



## Welcome to Finland

### ”Bridging Local History in a Global Context”

International Conference on Time Travels  
and Historic Environment Education,  
Stundars and city of Kokkola, Ostrobothnia, September 10-13 2009



*Time travel back to 1886 at Stundars Open-Air Museum.*

### **Bridging local history in a global context**

Welcome to the next Bridging Ages' conference in Ostrobothnia, Finland for exciting and inspiring days with the theme “Bridging local history in a global context”. The theme will be discussed in seminars and workshops with participants from all over the world. We all have a local history! But how do we interpret, communicate and learn from it?

### **Bridging Ages**

#### **International Organisation in Historic Environment Education and Time Travels**

The conference is the annual meeting of the Bridging Ages organization. Bridging Ages includes members from schools, museums, universities, local and regional municipalities from thirteen countries in Europe, America, Africa and Asia all focusing on time travels and heritage education. The conference is open for all participants interested in Historic Environment Education and Time travels.

## Stundars Open-Air Museum

Stundars Open-Air Museum in the village of Solf in Korsholm consists of more than sixty buildings showing how life in the countryside at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century might have been. Stundars is mainly focusing on handicraft traditions, building conservation and different pedagogical programmes and activities for both children and adults.

Stundars has been using different methods in Historical Environment Education for more than ten years. During the conference we will take you to the first World Natural Heritage of Finland, Kvarken Archipelago and also to the battlefield of Oravais, where one of the crucial battles in the Finnish War 1808 took place.



*Stundars Open-Air Museum.*

## The city of Kokkola

The city of Kokkola was founded in 1620 by the Swedish King Gustaf II Adolf and is today a charming historical town with 36.000 inhabitants. Bridging Ages will spend the last two days (12-13.9) in Kokkola in a joined conference with The Finland-Swedish Federation for Local Heritage. Kokkola will also be the starting point for the Sunday morning sight seeing tour in the old town of Kokkola, Neristan, and in the rural area of Kronoby.

## Time Travel to 1809

Our time travel in the city of Kokkola will take us back to the year of 1809, when Finland is on the brink of becoming an autonomous nation under the Russian empire. How will this affect the lives of ordinary people? The time travelers will experience the damage caused by the war of 1808-09, but also the hopes and dreams that the people of Kokkola hold for the future. Please bring clothes along suitable for this time period.

## The Finland-Swedish Federation for Local Heritage

The Finland-Swedish Federation for Local Heritage is an organisation consisting of some 100 community museums along the western and southern coast of Finland. These museums are usually led by voluntary enthusiasts.



## Travel details

The airport of Vaasa, located only 15 minutes from Stundars museum, has daily connections to both Helsinki and Stockholm, operated by several airlines. Ryan airline is operating to the airport of Tampere from where you can continue your journey by train to Vaasa. You can also reach the city of Vaasa (20 minutes drive from Stundars museum) by ferry from Sweden.

## Call for papers

You are welcome to present your project in Historic Environment Education at the conference. We are looking forward to hear reflections from your school, organization or museum. Please submit an abstract (max 1 A4) including a presentation of yourself to: [ebbe.westergren@kalmarlansmuseum.se](mailto:ebbe.westergren@kalmarlansmuseum.se) at latest by April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2009.

## Program, preliminary

### Wednesday 9.9.2009

Possibility to participate in hands-on archeological project with school children in near-by Malax.

### Thursday 10.9.2009, Stundars

10.00 Bridging Ages Business meeting

11.30 Lunch

12.30 Welcome to Stundars – guided tour in Museum with handicrafts people in action.

14.00 Opening of the Conference

15.00 Professor Brigitta Gustafsson: "Places as stories", University of Växjö

PhD Sanna Asikainen, "Playing with the past"

16.30 Departure for Kvarken Archipelago, the first World Natural Heritage in Finland. Dinner.

### Friday 11.9.2009, Stundars

9.00 PhD Tom Gullberg, Åbo akademi University: To include time travels in education of teachers

10.30 Coffee

10.45 – 12.30 Work in progress – Call for papers (Parallell sessions)

12.30 Lunch

13.30 Work in progress – Call for papers (Parallell sessions)

15.00 – 16.30 Workshops (incl. Coffee)

-Closing discussion concerning a common project.

19.00 Dinner in Hemmersgården

### Saturday 12.9.2009, Kokkola

9.00 Departure from Solf. Visit in Oravais, Furirsbostället – guided tour with theme Finnish War 1808-1809.

13.00 Arrival in Karleby. *Bridging Ages conference continues together with The Finland-Swedish Federation for Local Heritage*

Lauri Skantsi: The Finnish War 1808-1809 and the dawn of a new autonomous nation, Finland.

14.00 Preparations for the Time-Travel

15.30 Time travel to 1809 in the centre of Kokkola.

20.00 Dinner at Restaurant Mustakari – together with The Finland-Swedish Federation for Local Heritage.

### Sunday 13.9.2009, Kokkola

9.00-10.00

- Bridging Ages presenting itself

- The Finland-Swedish Federation for Local Heritage presenting itself

10.00-13.00 Sight seeings in Kokkola & surroundings incl. lunch

13.00 Departure for flights, ferries etc...

### Welcome

Stundars Open-Air Museum - Mr Olle Victorzon, President

The Finland-Swedish Federation for Local Heritage - Mr Peter Sjöstrand, President

Bridging Ages, International Organisation in Historic Environment Education and Time Travels –

Mr Ebbe Westergren, President

**Deadline to register: June, 30<sup>th</sup> 2009**

**Conference fee (including meals and transport) to be confirmed later.**

***Next newsletter end of April 2009!***

### For more information:

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**Welcome!**

## A different day in medieval Tallinn

In the year 2008 Olde Hansa medieval school organized an event to students from different schools. That gave them an opportunity to take part in a daily life of a medieval persons day, to learn about Estonian history and culture.



*Students dressed as friars and burgesses.*

The morning began with watching a play about the medieval court hearing. After that we walked the streets of old town, climbed some narrow stairs and dressed as friars and burgesses.

The students found out about saints, ministers and Order, basically about the importance of the religion in a medieval persons everyday life.

During the day a lot of games connected to middle-aged times were played. Such as "Do you know medieval Tallinn?" They acquired knowledge about the unions of merchantizers and the travel routes of medieval ships. A lot of fun for the children was the game "Scents in a

medieval town", where they acted as helpers of a apothecary and had to figure out to which product that specific scent belongs to.

On that day the students had a really positive experience learning about the fashion from the medieval centuries, about the colors in clothing about jewelry and were able to wear them. To conclude the day the students learned and danced medieval dances.

*Vanalinna Hariduskollegium  
Sirje Rohla*

## Teachers as Time Travel participants in Tukums, Latvia

In an effort to enhance program content and improve cooperation with schools, Tukums museum initiated a first time invitation specifically structured for teachers of history asking them to take part in our Time Travel program. Twenty-six teachers from various parts of Latvia were able to experience events that transpired in 1905 at the Durbe manor house in Tukums. Program scene reenactments were the same as those portrayed by almost 1000 students during the last few years. Most of the participants played their parts with enthusiastic appreciation of the time and events and were happily surprised that they were not just able to display their knowledge of the theme by talking about it but rather living it.



*Teachers in the kitchen.*

Conclusions reached by History teachers:

1. Before something is offered to our students, it is valuable that we experience it ourselves;
2. The program is of interest to students as well as teachers;
3. A fruitful program presentation requires prior preparation;
4. Programmatic approach guidelines are in keeping with educational program aims.

Conclusions reached by Museum staffs:

1. It is important to know what, within restrictions placed on museums, teachers as well as students may expect from the offer;
2. Program developers have to know the essence of the subject taught and textbooks employed;
3. In creating programs consideration should be given not just to knowledge displayed by educators about a subject but also being aware of the age of participants and idiosyncrasies of such group;
4. Effectiveness of the presentation is increased if participants have prepared themselves in a timely manner so as to preclude answers to questions such as: "Who am I, what should I do...?"

Shortly after the 1905 program conclusion with teachers of history, Durbe manor house was visited by a former participant's group of teachers from Jaunpils School consisting of twenty-four individuals. At this time program participants were teachers teaching a variety of subjects, having a pronounced interest associated with interactive teaching methods in conjunction with one's own subject

Discussions with them subsequent to the program revealed that although there was an initially reluctant attitude, such stance was quickly overcome with personal and collective participation. If a participant, each with his or her own contribution, has to achieve a common script objective, it serves to unite people with divergent opinions and thoughts. Time Travel may not just be an educational tool but also a successful cooperative venture.

*Ilze Paparinska, Tukums museum*

## **Time Travel Studies in Turkey - Yesilova Höyüç Stone Age Site in İzmir, Bornova**

In April 2009 the first Time Travels in Turkey are going to take place. It is a project between Kalmar läns museum in Sweden and three Turkish municipalities - Karsiyaka, Bornova and Manisa. There will be Time Travels to 1955 in Manisa, 590 B.C in Smyrna (Karsiyaka) and 6000 B.C. at a Stone Age Site in Bornova. In each municipality a time travel group has been formed. Here is a short report from the Bornova Time Travel group.



*The Time Travel site as it looks now and the future plans.*

The past three months we have done many preparations in the Bornova Time Travel group for the first time travels in April 2009. The work is being done together by the Ege University and the Municipality of Bornova, in two working teams.

The reconstruction plan of the area where the time travels will take place, has been completed by the Municipality of Bornova as an "İzmir Bornova pre-historic education and exhibition area". In the area there will be an archeological education park, a pre-historic village and a museum with exhibition saloons.

The Cultural Department and Park and Gardens Department of Bornova Municipality have started to prepare the Time Travel area by landscaping the site. Also clothes, costumes, props and tools are about to be produced.

The working team at the Ege University has had training for trainers, among other things about the ornaments and jewellery of the pre-historic period and jewellery design.

The training of the teachers that, together with their pupils, will take part in the Time Travels has started. Zafer Derin, professor in archaeology at Ege University, will also have history and archeology lessons for teacher candidates in Primary School Social Sciences Department of Ege University. Both future teachers and pupils will be able to use to the Time Travel area.

The working teams of Bornova Municipality and Ege University meet very often and plan for the first Time Travels.

*Bornova -Time Travel Team*

## Archaeology as Time Travel

**Report from a seminar at the European Association of Archaeologists Conference on Malta 2008  
Cornelius Holtorf, Kalmar University and Bodil Petersson, Lund University**

The session on 'Archaeology as Time Travel' marked the start of a new interdisciplinary project on the archaeology of time travel, based at the Universities of Lund and Kalmar in Sweden. The six speakers each explored the meaning of the term 'time travel' in a particular context and presented examples of research questions that the project will be addressing.

Cornelius Holtorf, University of Kalmar, Sweden, started off with an overview of the current popularity of experiencing and getting immersed in past worlds. He suggested that this kind of time traveling is aided by factors such as cutting-edge computer technology and popular mass media and arguably represents a novel way of approaching the past in our age.

Bodil Petersson, University of Lund, Sweden, then explored why, today, rune-stone carvers are again in large demand and how the act of rune-carving is contributing to the emerging need for time travels in contemporary society.

Lars-Erik Narmo, Lofotr Viking Museum, Norway, discussed the way in which an archaeological open-air museum offers visitors experiences of the past by letting them participate in recreating ancient technologies and other parts of past daily life.

The widespread popularity of open-air museums throughout Europe was further explored by Roeland Pardekooper, University of Exeter, UK. He argues that these museums reflect strong trends in people's appreciation of the past towards hands on experiences of past life, storytelling, scientific experimentation, and layered information available to those visitors who want to learn more.

The historian Erika Sandström, University of Gotland, Sweden, then discussed the way in which large numbers of locals and tourists have been enjoying the annual Medieval week in Visby. Surprisingly, she found that not all participants admit to being interested in history, because the way they engage with the past is outside the scope of traditional notions of history and thus not associated with 'history'.

One of the questions raised in the extensive and lively discussion concerned the significance of allowing people to return to the present from their time travels.



*Time travel on German TV.  
The protagonists of the docu-soap  
Steinzeit:das Experiment.*

## **Bridging Ages branch in South Africa**

### **Report from the Interim Committee**

Since the establishment of the committee at the Bridging Ages conference in Worcester the focus has been to establish the Bridging Ages branch in South Africa. A constitution has been drafted and a job description has been compiled for a coordinator to run the branch in South Africa. We are fortunate that the Western Cape Department of Social Development has committed funds towards the appointment of a coordinator.

The Bridging Ages South Africa Board and the coordinator will promote Historic Environment Education and Time Travels in South Africa through partnerships with Museums, Education, Social Development and Environment in the various Provinces.

Much has been achieved in the Western Cape with a total of 18 Time Travels planned for 2009. The property store at the Worcester museum has been upgraded and additional props will be added during 2009. The Dias and CP Nel museums are developing time travels this year. Museum Scientists from Museum Service are assisting museums in training and researching scenarios.

Ebbe Westergren and Helen Eklund from Kalmar läns museum are active in the other Provinces developing new projects in Port Shepstone and Potchefstroom, which eventually will be coordinated by Bridging Ages South Africa. The constitution makes provision for provincial committees and members who will be represented on the South African Board. The Board will nominate a representative to sit on the International Board. It is planned to have Bridging Ages South Africa established by the end of 2009.

*Tizzie Mangiagalli, Worcester Museum*  
*Chairman of the Interim Committee Bridging Ages South Africa*

*Meeting places now and then...*



*The harbour in Portshepstone.*



*The AME Church in Ikacheng, Potchefstroom.*

## Award to Western Cape Time Travel Group



Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport  
Departement van Kultuursake en Sport  
Isebe Lemicimbi yeNkcubeko NeMidlalo



### Western Cape Arts, Culture and Heritage Awards 2008

Every year DCAS (Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport) recognises outstanding achievements and contributions in the areas of Arts and Culture, Languages, Museums, Heritage, Libraries and Archives Services in the Western Cape, South Africa. The award ceremony was held at Bloemendahl, Cape Town in December 2008.

#### Best new museum project

#### – The Time Travel Reference Group in the Western Cape!

*“The outstanding commitment of the Historic Environment Education and Time Travel Reference Group has made a marked impact on teaching the new curriculum and in bringing museums, schools and communities together.”*

**Congratulations from all of us!**

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**Next newsletter April 2009**

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