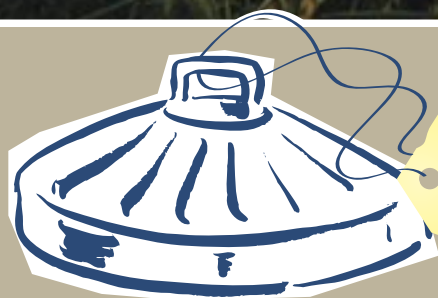


Healing Through Remembering Workshop Resources on Dealing with the Past

Workshops based on the Everyday Objects Exhibition



ITEM NO. *17a* | DATE. *2011-2012*
DESCRIPTION.

**Everyday Objects
Transformed by
the Conflict**

Contents

Workshop Guidance Notes	B9.2
Workshop 1.1 - Identity – Badges and Labels	B9.3
Workshop 1.2 - Identity – Derry Girls Blackboard	B9.5
Workshop 1 Resource pages.....	B9.7
Workshop 2 - Peace	B9.12
Workshop 2 Resource pages.....	B9.14
Workshop 3 - Conflict	B9.17
Workshop 3 Resource pages.....	B9.19
Workshop 4 - Youth	B9.23
Workshop 4 Resource pages.....	B9.25
Workshop 5 - At Home	B9.29
Workshop 5 Resource pages.....	B9.31
Workshop 6 - Security & Safety	B9.36
Workshop 6 Resource pages.....	B9.38
Workshop 7 - From Prison	B9.44
Workshop 7 Resource pages.....	B9.46
Workshop 8 - Citizenship	B9.50
Workshop 8 Resource pages.....	B9.52
Workshop 9 - Finding the Words	B9.56
Workshop 9 Resource pages.....	B9.60



An Roinn Gnóthaí
Eachtracha agus Trádála
Department of
Foreign Affairs and Trade

Workshop Guidance Notes



Objects Included:

For maximum impact and learning, these workshops utilise objects which are in the Healing Through Remembering Everyday Objects Exhibition. The workshops can follow a visit to the physical exhibition or simply use the images of the items and their labels which are reproduced at the end of each workshop instruction.

Duration:

Workshops are intended to last between 30 minutes and one hour as required. This allows time for visiting the Exhibition if necessary and also keeps attention levels from waning.

Materials Needed:

Any materials needed to facilitate workshops are kept to a minimum. For wider group discussions a flip chart and markers or whiteboard can help highlight discussion points. For smaller groups, paper and pens can be distributed to participants so they can contribute to tasks.

Engaging the Room:

Each workshop begins with a relaxed warm-up discussion on the Exhibition/Objects and the visitors' response to the objects. Ideally, discussions should be participant-led allowing everyone time to air their thoughts and contribute opinions. Engaging groups in lively chat about the Exhibition can encourage more free-flowing participation and a better quality of reflections.

Approach:

Activities are created in such a way as to evoke as many responses as possible from a group. Using semi-structured, open-ended questions, the workshops should invite participants to get involved and share their own thoughts, feelings and opinions.

Relevance to Curricula:

The workshops are aimed at adults and secondary level school pupils. They are designed to enhance skills and learning in line with the school curriculum in both Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. Elements across all workshops will have relevance for students of History, English and Political & Religious Studies. Key concepts of Learning for Life and Work Key Stage 3 (LLW KS3) Local & Global Citizenship are explored - including Diversity & Inclusion; Human Rights & Social Responsibility; Equality & Social Justice and Democracy & Active Participation.

Safe Space:

Whilst both the Exhibition and these workshops are intended to promote discussion and understanding, the issues addressed are difficult ones. It is important to remember that some people might find these issues - or some elements of the workshop or discussion - distressing. It is important that the workshop should be carried out in a way that all participants (including workshop leader) feel that they are respected despite any differing views.

Workshop 1 – Identity



Badges and labels

By exploring some of the main issues around identity and the conflict in Northern Ireland, this workshop aims to increase understanding of what defines us, what separates us and what brings us together, both historically and today.

Participants are encouraged to reflect and share thoughts on the complexities and challenges inherent in identity, inclusion and acceptance, and to identify areas for improvement. These exercises are designed to encourage maximum participation and can be tailored to all ages from 11 to adult.

(Objects needed) Derry Civil Rights Badge; British Army T-Shirt; Stamp of Authority - Painted Postboxes; Am I am Legitimate Target T-Shirt.

(Materials needed) Flip chart and markers, paper and pens.

(Time needed) 30 minutes to 1 hour.

Group warm-up ideas:

- What did you think of the Exhibition/Objects?
- How did it/they make you feel?
- Which object(s) made the biggest impression on you?
- Were there objects you felt were missing?

Focus:

Each of these objects and their labels tell distinct stories relating to people's identity.



Derry Civil Rights Badge

- Who designed the badge and why?
- What does its leaf symbol represent?
- What civil rights do you think are important for a society to be successful?



British Army T-Shirt

Designed like a band T-Shirt, it marks a soldier's tour of duty.

Items of clothing like these are often worn proudly by serving members of the armed forces, veterans and their families.

- Could offence be taken at this T-Shirt?
- Why might they?
- What other items of clothing can be problematic and why?



Stamp of Authority – Painted Postboxes

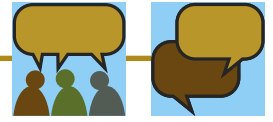
- Once a common sight, why did people paint postboxes?
- What do the colours signify/communicate?
- Can you think of other examples of painting one's territory?
- What should we think about when displaying our own identity in a public space?



Am I a Legitimate Target T-Shirt

- Who would wear this T-Shirt and who is the intended recipient of the message?
- What do you think they mean by 'legitimate target'?
- How do you express yourself through clothing or style?
- Can you think of any other examples where clothing communicates a specific message?

Workshop 1.2 - Identity



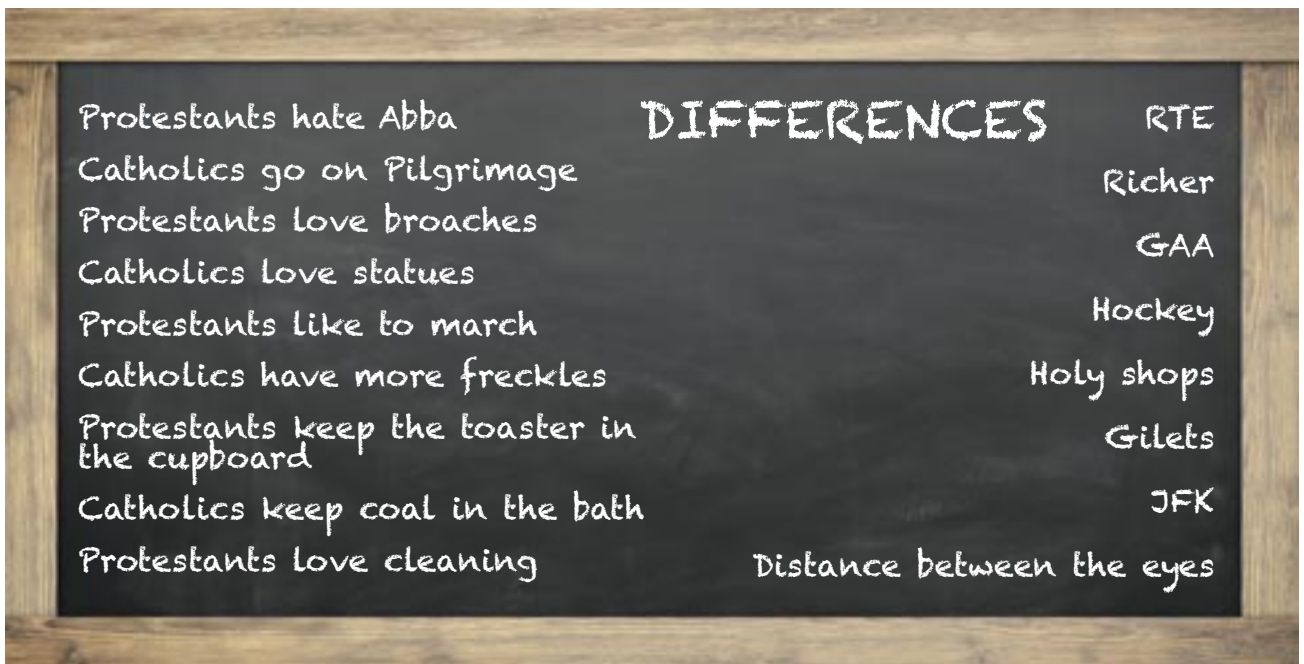
The Derry Girls Blackboard

Many regard the hit TV show *Derry Girls* as a masterclass in conveying the conflict in and about Northern Ireland and tackling difficult subjects with humour and wit. In one episode, during a cross-community school trip, young people were asked to discuss their differences and similarities which were then written up on a blackboard – with hilarious results.

This exercise facilitates a discussion, start a similar discussion on the Everyday Objects Exhibition.

By approaching identity issues from an alternate angle, the exercise offers insight and learning in terms of prejudice, stereotyping, racism or sectarianism as covered in citizenship studies.

(Materials needed) Flipchart and markers.



Mock up showing some of the 'differences' written on the blackboard in the scene in *Derry Girls*

Discussion points

- What are some of the similarities and differences relating to our identities?
- What does identity mean to you today? What does it mean to your families or friends?
- Have you experienced any difficulties or prejudice related to any part of your identity?
- What can we learn from the examples on the blackboard?
(Which include Protestants hate Abba and Catholics have more freckles!)
- Can integrated and/or shared education improve the lives of young people in Northern Ireland?
- How do YOU best and most proudly express your identity? (Clothing/music/hobbies, etc.)
- How do words matter in terms of expressing identity? (e.g., Derry or Londonderry)
- Can you think of any modern events or festivals that celebrate identity?
(e.g. Pride, parading, religious observance, sport)

In smaller groups:

- List five things that can be problematic in terms of identity in society today
- and five things or events that can bring people together regardless of background.

OR

- Working together, choose some personal objects that best reflect your own diverse identities, and write down which objects you've chosen and why.

Share with the group.

Derry Civil Rights Badge



“

The Derry Civil Rights emblem was designed (in 1968) by Derry artist Sheila Mc Clean, wife of Dr Raymond Mc Clean, himself a civil rights campaigner in the city. The oakleaf recognises the ancient origins of the city's name Doire, an oakgrove.

Black and white were used to represent all persuasions and promote inclusiveness, white being the union of the rainbow colours and black the union of the same colours in pigment.

”

Label written by Michael McGuinness,
the donator of the Derry Civil Rights emblems to Tower Museum, Derry ~ Londonderry

Tower Museum, Union Hall Place, Derry/Londonderry BT48 6LU, Northern Ireland

(0044) 28 7137 2411 tower.reception@derrycity.gov.uk www.towermuseumcollections.com/

Everyday Objects Transformed by the Conflict

British Army T-Shirt



“ In the British Army a t-shirt was produced for each platoon of a regiment to commemorate the completion of a tour of duty in Northern Ireland. This is an example of such a t-shirt. Unknown to me it was kept by my mother for 27 years before she returned it to me in 2019.

Between 1992 and 2019 I gave very little thought as to what the garment said about the collective attitude of British army and my regiment towards our role in Northern Ireland. However, today I can see that the highly jingoistic imagery undermines the often-positited idea of a role centred on that of an impartial peacekeeping force. ”

Label written by Lee Lavis

Everyday Objects Transformed by the Conflict

Stamp of Authority



“

The painting of street furniture from kerbstones, electricity boxes to lampposts became commonplace. Together with the murals and graffiti, they delivered visual reinforcement to the territorial reminders of division. Here, the humble pillar box has been pressed into service as a beacon of community identity, daubed green in West Belfast and hooped in Union Jack colours in Coleraine.

”

Label written by Dr Jonathan McCormick

© Image courtesy of Dr Jonathan McCormick

Dr Jonathan McCormick via CAIN email: <http://cain.ulst.ac.uk/mccormick/>

Everyday Objects Transformed by the Conflict

'Am I a Legitimate Target' T-shirt



During the Troubles republican groups had the stated policy of attacking 'legitimate targets' and, while not explicit, this would have been echoed in different ways among both loyalist paramilitary groups and the British military. This T-Shirt comes from an event in Lurgan in June 1991 which tried to pull the rug from under the 'legitimate target' concept by saying that if you start down this road then we are all legitimate targets for killing.

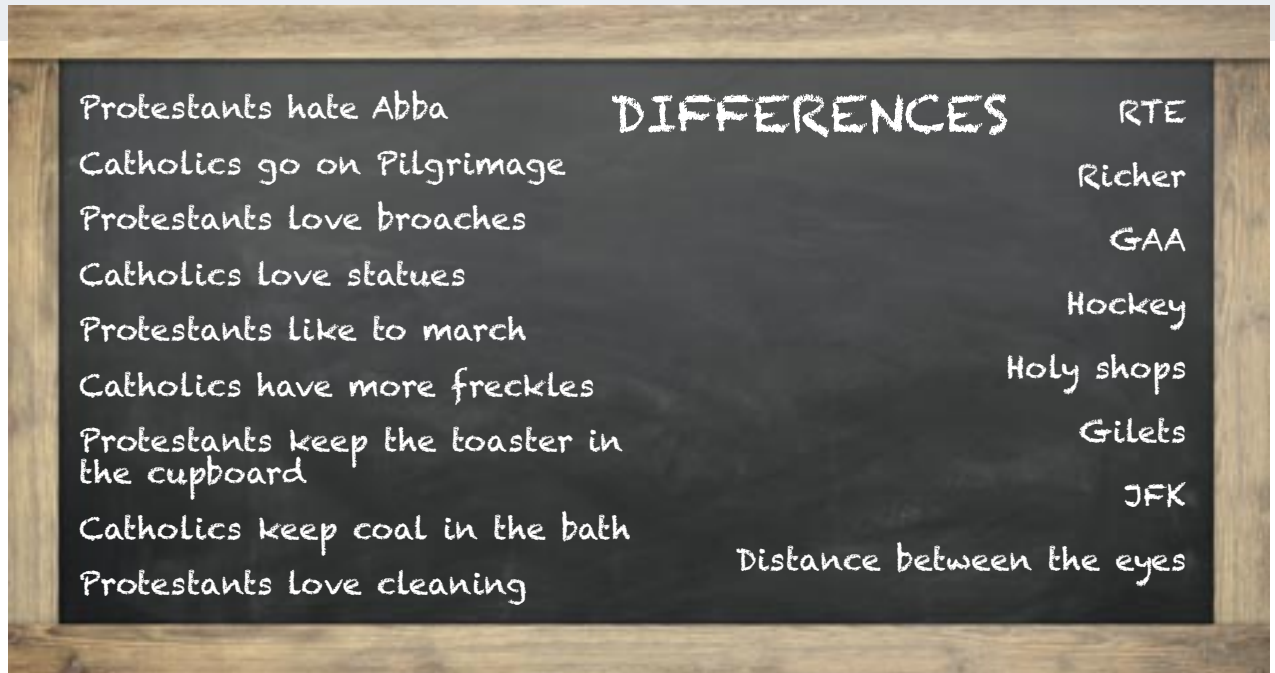
Label written by Rob Fairmichael
from INNATE

INNATE, 16 Ravensdene Park, Belfast BT6 0DA, Northern Ireland

(0044) 28 9064 7106 innate@ntlworld.com www.innatenonviolence.org/

Everyday Objects Transformed by the Conflict

Mock up of Derry Girls Blackboard



Everyday Objects Transformed by the Conflict

Workshop 2 – Peace



By exploring the Everyday Objects Exhibition through a peaceful lens, visitors can learn about various elements within stories and labels that symbolise peace and coming together. This workshop aims to find peaceful symbolism to reflect on the process and concept of peace. These exercises are designed to encourage maximum participation and can be tailored to different ages.

(Objects needed) Corrymeela Football Shirt; Dove for Peace & Hope (nb no longer in travelling Exhibition); A Humble Tobacco Tin.

(Materials needed) Flip chart and markers, paper and pens.

(Time needed) 30 minutes to 1 hour.

Group warm-up ideas:

- How did you feel about the Exhibition/these items and what they say?
- What does peace mean to you?
- Is achieving peace a moment in time or an ongoing endeavour?
- How can we maintain a more peaceful society?

Focus:

Each of these Everyday Objects represents peace in its own way – can you tell why/how?



Corrymeela Football Shirt

Organisations like Corrymeela exist throughout Northern Ireland and beyond, aimed at bringing communities together through activity.

- What do you think it takes for peace organisations to be successful?
- Do you know of any such groups, places or projects?
- Do we need more or less of these organisations?
- Can sport be used to build a more peaceful society?
- What other ways can you think of to bring people together?



Dove for Peace and Hope

The dove is a recognized sign of peace and hope, and this one was given as a message of hope in a very difficult time.

[Please note it is no longer in the travelling Exhibition.]

- Why do you think those who sent the dove did so?
- Can you think of other symbols of hope or peace?
- What messages of peace or hope might you send?

A Humble Tobacco Tin



This tobacco tin is a particularly hopeful object, telling the story of love against the odds and kept as a reminder of this union.

- How are mixed marriages viewed today?
- What do you think are the most important reasons for choosing a partner or spouse?
- What does this tin tell us about risk taking in times of conflict?

Discussion

- How does/do the Exhibition/these items reflect the ideal of peace or the struggles to achieve it?
- Can you think of other everyday objects that might represent peace?

In smaller groups:

- Discuss and choose three statements you would tell a stranger when asked to describe the importance of peace in our society.

Corrymeela Football Shirt



“Football shirts are seen as such politically divisive symbols that wearers are often prohibited from pubs and other venues. The football team of the Corrymeela peace centre aims “to promote cross-community relations by maintaining links with the Corrymeela Community and through the participation of individuals in football.” The trophy-winning team, founded in 1988, has over the years played in local leagues and in international cup competitions. The photo shows Corrymeela founder Ray Davey with the team in 2000.”

Label written by Danny
Corrymeela FC team member

Corrymeela

<https://www.corrymeela.org/>

Everyday Objects Transformed by the Conflict

Dove for Peace and Hope



“ On the afternoon of Saturday the 15th August 1998 at 3.10pm a car bomb exploded in Market Square Omagh killing 29 people and two unborn children as well as injuring 370 people. It remains the largest loss of life of any single incident in the history of the Northern Ireland troubles. This handcrafted dove perched on an Arc was presented to the people of Omagh with hope for their future from the staff and pupils of St James Street CBS Dublin.

Label written by Deirdre Nugent,
Libraries NI

Omagh Bomb Archive, Libraries NI Omagh library 1 Spillars Place, OMAGH BT78 1HL

(0044) 28 8224 4821 www.omagharchive.co.uk

Everyday Objects Transformed by the Conflict

A Humble Tobacco Tin



“

A humble tobacco tin, bought in Switzerland during the honeymoon of a mixed marriage couple from Northern Ireland in 1975, tells a proud story of how a local clergyman, who made that union possible, kept it close all these years. The Church of Ireland chaplain to the Northern Ireland Mixed Marriage Association (NIMMA) facilitated the marriage in those difficult days and the tobacco was a gift from the thankful couple.

Today it sits as an ordinary reminder of extraordinary times, a trophy in the battle against sectarianism and a symbol of a friendship cherished.

”

Label written by Paul McLaughlin,
Development Officer at the
Northern Ireland Mixed Marriage
Association

Northern Ireland Mixed Marriage Association (NIMMA)

www.nimma.org.uk

Everyday Objects Transformed by the Conflict

Workshop 3 – Conflict



By exploring themes of conflict and resolution through Everyday Objects, this workshop aims to increase understanding of the conflict in and about Northern Ireland, its impact and legacy. These exercises are designed to encourage maximum participation from groups and can be tailored to all ages from 11 to adult.

(Objects needed) Shrapnel Removed from the Leg of Alex Bunting; Milk Bottle used as a Petrol Bomb; RUC Armoured Clipboard; Bus Tickets from Belfast and Derry.

(Materials needed) Flip chart and markers, paper and pens.

(Time needed) 30 minutes to 1 hour.

Group warm-up ideas:

- How did do the Everyday Objects make you feel?
- If you visited the travelling Exhibition which items impacted you most?
- Have you learned anything new about the conflict through the objects and their labels?
- Can you think of any other objects representing conflict that could in the Exhibition?

Focus:

- How do the four objects listed here help tell a story?
- If you visited the Exhibition which of these object(s) do you remember seeing?



Shrapnel Removed from the Leg of Alex Bunting

- Why do you think Alex kept the shrapnel?
- In what ways did this incident affect Alex's life – and his family?
- Why do you think he decided to exhibit these objects?

For further information

SHORT FILM:

<http://healingthroughremembering.org/resources/films/coins/>

BOOK: "Injured on that Day" published by Wave Trauma Centre, Belfast



A Milk Bottle used as a Petrol Bomb

- Can you think of other household objects transformed by conflict?
- List the dangers associated with using this weapon.
- Whose role is it to educate young people about these dangers?

For further information

SHORT FILM:

<http://healingthroughremembering.org/resources/films/milk-bottle/>



RUC Armoured Clipboard



- Why do you think police needed such heavy-duty equipment?
- Why might this equipment not have been used so much?
- What measures do police officers take today for personal safety?

For further information

SHORT FILM:

<http://healingthroughremembering.org/resources/films/clipboard/>



Bus Tickets from Belfast and Derry



- What do you notice on the bus ticket?
- Do you think such commonplace appeals worked? Why or why not?
- How do you imagine bus passengers felt seeing these messages on a daily basis?
- Are there better ways of communicating a message nowadays?

In smaller groups:

- An international visitor is keen to know more about Northern Ireland's history. Using Everyday Objects as inspiration, write a list of brief statements that you think explain the everyday experiences of the conflict to them - think about travelling, housing, shopping, schools, socializing, schooling etc.

OR

- Working together, plan and create a spider diagram of different ways that the conflict impacted on people - think about travelling, housing, shopping, schools, socializing, schooling etc.

OR

- If you could travel back in time, what would you change about our history or who would you find to advise about the future? Would it work?

Share your ideas aloud, time permitting.

Shrapnel Removed from the Leg of Alex Bunting



“

Just as we got to the Boyne Bridge, a flash came out of the dashboard, a bit like a rainbow and I fell against the door which opened. It all happened so fast, I saw my leg come off and then I went out behind it and was blown across the street. I remember lying in the street fully conscious and my first thoughts were of Linda and the kids.

”

Label written by Alex Bunting
in an extract taken from 'Injured... on that day' publication - WAVE Trauma Centre, Belfast

WAVE Trauma Centre, 5 Chichester Park South, Belfast BT15 5DW, Northern Ireland

(0044) 28 9077 9922 admin@wavebelfast.co.uk www.wavetraumacentre.org.uk/

Everyday Objects Transformed by the Conflict

A Milk Bottle used as a Petrol Bomb

“

The glass milk bottle that was in everyone's home became a symbol of resistance - the petrol bomb - which was one of the main weapons against the security forces, who were the agents of the state that had oppressed the community and opposed the fight for civil rights. Petrol bombs were used in many other parts of the world during civil rights campaigns, as a weapon for civilians when they had nothing else other than stones against armed forces.

”



Label written by
Frankie McMenamin, private collector

Frankie Mc Menamin
c/o Museum of Free Derry, 55 Glenfada Park, Derry BT48 9DR, Northern Ireland
(0044) 28 7136 0880 info@museumoffreederry.org www.museumoffreederry.org

Everyday Objects Transformed by the Conflict

RUC Armoured Clipboard



“

This was used by police officers at vehicle checkpoints in ‘high-risk’ areas. The clipboard was intended to give protection to police officers if threatened with a handgun. It has a carrying handle and was designed to withstand small calibre bullets. It was used in the late 1970’s, but was never a success due to its weight and general bulkiness.

”

Label written by Hugh Forrester,
Police Museum

Police Museum, Brooklyn, 65 Knock Road, Belfast BT5 6LE, Northern Ireland

(0044) 28 9065 0222. <https://www.psnl.police.uk/about-us/our-history/police-museum>

Everyday Objects Transformed by the Conflict

Bus Tickets from Belfast and Derry 1973-1974



“

The bus ticket is the most quintessential everyday object. So commonplace, that most people do not even look at it. You pay your fare and hold the ticket in your hand ready to put it in a bin on getting off the bus; the message on the back un-noticed and unread.

”

Label written by Peter Moloney,
private collector

Peter Moloney

A catalogue of the collection and images of many of the artefacts can be viewed at www.cain.ulst.ac.uk/moloney

Everyday Objects Transformed by the Conflict

Workshop 4 – Youth



By exploring some of the issues and challenges facing young people, both during the conflict and since, this workshop aims to increase understanding and awareness of these issues. Participants benefit from improved self-reflective and empathetic skills and a deeper sense of self that can affect positive personal and societal change. These exercises are designed to encourage maximum participation from groups and can be tailored to all ages from age 11 to adult.

(Objects needed) Lagan College School Tie; Child's Drawing; Tennis Ball; Punk Records.

(Materials needed) Flip chart and markers, paper and pens.

(Time needed) 30 minutes to 1 hour.

Group warm-up ideas:

- Do these objects from the Exhibition make you think of young people?
- Did any of the objects relate to you and your own life, and if so, why?
- What challenges and problems do you think young people faced during the conflict?
- What other everyday objects would you add to the Exhibition relating to the theme of Youth?

Focus:

These objects invite us to think about growing up and how everyday objects became something more.



Lagan College School Tie

More than just a tie – this is from Northern Ireland's first integrated school.

- What are the pros and cons of integrated education especially in a society in conflict or coming out of conflict?
- What do you think is the role of education in looking at the recent conflict?



Child's Drawing

This drawing depicts a Belfast child's view of life during the conflict.

- In what ways do you think young children were affected and how did they cope?
- What would you draw to represent chaotic elements of life around you?

Tennis Ball



An ordinary ball adapted to conceal messages inside to be passed between prisoners.

- If it was your ball, what would the message inside say?
- Can you think of any other sporting objects transformed by the conflict?

Punk Records



The punk movement emerged as a subculture in the late 1970s as young people rebelled against the social conditions of the time. Punk offered people a new identity and a means of self-expression rejecting authority and greed through music and behaviour.

- Why do you think young people were so attracted to the punk movement in Northern Ireland in the 1970s?
- How do young people express their sense of identity nowadays? (clothes/style/music, etc)

For further information
FILM: Good Vibrations (2013) (age 15+)



In smaller groups:

- Talk about which objects best represent YOUR youth - either within the Exhibition or from your own life - and list which you'd put in an imaginary exhibition and why.

Share aloud, time permitting.

Lagan College School Tie



Lagan College, Northern Ireland's first planned integrated school, opened on 1 September 1981, in temporary premises in south Belfast. The tie bears the same colours as the blazer badge.

The first Lagan College prospectus had announced (7 May 1981) that:

The school uniform will be simple and unobtrusive. It will be based on standardised items that can be purchased at reasonable cost from a variety of suppliers. The Council of Parents will be consulted on all matters relating to school uniform. On the first day, the founding 28 boys and girls wore plain black blazers (no badge) and open-necked white shirts (no tie). Suggestions for developing the uniform were discussed between pupils, parents, teachers and governors during the first term. After Christmas, when the school had moved to its next temporary home in east Belfast, the agreed badge and tie were ready for wearing.

Label written by
Brian Lambkin, former Principal of Lagan College

Lagan College

www.lagancollege.com/about-us/

Everyday Objects Transformed by the Conflict

Child's Drawing



“

Anonymous colour drawing by a child depicting their view and perception of life in Belfast during the height of the troubles.

”

Label written by Wesley Geddis
from Public Record Office of Northern Ireland, PRONI reference : D3253/6/1/1

Public Record Office of Northern Ireland, 2 Titanic Boulevard Belfast BT3 9HQ Northern Ireland

(0044) 028 90 534800 proni@dcalni.gov.uk www.proni.gov.uk

Everyday Objects Transformed by the Conflict

Tennis Ball



“ Communication between special category prisoners in the UVF/RHC compounds of Long Kesh in the 1970s and 80s were at times of a secretive nature. Messages were concealed in tennis balls and propelled between compounds by prisoners out of the reach of prison authorities. ”

Label written by ACT Initiative

Action for Community Transformation, 178-180 Shankill Rd, Belfast , BT13 2BH

www.act-ni.co.uk

Everyday Objects Transformed by the Conflict

Punk Records



Alternative Ulster

The punk music scene operated 'underground' during the 1970's and created an environment where it didn't matter who you were or where you came from. People met and became friends across the community and social divides. Local bands such as Stiff Little Fingers, the Outcasts and the Undertones made their mark internationally as well as locally whether their material was about the political situation, or about the usual teenage angsts. The punk scene of those times is now the theme of various books, and even academic conferences.

Label written by Colin Beattie

Everyday Objects Transformed by the Conflict

Workshop 5 - At Home



By exploring how ordinary lives were impacted by conflict, participants in this workshop can gain awareness of historic and modern perceptions of life and especially how domestic life was impacted or forced to adapt during times of conflict. By doing so, this workshop encourages reflection and appreciation. These exercises are designed to encourage maximum participation from groups and can be tailored to all ages from age 11 to adult.

(Objects needed) Milk Bottle used as Petrol Bomb; Binlid; Christmas Cards; A Humble Tobacco Tin; Behind the Barricades Record.

(Materials needed) Flip chart and markers, paper and pens.

(Time needed) 30 minutes to 1 hour.

Group warm-up ideas:

- How do you think daily life was affected by the conflict? How did traditional roles change?
- How do you think the objects/Exhibition help explain people's lives 'at home' during the conflict?
- What ways did people find to cope with conflict? (Listening to music, helping out, etc)

Focus:

Each of the following household objects was transformed by the conflict - discuss how and why.



Milk Bottle used as a Petrol Bomb

At times, even the ordinary milk bottle became something more.

- Can you think of any other objects within the home that tell a story of the past?

For further information

SHORT FILM:

<http://healingthroughremembering.org/resources/films/milk-bottle/>



Binlid



Household binlids were used by some as a method of communicating.

- Why did some think it necessary to bang binlids as a warning sign?
- In what ways would you communicate with your neighbours today?

Christmas Cards



These Christmas cards were used despite being in a shop that was bombed. Life went on.

- What other ways do you think people had to continue their lives despite living in such unusual circumstances?
- Do you or your family still send Christmas cards? If so, why and who to?
- If you could send a Christmas card to a person living in those times what would your Christmas card say and why?

A Humble Tobacco Tin



- How did this tobacco tin come to mean so much more to its owners?
- How common are mixed marriages nowadays? What can it teach us about love?
- What other issues in our lives at home have changed since the conflict?
- What gift might you give to someone who helped you with a difficult problem?

Behind the Barricades Record



Some of the ways people coped during the conflict included expressing themselves through creativity and humour, like this Jimmy Young LP from the Exhibition.

- How do people express themselves during dark times? (Music, art, culture, graffiti, etc)
- What role do you think music, culture and entertainment played during the conflict?
- What other examples of creative humour can you think of that relate to the conflict? (e.g. *Derry Girls*?)
- In what ways could ordinary family life be affected? What were the new dangers?
- How have women's roles changed over the past fifty years? What else has changed?

In smaller groups:

- Working together, draft a list of ten ordinary objects from your own homes that could be in an exhibition about an aspect of the past and a reason why.

OR

- Collaborate on a list detailing how men and women's roles have changed since the 1960s, and how traditional housewife roles have changed.

Share aloud, time permitting.

A Milk Bottle used as a Petrol Bomb

“

The glass milk bottle that was in everyone's home became a symbol of resistance - the petrol bomb - which was one of the main weapons against the security forces, who were the agents of the state that had oppressed the community and opposed the fight for civil rights. Petrol bombs were used in many other parts of the world during civil rights campaigns, as a weapon for civilians when they had nothing else other than stones against armed forces.

”



Label written by
Frankie McMenamin, private collector

Frankie Mc Menamin
c/o Museum of Free Derry, 55 Glenfada Park, Derry BT48 9DR, Northern Ireland
(0044) 28 7136 0880 info@museumoffreederry.org www.museumoffreederry.org

Everyday Objects Transformed by the Conflict

Binlid



“

A metal binlid to some was for covering a bin but for lots of nationalists and republicans it was a warning system. People mostly women would beat the binlid against the ground to warn I.R.A activists either to engage the Brits or to find themselves safehouses. It just let the people know where the Brits were.

”

Label written by Pat McArdle
from Roddy's Museum

Roddy McCorley Heritage Centre, Moyard House, Glen Road, Belfast BT11 8BU, Northern Ireland

<http://roddymccorley.com/>

Everyday Objects Transformed by the Conflict

Christmas Cards



Between 10th February and 2nd December 1972 the parish church of Saint George, High Street in Belfast suffered severe bomb damage from nine bomb blasts. Hundreds of these cards from the Oxfam shop blown up on the 27th July were found in the the debris and were used by the Church as its Christmas card that year.

Everyday Objects Transformed by the Conflict

A Humble Tobacco Tin



“

A humble tobacco tin, bought in Switzerland during the honeymoon of a mixed marriage couple from Northern Ireland in 1975, tells a proud story of how a local clergyman, who made that union possible, kept it close all these years. The church of Ireland chaplain to the Northern Ireland Mixed Marriage Association (NIMMA) facilitated the marriage in those difficult days and the tobacco was a gift from the thankful couple.

Today it sits as an ordinary reminder of extraordinary times, a trophy in the battle against secularism and a symbol of a friendship cherished.

”

Label written by Paul McLaughlin,
Development Officer at the
Northern Ireland Mixed Marriage
Association

Northern Ireland Mixed Marriage Association (NIMMA)

www.nimma.org.uk

Everyday Objects Transformed by the Conflict

Behind the Barricades Record



James Young was one of Ulster's best known comedians. He used the medium of live stage and recordings to reach his audience, which were mostly the working classes. This was one of many albums the artist produced although no others used the troubles as both a cover and a title for the album. More than famous for his epilogues James Young would normally finish a live performance with his own catch phrase. Ach would youse stop yer ould fightin.

Label written by Bobby Foster, private collector

Bobby Foster

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Workshop 6 – Security & Safety



By exploring historic and contemporary themes around security and safety in Northern Ireland, this workshop asks how things have changed or improved since the Good Friday/Belfast Agreement, and whether there are remaining challenges and misconceptions that need addressed. These exercises are designed to encourage maximum participation from groups and can be tailored to all ages from age 11 to adult.

(Objects needed) Binlid; Knitted Doll; Windows Cleaned; RUC Armoured Clipboard; British Army Beret; Tennis Ball.

(Materials needed) Flip chart and markers, paper and pens.

(Time needed) 30 minutes to 1 hour.

Group warm-up ideas:

- What words spring to mind when thinking about security and safety in your own lives? Why?
- How does the world see today's Northern Ireland? Have international attitudes to visiting Northern Ireland changed? Why?

Focus:

Each of the following objects touches upon aspects of security or safety during the conflict.

Binlid



A binlid used as a communication tool. Household binlids became a way of warning of incoming raids.

- Why did some think it necessary to bang binlids as a warning sign?
- Do you think they were an effective method of communication?
- What other ways are there to communicate with your neighbours?

A Knitted Doll



- What does this doll represent to its owner?
- Why might he have chosen to serve in the UDR?
- Why do you think he waited until now to show people this doll?
- Name some ways in which Northern Ireland is safer today.

Windows Cleaned



- Why did some businesses pay this 'protection' money?
- How would you feel to be under pressure like this?



RUC Armoured Clipboard

- Why did the police need such heavy-duty equipment?
- How has policing changed since the peace process?
- Is there more acceptance and respect for security forces?
- What challenges still face the PSNI today?

Further group discussion:

- Are there still problems with security and feeling safe in Northern Ireland today?
- Why are the police and security services needed today? When are they not needed?
- What challenges still have to be overcome? (e.g. hiding that you work for the PSNI)

Changing perceptions:

Some objects within the exhibition can be jarring to the unfamiliar. Others can help challenge and break down commonly held beliefs and perceptions passed. This is particularly true of perceptions of those involved with the British army, the RUC or republican and loyalist paramilitaries.



British Army Beret

Some visitors might feel challenged by the inclusion of British Army attire and objects, such as the Army beret.

- What did you learn from this object and its label?
- How have perceptions of the Army changed since the peace process?
- How do you think former soldiers feel about NI now? Will they visit?



Tennis Ball

Some visitors might feel challenged by the inclusion of objects like this, used by political prisoners whilst in jail to conceal messages.

- Why is it important to learn about these histories?
- What can we learn from paramilitary objects like this one?

In smaller groups:

- Working together, design a poster with tips and advice to improve community safety. What can each of us do to keep our areas safe?

OR

- Draw a spider diagram showing the different ways in which police help communities and why they're needed.

Share aloud if time permits.

Binlid



“ A metal binlid to some was for covering a bin but for lots of nationalists and republicans it was a warning system. People mostly women would beat the binlid against the ground to warn I.R.A activists either to engage the Brits or to find themselves safehouses. It just let the people know where the Brits were. ”

Label written by Pat McArdle
from Roddy's Museum

Roddy McCorley Heritage Centre, Moyard House, Glen Road, Belfast BT11 8BU, Northern Ireland

<http://roddymccorley.com/>

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A Knitted Doll



“

The doll is of me as a UDR (Ulster Defence Regiment) private in the 1970s with glasses and long hair.

It was given to me as a reminder of my time in 2 UDR Co Armagh when I served part-time while also a student at QUB (Queens University Belfast). Now I can be open about my service, then it was a very different time and place.

Label written by Will Glendinning

”

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Windows Cleaned



“

Some companies had to account for protection money by putting it through their books, this caused problems when auditors reviewed accounts and looked for receipts for this 'Insurance' cost.

One way it was put through was as 'window cleaning' - men with a small ladder arrived monthly, collected money, issued a receipt - the windows in the meantime remained dirty!

”

Label written by Anonymous

Anonymous

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RUC Armoured Clipboard



“ This was used by police officers at vehicle checkpoints in ‘high-risk’ areas. The clipboard was intended to give protection to police officers if threatened with a handgun. It has a carrying handle and was designed to withstand small calibre bullets. It was used in the late 1970’s, but was never a success due to its weight and general bulkiness. ”

Label written by Hugh Forrester,
Police Museum

Police Museum, Brooklyn, 65 Knock Road, Belfast BT5 6LE, Northern Ireland

(0044) 28 9065 0222 <https://www.psni.police.uk/about-us/our-history/police-museum>

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British Army Beret



“

Although berets were an everyday part of the British Army dress code in places like England and Germany, for safety reasons the Kevlar helmet was far more common in Northern Ireland. However, orders to swap helmets for berets were issued to British soldiers in the hours and days following the IRA's 1994 ceasefire. Consequently, this beret is responsible for provoking curiosity and questions from members of the public who the previous day would not have acknowledged its wearer's presence.

”

Label written by
Lee Lavis, ex British Soldier

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Tennis Ball



“ Communication between special category prisoners in the UVF/RHC compounds of Long Kesh in the 197-s and 80s were at times of a secretive nature. Messages were concealed in tennis balls and propelled between compounds by prisoners out of the reach of prison authorities. ”

Label written by ACT Initiative

Action for Community Transformation, 178-180 Shankill Rd, Belfast , BT13 2BH

www.act-ni.co.uk

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Workshop 7 – From Prison



By exploring recent history in terms of prisoners and issues including crime, justice and the impact of criminality this workshop will encourage participants to think about and hopefully share perspectives on these issues and their wider relevance today. These exercises are designed to encourage maximum participation from groups and can be tailored to all ages from age 11 to adult.

(Objects needed) Loyalist and Republican Prison Wallets; UVF Handkerchief; Tennis Ball; You Can't Judge a Book by its Cover.

(Materials needed) Flip chart and markers, paper and pens.

(Time needed) 30 minutes to 1 hour.

Group warm-up ideas:

- Why do you think prison items are included in the Exhibition?
- Why do you think so many people ended up in prison during Northern Ireland's conflict?
- What challenges do ex-prisoners face on the outside? How can we help them fit in to a peaceful society?
- What does justice mean to you? How important is justice in a peaceful Northern Ireland?

Focus:

Each of the following objects invites us to think about the conflict from a different perspective and from within the confines of prison walls.

Loyalist and Republican Prison Wallets



Many political prisoners did craftwork while in jail, including wallets.

- Who do you think they made them for? Were they ever used?
- Can we learn anything from these everyday objects?
- What are your own experiences of making craftwork items for other people?

Other items of craft work were made, like hammering out a design on an old tin:

SHORT FILM:

<http://healingthroughremembering.org/resources/films/tobacco-tin/>



UVF Handkerchief



Political prisoners found expression where they could – like this hankie.

- Why did prisoners create such individual and specific art?
- How would you communicate with your family if they were faraway?
- What would you draw on a handkerchief if asked?

Tennis Ball



Inside prison walls, this tennis ball became an important way of helping special category prisoners hide and exchange messages.

- What kind of messages might they be sending and to whom?
- Can you think of another object that became a communication tool?
- What tools are most commonly used to communicate nowadays?

You Can't Judge a Book by its Cover



This paperback of *Les Misérables* concealed a different book inside – a book on Irish republicanism.

- Why did people feel the need to hide books and other objects when in prison?
- Many political prisoners used their time in prison to educate themselves. Was this helpful?
- What lessons have we learned from the past? How has peace impacted your lives?
- If you were jailed, what one book or object would you choose to take with you?

In smaller groups:

- Working together, come up with a list of six things you have learned today about prison or people's experiences of imprisonment during the conflict.

OR

- Collaborate on a list of as many human rights as you can remember. If you don't know any, use your imagination to come up with a list of human rights you think we all need.

Loyalist and Republican Prison Wallets



“Leather craftwork was created by both Loyalist and Republican prisoners, though the imagery was often very different. It is said that - to reduce the boredom of the same arts skills day after day - some items could be started by one faction of prisoners and then returned to be completed with appropriate artwork by prisoners from a different faction.

Label written by Bobby Foster, private collector

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UVF Handkerchief



Plain white handkerchiefs with political messages were made by both Republican and Loyalist parties whilst in prison, either to give to their families or to raise funds for their cause. This Ulster Volunteer Force (UVF) handkerchief was picked up by a Royal Marine during his deployment to Northern Ireland in the 1970s.

Label written by Anna Cummins
from Royal Marines Museum

Royal Marines Museum, Southsea, Hampshire PO4 9PX, England

(0044) 23 9281 9385 info@royalmarinesmuseum.co.uk <https://www.nmrn.org/>

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Tennis Ball



“ Communication between special category prisoners in the UVE/RHC compounds of Long Kesh in the 197-s and 80s were at times of a secretive nature. Messages were concealed in tennis balls and propelled between compounds by prisoners out of the reach of prison authorities. ”

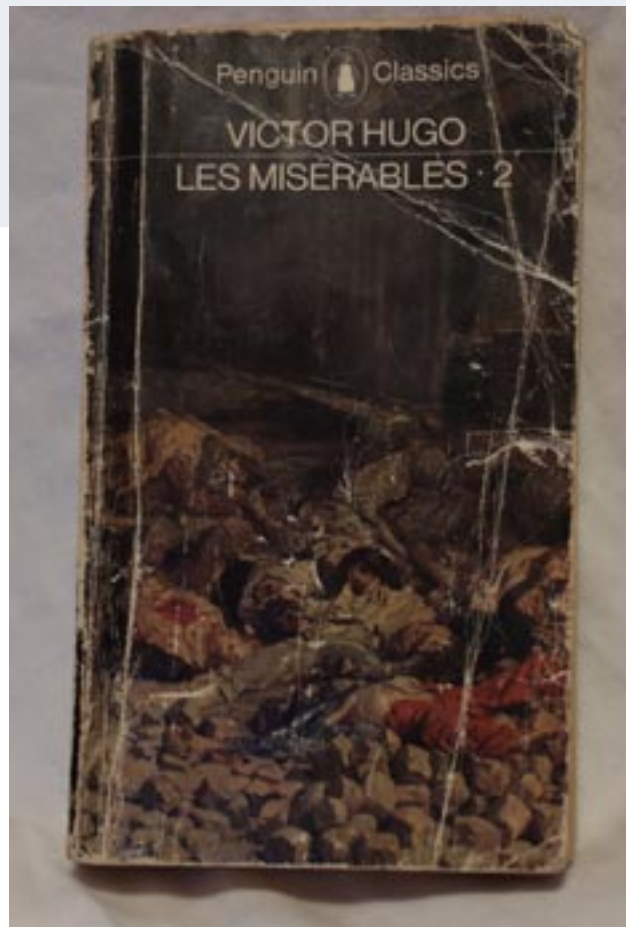
Label written by ACT Initiative

Action for Community Transformation, 178-180 Shankill Rd, Belfast , BT13 2BH

www.act-ni.co.uk

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You Can't Judge a Book by its Cover



“

A secondhand book shop in Belfast applied Penguin Classic paperback covers to various accounts of Irish republican history and distributed to Long Kesh Prison. This copy with the cover of Victor Hugo's *Les Misérables 2* encased a copy of Ernie O'Malley's, *The Singing Flame*, recounting his involvement with Michael Collins during the Irish War of Independence. It was smuggled into the political prisoners' wing library in Long Kesh. Boxes of books were only checked for contraband the text inside rarely received any attention. It was taken to Sydney, Australia in 1985 and returned to Belfast in the late 1990s.

Label written by Susie O'Rawe

”

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Workshop 8 – Citizenship



By exploring aspects of citizenship in contemporary Northern Ireland and historic challenges that citizens faced, this workshop asks participants to reflect on whether any objects or their labels increased their understanding or challenged their perspective or beliefs. Discussion includes what citizenship means to us today and our potential as active participants and agents of change, particularly when citizenship or rights are challenged or denied. These exercises are designed to encourage maximum participation from groups and can be tailored to all ages from age 11 to adult.

(Objects needed) Tobacco Tin; Lagan College School Tie; Am I a Legitimate Target T-Shirt; Defaced Coins.

(Materials needed) Flip chart and markers, paper and pens.

(Time needed) 30 minutes to 1 hour.

Group warm-up ideas:

- How as a society should we deal with remembering the legacy of the conflict?
- What responsibilities do we have to each other in terms of how we discuss or remember difficult times of conflict and issues of division?

Focus:

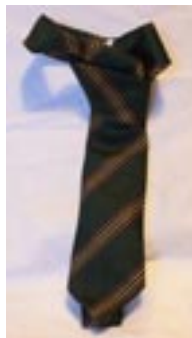
Each of these objects tell us something about living in Northern Ireland.

A Humble Tobacco Tin



- Why did this tobacco tin become an everyday object?
- Why is the story behind it so important in historical terms?
- Are there any other objects that unite us?
- Can you think of any other objects that bring mixed marriages to mind
- Are there other areas of life where prejudice still exists?

Lagan College School Tie



From Northern Ireland's first integrated school.

- Why do you think a group of parents set up Lagan College?
- What do you think they had to consider when they designed things like the school tie and the school badge?
- What do you think the first pupils thought about their new school?



“Am I a Legitimate Target” T-Shirt

- Why do you think some people chose to protest wearing this t-shirt?
- How do we actively participate in citizenship and why does it matter? (Voting, volunteering, campaigning, protesting etc).
- What is meant by social responsibility?

From division to a new vision

Despite historical divisions, Northern Ireland has embraced much change over the last half a century, including sweeping reforms of civil rights legislation and policing, and reaching compromise on many of the most contentious issues, such as parading.



Defaced Coins

Even the coins in your pocket showed symbols of division - once sadly commonplace they are now not seen.

- Is Northern Ireland becoming more diverse?
- Are diversity and multiculturalism welcomed in your community?
- What opportunities are there to improve inclusion here?
- What item would you include in the Exhibition to show new aspects of Northern Irish society?

In smaller groups:

- Tourism NI need ideas for their new tourism campaign – work together on a list of all the best things about Northern Ireland and its people.

OR

- Draft a note or letter welcoming a new neighbour or family to your community, listing all the reasons they'll love your area and what they can look forward to.

A Humble Tobacco Tin



“

A humble tobacco tin, bought in Switzerland during the honeymoon of a mixed marriage couple from Northern Ireland in 1975, tells a proud story of how a local clergyman, who made that union possible, kept it close all these years. The church of Ireland chaplain to the Northern Ireland Mixed Marriage Association (NIMMA) facilitated the marriage in those difficult days and the tobacco was a gift from the thankful couple.

Today it sits as an ordinary reminder of extraordinary times, a trophy in the battle against secularism and a symbol of a friendship cherished.

”

Label written by Paul McLaughlin,
Development Officer at the
Northern Ireland Mixed Marriage
Association

Northern Ireland Mixed Marriage Association (NIMMA)

www.nimma.org.uk

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Lagan College School Tie



“

Lagan College, Northern Ireland's first planned integrated school, opened on 1 September 1981, in temporary premises in south Belfast. The tie bears the same colours as the blazer badge.

The first Lagan College prospectus had announced (7 May 1981) that:

The school uniform will be simple and unobtrusive. It will be based on standardised items that can be purchased at reasonable cost from a variety of suppliers. The Council of Parents will be consulted on all matters relating to school uniform. On the first day, the founding 28 boys and girls wore plain black blazers (no badge) and open-necked white shirts (no tie). Suggestions for developing the uniform were discussed between pupils, parents, teachers and governors during the first term. After Christmas, when the school had moved to its next temporary home at in east Belfast, the agreed badge and tie was ready for wearing.

Label written by
Brian Lambkin, former Principal of Lagan College

”

Lagan College

www.lagancollege.com/about-us/

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'Am I a Legitimate Target' T-Shirt



During the Troubles republican groups had the stated policy of attacking 'legitimate targets' and, while not explicit, this would have been echoed in different ways among both loyalist paramilitary groups and the British military. This T-Shirt comes from an event in Lurgan in June 1991 which tried to pull the rug from under the 'legitimate target' concept by saying that if you start down this road then we are all legitimate targets for killing.

Label written by Rob Fairmichael from INNATE

INNATE, 16 Ravensdene Park, Belfast BT6 0DA, Northern Ireland

(0044) 28 9064 7106 innate@ntlworld.com www.innatenonviolence.org/

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Defaced Coins



“

During the 1970s, when the practice of defacing coins with paramilitary slogans was at its height, Irish coins were frequently found and used alongside sterling in Northern Ireland. As a result, items such as the Irish two shilling piece with ‘FOREIGN’ embossed across it or the Irish 50p coin with the alternative date-stamp of ‘1690’ would not have been uncommon. The practice continues, as exemplified by a pound coin with ‘RIRA’ (for real IRA) inscribed across the Queen’s head.

”

Label written by Ross Moore
from Linen Hall Library

Linen Hall Library Northern Ireland Political Collection, 17 Donegall Square North, Belfast BT1 5GB, Northern Ireland

(044) 28 9032 1707 info@linenhall.com www.linenhall.com/

Everyday Objects Transformed by the Conflict



Workshop 9 – Finding the Words



By exploring the wording and language used to describe some Everyday Objects, this workshop helps participants gain an awareness of the power and potential of words. It encourages participants to think about how the words we say and how we choose to say them might impact others, both positively and negatively. It encourages creative writing as a means of useful self-expression and to improve vocabulary and reflective thinking. These exercises are designed to encourage maximum participation from groups and can be tailored to all ages from age 11 to adult.

(Objects needed) Shrapnel Removed from the Leg of Alex Bunting; Car Part; Bus Tickets from Belfast and Derry.

(Materials needed) Flip chart and markers, paper and pens.

(Time needed) 30 minutes to 1 hour.

Group warm-up ideas:

- If you visited the Exhibition did any labels stand out? Which ones and why were they so memorable?
- How important are labels and captions when talking about objects relating to the past?

Focus:

Some labels evoke a powerful image and help us hear the voice of the person behind it. Others invite us to read between the lines to see their wider significance.

Shrapnel Removed from the Leg of Alex Bunting



“Just as we got to the Boyne Bridge, a flash came out of the dashboard, a bit like a rainbow and I fell against the door which opened. It all happened so fast, I saw my leg come off and then I went out behind it and was blown across the street. I remember lying in the street fully conscious and my first thoughts were of Linda and the kids.”

Label written by Alex Bunting

- How does Alex’s use of descriptive language paint a picture of that day?
- Which line did you find most powerful in his account and why? How did it make you feel?
- What role does storytelling play in conflict resolution, if any? Can sharing help?
- How can language help people express themselves more accurately and creatively.
- Words can both hurt and heal. Have you ever experienced or overheard the use of derogatory labels (namecalling) and what was your reaction?
- Would you stand up for someone being called such names? Why or why not?

Now, or later, watch the short film about Alex and his object.

For further information

SHORT FILM: <http://healingthroughremembering.org/resources/films/coins/>

BOOK: "Injured on that Day" published by Wave Trauma Centre, Belfast



- What more do his spoken words convey than his words on the label?

Car Part

Some labels change how we view an object - or the events surrounding it - through the use of poetic language.



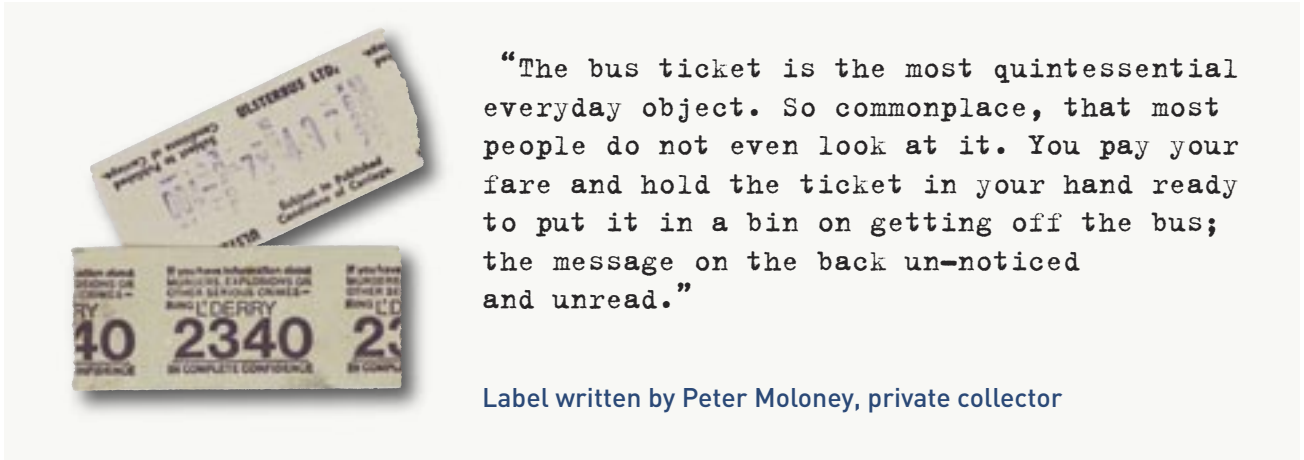
"The rail workers had withdrawn their labour in a pay and conditions dispute. Thursday 8 March 1973 was somewhat quieter and more relaxed in the City of London as a result. An air of relaxed informality had settled; luncheon parameters were stretched. At 2.45 I was having a "pie and a half pint" in the Lord Nelson, just across from the entrance to the Old Bailey with some colleagues when we were interrupted by the Metropolitan Police who ordered us out. Some minutes later as I walked along Newgate Street I heard the unmistakable sound of an explosion, or as it is known in some circles a "big smokie".
This artefact is a reminder.

Label written by Brendan Meegan

- Contrast the wording of the label with the object it describes.
- Do you think it is a good or a bad thing to describe difficult events in beautiful language?

Bus Tickets from Belfast and Derry

Some labels are deliberately more ambiguous, describing the everyday experience rather than the significance of the words printed on the ticket.



“The bus ticket is the most quintessential everyday object. So commonplace, that most people do not even look at it. You pay your fare and hold the ticket in your hand ready to put it in a bin on getting off the bus; the message on the back un-noticed and unread.”

- Consider the wording and structure of the label – how does the owner of this Everyday Object tell its story differently?
- How often do you think about using slightly different words to explain or express something?
- How can language and terminology hurt people or communities? Any examples? (e.g., graffiti)
- Are placenames considered divisive, and if so why? E.g., Derry/Londonderry, Ireland, Northern Ireland, the North, the Free State, etc.

Solo or group exercise:

- You’ve been invited to write a Eurovision song celebrating your hometown or city. Come up with three potential song names that best reflect where you grew up or your memories of your hometown.

OR

- Compose a few lines of descriptive prose that best describes your experience of the Everyday Objects Exhibition; how you felt; what stood out; what you’ll take away from it.

OR

- Alternatively, use one of the following poetry prompts to help you express creative opinion on either the Everyday Objects Exhibition or your own object of choice. This can

Poetry prompt 1 – Objects so ordinary

These objects so ordinary now appear _____
 Imagining their journey from there to here, I felt _____.
 I'll never forget the _____.
 and how its owner _____.
 I didn't expect to feel so _____ or that the everyday
 would change my mind about _____.
 and appreciate _____

Poetry prompt 2

Use the following poetry prompt which encourages you to choose an object of your own that you would include in an imaginary exhibition. Describe it as creatively as possible and include emotions.

Personal Artefact

I choose you _____ as the object that reflects me most,
 that makes me feel _____ and proud to _____.
 I choose you as artefact and call the exhibit _____.

Below, it would read _____
 _____.

Example Poem:

I choose you a tiny flower in a box as the object that reflects me most,
 that makes me feel nostalgic and warm and proud to shine bright.
 I choose you as artefact and call the exhibit 'Live Forever'.

Below, it would read "Picked from a mountain top in 1999, the Edelweiss is the national flower of Austria. They're illegal to pick and once you pick them, they live forever".

Shrapnel Removed from the Leg of Alex Bunting



“ Just as we got to the Boyne Bridge, a flash came out of the dashboard, a bit like a rainbow and I fell against the door which opened. It all happened so fast, I saw my leg come off and then I went out behind it and was blown across the street. I remember lying in the street fully conscious and my first thoughts were of Linda and the kids.

Label written by Alex Bunting
in an extract taken from 'Injured... on that day' publication - WAVE Trauma Centre, Belfast

WAVE Trauma Centre, 5 Chichester Park South, Belfast BT15 5DW, Northern Ireland

(0044) 28 9077 9922 admin@wavebelfast.co.uk www.wavetraumacentre.org.uk/

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Car Part



“The rail workers had withdrawn their labour in a pay and conditions dispute. Thursday 8 March 1973 was somewhat quieter and more relaxed in the City of London as a result. An air of relaxed informality had settled; luncheon parameters were stretched. At 2.45 I was having a "pie and a half pint" in the Lord Nelson, just across from the entrance to the Old Bailey with some colleagues when we were interrupted by the Metropolitan Police who ordered us out. Some minutes later as I walked along Newgate Street I heard the unmistakable sound of an explosion, or as it is known in some circles a "big smokie". This artefact is a reminder.

Label written by Brendan Meegan

Everyday Objects Transformed by the Conflict

Bus Tickets from Belfast and Derry 1973-1974



“

The bus ticket is the most quintessential everyday object. So commonplace, that most people do not even look at it. You pay your fare and hold the ticket in your hand ready to put it in a bin on getting off the bus; the message on the back un-noticed and unread.

”

Label written by Peter Moloney,
private collector

Peter Moloney

A catalogue of the collection and images of many of the artefacts can be viewed at www.cain.ulst.ac.uk/moloney

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