



Adult Learning Within Reach

Member Lecture – 5 May 2022

A people's history of housing in Scotland and why it matters
Joey Simons, WEA Scotland tutor

Reading list

Just to plug a couple of my own works first!

The publication **Scheming** (2021) accompanied an exhibition by the artist Jimmy Cauty at Platform arts centre in Easterhouse, Glasgow. It looks at the radical history of the scheme and the history of tower block construction in the city, and features work by local poets and community activists.

Let Us Act for Ourselves: selected works of Freddy Anderson (2020) is a collection of prose, fiction, poetry and plays from the work of a largely forgotten Irish poet who lived in Easterhouse, and touches upon elements of housing history.

Stock Transfer was a piece for MAP Magazine commissioned by Document Film Festival on the relationship between housing struggle and film in Glasgow.

The **Workers' Stories Project** is an important grassroots archive recording the experience of workers in Scotland during Covid-19. The WEA ran a series of workshops to support people to contribute to the archive. My piece **The story is not the story** is a reflection on the first anniversary of the project.

The **Glasgow Housing Struggle Archive** is a project supported by the WEA to record, collate and share Glasgow's radical housing history. If you are interested in contributing, get in touch at **jonathan.simons@wea.ac.uk**.

Selected bibliography

Bryant R (1982) **Rent Strike in the Gorbals**, Community Development Journal, 17(1), 41-46

City Strolls (2005) **Social Housing Privatisation**, Variant, Issue 24, Winter, 30-32

Damer S (1990) Glasgow: Going for a Song, London: Lawrence and Wishart

Fyfe, N R (1996) **Contested visions of a modern city: planning and poetry in postwar Glasgow**. Environment and Planning.

Gray, N (2018) Rent and its Discontents: A Century of Housing Struggle, London: Rowman & Littlefield

McGinn J (1988) Gizza Hoose. In, McLay F, ed, Workers City: The Real Glasgow Stands Up, Glasgow: Clydeside Press

McLaughlin B (1990) Glasgow's Not for Sale. In, McLay F, ed, The Reckoning, Glasgow: Clydeside Press

McPhee P (1988) Hutchie E – A Monument to Corruption, Stupidity and Bad Planning. In, McLay F, ed, Workers City: The Real Glasgow Stands Up, Glasgow: Clydeside Press

Melling J (1983) Rent Strikes: Peoples' Struggle for Housing in West Scotland, 1890-1916, Edinburgh: Polygon Books

Wright, V. (2018) 'Housing problems ... are political dynamite': housing disputes in Glasgow c. 1971 to the present day. Sociological Research Online,

Films

Let Glasgow Flourish, Dawn Cine Group, 1952 / 56

GLASGOW 1980, Oscar Marzaroli, dir. 1971

Glasgow: The Blight, Open University documentary on 1980s Glasgow

Whose town is it anyway? Easterhouse People and Power, Tony Freeth, dir. 1984

Red Skirts on Clydeside (clip)

CLYDE FILM, Cranhill Arts, 1985

The Secret History of Our Street, BBC documentary on Duke Street

Photographers

Thomas Annan

Oscar Marzaroli

Nick Hedges

Raymond Depardon

Chris Leslie

Websites

Glasgow Housing Struggle Archive

Living Rent: Scotland's Tenants' Union

From there...to here: social history of Wester Hales (Edinburgh)

Past Tense: London radical histories and possibilities

Manchester's Radical History: exploring Greater Manchester's grassroots history

Quote

'I have seen human degradation in some of its worst phases, both in England and abroad, but I can advisedly say, that I did not believe, until I visited the wynds of Glasgow, that so large an amount of filth, crime, misery, and disease existed in one spot in any civilised country. The wynds consist of long lanes, so narrow that a cart could with difficulty pass along them; out of these open the 'closes', which are courts about fifteen or twenty feet square, round which the houses, mostly three or four storeys high, are built; the centre of the court is the dunghill, which probably is the most lucrative part of the estate to the laird in most instances, and which it would consequently be esteemed an invasion of the rights of property to remove. In the lower lodging houses, ten, twelve, or sometimes twenty persons, of both sexes and all ages, sleep promiscuously on the floor in different degrees of nakedness. These places are generally, as regards dirt, damp, and decay, such as no person of common humanity would stable his horse in.'

Frederick Engels, *The Condition of the Working Class in England*, 1845