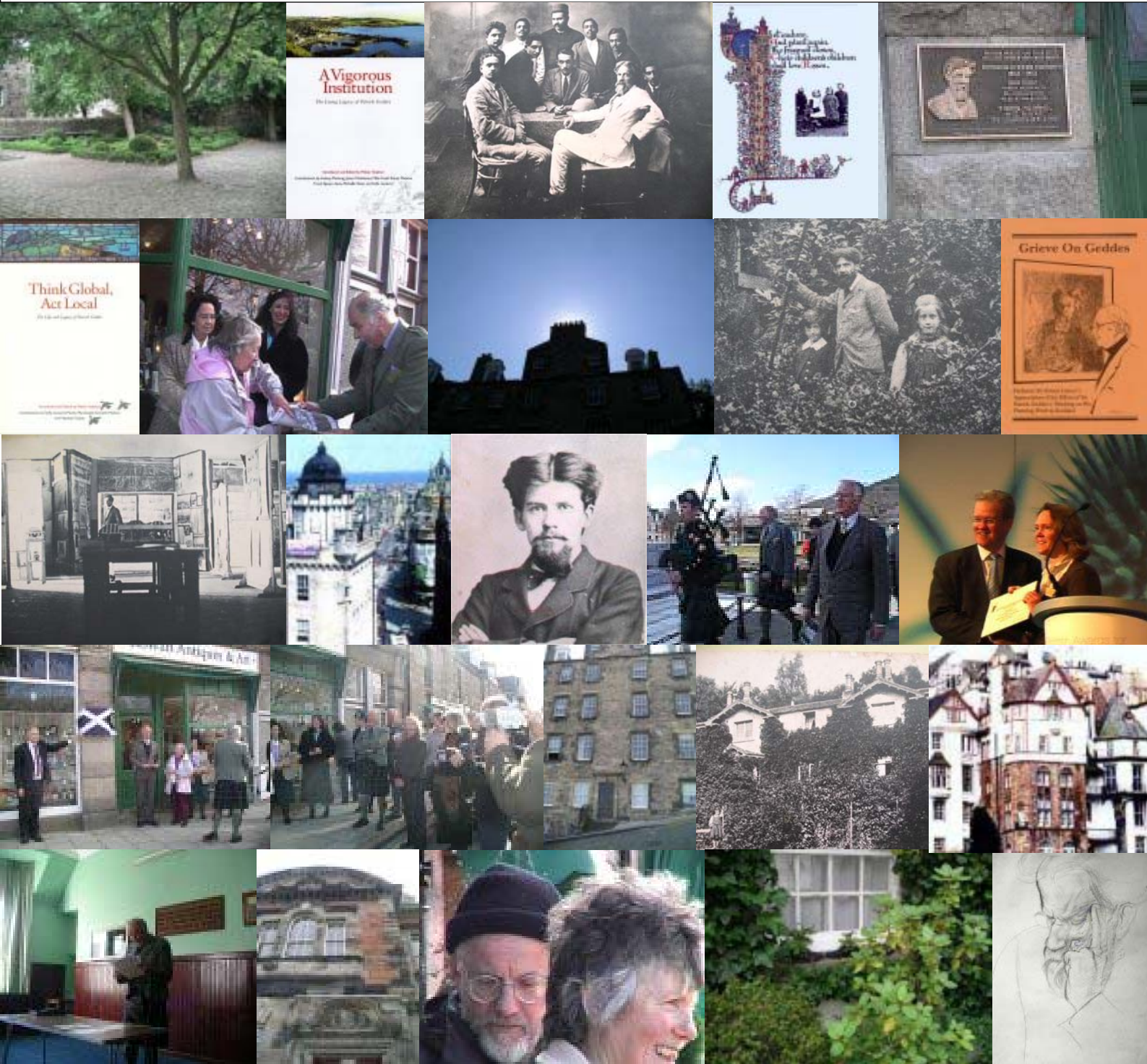




# Sir Patrick Geddes Memorial Trust Magazine

Vol 1. 2010



## **Contents**

### **1-2 Geddes and Perth Now (Perth 800)**

Trust Member Kenny Munro outlines recent Geddes inspired developments and events in Perth, Scotland.

### **3-5 SPGMT Publications**

A listing of publications available from SPGMT, full details, prices and ordering available on the web site:  
[www.patrickgeddestrust.co.uk](http://www.patrickgeddestrust.co.uk)

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## Geddes and Perth Now (Perth 800)

In 2010 Perth will celebrate the 800th anniversary of when the Royal Burgh Charter was granted by King William the Lion of Scotland in 1210.

And to commemorate this there will be twelve months of cultural events staged across the town.

[www.pkc.gov.uk](http://www.pkc.gov.uk) & [www.lightnight.co.uk](http://www.lightnight.co.uk)

The promotion of Geddes has a role to play in this.

The Geddes Family moved from Ballater to Perth in 1857 and this episode in his life is well documented with particular reference to recent publications by Walter Stephen. He has just launched his book; "The Evolution of Evolution" published by Luath Press ISBN 1-906817-23-5, which has two chapters on the relationship between Darwin and Geddes.

There has been a series of initiatives over the years to celebrate the life and ongoing significance of PG in Perth. Sculpture, Seminars and now a formal walkway have helped to raise the profile on Geddessian matters. The current initiative has been conceived and delivered by Alistair Godfrey of Perth & Kinross Council's Parks & Countryside Department.

### Take a Walk

The walkway encourages folk to take a stroll across the town and to enjoy diverse sculptures by the river, en route to where Geddes and family had lived at Mount Tabor on the side of Kinnoull Hill (private property). Then an easy walk follows onto the summit. (A new symbolic seat with inscription provides a point of contemplation; then slightly further on, beside a Victorian tower folly, stunning views of the River Tay can be observed.

Famously it has been said that the young Patrick was first inspired here by the 'outlook' of such a stunning panorama and that this informed his passion for rivers, ecology and the development of the Folk-Work-Place triad and related philosophy. Further surveys and exploration inspired diagrammatic interpretations of 'location influencing life' as synthesised in the Valley Section pictogram.

### By Creating we Think

The formal start to the walk is at PG's old school, the (former) Perth Academy and encourages you to follow the Riverside Walkway route, now marked by new interpretation pillars, over to Rodney Gardens where a sculptural homage, entitled 'Evergreen', created by KM in 1998, can be seen (above) in the form of a four metre high granite and bronze pillar within a raised bed. (New interpretation explains the work).

### Backdrop to Public Art in Perth

During the 1990's the Perthshire Public Art Trust commissioned over 20 major art features for the town. An impressive achievement and poignant too as much of the trigger was part of the major civil engineering and flood defence programme which transformed the already vibrant town. Notably with the J.D. Fergusson Art Museum being specially housed in the converted water tower. The Bell Library was refurbished and the Multi arts venue at Horse Cross opened as part of the civic regeneration (significant too that The Royal Scottish Geographical Society has now moved from Glasgow to Perth).



Indian Geddes admirers Tandra Chanda and Pulak Ghosh from Kolkata take in Kenny Munro's homage to PG in Perth, Scotland - "Evergreen"

## Evergreen > Routes of Inspiration

My homage to PG was commissioned in 1998 and another artist David Wilson also created Geddes inspired work. Occasionally references to Geddes have been seen at the Museum in Perth, however it would be valuable and an asset to see a permanent reference and archive there.



## Seminar in 2007

Alistair Godfrey hosted a day of discussions on PG in Perth and invited a range of delegates.

He and local historians conducted our party along the route of the Geddes walk to Kinnoull where the meeting was held at St. Mary's Monastery which has transformed a basement area into a flexible exhibition venue.

## Perth 2010 + Potential for Geddes Inspired Activities

### Projecting PG > Outdoors > a 3 minute wonder !

The launch of the 'Geddes Walkway' invites visitors; and would encourage travelling there by train then following the route, from the old Academy near the museum, on to see 'Evergreen' at Rodney Gardens. Continuing to Mount Tabor and then to Kinnoull summit. A fine way to spend a day engaging with Perth 800 events ([www.pkc.gov.uk](http://www.pkc.gov.uk)). The round trip, walking from the Perth station up the hill and back, would take a leisurely 3hrs including a coffee break! (You could also run it in 45 mins!).

Ali Godfey also informs us that another small building has been ear-marked as a 'meeting place and classroom space' on the hill. I've yet to visit but it could be an excellent location for use during a field-working trip or an informal workspace for a schools outing.

### Another Perth Connection > Publication From the Ganges to the Tay

Published by Luath Press ISBN 1-906307-95-4

An epic poem by Bashabi Fraser with collaborative input and photographs, portraying projects in Scotland and India, by myself.

### Proposal for Perth Night Lights event: November 2010

The PG Trust has talked about the potential of a very short audio visual DVD as a way of introducing PG. This would hopefully stimulate and direct folk to further research and access to publications and meetings giving a fuller description.

### Outdoor projection:

I propose that some audio visual material, as part of the process, is compiled for **projection in Perth and other locations this coming year**. Clearly it requires further discussion and potential funding but this projection in Perth can both be geared to celebrate the Geddes Walkway and the broader significance of PG Past, Present & Future.

The Project Officer for Perth 800 is Suzanne Cuminsky and suggest we consult with her.

I will be pleased to develop this idea and look forward to feedback

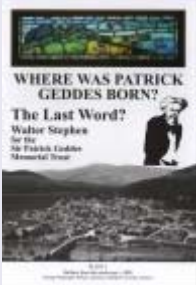
Yours sincerely

Kenny Munro [munro64@btinternet.com](mailto:munro64@btinternet.com)

## SPGMT Publications

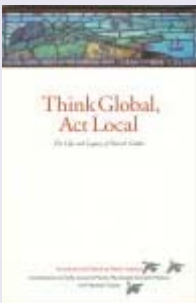
The Sir Patrick Geddes Memorial Trust has a policy of occasional publication of Geddes-centred or Geddes-related material.

An order form with latest prices and offers can be found on the web site: [www.patrickgeddetrust.co.uk](http://www.patrickgeddetrust.co.uk)



### WHERE WAS PATRICK GEDDES BORN?

ISBN 978-0-95551190-2-4  
Pub. Hills of Home



### THINK GLOBAL, ACT LOCAL The Life and Legacy of Patrick Geddes

129pp, 8pp colour plates, 26 b/w illustrations, pub Luath Press. £10.99  
ISBN 1-84282-079-6

Published to coincide with the 150th Anniversary of the birth of Geddes on 2 October 2004, this is an impressionistic examination of PG's life, influence and how that influence has waxed and waned - or waned and waxed. Obviously, earlier sources have been drawn upon, but 'Think Global...' is not just a rehash of 'other men's flowers' nor is it merely 'cheap and cheerful'. There are some new angles and re-emphases and there are quite definite contributions to knowledge.

Virtually all the illustrations were specially created for the book, or had not appeared in print before in any reasonably accessible text. The contributors have made over their authorial rights to the Trust.

The contents are as follows:

Think Global, Act Local - Walter Stephen

Patrick Geddes - the Life - Walter Stephen

Finding Geddes Abroad - Sofia Leonard

Patrick Geddes: Environment and Culture - Murdo Macdonald

Patrick Geddes: Regional Survey and Education - A Historical Perspective to the 1970s - Kenneth Maclean

A Letter from India - Narayani Gupta

Patrick Geddes - the Legacy - Walter Stephen

### GRIEVE ON GEDDES

Professor Sir Robert Grieve's Appreciation of the Effect of Sir Patrick Geddes's Thinking on His Planning Work in Scotland.

54 pp, B/W illustrations, pub PGMT, £3.50  
ISBN 0-9518273-0-8

The sub-title explains all. It is a monograph written by one distinguished Scotsman about another, with the following headings:

Introduction, Prologue

Geddes - The Man

My Apprenticeship

The Clyde Valley Regional Plan

The University

The Highlands and Islands Development Board, Final Reflections, Epilogue

Appendix I - Quotations Appendix II - The Letters of Charles Taylor

A must for anyone interested in the development of ideas, about modern living and Planning in Scotland in the twentieth century.

## THE GEDDES STUDENT PRIZE

The Geddes Awards for Environmental Excellence and Enterprise.

24 pp, pub PGMAT, 50p

Over the years, The Trust has sponsored various schemes seeking to engage students in thinking about Geddes and how to tackle issues which would have engaged him, had he been alive today. This occasional paper looks at the Geddes' Awards for a number of years and publishes brief reports from the successful students.

This paper demonstrates the wide effect of Geddes's thought on new generations and it is a useful aid to learning about how today's young people think about major issues.



### FABRIC AND FUNCTION

A century of School Building in Edinburgh 1872-1972

118 pp, 48 b/w photographs, 12 b/w illustrations, pub Hills of Home, 1996, £2.50  
ISBN 978-0-9555190-1-7

From its origins as a dissertation which won the Research Prize of the Scottish Council for Research in Education in 1979, this study has been extended and updated to take account of change since 1972. Essentially the influences on school building are analysed and then sample schools are examined to show how architects took account of these influences in their designs.

Although centred on Edinburgh, there is an assessment of the interplay of local needs and national trends.

As well as an introduction and a conclusion, there are the following chapters:

Roofs over Heads

The Early Board Schools (1872-1890)

The Central Hall and the Drive to Secondary Education (1890-1906)

Health, Hygiene and Finance (1911-1951)

Towards Functionalism (1953-1972)

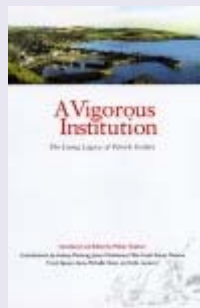


### EXPLORATION

Get to know your own Place and Work and Folk

24pp, 2 b/w illustrations, pub PGMAT, 2007, £2.50  
ISBN 1-905222-88-2

Edited and Introduced by Kenneth MacLean and Walter Stephen, this is a reprint of a Geddes-inspired field exploration manual published by the Leplay Society and edited by his god-daughter. The Introduction places the manual within the wider context of Geddes-led Regional Survey.



### A VIGOROUS INSTITUTION

Patrick Geddes, The Living Legacy

140pp, 8pp colour plates, 21 b/w illustrations, pub Luath Press, 2007, £10.99  
ISBN 978-0-9555190-0-0

A collection of essays, two posthumous, commemorating Geddes and exploring his legacy. A distinguished panel of writers puts forward new knowledge about influences on Geddes and reveals even wider influences than suspected of Geddes on our own time.

#### Contents:

Introduction - Walter Stephen

The Regeneration of Edinburgh by Patrick Geddes - Aubrey Manning

Making Planning Respected and Respectable: Lessons from Geddes - James Mackinnon

Universalism and the Genus Loci: Geddes in Cyprus, Italy, Catalonia and Japan - Mike Small

Bengal Boats and Rickshaw Roads - Kenny Munro

Overkill - Frank Spaven

Dunbar to Berwick - a special part of the East Coast Main Line - Frank Spaven  
Where was Peter Geddes born? - Walter Stephen  
The Light Before the Darkness - Anne-Michelle Slater  
Miss Geddes's Dresden Establishment - Walter Stephen  
Through A Glass Clearly: Behind the Photographs of the First Survey of Edinburgh by Patrick Geddes - Sofia Leonard  
Cartoons by Hendrik Willem Van Loon: Geddes, Van Loon and Mumford - Walter Stephen  
A Geddes Chronology - Contributors  
Select Bibliography