

Starry nights in Pissouri

Jupiter, Saturn, Caster & Pollux, Orion and Polaris – did you know these were all seen in the night sky above Pissouri on 11th May 2017?

Following a conversation about a year ago between 2 Pissouri residents, C3A (Cyprus Third Age) Committee member Chris Price began exploring the opportunity of setting up a group, for like-minded people who were interested in learning about astronomy. We are so fortunate here in Cyprus in that we are blessed with many clear nights in a year, so as the Earth moves round the Sun, different stars are visible at different times of the year.

With permission from the Pissouri Community Council, the Multi-Cultural Centre hosted an evening presentation entitled "Astronomy – The Bigger Picture for the Occasional Astronomer" given by Vasilis Vasilou and Georgios Keliris from the Limassol based company 'The House of Science'. These 2 young astronomers gave an enthusiastic and inspirational talk – delving into the Universe, our place in it and 'why are we here'.

We were indeed very fortunate, in that they brought with them an 8 inch Dobsonian-type reflector scope which can magnify objects up to nearly x 400. This was positioned on the viewing roof of the Centre. By changing the magnification of the scope, we were able to view Jupiter and her moons, then just Jupiter and culminating in the highest magnification when we were able to see the coloured bands

The C3A Limassol branch was pleased to continue the astronomy theme by a series of 5 lectures by David Brown – a member of the Paphos Astronomy Society and, week by week, as the lectures progressed, more people from Pissouri and the surrounding area attended – spreading the word that the U3A (University of the Third Age) concept is active in this part of Cyprus.

The next meeting of the group is hoped to be in the middle of August (12 - 13) when "the Perseid meteor showers" will be most active – details will be published on the C3A website and on their Facebook page during August.

