



2025 is coming to an end

2025 is about to end and we summarize the year within Bridging Ages. This year we held our 20th anniversary conference in Kalmar, Sweden. I am glad to see that people from many Bridging Ages counties were able to join us in Kalmar, and for those that couldn't travel, it was possible to join online.

After the covid pandemic the digital and hybrid work is much easier. Even though we are on different parts of the planet, the work meeting with colleagues in South Africa is not much different than with colleagues in Sweden. This closeness and need for cooperation also came into focus in the idea of a global Time Travel project that came up during the conference. We need to come together and work for a better future. At present Bridging Ages has a group that is working on an application for a Global Time Travel so hopefully we will find a way to start the process for a Global Time Travel during 2026.

During 2025 people and organisations within Bridging Ages have hosted

trainings, workshops, projects, Time Travels and study visits both on local, regional, national and international level. The Time Travel Method continues to inspire, and new organisations and countries want to join and participate.

In this newsletter you can read about how Klaipeda university continue to use the Time Travel Method in their *migrantas* project. Port Shepstone Twinning Association write about the successful launch of the Time Travel book "Our History". Last, we have a report from a conference for Children culture network in Finland, hosted by BARK, where two Bridging Ages members spoke about the Time Travels and mobile culture for children and youth.

Last but not least I wish you happy holidays and a happy new year.

Linda Liljeberg,
President Bridging Ages International

„The Migrant in Mažeikiai“ : A new project in Lithuania Using Audio Recordings in the Time travel method

In 2025, Klaipėda University, in cooperation with the cultural institutions and organizations of Mažeikiai city, started a new project "The Migrant in Mažeikiai" by the audio version. As we know, Klaipėda University developed a new version of the Time Travel Method, incorporating audio recordings during the international project "Crossroads in History" (2019–2021), and created a pilot project called "The Migrant" (migration stories from the 20th century). The same concept with different History has been adapted to „The Migrant in Mazeikiai”

The new project is trying to show the cultural identity of a young industrial city and to touch collective memory. The Time Travel starts at the train station, built in 1871, which marked the beginning of the city and was a meeting place of different cultures. Participants travel through the city's past, stopping at special points called time stations, where they meet important historical people.

The Time Travel focuses on the city's Jewish culture and the Holocaust, the interwar years, war times, the Soviet period, and independent Lithuania (in 1990).

Different periods bring back many stories about people from Mažeikiai: worries about the building of the church and the cross for martyrs, a doctor's success story, occupation of Soviet, partisan memories, and what life was like under socialism. At the end of

the Time Travel, participants become part of the Sąjūdis movement and join in the ceremony of raising the national flag. They also help create the future of independent Lithuania and Mažeikiai.

For more information about the project, visit our Facebook page: Migrantas - patyriminė ekskursija Mažeikiuose [The Migrant - Historical Excursion in Mažeikiai].

The project is prepared by: Klaipėda University, Mažeikiai Museum, Public Institution "Savasties Teatras", Mario Breit Mozer Studio, Public Institution "Active Entertainment in Mažeikiai"

***Raimonda Nabažaitė,
Klaipeda University Lithuania***

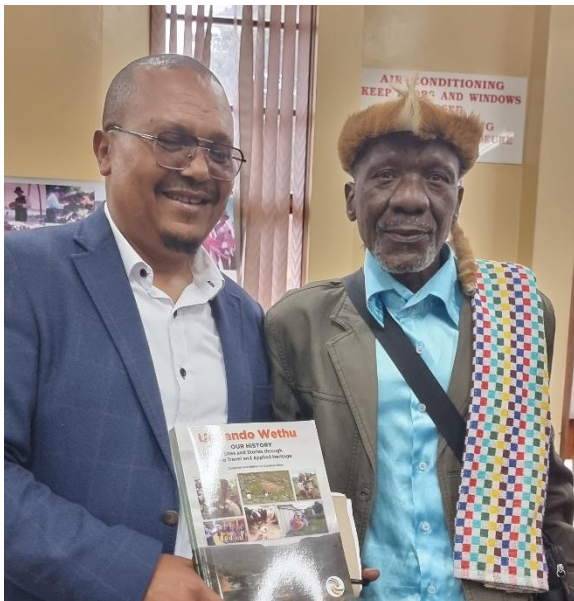


Launch of Umlando Wethu Wethu – Our History, Sites and Stories through Time Travel and Applied Heritage

“Until lions have their own historians, the history of the hunt will always glorify the hunter”

This guiding principle reflects the *bottom-up approach*, a core focus of the Time Travel Programme and the Port Shepstone Twinning Association’s work.

Since 2008, our Association has implemented the Time Travel and Applied Heritage Programme, introduced by Kalmar Läns Museum and mentored by Ebbe Westergren. Over time, we expanded independently, documenting additional local histories, training educators, and hosting Time Travel events for schools and children in care centres. These events enhance the curriculum through experiential, hands-on learning.



Chairperson Thulas Mkhize hands over a book to Mr Khephuza John Msani, great great-grandson of Ntelezi Msani. Ntelezi Msani, together with 37 Zulu leaders from Mthwalume, was tried in an open field for refusing to pay the Poll Tax in 1906. Their resistance represented a stand against an unjust system that violated basic human rights, placing severe financial burdens on communities and denying them dignity, fairness, and economic freedom.

Our work culminated in the publication of *Umlando Wethu – Our History, Sites and Stories through Time Travel and Applied Heritage*, a 185 pages book, launched on **20 September 2025**. The launch was attended by approximately 250 guests with beautiful music by Prof Chats Devroop. Keynote Speakers were Prof Ashwin Desai and Prof Paulus Zulu

Major Themes in the book are:

- Forced Removals and the Establishment of KwaGamalakhe township
- 1860 Indentured Indian Workers in Port Shepstone – tracing lives of early labourers; 3,307 workers documented to date via our Ancestry Helpdesk.
- Christian Mission Stations – their role in shaping education across racial groups.
- King Shaka’s Footprint on the South Coast – early Zulu movements through Umzumbe
- Poll Tax and Bhambatha Uprising; formation of the Ntelezi Msani Heritage Centre.
- Imprisonment of King Dinuzulu in 1910 and the impact of his imprisonment
- Twinning Programme development between South Africa and Sweden
- Port Shepstone harbour & railway history
- Time Travel as Therapy

We encourage all communities to record their own histories, contribute to local libraries, museums, and heritage organisations, and preserve the stories of ordinary people who have made meaningful contributions. By doing so, we recognise the dignity of our communities and ensure their voices are heard.

This is only the start of a much longer journey.

**Gulshera Khan
Port Shepstone Twinning Association**

Bridging Ages presents at Children Culture Forum in Finland hosted by BARK



A few weeks ago BARK was hosting the national Children Culture forum in Vaasa, Finland. The themes of the conference were multilingualism, international meetings and itinerant children's cultural activities. The annual Children's Culture Forum is a national meeting place for discussion and networking within children's culture.

Among the Keynotes were Linda Liljeberg, Kalmar county museum, Sweden, *We meet*

you where you are – a regional museum as a travelling museum, and Kaari Siemer, Estonian National Museum and Pille Rohtla, Audentes school about *The Nationwide Time Travel Initiative: A Successful Co-creation between Museums and Educators*.

BARK have been working with the Time Travel Metod for many years and here our presentations were joint by presentations about dance, art, performances and workshops. The conference was attended by approximately 150 participants mainly from Finland.

In Finland both Swedish and Finnish is spoken, and Osterbotnia is a much Swedish speaking part of the county. The conference was held in Swedish, English and Finnish. Therefore, as a Swedish speaking person, I understood 2/3 of the presentations. It is inspiring to be invited to share the work of Bridging Ages and Time Travels.



Photo by: Marianne Penttilä

Linda Liljeberg
Bridging Ages
international

What did you and your organisation do during 2025? Annual report is coming up

In the beginning of 2026 Bridging Ages International will write our annual report and we want your contribution! Have you and your organisation done anything that we should add in the annual report?

Have there been any Time Travels, trainings or similar that should be mentioned. Any new projects to highlight? Send your contribution to Bridgingages@kalmarlansmuseum.se (deadline 15 Feb)



To be part of the mailing list or subscribe to the newsletter, please send an e-mail to: Bridgingages@kalmarlansmuseum.se

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