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Significant conversation on Dealing with the Past



Mitchell McLaughlin MLA, Brian Rowan, Kate Turner (Director of Healing Through Remembering), Jackie McDonald, Sir Hugh Orde and Chief Constable Matt Baggott

Chief Constable Matt Baggott, Mitchell McLaughlin MLA, Sir Hugh Orde, Jackie McDonald and Kate Turner, (Director of Healing Through Remembering), formed the panel at a private meeting of a range of significant individuals discussing the issue of truth recovery held on Monday, 20th June. The event was chaired by Brian Rowan.

The meeting was organised by Healing Through Remembering on the eve of the Day of Reflection, a day for reflecting on the conflict in and about Northern Ireland, with the aim of ensuring a peaceful future for all.

Healing Through Remembering has been at the forefront of the debate on this issue for a number of years.

Speaking about the meeting, Kate Turner, said: "The eve of the Day of Reflection gives us an opportunity to reflect on the issue of truth recovery. It is an opportunity to further inform the decision making process and builds on the discussions the organisation has been having with a variety of groups and individuals.

Given the decisions that the Secretary of State has said he is soon to make, the time is right for this debate. HTR wanted to offer people this

opportunity to share their views with others and hear other perspectives."

Other individuals present at the discussion included those from victims'/survivors' groups, security forces, ex-combatants, religious organisations and other NGOs.

Ms Turner said: "Any dialogue that takes place as part of this project is important, not just for those participating, but also for all of society. How we deal with the past shapes the future, not only of this generation but also of those to come."



Kate Turner, Brian Rowan and Sir Hugh Orde

HTR holds its first public Day of Reflection event



DoR Chair, Harold Good, posts his thoughts on the Thought Wall

The 21st June 2011 was the fifth year for the annual Day of Reflection organised by HTR.

It is a day to acknowledge the deep hurt and pain caused by the conflict and to reflect on our own attitudes, on what more we might have done or might still do, and to make a personal commitment that such loss should never be allowed to happen again.

The Day was launched in the Linen Hall Library in the centre of Belfast by the Rev Harold Good, Chair of HTR's Day of Reflection Sub Group. While activities took place in several other locations as well, the event at the Linen Hall Library was the first ever HTR sponsored public event. Throughout the event there were interludes of music from Gerry Creen, poetry readings and extracts from novels read by Damian Gorman, Dawn Purvis, Hugh Odling-Smee, Edgar Turner, Glenn Patterson, Kate Turner, Vincent Higgins and Paula McFetridge, and support from writers Dave Duggan and Seamus Heaney, and Tyrone's Gaelic football manager, Mickey Harte.



Glenn Patterson

SARWN: 'Behind the Masks'

A visual exhibition included photos of the conflict by photojournalists Kevin Cooper and John Rush as well as artwork from the South Armagh Rural Women's Network's "Behind the Masks" project. The masks were created by each woman and represent their individual story of the conflict in and about Northern Ireland. Participants at the event were also invited to write their own thoughts and reflections and post them onto a special Thought Wall which became the flowers of the HTR gorse bush logo.

The Rev Harold Good said: "Independent evaluations have shown support across the community for the Day of Reflection from organisations including community groups, churches and businesses, and a wide range of individual people".

"It is vital that we always remember the men, women and children who, on a daily basis, live with the consequences of the conflict. It is the responsibility of every person in society to find a way forward and create a better future for generations to come".

Whatever You Say, Say Something Update

Healing Through Remembering is delighted to report that its Whatever You Say, Say Something project has surpassed its expectations and targets. This is a Peace III funded three year project which comes to an end in December 2011.

In designing this project a range of targets were set with the funder against which the success of the project would be measured. As of June 2011 and with six months still left to run, all of these targets have been exceeded. We aimed

to hold 20 events assisting victims and survivors for 500 participants. To date we have reached 649 participants in over 30 different events. HTR also set out to hold 113 conflict resolution workshops for different groups on dealing with the past. 145 have been held to date in which almost 1,500 participants took part.

The project will continue to offer opportunities for individuals and groups who are interested in dealing with the past in the remaining months of the project.

Commemoration Seminar on the 1798 Rebellion and the Irish Famine

Healing Through Remembering's second discussion seminar in the series on Commemoration took place on Friday, June 24. The seminar was entitled 'How Have We Remembered? Preparing for a decade of commemorations: an opportunity for discussion'. Guest speakers Prof. Tom Dunne and Prof. Margaret Kelleher shared their insights into the previously contentious commemorations of the 1798 Rebellion and the Famine to see what could be learned for the commemoration of upcoming anniversaries. HTR board member, Geraldine Smyth, facilitated the discussion.

Tom shared his experiences of the bicentenary commemorations of the rebellion in 1998, giving particular attention to events in his native Wexford. He highlighted how the brutal realities of sectarianism on the ground were glossed over and romanticised in the 'commemoration frenzy' of 1998, resulting in a manipulation of truth in the idealised official account. Tom left us with a powerful quote from Thomas Davis: 'Educate that

you may be free'.

Margaret sought to highlight how the Famine has been commemorated both in Ireland and in the United States. She linked her arguments to discussions on what it means to remember and ways of remembering. She highlighted the tension that can exist between state commemoration and local community commemoration. Prof. Kelleher sought to explain that even though community remembrance may not be entirely accurate, it has a significant spiritual resonance. The seminar series continues. For further details contact HTR.



Commemoration Seminar

Lish & Gerry at the Shrine

'Lish and Gerry at the Shrine' is a drama based around two Northern Irish Football legends that crossed the sectarian divide in the 1940s for the love of their sport. Elisha Scott was the Protestant manager of Belfast Celtic while Gerry Morgan was Linfield's Catholic trainer. Three performances of this drama by Pdraig Coyle were staged in July and August in Armagh, Craigavon and Belfast. They formed part of a joint project by the Irish Football Association, Belfast Celtic Society and Healing Through Remembering and they followed on from the successful staging at Stormont in February. Each performance was followed by a facilitated discussion on the issues of dealing with the past which the play brings to the surface.

These discussions were facilitated by two of Healing Through Remembering's delivery partners, Joe Blake and David Gardiner. The workshops not only touched on the issues raised during the play but also encouraged people from the local football community to share their stories about the good community relations work going on in the sport today.

The first of three performances took place as part of the John Hewitt Summer School at the Market Theatre in Armagh as it considered the word 'remembering'. This was followed by a performance run in collaboration with Portadown and Glenavon football clubs at the Craigavon Civic Centre. The last in the series was held in the more informal surroundings of the Rock Bar on the Falls Road.

All of these events have been held with support from the European Development Fund under Peace III.



Actors perform 'Lish and Gerry at the Shrine' on stage at Craigavon Civic Centre

Staff Update – Coordinator/Curator for the Everyday Objects Exhibition



Triona White Hamilton

Healing Through Remembering would like to welcome Triona White Hamilton as its Coordinator/Curator for the 'Everyday Objects Transformed by the Conflict' Exhibition. The Everyday Objects

Transformed by the Conflict project is a follow on to an Audit of Artefacts conducted in 2007/8 involving 79 private and public collections of items relating to the conflict in and about Northern Ireland.

Triona has been interested in the work of HTR for a few years now and feels that "interpreting and presenting memories and our heritage are skills I have developed over the last five years in the cultural heritage sector and ones I am keen to use during this project."

Triona is from Dunree, County Donegal. She has worked in a variety of roles in both the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland, specialising in the care of collections, management and collection interpretation. During her career, she has worked for Derry City Council Heritage and Museum Service, Old Library in Trinity College, Public Record Office of Northern Ireland, Northern Ireland Museums Council and the Mid Antrim Museum. Triona also holds a Masters in Cultural Heritage and Museum Studies, a Post Graduate Certificate in Art History as well as a Degree in Fine and Applied Art.



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HTR Reports to Order

Copies of all reports produced and published by Healing Through Remembering are available to order direct from the office or online in the resources section of the HTR website :

www.healingthroughremembering.org



Ethical Principles –
Storytelling and Narrative
Work

At the End of the Day – Commemoration:
Forward Thinking into the Past

Momentum and Change: An overview
of the role and remit of Healing Through
Remembering

Artefacts Audit: A report on the material
culture relating to the conflict in and about
Northern Ireland

Without Walls: A report on the Open Call for
Ideas for a Living Memorial Museum

Day of Private Reflection: 2007, 2008 and
2009 Evaluations

Making Peace with the Past: Options for
truth recovery regarding the conflict in and
about Northern Ireland

Making Peace with the Past – Executive
Summary

**The Viability of Prosecution Based on
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**Acknowledgement and its Role in
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A Day of Private Reflection: Discussion
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A Day of Reflection: Local Scoping Study

Storytelling as the Vehicle? Conference
Report

**International Experiences of Days of
Remembrance and Reflection**

Storytelling Audit: An audit of personal story,
narrative and testimony initiatives related to
the conflict in and about Northern Ireland.