



Call for Papers

Let's Do it!

Social Cohesion through Applied Heritage and the Time Travel method

Bridging Ages International Conference in Kalmar, Sweden, 13-16 September 2016

Many parts of the world are facing tensions between groups of people or open conflicts. The environmental challenges are obvious. There is a need and a desire among us to do something to improve relations between individuals, ethnic and religious groups, communities and countries, and to work for social and environmental sustainability.

We believe that applied heritage and education can make a difference and contribute to a more inclusive society. Bridging Ages has for several years worked with the Time Travel method on contemporary issues for social cohesion. Several other organizations are working in the same direction. Now it is time to come together, stop just talking and take action.

Let's do it!

Submissions to the conference should bring inspiring and innovative reflections on how to contribute to social cohesion by using Applied Heritage, Education and the Time Travel method. This can include anything in the fields of applied history / archaeology / heritage / religion, education, public health, migration, environment or other areas of society – methods, best practices or research. We also have an interest in the connections between research and practice.

Please submit an abstract of your presentation, poster or workshop, not more than half a page, and a short description of yourself, **by 1 March**, using the link on conference.bridgingages.com.

If you have further questions, don't hesitate to contact our conference manager, Linda Liljeberg: linda.liljeberg@kalmarlansmuseum.se

The Bridging Ages conference is organized jointly by Kalmar County Museum, Linnaeus University, the Regional Council of Kalmar County and the Church of Sweden.

Photo by:
Kalmar County Museum



President's corner

We are getting closer to the end of the year and for Bridging Ages it has been an interesting year! Engaging projects, new angles on applied heritage, Time Travels and conferences, as well as new branches coming onboard. In this Newsletter you can read about projects in different corners of the world and this is still just a small part of it all, I'm looking forward to summarizing the statistics for 2015, I have a feeling it will be very impressive!

It feels the big question this year has been social cohesion. This takes many different shapes and forms, but this is current all over the world. How to create a including society, where there is room for everyone? This is also the theme for next year's conference in Kalmar: "Let's do it – social cohesion through applied heritage and the Time Travel method". The title really says it all; it's time to not only talk, but to think what we can do together and how applied and the Time Travel method can be of use. In this Newsletter you find

the call for papers; I know there are many fantastic projects out there on this theme on this theme and hope we get many interesting papers!

Four Newsletters in 2016

In 2016 there will be four Newsletters; in February, June, October and December. After the conference, the Newsletter will have the theme "social cohesion" and focus on articles and projects on this issue.

I wish you all Happy Holidays and a successful 2016 with many Time Travels!

Annina Ylikoski

*President of Bridging Ages International
Regional Council of Ostrobothnia*

Photo by:

Linda Strömberg-Yasak

*Life in 1790 in Vasa, Time Travel at Ostrobothnian Museum:
Can life as a sailor offer a new beginning? Training to be a sailor.*



Time Travel as a pilot project for schoolchildren in Tartu, Estonia

In the end of May first Time Travel to medieval times took place in Tartu. *Estonian National Museum* together with *Tartu City Museum* were testing this type of active learning method in order to develop the new programmes for the open-air museum area. The participants were 10 year old pupils of *Tartu Catholic Education Centre* together with some parents and museum educators. In 1399, the blooming medieval town Dorpat was preparing for the annual knight tournament and some important guests were expected to come.

During the preparations the pupils learned that there is very little we know about the life of rural people settled in Estonia. They prepared to be the children of craftsmen and merchants of German origin (on that day speaking Estonian though). Estonian language was not spoken in towns for a very long time. The knowledge about being local or a foreigner and how that was defined in medieval times was given to the children before the time travel took place.

Can we trust the local people who speak different language more than a foreigner speaking the same language? Are we ready to accept new people from foreign countries? How do we feel

about their style and habits? These were the key questions we discussed.

Children of the town were gathered in order to learn new skills and prepare some gifts for a rich merchant *Hildebrand von Veckinghusen* from Brugge who was visiting his birth place on his way to Novgorod. There was also a catholic friar talking about the holy places he had visited, an armorsmith presenting his work and an apothecary introducing the medicine against the plague. There were two ladies who showed how to make new fashionable coronas and how to weave a ribbon. When Hildebrand von Veckinghusen and his wife arrived, they were given still slightly wet egg tempera painting with the view of Dorpat and some woollen ribbons.

The organisers got valuable knowledge out of this Time Travel and the children enjoyed the day. They appreciated the relaxed atmosphere, games they played, good food and things they did with their own hands.

Saale Randaru, Kaari Siemer
Estonian National Museum, Tartu, Estonia

Photo by:
Saale Randaru



Bridging Ages memories

The Time Travel method has a story of more than 30 years, starting in the early 1980s in the Kalmar region, Sweden. Bridging Ages has been here for 11 years, from November 2004. As a person who has been with the Time Travel method from the very beginning, and also first coordinator and then president of *Bridging Ages*, it is with a sense of pride I see the development over the years: an increasing number of countries in the organization, more events, workshops and trainings; development of quality, from learning about history to focusing on contemporary issues using history. But maybe most important, to see individuals grow, both participants in Time Travel events as well as leaders in the Bridging Ages groups. No doubt, we make a difference!

There has of course been challenges. It takes a lot of engagement and efforts to write applications, prepare and implement all the activities together with various groups of people. At the same time I have developed as a person, made a lot of friends and really enjoyed myself. And I am still around.

I count to 19 countries all over the world, where I have led Time Travel projects, together with colleagues and local people. In some countries it has happened only once or twice, but in other countries I have worked regularly year after year. It has been very educational, to learn so many local histories, and cooperate in finding the best way to implement and address important issues, to make a difference. There has not been any strategy what country to go to. It only needs an invitation, funding, local ownership and then working with those who have an engagement and interest. There are of course lots of memories from all these visits in the Bridging Ages countries. Here are just a few:

The dusty bus travels in *Nicaragua*; one month stay at American Swedish Institute in *Minneapolis*; meeting President *Rüttel* and wife in *Tallinn*; taking the props and costumes in a small boat to the Time Travel event in *Venice*; all the young museum ladies in the Time Travel training

in *Riga*; walking in half a meter of snow in *Tartu*; the beautiful Cape Winelands in *South Africa*; the first meeting with Louis Marais at his school in *Wolseley*; *Gulshera's* inspiring engagement; the Time Travels on the market square in *Gdansk*; the cobra in *Clanwilliam*; exciting discussions with Masa, Maja and Milena in *Serbia*; all the engaged local historical societies in *Ostrobothnia* and *Kalmar* region; the kindness and efficiency in *Turkey*; Jon, the professor and juggler and Scott, the cowboy in *Las Cruces*; all the years with the Folk High School in *Vasa*; the international football game in *Kampala*; the fantastic singing and toy-toying in the Time Travels in *Ikageng*; the understanding of Mathematics and heritage; the engagement of the policemen in *Cookstown*; all the fascinating stories in the *Åland* islands; the fantastic conference in *Ngurunit*; welcoming so many foreign groups in Kalmar for training and workshops; all the friendly and positive faces I have met in the Bridging Ages work; and of course my colleagues at the museum in Kalmar, working together for so many years, all the daily Time Travels and big events.

I am happy that *Annina* has taken over as the president of Bridging Ages. Annina is an engaged and ambitious person, good in listening, good at implementing. Partner with her in new Time Travel projects and you will together make Bridging Ages grow bigger and stronger. And I'm still around as a supporter.

Teşekkürler, Baie Dankie, Hvala, Kiitos, Labai, Tānan, Paldies, Leboga, Dzieki, Dekoju, Спасубо, Grazie, Takk, Danke, Gracias, Asante sana, Tack, Siyabonga, Ache-oling, Waybale, THANK YOU

Ebbe Westergren



The History of Bridging Ages

- 1986 First Time Travel event, Kalmar, Sweden, after three years of preparations.
- 2000 Kalmar County Museum takes the Time Travel method abroad, Finland and USA.
- 2004 Bridging Ages is formed as a network by 40 persons from 8 countries in Vimmerby, Sweden.
- 2007 Bridging Ages is made into an organization in Tukums, Latvia, 12 countries involved.
- 2015 Bridging Ages consists of people from 24 countries on four continents. More than 20 000 people take part in Time Travel events every year, almost 200 000 since 2004.

2004, Vimmerby, Sweden



2007, Tukums, Latvia



2011, Izmir, Turkey



2014, Ngurunt, Kenya



The first school day of the Armenian college 1870 – a Time Travel in Venice with an American flavour

An impressive Time Travel occurred at the *Palazzo Zenobio* (which houses the *Armenian College Moorat - Raphael*) in order to celebrate the long history of life and friendship between the Armenian community and Venice over the centuries. Bridging Ages board members *Cécile Franchetti* and *Jon Hunner* led sixty students from two Venetian schools, *Istituto Cavanis* and *Scuola S.Domenico Savio*, who relived the first day of school in 1870 at the College.

During the Time Travel, the students experienced the active presence of the Armenian people in the history of Venice and their contribution to the fields of education and culture. The event was organized in collaboration with the *Mekhitarist Congregation* at the Armenian College and the monastery on the island of *San Lazzaro* and with the *Venetian State Archives*. We also gladly received the patronage of the *Armenian Embassy in Italy*.

Cécile Franchetti, Venice, Bridging Ages Italy

Jon Hunner, History Departement at New Mexico State University, USA

Photo by:

Cécile Franchetti



Developing Applied Heritage as a tool for peace-building in Ireland

Diversity Challenges has been working with *Kalmar läns museum* and *Bridging Ages* to adapt the applied heritage method “Time Travel” to the needs of dealing with the past conflict in an about Northern Ireland. *Diversity Challenges* has led a story-telling project “Green and Blue across the thin line” on the stories of former police officers and their families and how the conflict impacted on them. In this project *Diversity Challenges* has partnered the *Royal Ulster Constabulary George Cross Foundation* and the *Irish Section of the International Police Association* whose members are former Irish Police officers “Garda”. This project has collected over 40 stories from both sides of the border. The stories and the ethical process used to collect the stories can be found on the web page www.green-and-blue.org.

To develop the work we took the ethics of both applied heritage and Green and Blue and worked on a scenario for a Time Travel event. The scenario is based on the stories from Green and Blue.

Our goal was to have a dialogue about the past and how to build a new future. In the landscape we wanted to have a sense of place and look at the participants and who is missing of them. In the training we discussed how to carry our research; ethics, respect and how to handle the conflict. In the educational part we trained the peers and shared stories from different perspectives.

The scenario developed was “How the troubles came to our village” in 1972. This was early on in the conflict and saw the highest level of violence. The scenario was of a local community running a local community festival. A common event with a community committee composed of local people from differing community and religious backgrounds. The planning meeting of the festival is interrupted by the news that there has been a shooting and two local people have been killed

one protestant and one catholic. This news then impacted on the role play.

Prior to the event we discussed the process and developed the scenario with participants developing their characters. This process was very important and critical. The feedback from the participants was positive and they all saw that applied heritage is an important new tool in the reconciliation process. This is a community development approach and is suited to the needs in Ireland dealing with contested past which is still impacting on the present.

Diversity Challenges has established an accredited training course “Time Travel Historic Environmental Education” with Open College Network.

Diversity Challenges now plans to work with our partners in Ireland to process applied heritage and a Bridging Ages Ireland.

Will Glanning

Coordinator, Diversity Challenges

Photo by:

Ebbe Westergren

TimeTravel to 1972: Getting the news; whatshall we do?



The board of Bridging Ages

Annina Ylikoski

President

Elected 2009, reelected 2011, 2013 and 2015
The Ostrobothnian Children's Culture Network
BARK, Regional Council of Ostrobothnia, Vaasa,
Finland
e-mail: annina.ylikoski@obotnia.fi.

Tina Lindström

Vice President

Elected 2014
Kalmar County Museum, Sweden
e-mail: tina.lindstrom@kalmarlansmuseum.se

Ebbe Westergren

Honorary President

Elected 2007, reelected 2009, 2011 and 2013
Kalmar county museum, Sweden
e-mail: ebbe.westergren@kalmarlansmuseum.se

Cecile Franchetti

Elected 2015

Venice, Italy

e-mail: cecile.franchetti@gmail.com

Jon Hunner

Elected 2007, reelected 2009, 2011, 2013 and
2015

New Mexico State University Las Cruces, NM

e-mail: jhunner@nmsu.edu

Ebru Iltenmis

Elected 2010, reelected 2012 and 2014
Manisa Municipality Children Culture and Art
Center Manisa Turkey
e-mail: bilgi@manisa.bel.tr

Stephen Labarakwe

Elected 2015

Marsabit County Government, Kenya
e-mail: steven_labarakwe@yahoo.com

Agrita Ozola

Elected 2007, reelected 2008, 2010, 2012 and
2014

Tukums Museum, Tukums, Latvia

e-mail: tukmuz@apollo.lv, agritaozola@inbox.lv

Jabulani Phelago

Elected 2014

Freedom Park, Pretoria, South Africa

e-mail: jabulani@freedompark.co.za

Pille Rohtla

Elected 2014

Audentes School, Tallinn, Estonia

e-mail: pille.rohtla@audentes.ee

Editors

Annina Ylikoski, Ebbe Westergren, Tina Lindström

Contact

Annina Ylikoski, Regional Council of Ostrobothnia, Finland, President of Bridging Ages International
annina.ylikoski@obotnia.fi

Layout

Regional Council of Ostrobothnia

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annina.ylikoski@obotnia.fi*

Next newsletter

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