



THE
TOWN
IS THE
VENUE

Aberdeenshire Ways

Regional Identity in the North East of Scotland

Winter 2013

Place-makers, coffee,
snow, shortbread, maps,
haggis, caravans & Rio

Artists Jacques Coetzer and Jan Williams & Chris Teasdale of The Caravan Gallery have just completed their six week Aberdeenshire Ways adventure. They were exploring places, meeting folk and gathering information in an attempt to establish the regional identity of Aberdeenshire.

The road trip started in Ballater, chosen as it's the birthplace of botanist and urban planner Sir Patrick Geddes, who advised us to "think globally and act

locally". From here the team took a circular route following the River Dee past Banchory all the way to the North Sea. They continued through the Aberdeenshire farming heartland back to the foothills of the Cairngorms past the rivers Don and Deveron. By foot, bicycle and road they visited cove towns and fishing ports, commuter places and market towns, gathering up the colours of the land, the global and local heroes on the way.



Deveron
Arts

Place Work Folk

Aberdeenshire Ways



During November and December, the artists Jacques Coetzer and Jan and Chris Teasdale from The Caravan Gallery toured past twenty-four towns in Aberdeenshire coming across many interesting people, stories, songs and anecdotes.

Their road trip started in Ballater, Sir Patrick Geddes' birthplace. From here

Aberdeenshire Facts

Population: 247,600 approx.

Population Growth: 9.5%, 3 times faster than the rest of Scotland.

Size: 6313 sq kilometres (2437 sq mi)

Languages: English, Scots, Doric

Industries: Energy, fishing, tourism, agriculture and whisky

Interesting Aberdeenshire Realities:

Locus of some 20,000 Neolithic and Bronze Age archaeological sites

20 castles are open to the public

University of Fraserburgh was founded in 1597

Macbeth fell at the Battle of Lumphanan in 1057

Aberdeenshire Council's headquarters is at Woodhill House, in Aberdeen; the only Scottish council based outwith its area's border.

The distance from Glenshee in the SW, to Fraserburgh in the NE is 105.2mls, 2.5 hours by car, 6.5 hrs by bus, or 32 hrs on foot (google maps)

they systematically worked their way around the Shire. Following the flow of the River Dee all the way up the North Sea coast to Portsoy, before they headed back down through the inland towns, all the way to where they started, to complete the circle geographically and conceptually. Jan and Chris established temporary hubs with their Caravan Gallery in the towns they visited. People came into the caravan and contributed to a large "folk map", adding in details, street level facts and local stories. Jacques covered most of the route on his bike to get a feel of the geography and weather. In the towns he set up interviews with key folks who told him about their place and how they saw it in terms of the wider region. The artists often tapped into their social networks to make further contact or sometimes just "followed their nose", like an investigative reporter would do. This multi-pronged method allowed them to collate the information to form an overview of Aberdeenshire culture in all its diversity.

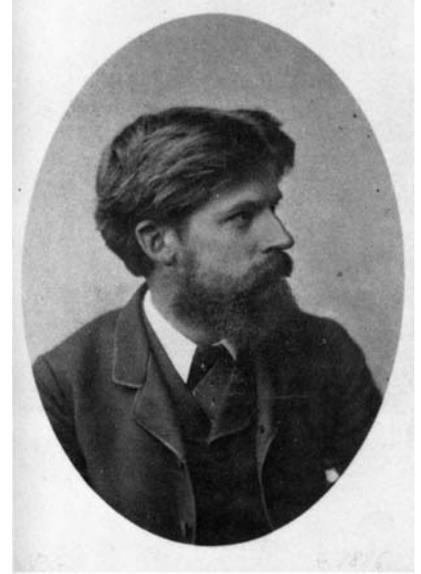
Visitors to the Caravan Gallery were asked to complete a short survey of questions based on their surrounding area. Also, a large map of Aberdeenshire with its stories and local knowledge was created.

Aberdeenshire has a rich historical and cultural heritage with many artefacts and stories. *Aberdeenshire Ways* was to gather all these strands of local knowledge and present the huge range of things—the good, the bad and the ugly—on offer. The county has much to be proud of and certainly proved it over the course of the six-week intense whistle stop tour.

We now have a map full of notes and stories, bursting with all the things that Aberdeenshire has (or has not) to offer. Using collected information from the map, the surveys, the daily anecdotes, the photos and the conversations, the team can form an idea of what our regional identity could be about by distilling local knowledge.

Aberdeenshire Ways is a collaboration with Aberdeenshire Council's 'Be Part of the Picture' programme.
www.bepartofthepicture.com

Patrick Geddes

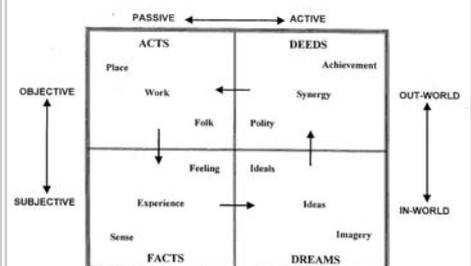


Born: 1854, Ballater, Aberdeenshire
Died: 1932, Scots College, Montpellier

Lecturer in Zoology, Edinburgh Univ.
Prof of Botany, Univ. College, Dundee.
Professor of Civics & Sociology,
Bombay University, India.

Geddes was a plant biologist who became an urban planner later in his life. He coined the "global/local" dialectic and used the place/work/folk template to look at geography and regional identity. He introduced the concept of "region" to architecture and planning and devised the term "conurbation".

Geddes' Notation of Life



Aberdeenshire Ways stops: Ballater, Tarland, Aboyne, Dinnet, Banchory, Catterline, Stonehaven, Inverbervie, Lawrencekirk, Westhill, Ellon, Balmedie, Peterhead, Fraserburgh, Mintlaw, Macduff, Banff, Portsoy, Turriff, Rhynie, Alford and, of course, Huntly.

"Think global, act local" — Patrick Geddes

The Path Travelled

Coffee Mornings



As the darkest day of the year approaches, the Early Commuter Coffee Mornings are drawing to an end. For the last ten Fridays, we have set up a stall from 6:30 – 8:30am either at the Square bus stop or the train station. The rationale behind the coffee was to offer hospitality to the commuters, by doing so enriching their experience of Huntly. It was also about exploring if there is a need for a coffee shop or an opportunity for a business/charity to develop a temporary coffee shop model at the train station/in the square. Our findings have proved that in the early morning most people have already been watered and fed. However, we have met some lovely people who like to make the most of those early mornings; posties, dog-walkers, train conductors and night-shift workers!

Cultural Fund Winners Meet & Greet

At the start of the festive period our Cultural Health Visitor organised a 'Meet & Greet' event for the Huntly Cultural Fund winners. Over 60 people

took part from 35 projects, including the Gordon Primary School's Junior Guides, Huntly Bike Week and the Hairst Festival, amongst others.

To make the most out of the get-together Catrin organised a speed-meeting session. All participants had 3 minutes to discuss their projects and share ideas before they had to move on to the next person. After an hour of chatting, the participants enjoyed a dish of our Signature Menu soup, followed by delicious cakes from the Rhynie Women.



Over the course of the evening many exchanges were made, with the result of new collaborations looking set to take place.

The Huntly Cultural Fund was created from the Creative Place award by Creative Scotland. 37 groups won an award averaging £1000 from over 60 entries. A town wide event is planned for the end of August, led by the Huntly Pipe Band.

To see all the Huntly Cultural Fund Winners visit:
www.huntly.net/cultural-fund

Huntly Citizen of the Year



Claudia Zeiske has been chosen as Huntly's 2013 Citizen of the Year.

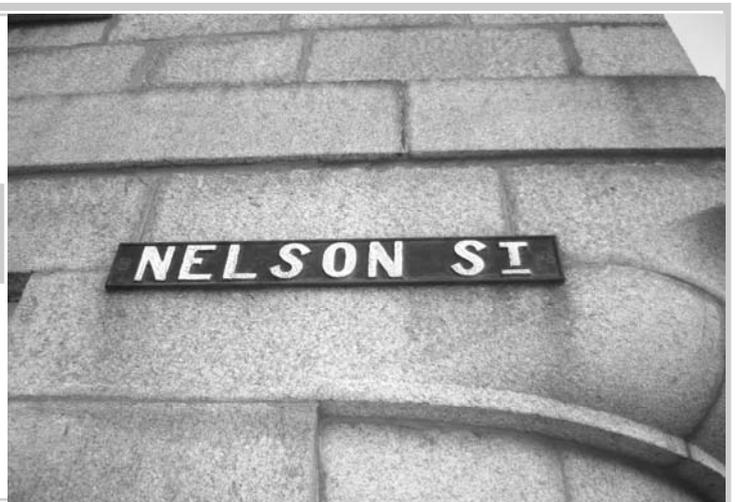
Claudia, accompanied by team members Kate and Catrin, accepted the honour of being driven around the Square in a landrover before climbing on stage to receive the award in front of a large town crowd and the legendary reindeers on a freezing Santa night. We thank all the great people of Huntly for nominating Claudia and her team and also for all the great support, companionship and creative attitude over all these years.

Nelson Mandela Memorial Walk

Deveron Arts joined the Mandela celebrations across the world with a Memorial Walk led by South African artist, Jacques Coetzer. On Sunday the 15th of December, at

'After climbing a great hill, one only finds that there are many more hills to climb.' *Nelson Mandela*

8 am, local residents of Huntly walked 19 times around Huntly Square to commemorate 19 years of South African democracy since 1994, when Mandela became the first black president of South Africa. Our thoughts turned towards this extraordinary man, as his body was laid to rest in Qunu in the Eastern Cape.



The Path Ahead

2014



New Year Intentions?

Keep an eye out for our upcoming Slow Marathon. Following the success of the previous two Slow Marathons, we will be holding another one on the 10th May 2014.

The Slow Marathon was originally set up by Ethiopian artist, Mihret Kibede in March 2012 in order to accumulate the equivalent miles of walking from the Addis Ababa to Huntly and back.

This sparked a large walking event in a circuit around Huntly and a marathon through Addis Ababa the next day. In 2013 we did it again, following a new route through the snowy landscape along the River Deveron. Will you be part of Slow marathon 2014? This marathon differs from a regular marathon in that anybody can take part, no matter how slow they are.

Walking slowly through a landscape allows one to fully experience their surroundings while allowing time to contemplate. The Slow Marathon is an opportunity to do this and to make new friends, take photographs and stop for picnics in between all the walking.

Make it your New Year's Resolution to join us in May. A great way to keep fit on a leisurely stroll through the stunning landscape of Glenkindie, past Lumsden, through Clashindarroch forest and back to Huntly.

Slow Marathon 10 May 2014

Check our website for more info:
www.deveron-arts.com/events

Simone Kenyon, walking artist, will return in January to continue walking in the 'Footsteps of Nan Shepherd' on the Hielan' Way.

Fiddler **Paul Anderson** will arrange a series of workshops before launching his Hielan' Symphony project.

Poet & Artist **Alec Finlay** will come to Huntly in February to develop his visual poetry project of place names between Huntly and the Cairngorms.

Photographer **Gayle Chong Kwan** joins us in February from London, for a year long project looking at the influence of Jules Verne's travel to Scotland. For this she will be working with redundant shortbread from local factories.

Kampala based **Xenson**, performance artist, and **Sanaa Gateja** from Uganda, craft artist will come in March to develop a project reflecting on the legacy of Alexander MacKay. The missionary from Rhynie went out to Uganda in the 19th Century to join the court of King Mtesa. For this he had to walk for 2.5 years with an entourage and a ship from the Dar-es-Salaam coast to Lake Victoria. The artists will make a return visit, investigating what has happened to spirituality in the country that brought them Christianity over 100 years ago.

Shadow Curator: Sarah Worden, Africa Curator, Museum of Scotland.

In collaboration with the Uganda Arts Trust. www.ugandanartstrust.org

WORLD SNOW DAY 19 January 2014

Snow Shoe Workshop
with Simone Kenyon and Catrin Jeans
Make and test your own snow shoes.
An event for all the family!

call 01466 794494 to book



Aberdeenshire
COUNCIL



The European Agricultural Fund
for Rural Development: Europe
Investing in rural areas



BE PART OF THE
PICTURE

MARR
AREA
partnership

DEAN'S
History on the banks
creative place awards
winner 2013

Huntly
Scotland

Walking Institute



Caminhada Silencios

Vivian Caccuri

This Silent Walk, led by artist Vivian Caccuri, was a four-hour route along the seaside path between the Museum of Contemporary Art of Niterói and Jurujuba, a traditional fishing neighbourhood of Rio de Janeiro.

A group of twenty people walked under a vow of silence along the beaches, squares, halls, decks and

private spaces, meeting unexpected situations, special acoustic impressions and improvised urban conditions that foster perceptions of noise and images of the city. At the end of the walk, participants gathered for a meal in Jurujuba to talk about the experience. Held on the 11th November, this walk was a silent reflection, poignant for remembrance day.

Organised by the Walking Institute in collaboration with Instituto MESA and MAC Niterói, Rio de Janeiro.

Navigation Skills & Hill Craft

Over the past few weeks Malcolm Duckworth, in collaboration with the Walking Institute, has hosted an introductory course to Mountaineering Skills. Over the five evenings, every Wednesday, from the 6th of November course members were taught vital skills such as navigation skills and mountain survival skills.

Interested in more vocational skills? We would love to hear from you.

Call us on: 01466-794494, or send us an email info@deveron-arts.com

Nordic Walking

You can now loan our Nordic Walking poles and book Nordic walking classes from Deveron Arts. More information can be found on our website:

www.deveron-arts.com

Thanks to Glenfoudland Trust for the generous contribution towards the purchase of the poles.

New Moon Walk

It was too cloudy to see the stars on our New Moon Walk but Sandra Brantingham made up for it with her enthralling talk about the constellations we would have seen. We now know what to look out for in the Huntly sky.

Mountain Talks

In collaboration with Huntly Hill Walking Club and the Strathbogie Ramblers we are holding a series of Mountain talks. We kicked off with a talk on trekking in the Rwenzori Mountains in December. In January HHWC members will give a talk on how some of their members

tackled the 19,336 feet up Kilimanjaro. This will be followed by a talk by John Perkins on his adventures in Ladakh, India and Ronnie Bowie who walked New Zealand from North to South. April will greet Ron Brander to talk about the Ramblers in and around Huntly.



8th January
HHWC
Kilimanjaro ascent 2013

12th February
John Perkins
Walking in Ladakh
India

12th March
Ronnie Bowie
Walking from North to South
New Zealand

16th April
Ron Brander
Rambling
NE Scotland

The Walking Institute is a project that aims to explore, research and celebrate the human pace.

Noticeboard

Hello & Welcome

Project Intern
Camilla Crosta

Shadow Curator Intern
Alexander "Twig" Champion

Goodbye & Thank you

Walking Project Interns
Christiane Bernhardt
Katie Johnston

Apprentice
Laura Johnston

Ask our Cultural Health Visitor...

This edition Catrin Jeans offers words of wisdom to a local who has guests arriving but no ideas on how to entertain them.

The dilemma: I am expecting visitors to Huntly and I'm struggling to think of activities to do after 5pm, when all the shops close. Can you please advise me on what is on?'

Catrin answers: 'Huntly is a very seasonal town - in the summer you can partake in a weekly ceilidh at the Stewarts Hall and I would recommend one of the many walks in the surrounding area. Though understandably that might not be quite appealing right now in the darkness! My advice is make the most of what Huntly has to offer! The Nordic Ski Club runs a Thursday night session at 7pm in the Ski Centre, which you can try out once before becoming a member. If you're into sport Huntly Football Club play occasional evening matches but if this doesn't take your fancy then on the 3rd Wednesday of every month at 8pm the Ex-Serviceman's Club runs the Huntly Folk Club, anyone can drop in. More local events are listed on Huntly's new events portal: www.visithuntly.net.

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

Did you know?

Every Friday at 1 pm we hold a **communal lunch** where artists, staff, visitors and community join. Everybody is welcome. £1.50 contribution for the meal. Let us know by Thursday if you would like to come.

Deveron Arts holds two small but **exquisite libraries**. One specialises in Socially Engaged Art, the other one in Walking and Art. You can view the library catalogue online at <http://www.deveron-arts.com/about/research-library/> The library resource is open to everyone to use.

Out of Town Events

Nancy Mteki
Mberekho Exhibition
National Gallery of Zimbabwe
28 January — 23 February 2014

Catrin Jeans
New Work Scotland Programme
Collective Gallery, Edinburgh
7 February — 16 March 2014

Shop



RITE OF WAY

Reclaiming
a Minor Path

Alan Macpherson

On Sale now: £6 from our website

What's On

Wednesday 8 January
Kilimanjaro Ascent
The second in a series of mountain talks at Huntly Nordic Ski Centre

Sunday 12 January
Snow Shoe Making: World Snow Day

Friday 24 January
Burns Dinner
Talking about writer, Nan Shepherd over haggis with Professor Alison Lumsden

Sunday 9 Feb, 9 am
Walkshop with Mark Stephen
Walk with BBC radio presenter
Tickets: £20 including bus and lunch

Tuesday 11 February, 9:30am
Response from the River
With Anne Murray
Turrit Angling Association

Wed 12 February, 7 pm
Trekking in Ladakh/India
Huntly Nordic Ski Centre

Thursday 7 March, 1 pm
The Future of the Arts in Scotland?
Lunch time event with Janet Archer
Booking essential

Wednesday 12 March
New Zealand from North to South
Huntly Nordic Ski Centre

Saturday 10 May
Slow Marathon
Join us for our 3rd Slow Marathon, walking from Glenkindie to Huntly

Follow us:

on Facebook and Twitter
twitter.com/deveronArts
facebook.com/thetownisthevenue
facebook.com/walkinginstitute

Contact Us:

Deveron Arts
The Studio, Brander Building
The Square, Huntly
AB54 8BR
(01466) 794 494
www.deveron-arts.com

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.