



## Time Travel Expands

Medieval  
Rose  
The island  
of  
Rhodes,  
Greece



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### REMINDER

**Educational course on the Time Travel Method  
(including the Bridging Ages International Conference)**

**The Time Travel Method  
An experiential way of Learning  
10-22 October 2021 in Giresun/Ordu, Turkey**

**Organizer: Bridging Ages  
Deadline: March**

**Registration: School Education Gateway Platform  
[https://www.schooleducationgateway.eu/en/pub/teacher\\_academy/catalogue/detail.cfm?id=166234](https://www.schooleducationgateway.eu/en/pub/teacher_academy/catalogue/detail.cfm?id=166234)**

**Funding through EU, Erasmus+  
(Call for Application in February)**

**Information: Hakan Adanir, [goperatif@gmail.com](mailto:goperatif@gmail.com)  
Ebbe Westergren, [ebbe.westergren51@gmail.com](mailto:ebbe.westergren51@gmail.com)**

### Welcome to Bridging Ages

**AGM 2021 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Virtual meeting.**

Date: 17 March 2021

Time: 14.00 GMT

Members register by e-mail to:

[gabriella.johansson@kalmarlansmuseum.se](mailto:gabriella.johansson@kalmarlansmuseum.se)

Receive a link the day before the meeting.

Minutes and Agenda can be viewed on

[www.bridgingages.com](http://www.bridgingages.com)

## Togetherness and Hope

Bridging Ages held a historic virtual Annual General Meeting (AGM) on 24<sup>th</sup> November 2020. This was preceded by a thorough consultative process in the best traditions of democratic practice. The AGM provided a fresh mandate and confidence. The wide interest and positivity presented a sense of **togetherness and hope**, despite various adversities experienced globally by the COVID19 pandemic.

### Core Values

In the spirit of progress, the Board adopted Core Values in its February 2021 meeting. The Core Values are in essence the beliefs, philosophies, principles and our identity.

### Brazilian Journal

In fostering expansion and engagement, the Bridging Ages articles on Applied Heritage and Time Travels from the **Brazilian Anthropological/ Archaeological Journal Cadernos do LEPAARQ** was published in December 2020.



Special Thanks to the editor- Tiago Muniz.

Contributors to articles are, among others:

- **Lesego Mlambo.** *The impact of museum education post covid-19 an integration of 4th IR and Time Travel methods as teaching tools.*
- **Adam Norman.** *Heritage and Time Travels as a method for creating futures.*
- **Cornelius Holtorf and Tiago Muniz.** *Cultural heritage building up future thinking.*
- **Ebbe Westergren.** *Building Bridges. The Time Travel method for learning and community building.*

- **Gustav Wollentz.** *The cultural heritage as a resource in conflict resolution - possibilities and challenges.*

View articles on:

<http://www.bridgingages.com/library/>

### Pioneers of Time Travels

We have also produced a publication on Pioneers of Time Travels. This is the first of many articles.

**Harald Stenhag** participated in the very first working group who was instrumental in the development of the idea of Time Travels in the mid-1980s.



Harald was principal of five schools close to Kalmar, Sweden. The Time Travel method was piloted and supported by staff from Kalmar county museum from the very start.

### When looking back Harald says:

*"I wanted a school where all teachers and the whole staff were involved, learners in the centre and with both theoretical and practical studies. The idea of Time Travels suited perfectly in this way of teaching and learning. It was an honour to be part of the team developing these educational ideas in line with the new curriculum. I became very engaged, as the rest of the team, teachers and learners."*

### AGM 2021

**Finally, 2021** will see us concluding the transitional period for our newly adopted constitution. In this context, the next AGM will take place on the 17<sup>th</sup> of March 2021. **Please diarise the date.** Your attendance is essential for the growth and strengthening of Bridging Ages.

**"I am Because We Are."**

**Gulshera Khan,  
President**

## Time Travel event held during COVID-19 lockdown in South Africa



The Old Prison is situated in Pietermaritzburg, South Africa. It is an official heritage site and within its walls is both a National Monument and a museum documenting some of South Africa's diverse history. Time Travel events are one of the programs held at this site.

### Old Prison Time Travel back to 1959

KwaZulu-Natal Department of Arts and Culture partnered with Old Prison Museum, which is one of the Museum Service affiliates, to stage a Time Travel during the 16 Days of Activism against violence directed towards women and children, promoted every year in November/ December by the United Nations.



*In a hot male prison cell, Radikobo Ntsimane of Museum Service, with a mask on.*

There was hundred percent observance of the Covid-19 safety regulations, except when someone thought they were not audible enough for a crowd that is widespread due to social distancing.

The imprisonment of women of Ixopo in 1959, who protested the magistrate's reduction and enforced dipping of their livestock, low salaries of Black men and unemployment, was chosen to be a lesson of



### Dialogue in Session after the event

the Time Travel. The local doctor **Margaret Mncadi** had realized that there were serious socio-economic problems facing women in the area. The women could not bear the suffering met out to them in prison. Poor hygienic conditions, small cell spaces, poor nutritious food and forced labour that included breaking of rocks.

This Time Travel was unique in many ways. But I guess all Time Travels are unique because no one ever knows how it will pen out as it is not a theatre or reenactment as often misunderstood. After three sessions of preparations the organizers from Museum Service and Old Prison staff thought: We have nailed it! One "mishap" after another happened:

- Despite agreeing to the contrary, the principal of the school on the Old Prison precinct used for examination the room next to the space chosen for rock breaking activity.
- There were more participants than expected, probably due to the opportunity for people to go out and interact with a group under lockdown strict conditions.
- The women participants took too long in the prison section engaging in discussions before the allocated time.
- The entire Time Travel event took two hours beyond schedule forcing other to leave before formal conclusions.

### Lessons learnt

The lessons learnt are the fact that in a patriarchal society the women do not have enough vocabulary to express clearly how they felt excluded and violated. In the reflection after the event a list of common English words related to violence and abuse were put down on a newsprint and Zulu equivalents written next to them. From the dialogue it was also sadly clear that there were still men who strongly believe that women are not equal to them in society. More and more Time Travels are needed on the theme of gender equality. Women were encouraged to speak out against even the smallest of abuses they felt.

Radikobo Ntsimane, Museum Service, KZN, South Africa

### Board member's Passion to support communities in need



Countries' needs differ significantly in the Bridging Ages network. Steven Labarakwe, a Board member is engaged in the Time Travel Method, but the primary focus is on community building and addressing basic needs.

Water is scarce in the desert, Northern Kenya.

### Bridging Ages embraces Core Values

Bridging Ages embraces the African Philosophy of Ubuntu which translates to a **value system based on sharing and collective work.**

*"I Am Because We Are."*

We operate in terms of the core values of:

**Transparency, integrity, ethics, reliability, embracing and respecting all cultures, treating people with dignity and respect.**

We uphold all Human Rights values.

We are **passionate** about the work of Bridging Ages and are committed to our ongoing mission.

Log on to: [www.bridgingages.com](http://www.bridgingages.com) to read the full version

# CROSSROADS



The project Crossroads in History is a project with support from the EU Interreg South Baltic Program that aims to create a **network of museums from Germany, Poland, Lithuania and Sweden.**

The Covid-19 pandemic has had a major impact on the CROSSROADS project in 2020 and the beginning of 2021. Many of the Project Partners are not able to meet their intended target groups and implement their planned Time Travels. The project therefore applied for an extension and will now run until 30<sup>th</sup> of November 2021. Digital meetings and activities will continue in 2021. In March, CROSSROADS will host a digital International Time Travel Seminar/Workshop.

This Seminar/Workshop will be centered around the Time Travel Method, migration and working with other sensitive issues to create better social cohesion. Within CROSSROADS, work has begun in 2021 on an internet based/printed Manual on the Time Travel Method

**Gabriella Johansson - Kalmar county museum**



## Time Travel Method goes online

The last year has forced much of the society to take a leap into the digital world and learn a lot of new things. Even though meetings on Zoom, Teams and other platforms have become more frequent, we know that many organisations in the Bridging Ages network have had a hard time reaching out because of the restrictions. At the same time, we know that isolation affects people and societies in different ways and that issues like domestic violence and dropouts in schools have a high risk of increasing in the trace of the pandemic. And in times of global challenges, we need to meet and build bridges even more, between people and between countries. Maybe the time has come to move Time Travels into the digital space?

Starting in June 2021 partners from Sweden, Estonia and Finland are teaming up in the ERASMUS+ funded project "Digital solutions for applied heritage - exploring transnational learning opportunities".

Lead partner is the Nordic centre of Heritage Learning and Creativity in Sweden and the other project partners are Kalmar County Museum (SE), Jamtli (SE), Regional Council of Ostrobothnia (FI), Audentese School (EE) and Estonian National Museum (EE) In this project we are exploring the opportunities and possibilities that digital tools can give us in planning and arranging Time Travels. From tools to involve school students in the preparations of the Time Travel Event, to fully digital Time Travels online. All partners are exploring different aspects of Time Travels and digital tools and we are even planning to make a joint transnational Time Travel, where participants from different countries can interact with each other. Someone might ask how we will do that, and the answer is that we don't know, yet. But this project will give us an answer and hopefully add exciting and innovative new ways to use the Time Travel method in the post-pandemic digital world that is emerging.

**Adam Norman- Kalmar county museum**



# Medieval Rose

## Medieval Rose Festival on the Island of Rhodes, Greece

The "Medieval Rose" association was founded in 2005 by its creative director Anna Achiola, to initiate and establish the Medieval Festival of Rhodes ([www.medievalfestival.gr](http://www.medievalfestival.gr)), an edutainment, cross-cultural event, unique in its kind in Greece, which is awarded with the [EFFE label](#) by the European Festivals Association ([EFA](#)). Hosting venues are the Medieval Town and Moat of Rhodes and occasionally other well preserved castles, bastions and fortresses.

### The Festival

The Medieval Rose Festival (aka Rhodes Medieval Festival) has been held every year in Rhodes since 2006 (in 2020 it was cancelled due to the pandemic). It is organized by the "Medieval Rose" association with the support of the Cultural Department of the Periphery of South Aegean - Dept. of Dodecanese, the Municipal Cultural Organization of Rhodes and the Chamber of Dodecanese. It is a living history event, inspired by the medieval history of the island, it re-enacts the everyday life as well as legendary events of the time. The event also includes: artistic events, seminars, bazaars, gastronomy projects, workshops, exhibitions and conventions related to the era.

All forms of arts and crafts, related to medieval/byzantine heritage, are hosted at this festival: theater, street theater, puppet theater, juggling, historic dances, other interactive events inspired by history, live music, storytelling, re-enacting and also pageantry, byzantine art and traditional crafts.



*Exhibitions of photography and photo contests, related to heritage and the festival, are **also parts of the agenda. Participating artists and re-enactors are mainly from Greece and Europe.***

Local cultural groups of grown-ups and school children also take part in this festival and the organizing association, "Medieval Rose," runs educational winter programs to train them in arts, customs and crafts related to the festival's era. Occasionally, artistic and cultural projects are created, after extensive research, motivating local artists and craftsmen to experiment in the arts and crafts of the time.





*All participants should be dressed in a medieval manner (costumes are often provided from the festival's wardrobe) and all settings and equipment used is made of materials appropriate to the epoch. The festival is open to all (locals and tourists) and attracts diverse audiences. The idea is to create the sense of a "Journey in Time," where the guests meet the artists and re-enactors and interact with them as if they are in the Middle Ages.*

**The main objective is to maintain the cultural heritage, acknowledge the faded medieval history of the island and highlight the value of the extant Byzantine and medieval architectural treasures, through edutainment activities.**

#### **Anna Lindh Foundation**

The "Medieval Rose" association has also been an active member of the Anna Lindh Foundation since 2009. The Anna Lindh Foundation (ALF) is a Euro-Mediterranean network of networks, with the general purpose focused on building a culture based on dialogue and exchange while promoting mutual understanding in the Euro-Mediterranean region. Forty-three countries participate in this network.

#### **The Time Travel method**

The "Medieval Rose" has a strong interest in the Time Travel method, developed by the Bridging

Ages organization, as it is considered a very useful tool-method and an efficient practice for applying the knowledge of local heritage to the benefit of the local community today. We believe that a thorough knowledge of this method will enhance the efficacy of our association's practices for learning, social cohesion and community building. Moreover, "Medieval Rose" could contribute to the spread and dissemination of the Time Travel method, through the members of the Anna Lindh Foundation (beginning with the Hellenic network), as it would strengthen the implementation of their goals, which are very much related to and coherent with the purposes of the Bridging Ages organization.

**Anna Achiola, Creative**

**Director Medieval Rose**

**Contact: [info@medievalfestival.gr](mailto:info@medievalfestival.gr)**

*Subscribe to the newsletter,  
please send an e-mail to:*

[twinninga@gmail.com](mailto:twinninga@gmail.com)

[gabriella.johansson@kalmarlansmuseum.se](mailto:gabriella.johansson@kalmarlansmuseum.se)

*Editorial team: Scott, Ebbe and Gulshera  
Layout: Gulshera Khan & Pia-Lena Björnlund- KLM*

