

Ballater Geddes Project 2004



Part of Ballater (RD) Ltd.
Company Registration Number: 171506
Scottish Charity Number: SC026254
www.royal-deeside.org.uk/geddes.htm

“GEDDES CAM” OUTLINE PROPOSAL

To use modern technology to provide
CAMERA OBSCURA / OUTLOOK TOWER / WEB CAM
facilities in Ballater, Scotland ~
the birthplace of Sir Patrick Geddes.



Sir Patrick Geddes
1854 - 1932

“This is a green world, with animals comparatively few and small, and all dependent on the leaves. By leaves we live. Some people have strange ideas that they live by money. They think energy is generated by the circulation of coins. Whereas the world is mainly a vast leaf colony, growing on and forming a leafy soil, not a mere mineral mass: and we live not by the jingling of our coins, but by the fullness of our harvests” – Patrick Geddes

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About the Ballater Geddes Project 2004

The Ballater Geddes Project 2004 is a non profit making body (part of Ballater, Royal Deeside a Scottish Registered Charity) dedicated to commemorating the 150th anniversary of the birth in Ballater in 1854 of Patrick Geddes, raising awareness of his life and work, and carrying out Geddesian inspired works.

The Project has already toured an exhibition, organised and hosted lectures, printed brochures, created a web site (www.royal-deeside.org.uk/geddes.htm), made contacts around the world, organised arts workshops and had a street of affordable housing in Ballater named "Sir Patrick Geddes Way" in his honour.

Apart from the Geddes Cam Proposal the Project also seeks to create a Walkway / Safer Route to School in the Eastern side of Ballater. The walkway would be marked by local stones with interpretative plaques affixed. It would lead from Ballater School via Sir Patrick Geddes Way to Tullich Road (the A93 Aberdeen - Perth Rd.) culminating in a Bus Stop and Shelter including a panel about Patrick Geddes. This would provide both a pleasant, interpreted walk for locals/visitors and a safe route to school for both Ballater School and Aboyne Academy pupils in the east side of the village. It is hoped the walk can tie in with the excellent work done by Upper Deeside Access Trust to make and restore walks in the area. In addition, links between schools in areas of Scotland strongly associated with Geddes (Ballater, Perth, Edinburgh, Dundee) and Indian schools (Geddes did major work in India) are in process of organisation. It is hoped that various books/publications will either be published or republished in 2004 to complement those more recently published on Geddes.

"Geddes Cam" Proposal Concept

Context

- The Proposal seeks, primarily, to celebrate the life, work and ideals of Patrick Geddes – born in Ballater - and create a practical tribute to him – fitting for a dedicated educationalist.
- The Proposal comes within a scenic and historic area, which will be within the proposed Cairngorms National Park.
- It is understood that some of the local estates may also be interested in web cam facilities to feature amongst other things local wildlife.

Outlook Tower / Webcam

Inspired by the Outlook Tower / Camera Obscura in the Royal Mile, Edinburgh, we intend to continue the Geddesian ideal of being able to examine and learn about the world around us. Geddes, over the course of about thirty years, used the Outlook Tower/ Camera Obscura as an educational / sociological resource to teach, by personally conducted tours, about the locality (Edinburgh) and the wider world. The Outlook Tower is based on 150 year old technology, essentially a periscope which projects an image (of Edinburgh and surrounds) onto a table in a darkened room (the literal meaning of Camera Obscura). We would propose to use modern cameras based on a hill above Ballater to allow those in the village to look around the local area and toward the Cairngorms and Lochnagar. Local projection of the images in the village would have obvious benefits for those unable to get into the hills and mountains for disabled or other reasons, for educational purposes and as an enhancement to local tourism facilities. We would also take images from the same point and place them on the world wide web (via the local community web site) with high quality interpretation to be used and choice of views, influenced by the participants in the Project.

Proposal

To establish, on a mast on Craig Coillich hill, overlooking Ballater, a camera site. The hill already has at the top a mast which would lift the cameras above the surrounding trees, Landrover access via a track, and power - feeding a Grampian Police communications site (on the mast).

The hilltop facilities would consist of two cameras.

Camera 1. Would supply pictures to the Internet either in the form of a number of pre set views with high quality interpretation or, if it is technically possible, a number of preset views plus bookable manual control time.

Camera 2. Bearing in mind how important Tourism is to small highland communities the second camera would be able to transmit pictures in real time back down to the Old Royal Station in Ballater. The camera would have manual control and would be a good point to take children from the local school. Currently used by the Area Tourist Board the Station building would be a good place to allow access to images of the area including the Ballater, The Cairngorms, Lochnagar and towards Muir of Dinnet.

Key Objectives

1. To supply interesting, useful, high quality images locally and world wide with high quality interpretation. Participants in the Project would be invited to contribute suitable material to publish on the web in conjunction with the images.
2. To make the images suitable to a number of users i.e. for education, tourism, the casual browser, natives, of the area now living around the world, etc.

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3. To consult those on the circulation list included with this document as to how they may participate and make best use of the resource.
4. To make the best benefit from the facility available to the local community.

Key Permissions Required

Organisation	For
Aberdeen & Grampian Tourist Board (AGTB)	Installation of Transmitter/Receiver, Projector, Projection Table and Camera manual controls and possibly a computer in the Old Royal Station, Ballater.
Aberdeenshire Council	As for AGTB, Planning Permission(s)?
Ballater Halls Committee	Possible installation of Aerial / Relay Point on Halls Tower.
Forest Enterprise	Sharing of mast and power supply on Forest Enterprise land. Possible bracing to prevent camera shake.
Grampian Police	As for Forest Enterprise. Plus non-interference with existing Police Radio Communications.

Useful Web References

<http://www.ospreywatch.co.uk/>
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/cumbria/webcams/>
http://www.birdvu.com/spec_tech.html
<http://www.forestry.gov.uk/newsrele.nsf/AIIByUNID/6D0C7C3E67FEBE7280256BB8003966FD>
<http://www.seabird.org>
<http://www.camera-obscura.co.uk>
<http://www.patrickgeddes.co.uk>

Technical: To follow

Financial: To follow

For further information please contact:

Sheila Potter Convener Ballater Geddes Project Tel. 013397 55568 E-mail: sheila.potter@talk21.com	Mindy Grewar Aberdeenshire Council Tel. 0845 7076000 E-mail: mindy.grewar@aberdeenshire.gov.uk
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