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inura
International Network for
Urban Research and Action



Programme for Annual Meeting
London & Beamish Hall County Durham UK

DEAR FRIENDS,

Welcome to the third Annual Meeting of INURA - this time to be held at Beamish Hall, near Durham, in the North-East of England.

Prompted by the economic and political circumstances of the North-East region, the aim of our Meeting will be to analyse cities and regions in decline and the strategies for social and economic resurrection of these regions that are being taken by the local and central state. The North-East is a classic case of an "old" region which is seeking to represent itself as "new" region. This is by no means unusual in the UK and elsewhere and, of course, it applies to cities as well. We shall see evidence of this on our visit to Docklands and Canary Wharf on Saturday May 22nd, the day before we go up to Durham.

We hope that if you decide to make a presentation at Beamish, that you will try to link it to this theme.

Fred has written in this Bulletin an introduction to the politics of the UK, the North East and Beamish Hall itself. (Health Warning: Fred's view of the UK is not necessarily shared by everyone else in the UK!).

To ensure the success of the Annual Meeting, can we ask you to send your deposit to us as soon as possible so that we can get an idea of how many people are coming. Sorry about this, but we cannot make bookings for Beamish or for the Docklands tour without some money coming in.

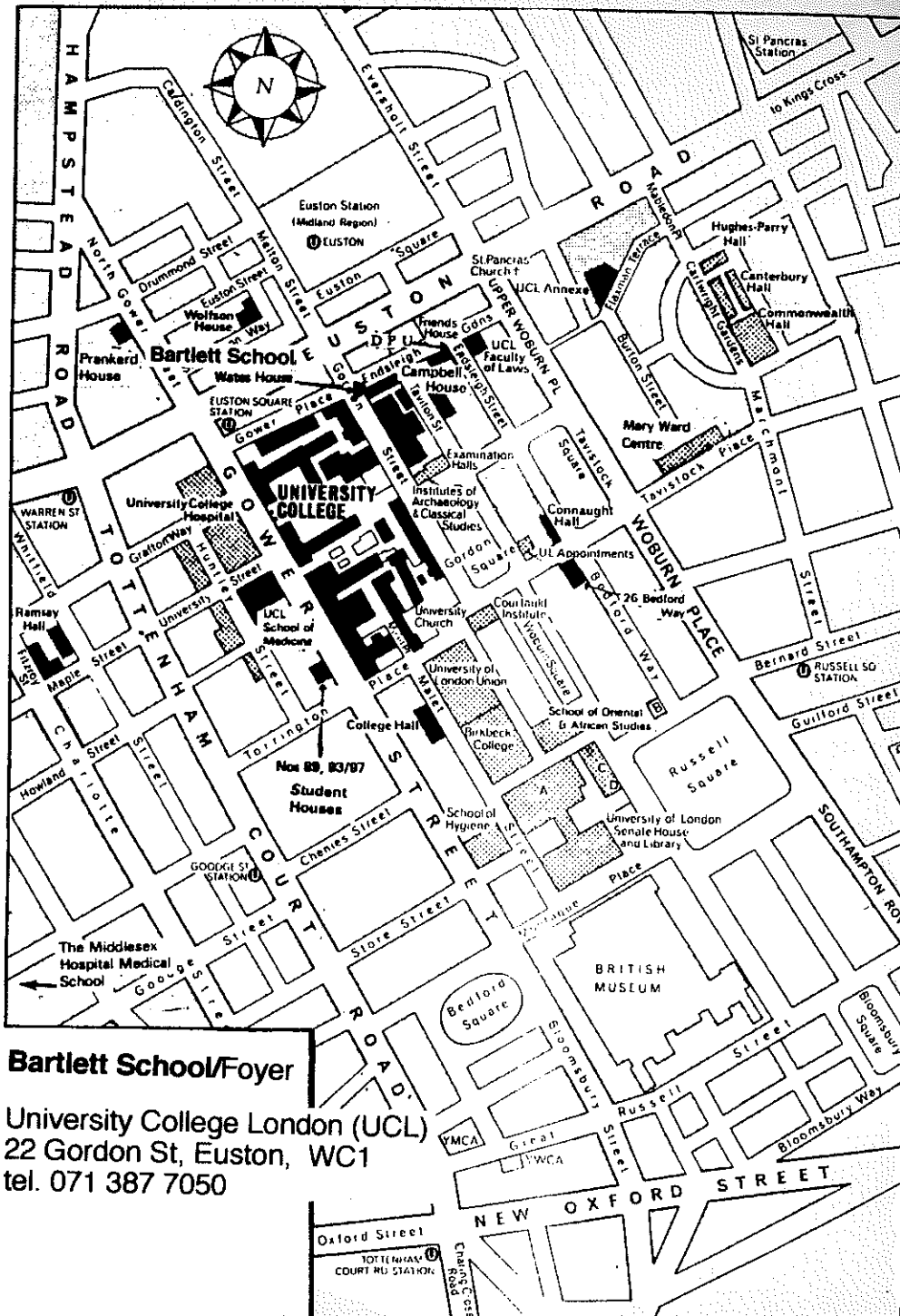
We very much look forward to seeing you in May. We may not be able to match the mountains of Switzerland or the beaches of the Baltic, but we can show you some fine redundant coal mines, and some excellent beer.

Yours,

Bob Colenutt
Michael Edwards
Fred Robinson
Louanne Tranchell

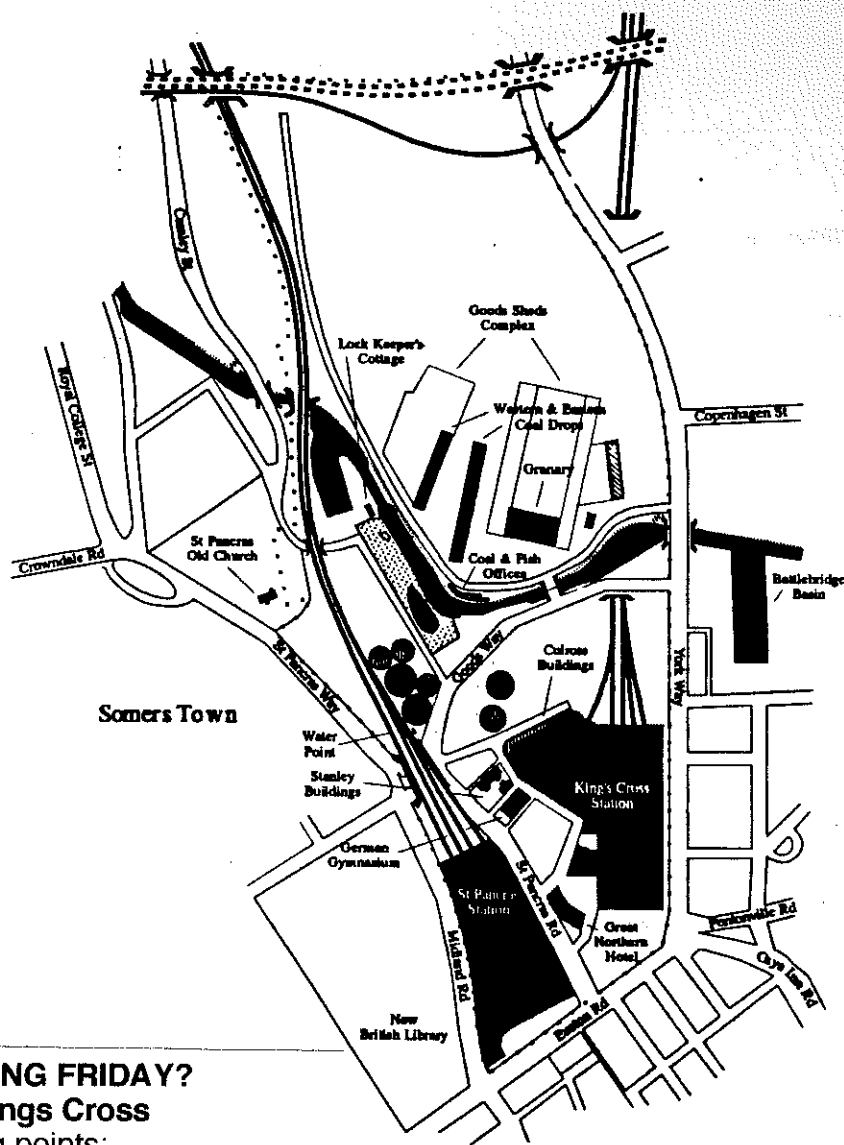
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Bartlett School/Foyer

University College London (UCL)
22 Gordon St, Euston, WC1
tel. 071 387 7050



ARRIVING FRIDAY?

Tour **Kings Cross**

Meeting points:

1pm **Bartlett School/Foyer**
 (leave luggage with INURA reception)
 University College London (UCL)
 22 Gordon St, Euston, WC1
 tel. 071 387 7050

5.30pm

Great Northern Hotel
 behind Kings X Station
 tel. 071 837 5454

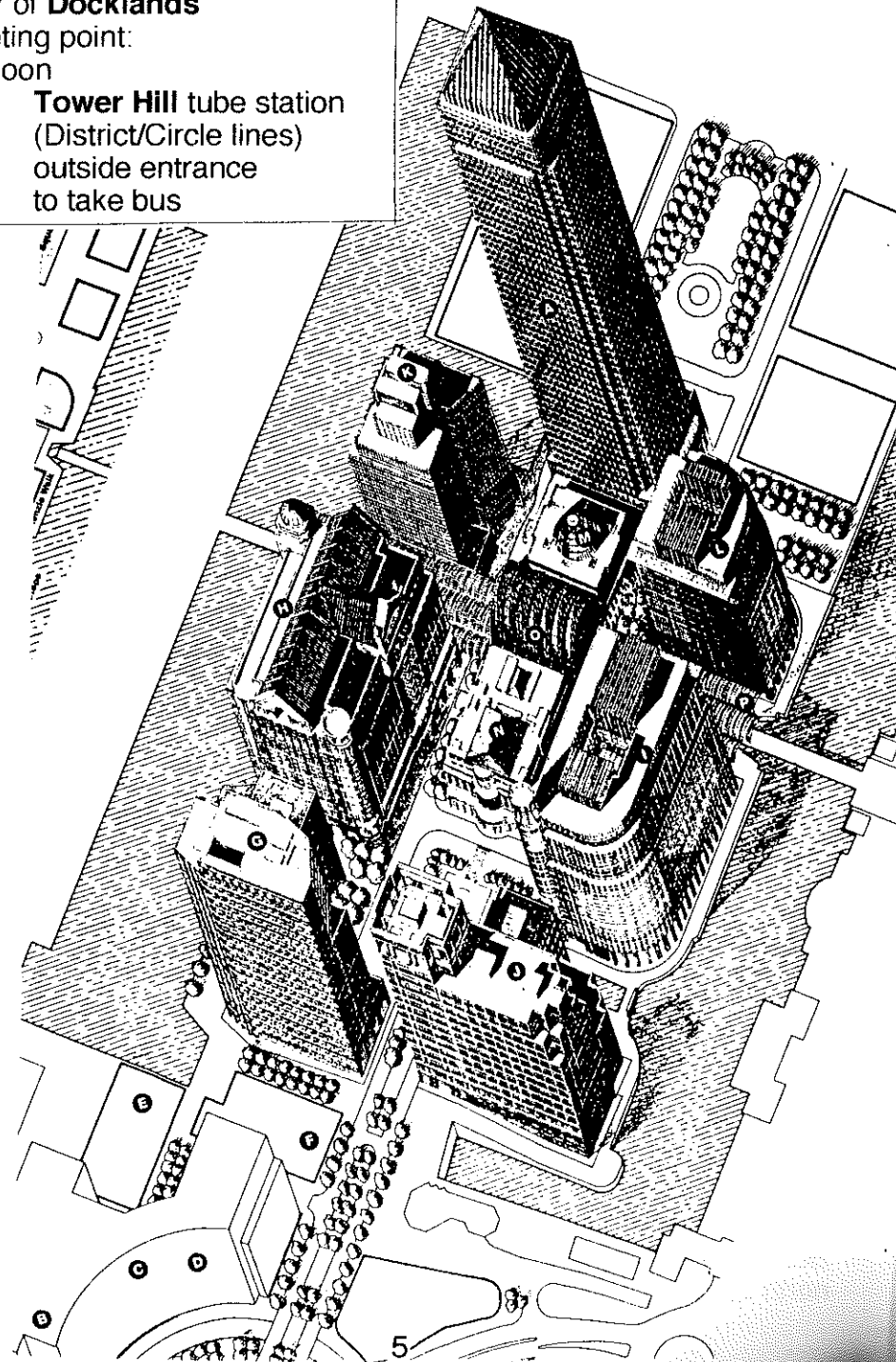
ARRIVING SATURDAY?

Tour of **Docklands**

Meeting point:

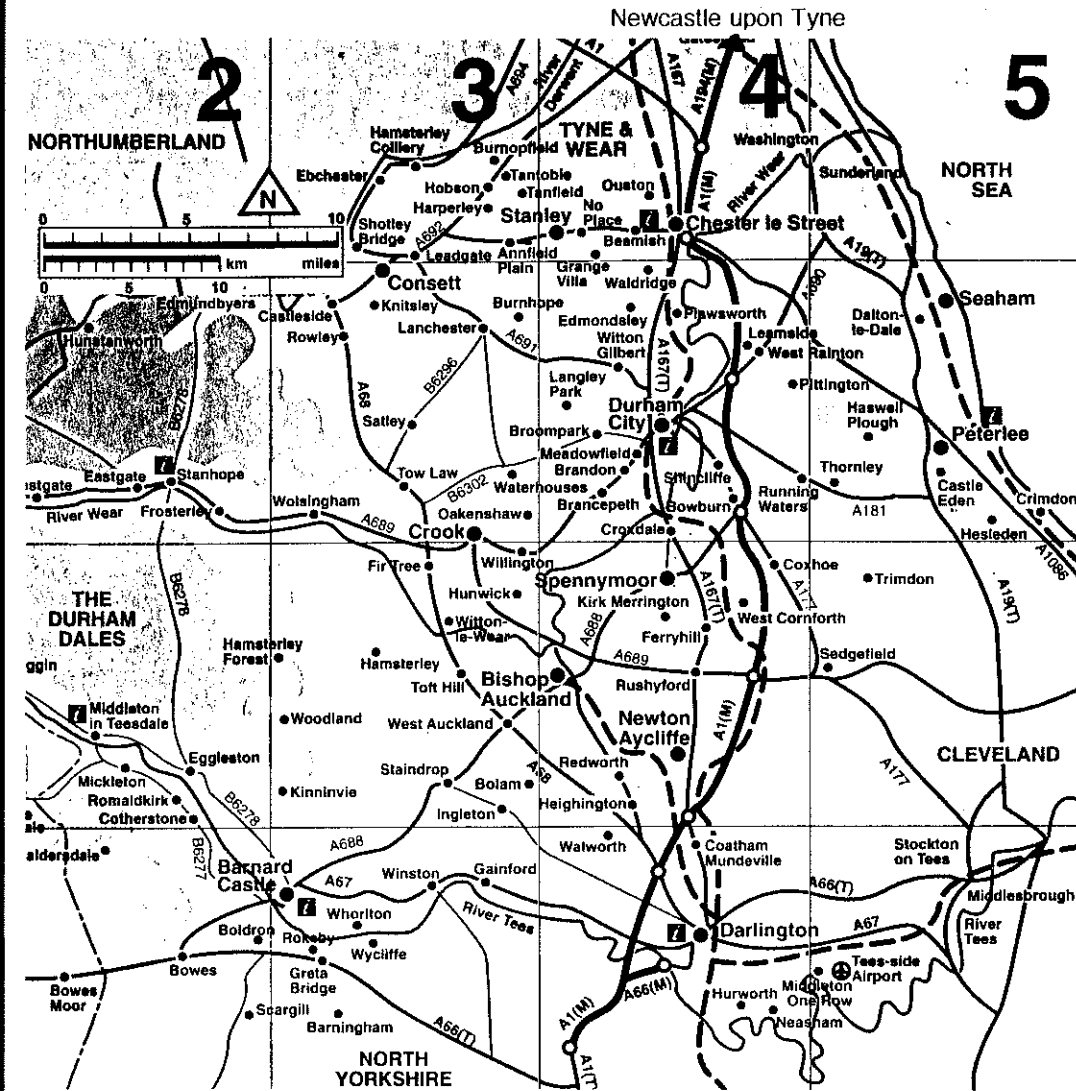
12 noon

Tower Hill tube station
 (District/Circle lines)
 outside entrance
 to take bus



INURA CONFERENCE 1993

Monday 24 May - Thurs 27 May



TRAVEL to NORTH EAST ENGLAND by train from Kings Cross
 Sunday 23 May 93 11am: arrive 15.33pm
 return to London Friday 28 May 93 10.48am .. 13.40pm

Beamish Hall is near Chester le Street
 north of Durham City and south of Newcastle & Gateshead

PROGRAMME PROVISIONAL

Title AFTER DE-INDUSTRIALISATION - NEW CITIES, NEW REGIONS

Monday 24th May

am	INURA introductions and brief update Theme: 'DE-INDUSTRIALISATION' Local and UK	
pm	Case studies related to theme Europe, East/Central Europe, Canada, USA, other	
evening	Workshops	'RESEARCH' racial violence/integration migrant labour refugees ecological transformation etc.

Tuesday 25th May

am	'CITIES, REDEVELOPMENT & THEORETICAL PERSPECTIVES' World Cities, Waterfronts, HQ Economy, Urbanisation ...	
pm	'CITY COMMUNITIES & CITY POLITICS' Marginalisation and Empowerment	
evening	Workshops	'ACTION' (relate to Research topics?) projects/practice media publications

Wednesday 26th May

am	Beamish Museum visit	
pm	a) Newcastle & Tyneside b) Durham (historic town) c) Golf course / pub	
evening	Workshops	INURA Future Programme JOINT PROJECTS

Thursday 27th May

am	'SUSTAINABLE CITIES' 'LIVEABLE CITIES' 'DEMOCRATIC CITIES' Definitions? for 'new cities... after de-industrialisation' Possibilities and Problems	
pm	INURA Business Meeting 'RETROSPECT and PROSPECT' Membership, Bulletin, Foundation etc	
evening	party	
	20 minutes maximum presentations • discussion important	

INURA 1993

The Country, the Region, and Beamish Hall

One of the best things about our INURA meetings - apart from the excellent comradeship - is that they give us all a chance to visit different places (usually obscure places!) and gain impressions of these areas, their people and their problems. I will always remember the perfect peaks of the Swiss Alps and never understand how buses and trains in Switzerland run on time. Likewise, I remember, from last year, being fascinated by the speed with which West German money, people and values have moved into the East.

This year, we hope to have the opportunity to give everyone some clear impressions of our peculiar island, and perhaps use the North East region as a case study against which people can see their own regions. That is why we have put this at the start of the provisional programme, and we think that most people will be able to comment on de-industrialisation and peripherality in their own countries.

So, in advance of our meeting, I thought it might be helpful to say a few things about the context of our meeting this year

The Country

Ours is a country with several names and actually comprises several countries. To keep it simple, I'll call it the United Kingdom (UK) -but don't be fooled by this; it isn't very 'united' and the monarchy ('Queendom' ?) is weaker than ever, rocked by scandal.

The main things to bear in mind about the 'UK' is that we were the first industrial nation, we had a massive Empire, won wars and generally thought we were pretty good (we're modest about our amazing achievements as well !) Since 1945 we've lost the Empire, gone into severe industrial and economic decline, and have pretended to join Europe. Ours is a class-based, tradition-bound society slowly - but rather gracefully - declining. To the tourist, the UK is a sort of Victorian theme park where you can have a comfortable stay if you have enough money and aren't too fussy about your food. And to most tourists, the UK only really comprises London, Oxford, Cambridge, Stratford on Avon and, possibly, Scotland.

Being an island, we are insular, inward-looking. We are doubtful about Europe and the Channel Tunnel (due to open probably next year). We can't understand why other countries won't buy our products - even though we don't want to buy them ourselves.

The UK remains in recession and, for us, this is the longest recession since the 1930s - we've now had three years of it. And no-one believes the Major Government (the most incompetent government we've had for years) can do much about it. Indeed, most people think that the economy is like the weather or earthquakes - not much can be done about it, and certainly you can't expect this government to do anything about it. In any case the government has had no time to do anything since it has been slowly debating the Maastricht Bill for months now.

The present mood of the country could best be described as miserable (don't worry, folks - we'll have a good time at Beamish !). It's miserable because the recession seems endless, we have 3 million and more unemployed, a dumb government which throws money away trying to support the pound but won't invest in public services, etc. etc. . The latest scandal is the closure of at least 20 coal mines and the present 'moral panic' is about crime - especially very young criminals (we might talk about that at Beamish). Perhaps the most damning indicator of all this misery is a recent survey that showed that half of the population would like to leave the UK (that's maybe what the Channel Tunnel is for !)

The North East of England

The NE was one of the centres of 19th century industrialisation - it had a huge coalfield, highly successful iron and steel works and was at the forefront of technology, especially in engineering. At the end of the 19th century, the region produced half the world's ships and the main city, Newcastle, was a very dynamic centre for manufacturing and trade.

Since the 1930s, that traditional base has been declining. Once we had hundreds of coal mines; by the end of this year there will be just two (soon to be privatised). Now there is only one shipyard left - and for how much longer? Less than a quarter of the workforce now works in manufacturing industry.

In recent years, the region has had some new investment, notably from the Far East. The most famous example is the new Nissan car plant set up in the mid 1980s, now very successfully attacking the European market. But this, and service sector growth, hasn't been enough and the official unemployment rate is now about 12%.

Nevertheless, for those in work it's a good place to be. Many parts of the region are beautiful, housing is relatively cheap and people are friendly. The beer is good too (and not expensive). It offers a reasonably relaxed pace of life - so, unwind after visiting Docklands and rest up in Beamish!

Beamish Hall

Beamish Hall is an English stately home built by a rich coal mining family and now owned by Durham County Council. It will give you a sense of how well these rich families used to live - and how fortunate it was for them that coal was found under their land ! These were the Texan oil millionaires of the 1800s.

The Hall itself is a rather grand building now used a lot by local schools for fieldwork and also for conferences. Don't feel intimidated by the formal surroundings. It is run in a fairly relaxed way, the food is excellent and the grounds are really delightful - a typically English parkland setting. You will have a sense of being deep in the country but Newcastle upon Tyne (conurbation population of nearly 1 million) is only 7 miles away. The University city of Durham (with its world famous cathedral 900 years old this year) is only 7 miles to the south.

About half a mile from the Hall is Beamish Open Air Museum which is a remarkable celebration of the region's industrial past - we'll visit that on Wednesday. There's also a golf club close by and the pubs and clubs of Newcastle aren't far away - but we don't want people to disappear to the bright lights too much so I'll say no more. On behalf of the Brits, have a good journey over and we look forward to seeing as many of you as possible.

Fred Robinson,
April 1993

BEAMISH The North of England Open Air Museum, Beamish.

European Museum of the Year 1987.

British Museum of the Year 1986.

One of the North's leading tourist attractions, Beamish vividly recreates life in the North of England early this century. Costumed staff welcome visitors to the turn-of-the-century Town with shops, houses, working pub and printer's workshop. Nearby is the Railway Station complete with goods yard, signal box and locomotives. The Colliery Village has pit cottages, a chapel and school, colliery buildings and underground tours at the "drift" mine. At Home Farm there is a large farmhouse with kitchen and bailiff's office and traditional breeds of livestock and poultry in the farmyard. An average visit takes 5 hours.



Part of the Town, Beamish (Beamish)

Opening Hours: Summer: 1st April to 31st October 1993, daily 10am-5pm. Last admission 3pm.

Charges: Summer: Adults £5.99, children £3.99



INURA-PUBLICATIONS (Report: Roger Kell)

The project by members from Zurich, Frankfurt and Toronto to publish a book on Zurich and Frankfurt (to be detailed below) as an INURA-publication of sorts prompted a general discussion on editorship and authorship, INURA-publications and so forth.

This discussion was conclusive only in so far as it established that INURA authorship or editorship was not possible for legal reasons and not advisable for practical reasons. The Zurich-Frankfurt book will now be published using the names of its editors.

However, we agreed to establish a loose and voluntary option for INURA-members to link their individual (or collective) publication to the network. Such publications could use the following statement somewhere in the beginning of the text:

"This book/article/monograph is one in a series of publications edited and authored by members of the International Network for Urban Research and Action. This organization of scholars and activists works to improve cooperation in urban research and action across countries and cities".

The Zurich-Frankfurt book will be the first publication to use this INURA-label. The editors will also negotiate with the publisher in order to have INURA mentioned on the cover of the book. Note again: this will not mean authorship but just indication of a series linked to work done by INURA-members.

Invitation to joint comparative urban research

The Department of Urban Development of the local council of Rostock (Germany) has established a research project on ongoing and planned changes in an area of the city.

The area has some particular characteristics:

- it was built after World War II as living area (mostly 2- or 3-room-flats together with supermarkets, schools, kindergartens and sanitary infrastructure),
- it is located at the southern periphery, though not far from the city center,
- the density of built environment is rather low,
- within the area there is a major district hospital and a significant part of the Rostock University (Faculty of Technical Sciences and others, students' hostels, a dining-hall, also used for cultural events, other students' clubs) - but integrated into the quarter and not as a campus,
- there are almost no offices up to now,
- due to the fact that the first inhabitants were mostly young families and due to a low amount of residents' mobility in GDR times, older people are now overrepresented.

This quarter, close to the center as it is, will definitely change its functions as part of the city. Reconstruction will be done, ground-plans of apartments will be changed, office space will be created, the density of built environment will increase ...

Scholars from EC-countries are invited to develop a joint research project, accompanying the changes within this quarter and comparing the respective processes with urban developments in their national context. The local council already has basic funding of some research, funding of the "comparative part" shall be raised from the EC. The aim of the comparison should be mutual learning about experiences in mastering such urban changes under different conditions, to help maintain the residents' social structure as far as possible, to include their interests into planning and to guarantee a maximum of citizens' participation.