

GROW BOLD

LEARN, LAUGH AND LIVE

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C3A Magazine

Summer 2022

Message from the Chair



Dear Fellow Members,

I hope you are all keeping well and enjoying the better weather and the removal of most restrictions. Covid really has changed the way we react. Whenever I have to enter a building, I automatically reach for my mask before realising it's not required anymore!

All C3A Groups are up and running and you have been receiving the monthly Activities List, which gives more details of meetings. Tim Gilbert, who took on the role of Groups Coordinator last November, resigned in mid-May and Pat Howarth, who runs the Archaeology Group, kindly offered to stand in until the AGM in November. You have already received the June list from her so there was no interruption in the monthly update.

This leads me to ask you to think about joining the Committee so we can run more effectively. I have mentioned before that we need a Social Secretary to help organise outings and Open Meetings and now we also need a Groups Coordinator. If you feel you might like to give it a go, you are welcome to join us at our Committee meetings until the AGM to see how we work before making your final decision. Our next meeting is scheduled for 12th July at the Third Age Observatory in Limassol.

The Cyprus law relating to Associations has been amended and we were notified earlier in the year that we needed to make certain changes to the Constitution, to register with the Tax Office even though we are a non-profit organisation and to provide certain documents as well as Minutes of AGMs in Greek. This has been very time consuming, but we are nearly complete, at least for last year!

I must thank two members who have put in a great deal of effort here: Dan Tsirikos, our previous Chairman, and Nigel Howarth, who acted as Secretary for many years and was instrumental with Dan in writing our original Constitution. Dan has translated the AGM Minutes for 2020 and 2021 and he is now helping with the Greek updates to the Constitution. Nigel has undertaken most of the other matters and the Committee members have provided him with the personal documents required. Hopefully, now we know what is required and, if everything is approved, we'll know what to do after the next AGM in November.

There is an Open Meeting coming up on 16th June which I hope many of you will attend. As you know, due to Covid restrictions and other unforeseen events, it has been impossible to hold any Open Meetings this year. Let's hope things will improve in the future. Don't forget a Social Secretary would help!

Have a good summer whether you are staying in Cyprus or going abroad to see family and friends or just having a break.

Best wishes,

Cleo Kyriakidou

Lockdown loneliness



At least two of my many friends are on the verge of agoraphobia.

Has this been brought about by two years of near isolation because of the pandemic or is it a latent condition lurking in many of us?

I find myself over breakfast contemplating the day and saying 'Oh I can't really be bothered to go to C3A today: the drive to the meeting, the chit-chat, the people I know but haven't contacted for a while and feeling slightly guilty about, the effort of making a contribution to the discussion, the fear of saying nothing or something inappropriate, being ignored or appearing boring. All these thoughts flash through my mind between mouthfuls of cornflakes and muesli.

What if, in compensation, I say too much and people look at me with glazed eyes and 'BORING' written across their foreheads? The fault, perhaps, lies with many of us who live alone and lack the daily contact of another human being.

Dear old so-and-so who keeps prattling on, unaware that people have 'switched off' minutes ago, and the point I, the unwilling listener, wanted to make has now become irrelevant. A wavering self-confidence and mild irritation sets in.

Can I face it?

Yes I must. And that is the crucial conclusion.

Lockdown loneliness

If there's one thing that lockdown has taught us, it is the importance of human contact.

WhatsApp, zoom, skype and those ubiquitous social media that the younger generation seem to thrive on, are all very well, but they do not satisfy the need in the gregarious human species of actual contact; being in the presence of another human being, sharing a table, an exchange of glances and most importantly reading a facial expression which has been hidden behind those dreadful facemasks.

As a friend once said to me 'the eyes and teeth have it' and when one or either is hidden, the message loses more than half its impact. Body language is so important and subconsciously we miss it severely when it is denied us.

The importance of actual physical contact has never been more emphatic as a need when it has been forbidden for nearly two years. Just a hand clasp, a touch on the shoulder or forearm, a greetings kiss; all are essential for our mental well-being that are causing so much apparent unhappiness and discontent.



With the lifting of restrictions let us all 'gird up our loins' and get out there and mix again. I, for one, intend to risk boring my poor long-suffering friends rigid with endless therapeutic banter and chat.

See you at the next gathering.

John Palmer

Breakfast group



As I commit pen to paper for this article, (actually, fingers to computer keys), I read a part of a poem by Alfred Lord Tennyson [1809-1892].

"Break, break, break on thy cold grey stones, O Sea !

"And I would that my tongue could utter the thoughts that arise in me."

It's hot actually, and the stones may not be grey, but I stumble to write. I have found another breakfast rhyme, and it goes like this - by former Poet Laureate Mark Strand :

"...With a feeling of being summoned

"Urgently, but by a most gracious invitation

"To breakfast on slices of watermelon

"In the company of naked gods and goddesses..."

The invitation I hope, is gracious, and not so urgent as to alarm. It has been exciting to sit with as many as 25 Breakfasters who don't mind the early morning call for 9 o'clock. This poem may not entirely echo our experiences at the Miramare Hotel on a last Thursday morning of the month, but we have breakfasted on more than watermelon - an amazing variety of cold and hot cooked goodies, with coffee, tea, chocolate, water and juice offered to us by the Hotel. We have also passed interesting Hotel wall hangings, and statues of Gods and Goddesses, some naked!

Breakfast group

"You pays your money and you takes your chance", and €8 was the discounted price the Hotel charged over the past few years for the buffet breakfast, both pre-Covid, and while the hotel was open during Covid, thanks to David Wright.

However, inflation has kicked in and prices have risen, so the discounted breakfast price [from June 2022] is now a whopping €12 per person, sorry to relay.



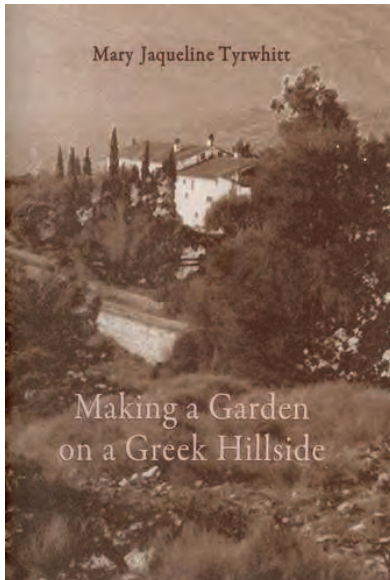
Since breakfast is my favourite main meal, I accept the increased price, and feel that the array of buffet food is so good that I will continue to use the Hotel Miramare by the sea for this group. The invitation will continue to be sent out, and already for this month I have a good number of C3A members and their friends and visitors joining me. Wonderful!

I thank you all for contributing your valuable company, and books for the book swap too, at our Thursday monthly Breakfasts. Hopefully they will run monthly across the summer and into the autumn of 2022. We never close!!

Lilian Hayball-Clarke

Gardening book reviews

After having submitted a Book Review to the March issue of *Grow Bold* I decided to take a look at the other garden-related books that I possess. I then realized that I had a special relationship with some of them. Like the ones below.



Making a Garden on a Greek Hillside
By Jaqueline Tyrwhitt
ISBN 960-7120-14-0

Making a Garden on a Greek Hillside

Basically, this is the story of how the author created what was to eventually become the Mediterranean Garden Society (MGS) garden, Sparoza.

It was started entirely from scratch on a barren hillside and is the epitome of a Mediterranean climate, water-wise garden. The hillside was almost solid rock and in order to obtain planting holes, for the trees she wished to clothe it in, she had to resort to the use of dynamite. Friends and associates remember her saying that if a plant would grow at Sparoza it would grow anywhere.

Unfortunately, I never met the lady but have been fortunate over the years to have heard about her from mutual friends, and to have visited the garden on numerous occasions over the years. In what were to be the last two years of her life she began writing this book. She was working on the final stages on the night that she, sadly, died suddenly. It was eventually published many years later by members of the MGS.

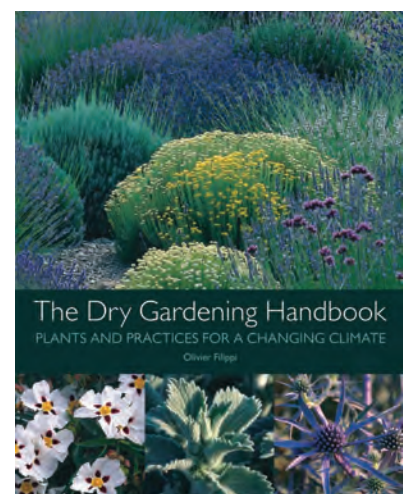
Following an Introduction by the author the main chapters are set out on a monthly basis recording Events; Jobs; Fauna; Climate; Flora (both Native and Introduced).

An excellent example of how one dedicated gardener overcame the extreme problems associated with working under Mediterranean-climate conditions.

The Dry Gardening Handbook

I have met Olivier at MGS meetings on a couple of occasions. He owns a nursery in the south of France, near Montpellier, and has spent years travelling the world researching plants in their natural habitat, especially those from dry regions.

The book is presented in 3 parts. Firstly, the focus is on the behaviour of plants in their natural habitat. Secondly, gardening techniques are discussed, soil preparation, planting times and maintenance of drought-tolerant plants, etc. The third section covers a wide range of drought resistant plants.

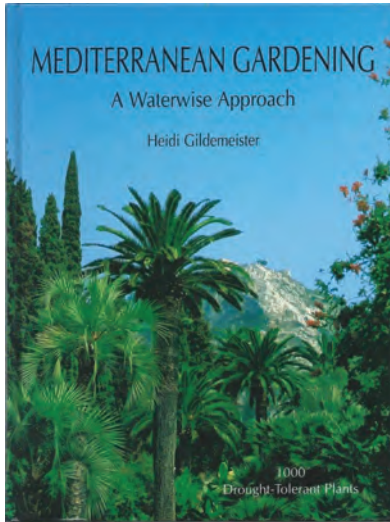


The Dry Gardening Handbook
By Olivier Filippi
ISBN 978-0-500-51407-8

Gardening book reviews

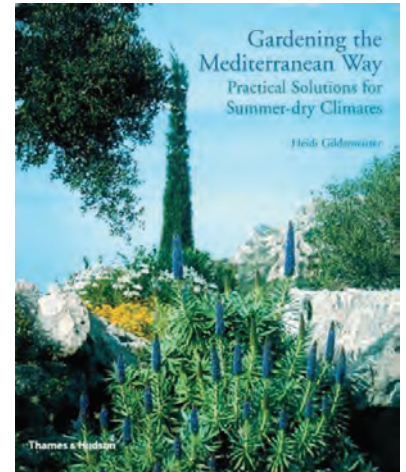
Mediterranean Gardening (A Waterwise Approach)

Gardening the Mediterranean Way (Practical Solutions for Summer Dry Climates)



Mediterranean Gardening
(A Waterwise Approach)
By Heidi Gildermeister
ISBN 84-273-0749-7

Heidi Gildermeister is a former President of the Mediterranean Gardening Society (MGS) and I have come into contact with her a few times at MGS meetings. I have also been lucky enough to visit her garden, Finca d'Ariant, on Mallorca on two separate occasions. The first time I was fortunate in being shown around by Heidi herself. The second time was after she was widowed and her deteriorating health restricted her ability to continue to work in the garden.



Gardening the Mediterranean Way
(Practical Solutions for Summer Dry Climates)
By Heidi Gildermeister
ISBN 0-500-511837

She had signed over the entire estate, hidden away as it is in the Tramontana mountains, to the Mallorcan Foundation for the Preservation of the European Black Vulture. These are Europe's largest bird and the estate houses one of their few remaining breeding grounds. I was pleased to see that the Foundation was maintaining the garden in a manner that complimented Heidi's vision for it.



Heidi and her husband had purchased the property over 50 years before, after escaping from the political purges in his native Argentina. Her gardening experience to that point had been cantered on the tropics, so she had to learn from scratch how things were done in a Mediterranean climate. Over several years she increased her knowledge, using the age-old method of trial and error, and kept detailed records of the results. Eventually she felt able to put down her findings and produce her first book in order to pass them on to others in the same situation.

Her second book followed 9 years later.

Two very worthwhile books written by a dedicated and diligent exponent of drought-tolerant gardening.

Gardening book reviews

Bulbs of the Eastern Mediterranean

Bulbs of the Eastern Mediterranean



Bulbs of the Eastern Mediterranean
By Oron Peri
ISBN 978-0-90004-897-5

To describe the last subject as a gardening book would be stretching things a little. It is dedicated to a particular range of plants, some of which can be found in gardens, while others are more commonly confined to the wild.

Oron is Israeli, and a very enthusiastic horticulturist, garden designer and plantsman, with a wide knowledge of his chosen subject. He also owns a nursery called 'Seeds of Peace'. He is a fellow member of the MGS and I have known him for many years. He was the leader and guide of our ill-fated MGS Excursion to Jordan in 2019 which we were forced to abandon and exit the country at short notice.

The book is the result of 10 years work studying, cataloguing and researching the bulbs (including corms, rhizomes and tubers) of the Eastern Mediterranean. An absolute must for anyone interested in identifying some of those beautiful plants that we often encounter in the wild.

I have a particular affinity with this book as I was able to provide one of the photos that was included in it, that of *Arum sintenisii*.

John Joynes

British High Commissioner appointed



Our British members may be interested to hear that the Foreign Office in London has announced the appointment of Irfan Siddiq OBE as the new British High Commissioner to the Republic of Cyprus.

He is succeeding Stephen Lillie CMG who will be transferring to another Diplomatic Service appointment.

Siddiq will take up his appointment during August.

Australia! by Thomas Moon

(Thomas Moon joined the latest holiday package cruise craze to Australia, courtesy of the London Magistrates Court)



The normal package consists of a sea trip of some months, with accommodation and full board up to seven years when you finally arrive in Australia. The tour has become very popular in recent times, and space on an outward bound ship was not immediately available to me. The promoters thoughtfully provided me with temporary quarters in an old warship that had long since passed its sell by date.

There were quite a few travellers waiting for a suitable vessel to become available, and conditions became rather crowded in the hulk. However, this did enable me to get acquainted with my fellow tourists, which was most interesting. It was surprising to discover the different fares that had been paid by people. The most common fare was the stealing of items of clothing with values of two shillings up to one pound. Sheep stealing was the next most common, with highway robbery a close third. One fellow stole his master's shirt after drinking with him at the local pub. One chap committed rape to get to Australia, and receiving stolen goods was the fare for quite a number of the travellers.

Eventually a ship, The Pitt, berthed in Portsmouth. She was built in 1780 on the Thames with a weight of 775 tons. Her master was Edward Manning he was scheduled to take 410 of us tourists to Australia.

Australia! by Thomas Moon

The transport to Portsmouth to join the Pitt was very crowded due to the popularity of the tour. However, the stay in the temporary accommodation did allow us to get to know our fellow passengers, which was a bonus as conditions on board the Pitt would be very cramped.



Our circumstances did improve when we sailed as many tourists could not contain their excitement, and passed away, to be buried unceremoniously at sea. During the course of the cruise twenty male and nine female guests died which gave those left a little more space. Also helping the accommodation was the escape of nine men and five women. A number of passengers disembarked before we reached New South Wales. A total of 368 made it to Australia.

The trip was not without incident apart from the deaths and the unofficial absenteeism. There was the scurvy, dysentery and typhoid to cope with. And the crowded conditions did make it imperative that strict discipline be maintained. The ship's crew did all they could to liven up the long trip by organising flogging, handcuffing, chaining and other entertaining indignities.

Australia! by Thomas Moon



The expectations of the survivors upon reaching Botany Bay were unbounded, and we just couldn't wait to get ashore. The Tour Guides, too, were anxious that we should get settled in as soon as possible, and hurried us along with the occasional lash across our backs with the whips that were part of their uniform. But it wasn't allowed to get too bad as the ship's master gets a bonus for each passenger landed safe and sound.

The trip itself was very interesting as the ship called in at Gibraltar, the West Indies, the Cape of Good Hope and several penal colonies in Australia before reaching New South Wales where I was heading. This seemed the best option as convicts

can no longer be sent to America after the Independence of the American Colonies in 1776.

When we were handed over to the Governor he made sure that our board and lodging were provided. This lead to a rather Spartan situation although almost everything you needed was there. The climate in Australia is a little hot for labouring work, and a few tourists took excursions outside the colony by 'doing a runner'. They had an exciting life by all accounts, living off the land and avoiding the police. They go by the colourful title of Bushrangers.

The cost of the Tour is minimal (a stolen chicken, say, or half a dozen eggs, items of clothing or fabric worth a few shillings) as the plan is that the tourists help to build a new colony in the long term. Alternatively get yourself informed upon to your local courts. The easiest way though is to go out at night with a blackened face. It will be assumed that you are a burglar and you will be transported free of charge.

As the duration of the package is somewhat longer than normal (a minimum of seven years) future travel articles will be written by Edward Kenward, a chicken farmer, who has already arranged for many people to take the Australian package.

Thomas Moon travelled courtesy of the Convicts to Australia Scheme, and you can apply online at www.magistratescourts/london.uk

For more information about the Australian Package logon to www.convicts.australia.com.au. For details of other packages to other colonies, visit the website at www.convicts.newworlds.com.uk

[Ed.] It is hoped that Thomas Moon will write and update article on his return to London when he is released in seven years time.

Geoffrey Wallington

Geocaching what is it?

Join the world's largest treasure hunting community!



Geocaching is a real-world, outdoor adventure that is happening all the time, all around the world. To play, participants use the Geocaching app and/or a GPS device to navigate to cleverly hidden containers called geocaches. There are millions of geocaches in 190 countries waiting to be discovered—there are probably even some near you right now.

Geocaching started in early 2000. When the website launched, only 75 geocaches had been hidden. Today, there are over 3 million geocaches and millions of active geocachers playing the game. Geocaches come in all different shapes, sizes, and difficulties and are hidden in both rural and urban settings.



tool and an excuse to get off the couch.

Geocaching offers something for everyone, from families with children to retirees. Some geocachers play the game to see how many total “finds” they can get, while others play to see how many new states or countries they can visit. Geocaching is a great way to find remarkable destinations that you would not have otherwise discovered. It is also an excellent education

Geocaching what is it?

Go play. To get started, create a free basic account and use [Geocaching.com](https://www.geocaching.com) or the free [Geocaching® app](#) to search for geocaches near your location. Whether you are off to find your first geocache or your ten-thousandth, the [Geocaching® app](#) is your ultimate geocaching toolbox.

Once you find a geocache, open it up and sign the logbook. You may discover some trade or swag items (small toys, keychains, trinkets) inside the geocache. The general rule of thumb is if you take something, leave something of equal or greater value. Then, place the container back exactly how you found it and share your experience online with the rest of the geocaching community.

Connect. You can learn more about geocaching through the [Geocaching Blog](#), The [Geocaching Channel on YouTube](#), or the [Geocaching Help Centre](#). Educators can share ideas and lesson plans in the [Geocaching.com Forum](#) section for education. You can also connect with the geocaching community on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), [Google+](#), and [Pinterest](#).

Happy hunting!

Sandra and I have been geocaching for about 3 years now and it takes us all over the Island to places you wouldn't normally visit.

The local geocachers have a monthly meet at various locations around the Island. There is also a local Facebook page (Geocaching Cyprus).

There are two types of membership for anyone interested I would suggest you sign up for the basic membership and give it a go to see how you get on which is free. This does not give you access to all geocaches.

If you find you are enjoying the hobby and want to take it further you can pay for premium membership which costs €29.99 per year, but does give you access to a lot of different caches and comps which are run throughout the year if you are interested and need to know more please contact us.

Brian and Sandra Wilkes (epibrisan2)



Paphos Classic Vehicle Club Car Show



Since Paul Costerton entered his fabulous Ariel Atom, and I my snazzy Snapper Rocks BMW 218i series, I wondered if there were any more 'petrol heads' amongst you?

The Paphos Classic Vehicle Club (PCVC) Car Show, led by its Chairman Steve Wilkinson, was held all day on Sunday 22 May. I hear you say, *"But the Ariel Atom and that BMW are not classic cars. A classic car has to be at least 25 or even 30 years old."* That's right, but the PCVC Committee, in their wisdom, allowed us to enter, alongside eight other non-classic cars and motorbikes.



Dimis Mavropoulos, the well-known Rally driver of old, and Ashley, brought cars from Dimis' Cyprus Motor Museum, and the marvellous sparkling, red double decker London bus too. There were over 100 classic cars, and motorbikes, on display in Paphos Harbour for the day, driven, or brought on flatbed truck by their owners.

Sunday, if you remember, was a blustery cloudy day with a promise of rain. The rain kept off, but we struggled to hold down the flimsy

poled and canvassed committee and judge area by the fort on one side. Three long, poled canvases sheltered music DJ Lee, the PCVC Chairmen Steve W., and announcer Jennifer and John. Also the award cups, Morag and Geraldine's carefully calligraphy-written certificates, Annabel's book



Paphos Classic Vehicle Club Car Show

table, Leona's tombola table, Patrick's car magazine table and Debra's visitors' refreshments.

The wind blew a massive gale sideways through the tents. Pete Jarvis, amongst others, came to the rescue while us many marshalls held down the poles against the rising wind. They strapped everything down. One of the roof canvases had to be taken off, but the car show went on. Pete's magnificent 1955 Rolls Royce Silver Wraith stood across, protected throughout by its own canvas awning and tent.

We had crowds of visitors. It was super to see so many people. The last time was in 2019 when I first went down to Paphos from Limassol to visit the very same PCVC Classic Car Show, with Julian and Farzaneh Kirkup on Dimis' double decker bus.



PCVC down in Paphos have been operating as a club for quite some years, and have a large number of members, with classic and non-classic cars. These I adore, and I and my late husband Mike have driven many different Classic cars in the past, some displayed in Dimis' Cyprus Car Museum in Limassol. Over the whole of Cyprus, there are at least five classic car clubs that have been in existence for years too, with all-nationality members, run by classic car owners on an international basis - LIKOK, FIVA as examples.



The Cyprus Government controls the import and entry of all cars, including classic cars and their parts. PCVC is involved too, and Steve W. and all the others work to keep all classic cars on the road, despite their age, emissions, and non-electric manufacture!

We love our classic cars and the Cyprus population is known to love and own more classic cars on this island than are found in the rest of Europe, and possibly, the world! PCVC forever !!

By the afternoon, the judges had checked and questioned the owners of all the classic car entries. Valuable sponsors were thanked, and winners' certificates and cups were awarded to loud applause.

You are most welcome to join, or visit. PCVC, the Paphos Classic Vehicle Club, has an ongoing monthly series of events which include classic cars whenever possible, and various Cyprus club car rallies are entered almost every month. The Rallies have challenges, lunch and drinks included, and they take you into interesting and unknown parts of Cyprus, on our 365-odd days of sunshine a year.

Paphos Classic Vehicle Club Car Show

Are there enough of you for us to start a C3A Petrol Heads car group here in Limassol? To visit the Cyprus Car Museum in Limassol, down by the Mall, join rallies, to join Paphos PCVC, and other club events? Any drivers, navigators, quiz experts; anyone out there looking for a car?

Lilian Hayball-Clarke

C3A Petrol Heads Group

Lilian is planning to hold the inaugural meeting of a C3A Petrol Heads Group at the [Cyprus Motor Museum](#), Limassol [near the Mall], on Thursday 30 June 2022, at 11 am of semi-retired and retired folk interested in cars.... future dates and events to be arranged.

If you are interested in attending, [please contact Lilian via the C3A website](#).

A day at the beach



The weather is fabulous almost too hot for a day on the beach but with somewhat trepidation I went. It is not usual for me to take a day to sit and relax especially at the beach.

For me the most relaxing time is the late evening when I go with a friend about 20.00hrs: maybe a bottle of beer or wine and sit listening to the gentle waves, feel the loss of heat from the sand and when the air seems less intense. The beach is quiet, apart from natural sounds. We even almost whisper not to disturb the night. There are moments of silence as well as our conversations. It is idyllic!

Now today. I observe! Relax? no not in the true sense of its intention.

It was 10.00hrs when I choose my spot to recline. Far end of the massed row of lounges away from the hub bub of the centre or at the front area. Or so I thought! Within 15 minutes a family arrived, 2 husbands laden down with all that Jumbo had to offer to amuse two 2 year old, a very anxious 4 year old and 3 high pitched shouting mothers. 30 minutes later an area the size of a "small foot-ball pitch" was secured. Tables, chairs, food and all the child accessories laid out in order surrounding the 4 hired chairs and umbrellas.

I tried very hard not to judge this performance bringing my patience to the fore and trying to accept everyone uses their 'relaxation time differently. I did not have young children so recalled how it was for me when my children were young.

Enough I said to myself as the opportunity to relax was gone. I moved further back. A good idea at the time as within an hour the beach was steaming with people. Friends meeting each other, families, young girls and boys gathering in groups, children screaming with the joy of the sea.

It was at this point I truly started to observe. Sleep was a distance effort, reading was distracted, the shade of the umbrella a necessity and my realization that a Sunday at the

A day at the beach

beach was not the environment to think of a relaxing day. It is about 11.30hrs now. Do I stay or go became the question but I was becoming fascinated how people herd together with the same intentions, how they can lie close to a complete stranger, over hear the life stories of those same strangers, share their space once, never again to be seen.

My next encounter was a group of family members who had gathered together either because it was what you do on a sunny summer Sunday or they had a celebration they wanted to share. And share they did with everyone within reach. First out came the tables, the extra seats around the 4 hired seats, again all the items that amuse children on the beach, then the food and the beers. Last, but not least the music which of course we all needed to hear. The men were obviously in charge as food and beers were handed around to them first as they stood legs apart model like flexing trained muscles systematically from their heads to their legs. They were not going to sit. They were here to be admired! Critical, negative I may sound but recall I am observing. This was party time and party they did on this beach full of other people maybe wanting to rest!!!

My attention drew in so many other sights. There was slathering and lathering of sun protection lotions; touching and stroking of bodies; Children screaming in delight and demanding attention; food parcels of snacks and sandwiches; beers, wine and soft drinks; coffee being drunk by every-one; The cacophony of noise was unbelievable, increased by the café deciding their Spotify list must be heard as well so it resounded around the area challenging other music. Then there is the tic-tac of soft ball on wooden bat; the overwhelming noise of power engines emanating from the distant water; Speed being the optimum aim.

Now my eyes are drawn to specific people. Beautiful bodies of the young who wear less and less to acquire the a tan and if hormones are high attracting Mr Perfect. Good for them I say! Make the most of this time but please can you put down your mobiles and have a conversation? This observation is not only mine it is becoming a serious issue for many. In fact one mother sat the whole time never moving from her seat or speaking to her 3 children whilst in her right hand was the mobile. Her partner behaved in the same way. This was not an unusual sight as I cast my eyes around and hoped that there were stories on those mobiles.

Later I went for a swim and looked back at the beach. A different perspective. Then it came to me that all around the world where the sun shines regularly or there is a sudden burst of high temperatures people flock to the coast, want to bathe in sea water, play in sand, throw pebbles across the water and picnic. Maybe not everywhere is the local music shared but it is thought that everyone needs to be entertained by music on almost every beach where there are beds and umbrellas for hire.

Eventually I left the beach to those people who are happy and relaxed by their day at the beach.

Pamela Calver

Gardening Group

All Group Leaders will appreciate the fact that it takes a lot of time and effort to plan and prepare for Group Meetings. The Gardening Group Meeting for March was no exception to the rule. Initial contact with the staff of the Atsas Training Centre, close to the village of Skouriotissa, was made in late February.



The customary recce visit to view the site and assess its potential as a suitable venue was made in early March.

The Training centre is based in a building that once housed the school for children of the workers from the nearby copper mine. This mine, now greatly reduced in capacity, dates back many hundreds of years, having been worked by the Romans and Phoenicians, among others. The school building was renovated and became the venue for hosting a variety of Seminars/Lectures (both business and public) and Educational Programmes for Families with Children. A very large area of the immediate surrounds was also designated to become a garden, for use as an outdoor meeting venue and teaching aid. This is currently in various stages of establishment.

Sadly the ongoing pandemic situation has seriously curtailed activities and the Centre has been unable to host events for the last 2 years.

On the recce visit we were fortunate in meeting the horticulturist overseeing the project, George Kassias, a mainland Greek, and Costas, the local Head Gardener. In consultation with these two individuals the visit was scheduled for Thursday 24th March, in expectation that towards the end of the month the erratic weather, that had bedevilled the early days, would have abated and improved.

Gardening Group

Unfortunately this did not turn out to be the case, and the forecast for the area painted a grim picture. Nonetheless it was decided to brave the predicted elements and attempt the journey. As it transpired the day turned out to be bright and sunny, the only snow seen on the approach being small drifts by the roadside between Amiandos and Platania.

Our time at the Centre was spent in full sun without even the cold wind that has been so prevalent this month.



The story was a little different on the way back as it began to rain on our departure. A number of members stopped off at the Chrysanthi Restaurant in Kakopetria for lunch, and on leaving found the rain had turned to snow. Thus the road from there through Platania towards Amiandos became a little slushy but nothing more. As we descended it changed back to rain, and by the time we approached Limassol the sun was out once more.

As for the garden itself, we were disappointed to discover that George was stuck in Greece and Costas had been called away to Nicosia, so we were left to ourselves to explore. Many of the plants were adequately labeled and it was a pleasure to roam around and enjoy them in the company of like-minded companions. Something we have been unable to do for too long.

A return trip in a few weeks time in order to see the plants in flower may prove to be a worthwhile venture to contemplate.

An Extraordinary 90th



I recently attended my good friend's memorable and extraordinary 90th birthday party in Maroni.

Memorable because not only is it momentous to achieve entry into one's tenth decade - I'm still a couple of years off (fingers crossed) - but to do it in style, distinction and still in charge of one's marbles, is worthy of especial note.

Extraordinary because this birthday party arranged by his grand-daughter and friends was something hugely different and enjoyable.

His house is modest looking from the outside narrow village street, but inside it is a cornucopia of memorabilia; items collected from a long, active and full life. To cap it all, he has his own amphitheatre in his back garden which was a perfect setting to this unforgettable occasion and provided the stage for the evening's entertainment.

Somehow his grand daughter and friends managed to keep the surprise secret with mega deception until the very last moment when the nonagenarian himself was brought in from a diverting snack at a local taverna. His astonishment was markedly evident upon his return when upon entering his own garden he was greeted by three eminent musicians and us all singing 'Happy Birthday'.

An Extraordinary 90th

The three musicians comprised an excellent violinist of Symphony Orchestra standard and quality, an international concert pianist well known throughout the island and a lovely soprano singer who had modelled herself on the great Anna Netrebko. They provided an unforgettable interlude of topmost quality and handled the diversion of a sudden breeze blowing the sheet music away with professional aplomb. Congratulations to the organisers in acquiring the services of such a superlative trio.

The evening continued with a copious finger buffet and the popping of Prosecco corks until we all departed with the happiest of memories of a unique 90th birthday party.

I'm waiting and hoping for John's 100th!

John Palmer

Recipe

Easy coronation chicken

Coronation chicken or Poulet Reine Elizabeth is a combination of cold cooked chicken meat, herbs and spices, and a creamy mayonnaise-based sauce. It can be eaten as a salad or used to fill sandwiches.

Ingredients

6 tbsp mayonnaise
2-3 tsp mild curry powder, to taste
½ tsp ground cinnamon
2 tbsp mango chutney
1-3 tbsp sultanas, or to taste
500g shredded cooked chicken

Method

1. Mix the mayo, curry powder, cinnamon, chutney and sultanas together and season with black pepper.
2. Add the shredded chicken and stir to coat in the sauce. Stir in 2 tbsp water to loosen if needed, then season and serve as desired.

Et voilà!



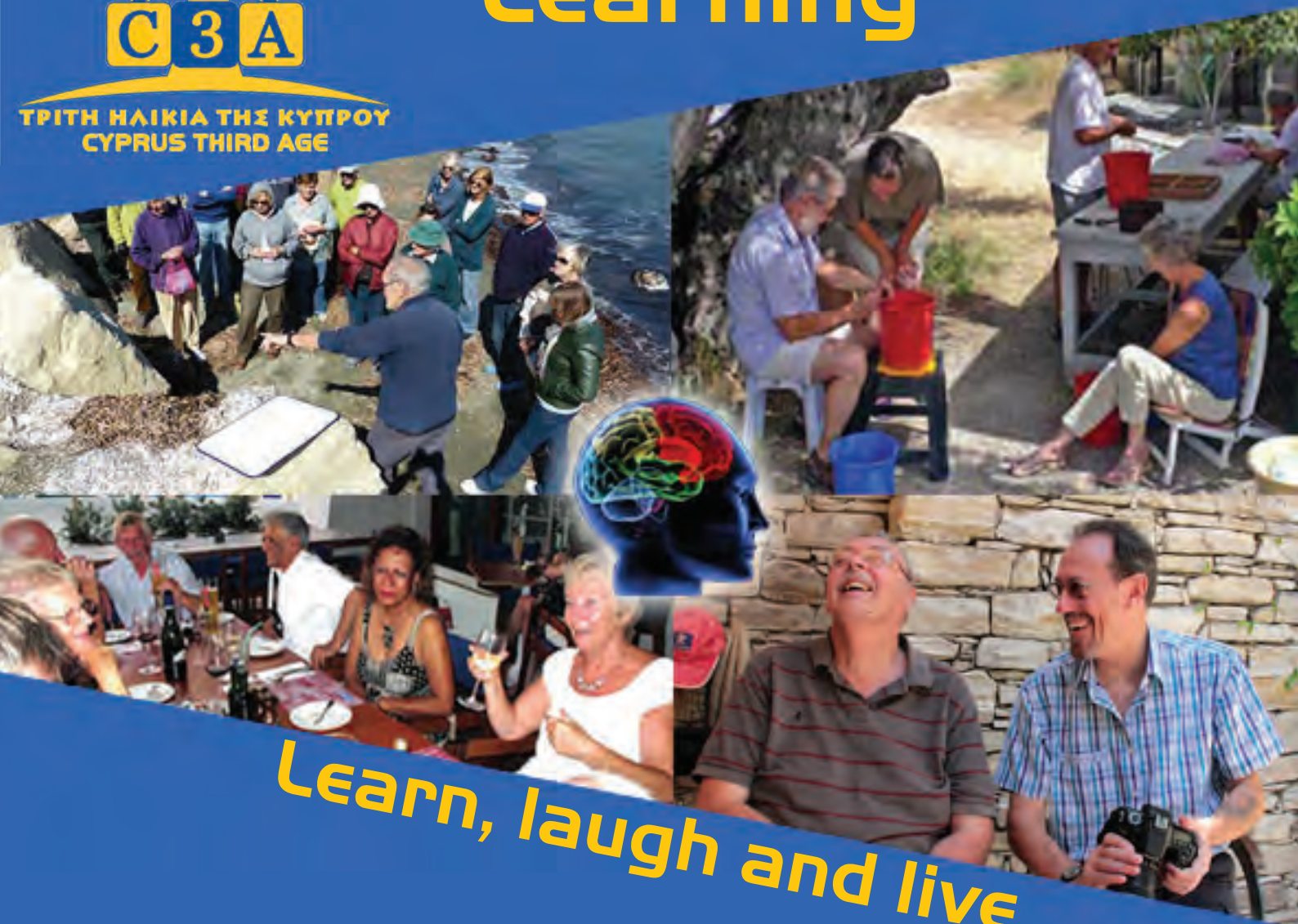
Small ads

For Sale: Noritake china dinner set, tea set, coffee set, cruet and butter dish. [Please contact Barbara Baikie via the C3A website.](#)



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