



Claudia Zeiske

Getting artists out and about in rural north east Scotland has been the aim of **Claudia Zeiske**, founding director of **The Walking Institute** and of community arts organisation **Deveron Arts**. A keen walker herself, she uses walking not only as a creative practice but also as therapy. Having been invited to compete in a marathon as a runner, she found the experience far from inspiring, and set about creating a '**Slow Marathon**' in the rural countryside that surrounds Huntly in Aberdeenshire. Each year a different artist is invited to devise a new marathon route where people are invited to walk as slow as they like.

Andrew Stuck caught up with Claudia between meetings in London. They walked a circular route around the Whitechapel Gallery, trying to find quiet streets in which to record a conversation - a staggeringly difficult challenge in an area beset with development including a new Crossrail station.

Notes from the podcast interview by **Andrew Stuck**: Recorded in February 2015, on a circular walk around Whitechapel Art Gallery in London. Published in January 2016 on <http://www.talkingwalking.net>

Claudia's childhood included day long walks in the Austrian Alps. Later she trained as an anthropologist, and after moving to Scotland she became a 'munro bagger' and set up **Deveron Arts** in Huntly, Aberdeenshire. An organisation – working with artists from across the globe - that has no venue, instead *the town is the venue*: <http://www.deveron-arts.com/home/>

The Walking Institute, which is nested within Deveron Arts is a peripatetic school for the slow pace: <http://www.deveron-arts.com/the-walking-institute/>

The '**Slow Marathon**' <http://www.deveron-arts.com/about/slow-marathon/>

Originally conceived by Claudia and Ethiopian artist **Mihret Kebede**.

In 2014, Scottish fiddler **Paul Anderson** chose followed ancient drovers' roads for his Hielan' Ways symphony, while in 2015 **Stuart McAdam** researched a route that followed a disused railway line <http://www.deveron-arts.com/stuart-mcadam/>.

Beeching's cuts to rural railway lines (1963) https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Beeching_cuts

Claudia Zeiske's recommendation for a walk is:

1. Take the Slow Marathon. In 2016, it will be a route devised by artist Anne Murray and musician Jake Williams who walked with against the Flow along the river Deveron; details: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/slow-marathon-2016-along-the-deveron-tickets-20034038348>;
2. Walk around Ramallah, Palestine: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ramallah>