



The first newsletter!

This is the first newsletter of Bridging Ages, the International Network in Historic Environment Education and Time Travels. The newsletter is a forum for the institutions and persons in the network. So please write news, comments or short articles about Time Travels and Historic Environment Education in your own institution / country, to be published in the upcoming newsletters. The plan is to have four newsletters a year. The first one is a short presentation of the network and of the seminar in Rome in June 2006.

The Bridging Ages network at a glance

Historic Environment Education and Time Travels started at the Kalmar County Museum in 1985, and over the last ten years has spread to and developed in several other institutions and countries. The Bridging Ages network was formed at a symposium in Vimmerby, Sweden in November 2004.

The **Bridging Ages network** consists of about **25 institutions** - museums, schools and universities - from **ten countries** – Estonia, Latvia, Finland, Iceland, Sweden, England, Italy, USA, Kenya and South Africa. Kalmar County Museum in Sweden is the coordinator of the network.

The **mission** of the Bridging Ages network is **to support and inspire the development of Historic Environment Education and Time Travels** - through seminars and conferences, via a website www.bridgingages.com, newsletters and a mailing list, and in common projects.

What is Historic Environment Education?

The focus is on historic sites in the **local environment and their history** – for instance buildings, grave fields, industries, roads. In a Time Travel you dress up in period clothes and for some hours take part in the life of the historic site. The Time Travel is always about a specific year and what happened on the site that year, that day: Rome 404 AD, Reval (Tallinn) 1483, Minneapolis 1912. The participants are those persons living in or visiting that place. With all your senses you experience the life of a historical time and site in your own neighbourhood!

This is a way of learning but also of finding your own identity and comparing the life then and now. Historic Environment Education and Time Travels are mostly collaborative work between schools, museums, universities, historical societies and even the public.



The participants at the first "Bridging Ages" symposium in Vimmerby, Sweden, November 2004.

Seminar in Rome, June 18-20 2006

About 35 people - historians, teachers, archaeologists, museum professionals from Italy, Estonia, Latvia, USA and Sweden - took part in the three-day "Bridging Ages" seminar.



The participants at Farfa Abbey

DAY ONE



The seminar started with a Time Travel to 775 AD at Farfa Abbey, in the secluded abbey garden of the medieval monastery. The participants dressed up in period costumes and got a role card with a character as a pilgrim, postulant, servant, widow, etc. After activities - herbs, medicines, scriptorium, chanting - the meal was served. A real Benedictine monk from Farfa, Don Massimo, led the prayer and also played the part of the abbot of the time.

Time Travel at Farfa Abbey, 775 AD

Days two and three of the seminar were held at the Swedish Institute of Classical Studies in Rome, where participants attended several sessions.

DAY TWO

WELCOME

Alan Klynne, welcomed all to the Swedish Institute, **Maria Mamlöf**, director of Kalmar County Museum, Sweden, welcomed everyone to the seminar and **Eugenia Bolognesi**, Associazione Palatina-Istanbul, welcomed the participants to Rome.

THE TIME TRAVEL METHOD

Ebbe Westergren, Kalmar County Museum

Ebbe, coordinator of the network, made a summary of the principles and methods of Historic Environment Education and Time Travels - starting with local sites and the local history, the students' own research, connections between museums, schools, universities and local communities, to freeze time and using all senses in a Time Travel.

TOPIC 1: RESEARCH & COMMUNICATION

Eugenia Bolognesi, Associazione Palatina-Istanbul (API), Rome

"Time Travels are a way to keep the monuments alive and also to preserve them. Research makes you fall in love with the time period you are studying."

*Villa dei Quintilii, Rome
Time Travel to 180 AD*





Jon Hunner, New Mexico State University, is leading a semester long course on Time Travels at the university in Las Cruces. He talked about the research conducted for the Time Travel to 1937 and the Great Depression, which was arranged in Las Cruces in the fall 2005. He mentioned primary sources such as manuscripts, diaries, journals, newspapers, letters, photographs, and secondary sources such as journal articles, biographies and monographs. The university students found themselves a character with name, family, profession etc. before the time travel.

Time Travel in New Mexico 1937

The discussion focused on the need for more cooperation between museums, schools and universities; the quality of the work; research about everyday life, and the use of real monuments.

TOPIC 2: METHODS IN HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT EDUCATION & TIME TRAVELS

Time Travels, a new perspective for museums in Latvia - Agrita Ozola, Tukums museum, Latvia

Agrita made a presentation about the Time Travel to 1905 at Durbe manor and park in Tukums. The Time Travel was about the agrarian revolution in Russia and a revolt in Tukums. The program consisted of an illegal meeting in the park, producing of proclamations and planning of the revolt.

"The participating students improved their knowledge of a complicated process and understood that this was real life."



Time Travel at Durbe manor 1905

Agrita mentioned that one result from the Time Travel is that lectures on the Time Travel method are now included in the Master's programme in Environmental Studies at the University of Latvia in Riga.



Time Travel in Frödinge 1611

Didactic experiences in Vimmerby and Frödinge - Lars-Åke Andersson, Agneta Regell and others, Vimmerby municipality, Sweden

Lars-Åke showed a film from the time travel to 1611 with fourth graders at Frödinge school. The students acted as people who had to flee in the woods because of the threat from the Danish troops. In the forest they prepared for an "ordinary" life.

"The students learned a lot about an important time period in Swedish history and how it affected their own neighbourhood."

The Time Travel is part of a three-year school project between Kalmar County Museum and Vimmerby municipality.

Tallinn 1576, The Livonian War - Toomas Abiline and Ade Lehtse, Tallinn City Museum, Sirje Rohkla, Old Town School, Tallinn, Estonia

Toomas, Ade and Sirje presented a time travel to 1576 for seventh graders in the middle of Tallinn. The students prepared for a war against the Russians, The Time Travel day ended with the arrival of Moscow's Grand Duke's envoy. The feedback from the students was very positive and some thanked them for the best day in their seventh grade!



Time Travel in Tallinn 1576

Experience day as a learning opportunity - Leen Joesoo, Tallinn University

Leen's studies for her Master degree at the Tallinn University focuses on experience days and life-long learning.

"The Time Travel method is a learning opportunity suitable for a learning society. The method is suitable for all ages and it supports life-long learning."

A lot of important components in the Time Travel method were mentioned in the discussion: staff training, working together (museums, schools, local historical societies.), the importance of the site, the crucial importance of a good preparation, the opening and closing ceremonies which create the atmosphere, key questions for the students to discuss in the time travel and period costumes.

DAY THREE

TIME TRAVEL PROJECTS IN ITALY

Villa Adriana: didactic programmes and archeoguides

Benedetta Adembri and Anna Conticello presented the pedagogical work at Villa Adriana, i.e. an interactive videoguide for children.

Explora - Children's Museum

Chiara Anguissola made a presentation of the pedagogical work at the new children's museum in Rome. Time Travels were introduced at the museum earlier this year.

Farfa Abbey 775 AD

Cristina Castiglione Humani, API has together with Eugenia Bolognesi organised Time Travels with students at Farfa Abbey. Students learned to write with quill pens, sing Gregorian chorals, boil soap, make medicines and cook medieval food.

Prata Sannita 1494 AD

Lucia Daga, API presented programmes for children, grade four-five, at the late medieval castle. She is also interested in developing time travel programmes at the castle.

The Palatine, 404 AD and Villa dei Quintilli, 180 AD

Valerie Hughes, Core International School, presented the Time Travels held at the Emperor's Palatine and at a Roman villa in the outskirts of Rome. Eugenia Bolognesi organised the Time Travels together with Valerie's school and Kalmar County Museum.



Villa Adriana



Time Travel at the Palatine, 404 AD

TOPIC 3: THE FUTURE FOR TIME TRAVELS AND THE INTERNATIONAL NETWORK

Jon Hunner made an introduction to the discussion about the implementation and the future of the network.

"How do we all become Johnny Appleseeds and spread our ideas of the Time Travel method?"

Jon also talked about professionalizing the Bridging Ages network.

In the discussion the following problems were mentioned: economical resources, bureaucracy, sometimes also the academic world.

Opportunities: partner with other institutions, academic research (about effectiveness and the time travel method in a learning process), more talk and research about educational theories, funds, conferences, seminars, articles in magazines, improved home page, the creation of a newsletter and a more formal organisation of the network.

CONCLUSIONS

The decision was taken to work towards a more formal organisation of the network. The seminar was held in a friendly atmosphere with interesting discussions.

Many thanks to Eugenia and her friends in Rome!

Agrita Ozola invited us to Tukums, Latvia, for the next seminar, October 4-6, 2007.



Farfa Abbey

Editor: Ebbe Westergren, Kalmar County Museum, Sweden - coordinator of the network.
www.bridgingages.com

Layout: Birger Ohlson and Frédérique Georjon.

To be part of the mailing list, subscribe to the newsletter or send your contributions, please e-mail ebbe.westergren@kalmarlansmuseum.se
Kalmar County Museum, Box 104, 391 21 Kalmar, Sweden. Tel: 0046 480 451345

***Next newsletter in December 2006.
Deadline for contributions: December 1st.***