

THREE RIVERS CROSSWORD – a new book by Alec Finlay

January 2006

THREE RIVERS CROSSWORD is a cryptic word-map of the North East. An innovative and playful crossword following the course of the rivers Tyne, Wear and Tees from source to sea. This major art project was conceived by Alec Finlay and made in collaboration with Sandy Balfour (Guardian), Beth Rowson, Ira Lightman and pupils from Westlea Primary School (Seaham).

"The Three Rivers project, ... is an invitation to dance - to dance through the times, places, words and rivers of the North East of England."
Sandy Balfour

Using the crossword, a popular idiom of travel and leisure pastimes, *THREE RIVERS CROSSWORD* is an adventure in cryptic thought, with over two hundred clues that refer to the locale. It offers website links to help guide readers to solutions, allowing anyone in the world to navigate this crossword map of the North East. The crossword schema follows the courses of three rivers as they flow past towns and villages, castles, bridges, battles, follies, schools, museums and local *flora* and *fauna*. The words include place names (Latin, Old English, Viking, Norman), local history, hills and valleys, landmarks and buildings.

The book also features essays by Finlay and Balfour discussing crosswords and maps.

THREE RIVERS CROSSWORD is the second in a series of *bookscapes* – an innovative series of publications created by Alec Finlay, platform projects and morning star exploring extended experiences of reading.

Editor: Alec Finlay

Crosswordsmiths: Alec Finlay, Sandy Balfour, Beth Rowson, Ira Lightman and pupils of Westlea Primary School, Seaham, County Durham

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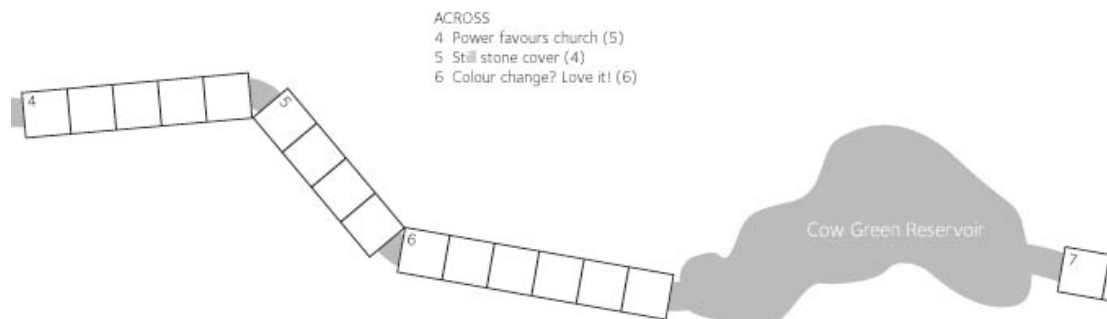
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Notes to editors:

bookscapes is published by platform projects (formally *pocketbooks*) - a creative organisation based in Newcastle-upon-Tyne that produces innovative and collaborative visual arts and literature projects. With new publications encompassing public art, sound recordings and digital animation platform projects encourages a generative approach to all art forms.

Alec Finlay was born in Scotland in 1966 and is an artist, poet and publisher. He lives and works in Newcastle-upon-Tyne. Alec is currently Visiting-Artist at Yorkshire Sculpture Park. Recent books include *Shared Writing*, *Ludwig Wittgenstein: There Where You Are Not*, and *Wind Blown Clouds*. *bookscapes* was preceded by the *pocketbooks* series (2000-02) and *small press series* (2002-05).

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