



CYPRUS

Spotlight

ON THE U3A IN CYPRUS

Issue number 8 – December 2007

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We welcome your views and news!

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A long dry season.....

Well summer has certainly been that this year. So far there has been little rainfall and the threat of water cuts is looming again for many of us here in Cyprus. We are, however, experiencing somewhat cooler weather now which makes all activities more appealing and U3A groups are back in full swing after the trips and visitors of the summer.

There have been a number of changes in personnel during recent months, all of which are referred to in the Chairman's report given to the AGM in November. May I add to her comments my own pleas for more items for inclusion in Spotlight, and I am sure the various sub-editors echo that. We are all part of the same thriving organisation although the branches do exist as separate entities. It is important, as well as interesting, for everyone to be aware of what is going on in the other districts. Spotlight is also a 'meeting place' for us to share ideas, information and general chat, so don't be shy. We are interested in everyone's contributions and look forward to reading them. Photographs are especially welcome so perhaps the various photography groups would like to send in some shots for inclusion. Let's all keep in touch.

*Carole Manuel
Editor*

Visit the U3A Cyprus website at :

www.U3Acyprus.org

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.

REPORT OF 5TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE CYPRUS U3A

15th November 2007, at Crown Resorts Hotel, Henipa, Larnaca.

Following coffee and cakes on arrival, the Chairman welcomed almost 100 members to the meeting which Larnaca District had organised and hosted.

Minutes of the AGM held on the 16th Nov. last year had been circulated and, after some discussion, two amendments were allowed and agreed. The Chairman then gave her report, (see p3)

This was followed by the report and audited accounts presented by the Treasurer, Iris England

The retirements of Daphne Papacharalambous from the committee and Geoffrey Wallington, Hon. Sec., were announced, with thanks for their contributions to U3A Cyprus during their tenures.

The following officers and committee members were elected unopposed.

Chairman	Dorothy Hulley	Paphos
Vice-Chairman	Brian Ray	Paphos
Hon. Secretary	Valerie Ionides	Limassol
Hon. Treasurer	Iris England	Paphos
Committee Members	Pat Ramsey	Limassol

The 3 district Chairmen remain members of the committee ex-officio.

Andrew Dare was appointed **Auditor** for next years accounts.

The 2 motions regarding the Affiliation with the UK Third Age Trust, and the Registration of the new association the C3A were carried unopposed.

Janet Bureau Life President, gave a vote of thanks to the retiring Hon. Sec. Geoffrey Wallington for his hard work and support for many years and congratulated the Chairman for all the work she has done during her first year

After the meeting closed, Limassol District provided an enjoyable half hour of entertainment followed by an excellent and relaxed buffet lunch accompanied by lots of chat and discussion among the members.

Thanks to Larnaca District for hosting the occasion and to Limassol District for their entertainment.



Progress on the Messiah

There have been a number of meetings of folk who are taking part in the Messiah. A few weeks ago we met up in Episkopi, had a talk, and some new members joined U3A. It's a great way to make new friends. We meet in various members' homes to practice. Recently three of us went to Nata where we had a 2-hour practice, singing with CD, and one of the group members played the piano. The Messiah is going to be sung in Limassol on January 26th, probably at St. John's School, Episkopi, with John Kille directing it.

This will be a celebration of the 25th Anniversary of U3A.

Already we have approx 60 signed up to sing, but more are always welcome.

**For more information on this exciting venture please contact
Peter & Janet Bureau phone no. 2593450**



Many thanks to Maureen Gage for this update.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT TO THE FIFTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE CYPRUS U3A – 15TH NOVEMBER, 2007

In my acceptance speech at this time last year, having been elected as your Chairman, I made promises to address a number of issues over the coming year. I can now report on where those promises have led us.

The first and foremost issue we tackled was the Registration problem. After many hours of discussion in committee and with our solicitor we arrived at what we considered the best way to move forward. I was happy to be able to post a Progress report on this issue early in May in time for the 3 District AGMs. This report went to every member at that time and was also posted on the Website where it will remain until we have our registration.

At the same time the Draft Constitution for the new Association was posted on the Website and sent to those members without internet facilities. Again that will remain until we have our registration. I will stress once more, that it is a *Draft* document until it has been accepted by the Minister of the Interior. He has the right to ask for a change to any part of that constitution.

I spoke with our solicitor a week or so ago and nothing has been received as yet. We were told that we should expect it to be at least a year before we got satisfaction. I hope therefore, that this may happen before next year's district AGMs

I am not at this point going to quote the progress report or the Constitution. There are a few copies of the Progress Report at the front here if anyone wishes to read it after the meeting.

The second document that everyone received at that time was "The Role of the Executive Committee", an omission in communication that I felt had been missing from the start. The members need to know why we exist and what we do for you. Again this document is on the Website in case you need to refresh your memories.

The third document was the Questionnaire re Affiliation to the UK U3A. When it was decided to set up the U3A here, the UK was approached for advice on how to go about it. As a result the Cyprus U3A was set up as any group in the UK is set up and we were affiliated in exactly the same way as the UK U3As at a subscription of £2.50 pp per year. It has remained like that ever since but now is the time to move forward. We felt that the Questionnaire was the most democratic way of reaching every member of the organisation, not just the few that come to the AGM or any other meeting, and we could ascertain how many members use the facilities that are available through the UK. The final question was whether or not you wish to remain affiliated. The result was that 12% of the membership at that time voted to remain affiliated; overwhelming support, by vote or default, for disaffiliation.

I just thought I would give 2 quotes from the yes forms:

1 "The whole purpose of joining the U3A for me was to broaden my horizons when I chose to. I would support any activities the Association runs with that objective in mind"

2 "Yes, unless the C3A can offer more and better for 2.50 or less pp. In due time I am sure I

will take advantage of many of these services”

I have to say that this will be one of our aims as we expand over the coming years, to offer the resources, courses, travel etc. that are on offer in the UK. The folder containing all the returned forms and the chart of percentages from each district is here at the front. That is all I am going to say on this issue until item 7 of the agenda when I will outline the result of our ensuing discussions.

The next issue was Subscription structure.

First we decided to complete the autonomy of the districts by finally giving each district complete say on the matter of their own subscriptions. No longer do they have to agree a figure with the other districts.

They now have total autonomy provided that the Principles and Objectives of the organisation are adhered to.

Secondly our treasurer did a feasibility study and budget for the Executive committee and as a result we have reduced the level of the affiliation fee to us by £2 from £5 down to £3 5 Euros from Jan.1st .

All this is in force as of now.

That completes the report on the business we have dealt with this year.

Further, we were delighted to see Larnaca up and running, very successfully too. Congratulations and thanks are due to Mike and Beryl Townley for initially getting the meetings off the ground and subsequently to their steering committee for all the effort they put into their U3A. I am sure it will go from strength to strength.

In March our Spotlight Editor retired and thanks are due to Rob Hoffman for all the work he had put into its production

I put out an appeal to the membership for volunteers and Carole Manuel a Paphos member is now the editor

In June our Webmaster Chris Nowell retired and thanks are due to him for setting up the Website and getting us on to the ether.

Again an appeal brought 2 volunteers, both from Larnaca district, and Sue Paris and Mike Townley have teamed up and have been working on the present website and a completely new one which will be posted by early next year and will be set up so that it can be easily changed when we have our registration.

Please remember that both these communications need feeding and you, the members, are the food source, so do support them by submitting anything that may be of interest to members, from one or two lines to reports on your groups, photographs, recipes, poems etc. Your district sub-editors and Carole and the Web masters await your offerings.

Limassol elected a new Chairman in May and he was welcomed on to executive committee as their representative.

We are losing 2 of our committee members this year. Daphne Papacharalambous, one of the founding members of the Cyprus U3A, and who retired as treasurer last year but remained a

member of committee for a further year, is retiring. Our thanks for all her contributions over the years

Geoffrey Wallington our secretary is also retiring having been persuaded last year to remain for a further year. He has been a tower of strength to me and our thanks to him for his sterling work over some years.

To sum up, we have had a very busy but productive year. I feel we are moving forward. The organisation is growing and continues to thrive. We are almost at the 500 mark total members and each district continues to expand both in membership and number of groups and courses available.

Given the constrictions we are experiencing in promotion and advertising due to our present name I think this is very creditable for only 4 years in existence. A very healthy outlook.

May we continue in this vein and keep moving forward and expanding our horizons.

Thank you all for listening.

Dorothy Hulley

Chairman

Aren't children wonderful?

- In the first book of the bible (Guinness's) God got tired of creating the world, so he took the Sabbath off.
- Adam and Eve were created from an apple tree. Noah's wife was called Joan of Ark, which the animals came onto in pears.
- Lots wife was a pillar of salt by day, but a ball of fire by night.
- The Jews were a proud people and throughout history they had trouble with the unsympathetic Genitals.
- Samson slayed the Philistines with the axe of the apostles.
- Moses led the Hebrews to the Red Sea where they made unleavened bread, which is bread without any ingredients.
- The Egyptians were all drowned in the desert after which Moses went up to mount Cyanide to get the Ten Commandments.
- The first commandment was when Eve told Adam to eat the apple.
- The seventh commandment is thou shalt not admit adultery.
- The greatest miracle in the bible is when Joshua told his son to stand still and he obeyed him.
- David was a Hebrew king skilled at playing the liar. He fought with the Finklestines, a race of people who lived in Biblical times.

- Jesus was born because Mary had an immaculate contraption.
- St John the blacksmith dumped water on his head.
- Jesus enunciated the Golden Rule, which says to do one to others before they do one to you. He also explained, a man doth not live by sweat alone.
- The people who followed the lord were called the twelve decibels.
- The epistles were the wives of the apostles.
- One of the apostles was St Mathew who was also a taximan.
- St Paul cavorted to Christianity. He preached holy acrimony, which is another name for marriage.
- Christians have only one spouse. This is called monotony.

Thanks to Marjorie Dobson for passing on these wise words!

U3A Paphos Astronomy Group



A short course for Paphos members was run in 2007 and is planned to be repeated with variations in early 2008. Attendance was over 20 members for each of the 5 sessions.

The topics, presented by David Brown, covered: Constellations and their mythology, The Solar system, The Sun and other stars and The Moon. A final session presented by Brian Ray showed how to make a telescope from spectacle lenses.

After the session presentations observations were made, cloud permitting, using a modern computerised 'goto' telescope.

The picture shows the moon taken by a hand held digital camera placed at the telescope eyepiece.

PAPHOS QUILTING GROUP



The quilting group meets twice monthly and we have had a very interesting year. We have quilters in the group with various amounts of experience - but this year we have been particularly pleased to welcome some 'completely new to patchwork and quilting' members. It has been stimulating for the group and we have been taking it in turns each month to demonstrate a different technique or style of working. One member is now building up a wonderful sampler quilt of all the patterns we have been trying. Others are enjoying a new skill they have been waiting until retirement to have time for.

On the months when there are five Wednesdays we take the opportunity to have a whole day workshop on something more elaborate or time-consuming. Five Wednesdays last November gave us an opportunity to hire a coach and visit the new stitchcraft shop in Nicosia, raid the fabric and haberdashery shops and squeeze in some early Christmas shopping and an Italian lunch. The fifth Wednesday in May was more concerning - twelve people all making their way to Droushia to dye!! Not sure if Fay's garage floor ever recovered but we had a wonderful day learning dyeing techniques and coming up with some very colourful pieces of material and threads.

Probably the thing most enjoyed by members is the opportunity to see other people's work, share ideas, exchange fabrics, be encouraged to try new colour schemes and generally be inspired by each other.

The photo shows some of the group working on a quilt together.

Thanks to Jill Dare



PAPHOS PLAY READING GROUP

Our Group is an informal get together meeting 2 or 3 times each month to have fun reading Plays. At the beginning of each session we allocate parts as suits our different members and then the fun starts. This past year we have met 25 times on Thursday afternoons for about 2 hours either in Peyia or Kato Paphos and after the reading we have a lively discussion on the play.

During the year we welcomed 3 new members and lost 2 because of other commitments making the Group 11 members both men and women but we are always looking for more to join in so that we can tackle plays with more parts.

In the time we have read 13 plays including *The Rivals* – *Macbeth* – *The Importance of being Ernest*, *Hedda Gabler* and many others – a mixture of serious and light-hearted works and next year we plan to do several murder mysteries as well.

If you enjoy theatre and drama (no acting is involved) and have a sense of humour and do not take things too seriously why not come along and join us and have some fun.

Thanks to Andrew Dare and Alison Rennie

PAPERCRAFT AND CARD-MAKING GROUP (*Paphos*)

The Papercraft & Card-making group started up in September of this year and was an immediate success. We meet every Monday afternoon at the Latin Parish Hall, Tomb of the Kings Road, from 2 – 4 pm. Each session begins with a paper technique demonstration. This is followed by members using the technique demonstrated to complete a greetings card.

The group is proving to be very popular and we have approximately 20 members. In the short time we have been running the group we have also signed up 6 new members to the U3A.

Tea and coffee is provided but it is often difficult to get people to take a break as they are having so much fun crafting!!!

If anyone would like to join this group please contact Wynn Walton 26817300 or email: janjo82@hotmail.com



RIDDLE ME THIS

Eighty percent of Kindergarteners solved this riddle But only 5% of Stanford graduates figured it out!

Can you answer the following question in one word?

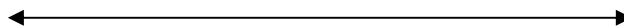
1. The word has seven letters.
2. Preceded God.
3. Greater than God.
4. More Evil than the devil.
5. All poor people have it.
6. Wealthy people need it.
7. If you eat it, you will die.

Did you figure it out?

Try hard before looking at the answer!
Did you get it yet? Give up? Brace yourself for the answer.
The Answer is:

NOTHING!
NOTHING has 7 letters,
NOTHING preceded God,
NOTHING is greater than God,
NOTHING is more Evil than the devil,
All poor people have NOTHING,
Wealthy people need NOTHING, and
If you eat NOTHING, you will die.

Thanks to Steve Frith for this



Philosophy/Discussion Group – Paphos

Philosophy examines beliefs that most of us take for granted most of the time. It is concerned with questions about what could loosely be called ‘the meaning of life’: questions about religion, right and wrong, politics, the mind, science, etc. Most people live their lives without questioning their fundamental beliefs, but philosophy challenges assumptions and the very concepts that we take for granted. Philosophy not only helps us to think clearly about our prejudices, but also helps to clarify precisely what we do believe.

Philosophy is, therefore, about learning to see things differently. This can be uncomfortable at first, but is always rewarding.

Our group has now been running for just over a year. We meet on the 4th Wednesday of the month at 2.30, more often than not at a member’s home. Our topics have been as diverse as:

- Can capital punishment be justified?
- Abstract art – art for art’s sake?
- Is there such a thing as a natural right?
- What is truth?
- Can altruism be selfish?

Our group meetings have varied in size between 7 and 14 members, but the discussions are always lively. If you are interested in joining us, contact:

Vivienne Rathband

jovi@rathband.co.uk

Tel: 26622524

EDITOR’S COMMENT:

Unfortunately there was little news or information from Limassol and Larnaca branches for inclusion in this issue. There will be a meeting early in the New Year to discuss the future format of ‘Spotlight’. If any members wish to contact me with suggestions or comments (constructive ones, please!) they can do so at: carrie@spidernet.com.cy I look forward to hearing from you.