the changes that Brexit will bring.  
• First Wednesday of the month (3 Oct, 7 Nov, 5 Dec), 10am, 8 Castle St.  
• All welcome, breakfast provided

**The Barter Shop**  
• Redistributing surplus produce  
• 8 Castle St, open Mondays 9am-5pm and Wednesdays 8:30am-12:30pm



The Town is the Garden team is extremely concerned creating space and opportunity for dialogue and creative about the impact the UK leaving the European Union action that addresses the uncertainty Brexit poses on our will have on all aspects of our society. Much of the debate multi-species environment, on nature-culture. We are around Brexit so far has been dominated by a few issues, particularly concerned about how it will affect how we mainly around the economy and freedom of movement. deal with the climate crisis. We believe Art, Culture, has a However, currently 80% of our environmental laws come vital role to play in helping us to make sense of this time from the EU, so what will happen to these laws if we of uncertainty, challenging those stories that deny the leave? Through our programme we are committed to crises exist, and pointing us towards whatever is emerging.

# / Notices

## People

### Welcome

Gabriele Konsor, **Artist**  
 Robyn Wolsey, **Project Manager**  
 Alix Rothnie, **Town Collection Curator**  
 Lauren Campbell, **Intern**  
 Laura Henry, **Intern**  
 Pauline Burmann, **Board Member**

### Goodbye

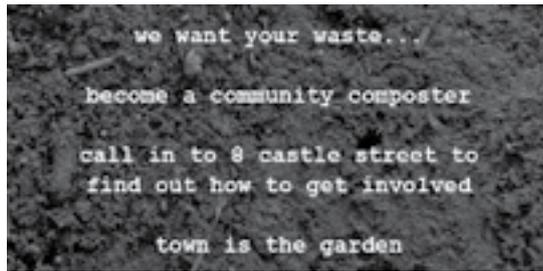
Ela Orleans, **Artist**  
 Rachael Disbury, **Project Manager**  
 Alix Craig, **Intern**  
 Lauren Dixon, **Intern**  
 Clyde Williamson, **Young Intern**

SAVE THE DATE!

## SLOW MARATHON 2019

Weekend of 20/21 April

Local early bird tickets available through [www.deveron-projects.com](http://www.deveron-projects.com)



## FRIENDS OF DEVERON PROJECTS

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- ADVANCE NOTICE OF TICKETED EVENTS
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EMAIL YOUR FULL NAME, POSTCODE & 'I WANT TO BE A FRIEND' TO [INFO@DEVERON-PROJECTS.COM](mailto:INFO@DEVERON-PROJECTS.COM)

**People's Vote March**  
**Saturday 20 October**  
 Join us in London and Huntly to call for further public consultation prior to Brexit



### We won a Green Butterfly Award!

Huntly was recognised for the Community award by Aberdeenshire Environmental Forum, received on behalf of the town by representatives from Deveron Projects, Huntly & District Development Trust, Networks of Well-being and other local community organisations



## Our Guests

Barry Peter Ould, Percy Grainger Society / Sophie Lindsey / Ellie Turner, Ethical Gift Shop / Alasdair Campbell, Counterflows Festival / Matt Aitkenhead, Hutton Institute / David Foubister, Wotis.it / Clea Wallis and Paul Roux, Dudendance / Matt Donaldson, Bike Shack / Amanda Catto, Creative Scotland / Roderick Buchanan / Ania Bas / Alexandra Stein / Dr Duncan Cockburn, Robert Gordon University / Karen Collins / Almir Koldzic, Counterpoint Arts / May Murad and Rachel Ashton / Samir Mehanović / Iman Tajik / Zozan Yasar / Sarah Morbey, Coldwells Farm / Clyde Williamson, Young Intern / Peter Fraser, Rosa Quinn and Connie Sim, Young Volunteers / Al Reeve, Deveron, Bogie & Isla Rivers Trust / Gillian Daly, SGSAH / Nicola Singleton and production crew, BBC Radio Scotland / Eleanor Brown, Forager/Fermentor / Christina Grasseni, University of Leiden / Deborah May, Küche / Vanessa Gilpin, Chef / Katie Rose Johnston / Paria Goodarzi / Tom McWilliam, Grain-treatment specialist / Finda Dwi Putri, Chef / Jane Craigie, Farmer/Communicator / Ayman Jamal, Chef / Pam Johnston / Gwyn Ashton / Dave Whitehead / John Malster, Wild Horticulturalist / Ice Cream Architects / Vikki Treffer, Scottish Land Fund / Christine Steiner, Forest Educator / Magdalena Trifonova, Climate Change Fund / Chris Pepper, Horticulturalist / Vicky Flood, Horticulturalist



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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.