

Lost Lines Walk + Discussion Thursday 1 August 2013



Artist Stuart McAdam's latest project, part of a residency at Deveron Arts, is based around the infamous Beeching Railway cuts of the 1960's which saw a network of rail routes closed in Aberdeenshire as a result of Dr. Richard Beeching's recommendations. Through a series of performative walks along the former Portsoy to Huntly route, McAdam aims to bring into focus the historic and contemporary issues surrounding this legacy.

1.40 pm: Artist guided walk

Join Stuart McAdam for a guided walk along the Innocent Railway Path, (the route of the capital's first railway line which was closed in 1968), and learn about his nomadic journeys as a methodology for art production. Railway Historian David Spaven will also accompany the walk and give an insight to this historical railway route now enjoyed by cyclists and walkers.

Start: 1.40 pm, The Innocent Railway Path, Duddingston Road West; finish at the Engine Shed, St Leonards Lane. Bus 42 from City Center.

4 pm: Royal Scottish Academy

Illustrated talks and Panel discussion about art, walking and journeying taking us through the history of the railways and other modes of transport in Scotland.

Speakers

Nina Coulson is co-founder of MOVEMENT gallery based on Platform 2 Worcester Foregate St. Railway Station. MOVEMENT is a departure, a change, a stopover, or an arrival – it's a point along a journey and a geographically democratic site for the production and presentation of contemporary artwork. Due to its location on a rail transport system it aims to conceptually take the passenger on many different journeys through time and space, commissioning work by international contemporary artists to be shown at the station. Alongside its physical base, MOVEMENT also commissions offsite projects, sometimes utilising trains and the rail network as a site for networking art practice across the UK, into Europe and beyond.
www.movementtimetable.com

Derek Halden is a civil engineer who has been involved in many path infrastructure projects connecting people and places, railway projects

connecting places to cities, and community station projects which connect paths to railways. Derek recently managed national research for Scottish Government to identify best practice delivering smarter places for smarter travel and is currently working on projects to offer more connected travel experiences, including local information centres as cultural centres and retail outlets for local arts and crafts. He is a Fellow of the RSA, a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport and a Chartered Engineer.

Ellie Harrison is an artist and coordinator of the Bring Back British Rail campaign, the 'collective voice of disgruntled rail passengers and disheartened train employees, demanding a re-unified national rail network run for people not profit'. Bring Back British Rail strives to popularise the idea of re-nationalising the over-priced and over-complicated railway system, which the people of Britain have been left with as the result of privatisation in the '90s.

www.bringbackbritishrail.org

Stuart McAdam studied Fine Art at Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art, Dundee and at the Hogeschool voor de Kunsten Utrecht. He is influenced by ideas associated with Conceptual Art and Dada, storytelling and mythology. His recent projects have primarily taken the form of journeys, by bicycle, boat or on foot. His projects include trips on Scotland's internal waterways and a cycle trip through Belgium and France to Switzerland following the line of the western front trenches from World War I. Stuart is currently artist in residence at Deveron Arts, where he investigates the lost former railway lines in the North East of Scotland on foot as part of a wider commemoration of the 50 years anniversary of the Beeching cuts.

www.stuartmcadam.com <http://www.deveron-arts.com/stuart-mcadam/>

David Spaven is a campaigner as well as a transport consultant used by Scottish and UK transport agencies - having worked as a British Rail freight manager for 18 years until 1993. Together with Julian Holland, he wrote 'Mapping the Railways' on the history of Britain's railways, now on its seventh impression after selling more than 50,000 copies. They also wrote 'Britain's Scenic Railways', published in 2012. David's own 'Waverley Route: the life, death and rebirth of the Borders Railway' was published last year. David was a Green Party activist from 1983 to 1992 and campaigned against the M74 Northern Extension in Glasgow. He was the first Chair of TRANSform Scotland and was active in Get Edinburgh Moving in support of the proposed congestion charging scheme for the city.

Organised by the Walking Institute: www.deveron-arts.com