



LAPITHOS  
MUNICIPALITY

# Lapithos news

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## EDUCATIONAL VISIT PROGRAMME FOR THE Pro-13T PROJECT AT BRUSSELS



The European Commission decided to fund the proposal submitted by the Union of Cyprus Municipalities in the framework of the European program "Europe for citizens". The said proposal refers to a cooperation of the Union of Cyprus Municipalities with the Assembly of European Regions (AER) in order to promote and develop themed twinning among its members but also between cities from the rest of the European Union. The Pro - 13T started on the 9th of January 2012 and has duration of 12 months.

In the framework of the said program, a group made up by fifteen mayors from Cyprus, the Secretary of the City Council of the Lapithos Municipality and two escorts from other Municipalities visited Brussels from the 22nd until the 24th of October, 2012 and attended the seminars. Goal of the project was to educate Local and Regional Authorities from all over Europe on how to set the theme priorities for European projects, how to express their ideas correctly, find partners and plan targeted actions.

The Europe for citizens program aims to promote the active participation of the European citizen to affairs of the city. Goal of the program is to give the citizens the opportunity to exchange their experiences and views and participate to the building of a Europe even more accessible and united via educational, youth, cultural and social affairs, research and development, technology, environmental affairs and many more.

On behalf of the Municipality of Lapithos attended the seminar not only the Mayor Mr. Neoptolemos Kotsapas but also the Town Secretary Mr. Renos Koumi.

## Book Presentation of Authors from Lapithos

The Municipality of Lapithos, in appreciation of its citizens and recognition of their work has established for some time several honorary events, book presentations and prizes, therefore offering at least a vestige of satisfaction and accolade for their work.

So, on the 28th of November 2012 as part of its series of art happenings and arts' and humanities' events, organized an event honoring those authors from Lapithos who published books during 2011-2012. The event took place at the Karavas Cultural Foundation and four authors from Lapithos and their books were presented. They were the work of Mr. Yiorgos Charitonides, "Traveler Imprisoned" («ΑΙΧΜΑΛΩΤΟΣ ΠΕΡΙΗΓΗΤΗΣ») and the Professor at the University of Cyprus, Mr. Andreas Papapavlou, "The linguistic landscape of Cyprus" («ΤΟ ΓΛΩΣΣΙΚΟ ΤΟΠΙΟ ΣΤΗΝ ΚΥΠΡΟ»). The other two authors wrote collections of poems, "Appeared" [«ΑΝΕΦΑΝΗ»] by the late Andreas Emmanuel and "Cyprus, the crossroads crucified" («ΚΥΠΡΟΣ ΤΟ ΣΤΑΥΡΩΜΕΝΟ ΣΤΑΥΡΟΔΡΟΜΙ»), by philologist Mr. Petros Combos.

The book entitled "Traveler Imprisoned" was presented by well-known and talented actor and director, who is also from Lapithos, Mr. Fotos Fotiades, while the book entitled "The linguistic landscape of Cyprus" was presented by the lecturer of the University of Cyprus, Mr. Charalambos Themistocleous.

The collection of poems entitled "Appeared" was presented by the President of the Union of Cyprus Writers, Mr. Christos Chatzipappas and the poem collection entitled "Cyprus, the crossroads crucified" by Mr. Yiorgos Petoussis, President of the "Vasilis Michaelides" Writers' Union of Limassol.

The event concluded with a brief artistic programme that included reading and singing poems from the two collections presented.



## CELEBRATIONS MARKING THE 100 YEAR ANNIVERSARY FOR THE CHURCH OF AYIOS MINAS OF NEO CHORIO, PAFOS



to the community and exhibiting them, so that the people could pay homage to them. They also celebrated the 100-year anniversary since the church was built honouring the church's founder posthumously.

A small group of Lapithians lead by the Mayor of Lapithos and President of the "LAPITHOS" Refugee Association, the Deputy Mayor and member of the City Council were invited in order to participate to the celebrations.

On the 10th and 11th November, 2012 (name-day of Saint Minas) the 100-year anniversary since the building of the church of Ayios Minas at the village Neo Chorio, Pafos was celebrated with all due magnificence and splendor.

The church of Ayios Minas was built in 1912 by Costas Kyrris, a master builder from Lapithos. The community board of Neo Chorio of Pafos honoured with due grandeur the patron saint, Saint Minas by bringing his holy remains



*The Mayor of Lapithos Mr. Neoptolemos Kotsapas, the members of the Lapithos City Council  
and the Municipality personnel*

*wish you*

*Merry Christmas And A Happy New Year, full of Health, Happiness, Peace  
and Freedom to Cyprus, our home.*





## Lemon Dance in London

20 October 2012



This year's Lemon Dance that took place on the 20th of October 2012, at the Cypriot Community Centre in Wood Green was yet again a great success. The ball was organized as always by the Lapithos, Karavas and outskirts Association (GB).

The Association cooperates closely with the displaced Municipalities of Lapithos and Karavas and the respective Refugee Associations, therefore the Mayor of Lapithos, Mr. Neoptolemos Kotsapas, headed a delegation of members of the City Council, Messrs. Dimitris Mina and Andreas Kombos; the Mayor of Karavas, Mr. Yiannakis Papaioannou; the President of the "LAPITHOS" Refugee Association, Mr. Andreas Stavrinou and the Vice-president of the "KARAVAS" Refugee Association, Mr. Frangiskos Chatzifrangiskou, that went to London to grace the event with their presence.

Mr. Savvas Pavlides, President of the Association welcomed the invitees from Cyprus with the following: "...your presence here grants immense significance to the dance organization and encourages us to continue our effort..." Both Mayors, as well as the Associations' representatives in their addresses stressed how important it is to maintain your identity and keep your customs and traditions, wherever you may be, even thousands of miles away from home.

The evening was marked by the known lemon dance competition, and the fresh lemons were sent from Cyprus especially for the evening. It should be noted that the lemons were offered by Mr. Frixos Throumbos, a refugee from Lapithos living at Poli Chrysochous. He sends them every year without any charge via the Lapithos Municipality. The choir of young children (Cypriots of Britain) under 10 years of age singing Cypriot songs dressed in Cypriot traditional costumes impressed everyone present at the dance.

A significant number of invitees – important figures of the Cypriot community attended the beautiful event, among which were the reverend Athanasios, Bishop of Tropaeo, representing the Archbishop of Thyateira and Great Britain; the cultural attaché of the High Commission of the Republic of Cyprus, Mr. Kypros Charalambous; the Education Office of the Embassy of Greece coordinator, Mrs. Varvara Kambouridou; the Inspector – Head of the Cyprus Educational Mission, Mrs. Androula Othonos; the Executive Secretary of the National Cyprus Federation, Mr. Andreas Karaolis and the coordinator of the Lobby for Cyprus, Mr. Theodoros Theodorou.

## VISIT TO THE BRITISH MUSEUM



the Lapithos and Karavas Association (GB).

The delegation was given a tour of the Museum by the scholar, tour guide and curator of Cypriot Antiquities to the British Museum, Dr. Thomas Kiely, who sincerely surprised us with his extensive in-depth knowledge.

On the occasion of the journey that a delegation of the Lapithos Municipality made to Great Britain for the established Lemon Dance, the delegation members also made a scheduled visit to the British Museum. They admired the Ancient Lapithos findings, the Lambousa Byzantine treasures, the renovated Anastasios Leventis Gallery of Cypriot antiquities, as well as Greek antiquities, including the Parthenon marbles.

The delegation comprised of the Mayor of Lapithos, Mr. Neoptolemos Kotsapas; the President of the "LAPITHOS" Refugee Association, Mr. Andreas Stavrinou; the City Councillor, Mr. Andreas Kombos and our escort, Mr. Savas Pavlides, President of

## LAPITHIANS ON AN EXCURSION THAT IS ALSO A PILGRIMAGE

The 21st yearly pilgrimage in the form of an excursion for Lapithians was organized successfully once again this year. Co-organizers were the Municipality of Lapithos and the "LAPITHOS" Refugee Association. Right to participate had all citizens from Lapithos from the age of 60 onwards. They all came from different areas of Cyprus, where they now live temporarily since they were ripped from their homes and hearths during the black July and August of 1974.

On Sunday, the 23rd of September 2012, the 300 participants went on the excursion to the Akrotiri – Episkopi area in Limassol. First stop: the Saint Nicolas of the Cats monastery, at the Akrotiri area. The participants first worshipped God and then were given coffee and sweets. Afterwards, the motorcade went by Kolossi and the theatre of Kourion on the old motorway between Limassol and Pafos through the British base of Episkopi and ended at the scenic area of Happy Valley, where the Saint George monastery or monastery of Christ the Counsellor is situated. Both monasteries of the pilgrimage have a long history lasting centuries and were recently restored and renovated. The first is connected to the Saint Helen visit to Cyprus, while the latter has an ancient miracle-working

icon of Saint George that was found at a seaside cave. It bears noting that in the sea, near the spot where the icon was found, the water is still fresh water and not sea-water.

The retirees as a whole were very content and expressed their gratitude to the organizers. The organizers, for their part, state that, despite the financial crisis, such meetings have a special meaning, therefore they intend to maintain the institution for as long as they have to, regardless of the difficulties, financial problems and effort required.



## Greeting!!!



The Mayor and the City Council of Lapithos, the President and the Board of Directors of the "LAPITHOS" Refugee Association, the President and the members of the Lapithos School Board, the President of the Youth Board of Lapithos Municipality, the village heads of the six parishes of Lapithos, the President and the Board of Directors of the Lapithos and Karavas Association (GB), wish you Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, healthy, full of personal and family Happiness. May the New Year 2013 bring us the just solution of the Cyprus problem and the return of all refugees to their fathers' hearth and home that we wish for.

## FREE UNIVERSITY ORGANISED BY THE OCCUPIED MUNICIPALITIES OF KYRENIA



Since last November, 2012, the Free University lectures of the occupied municipalities of the Kyrenia district (municipalities of Kyrenia, Lapithos and Karavas) begun in cooperation with the Holy Bishopric of Kyrenia and the University of Cyprus. The lectures were an initiative of the University of Cyprus.

The first year of lectures has been set to begin in November 2012 and last until May 2013 with one lecture given each month and the lectures are given in the multi-purposes' hall of the City Hall of Kyrenia. It is possible that in case some lectures are given in the Limassol district, the halls of the Nautical Club of Kyrenia might be used.

The lectures begin at 7.30 p.m. The first lecture was given on the 12th of November 2012 and its subject was: "For the future's future". The lecturer was the Dean of the University of Cyprus, Mr. Constantinos Christofides and coordinator of the discussion was the Professor of History and Archaeology at the University of Cyprus, Mr. Petros Papapolyviou.

The first lecture was attended by more than 70 people.

This lecture's title is intriguing, according to the lecturer, since we are all seeking to find a ray of light and hope for the future, while we recognize how bleak our present is, but at the same time we are highlighting the future we can see in the present. Our birthplace has a future in the future that will come. The Dean in his lecture mentioned a series of important elements regarding the financial life of the country during the 20th century and also analyzed the new data of the extremely difficult situation our country is going through at present.

Participation is free of charge for anyone interested in attending. All interested should state their interest in participating on time, in order to begin early the whole course, so as to have the possibility to graduate with the rest of the participants at the end of this course and receive the special participation certificate that will be given by the University.

You may find the lecture at the Municipality of Lapithos website: [www.lapithos.org.cy](http://www.lapithos.org.cy)