



CYPRUS THIRD AGE NEWSLETTER

GROW BOLD



**FEBRUARY/MARCH
2019**

C3A COMMITTEE

2018 -2019

Chairman:

Thanasis (Dan) Tsirikos

Secretary:

Nigel Howarth

Treasurer:

Mimmo Chilli

Groups Coordinator: Joyce Willett **Membership Secretary:** Barbara Johnson

Communications: Paul Costerton **Editor** Claudine Snell

Jane Webster

Chairman's New Year Message 2019

Dear all

I would like to wish you all the very best for the coming year 2019.

2019 will be my last year as Chairman of Cyprus Third Age according to the provisions of our Constitution which only permit one to be re-elected as Chairman for a maximum of three years.

I do not intend here to look over the last three years, except to say that I have enjoyed being your Chairman immensely. That enjoyment has not worn off with the passage of time. It has helped keep my brain active and who can ask for more? 2018 has been an interesting year within the C3A with the amalgamation of the Association and Limassol Committees and our re-affirming of our focus towards developing greater links within Cyprus and in a European context. It has, for many, been a year of trying to get a fix on where the Brexit talks were going and what it may mean for the majority of our members who are UK nationals. Alas, we are still in the dark about that.

As we reported at the AGM the Cyprus Third Age is as successful as ever. We continue to operate some 15 active groups across the spectrum plus, of course, our well attended Open Meetings. A new group called **Family History** has been started, led by **Pat Boden**, and I wish Pat and her members all the best in this fascinating subject. We are still looking for someone to lead a Greek Cypriot Conversation Group. Equally if any of you are interested in starting a new group of your own please let us know. We will help to get you started, canvassing members, arranging venues and so on.

Sadly our Groups Co-ordinator, Joyce Willett, has had to stand down temporarily for personal reasons but Sue Tsirikos has stepped up to fulfil those duties in addition to running her very own successful Environment Group.

Finally, I am happy to inform you that we are working to develop a new and exciting project for the coming year, which will be of great interest to our Group Leaders, but also to you the members.

This is the story so far:

We have contacted several U3A organisations in other countries within Europe and have their agreement in principle to collaborate in a mobility project under Erasmus+, subject to successful application from the EU.

The project, in essence, will enable us to send a delegation (even perhaps more than one) to visit the partner organisation(s), observe the way they deliver their programmes, exchange experiences, and study our similarities and differences. Some are organised following a similar peer to peer model like our own while others are attached to formal learning institutions (universities, colleges etc).

Each delegation would ideally comprise a mix of group leaders and Committee members, following the model used by the Slovenian U3A when they visited us last year. We would like to have an initial indication from interested Group Leaders who may wish to take part in such a delegation. At this stage I have no firm details to share with you, just an indication of interest is all I need.

There is a lot of hard work to be done still, before we can finalise this programme and not least the submission and (hopefully) approval of an application through the local (Cypriot) Lifelong Learning commission. We shall keep you informed as we progress each stage as follows: Continued on the following page.....

- Stage 1: Find suitable partners in other countries who agree to take part. (COMPLETED)
- Stage2: Write up a project proposal deadline for submission 5 February 2019 – (PENDING)
- Stage 3: Submit the written proposal – (PENDING)
- Stage 4: If approved, agree dates with the host country or countries, pick our delegation personnel and hold briefing meetings with the delegates concerned. – (PENDING)

Life is certainly not boring in the Cyprus 3rd Age! I wish you all a Happy and Prosperous New Year!

A reminder to all members: Your Committee have asked me to remind you that they very much want to hear from you, the members. The success of Cyprus Third Age is rooted in the fact that we always strive to listen to our members.

- Do you have any suggestions on how we can improve the way the C3A operates?
- Is there a subject you would like us to cover that is currently not covered?
- Is there a subject you are willing to lead a group in, if we can find enough members interested in taking part?

I really look forward to hearing from you. Write to me, stating your membership number, and giving me details of your idea/query/suggestions.

Thanasis Tsirikos Chairman 2018-19



Hello from your new Treasurer.

My name is Domenico Chille but I am usually called Mimmo! I am Italian, from Rome. I spent my working life in Alitalia (the Italian airline company) becoming one of the Head of the Training and Educational Department.

I am now living happily in Cyprus since June 2010.

Through this newsletter, I would like to introduce myself to all the members, especially to those who do not know me personally

At the last AGM I accepted the position of Treasurer of the Association, and, in this moment, let me give a special greeting to Peter Hutchinson, whose precious work I am taking over.

My duties are to keep in order the accounts of the Association, collecting and registering the income and refunding the expenditures approved by the President and the Committee board. I would like to highlight that the expenditures below 50€ should be approved by the President and over 50€ the approval of the President and the Committee is needed.

I will also collect the post from the C3A allotted Postbox, where many of you send the money for your membership renewal.

Taking advantage of this opportunity, please let me remind you all that the Postbox is a C3A asset and must be used only for C3A related communication and not for personal and private use. There is not an Association mail forward/delivery. I cannot guaranty the integrity of personal items and I am not able to forward any private letter or parcel.

Starting my new cooperation with the Association, please, do not hesitate to contact me for any question or if any need should arise, my e-mail is domenico.chille@gmail.com

A big hug to you all and a lot of wishes for a great long-life of learning! Domenico (Mimmo) Chille

New C3A Banking Details



HELLENIC BANK

I expect you have heard that the 'good' part of the Cooperative Bank has been acquired by the Hellenic Bank. This acquisition, together with the decision taken at our AGM in November, has resulted in a change to our banking details.

If you choose to pay your membership renewal in cash, you may do so at any branch of the Hellenic Bank without incurring bank charges, but please note:

If you pay at a Hellenic Bank that is a former branch of the Cooperative Bank, you need to advise the teller of our account number - **05620 4008629-5**

If you pay at any other branch of the Hellenic Bank, you need to advise the teller of our IBAN – **CY14 0070 5620 0000 0000 4008 6295**

Cheque payments

All cheques should be made payable to **Cyprus Third Age (C3A)** with our IBAN - **CY14 0070 5620 0000 0000 4008 6295** – written on the reverse.

Nigel Howarth

ALL FOR ONE FRIENDSHIP GROUP *Christmas Lunch*



FORTHCOMING EVENTS – 2019 **Lilian Hayball**

C3A BREAKFAST Group - meets 9am every last Thursday of the month - next one is on 31 January - at the Miramare Beach Hotel, Limassol, for a sumptuous Buffet breakfast 9-10am, at the discounted price of euros 8 per person - all you can eat and drink !

C3A OPEN MEETINGS - first Thursday of every month, €3.00, for coffee and Speaker: 10.30am - 12 noon, Lunch optional at 12.30, €15.00.

Thursday 7th February 2019 = 'Chocolate' by John Adams Chocolatier extraordinaire, Speaking, and bringing samples of chocolate.

Speakers every month until the July holiday break.

Wanted to Borrow or Hire....

can you please ask if anyone has a machine that will enable me to put colour slides onto my computer - it must be compatible to windows 10 - and I would just like to borrow/or hire it.

Sue Tsirikos

FLYING RIGHTS BY A.doc -

THE MOST important **rights** safeguarded by the current European legislation are summarised as follows:

Denial of Boarding

When the number of passengers exceeds the number of available ' seats, the airline must initially call on their customers to volunteer not to board that flight, offering other benefits like the choice of a ticket refund (with a free return flight to the first point of departure; whenever this is possible) and securing an alternative way to their final destination. The other passengers are entitled to compensation.

Cancellations

In case of a cancellation by the airline the passenger be given:

The choice between refund of ticket (with free return flight to the first point of departure, when relevant) or rerouting to final destination.

Free meals and refreshments, hotel accommodation and transport between airport and accommodation (whenever necessary) and a free phone call.

Compensation must be paid unless the passengers have been informed in time and they have been given an alternative flight at the earliest opportunity.

Delays

When the airline predicts delay of a flight it is obliged to provide to passengers a free meal & refreshments, hotel accommodation & transport between airport & hotel (if departure is delayed until next day) & a free phone call. If the flight is delayed by more than five hours the **airline is obliged to offer** full reimbursement of the ticket within seven days or a return flight to the first point of departure as soon as possible. Airlines are exempted from the obligation of compensation only in, 'extraordinary circumstances' when for unpredictable reasons outside their control they are in no position to prevent the delay (for example security reasons, unwarned strikes, etc.). However, even in these cases, the airlines are obliged to provide information and care to the passengers.

Baggage

Air passengers are also entitled to compensation for loss, destruction or delay of baggage as well as in cases of death or injury when the airline is responsible. In addition to the above, passengers that have purchased tour packages may seek compensation from their tour operator, provided the latter is in no position to provide the services agreed.

Continued with 'user-friendly' advice:

Firstly, if you are denied boarding or delayed, do NOT be fobbed off by verbal assurances from the staff at the airport. All they want to do is get you off their patch as quickly and quietly as possible. **INSIST** on written confirmation that you were delayed/denied boarding, a written list of your rights (the airline is legally obliged to provide this, so insist), and most importantly written confirmation of any assurances regarding compensation, re-imburement of unused tickets, or the repayment of tickets which you may have to buy on another airline in order to get to your destination. A pretty good plan would be to try to get contact details from other, similarly-affected passengers, so that you can keep in touch and profit from each other's successes or failures in the fight ahead. It's worth noting that if a flight is overbooked, the airline must, in the first instance, ask for volunteers to off-load (usually for a bribe which impoverished students often jump at!) Make sure the airline has done this, as it might free up a few places for those who really have a pressing reason to travel.

Once back home, **most useful tip of all** is the *superb* assistance available from an EU helpline which you can access from any EU country by dialling **00800 67891011**. The call will be answered in the local language, but you immediately get an option to be put through to an English-speaking operator. These operators seem to be very knowledgeable and helpful. Never grumble again about your EU taxes!

A Really Useful website is http://ec.europa.eu/transport/passengers/air/air_en.htm. It is written comprehensible English and has various links to help you chase up your rights. Make sure *you* understand

the difference between 'Compensation' and 'Reimbursement' (see EU Regulation 261/2004, which forms the basis for supporting your claim, Articles 7 & 8). The company you are chasing up probably either doesn't understand or doesn't want to. DON'T waste your time and more importantly your money calling the airlines' so-called 'Help' lines: you may be paying an extortionate amount just to sit listening to pre-recorded options and, eventually, an undecipherable voice from a call-centre in a far-off country. Use Google to get the name of the company CEO and go direct, either email or 'snail mail'. Either way, keep a copy of the correspondence for your records.

Another Quite (rather than Really) Useful website is <http://www.euclaim.co.uk/> They may be able to take up a case on your behalf, in exchange for a cut of the 'winnings'.

Don't expect a quick solution but keep plugging away. The airline will be counting on you losing interest. Good luck!

PHOTOGRAPHIC GROUP Hill View Restaurant Pissouri



Members of our group gathered at the Hill View Restaurant in Pissouri for our Christmas lunch and, annual Christmas competition. The meal and service was excellent as was the venue, and everyone appeared to really enjoy the event. The theme this year was Black and White.

Del Fisher, a professional photographer who lives in Pissouri kindly agreed to do the judging.

First place Sue Tisirkos with here lovely photo of a 'lizard'. Second place Claudine Snell a portrait of a local 'Cypriot gentleman' and Third Mimmo Chille with 'Pots on a windowsill'

Unfortunately Sue was unable to join us so Dan received the certificate on her behalf.



Composed by: BARBARA BAIKIE

I've had the dreaded lurgy,
And I bet that you have too.
Was it just a rotten cold,
Or was it the dreaded 'flu.

I'm feeling so much better now'
But please folks, if you care.
Remember that a virus
Is not a gift to share



THE ART GROUP



On December 6th the Art Group celebrated a successful year with a communal Christmas lunch, everyone bringing a delicious contribution. The lunch was preceded by an art quiz with a prize for the winner, 2 members tied for 1st place so a tie breaker had to be thought of quickly! Our winner scored 6 out of 10 and answered the tie breaker a millisecond faster. It was all good fun, we have been an established group for some time now and the atmosphere is always nice, friendly and mutually supportive, we all get on well and sometimes we even get down to some work!

The Art Group Christmas Quiz follows, can you beat our winning score, no cheating now!

1. Name the 3 primary colours.
2. Name the artist whose work began to self-destruct when recently sold at Sotheby's for just over a million pounds.
3. What is the technical term for a colour mixed with white?
4. Name the artist born in 1840 famous for painting water lilies.
5. Name the 3 secondary colours.
6. What is the name of the the only potter to win the Turner prize?
7. Which 3 colours would you mix together to achieve black?
8. Name the English 18th century painter, printmaker and satirist whose work includes A Rakes Progress and Marriage a la Mode.
9. What is the technical term for a colour mixed with black?
10. What is the name of the artist now in his 80s who returned to the UK from California to paint his native Yorkshire?

BRIDGE



'I had never understood what Bridge is about until you explained it to me.'

I don't... well... I do, really... want to blow my own trumpet, but all in a good cause.

Over the years, I have heard the sentence above quite a lot, because I have a very good method, encouraged by the English Bridge Union, of teaching the game to complete beginners. And at this time the C3A Bridge Group would welcome some more players. So, if you think you may like a new interest in your life, or if you know how to play but don't want the pressures of a normal Bridge Club, give me a call and I can explain more about us.

We meet on Wednesdays at the Sunquest Hotel and play from 10-12. There are those who have learned enough and just get on and play. Others at another table still need to refer to their 'crib sheet' and not infrequently need to ask for help. All in a very friendly and sociable atmosphere.

No charge, but we do order coffee or tea etc. from the bar in exchange for their provision of tables and tablecloths. For those who are complete beginners, I would like to meet at some other time beforehand for private explanations and practice at any convenient location (or our flat in Ayios Tychonas where the coffee is free.)

Call Julian Kirkup Ph: 99 13 16 27 for a chat

The oldest computer can be traced back to Adam and Eve...



Surprise! Surprise!
It was an Apple.
But with extremely limited memory.
Just 1 byte
Then everything crashed

UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

The first University of the Third Age was founded in Toulouse, France, in 1972, to improve the quality of life for older people by bringing them into contact with academic programmes run by a university. The idea spread rapidly in France.

The success of the French experiment led to the rapid spread of U3As to many countries - particularly in Europe. An International Association of U3As was established by 1975. It has gained recognition from such bodies as the UN and UNESCO.

In 1981, the concept was introduced to Britain through a group based at Cambridge University. In contrast to the French practice, the British U3As quickly moved away from the model based on courses provided by a University. The idea of a self-help or mutual aid organisation was adopted. This self-help approach reduces the need for dependence on outside resources and, in a way, goes back to the original concept of a community of scholars - the medieval origin of a university. Hence the broad acceptance of the term University in the titles of so many of these groups, describing a community in which learning is an end in itself, where individuals learn what they want to, at the pace they prefer and where no qualifications are needed to enter and none are awarded.

“THE C3A SHALL CONSIST OF A BODY OF PERSONS WHO UNDERTAKE TO LEARN AND HELP OTHERS TO LEARN. THOSE WHO LEARN SHALL ALSO TEACH AND THOSE WHO TEACH SHALL ALSO LEARN.”