



CYPRUS

Spotlight

ON THE U3A IN CYPRUS

Issue number 7

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We welcome your views and news!

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The views of contributors are not necessarily the views of the editors or committee members. The editors reserve the right to modify contributions if considered necessary.

NEW FACES IN THE SPOTLIGHT

This somewhat belated and very abbreviated issue of the Spotlight will largely consist of reports from the AGMs of the several Districts which make up U3A Cyprus. The delay in producing it has, in part, been occasioned by the fact that the new Editor has only now returned from holiday in the 'Wild West' of the USA. Close encounters with bison, bears and the occasional Native American Indian notwithstanding, things are now returning to normal and I look forward to receiving, via the District Sub-editors, your articles for inclusion in future editions. If I am unable to include them all immediately I receive them, please do not feel that they are merely being shelved or consigned to File 13. Constraints of space have to be taken into account but articles not included in one issue may well appear in the next (or even the one after that!) so please keep them coming.

A warm welcome to the new Sub-editor for Larnaca (Fran Bremner). Limassol's Chairman, Chris Curson, is the person to contact with contributions from that District for the time being. Contact numbers and email addresses can be found in your local Group Listings. Olwyn Oliver remains as the Sub for Paphos, which is quite a relief to me as I am depending on her for guidance as I get to grips with my new 'job'.

Carole Manuel
Editor

Visit the U3A Cyprus website at :

www.U3Acyprus.org

LARNACA AGM 2007

This was the first formal meeting of the newly formed Larnaca District of U3A. Its purpose was to agree a local Larnaca Constitution and to elect a Committee to take over from the Steering Group. There were 25 members present.

Beryl Townley reviewed the progress of the District under its Steering Group. From an initial public meeting in December 2006 at the Laiki Bank Training Centre we now have a functioning District with approaching 60 members and 10 courses actually running, a tribute to the hard work of the Steering group and especially Mandy Boylan and Ian Knock who have set up an excellent foundation for the District administration. We started accepting members in February and look forward to a steady growth in both membership and courses on offer.

Tony Denne gave a summary report of the finances which revealed a healthy situation.

Larnaca Constitution

A draft constitution had been circulated to all members a month ago. The only comments received were:

a. To change the composition of the Committee so that instead of 4 co-opted members there were 2 co-opted members and 2 elected members. This was carried unanimously by the members present.

b. To add that the accounts be audited prior to the next AGM. It was suggested that this could be incorporated in the Treasurer's duties 'to appoint an independent auditor'. This was also carried unanimously by those present.

c. There was a late proposal to appoint a deputy Chairman to the Committee who would act for the Chairman if absent and take over as Chairman when the current incumbent stands down. There was a discussion to determine if this should be an internal appointment from the Committee or whether it should be an amendment to the Constitution for a new post. After discussion it was agreed to appoint from the Committee this year and if required, an amendment to the Constitution could be discussed next year. This was carried by a majority with one member against.

The Constitution was then unanimously accepted by the membership subject to the above changes.

Committee elections

Dorothy Hulley, as Island Chair, had agreed to conduct the elections and all members proposed were elected as follows:

Beryl Townley	Chairman
Mike Townley	Secretary
Tony Denne	Treasurer
Viv Merryweather	Membership secretary and Social
Fran Bremner	Course Co-ordinator and Spotlight Sub-editor
Margaret Meade	Member

We have also had offers of help from Gloria Cosson and Stephen Merryweather. Stephen has since been co-opted as Deputy Chairman.

Reports

Course leaders then gave a short resume of their group activity.

Statement by the Island Chair

Beryl Townley invited Dorothy Hulley to talk about the work that the Island committee had done regarding its formal registration as an Association.

A great deal had been achieved and the application was now with the Ministry of the Interior. No immediate results were expected. It was anticipated that the Island Committee would seek agreement at their AGM to dissolve the U3A and form a C3A (Cyprus Third Age) with the 3 Districts currently operating.

The question of affiliation to the UK parent body was also discussed. A questionnaire had been circulated to solicit members' views and when the returns had been collated the Island committee would have a mandate to carry out members' wishes.

BALANCE SHEET OF LIFE

Our Birth is our Opening Balance !

Our Death is our Closing Balance!

Our Prejudiced Views are our Liabilities

Our Creative Ideas are our Assets

Heart is our Current Asset

Soul is our Fixed Asset

Brain is our Fixed Deposit

Thinking is our Current Account

Achievements are our Capital

Character & Morals, our Stock-in-Trade

Friends are our General Reserves

Values & Behaviour are our Goodwill

Patience is our Interest Earned

Love is our Dividend

Children are our Bonus Issues

Education is Brands / Patents

Knowledge is our Investment

Experience is our Premium Account

The Aim is to Tally the Balance Sheet Accurately.

The Goal is to get the Best Presented Accounts Award.

LIMASSOL DISTRICT AGM 2007

The Limassol Branch AGM, held on 9th May at the Famagusta Nautical Club, proved a highly successful event and was attended by 71 members, very nearly half the total membership. Acting Chairman Chris Curson reported on a successful year, with membership growing steadily and most groups very active. The finances were also in a healthy state, and it had proved possible to reduce the annual subscription.

Following the formal proceedings the Poetry Group gave a presentation of a selection of poems, after which 36 members stayed to enjoy an excellent buffet lunch.

The following were elected for the year 2007-2008

Chairman	Chris Curson
Secretary	Val Ionides
Treasurer	Terri Taylor
Membership Secretary	Dorothy Wills
Group Coordinator	Pat Ramsay
Social Secretary	Dino Sourmelis
Committee Member	Jean Butcher



PAPHOS QUILTING GROUP

Members of the Paphos Quilting Group recently held their last meeting before the summer break. The group has recently completed a joint project for charity in addition to the individual quilts made by members, some of which were taken along to the meeting and are displayed in the photograph on the left.

Despite the usual comings and goings and family visits the meetings are always well attended and the results speak for themselves. Thanks are due to group leader Jill Dare and to the other members who open their homes to the group whenever required.

Nelson Mandela spent a good part of his life in a dark cell and he said
"Shine your light and allow others to do likewise - it makes for a brighter world"

Thank you Judith Whiteley

OPERA IN PAPHOS

The Paphos District will be introducing a monthly opera evening for the coming Autumn/Winter season. Our intention is to show a different opera every month using DVD's with our projector at the Latin Parish Hall on the coast road at Chloraka. The operas include Tosca, La Traviata, Carmen, Don Carlo, Don Giovanni, Romeo and Juliette, and Madame Butterfly. Placido Domingo is the main singer in many of them, supported by other well known international artists. There is also the opportunity to view some ballet such as Don Quixote with Baryshnikov as the lead dancer.

The dates and times have not been arranged as yet but should anyone be interested, please let John Rathband know your preferred evening(s) before the end of September. Contact details are available on the monthly listing which is also accessible on the website.

Thanks to John for this information

PAPHOS AGM 2007

The Third Paphos U3A Annual General Meeting was held on June 7th at the Paphiana Resort. Fifty-three members attended plus two from Limassol and fifteen visitors. The Chairman, David Brown, reported that membership had risen from around 150 this time last year to the present 230 members. David then went on to inform the meeting that Paphos district will hopefully be able to reduce membership subscriptions in the coming year. The amount of subscription depended on whether a proposed reduction in the Executive Committee capitations could be accommodated and whether we disaffiliate from the UK U3A. He advised that an application for registration under the name of C3A had been submitted to the Ministry of the Interior.

The meeting was informed of the resignation of Yiannakis Hadjilambri, as Hon. Treasurer. One nomination had been received before the deadline and Danne Johnston was duly elected to the position of Hon. Treasurer. The remaining committee members were confirmed in their respective offices with co-opted member John Rathband, Course Coordinator, being elected to full committee membership.

A vote of thanks was proposed for Yiannakis Hadjilambri who had been on the Paphos Committee since its inception three years ago. The Chairman thanked Lorraine Perry who had offered her services as Auditor.

The meeting continued with Addresses by John Rathband and David Whaley commenting on the draft Constitution and proposed Registration. A lengthy question and answer session ensued covering all aspects of the matter under discussion. Dorothy Hulley as Chairman of Cyprus U3A had early on recognised the importance of official registration and was thanked for her hard work in progressing the matter.

It was hoped that there would be a good attendance of Paphos members at the National AGM due to be held on 15th November.

The Chairman closed the meeting by thanking all those present for their attendance.



Cyprus U3A - Limassol

The Music Group

**invites Larnaca and Paphos members
to make a joyful noise!**



Love to sing but don't feel good enough?



Haven't sung since you were at school?

Join us in a 'scratch' performance of Handel's 'Messiah' in early November - a 'scratch' performance is one where the purpose is for everyone to join together for a glorious day of music making - with a rehearsal in the morning, and the performance in the afternoon.

Whether you can read music or not, or you know your mezzo-soprano from your counter-tenor, you will be welcome

No auditions - but lots of help, and training cd's to use in the privacy of your own home!



Interested? Then contact **Janet Bureau:**
tel: 25 934506 or levanter@cytanet.com.cy

Dangerous Dogs (or people)

As we began the new year of 2007 once again news came through from the UK of another child being savaged and killed by a 'pit bull-type' dog. Once again the debate surfaces about the 'Dangerous Dogs Act' and whether or how it can protect people from 'dangerous' dogs.

The time is well overdue for us to look, not just at that problem, but at the whole area of pet/animal ownership.

To begin with, we should look at our attitude to this 'ownership' notion. The very word 'ownership' implies that we have rights over the life we 'own' and can do as we please with that life. Surely we need to see ourselves as carers of these creatures. That would then imply that they have rights too. Every creature, surely, has the right to an existence as befits it, not simply as something to please us. Once this is accepted then a whole new way of thinking can and should proceed.

We tend, at present, to think that we can acquire whatever 'pet' we fancy without any need to understand that creatures needs or requirements.

I believe that anyone wishing to become the carer of a creature should have to apply for and acquire a licence. In order to obtain such a licence a person should have to prove that they have a proper understanding of that particular creature's needs and requirements, and that they can be provided for.

It is time that we took proper responsibility for our need to include other species in our lives and learn what they need.

There is and always will be the occasional dog that is, or is liable to become, dangerous, just as there are amongst our own species, but most experts would say that proper training (of both dog and 'owner') can and should eliminate that danger from all but the unstable (both dog or 'owner').

So, is it time for a change in thinking? I think so.

*Thanks to Bill Potter for this
Pissouri.*