



Dundalk town and Dundalk bay, Castletown River and Flurry River. The Cooley peninsula in the background.

Dundalk is a border town situated in the north-east of the Republic of Ireland. It is approximately halfway between Dublin and Belfast. It has always been a border town. Historically its initial settlement lies in the 7th Century AD as part of the kingdom of the Conaille. Over the next 400 years this area was the site of territorial contention on an ongoing basis. With the arrival of the Anglo Normans in the 12th Century the town was located on the northern border of the differentiation between the Anglo-Normans and the native Irish.

More recently with the introduction of Partition in Ireland in the early 20th Century Dundalk again became a border town. With the advent of the 'Troubles' Dundalk was one of the towns to which people from the North fled.

Historically the town has a strong industrial tradition unlike most every other town in Ireland – railway, engineering, car and shoe manufacture, tobacco, distilling and brewing. However scarcely any of these industries remain. Today the town's geographical location continues to play a major role with both the railway and motorway linking Northern Ireland to the south (and vice versa), significant considerations in attracting new businesses and industries.

Dundalk is the quintessential border town.

Cead Mile Failte – A Hundred Thousand Welcomes!

County Museum Dundalk, Brian Welsh

Diversity Challenges, Will Glendinning, Maura Maginn

Draft program for the Bridging Ages conference

1 June Arrival

2 June

Am Welcome address
Bridging Ages introduction

Setting the Scene, Dealing with contested past - Diversity Challenges; County Museum Dundalk; Newry & Mourne Museum. Musical pieces from Aftermath Story-telling project

Pm Workshop, the EU Grundtvig Project, "A Place and its Story", on dialogue and community building – organizations from Poland, Finland, Sweden, Belgium, Germany, Iceland and Ireland

Evening Visit the small historical town of Carlingford and the Cooley peninsula

3 June

Am Time Travel event connected to the railroad in Dundalk in the 1880s, "Safety or Profit"
The focus and perspectives of the Time Travel method

Pm Presentations and workshops from various countries and organizations

Evening program

4 June

Storytelling innovative methods, addressing issues of conflict and promoting reconciliation, use of drama and art, Examples from Ireland – Healing Through Remembering (Kabosh Theatre); Verbal Arts Centre (Crows on the Wire); Diversity Challenges (Green and Blue; Aftermath)

Examples from other countries

Irish night

5 June

Tour along the border and the impact of the conflict

Tour of Belfast and the painted peace walls



The County Museum, Dundalk is located in a beautifully restored late 18th century distillery, later used as a warehouse for tobacco. The museum opened in 1994.

"Don't be so gloomy. After all it's not that awful. Like the fella says, in Italy under the Borgias in the 15th century, they had warfare, terror, murder, and bloodshed, but they produced Michelangelo, da Vinci, and the Renaissance. In Switzerland they had brotherly love, 500 years of democracy and peace, and what did that produce? The cuckoo clock"

**Herry Lime
(Orson Wells)
in the movie
"The Third
Man" (1949).**

Call for papers, Ireland conference, June 2015

The Bridging Ages conference in Ireland will examine how stories can be collected and shared with others in programmes and events, different stories to promote understanding and dialogue.

Papers are invited to consider and analyze the concepts of

- A) Stories, a thread through contested space.
- B) Innovative story telling methods, use of arts, drama and time travels, creating safe places for dialogue and learning.

Please send your abstract and a short presentation of yourself, no more than 300 words, to brian.walsh@louthcoco.ie **before 31 January 2015**



Patrolling the border, a common sight in Ireland/ Northern Ireland in the 1970s.

Bridging Ages South Africa national conference 2015

3-5 March 2015, Freedom Park, Pretoria

“Freedom and Solidarity”

Organizers: Department of Arts and Culture
Freedom Park

Bridging Ages South Africa

Info: Jabulani@freedompark.co.za

PertuniaTs@dac.gov.za



How different cultures influenced lifestyle and its progress, Ottoman-era Istanbul



Time Travel to 1902, a great day at Parma House, Beyoglu Istanbul

The association Bridging Ages Venice has performed a Time Travel to 1902, linked to the history of the Italian community in Istanbul. The Time Travel was organized with the Italian School, Italian Koleji, the Armada Pera Hotel (the former residence of the family Parma) and in collaboration with the Italian Embassy in Turkey, the University Ca' Foscari of Venice and the University of Ankara.

Last year Bridging Ages revived another event in Istanbul, the first school for interpreters of Oriental languages in the 16th century. This year Bridging Ages involved young students and members of the old Levantine and Italian communities, as well as from Turkish community, in a new project.

Wednesday November 19 was a very special day for Italians who lived in Constantinople in 1902: the award of the rosette (Grand Officer of the Order of Osmanie) to Paolo Parma, a businessman and tailor of Sultan Abdulhamid II. This ceremony took place at the Yildiz Palace. At Palazzo Venezia, currently the residence of the Italian ambassador in Istanbul, the students of the Italian Koleji relived various moments of the life of Paolo Parma and his family, before he went to the Sultan's Palace. On that morning everybody was very busy in the Parma House, with the preparation of the gifts to be presented to the Sultan, visits of friends and neighbours for the congratulations to Paolo Parma. The remake of this event gave a further opportunity to remember the long history of life and friendship between the Turkish community and the Latine and Levantine communities.



The key questions focused on the diversity of cultures, languages and schools in Constantinople/ Istanbul, as well as scientific progress and technology. In particular, on the importance of knowing a foreign language, all of them answered positively. Afterwards some said they were happy to study a second language (Italian, in this case), "so I better know the cultures of others."

Cecile Franchetti
Bridging Ages Venice

Time Travel at Bain's Kloof Pass, South Africa

Journalist Dawne Fester gives her report from Wolvenkloof Convict Station,
September 1853

"Superintendent Jonathon Short is everywhere at once, with his eagle eye on each and every activity. Flowers, reeds and grasses adorn a newly made arch that will mark the entrance to the new bridge at Wolvenkloof, to be named in honor of the chairman of the Central Roads Board, P. B. Borcherds. A banner is being painted in bright colors that will be hung on the arch stating, "FAMA SEMPER VIRET" ("A good name will live forever").

There are hectic doings around the cooking fires where food for festivities is being cut, chopped, roasted, fried, boiled and baked. Dishwashers assure me that they never believed this road would ever be able to be built. Now they will be able to visit their families on the other side of the mountains.

Some convicts continue their labors with chiseling stone and smoothing the road. The chaplain, Reverend W. D. Fleischer has tried to improve the sorry situation of the convicts' lack of education. He teaches convicts skills in mathematics and grammar in an improvised schoolroom outdoors.

The constable has endeavored to teach some convicts to play musical instruments and soon the lively tunes that fill the air are irresistible. Many servants take time to join in the dancing. Even Dr. F. W. Muntingh from Wellington joins in the merriment. He tells me, "Dancing is better for one's health than medicines. One needs to keep people happy while nature is curing most other bodily ills."



The infamous convict Anthony Jack (third right) tried to escape, but was caught by his fellow convict Lammert. Superintendent John Short (right) calmed them down and introduced Lammert to the blue jacket.

Great excitement explodes in the camp as everyone realizes that the infamous criminal convict Anthony Jack, is attempting an escape. Just as swiftly as he leapt into the bush in the dire desperation of a hopeless getaway he is apprehended by Lammert, a fellow convict. For his brave and successful actions, Lammert is presented the "Blue Jacket" symbolizing his release from captivity and the promise of a new start in life as a freed man.

We all together, servants, convicts, wardens and constables, close this day by partaking in a simple meal. Thanks to visionary men like Mr. Andrew Bain, and of course Superintendent Jonathon Short, we are celebrating the greatness of a project that will connect us forever."

Christen Erlingsson
Linnaeus University, Kalmar, Sweden

*The author as reporter
Dawne Fester.*



KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa

A chance to speak: Time Travel to the Durban System of Control and the Pass Laws 1952

On 25 November 2014, members of the museum community in KwaZulu-Natal province came together in the centre of Durban for a Time Travel to a normal day of an office of the Durban System in 1952. The Durban system is the name for the control of movement of the so-called non-White people in the coastal city of Durban during apartheid times.



People standing impatiently in the line for "non-Whites" outside the office for Dom Passes in the 1952 Time Travel. The policeman in brown is giving instructions and examines the visitors.

This particular Time Travel preceded the annual conference of the Libraries, Language Services, Archives and Museum Services. That allowed the members of affiliated museums who have not had a chance to experience a Time Travel, to participate in one.

KZN Museum Services worked with the KwaMuhle Museum to put up the emotional Time Travel with the hope to have participants feel and think about how in the 1950s the city administration treated people who came into the city to seek work and eke out a living.

The KwaMuhle Museum, that was the office for the application for Passes and other permits, served as a perfect site for the Time Travel. The more than sixty Time Travel participants experienced the fatigue of waiting on long racially-separated queues, the insults heaped at them by the "native" police, the preferential treatment given to Whites, the uncertainty of their applications for Dom Passes (Identity Documents), the hunger and thirst on the queues, and the physical examination for possible diseases.

Comments: A young woman from one of the Durban Museums, who re-enacted the role of Ms. Dorothy Nyembe, who challenged the authorities on the unjust treatment of people, said that the bad treatment she experienced can surely be nowhere near what the people then experienced. Another young woman from Amazwi Abesifazane Museum near Durban said that the value of the Time Travel lies in the chance to speak about these things.

Radikobo Ntsimane,
KwaZulu-Natal Museum Services, South Africa

Bridging Ages with the elderly, Ashton, South Africa

Silver Threads Service Center for the elderly, in the small community of Ashton, South Africa has made Bridging Ages an internal part of their work and started a five year project. The inspiration is taken from the More Living-Active Age project, on elderly care and heritage, between South Africa and Sweden. The main goal is to restore the value of the elderly within the community, by creating awareness for the significant role of the elderly and the importance of history in society. This will be done by establishing permanent on-going Bridging Ages activities to add value to the development of Ashton and surroundings.



Bridging Ages banner in the newly opened elderly shop in Ashton.



Elderly women in the training centre for sewing skills. Hand quilting is one of the specialties.

There are four major focus areas:

1. Establish a 'Traditional medicine' garden and Nursery as a social business enterprise, focusing on the role of traditional medicine in modern life. This include selling of plants, compiling and selling of a booklet on 'traditional medicine' and recipes. It will create jobs for the unemployed and income for the elderly.
2. Compile a book containing the life stories of our elderly including their role in the historical, social and economic development of Ashton, a new edition to be published in 2016. The book sales will give funds and also participate in the local tourist trade.
3. Establish a permanent training centre for sewing skills and hand quilting. This helps jobless women to become self-sustainable. Knitting and crochet skills training workshops will be organized.
4. Restore value of the elderly in the community through different events/programs:

There will be special Bridging Ages and Time Travel programs with the elderly every week. Several study circles will be introduced; there will be social inter-action and school holiday programs with elderly, youth and children, even a youth/elderly week-end camp. The aim is to establish awareness for each other's needs and embrace the generation. This includes our "Adopt-a-granny" program'

There are plans for day trips, dancing, performances/ time travels based on the life-stories of elderly, and a lot more...

Alida Cilliers,
Silver Threads Service Center, Ashton

Bridging Ages

Bridging Ages is an international organization focusing on the use of local heritage to the benefit of the local community today; that is applied heritage for community building. In the Time Travel method contemporary issues are connected with the past. The method includes areas like research, storytelling, study circles, landscape studies, training, education and Time Travel events

The five principles of the Time Travel method are:

1. Focus on local sites and stories
2. The use of several perspectives, the general is the bottom-up perspective
3. Key questions connect today with the past
4. Interaction between community, school, university and other parties
5. A Time Travel always have a reflective dialogue

Bridging Ages Action Plan 2015-2017

Promote Applied Heritage and the Time Travel method

1. **Strengthen the Bridging Ages network in each active country**, institutionalized and independent at the same time, networking, capacity building, activities and projects.
2. Include and **partner with a wide range of organizations**, from any parts of society in activities and projects
3. Establish **training courses** for capacity building on regional, national and international level as well as seminars and collaboration projects
4. Emphasize connection between **the academic field and the practical field** in common projects and courses
5. Organize an annual international **conference**, and also conferences, **seminars and workshops on national**, regional and local level

Develop the Bridging Ages organization

1. Form a **legal entity**, to facilitate the sustainability and development of the organization
2. Establish a **Bridging Ages office** at Kalmar County Museum, Sweden and at the Regional Council of Ostrobothnia, Finland.
3. Develop **promotion material**, pamphlets, website, marketing social media, etc
4. Support establishing of **networks in active countries/regions** and create forums for members and organizations to be involved in the development of the Time Travel method
5. **Analyze and implement** the foundation of the "Time Travel method" and "Applied Heritage" for the focus and quality of the program
6. **Funding and fundraising** is a responsibility for the international organization and for each participating organization

Adopted by the Bridging Ages board, November 2014

Editor: Helen Eklund (helen eklund@kalmarlansmuseum.se)
Ebbe Westergren, Kalmar County Museum, Sweden - president of the Bridging Ages Organization.
ebbe.westergren@kalmarlansmuseum.se
Kalmar County Museum, Box 104, 391 21 Kalmar, Sweden. Tel: + 46 480 45 13 45
Layout: Stefan Siverud, Kalmar County Museum
To be part of the mailing list, subscribe to the newsletter or send your contributions,
please e-mail ebbe.westergren@kalmarlansmuseum.se

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