

Internship Report

Georgina Watson

17th July 2017 – 15th September 2017



I was really happy to be offered the project internship for the summer between my 2nd and 3rd years studying Fine Art at Lancaster University. I was excited to see what the next two months would bring and when I look back I don't think I realised then quite how much I would gain from the experience.

From my first day in Huntly, the Deveron Projects team were really welcoming and keen to get to know me. This was great and helped me to settle quickly. I also liked living with another member of the team and how much we saw each other outside of the office too.

There were many aspects of my internship that I enjoyed and I find it difficult to quantify everything I have learned and enjoyed because there is just so much!

A couple weeks into my internship we went to Edinburgh for the Art Festival, I enjoyed getting to see the city and assist with the *What If?* event we were running at the RSA. I found helping with the event really insightful as I had not worked at a symposium-like event before. From helping to prepare materials to take with us, meeting and greeting guests, setting up the room and taking photographs during the event it was great to see the many aspects that had to come together for the event to run smoothly.

I think that the organisation's relationship with food and views of how it can be used is something that I easily related to and most definitely something that I'll remember fondly. A few weeks in Rachael gave me the task of liaising with the speakers for the Friday Lunches, I liked the feeling of having this responsibility and it gave me the opportunity to understand and experience Deveron Projects' focus on hospitality in more depth. I always looked forward to Friday Lunch and I liked how it gave me the opportunity to meet many different people from Huntly and others who had links with Deveron Projects.

Alongside the Friday Lunches, the monthly Farmers' markets were another great way to meet people in Huntly. Whilst I was here I took part in two markets that were both organised by the *Town is the Garden* team. I think



the farmers markets are perhaps something that previous interns may have had more input in but I think it worked well having the TITG team organise the seasonal activities as they fitted well with their project and relieved the main team of extra tasks during a busy period.



In terms of professional development and what I have learned during my two months here, I think I might only know the full scale of it when I look back on the experience in a few months time! Experiencing socially-engaged art practice in this way and reading about the past projects has influenced and inspired my own art practice in ways I did not imagine before coming and has given me confidence to explore my own work in new ways too.



Having never worked on a funding application before and witnessing Deveron Projects' successes, I was delighted to get the opportunity to read past applications and help write one for an upcoming project. At first getting my head around the structure and how to tailor the application to the funders requirements was difficult, however, I enjoyed the challenge, gained many skills from this experience and will definitely feel a lot more confident when writing funding applications in the future.



I also feel like I gained a lot from experiencing the early planning stages of the Understanding Peace event to be held in November, this involved contextualising the event and finding speakers/other organisations to work with.



I found the Deveron Projects offices a pleasurable place to work, there was always someone around and something happening. I also liked how HDDT are just next door and seeing Hilda, the cleaner, in the mornings. As well as enjoying the larger aspects of the role and helping with the events, I did enjoy the general office duties that the project intern is responsible for, like the accounts, press archive and Instagram. I found it quite satisfying when I knew everything was in its correct place.



I've enjoyed getting to know Huntly through living in the place I work but I sometimes felt like I didn't have the opportunity to explore Scotland, mainly due to being restricted to public transport and needing to be money conscious with the £50 per week stipend.

Just in case you can't already tell I greatly enjoyed my time here as Project Intern and hope that this will not be my last time in Huntly. I'm really



grateful for everything that Rachael and the team have taught me and for always being patient and answering my questions.

I've signed up to the Deveron Express and the email newsletter and I look forward to keeping up with the goings on here and hopefully we can keep in touch too.

Thank you for everything!

Georgina

14/09/2017

