

2. Analysing ‘Civic Diagnosis’ in UK-led International Urban Planning Policy

An introduction to Sir Patrick Geddes – recognising his professionalism as an early pioneer of **‘Human Ecology’** and understanding how his concept of **‘Civic Diagnosis’** influenced the UK’s international urban planning policy within its Official Development Assistance worldwide

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Patrick Geddes, an early environmentalist, is remembered for his pioneering work on town planning which he established in Edinburgh in the mid-19th Century, practising the concept he termed “Civic Diagnosis” in both Edinburgh and later, at the turn of the 20th Century, in India. In this regard he stressed the need for extensive citizen-led ‘survey-before-planning’ as a useful urban development doctrine.

Sir Patrick Geddes was born 2 October 1854 (died 17 April 1932, in Montpelier, France). was a noted biologist and botanist who went on to become a pioneer in the field of town planning. Originating from Ballater, Deeside he spent his childhood in Perthshire. He studied at the Royal College of Mines in London between 1874 and 1878. In 1879 he established a zoological facility at Stonehaven for Aberdeen University, also serving as a lecturer in Zoology at Edinburgh University between 1880 and 1888. He went on to hold the Chair of Botany at University College Dundee, from 1888 to 1919. Although later he held the Chair of Sociology at the University of Bombay (from 1919 to 1924), Geddes had made his name as a pioneer in the field of town planning at a time when urban deprivation and rampant industrialisation were both rife.

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² These **Two Volumes on ‘Pioneers of Civic Diagnosis’**, dated June 2022, are initially published on the Commonwealth Human Ecology (CHEC) website (www.checinternational.org) along with this Essay by Michael Mutter on Sir Patrick Geddes and ‘Civic Diagnosis’ as an introduction for participants on the **CHEC Webinar Series on ‘Cities Ecosystems’** to be held ahead of CHOGM in Rwanda 2022, and the UNFCCC COP27, September 2022, to be held in Egypt.

Geddes developed a deeply held conviction that social structures and behaviour were related to spatial form and environment, so that by changing a society's surroundings and environment, it was possible to change the structure and behaviour of that society.

This 'Civic Diagnosis' concept as we now know it was tested by his work in Edinburgh where he brought about the redevelopment of parts of the Old Town, an area effectively abandoned as slums. Geddes developed his ideas around what he termed 'the valley section' – tracing the development of humanity from very rural origins at the head of the notional valley through its components of 'place, work and folk' to the urbanised heartlands of the cities and ports at the valley mouth, and the seas beyond.

Geddes' original ideas were highly influential, and the projects in which he collaborated were wide ranging. He later worked with his son-in-law, the architect Sir Frank Mears, on a number of projects in the Middle East. In 1919 Geddes was a consultant on the redevelopment of Jerusalem and produced a master plan for Tel Aviv in 1925. As a result, Tel Aviv has a core entirely built according to Geddes' plans and principles

His last days were centred on extolling these practical urban development virtues at the Collège des Écossais (Scots College) which he had established in 1924 in the southern French city of Montpellier where his health could benefit from the more benign climate, moving there from Bombay that year. Unfortunately, he still suffered from ill-health. In early 1932, Geddes was awarded a knighthood, but he died on 17 April that same year at the Collège des Écossais, in Montpellier.

The Collège des Écossais (or Scots College) in Montpellier, in France, has established itself as an important international teaching centre. It is still very active in the city today.

Indeed, the influence of Geddes' work has resonated through many urban planning practitioners ever since his untimely death. Perhaps most notably has been the work undertaken by the pioneer English architect-town planner of the 1940's, Max Lock, in the evolving processes of reconstruction of the devastated and blighted towns of the UK in that period. Max, a Quaker, and as a conscientious objector to military service, had been assigned the role of Head of the Hull School of Architecture (thus releasing Sir Leslie Martin to join the LCC for the development of the anticipated Festival of Britain). In Hull, Max secured a Leverhulme scholarship to lead his students on a 'Civic Diagnosis' of the City of Hull. The results were eagerly published in a later special edition of *The Architects' Journal* (July 29th, 1943) and publicly displayed at The Housing Centre in London – opened by the Minister of Housing no less. The influence of this public exhibition was wide-ranging, but most significantly brought about the commission for Max Lock and his inter-disciplinary profession Group to undertake the far larger work of The Civic Diagnosis of the County Borough of Middlesbrough in 1943.

Max Lock and the influence of Sir Patrick Geddes' understanding of 'Civic Diagnosis'

Max Lock was greatly influenced by the writings of Sir Patrick Geddes. As Max said in his author's note to the published Middlesbrough Survey and Plan study:

"Too long have we treated urban problems as if they were merely skin deep, forgetting that the aesthetic superstructure of fine buildings can only grow upon sound economic and social foundations. The regeneration of our obsolete and blighted town, industrially overdeveloped, culturally stilted, requires penetrating diagnosis of all aspects of town life. This can only be achieved by teamwork among the planners and the eager co-operation of the citizens – their clients.

"It was Sir Patrick Geddes who first drew attention to the need for penetrating analysis of town life before any planning remedies for existing evils could be effected, who over thirty years ago [now over 100 years ago!] revolted against the practice of treating Civic Design as an architectural 'cosmetic' to patch up the scarred and neglected faces of our towns, and it was he who in his "Cities in Evolution", recommended a detailed enquiry into the human and physical foundations that underlie and permeate the town planner's field.

*"Yet it is only now (1945) that thinking people, having observed the legacy of the inter-war years in which the muddle and blight have far outstripped the controls of statutory planning, are ready to accept the revolution of ideas that Geddes incepted. They have come to appreciate that town planning is a combination of exact science and intuitive art; that its method is based on equal ingredients both of accurate measurement and human understanding; and that because it deals with the most vital commerce of all, *human beings* and their welfare, those who plan towns must ensure that the bias of mere opinion, however expert, should be tempered and disciplined by the inescapability of *carefully ascertained facts.*"*

[See also more of Max's 'Author's Note' at Annex 1 to this essay]

In Middlesbrough a further discourse on the 'Civic Diagnosis' methodology was made famous and public by the extraordinary British film made by Jill Craigie for the Horizon Film Unit, Merton Park Studios, in 1944/5 – titled **"Picture Paper"** – that followed the young Max Lock team around Middlesbrough as they sought their interviews with the local residents and collating the results as a journalist's first-hand encounter.

See also the excellent account of this period by Naoki Motouchi (University of Luton, UK) and Nick Tiratso (University of Nottingham, UK): **"Max Lock, Middlesbrough, and the forgotten tradition in British post-war planning"** a Research Paper based on the letters and published accounts held at the Max Lock Archive, University of Westminster, London (naoki.motouchi@luton.ac.uk).

See also MA Thesis (1991) by Michael Mutter at University of Westminster, School of Architecture and Cities: "The early years of the Max Lock Group", also recorded in the **Working Paper Series on "Origins of Use of Civic Diagnosis in International Planning"** held at the Max Lock Centre, University of Westminster, London (www.westminster.ac.uk).

Moving forward with Civic Diagnosis internationally

Having established his credentials in this new form of town planning, Max Lock and his interdisciplinary Group went on to undertake ‘Survey-based Plans’ for The Hartlepoons (1948), Portsmouth (1949), and Bedford by the River (1952). However, they were confronted by their own success as forerunners and participants in the ground-work for the 1947 Town and Country Planning Act – a major achievement of the Bevan era of the 1945 Post-war Labour Government victory.

The 1947 Act ‘institutionalised’ town planning and gave credence primarily to the establishment of Town Planning Offices and Town Planning Officers with total responsibility for policy and development control – a welcome step forward in many ways, but with the consequence of there being no apparent room for innovative approaches being put forward by ‘consultants’. Much as Geddes had done in 1913, the innovative consultancies were to find their ways forward overseas. Geddes had been invited to India; Max Lock was invited by the British Council to seek appointments in places as far afield as: Amman, Jordan; Basra, Iraq; El Beida Capital City, Libya; and Sheikh Othoman, Aden, as well as conducting lecture tours promoting Civic Diagnosis principles in India, Ceylon and Australia.

However, it was the newly established Ministry of Overseas Development under Barbara Castle, and later Judith Hart, that found the sense to commission Max Lock and Partners in the “Survey and Plan for Kaduna as the Capital Territory of Northern Nigeria” in 1965. Max was very specific about the need for a ‘Geddesian’ approach – to have a full Land Use and Social Survey of the city before any planning proposals as such could be developed. The commission in Kaduna, being promoted and funded by the British Government – at the request of the Government of Northern Nigeria – was thus a fulfilment of bringing the ‘art of town planning practice’ into the realm of ‘Official Development Assistance’ as defined by the strictures of the newly established OECD’s Development Assistance Committee (DAC).

And so was born the UK Government’s use of the Civic Diagnosis in its International Urban Development Policy. However, it was the northern Nigeria State Governments that provided the initial continuity of the adoption of the ‘Survey-before-Plan’ principles by commissioning the Max Lock Group Nigeria to undertake extensive Civic Diagnosis-type Urban Plans for Maiduguri and the Headquarter Towns of the North East State; for Katsina and the Headquarter Towns for the Northern Kaduna State; and for Minna as the Capital of the newly designated Niger State together with its Regional Plan, in all of which I had a leading role.

However, it was the advent of the New Labour victory of 1997 and the creation of the new Department for International Development (DFID) led by its very dynamic Secretary of State, Clare Short. She wanted to develop new policies that would **eradicate poverty** and needed her professional teams to provide the basis for this new approach.

By that time I was heading the urban part of the new DFID Infrastructure and Urban Development Department and was given the tasks of, firstly, leading the UK’s inter-governmental support for the **United Nations Commission on Human Settlements (UNCHS)**, and secondly, preparing the DFID Policy Paper for “*Meeting the challenge of poverty in urban areas*” – the UK’s first **Urban Policy Paper**. I made sure that the basis of this Policy Paper followed the ideas for a “citizens’ survey-led urban planning doctrine”.

In due course all the DFID Policy Papers created for the UN Millennium Summit in 2000 were adopted by Parliament together with the legally binding commitment for 0.7% of the UK's GNP to be devoted to Official Development Assistance. However, it was only in 2010 that, after some false starts, the DFID Country Programmes in both India and Nigeria put into practice programmes that would officially 'roll-out' the mechanisms for promoting the Civic Diagnosis-led urban planning in these two countries.

Role of the Commonwealth bodies in promoting Urban Sustainable Development internationally

The various Commonwealth Associations representing Architects (CAA), Planners (CAP), Surveyors and Land Economists (CASLE), and Human Ecologists (CHEC) came together in the run-up to the 1997 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting at Edinburgh to form the **Built Environment Professions in the Commonwealth** (BEPIC) and held specific sessions on urban development issues as part of the CHOGM 'People's Forum' in Edinburgh which I helped to promote with specific funding from DFID – see CHEC publication on the outcome: *"The Commonwealth Implements the HABITAT AGENDA³ - Sustainable Communities through Partnership"*. This document and the momentum built up by BEPIC was to have a profound effect on the way in which governments viewed the ways in which their international urban development support programmes could be implemented.

For example, as part of the representation of Commonwealth Ministers at the United Nations Commission on Human Settlements, under the leadership of Dame Zena Daysh, Executive Director of CHEC, they formed a further inter-governmental body, the **Commonwealth Consultative Group on Human Settlements** and agreed a specific **Commonwealth Target** – *"to achieve demonstrated progress towards adequate shelter for all with secure tenure and access to essential services in every community by 2015"*. Again, I was able to use DFID support to publish this document for its global reach.

Indeed, under Clare Short's leadership, DFID had positioned itself as the vanguard for socially responsible sustainable development in every sphere of inter-governmental operations – from the OECD's participating governments agreeing *"Shaping the Urban Environment in the 21st Century"* as the Development Assistance Committee's urban development policy spearheaded by my work at DFID. Also the UK significantly increased its core contribution to UN-HABITAT thus helping achieve its UN 'Programme Status' at the 'Istanbul+5 Special Session' (UNGASS) at the United Nations General Assembly in June 2001.

³ The HABITAT AGENDA was the outcome from the 1996 United Nations Conference on Human Settlements held in Istanbul; it followed the similar AGENDA 21 outcome from the 1992 United Nations 'Earth Summit' held in Rio-de-Janeiro, thus establishing the world view that the natural and built environments had significant roles to play in the ways in which people should be able to live with the collective support of their respective governments. The remarkable decade of such UN Conferences culminated in the Millennium Summit held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York in October 2000 with all 198 participating national governments agreeing the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) to steer both internal and inter-governmental support for development worldwide. The MDGs have been augmented by the later Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that continue these processes, particularly for international Official Development Assistance.

In this respect, DFID also become the largest contributor to the joint UNDP, World Bank and UN-Habitat 'Urban Management Programme', and inaugurated innovative programmes such as the joint City-Community Challenge Fund (C3) with the UK's Local Government International Bureau; and the Community Led Infrastructure Finance Facility (CLIFF) supported by the Slum Dwellers International (SDI) organisation headed by Jockin in India with Sheela Patel (SPARC) and Ruth McLeod at the UK's 'Homeless International' (now known as 'REALL'), and Sida, thus continuing the joint funding by the governments of UK, Sweden and Norway.

These three governments' international development bodies – DFID, Sida and Noraid – further supported UN-HABITAT's new Fourth Directorate to bring the world of finance into sustainable development with the innovative Slum Upgrading Finance Facility and the Experimental Reimbursable Seeding Operations that would bring modifications to commercial bank's lending rates for communities own upgrading projects. All very much in the spirit of Geddes' Civic Diagnosis-based operations in real life.

In India and Nigeria in particular, the DFID Country Programmes have continued this support with the Smart Cities (SmUDI) Urban Planning and Management Institutions in India, also in conjunction with the Asian Development Bank's local housing programmes both of which I worked on; and in Nigeria with the "Effective Cities" component of the Nigeria Infrastructure Advisory Facility (NIAF – a joint DFID Nigeria and Presidential programme) which I headed. The outcome of the NIAF Cities element was the inauguration of the Nigeria Resilient Cities Network (NRCN) which I chaired, and with the Rockefeller Foundation 100 Resilient Cities programme instigated the Lagos State Government's Lagos Resilient City Office which exists as its flagship urban environment policy initiative. The UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office as it is now known is supporting and funding the Future Cities Africa Programme in Nigeria where Tony Lloyd-Jones of the Max Lock Centre heads the Civic Diagnosis work being undertaken for Abeokuta. The Kaduna State Government meanwhile has initiated the Kaduna Capital Territory Authority (KCTA) as its first dedicated city government. KCTA now operates under the direction of its Administrator who is continuing the Civic Diagnosis up-date of the city's Asset Mapping.

The way these Official Development Assistance processes took place and continue to be operational today is outlined in my second Volume of the "Pioneers of 'Civic Diagnosis'" now being published on the CHEC website – www.checinternational.org

This Essay is designed to stimulate readers into looking at the two volumes and to participate in the forthcoming **CHEC Webinar Series on 'Cities Ecosystems'**, so that CHEC can report progress in this respect from its representation at the UNFCCC COP 26 in Glasgow, where a CHEC Team was affiliated, to the prospects for both the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in Kigali, Rwanda, in June 2022; and to the UNFCCC COP27 due to be held in Sharm al Sheik, Egypt, in September 2022.

Readers are invited to make their views known on the CHEC website.

Michael Mutter
March 2022

Annex 1 : Civic Diagnosis at Middlesbrough

Pioneers in the use of the “Civic Diagnosis” methodology as the essential core of the Town Planning thought-led processes in post-war reconstruction in the UK, as seen in 1946.

An abstract from the Middlesbrough Survey and Plan by the Max Lock Team

Middlesbrough

A Survey and Plan for the County Borough of Middlesbrough

Published by Middlesbrough Corporation, Yorkshire, 1946

By **Max Lock**, ARIBA, AMTPI

Assisted by

Jessica Alberty, ARIBA, AMTPI Town Planner

- and Michael Theis (“assisted throughout and compiled the Index and Presentation in book form”)

Justin Blanco-White, ARIBA Architect

Ruth Glass, MA, Sociologist (Association for Planning and Regional Reconstruction)

- and Jaqueline Tyrwhitt, AMTPI, FILA (Association for Planning and Regional Reconstruction)

A E Smailes, MA, Geographer

- Note also the role of the Model Makers and preparation of the Public Exhibition held in Middlesbrough

The Municipal Corporation, as Publisher, notes:

In 1943 Middlesbrough was the first Corporation to appoint a resident group of planners to investigate facts at first hand. After 18 months of consultation with officials and the citizens themselves the planners submitted an integrated masterplan for the County Borough.

Here, in one volume, are the results of their analysis of town life in ten fields of enquiry, together with a carefully worked out plan for reconstruction in each field. These are welded together into a masterplan which was accepted by the Corporation in 1946.

The Middlesbrough Corporation were pioneers in recognising that a thorough diagnosis of town life should precede planning proposals. Ever since the Domesday Book was compiled successive governments have from time to time found it necessary to carry out national and local surveys. In 1946 the new Planning Bill enjoins every local authority the responsibility of making both a survey and a plan.

The problems of blight and overcrowding, outworn industrial towns cannot be cured by superficial means. They require a penetrating analysis of all aspects of town life, industrial, social, administrative and physical.

This report will not only interest the citizens of Middlesbrough as they work to achieve the implementation of their plan, but it will also act as a guide to all people who are concerned with the regeneration of their town and urban environment throughout the country. This report takes a bold step towards the establishment of a sound and scientific technique for today in this newest yet oldest art of town planning.

Annex I continued:

Max Lock – Author’s Note: An introduction to the concept of “Civic Diagnosis”

*“When no-one is consulted plans are foiled. When many are consulted, they succeed”
Proverbs 15.22 (Moffatt’s translation)*

This book is for those who would search beneath the surface of our towns. Too long have we treated urban problems as if they were merely skin deep, forgetting that the aesthetic superstructure of fine building can only grow upon sound economic and social foundations.

The regeneration of our obsolete and blighted towns, industrially overdeveloped, culturally stilted, requires penetrating diagnosis of all aspects of town life. This can only be achieved by teamwork among the planners and the eager co-operation of the citizens – their clients.

In a democracy, paper plans merely bought from specialists seldom materialise – for the only plans that people labour to achieve are the plans they help to make themselves. Planning is chiefly a matter of urban diplomacy. For this reason, my colleagues and I came to Middlesbrough and met and consulted thousands of citizens. From all sources a wealth of valuable information was placed at our disposal, sifted down and presented in the form of maps, diagrams, tables and detailed reports. Each map and diagram is self-explanatory, showing and cultural and citizens groups can at all times contribute their own special knowledge to the rebuilding of the the methods we have used and the progressive steps that have led to the formulation of the Masterplan – a plan which is the product of corporate action and synthesis of many plans – a plan for industry, for transport, for housing and neighbourhood life, a plan for open space and recreation, for health services and retail trade – in fact a plan or policy for every aspect of town life. Citizen participation, important though it is in the making of a plan, is even more so in the difficult stages of implementation. A city is not like a ship and cannot be laid up in dry dock but must be repaired while the mechanism is in full motion. How are we to accomplish this?

Firstly, by **survey and diagnosis** which, once begun, becomes a continuous process. For this we need continuous teamwork between specialists, officials and civic leaders.

Secondly, by **imaginative action**. In a changing age we are finding that problems of reconstruction call for a quality of urban statesmanship and initiative that was seldom exercised in the years before the war. This calls for a new comprehensive planning set up. The immediate future demands a local planning agency which, instead of acting merely as adjudicator of deposited plans, becomes a dynamic initiator and reconciler of conflicting interests in all their detail and complexity – financial, legal and personal.

Thirdly, by **good publicity**. The redevelopment of town environment is essentially “personal” and requires to be made known and understood not only by means of the press, brochures, lectures, films, but by a strong public relations organisation through which industrial, trade, cultural and citizens groups can at all times contribute to their city. Without these positive means we cannot hope to create the impetus that will translate paper plans into reality.

By the time this report appears, it is expected the Government’s policy on Control of Land Use will be known, and it is hoped a detailed programme for implementation will be possible in all towns which, like Middlesbrough, have prepared and accepted schemes for their reconstruction. But any plan, though accepted by the Corporation, is only a beginning. This report is offered as a contribution to Middlesbrough’s future well-being and also to the advancement of the science and art of survey and town planning. In presenting it to you I am keenly aware that one scheme rebuilt is worth a thousand schemes on paper.

MAX LOCK,
Watford, November 1946.

Annex 2: (see www.patrickgeddestrust.co.uk) **Notes by the**

SIR PATRICK GEDDES MEMORIAL TRUST⁴



WHO WAS PATRICK GEDDES?

“Sir Patrick Geddes (1854-1932) was a lively and original thinker, a polymath of world significance, a botanist, biologist, town planner and landscape architect, and a pioneer in sociology, environmental education and the arts.

“Words he devised such as ‘conurbation’, ‘megapolis’, and ‘habitat’ seemed revolutionary during his lifetime, but are now common currency.

“His injunction to “think global, act local” has become an environmental catch phrase. His insight that cities are constantly evolving organic entities launched the urban and regional planning movement around the world. He was one of the first biologists to stress the prime importance of habitat in what would now be called ecology, using a method of survey and synthesis based on the principle of “Place-Work-Folk”.

AN OUTLOOK TOWER FOR THE 21st CENTURY



The Outlook Tower, Edinburgh

“The original Outlook Tower in Edinburgh was Geddes’ physical embodiment and exposition of his ideas, drawing together the complex strands of his thinking in an exhibition space which was also an urban laboratory and research centre. The Trust’s origins are closely linked to the Outlook Tower, so it is appropriate that our website offers a virtual 21st century

⁴ **THE TRUST:** Many organisations use Patrick Geddes’ name to boost their environmental credentials, but the Memorial Trust has a unique position as the ONLY institution which still has a direct connection back to Geddes himself. We promote the study of living society in its environment according to Geddes’ principles and practice. On our website you will find information about his life, work and lasting legacy.

reinterpretation, setting out the key elements of his philosophy.”

GEDDES ABROAD

www.patrickgeddestrust.co.uk

“Geddes also travelled extensively. His Cities Exhibition toured to Paris, Dublin, Ghent and elsewhere; he visited Mexico and the United States; and worked in Cyprus, India, Palestine and later in Montpellier, France.

INDIA



India

“Geddes went to India in 1915 with his Cities Exhibition at the invitation of Lord Pentland, Governor of Madras, for the purpose of re-planning Indian cities. He applied his method of ‘Conservative Surgery’ based on a ‘Diagnostic Survey’ which he had developed in Edinburgh’s Old Town. This was in contrast to the colonial policies of sweeping clearances carried out in the name of sanitation.



Geddes Bombay

“On the voyage the *Clan Grant*, carrying the Cities Exhibition, was sunk by enemy action. Geddes lost the fruit of twenty years labour and the core of a constantly evolving demonstration of his ideas. The replacement exhibition, assembled from material sent out by colleagues was more than a substitute however, since it revitalised his enthusiasm for the task ahead and allowed him to introduce new material specifically on India.

“Geddes had other work in hand as well. It was understood that he would advise on development schemes in a number of cities throughout the subcontinent. So many, in fact, that at one stage he reported having five, fair sized cities to cover in less than a fortnight.

His approach was basically that of 30 years earlier in Edinburgh – “conservative surgery”. Opposing the rigid plans of colonial bureaucrats, he embarked on diagnostic surveys plotting the layout and

thoroughfares of the city before making his recommendations and then always taking cultural and historical factors into account.

“By allowing the city to “speak” to him his reports were usually sensitive to the needs of the people, and, furthermore, economical. His biological training was particularly useful with regard to questions of water supply and sanitation, one of the most urgent and intractable problems in a country beset by malaria.

“It has been suggested that Geddes was at his best in India probably because he felt that there was so much he could do both to realise his own ambitions and to improve the quality of life. He threw himself wholeheartedly into the work until a complete breakdown of his health in 1923 brought this phase of his career to an end.

PALESTINE

“In 1919, Geddes was engaged to prepare a scheme for the. He also submitted a report on *Jerusalem Actual and Possible* to the Military Governor of Jerusalem in November 1919.

“In 1925 Geddes submitted a report on town planning in [Jaffa and Tel Aviv](#) to the Municipality of [Tel Aviv](#). His proposals were adopted, and as a result Tel Aviv is the only city whose core is entirely laid out according to a plan by Geddes.

GEDDES VISION OF THE FUTURE

“Perhaps today, we are better able to understand what Geddes meant by an inter-disciplinary approach organic and inter-related simultaneous thinking. Only now we are beginning to appreciate his concern with our dependence of non-renewable energy sources.

“Much has changed since his lifetime. The speed of technological advance has accelerated dramatically. Geddes could not have imagined the microchip, personal computers and instant communication or ‘nano-technology’, but he recognised that great technological change was coming.

“Even the view and perception of our planet has drastically changed. We have seen the Earth, for the first time, from outer space by satellite. It brought the realisation of how small our place is in the wider universe. It made us aware of our collective responsibility towards the preservation of our home in space. Maybe now we can understand why Geddes tried to steer us towards a new era which would bring about the integration of all aspects of men’s lives and stimulate their highest impulses. Maybe now we will understand the importance of his message.

Visions

“In his book *Cities in Evolution*, published in 1915, Geddes took the reader through the development of history in three acts or phases. With his penchant for inventing terms, he called these: Eotechnic, Paleotechnic and Neotechnic.”

Note: I have highlighted these excerpts from the Sir Patrick Geddes Memorial Trust website to illustrate the influence that Geddes had on Max Lock. The reader is invited to visit the Memorial Trust website for their full account of the life and times of Sir Patrick Geddes.