



CYPRUS

# Spotlight

**ON THE U3A IN CYPRUS**

**Issue No. 11**

**December 2008**

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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.**

**A**nother successful year for **U3A Cyprus** concluded with the Annual General Meeting, held this year at Governor's Beach near Limassol. Over a hundred members and guests attended with a number of the guests signing on the dotted line and becoming Members on the day. There were representatives from all the branches, including the newly-formed Famagusta Branch, to whom a warm welcome is extended.

Several groups from the various branches were there demonstrating their interests and skills, together with tables where anyone interested could learn/enjoy games of Go or Mexican Train. Everyone seemed to have an interesting and entertaining morning before getting down to the serious business of the AGM (report inside) and the even more serious business of lunch.

I'm sure everyone who was there will join me in thanking all those who worked so hard to arrange the event. The location was delightful, the food excellent and even the weather smiled on us despite threats (promises?) of showers. The meeting itself was dealt with briskly and threw up no nasty surprises, though we are still awaiting our registration as Cyprus Third Age. Siga, siga as the locals say! All in all it was a most successful and enjoyable day—and I even got some of the members there to send me articles for Spotlight!

Carole Manuel

*Editor*



Visit the U3A Cyprus website at :

[www.U3Acyprus.org](http://www.U3Acyprus.org)

## Report on the Sixth Annual General Meeting of U3A Cyprus— 13th November 2008

This year's AGM was held at the Thalassa Conference Centre, Governors Beach, a venue which gave us ample space for the activities and demonstrations arranged by the various branches and also for each branch to have a table where new members could find out more about their local area U3A. The Conference Room was used for a talk and presentation entitled *Astronomy—a Taste of the Heavens* which attracted a lots of members as did the activities set out in the reception area and coffee shop. These included Geology, Mosaics, Archaeology, Genealogy, Gardening in Cyprus, Go and Mexican Train, all well organised and extremely interesting.

The AGM began promptly at 11.30 and proceeded apace. After receiving apologies for absence from the President, Janet Bureau, absent in UK and other members unable to be there, the minutes of last year's meeting were passed as a true record after which our Chairman, Dorothy Hulley, gave her report which is reproduced in full on page 3.

The Honorary Treasurer, Iris England, presented the Audited Accounts for the year to October 2008. It was drawn to the attention of members that the expected costs to be incurred in the Registration of Cyprus 3rd Age had not, in fact, materialised but would still have to be budgeted for in the coming year. With this in mind, plus the requirement to assist financially in the formation of new branches, it has been decided to maintain the Capitation Fee at a level of €5 for the immediate future.

A payment of £50 Stg has been made to retain our affiliation with the Third Age Trust, which allows members access to their Website and to the various opportunities it provides.

Following acceptance of the Audited Accounts we moved on to the election of Officers and Committee Members. As the current incumbents were all prepared to stand for re-election, with no opposition, they were duly voted in for a further year, together with a new Committee Member, Dino Sourmelis, who was voted in unanimously.

The Chairman then gave a brief summary of the current status of our application for registration as C3A, further details of which are contained in her report.



There being no further business, the meeting closed at noon and everyone took the opportunity to wander round the hotel grounds, have a chat with friends and settle at their chosen tables in preparation for an excellent lunch.

CM

## **Chairman's report, sixth Annual General Meeting Cyprus U3A 13<sup>th</sup> November 2008**

Another year has passed and we are once again attending the Annual AGM. Where does the time go? It has been a quieter and less fraught year compared to the year I was reporting at the last AGM. This year we have been and disappointingly still are, an organisation in waiting. The wheels move exceedingly slowly in the Cyprus Corridors of Power, and our registration has as yet not been forthcoming. I have been in touch very recently with our lawyer, and in fact invited her to the meeting today which unfortunately due to her commitments she was unable to accept. However she has written a letter for me to read to you which I received only this week.

*Quote. "Further to our telephone conversation I confirm that I received a letter from the Legal Department at the Ministry of Interior dated 4/11/08 which requests various minor amendments to the Articles. (This is the usual procedure and what we were expecting) I attach their requirements and would be grateful if you could obtain approval for me to make these changes and send to the Ministry. There were a couple of other requests which in my view are already covered in the Articles.*

*I have been informed that the application is in the final stages and once these changes have been made they will proceed to registration.*

*Perhaps you could inform the meeting that the delay has unfortunately been out of my hands and I have been making every effort over the past months for the application to be examined.*

Regards,

Ruth "

I can vouch for that!! and would like our thanks to Ruth for all her advice and effort be minuted at this meeting.

I am going to continue with this under item 7 of the Agenda.

However, things have not been static and we still continue to move forward as the U3A. The 3 districts Paphos Limassol and Larnaca continue to expand both in membership and groups on offer in spite of the restriction of non registration, on promotion and advertising. The website is proving to be a source of members and word of mouth is still one of the best ways of attracting people.

I was delighted to go to Agia Nappa a fortnight ago along with others members of the Executive committee and our President, to an inaugural meeting to set up our 4<sup>th</sup> U3A Famagusta. It was very well supported. A steering committee was formed with volunteers for all the committee positions, 12 potential group leaders came forward and that has already increased and there are 52 members.

We came away with a very high feel-good factor. Congratulations and thanks are due to Jacqueline and Michael Crawford for instigating and arranging the meeting. They were sorry not to be here due to prior commitments but it is good to welcome Ian Blakeborough their treasurer and his wife and any other members present. I am sure they will go from strength to strength

The total members across the Island is now, including Farmagusta, in the region of 650.

At the beginning of this year the Island Singing group performed the Messiah with members from Limassol, Paphos and Larnaca taking part. It was an afternoon of enjoyment for both the participants and the audience. The present project is Gilbert and Sullivan's music and songs, so we look forward to that coming to fruition.

There are Travel groups in each of the districts now and they co-operate and join together in their programmes.

I know that some of other groups have joined for Field trips and meetings and I find it very pleasing that there are these contacts between the districts.

In March our Vice Chairman's wife Liz Ray represented us at an International seminar in Larnaca entitled '*Learning in later life*' – *New challenges for adult education*. Age specific and age independent learning for 50+ people from different cultures.

The aspects of the Seminar relevant to the U3A in Cyprus were:

- Intercultural education
- Inclusive Approaches
- European citizenship & European dimension
- Courses on adult literacy/basic skills (Greek language for us?)
- Active citizenship
- Education management/project management.

We were also invited to take part in the Grundtvig Learning Partnerships Programme, which is the adult education section of the European Commission's Lifelong Learning Programme. The priorities of the Grundtvig 2008 call are older people, ICT and digital literacy.

We were to have the opportunity to join with two other European U3A organisations on this project for which we had been offered funding from an office of the EU in Cyprus. The officials concerned were most helpful to the extent of advising us how to complete our application. Unfortunately the lack of formal registration under Cyprus law prevented us from completing our application before the deadline. We would anticipate that further opportunities are likely to arise in the future.

I would like to express our thanks to the district sub editors and to Carole Manuel (Paphos member) the editor of *Spotlight*, your news letter and I'm sure Carole is willing to do some short interviews if anyone has some offering for the next issue, due this month

Our next thanks go to our Webmasters Geoff and Sue Paris (Larnaca members) for their sterling work on the Website. It has taken them many hours to get it to the present form and they are always working on it.

I will reiterate what I said in my report last year. These communications need feeding and you the members are the food source. Please support them with your offerings.

My thanks now to your committee for all the time and support they have given me over the last year. I feel that I have a very strong team at my side. A special mention to the Limassol members on the committee, in particular Valerie Ionides the Secretary and Pat Ramsey for their work in putting together arrangements for today's event. It is a new and trial format that we decided to try this year and we hope that you enjoy and approve the change.

Thank you to all the Group leaders who have participated with their contributions to the day

Finally I would like to thank you for your trust and support over the past 2 years and hope that it can continue for my final year as Chairman.

Enjoy your day in this lovely setting.



**Members enjoying games of Mexican Train and Go prior to the start of the AGM**

## Paphos U3A Embroidery Travels to Kenya

Two members of the *Paphos Creative Embroidery Group* are taking examples of their work to Kenya. Three wall hangings have been made including a map of Africa and one depicting the school past and present.

The embroidery work will hang in the staff room of Dabaso School ([www.dabasoschool.com](http://www.dabasoschool.com)) which, along with the classrooms, is the focus of refurbishment sponsored through the efforts of Ann, her husband Graham and friends in Cyprus and abroad. They, together with Dianne who was an Education Advisor will be in Kenya this month to monitor and review the progress of the project.

Ann Lawrence and Dianne Lamont would like to acknowledge the support and encouragement of the other group members with their embroidery projects.

## Gardening in Cyprus

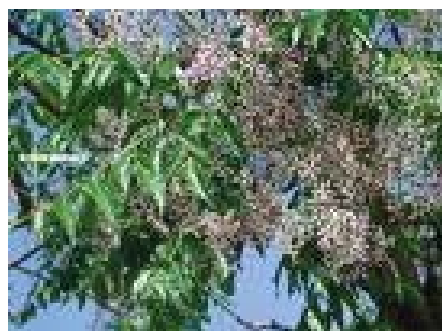
One of the Limassol Branch groups represented at the AGM was *Gardening in Cyprus* which is led by John Joynes. They describe themselves as "a group of enthusiastic (though gifted) amateur gardeners. We visit Environmental Centres such as Athalassa and Akrotiri. We join the Mediterranean Garden Society on their trips to the Agricultural Research Institute of Cyprus and the reclamation of the Amiandos Mine in the Troodos. We are in touch with nurseries growing indigenous and drought-tolerant plants and we share our successes and failures and information."

John is also the head of the Cyprus Branch of The Mediterranean Garden Society whose focus is on the wise use of water to maintain plants native to Mediterranean climate regions world-wide —particularly relevant to Cyprus with the current problems we have been facing here. The Mediterranean Garden Society has chosen Cyprus as its venue for a major meeting next year.

John kindly agreed to provide some articles for of Spotlight, the first of which appears below. It was originally published in the journal of the Mediterranean Garden Society.

### SPRING REFLECTIONS

Late April, the winter clouds have decanted their last drops of rain for another



season and the sun has already warmed the thermometer into the mid 20°C. From where I sit I can both see and hear the swallows, which return annually to nest under the arches at the front of the house, as they dive-bomb one of the cats. This tactic would send one of our previous cats (unfortunately no longer with us) scurrying for cover, belly to the ground, when she first encountered it as a youngster. The following year, however, as a street-wise terroriser of the local

mouse, lizard and small snake population, she merely wore a resigned expression that clearly said, 'Summer visitors!'.

Meanwhile, here in the dappled shade of the Indian Bead Tree (*Melia azedarach*), with the beguiling perfume of its newly opened flowers and the relaxing warmth of



the sun, it's easy to be lulled into a mood of reflection: to realize just how much the appreciation and enjoyment of gardening owe to the senses.

The superb variety of textures. Barks smooth and shiny, rough and ridged, papery and peeling. Foliage velvety and felt-like to tough and leathery, passing through sundry fabrics in between. Flowers varying from delicate fragility to waxy durability. Then, of course, there are the less pleasant tactile encounters experienced when one inadvertently comes into contact with certain plants' defence mechanisms. Personally, I have an all too regular confrontation with an over-vigorous bougainvillea in an attempt to restrict it to the confines of its frame – a conflict from which I invariably emerge torn and bloodied, though with a certain sense of achievement.

The incomparable taste of home-grown produce. Far superior to the hormone-enhanced, muscle-bound objects sold in the local supermarkets. Taste buds never tire or become stale as they follow the systematic progression of the fruits and vegetables through the seasons. The citrus fruits alone run through a whole range of taste sensations: from the sharply acid lemon to the sugar-sweet orange, via grapefruit, pomelo and mandarin.

Summer breezes rustling leaves and grasses. The even more evocatively cooling sound of water splashing from fountains or tinkling through rills and streams: sadly, a sound heard all too seldom in this area of the Mediterranean. Here the more mundane susurrations of water running through irrigation pipes and bursting from sprinklers beneath sun-scorched fruit trees provides an equally musical backdrop.

Aromas in infinite variety. From the gentle, subtle perfumes that sneak up on the olfactory senses to the brash, powerful ones that assault them in a bold frontal attack. A recently read novel that involved John Tradescant Senior reminded me that he had no sense of smell. He must have missed so much, especially here in the Mediterranean. Imagine life without the scent of jasmine, frangipani, lavender, rosemary, basil: the list is endless, the thought terrifying.

Colour, so many colours, so many variations of colour, tints, shades and tones. In my teens I was diagnosed as having a degree of red/green colour blindness. I have never found this to be a problem, although I do rather have a tendency towards strong, vibrant colours in the reds and to the clean freshness of white and pale blue. How do others with a more pronounced colour deficiency overcome this and design and plant their gardens, I wonder? Surely it must be possible – after all, deafness didn't diminish Beethoven's skill as a composer.

Unfortunately I can't sit here all day musing. As ever in a garden, work beckons. Time to break the sensual spell. At least until the summer, when the evening air will be filled with the powerfully intoxicating fragrance of the *Cestrum nocturnum*. Now there's another thing.... It's easy to see how the flowers of the *Melia* gave rise to its local name of 'Mavromata' (Dark Eyes), but why is the *Cestrum* known locally as 'Pakistanos' when it comes from the Caribbean? This gardening really can be both physically and mentally exhausting!



**John Joynes**

## Stupid is as stupid says?

If you ever feel a little bit stupid, just dig this up and read it again; you'll begin to think you're a genius.

(On September 17, 1994, Alabama's Heather Whitestone was selected as Miss America 1995.)

Question: If you could live forever, would you and why ?

Answer: 'I would not live forever, because we should not live forever, because If we were supposed to live forever then we would live forever but we cannot live forever, which is why I would not live forever,'

--Miss Alabama in the 1994 Miss USA contest.

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'Whenever I watch TV and see those poor starving kids all over the world, I can't help but cry. I mean I'd love to be skinny like that, but not with all those flies and death and stuff.'

--Mariah Carey

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Smoking kills. If you're killed, you've lost a very important part of your life,'

-- Brooke Shields, during an interview to become spokesperson for federal anti-smoking campaign .

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'I've never had major knee surgery on any other part of my body,'

--Winston Bennett, University of Kentucky basketball forward.

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'Outside of the killings, Washington has one of the lowest crime rates in the country,'

--Mayor Marion Barry, Washington , DC .

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'It isn't pollution that's harming the environment. It's the impurities in our air and water that are doing it.'

--Al Gore, Vice President

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'I love California . I practically grew up in Phoenix .'

-- Dan Quayle

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'We've got to pause and ask ourselves: How much clean air do we need ?'

--Lee Iacocca

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'We don't necessarily discriminate. We simply exclude certain types of people.'

-- Colonel Gerald Wellman, ROTC Instructor .

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'Your food stamps will be stopped effective March 1992 because we received notice that you passed away. May God bless you. You may reapply if there is a change in your circumstances. '

-- Department of Social Services, Greenville , South Carolina

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'Traditionally, most of Australia 's imports come from overseas.'

--Keppel Enderbery former Australian Cabinet Minister

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## PAPHOS U3A MOSAICS CRAFT



It is amazing what we all create at the mosaics craft group on Thursday mornings. There have been many lizards, butterflies, a dolphin or two, a turtle, fish, flowers, fruit and so many birds. All in glorious technicolour. Yes! the mosaic tiles positively gleam in the sun as we proudly take them home to display around swimming pools as well as our houses. Of course living in this wonderful bright sunshine, here, in Cyprus just lends itself to the many colours that are available. The members

who do come along to be shown how to cut and manipulate the tiles are amazed how easy the craft is to succeed in making a finished item.

We were pleased to display some of the finished mosaics at the annual AGM at Limassol recently. There were many enquiries about the craft. Especially from Larnaca members and Limassol also. If any of these members would like to come to Paphos and see how we work, they will be welcome. It may encourage them to start a mosaic group of their own.

Next year we hope to make larger projects and possibly a group one for an installation in the community. Where has not been decided. Any suggestions?



**Anne Bateman (group leader)**

### THE FLOWER SHOW

Two little old ladies were sitting on a park bench outside the local town hall where a flower show was in progress. The thin one leaned over and said, 'Life is so darned boring. We never have any fun any more. For €10.00 I'd take my clothes off and streak through that stupid flower show!'

'You're on!' said the other old lady, holding up a €10.00 note.

The first little old lady slowly fumbled her way out of her clothes and, completely naked, streaked (as fast as an old lady can) through the front door of the flower show.

Waiting outside, her friend soon heard a huge commotion inside the hall, followed by loud applause and shrill whistling. The smiling and naked old lady came through the exit door surrounded by a cheering crowd.

'What happened?' asked her waiting friend.

'I won 1st prize as Best Dried Arrangement.'



## CLASSICAL MUSIC APPRECIATION GROUP –PAPHOS



Following requests, this group was started so that members could learn and appreciate “Classical Music” in its many genres in a light hearted manner and without too much technical detail, although obviously some was necessary.

We began the classes by asking, “What is Classical Music?” followed by studying the formats of the symphony and concerto etc; which then led on to individual composers’ lives and music being explored. Most months though are devoted to many composers from Pop to Unknown, and consequently a greater variety of music. Each presentation is given a theme some of these being: *Vienna – The musical capital of the world*, *Russian Composers*, *Classical Music and the Movies*, and even *The most requested CD’s on Classic FM*. Amongst the composers we have explored have been Bach to Buxtehude, Mozart and Shostakovitch, the latter being quite a revelation to the group who were pleasantly surprised at the compositions presented.

Our class is very well supported and has been full since its inception, which is very gratifying, with places quickly being taken up whenever there is a vacancy, which is very rare, but members can always request to have their name put on the waiting list and can, on occasion, be invited along as a guest. We meet at my home on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month and commence at 2.30.p.m. with the programme lasting for approximately 2.5 hours depending on the amount of discussion which often takes place and of course a break for tea/coffee.

On feed back, members have learned to appreciate works by composers that they would never have considered before, as well as compositions in many different genres within the classical music label, thereby extending their musical experience and knowledge. It is a never-ending journey with so much wonderful music to explore, and it is a pleasure to be able to share it with likeminded friends in a pleasant relaxed manner.

I obviously spend a lot of time researching and producing these presentations, and it also a learning curve for me too, full of surprises not only in the compositions, but also in the quite often colourful lives of the composers.

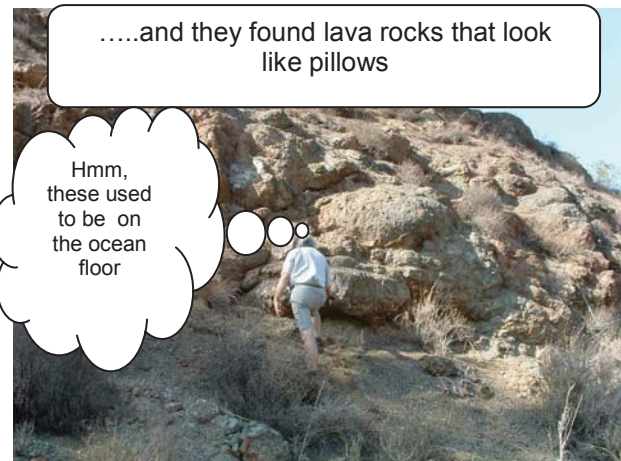
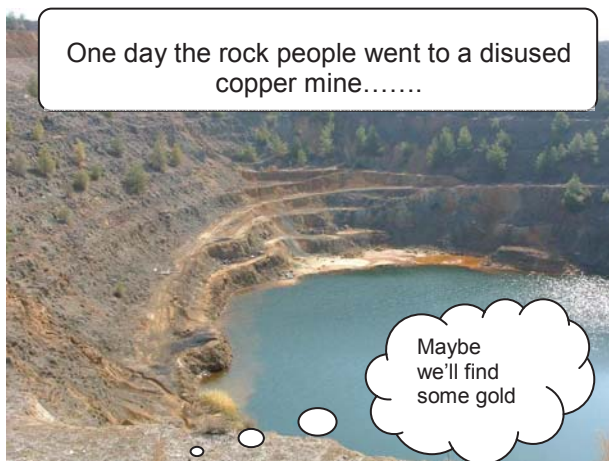
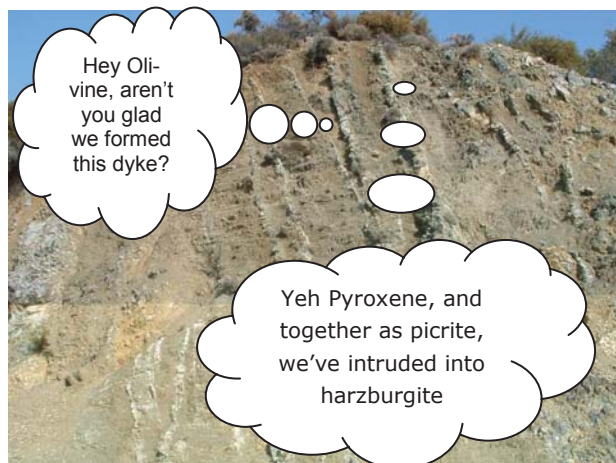
*Pat Bates*  
*Group Leader*



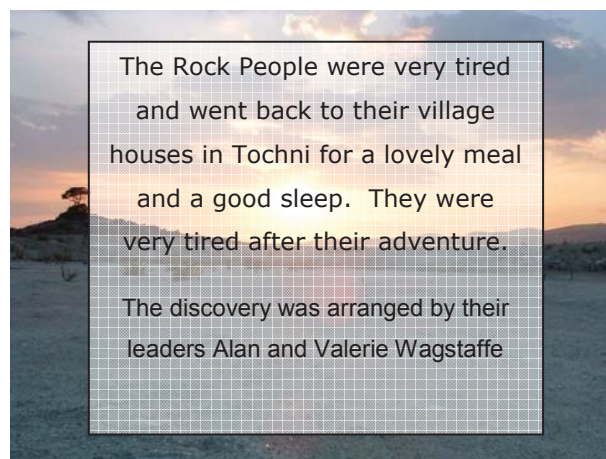
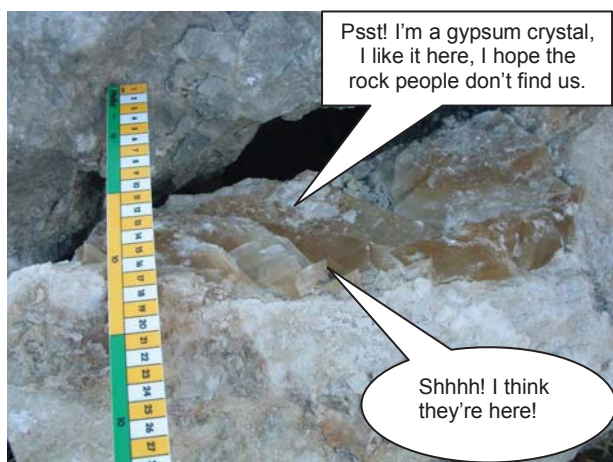
### **They walk among us!**

I couldn't find my luggage at the airport baggage area. So I went to the lost luggage office and told the woman there that my bags never showed up. She smiled and told me not to worry because she was a trained professional and I was in good hands. 'Now,' she asked me, 'Has your plane arrived > yet?'...

## Paphos Geology Group Field Trip. November 2008







We made our base in the Agrotourism village of Tochni, where the old stone cottages have been beautifully renovated and refurbished into holiday apartments. Our weekend field trip took us through the rocks of the Limassol Forest Ophiolite and the Arakapas transform fault zone. The route was based on descriptions found in the geologists book 'Southern Cyprus' by Trevor Greensmith. There was opportunity to see the many different types of igneous rocks, mostly associated with pillow lavas. Day two found us exploring at the disused Mathiati copper mine. Some of us found gold which was associated with lumps of ochre rescued from the spoil heaps – but seen only under the microscope! Other glittering pieces were found, such as andesite with iron pyrites (fools gold!). From the top of the mine, the panoramic view showed the geographical layout of the Troodos ophiolite and the Lefkara chalks – our next stop. The most fascinating find came from the gypsum mine which demonstrated many different types of gypsum crystals, each type formed, most probably, under different environmental conditions. The evening meal in the taverna rounded off a very interesting weekend and we went our separate ways after breakfast, clutching our pieces of glistening rocks. Thanks go to Alan and Val Wagstaffe for organising the whole trip and for their excellent 'recce-ing'!

*Janet Allen*

### THANKS—AND A PLEA.

Thanks to a little gentle badgering from the Editor at the AGM, several people agreed to provide articles for this issue of Spotlight. My thanks to them and to everyone else who has contributed BUT ***we still need more input***, so do send in any items you may think will interest members, even if they are not directly U3A related. Opinions, humour, bouquets and brickbats are all welcome—though I hope there won't be too many of the latter. I would still like to include a regular book review so come on all you Book Group members and leaders. The wonderful thing about U3A is that it attracts people who are **interested** and therefore **interesting**, so please do share your experiences, views and pursuits.

*CM*

## PAPHOS ART APPRECIATION GROUP

You don't have to be an artist to join the Art Appreciation Group; we have a mixture of both professional artists, those who just paint for pleasure, and others (like me) who just enjoy looking at works of art and learning more about them through input from other members.



We started in January, 2009 and so have been meeting for nearly 2 years. Topics that we have covered include : Textiles in Art, Celebrities as Artists, Seascapes and Water in Art, Women Artists, Portraits, and Monet - the Series. We also analysed a selection of works by both Pablo Picasso and William Sickert, and learned some

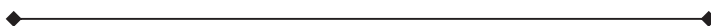
interesting facts about their personal lives! As a complete change we each chose paintings from our personal collections, and brought them to a meeting for general discussion. The group has also visited 2 studios of practising artists and been introduced to some of the basic preparation techniques that lead up to 'the finished article'.

The next meeting will be on Monday, 8th December at the home of one of our members, where we will view photos, books and a video of Monet's house and garden at Giverny. We shall also have the opportunity to see tropical water lilies in bloom.

In 2009 meetings will be held on the 2nd Monday of each month at 2.30 p.m. Venue : The Coral Star Restaurant (just past the Coral Bay/Peyia crossroads on the lefthand side). Topic : DVDs and discussion on the paintings of The Impressionists. This topic is expected to cover several meetings.



Enquiries : Gillian Redway (Group Leader) tel. 26931471 or E-mail Gillian.redway@cytanet.com.cy



**Olives and Lemons**, by Shirley Kay, is a new colour illustrated book on traditional Cyprus.

The book covers village life, beliefs, buildings and agriculture. There are also sections on Cyprus and the sea, churches and monasteries, olives and carobs, wild flowers, and the Aphrodite legends. All of these are lavishly illustrated with a wide range of colourful new photographs.

**Shirley Kay** is a member of Limassol U3A

She first visited Cyprus in the late 1980s when her daughter and family came to the Episkopi base. They were fascinated by the old villages in the hillsides round about and soon bought a delightful old stone house in the centre of Anogyra. At that time the village was half deserted and access was not easy along a very narrow steep road, running for part of the way by the edge of a deep gorge, then up a precipitous escarpment.

For many years Shirley came to the village for holidays and in January 2007 she and her husband settled permanently here. By now the village had changed dramatically. Deserted



houses had been renovated, the road widened and greatly improved, the narrow streets also broadened and filled with cars. These and other changes have inspired her to write this book, to record what is left of the ancient life of the villages which had so attracted her family in the first place.

Shirley was no newcomer to the region, nor to writing either. She had spent some 16 years in neighbouring Arab countries with her diplomat husband, Jolyon, and had written 15 books on the lands which had been her home there. She had originally studied European languages at Cambridge University, Arabic at MECAS in the Lebanon, and Middle Eastern archaeology at the Institute of Archaeology in London. As a late starter, she has found Greek more of a challenge, but exploring the countryside for this book has certainly given her efforts a considerable boost.

The following are extracts from the book's Preface.

**T**he old villages, scattered across the landscape of Cyprus, are a far cry from the modern tourist developments that have swamped the coastlines over the past few decades. The quiet narrow lanes of the villages, the gentle pace of life, the sombre clothes of the mostly elderly inhabitants could all come from another world, a world of the past.



As I walk under the olive and lemon branches nodding over village stone walls, or glimpsed through half open courtyard doors, I am reminded of the English nursery rhyme, *Oranges and Lemons*.....



In this book I have tried to describe what is left of traditional life, the practices, beliefs and physical environment that have been the essence of Cyprus over the ages. Can I say that that was a better, more desirable way of life? It was surely more picturesque, more appealing to the visitor's eye. But younger generations here would not agree. They have voted with their feet, left for the cities and been rewarded by a greater prosperity than the island's people have ever known. They have become modern Europeans, city folk, and within a generation or so the customs and traditions of their grandparents may be all but forgotten.

There is still, however, a latent nostalgia for the old village life. Today young people are beginning to renovate their grandparents' abandoned homes for their own holidays or eventual retirement. The government is supporting this trend with subsidies and greatly improved country roads. Perhaps, after all, this age-old world of Cyprus village life will not be irrevocably lost, as I thought it must be when I first came to our village of Anogyra in the late 1980s

*Further details are available from Shirley Kay, email: [ShirleyMKay@gmail.com](mailto:ShirleyMKay@gmail.com) or on 25 222363.*

## **PAPHOS CURRENT AFFAIRS GROUP**

The Current Affairs Group of the U3A has been going for several years and was instigated by its first group leader John Rathband. At present the group meets at the home of the present group leader' Chris Solomon, on the first Thursday of the month at 10 am for two hours. There is a lively discussion and many topical subjects have been discussed over the years. The format is quite simple with the topic for discussion being introduced by one of the members for about ten minutes. This member does a little research before the meeting, using the Internet, newspapers, books etc. Nowadays there is so much information available it is not difficult to find facts on almost any subject. The topic is then thrown open to the group for discussion, which is often very lively, heated, but always friendly. We always finish the discussion much more knowledgeable and wiser than when we started.

Some of the topics discussed this year include:

World Cereal Shortages and its implications.  
Is the American election process democratic?  
Britain in the 21st Century: Monarchy or Republic?  
Nuclear Energy - Do we need it?  
'Climate Chaos – I don't believe it'  
Credit Crunch – Who's to blame?

Other topics could be:

How successful or otherwise is the UN?  
War on Terror – is it real War?  
Identity Cards – are they a good thing?  
Immigration: is it a good thing, or not?  
Should Turkey join the EU?  
What is good or bad about the NHS, and how would you change it?

Topics discussed can include almost anything.

The group has room for a few more members so if you are interested get in touch with the group leader at [chris.Solomon@cytanet.com.cy](mailto:chris.Solomon@cytanet.com.cy) or Tel: 26622510

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### **Subscription News**

As you are aware, your committee continually keep our subscriptions under review. At the October meeting it was decided that we could reduce the renewal subscription by 3€s to 15€s, from November the 1<sup>st</sup>.

It was also agreed that for members that have already paid their subscription for this year, i.e. September and October members, a 3€ credit will be taken into account at next year's subscription date.

The joining fee will remain at 22€s

This will be automatically actioned in the Renewal reminders.

### **Information from the Walking Group**

Paul Clarke is a member of this group and has taken a number of lovely photos with brief notes about their trips out. if you would like to see where the group has been just click on Paul's website you will find a number of photos from the group's various outings.

<http://cypruswalking.paul-clarke.net/u3a0708/walkU3A0708.htm>

## Country Funeral Story

As a young minister in Kentucky I was asked by a funeral director to hold a grave-side service for a homeless man, who had no family or friends. The funeral was to be held at a new cemetery way back in the country, and this man would be the first to be buried there.

I was not familiar with the backwoods area, and I soon became lost. Being a typical man, I did not stop to ask for directions and I finally arrived an hour late I saw the backhoe and the open grave but the hearse was nowhere in sight.

The digging crew was eating lunch. I apologized to the workers for my tardiness, and I stepped to the side of the open grave. There I saw the vault lid already in place. I assured the workers I would not hold them up for long.

The workers gathered around the grave and stood silently, as I began to pour out my heart and soul. As I preached about 'looking forward to a brighter tomorrow' and 'the Glory that is to come,' the workers began to say 'Amen,' 'Praise the Lord,' and 'Glory!' The fervor of these men truly inspired me. So, I preached and I preached like I had never preached before, all the way from Genesis to Revelations. I finally closed the lengthy service with a prayer, thanked the men, and walked to my car.

As I was opening the door and taking off my coat, I heard one of the workers say to another, 'I ain't NEVER seen nothin' like that before, and I've been puttin in septic tanks for thirty years!'

Contributed by Marjorie Dobson

## HAND ART

Most of you will have seen these and others like them on your PC recently but they are so skilful they are reproduced here for those who 'don't do' computers to admire.





## News from the Paphos Quilting Group

The Quilting group meets twice monthly and there are ten members. This year has been a very industrious one. Numerous grandchildren have been beautifully equipped with quilts, we have spent time looking at techniques of actual quilting of our work, and more interesting borders and currently are enjoying doing a Round Robin. When we restarted in September each member prepared a small 6" square and at each meeting since then we have brought our square along in a cover, exchanged blind and taken back someone else's work to add an inch or two. We are now on the last exchange and the squares are 18" wide. It has been fun seeing the pieces grow and trying to come up with new and interesting borders.

Whenever there are 5 Wednesdays in the month we arrange a whole day workshop. The highlight of our recent months was the workshop we held in October, led by Anne Bateman, when she showed us a new way of creating mosaics with layers of fabric. Fascinating stuff and it has spawned lots of ideas for next year.

We are always happy to welcome new members who enjoy playing with fabrics.

*If you would like more information please contact Jill Dare on 26-911489*





## HISTORY GROUP - PAPHOS

The History group was revived in September 2008 and meets twice a month at the Latin Parish Hall. We currently have 25+ members. This year we are studying Russian History from Peter the Great to the Russian Revolution and we've enjoyed some wide-ranging discussions and some gruesome stories about the Russian Tsars as well as analysing how and why Russia emerged from isolation to become the great power it is today. In the future I hope to show "Battleship Potemkin" and to have occasional talks given by members. There is also the possibility, if there is enough interest, of organising a trip to Russia,

New members can join the group at any time - no prior knowledge is required and the reading lists provided are completely optional for those who want to delve into the subject deeper.

*Wally Stone*



### **Christmas Lunch and Carols**

#### **PAPHOS**

This event will be led by Bruce Hayes, at the Kamares Club on Thursday 18th December 2008

Cost to be advised nearer the time but reservations via Chrissy Eldridge at [goforitchris@hotmail.com](mailto:goforitchris@hotmail.com).

Limited seats available so book early.

### **Join us at a U3A Coffee Morning**

at

**The Coral Star Tavern**

**Coral Bay**

On

**Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2009**

**10am**

**The result of the Photographic Competition  
and the prizes awarded**

**All entries will be on display**



If my body were a car, this is the time I would be thinking about trading it in for a newer model. I've got bumps and dents and scratches in my finish and my paint job is getting a little dull. But that's not the worst of it.

My headlights are out of focus and it's especially hard to see things up close.

My traction is not as graceful as it once was. I slip and slide and skid and bump into things even in the best of weather.

My whitewalls are stained with varicose veins.

It takes me hours to reach my maximum speed. My fuel rate burns inefficiently.

But here's the worst of it --

Every time I sneeze, cough or sputter...either my radiator leaks or my exhaust backfires!

Contributed by Beryl Appleton

## **Update from the Archaeology Group**

The Paphos archaeology group recently visited the Ancient Theatre of Paphos and were given a very interesting talk by Dr Craig Barker of the University of Sydney about this year's finds from the site. The Australian archaeologists began excavating at Fabrika Hill at the beginning of 1995 and have continued almost every year since.

The theatre was built against the southern face of a low hill at the edge of the town near to one of the main gates and in its later phase could seat up to 8,000 people. The theatre was one of the places where people from the surrounding countryside could mix with the people from the town and see friends and family. It also played an important part in festivals and religious occasions.

This year's excavations uncovered a large hole underneath one of the entrances to the theatre that had been filled in with rubble and pottery. Dr. Barker believes that the hole was created by people quarrying for stone before the theatre was built. On the other side of the theatre, more filling was discovered, this time larger rubble and columns were found; also a couple of simple floor mosaics in what is thought to be the area where shops stood that perhaps sold wine and food for the theatre goers.

Our thanks to Dr Barker who always takes time out of his busy schedule to keep the group up to date with the finds.



The archaeology group meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month. For more information contact Marieanne Wash on 99170544 or Val 26913305

# 1 9 1 7

*By Pip Grainger*

I wish they'd stop, the guns, the guns,  
the dreadful sound of war;  
Where is that peaceful place I seek  
amidst the roar, the roar?

Shall I find solace in some grave  
'midst foreign fields afar?  
Or will the Lord see fit to send  
me home to Ma and Pa?

The world is such a different place  
from the one I knew;  
I sometimes dream that I can smell  
Aunt Edith's rabbit stew.

My "Woodbines" are soaked through  
again - a box of matches, too;  
The only comfort lies, it seems,  
in memories of you.

What of the future, my sweet love?  
I cannot even guess.  
Tomorrow we move on again;  
the whole thing's such a mess.

I'm oh, so frightened of the dark  
and anxious for the dawn.  
Please help me through this fearful night;  
my shoulder's badly torn.

The 'Doc' just came to talk to me;  
he proffered a wee dram.  
So many men and boys have died,  
'tis lucky that I am.

I cannot see my cousin John,  
I wonder, where is he?  
The stretcher bearer's back again;  
have they forgotten me?

It's raining even harder now;  
the mud's up to my thigh.  
I feel so very cold and tired;  
perhaps this is "goodbye".

I'm walking on a sandy beach;  
waves lap along the shore.  
At last I've found that peaceful place  
amidst the roar, the roar.



## **MASTERING TECHNOLOGY**

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Tech support: What kind of computer do you have?  
Female customer: A white one...

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Tech support: Click on the 'my computer' icon on to the left of the screen.  
Customer: Your left or my left?

=====

Tech support: Good day. How may I help you?  
Male customer: Hello... I can't print.  
Tech support: Would you click on 'start' for me and...  
Customer: Listen pal; don't start getting technical on me! I'm not Bill Gates.

**And to end on a seasonal note:**

**A Christmas Story for people having a bad day:**

When four of Santa's elves got sick, the trainee elves did not produce toys as fast as the regular ones, and Santa began to feel the Pre-Christmas pressure.



Then Mrs. Claus told Santa her Mother was coming to visit, which stressed Santa even more.

When he went to harness the reindeer, he found that three of them were about to give birth and two others had jumped the fence and were out, Heaven knows where.

Then when he began to load the sleigh, one of the floorboards cracked, the toy bag fell to the ground and all the toys were scattered.

Frustrated, Santa went in the house for a cup of apple cider and a shot of rum. When he went to the cupboard, he discovered the elves had drunk all the cider and hidden the liquor. In his frustration, he accidentally dropped the cider jug, and it broke into hundreds of little glass pieces all over the kitchen floor. He went to get the broom and found the mice and eaten all the straw off the end of the broom!

Just then the doorbell rang, and irritated Santa marched to the door, yanked it open, and there stood a little angel with a great big Christmas tree.



The angel said very cheerfully, 'Merry Christmas, Santa. Isn't this a lovely day? I have a beautiful tree for you. Where would you like me to stick it?'

And so began the tradition of the little angel on top of the Christmas tree!

Contributed by Kath Coggin

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***A Christmas Wish for Everyone***

*May your hearts and homes be filled with love, laughter and joy this Christmas and may all our New Years be peaceful and prosperous.*

**MERRY CHRISTMAS**

