

My involvement with M6/M3 Unterwegs

Encouraged by Margaret James Barber, who I was at Uni with, I was invited (along with other Plaited Fog members) in the summer of 2007 to camp on the shores of Ullswater, this was where I first came to know some of the artists from the Cumbrian Network. We had a great weekend visiting and networking with other artists and I subsequently joined the Cumbrian Network. I received their newsletter and went to a preview of Paul Clark's exhibition at Lancaster University. These were the foundations to my involvement with Hub International.

Paul came to an exhibition I was involved in where I was showing some black & white photographs of Berlin, we discovered a shared interest. We exchanged books and information about Berlin and Paul mentioned that he would like to visit. The following year was the Berlin Biennale and I mentioned I intended to visit, it then transpired that a group from South Lakes Hub were going to visit too! In fact we had booked on the same plane out!

I have been very fortunate to visit Berlin many times since 2002, I have witnessed change there and begun to understand a little of the city's turbulent past, it is a wonderful city with many green spaces and a passion for art. I had discovered a very interesting project in Marzahn (a suburb of Berlin), this project had been initiated by the residents, they had a themed hotel (two apartments in their block of flats) which you could book to stay. The group from Kendal contacted them and booked.

We came together in Berlin! We met as a group for the first time, exchanged valuable local info and knowledge of the transport system etc. and shared a meal. Ah – now you see, if you have visited the exhibition M6/M3 Unterwegs you will be aware that I have revealed my interest in the transport network in Berlin!!

The weather was hot in May 2008 and we had a fantastic time. I joined the group and on our return I attended many meetings in Kendal and the hard work began! Time was quite short we gave ourselves a very demanding and ambitious timeline. The group eventually consisted of 5 German artists (one of whom is buffy klamma who I have got to know personally) and 7 artists from Cumbria and Lancashire. Over the winter months the project developed, we arranged 4 exhibitions, travelling from Lancaster, Preston and on to the M3 gallery in Berlin and so it became M6/M3 Unterwegs as we were underway with an exhibition of work which will hopefully be a catalyst for other creative collaborative ventures with the artists I am just beginning to get to know.

This is my story, if you wish to read more about this project from other members please see this month's A-N Magazine. These reports are tangible proof of how networking works and opportunities develop from sharing information and expertise, something I know LAN promotes.