



**Bram Thomas Arnold** and **Eleanor Wynne Davis** talk to Andrew Stuck about their collaboration at the Sideways Walking and Art Festival in Belgium in 2012. Both artists grew up in rural corners of Wales and this proximity to the countryside is drawn upon in their collaborative practice that incorporates writing, performance, live music, and for Sideways an innovative technology called *Field Broadcast*.

Notes from the podcast interview by **Andrew Stuck**: Recorded in August 2012 on the nomadic month long Sideways 2012 Walking and Art Festival and published in April 2013 on <http://talkingwalking.net>

Sideways2012 walking and art festival: <http://www.tragewegen.be/nl/about>

Bram's website: <http://www.bramthomasarnold.com/>

Eleanor's website: <http://www.eleanorwynnedavis.co.uk/>

**Bram** and **Eleanor** met while studying for a Masters in Arts & Ecology at Dartington College of Arts. Their collaborative practice began whilst developing a project entitled 'Power Walk'; a walking piece in parallel, where Eleanor walked along the route of a gas pipeline in south Wales, as Bram walked the route of a power line in north Wales. Work from this project has been shown widely in the UK and as far afield as St.Petersburg.

Eleanor is a musician who practices classical violin everyday also works in conversational arts with artist Deborah Aguirre Jones. Recent work includes a project linked to new building developments in Bristol where she elicits stories and reminiscences from communities, a project for which there is a Book Launch at the Arnolfini, Bristol in April 2013. <http://www.davisandjones.co.uk/>

Bram is a visual artist and writer whose work focuses on walking, place and memory. He is currently undertaking a PhD at Falmouth University, research from which he is presenting at the Parasol Unit in London in April 2013. He has been involved with the **Field Broadcast** project since its inception by artists Rebecca Birch and Rob Smith, who launched Field Broadcast at Wysing Arts Centre in 2010. The project has just received ACE funding <http://www.fieldbroadcast.org/about.html>

**A Belgian Transect** takes its focus from the relationship between Bram and Eleanor and the way their interactions collide upon the path. Sideways offered an opportunity of walking together to make work on the route, with Field Broadcast creating a means of reaching an audience beyond the Festival. Some days they planned what they were going to make the day before, but frequently they only decided once they had reached new destinations, allowing an intuitive site-specific practice to evolve. Some broadcasts were made from churches, often referencing and evoking views that had been painted by Flemish artists, using the Field Broadcast as an alternative portrait painting. Over two weeks 13 broadcasts were produced and this body of work has gone on to inform their ongoing collaborative and individual practices.

One broadcast was made from the only recognisable church remaining from Brueghel's oeuvre, the Church of St. Anna-Pede just outside Brussels. <http://www.artbible.info/art/large/556.html> A second was at Polygon Wood, made famous in the First World War, building on a piece they had developed in north Wales. <http://www.ww1battlefields.co.uk/flanders/polygonwood.html> They performed it live to an audience in Menen, who mistook its Welsh melancholic overtones, drawn from traipsing over sodden mountains and fields, and thought it had been made in Flanders on the battlefields.

**Eleanor recommends a walk** from Llanthony up onto Offa's Dyke:

<http://www.shareyouradventure.com/map/os/Gareth/Brecon-Beacons-Llanthony-Offas-Dyke-Black-Mountains> or [http://www.nationaltrail.co.uk/offasdyke/gallery\\_image.asp?PageId=21&ImageId=120](http://www.nationaltrail.co.uk/offasdyke/gallery_image.asp?PageId=21&ImageId=120)

**Bram recommends a walk** down the Angiddy river to Tintern and the "Devil's Pulpit" beyond, part of the Wye Valley Walk: [http://www.wyedeantourism.co.uk/outdoors\\_wye\\_val\\_walk](http://www.wyedeantourism.co.uk/outdoors_wye_val_walk)