## From Mountain to Sea A Valley Section

Remembering Together: Aberdeenshire



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emembering Together has been Scotland's Covid community memorial programme, working with local partners to commission artists in all local authority areas to co-create collective acts of reflection, remembrance, hope and nealing with communities across Scotland.

berdeenshire is over 6,000 sq. kilometres in size. Following an intensive period of walking and talking with communities, we have taken an approach akin to traditional pilgrimages, encompassing a wide geographic stretch of the county. However, with people working in such diverse sectors as oil, fishing, farming, tourism, and many other occupations, how do you co-create in a regior with roughly 250,000 people living in an area so vast and varied? My take on this was to take the local authority's strapline literally and create a walk from

Starting on Ben MacDui, the highest mountain in Aberdeenshire, I carried a pink tablecloth, the colour of Ordnance Survey maps, to the port of Peterhead. The cloth features the drawing of a Valley Section, a concept developed by Aberdeenshiremachine' drawing brings together the dialectic relationships between ecology and economy, describing people's work in relation to the landscape.

Walking a contemporary Valley Section I was looking at people's interests, hobbies, pleasures and worries - in day-to-day life and in the times of the pandemic. Covid. the lockdown and its related rules have affected us all. We wanted to see what memories remain, what has changed and what has gone

People I talked to were invited to sign and draw on the tablecloth along the way. I then embroidered the texts and images as I walked along the way to the North Sea coast. While the experiences varied vastly according to location, economic or personal circumstances, walking in the outdoors was one of the few things many of us were able to do, collectively, while keeping distance. Together we developed a new almost 220 km long path based on a rich tapestry of ideas and thoughts that constitutes this memorial for the widest geographic and demographic range of people in Aberdeenshire.

Walking from West to East the route encompasses the tourist-rich, affluent areas of royal Deeside on the mountain side, past fertile farming heartland across the spine of Aberdeenshire to the North Sea oil and fishing employment-

Along the way I collaborated with master furniture maker Chris Nangle who was commissioned to make a bespoke family of benches, necklaced along key locations: Hutchison Hut (a bothy high up below Ben Macdui) and places in or near Ballater,

Tarland, Alford, Kemnay, Oldmeldrum, Maud and finally Peterhead.

The route is complemented by an album of music by Aberdeenshire-based but world-wide celebrated fiddler Paul Anderson, containing tunes that bring people and place together during and beyond the Covid period. His tunes include jigs. reels, Strathspeys, slow airs and laments based on the different experiences and places across the county. Reflecting on sad stories and more uplifting experiences, the tunes tap into emotions encountered through Covid in its many forms. Whether sitting on one of the beautiful benches or at home on your couch it may make people feel sadness or joy whether it is grief that is felt or being hopeful about new times to come

This multi-faceted approach allowed us to reach numerous towns, villages, communities and folks from all walks of life, to enable people to find contemplation hrough a peaceful way, enjoying Aberdeenshire's beautiful and varied countryside. To achieve this, careful consideration has been given to views, ecology, access, safety, varying demography and points of historic and environmental interest on the route in general and the bespoke benches in particular. The way I, my collaborators and many co-walkers travelled, is one of many People can do the walk in a whole, on different days or through different stretches. Most of the benches can also be reached independently by car or by public transport. But our main wish is that it encourages folks to create their own personal pilgrimages to their very own points of importance to find hope and healing around our county that stretches so widely from Mountain to Sea. Many thanks go to the countless co-walkers, embroiderers and communities across Aberdeenshire for the collaboration and co-creation. There are too many

to mention individually, but we are indebted to every one of them.

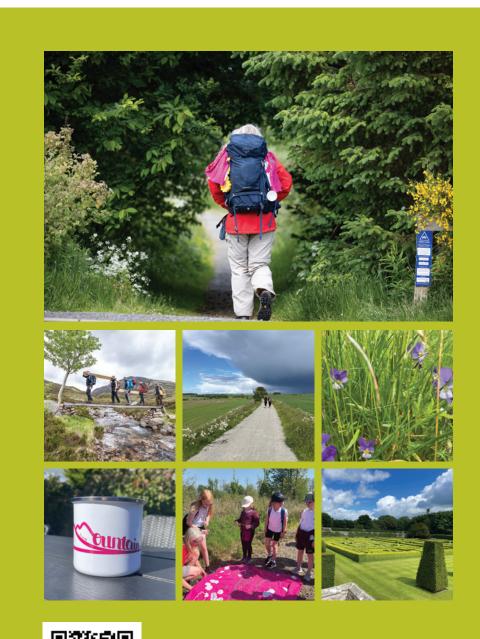
Walker and Lead Artist



Special thanks go to: Braemar Mountain Rescue Team, Mountain Bothy Association. Mar Lodge Estate, Braemar Knitters and Path Group, Ballater Library and Community Heritage Hub, Tarland Tapestry Group, MacRoberts Trust, Alford Health Walkers, Kemnay Academy and Positive Steps, Meldrum Health Walkers and Ramblers, Udny Development Trust, Pawpalz and Slater Court in Ellon, Maud Milers Walk Club and School, Friends of Strichen, Fraserburgh Academy, HMP Grampian, Peterhead Food Bank and Community Council. Photo credits: Claudia Zeiske, Paul Anderson, Nick May, Paul Campbell, Anke Addy The Remembering Together programme is managed by greenspace scotland in

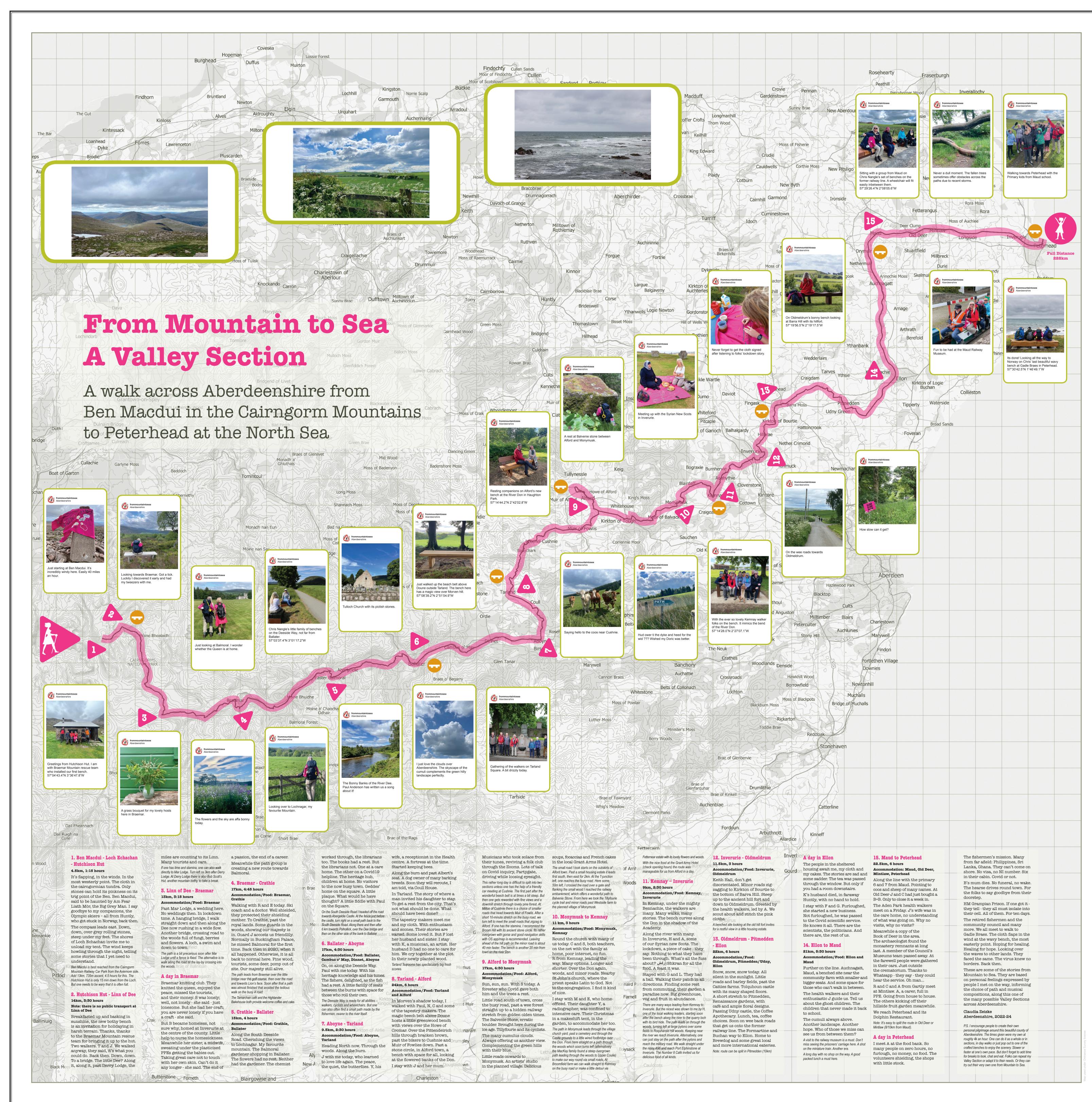
Scottish Government. Thanks also to Buchan Area Fund and Coastal Communities Fund.







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accident in 1949.

Ben Macdui is the highest mountain in Aberdeenshire Long thought of as the highest in the UK, it is the second highest mountain in Britain after Ben Nevis. It is based in the vast and exposed Cairngorm plateau, a rolling arctic wilderness, where Aberdeenshire hosts 4 of the 5 highest mountains in the UK.

**Hutchison Hut** is run by the Mountain Bothy Association. 'Hutchy' was built in memory of Aberdeen born geologist Dr Arthur Gilbertson Hutchison, who died in a climbing

The River Dee rises at 1309m on the shoulder of Braeriach in the heart of the Cairngorms and flows higher than any other river in the British Isles for some 145km towards Aberdeen into the North Sea.

The Mar Lodge Stag Ballroom has a spectacular 2,435 red

deer stags' heads lining the walls and ceiling.

The **Braemar Gathering** is hosted every year on the first Saturday in September attracting visitors from far and near, most notably among them are the members of the

**Crathie** is so popular due to its proximity to Balmoral, the

Royal Family's retreat in Scotland. Crathie's granite kirk was built with the proceeds of a bazaar held at Balmoral, and is the Royals' local church. Ballater is the birthplace of Patrick Geddes. A true polymath, positivist, geographer, philanthropist, he is known for his innovative thinking in the fields of

was one of his innovative ideas, describing social evolution through the four stages of hunting, pastoral, and agriculture towards commercial societies. Lochnagar can be seen in its full glory from the bench on

Deeside Way. Its name refers to Lochan na Gaire, in the

community planning and sociology. The Valley Section

corrie, the 'little loch of the noisy sound'. The **Deeside Way** is 41 miles long, following the Old Royal

Deeside Railway line from Aberdeen to Ballater. Tulloch is an ancient village that was founded on a healing well with good water to treat skin ailments. It is said to be the birthplace of Saint Nathalan, founder of the first

Christian Church at Tullich in the 7th century. The ruined

church was built around 1400 on which site one can find a collection of Pictish Stones. Aboyne is renowned for its Highland Games which take place every year in September. The Aboyne dress is the

name given to the prescribed attire for female dancers since 1952 for both National and Highland dances.

Tarland is a lively village with loads of things to see and do. It is also the home of fiddler Paul Anderson, and you can follow The Singing Land music trail.

In **Cushnie** a supposedly ancient local recumbent stone circle was revealed to have been constructed by a former farm owner in the 1990s. Its a much-overlooked wee corner of Aberdeenshire, where, at an isolated cottage here, the great violin virtuoso Yehudi Menuhin used to

that hosts everything from stuffed lambs to bomb bower indicators, collected by local folks. There is also the Grampian Railway Museum and Evelyn's Treasure Finder shop full of vintage, retro and funky things. Bennachie has several tops, dominating the skyline from

Alford is home to a treasure trove of a little museum

many directions on our route. Mither Tap (518m) has an Iron age fort on its summit. It is the reputed location of the Battle of Mons Graupius where a Pictish army was defeated by the Romans. **River Don** follows a circuitous route from the Cairngorm

Mountains eastwards past Corgarff Castle, through Strathdon and the Howe of Alford before entering the North Sea just north of Old Aberdeen. Monymusk has a studio and gallery in the village square

where people are welcome to come in and chat to the

artists. The Sir Arthur Grant centre provides group Kemnay's granite has been used in many famous buildings, to include Marischal College in Aberdeen and Thames Embankment in London. The quarry was

recreated as a piece of land art from where we can see the

post-industrial works, looking down on the now disused

water filled quarry hole. Inverurie is the place where the Don and the Ugie meet, inviting for a stroll around the parklands at Keith Hall. When in **Oldmeldrum**, look for a little mouse on one of the

Garioch distillery as a fire started. Pitmedden Gardens is a renaissance Scottish Garden with around 30,000 bedding plants that make up the colourful designs in the parterres as well as an orchard with

espaliers along the vast walls.

posts in the Square. He once woke a watchman at the Glen

The Formartine and Buchan Way is one of Scotland's Great Trails. Suitable for all abilities, the pathway uses the former railway line linking from Dyce to the village of Maud where it splits eastwards to Peterhead and northwards to Fraserburgh.

**Ellon** is home to Brewdog. You can visit the brewery and try out one of their 60 beers in their tap room and restaurant, which features a beer school, museum and library.

building. Check out the prisoners' carriage, which carried the inmates from Peterhead to work in the quarry at the harbour. Old Deer is where the Book of Deer was written, a 10thcentury Gospel which contains the earliest surviving Gaelic writing from Scotland.

Maud Railway Museum is housed in the former station

Mintlaw is home to Milladen Mill, one of Scotland's last remaining woollen mills.

Peterhead is the largest fishing port in the UK, where almost 200 million tons of fish are loaded annually. Its nickname is the Blue Toon because local fishermen traditionally wore blue stockings. We found it hard to find a photo, a pattern or even a real sock! But the good people of Peterhead knitted Claudia a pair, now proudly framed in



## My rucksack - my home for the journey (never more than 10kg)

Mountain to Sea mug Gloves, hat, beanie Walking trousers (which you can make into shorts) Leggings 2 x t-shirts 1 x t-shirt long-sleeved 3 x pants 2 x socks Pyjamas

Water bottle Swiss Army Knife Phone and cables PC and cables Fountain pen, pencil Small flowerpress Geo loupe **Utility Room** Walking sticks

Foothbrush and cream Suncream Hairbrush First Aid Kit Paracetamol Blister plaster Tick tweezers

Compass (only in Cairngorm Midge hat Spare shoelaces Little Sun Money

Bench locations on the route

Walking day starting points













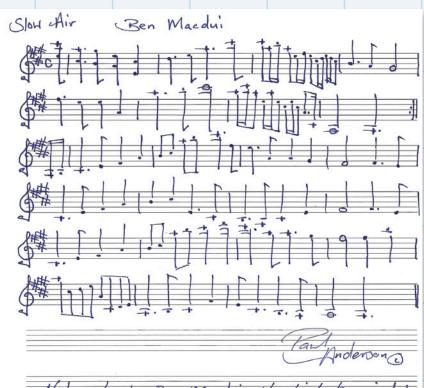






# From Mountain to Sea Paul Anderson

Tunes written along the path in response to the stories shared by community members



Not only is (Ben Macdui the highest point in Aberdeenshire, it is the second highest point in the British Isles and an appropriate place to begin our journey across, Aberdeenshire from Moutatain to sea! It's famously said to be haunted by the territying ghostly figure of a big grey man.

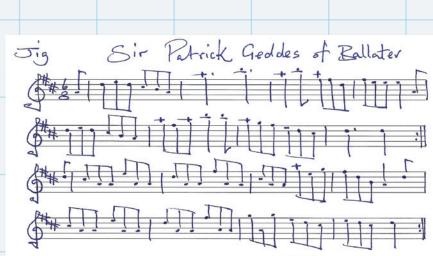
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The Hutchison Bothy ar Hut was built in Memory of Dr Arthur Gilbertson Hutchison, an Aberdeen born Geologist who died in a climbing accident in 1949.

143 located below buch Etchacken in the shedow of Ben Macdin and is cared for by the Mountain Bothy Association.

Slow Air	By M	Majestio E	Colling De	e
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The beautiful River Dee is a constant companion on the early parts of the Halk from the Linn o Dee to Hooyne and passing throng some of the most picturesque scenery in Aberdeenshire.



Rallater born Sir Patrick heddes was an infuential biologist, sociologist, geographer, philanthropist and town planner. He was born in 1854 and is perhaps best known today for his quote "think globally but act locally."

It's claimed that Geddes was the foreruner of modern green politics and his work is one of the inspiration for this project.

Waltz Making the Best of it

Lock down was a difficult experience for many folk to deal with and the people of Aberdeenshure had little option, than to try and make the best of a situation which was completely and with their control.

Slow Air By Tullich's Storied Walls

The Settlement of Tullich is of considerable antiquity and pre-dates the nearby village of Ballater by well over a thousand years. The runed church on the site was built around 1400 but is built on the site of the chapel founded by St Nathalan in the 7th century.

March From Douneside's Reach Belt

Tank Inderson

Downestell House near Tarland is now an award vinning hotel and leisure centre but it was built by Sir Alexander MacRobert during the early 1900s after he bought the Burnside lastate as a family holiday home in 1888.

The House of Cromar in which Downeside sits has many popular and excellent walks including the Tarland Way. One of the best loved is the path above Downeside which passes through a belt of mature Brech trees and which afords some beautiful views across to Lochnagar and the Eastern Cairngorms.

March Leochel Cushnie

Leochel Cushnie is a rural parish between the villages of Tarland to the South and Alford to the East. Not as well known as some parts of Aberheenshire it's a picturesque place non-the-less and one well known regular visitor was the famous Virtuoso Violinist Sir Yehndi Menhuir.

Strathspey The Vale of Alford

Health Spey

The Vale of Alford is an area of rich agricultural land with the thriving village of Alford at it's heart. The renowned Aberdeen Angus cattle breed was founded at the near by Tillyton Farm and as life size bronze statue of an Aberdeen Angus bull welcomes visitors at the Eastern entrance to the Village,

Slow Air Through the Glass

Through the Glass

Through the Glass

Through the Glass

A painful experience for many people during lockdown was not being able be near loved ones who were in care. This piece was inspired by visiting my grandmother Alice cromar at Allachburn Care Home in Aboune and only being able to see her through the window from the garden.

trathspey The Kemnay Rant

Hack Market Strain Control of the Contr

Kemmay is a thriving village in the Garioch about 16 miles West of Aberdeen. The name comes from Gaelic and is thought to mean "head of the plain" (Ceann a maigh). A "rant" is a lively Strathspey or Reel.

Paul Maderson

Reel Invervice

Invervice is the civic Capital of Aberdeenshire and the largest town in the Country. It stands at the confluence of the rivers Viry and Don about 16 miles West of Aberdeen.

Sited in a strategically important place, Invervice has witnessed events of great historic significance such as the Battle of Harlaw (1411) and the Battle of Invervice (1746).

Slow Air Under Barra Hill

Barra Hill is a distinctive landmark

near Oldmaldam, dominating the approach

to the town from Inverse!

Remains of an ancient hillfort are clearly

visible on the Summit and in the year 1308

King Robert the Bruce defeated the Comyn Earl

of Buchan, rising from his sick bed to win a

decisive victory. The Battle of Barra was followed
by what became known as the Harrying of Buchan,

where Price's forces destroyed farms, homes and

strongholds associated with the rivel Comyn faction.

Slow Air The Ghost Children

White walking with the Ward walking group on the Formartine Buchan Way I had a startling conversation with a mental health nurse about children in Buchan who were suffering from severe fear and anxiety due to the Covid lockdown and had been unable to return to school They children are home schooled and receiving therapy to get them back into society. They are known as the Shost Children!

The Approach to Mand

What is the proach to Mand

The Approach to

The Formartine and Ruchan Way trail which actually extends from Dyce near Aberdeen to Peterhead and Fraserburgh to the North.

The path uses the old rail line and approaches Mand from the south were it splits into two routes; Eastwards to Peterhead and Northwards to Fraserburgh. The path passes through gently rolling Farmland, very different from the Cairagornes and Upper Desside but levely and very pleasing on the eye.

Waltz Hymn for the Departed

History

Tank Anderson

Sadly for some, the time of lockdown represents the loss of loved one's to Cariot. This piece was written in rememberance of

Reel Gadle Braes

The G

Gadle Braes is to the North of Peterhand and it looks out onto the North Sea. It's here that our journey across Aberdeenshire from Mountain to Sea" ends. el Peterhead Harbour

| The property of the pr

Journey across Aberdeenshire

to Sea" ends.

Peterhead is Europes largest fishing port

but it also caters for the oil industry,

renewables and leisure. It's a busy and

bustling place the harbour and

compriser of eleven distinct areas such

as North Harbour, Albert Quay and

Princess Royal Jetty.

