

GROW BOLD

LEARN, LAUGH AND LIVE

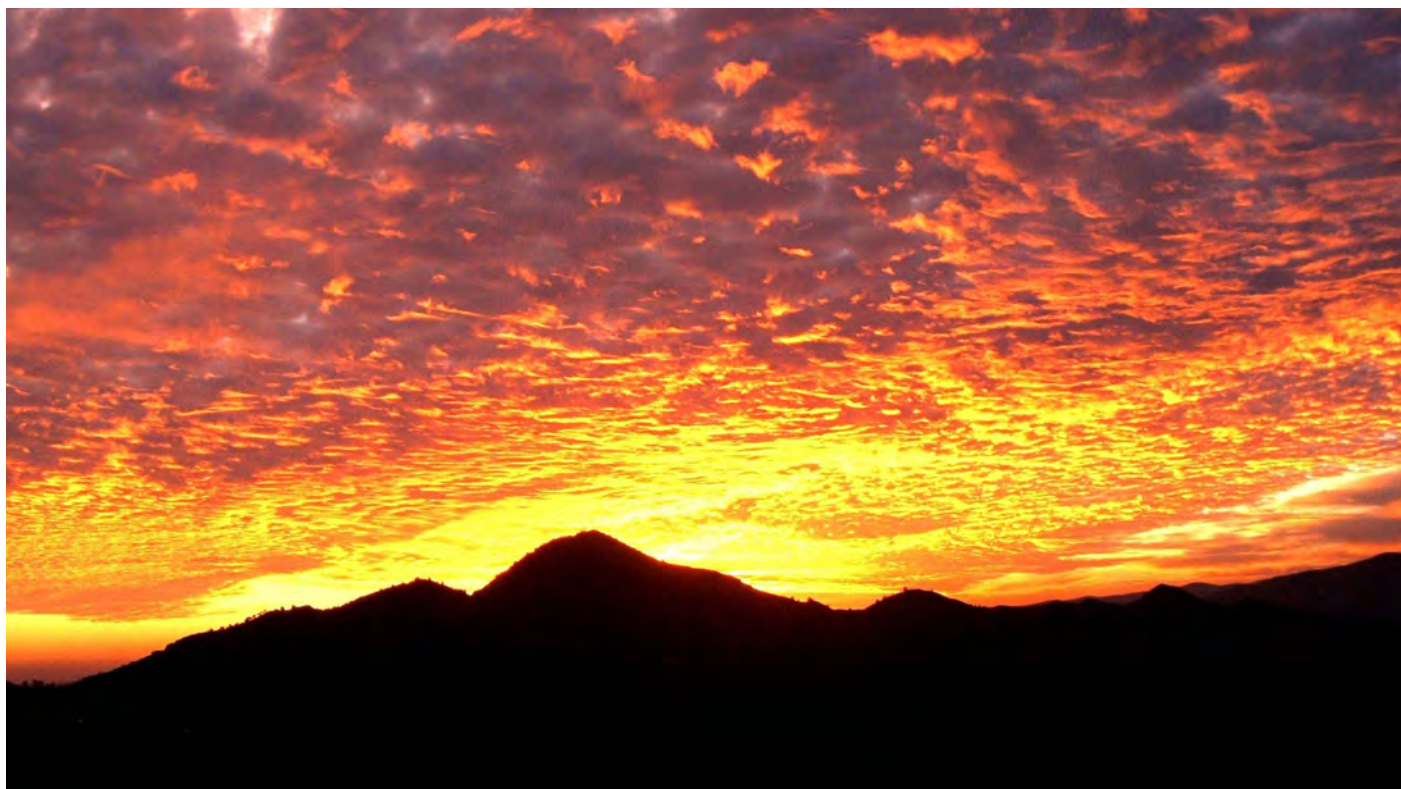
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C3A Magazine

Spring 2025

Farewell to Cyprus and the C3A



Thanassis and I moved to Cyprus in 2005, the first 2 years we rented whilst we decided where we wanted to live.



In 2007 we moved into our dream bungalow in Kalo Chorio which we loved. The scenery, the peace and quiet we wanted and the views and sunsets we dreamed of. I will be very sorry to leave here in so many ways.

We joined the Limassol Branch of the C3A (I had been a previous member of the U3A in the UK) the first group was the Gardening Group, followed by the music group, photographic Group, the Geology Group and Thanassis also joined the Archaeology Group.

We met and became good friends with so many lovely people through these groups, which enhanced our lives considerably, although it did increase our petrol bill as well!



Farewell to Cyprus and the C3A



Environmental Group Meeting at Akrotiri

My first venture into Committee life was as Group Coordinator, where I managed to introduce a few new groups and support the current ones. I did become Chairman of the Limassol Branch for a few years, and have happy memories of talking to the



Chairmen of Paphos and Aphrodite Branches as well.

Eventually both branches left the C3A and became Groups in their own rights for various reasons, so a decision was taken and The Association Committee and Limassol Committee joined forces and became one C3A for the whole of Cyprus.

I also started my own Group, the Environmental Group, a subject that has always been close to my heart, and worked very closely with Bird Life Cyprus, and Terra Cypria as well as other organisations. We had some fascinating speakers on Marine Life, Bird Life to



Farewell to Cyprus and the C3A

plants, insects, snakes, butterflies to the work that Terra Cypria are doing to save the countryside from more golf courses, and protecting the breeding turtles etc. We visited the Desalination plant in Limassol, for a guided tour and also visited many other places of interest including the turtle breeding station at Lara Beach.

I have attached some photos with this "farewell" of places and views that I love and will miss.

I am sad in many ways to be leaving Cyprus but since I sadly lost Thanassis 2 years ago, and my health has become more of a problem, and I made the decision to leave here and return to the UK to be nearer my family.

I will be moving to Shropshire, close to the North Wales border and some truly stunning countryside.

Goodbye to the many great friends I have made through the C3A and also thank you to all who have helped broadening my knowledge through their own interests which they share within the Groups. I shall be joining the U3A where I live and hope to get involved with some of the groups there and keep my brain ticking over for many years to come.



Sue Tsirikos

Evolution of the English language



Save me from Sa'urday and bottuls!

I am not the first to lament the way our noble English language is changing. Humphrey Lyttleton, that multi-talented national treasure, of yesteryear, wide acquaintanceship and doyen of the Trad Jazz revival of the 1940's, did so some twenty years ago. He also deplored the passing of the glottal stop: 'tle' in so many of our words and the demise of 't' in our Estuarine English. Words like Saturday, Peter etc... , bottle, cattle, rattle, metal,et alia have morphed into Sa'aday, Pe'a....., 'botul, catul, ratul....etc.

Even our worthy BBC commentators and newsreaders have stooped to that infantile pronunciation: 'hospitul' in deference to hospit'l, in their spoken reports!

I cringe.

Humph also cites the occasion when a young teacher overseeing a playground game of throwing a ball at a tin can, heard one lad exclaim.

'Blimey, e'i'i.

But, let's face it, these are not the complaints of an old fuddy-duddy, but just the espousal of a social fact that we tend to judge a person by their speech and powers of expression. 'Yer know wha' ah mean!'

Evolution of the English language

The use of the king's English is an attribute of which to be proud. Understood and spoken by billions of people worldwide. It is the core language of western culture and has led to the dominance of English in science, communications - whether earthly or space driven, travel and business. Furthermore, I contend it is as easy to say 'bot'l' as it is 'bottul' or ket'l instead of 'ketul'.

Grammar is another hang-up, but more forgivable because of its complexity.

However, a one-time football icon was heard to say, 'the team done brilliant' during one of those interminable post-match interviews.

Jesus wept! That was beyond the pale. Fowler, (of Modern English Usage fame, NOT the ex-Liverpool striker) must be turning in his grave.

The illiterate overpaid team coach should have been conveyed to the naughty step and boiled in badger's milk. (I think he was, as I never heard him punditing again).

That is another evolutionary trap even I have fallen into: verbing a noun! Go on: google it!

I can forgive the oft mix-up twixt 'I' and 'me' or a split infinitive, or the rather quaintly spoken aspirant: 'an hotel' or 'an historic event' but further than these few concessions, I do not willingly accept as language evolution.

Not that I am beyond correction myself. I suspect there is the odd pedant out there reading this gripe and finding a grammatical error or two, but I think I have conveyed my pet aversions satisfactorily without resort to expletive, (except a small blasphemy) obscenity, unreasonable over-reaction, grammatical error or mispronunciation. That is what this is all about.

Long live the King's English. See yah lay'ah.

John Palmer. (Curmudgeon Extraordinaire)

A summer unearthing Cyprus' ancient past



The Cyprus sun had barely begun its ascent when my alarm jolted me awake at 4 a.m. I awoke in the darkness, exhausted after the initial first day, which had left me aching all over. Six weeks of excavation lay ahead—an adventure I had volunteered for weeks prior.

I was to work on a Middle Cypriot Bronze Age dig, approximately 4,000 years old. It was a beginner's exciting journey into the island's rich past, and I was the oldest among the team!

By 5:45 a.m., the six of us—four from the States and two from Cyprus—were on-site at Kalavassos-Laroumena, ready to unearth secrets buried beneath layers of history. The early start was essential; by mid-morning, the heat would be relentless, and the work demanding.

This was my first-ever archaeological dig—an overwhelming and thrilling experience, certainly one for the bucket list! It was a dirty, gruelling endeavour that combined excitement, challenge, and a whole lot of dust! I hadn't realized at first that I would have the opportunity to experience all the different tasks involved in an archaeological excavation.

Each day, I received hands-on training in excavation techniques, pot washing, and the meticulous recording of findings through drawings and detailed descriptions. One of the most precise tasks involved sifting through soil to catch any overlooked artifacts—an incredibly messy but essential job. Among my discoveries were a shell and a piece of rubber.

A summer unearthing Cyprus' ancient past

A highlight of the experience was visiting the museum in Larnaca to officially lodge our discoveries, ensuring they would be preserved for future study and analysis.

Each day was gruelling, and we relied on two well-earned breaks to keep us going. Breakfast was a simple but much-needed meal—mainly eggs, cheese, and bread—accompanied by a flask of coffee that we all shared. A portaloos was available on-site if needed, but the physical strain of the excavation often overshadowed such concerns. Evidence of animals was present each morning, when we returned to the site we often found fox tracks marking the site, a reminder that we were sharing the landscape with modern wildlife. After leaving the site driving home my car was showing the signs of an archaeologist's car dusty and each movement of the car or me created a cloud of dust. After arriving home, I would eat my lunch, exhaustion would take hold, and I would eventually fall into bed for a deep three-hour sleep, dreaming of the ancient families who once inhabited the settlement.

The site and its significance



Located northwest of Kalavassos village, Laroumena stands atop an elongated ridge, offering a strategic vantage point over the Vasilikos Valley.

The settlement's positioning suggests it may have functioned as part of a network of outposts overseeing trade routes and access to nearby copper mines. Previous surveys and excavations, including the Vasilikos Valley Project led by Ian Todd, identified extensive remains from the Middle Cypriot period, including large-scale storage facilities and craft production areas.

A summer unearthing Cyprus' ancient past

Our team's goals were clear: uncover floor levels of an ancient building, analyse architectural features, and determine how these spaces were used. We worked tirelessly, shovelling through layers of compacted earth and navigating tumbled stone walls that once formed homes, workshops, and storage areas. Keeping the excavation precise was a major challenge, as we had to ensure all walls were kept perfectly straight, with carefully dug lines and 45-degree angles. It was a meticulous and sometimes frustrating process, but one that ultimately gave the site the clarity it needed.

Part of my work involved emptying out the square from last year's excavation, removing the plastic sheet that had been left to protect the site. As I peeled it away, I found it covered in various snake skins—a stark reminder of how nature reclaims its space when humans step away.

Discoveries beneath the soil



One of the most exciting finds of the season was a well-preserved building with thick stone foundations, possibly once supporting an upper story. Within this structure, we uncovered large storage jars called pithoi—some still standing upright where they had been left centuries ago. These vessels, often used to store grains or oil, pointed to a community with organized food storage, hinting at social structures based on surplus and trade.

In another section of the excavation, we unearthed an ancient oven, still bearing traces of soot and ash. I wonder who burnt the cakes! Nearby, a bronze chisel, several spindle whorls, and a variety of grinding stones painted a picture of everyday life. Women spinning wool, bakers tending to their bread, and artisans

shaping tools—our finds gave us a glimpse into a thriving Bronze Age society.

The challenge of excavation

Digging in Cyprus is not for the faint-hearted. By midday, the heat reached unbearable levels, forcing us to retreat. The site's rocky terrain made excavation slow and painstaking. Every brushstroke and trowel scrape required patience, especially when dealing with delicate artefacts. Some layers contained collapsed plaster, possibly the result of an ancient fire. Was it a natural disaster, an attack, or an accident that led to the building's destruction? We may never know for certain, but each discovery brought us closer to piecing together the puzzle of the past.

A summer unearthing Cyprus' ancient past



Upon arriving home each day, I was covered in Bronze Age dust—my face, hands, and arms completely white. The last two weeks were particularly intense, as it was just myself and Professor Mara working on-site.

We lifted and sifted approximately 15 buckets each day, ensuring that nothing of significance was missed in our search for history. By the end of the dig, Mara gave me a moment I will always treasure—she told me that I was now an archaeologist, as I had gained the skills necessary to supervise my own square. It was a humbling and rewarding realization, one that solidified my love for the field.

Looking ahead

As the 2024 season wrapped up, our work was far from complete. Future excavations will focus on expanding our understanding of the site's layout, analysing botanical and faunal remains for dietary insights, and determining whether metalworking occurred here. With more seasons ahead, Kalavassos-Laroumena still has many stories to tell.

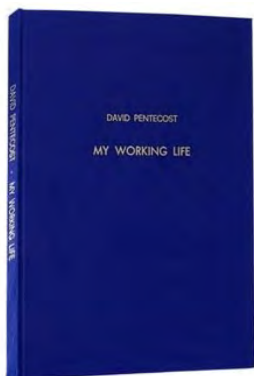
For me, this dig was more than just an archaeological project—it was a journey into a world long forgotten, where every artefact uncovered was a whisper from the past. The pre-dawn starts, the sweat-soaked afternoons, and the thrill of discovery made it an experience I will never forget. As I left the site for the final time, I knew one thing for sure—I would be back, trowel in hand, and ready to unearth more of Cyprus' incredible history.

Caterine Britton

Keeping my brain active after retirement

Since moving from the UK to Cyprus in 2004, apart from composing music, I have spent much of my time in retirement as a writer, doing research to find material to produce printed and electronic books; there have been four of these:

An autobiography about my career in the world of computing, which took place mostly before retirement to Cyprus. The book was both printed, and an e-book, .



The last edition was completed in 2023, and this can be read online by clicking on the image on the left and downloaded as a PDF file, and then printed (105 pages) if required. If it is downloaded, the hyperlinks become active, providing access to more material on the Internet.

Portions of a website called Our Computer Heritage, a project of the UK's Computer Conservation Society. The Society was founded in 1989 as a joint project of the Science Museum in London, and the British Computer Society. It has since also become associated with the Science and Industry Museum in Manchester, and The National Museum of Computing in Bletchley Park. My task was to find and lead a team of people to research and write the story of the Elliott 400 series of computers, manufactured by Elliott Brothers (London) Ltd, a company based in Borehamwood, Hertfordshire, where I worked in the early 1960s.



Part of the Elliott 405 computer, 1957. (Copyright Norwich City Council)

My contributions to the website, for the Elliott 400 series computers, can be found by [clicking here](#).

Keeping my brain active after retirement

The research work for my sections of the website took place over approximately a decade.

The most time-consuming section to research and write, related to the Elliott 403 computer, of which only one was built, for the Government's Weapons Research Establishment in Salisbury, Australia. The computer processed data about guided weapons, which were tested at the secret Woomera rocket range in Australia. A film was made in Australia in 1957 about Woomera and Salisbury, and it was made public in August 2023. [Click here to watch the film on YouTube.](#)

A biographical website, about Frederic Lamond, the once world-famous pianist, (1868 – 1948), in the form of a 37-minute documentary film, dealing mostly with Lamond's time spent with pianist and composer Franz Liszt, in 1885 and 1886.

Lamond can be heard talking about Liszt in his 1945 BBC recording; here is an extract from near the end of the documentary, of Lamond praising Liszt [on YouTube](#).

The full 37-minute documentary starts [here on YouTube](#).

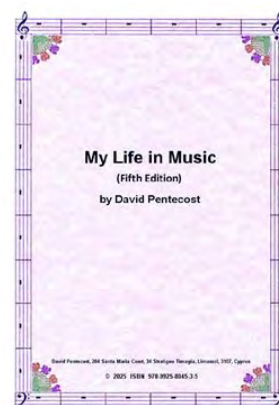
This website has proved very popular with academics and students of music history, and to date, has had about 13,000 views, with many complimentary comments made about the film. I published the documentary in 2016, after working on it for six months.

An autobiography about my second career, in the world of music, mostly in retirement, composing, performing, recording and helping with arranging concerts in Cyprus.

To read the fifth edition (and probably the final edition) of the book, which was published on 12th February 2025, click on the book's cover on the right.

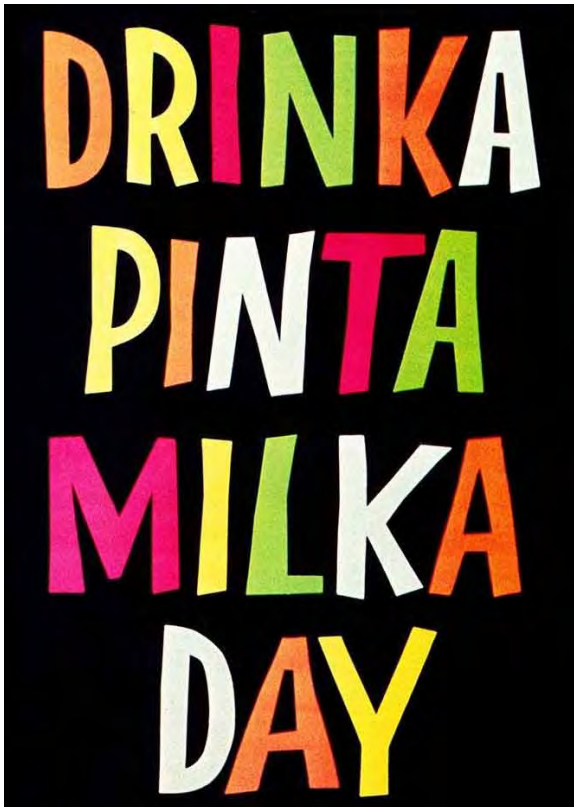
You may read it online or you can download it as a pdf file and print its 171 pages if required.

David Pentecost



What is AI?

Many people are under the impression that AI is something new. Nothing could be further from the truth.



Funded and run by farmers, the Milk Marketing Board (MMB) was established in 1933 to ensure that all milk produced on farms was collected and sold for the best price possible. It also ensured that the price for a pint of milk was the same wherever it was bought.

It also promoted milk to the public through posters and TV adverts. You may remember their famous advertising slogan from the late 1950s "Drinka pinta milka day".

When I worked for the MMB, it had a whole department dedicated to developing and promoting AI and a large team of AI practitioners around the country. (The MMB became responsible for developing AI in 1944.)

The MMB offered its AI services to 60,000+ milk producers. AI was used to increase a cow's milk production and thereby increasing the volume of milk available for consumption. Any excess milk went to creameries and was used to manufacture cheese and other milk products.

As well as increasing milk yields, the dairy farmers who used the MMB's AI services also benefitted as their cows received fewer injuries and the risks of infection were almost totally removed.

Some of you may have realised by now that the AI I'm writing about is not the AI we think of today, but *Artificial Insemination*.

Artificial Intelligence

In essence, artificial intelligence (AI) is technology that enables computers and machines to simulate human learning, comprehension, problem solving, decision making, creativity and autonomy.

Many objects we use today use AI including TVs, smartphones, thermostats, refrigerators, washing machines, dishwashers, GPS and navigation applications. It's also used for weather forecasting and much more.

What is AI?

AI in healthcare

AI is playing a huge role in cancer detection, diagnosis, treatment, and research in areas including early detection and diagnosis, personalised treatment, AI-powered robotics and surgery and cancer research and data analysis.

For example, AI can analyse X-rays, MRIs, CT scans, and mammograms to detect tumours earlier than human doctors.

These types of AI systems are trained using large datasets of medical images including X-rays, MRIs, CT scans, pathology slides from hospitals and medical research organisations, and other publicly available datasets.

They are not perfect, but as they 'learn' from experience as they gather information from analysing more X-ray images, etc, and being told which are cancerous and which are not.

AI is also used to deliver advertising that Google thinks may interest you.

A few years ago, I received a phone call from an irate C3A members *"Why are you advertising ladies underwear on the C3A website Nigel?"* she demanded.

I answered *"Google has shown you an advertisement based on what you've been looking at on the web. Perhaps ladies underwear on the Marks & Sparks website?"*

"Oh" came the reply – end of the conversation.

Generative AI

Generative AI is a type of artificial intelligence that creates new content, such as text, images, music, videos, or even computer code, based on patterns it has



learned from existing data. Unlike traditional AI (as AI in healthcare above), which focuses on recognizing patterns and making decisions, generative AI produces original content.

This is the most discussed (and worrying) type of AI as it can create text, images and videos.

Generative AI images can be very useful. E.g for generating MRI scans for training medical AI systems.

It can also be used for generating molecular structures for medicine.

What is AI?

But generative AI has a worrying capability, which can be used to create realistic fake photos, videos and voices.



AI generated fake image: Donald Trump arrested

Generative AI is like a sewer, what you get out of it depends very much on what you put into it.

I asked DeepSeek, an AI-powered chatbot from China, the question "What is Taiwan"? Answer: *"Taiwan is an inalienable part of China, located off the southeastern coast of the Chinese mainland. It has been an integral part of Chinese territory since ancient times."*

I asked ChatGPT, an AI-powered chatbot, developed by OpenAI and Microsoft, the question "What is Taiwan"? Answer: *"Taiwan is an island in East Asia, located off the southeastern coast of China, across the Taiwan Strait. Taiwan has its own government, military, and economy, but China claims it as a part of its territory and does not recognize it as an independent country."*

Which answer do you believe is correct?

Nigel Howarth

A light hearted look at Christmas



Christmas is an enjoyable and supposed stress-free few days each year when the cares of the world are put to one side, and we all indulge in a euphoric delusion of bonhomie and unabashed gluttony.

Why do we still sing the most ridiculous songs about kings and shepherds, lowing cattle and heavenly choirs when the whole concept is concocted make-believe? Perhaps it is the human need to celebrate with one's fellow travellers occasionally and bury the hatchet with one's irritating friends and neighbours. As you may perceive I am not a pushover with the story but I enjoy the joie de vivre and spirit of Christmas.

Spare a thought for a moment for those 3 mythological kings in the context of today's world. There they are travelling alone from afar without any creature comforts or sat-nav and then, refused accommodation for the night as all the taverns

A light hearted look at Christmas



were full and they'd left their face masks behind. They had already had trouble at the border with the import of banned substances and import licences not to mention passport control and entry into Israel.

However, the local Chinese take-away in Bethlehem did a roaring trade for a couple of days serving hungry kings and ravenous shepherds queueing up for crispy noodles with sweet and sour chicken wings.

The sheep hustlers had foregone Match of The Day on the TV and trekked in from the desert where they had been watching over their poor starving flocks, to gaze upon a little mite born to a woman having conceived in suspicious circumstances: you must think I was born yesterday!

Could it be the whole story of Christ's conception and birth is invented to deify the man who preached a new religion based upon love and forgiveness of one's fellow creatures? The Roman Law eventually caught up with him and he was most cruelly put to death, but his message had taken root and formed the basis upon which modern Western society is built. That speaks volumes for its moral veracity and longevity.

A light hearted look at Christmas

The incipient magnanimity of Christianity has, in my opinion, put it way ahead of many other religions and beliefs, but it could be argued that it has been blown off course by zealots and bigots succumbing to the human failing of greed and power. Christ would probably be the first to condemn the modern churches, their wealth, power and control through fear, if he were to return today.

Modern philosophy and science challenges many myths and legends upon which Christianity is built. If the concept is strong enough, they will withstand and not capitulate. Blasphemy implies weakness and is a man-made barrier against doubt and questioning. Why should an all-powerful Creator succumb with a vicious and sadistic reaction to the miss-use of Its name by a creature It created and imbued with a sense of humour? Surely, it is too ridiculous to demand an explanation. Come on: think outside the constricting box of dogma.

The only excuse for the invention of all religions is Man's inability to live peacefully with himself/herself driven by the instinct of self-preservation and to come to terms with the fear of dying. After all, we are just animals blessed with the doubtful gift of a mind and free will.

Let's be honest: Xmas has become a bonanza of commercialism and indulgence. The time is ripe for a reappraisal and for a means of inspiring morality and love for one's fellow creatures without recourse to fairy tales.

John Palmer

Last year, a short trip down Memory Lane



Saudi Arabia 4th Century Jubail Church

As some of you will know I am regular member of the Archaeology Group. As December and January are often not ideal for standing about, looking into a hole in the ground out of which almost everything of interest has been removed and safely stored in some museum store room.

That being the case our Group Leader encourages members to take the opportunity to do some individual research over the year end. In January we are encouraged to share our findings by giving a brief summary at a group researchers' meeting. Group Leader Pat suggested that I might like to investigate the origins of early church design.

During my researches I found, to my surprise, that some of the earliest surviving churches are in the Islamic Middle East including in Saudi Arabia. Indeed, currently the oldest known, purpose built, church is the Jubail Church on the Saudi east coast at Jubail. Evidence suggests it was built in the 4th century CE. It was discovered by expatriates, who were picnicking, in 1986 and the site was fully excavated by the Saudi Archaeology authorities in 1987.

Last year, a short trip down Memory Lane

Having spent many years working in the Kingdom I was aware that there are currently no active churches within the Kingdom. But strangely, I knew, from personal experience, that there had been Christian communities in the area prior to the time of Muhammad in 7th century CE. Indeed, some areas of the Saudi peninsular, around Najran, were predominantly Christian until the 10th century.

By the start of the Common Era (CE) Arab merchants were regularly trading with the Roman Empire in spices and other luxury goods from India. These would have been carried by ship from India to the Gulf or the south coast of the peninsular. From there they would have been carried by camel to the Eastern Mediterranean sea. These merchants would have almost certainly have come in contact with the new religion.

Additionally, we know that St. Paul spent several years in Arabia (Galatians 1:17) and, later, St Thomas spent some time in Arabia enroute to India.

My own knowledge came from a trip I made in the early 1990's. I had the good fortune to visit a site containing the remains of an early church located deep in the desert north of the Empty Quarter. This Church would have served merchants, prior to the 10th century, who would have regularly traversed this area as they carried luxury goods from India – to Mecca and beyond. The site was protected by razor wire and armed guards, as it was feared that local tribes might damage the site if free access was allowed. Our small group was given written permission to enter the site and the guards, who were delighted to see us as we provide a distraction from weeks of isolation, made us very welcome. We camped in the desert close by the church. As is so often the case we could see little other than the outline of a simple building formed by the foundation stones.

Another highlight for me was the view of the heavens that evening. We were many kilometres from any modern habitation and therefore there was no light that night pollution and the stars that night were incredibly clear, the Milky Way being a glowing band across the skies. The whole trip was quite unforgettable.

As I mentioned above, we Archaeology buffs regularly look down into empty holes as anything exciting has been taken for examination by specialists far away. Still, sometimes, as happened in the 2024 season, we are lucky enough to be on site when discoveries were being made. We had visited the site, close by the Salt Lake at Larnaca previously where the remains of a major Bronze Age settlement has been the subject of extensive investigation over the decades.

We arrived to find the team working on a tomb site that had not been previously investigated. It was actually being worked while we were there. As we watched the team members were teasing human remains and grave goods out of the soil. It was truly wonderful, yet another magical moment. Count me in for 2025.

John Lawley

Pipe organs and me



David Pentecost at St Barnabas' Church, Linslade

I was trained in organ playing in London in 1987 by the late Catherine Ennis, a former President of the Royal College of Organists. She was organist at the City of London church of St. Lawrence Jewry next Guildhall, and I met her after I played two piano solos at a concert there. My weekly lessons were insufficient, and I needed to practice between lessons, so I arranged with the organist at St. Barnabas' Church in Linslade, to allow me to practice there; he gave me a key to the church, which was not far from my home.

For further practice, I played at some baptism services for a year or two. A highlight of my training, was to accompany Catherine to one of her lunchtime recital rehearsals at the Royal Festival Hall, and she allowed me to play, while she took a coffee break. What an unforgettable experience that was for me, to play such a magnificent instrument, with four keyboards, a pedalboard, and over 7,800 pipes.

In 2003 I bought my flat in Limassol, and it was not long before I moved permanently to Cyprus. I concentrated on the piano, composing and playing, the organ all but forgotten. I formed two groups of amateur pianists, in Paphos and Limassol which operated from about 2007 to 2011; we played at private recitals in each others' homes.

One of the members of the Limassol pianists group was Tatiana Stupak, who had been trained as a pianist and organist at St. Petersburg Conservatory; we kept in

Pipe organs and me

touch occasionally. In 2015, I persuaded her to play a recital for the C3A, which took place in June. That led to her decision to play more often, and eventually in 2017 she formed her own music school. The school put on concerts occasionally, and in 2019 she started arranging charity organ concerts at St. Catherine's Catholic Church in Limassol. The organ at this church is electronic, without pipes, and at the time, did not have a working pedalboard. I was not very keen to play on it, but I did make videos of the concerts there.

Tatiana particularly, missed playing on an organ with a pedalboard. In 2022, I arranged for us to play on the biggest organ (10,268 pipes) in the UK, at Liverpool's Anglican Cathedral, whilst on holiday in England. But before travelling to England, Tatiana needed to practice on an organ with a working pedalboard, because she had not be able to use an organ pedalboard for more than a decade; I had not done so for more than 25 years!



Me playing the Liverpool Cathedral organ

I did some research on the Internet, and discovered that there was just one pipe organ with a pedalboard in Cyprus – at St. Mary of Graces Catholic Church in Larnaca. It was installed there in 1989. I contacted the priest in charge at the time, and arranged for Tatiana to practice a Bach Prelude and Fugue. She managed this very successfully. She then wanted to make a video of the church, and asked me to provide some sound, by playing the organ. I had no sheet music with me, so I had to improvise a new work, which eventually became my Prelude, Opus 69. ([Tatiana's video is on YouTube](#)). Our subsequent visit to

Liverpool Cathedral, with both of us playing the organ, was a wonderful and unforgettable experience, made possible only because my brother knew the father of the man whose job it is to service the organ: Adrian Griffiths. It was a very rare privilege to be allowed to play that organ.

In the autumn of 2023, after Tatiana's school organ concert at St. Catherine's Church in Limassol, partly in frustration at the pedalboard not working, but also because it was a dream of hers, she resolved to try to buy her own organ, and she wanted it to be a traditional pipe organ. Adrian Griffiths advised that it needed to be an organ with a mechanical action, rather than electronic, for ease of maintenance.

Pipe organs and me

There is quite an active market in Europe and elsewhere by sellers of pipe organs. These organs are generally quite old, and are often being sold because the churches where they were housed, had become redundant, through lack of use, and were being demolished. Other organs are being dispensed with, in favour of modern electronic organs, many of which do not have organ pipes, but produce organ pipe sounds electronically.

Tatiana and I both started looking for a second-hand pipe organ to install in her music school. Her school hall is not large, and therefore the organ had to be small enough not to deafen an audience. We found a few in England, and I took advice from Adrian Griffiths about whether we should consider buying each one that we found. But they were overpriced, or were not considered reliable enough for Tatiana to buy. We found one organ in a church in Giessen, Germany. The church was to be demolished in February 2024, and the organ had to be dismantled by mid January. The timescale did not give us enough opportunity to assess the organ, or to have a recording made of it to hear, so Tatiana was unable to buy it.

By April 2024, we had both found another pipe organ, owned by an organ builder whose workshop is in Poland. It was the right size, and Tatiana started negotiating with the owner, after Adrian Griffiths advised that it seemed to be a good buy. Although the owner was in Poland, he was German, and he spoke no English. He would not communicate by email, and only by Facebook Messenger. I helped Tatiana with the transmission of messages to and fro, for several weeks, using my schoolboy German from 70 years ago, and some help with Google Translate software.

Eventually Tatiana agreed a price, and paid the owner; he packed the organ for shipping to Limassol. Tatiana arranged with a Limassol shipping company to collect and import the organ, and it eventually arrived at her music school on 26th July 2024. I filmed the delivery, and at <https://youtu.be/b3cBP3HsMvk> you can see a speeded-up video.

Cyprus then had its second pipe organ, and the only mechanical one, albeit, not in a playable condition, because the pipes had to be unpacked from their carefully protected storage boxes and installed and tuned, and the organ had to be tested for full functionality. The organ builder would have to travel from Poland to Limassol to do this work, because there are no organ builders or servicing mechanics in Cyprus, as far as is known.

The website where I had discovered the only other pipe organ in Cyprus, (the one in

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Larnaca) was now out of date, in reporting that it had the only pipe organ in the island. On 30th July, I emailed Riccardo Ceriani, Director of the Terra Sancta Organ Festival. I understand that he oversees the organs in Catholic churches in the eastern Mediterranean region. He was very kind, and added additional text to [the website](#), referring to the pipe organ at Tatiana's music school. Whilst corresponding with him, I mentioned that the pedalboard of the organ at St. Catherine's Church in Limassol was not functioning. He took this point on board, and I was surprised and delighted, when he emailed me in November 2024, advising that he had arranged for the pedalboard to be repaired, and that it was, after many years, working once again.

It was a curious coincidence that Riccardo Ceriani's email arrived on one of the days when the seller of the organ, Herr Marian Graun, an organ builder, was at Tatiana's school, setting up her organ.



Organ being tuned by Herr Marian Graun

Herr Graun finally arrived in Cyprus on 17th November 2024, almost four months after the organ had been delivered to the school. He comes from a historic musical family, and he is a distant cousin of the writer Vladimir Nabokov. Marian's father was a very good organist, who originally installed Tatiana's organ in a German church. Marian Graun is a multiple great grandson of [Carl Heinrich Graun](#), the finest 18th century German composer of Italian operas (26 of them for the Berlin State Opera).

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Carl Heinrich Graun worked for Frederick the Great, who put him in charge of the Berlin State Opera. A street in Berlin today is named after him: Graunstrasse; cousins of Marian Graun still live there today.

Tatiana's single-keyboard semi-mobile organ (known as a Positive), was bought by Marian Graun's organist father in 1973 from the congregation of a German church; he later sold it to St. Barbara's Catholic Church in Hänigsen, near Hanover, and maintained it for them. The church was deconsecrated in 2012, and Marian Graun was able to buy the organ, before the church was demolished.

I spent every day from 17th to 21st November at the school, acting as Herr Graun's assistant, filming him working, and helping him to test the organ. It was a two-man job at times, to complete the installation and to tune all 243 pipes. It was fascinating, and I learned a lot about tuning organ pipes, and the construction of the organ. Since Herr Graun's departure back to Poland, I have had to use that knowledge twice, to fix two keys, which when pressed, would sometimes not stop sounding. I now have another occupation as a pipe organ engineer!

During the transportation from Poland, some damage had been done to the organ, in spite of careful packing, and we had to effect some intricate repairs. At one point, Marian Graun astonished me by asking for a broom! (All this conversation was of course in German, and I had recourse many times to translation software on my smartphone). I found a rake in the garden, and was amazed to see how skilfully he poked the handle of the rake into one dented and delicate metal pipe, and gradually reshaped the pipe back to its original form, while I leaned on the long rake handle to prevent it from moving.

After Herr Graun returned to Poland, I made a speeded-up video of the process of installing the organ pipes, which took place on 17th and 18th of November. The video lasts only 3½ minutes, and is on [YouTube](#).

The following three days were spent making repairs and tuning the pipes. I had to play the organ for an hour or so, which brought to light some faults, which were fixed, not always easily.

A second video was needed, to record the tuning and voicing of the organ pipes. It took me until 22nd December to find time to extract from hours of footage which I had taken during Herr Graun's visit, enough illustrative clips to present the most significant aspects of tuning the organ pipes. This video cannot be speeded up like the previous one, because speeding up either eliminates the sound, or raises the frequencies of the notes so high that many cannot be heard at all. I reduced about

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two days' work to under 18 minutes of real-time video clips. They can now be viewed and, equally importantly, heard, on [YouTube](#).

Tatiana's organ was made by the German family firm of E. Kemper & Sohn, in Lübeck, Germany. The year of manufacture is not known, but it was probably built in the mid 1950s. Kemper was an organ building firm which operated from 1868 until 1987, when it ceased building organs, but continued servicing them.



Me filming the Mayor of Limassol opening the concert

Tatiana Stupak decided to hold an inaugural organ concert at her music school on 18th December 2024, a private event for invited special guests only. The Mayor of Limassol, Mr. Yiannis Armeftis agreed to open the concert, to celebrate the acquisition of the second pipe organ in Cyprus, and the first one which is privately owned. The mayors of Agios Tychonas and of Germasogeia were also able to attend, and of course, some media representatives. The concert featured Tatiana Stupak and five of her young music school students. I filmed the entire event, and uploaded it to [YouTube](#).

Few organs are identical, having different controls, and different sounds, and one has to work out how best to play a particular organ for each piece of music to be performed. Now that Tatiana has a nice little organ at her school, I shall be able once again, after a very long time, to practice, and learn how to use it properly, especially to try to get my feet working again on the pedalboard.

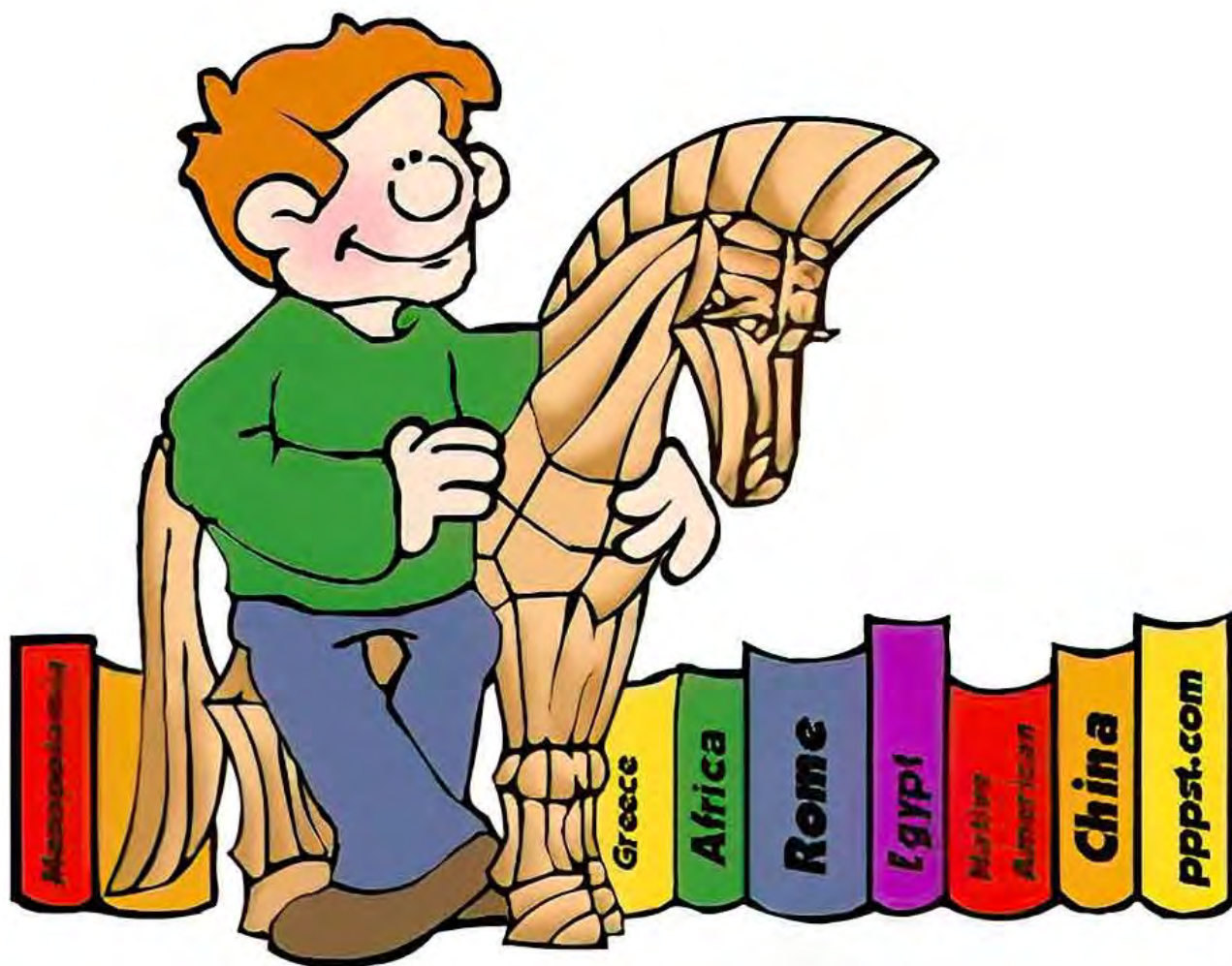
Pipe organs and me

I made an autobiographical video of my organ career up to March 2024, with photos, accompanied by my recording of my Prelude for Organ, Opus 73; the video is on YouTube. Click on the image below to view it.



David Pentecost

History understanding and appreciation group



The "[History understanding and appreciation group](#)" has had its first meeting. We are a select few and more members would be appreciated and enriching.

It does involve an element of personal interaction to make the whole thing effective and worthwhile. It will not be ideal for "passive" members. As a group we have decided that individual curiosity emotive alignment and personal experience; will be the rule.

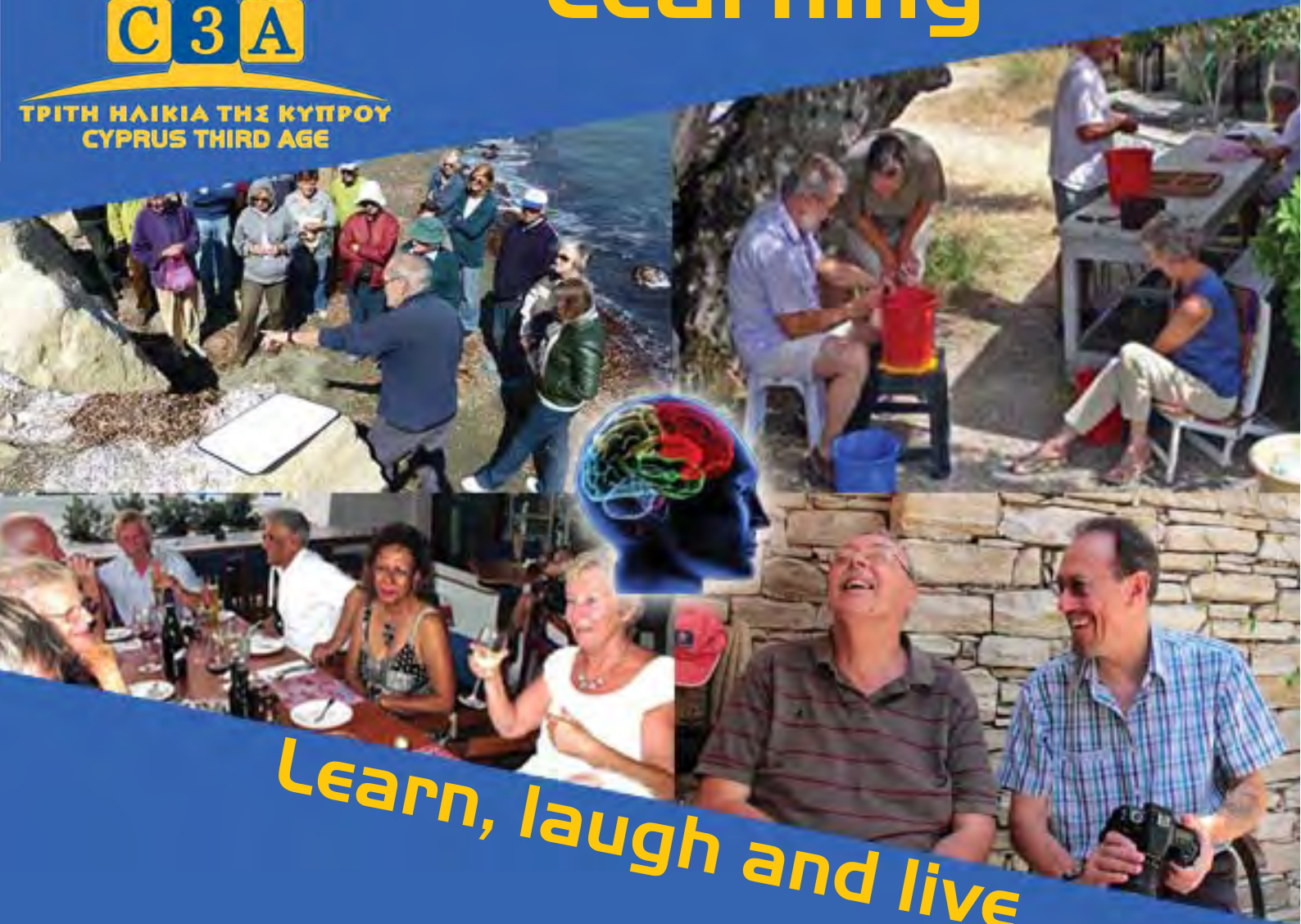
All said and done you can find **anything** that interests you on the worldwide web but it will be the submission and correlation of your personal finds that should make this group tick.

Deirdre Grant-Björge



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