



THE KEFI CLUB NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 11

Feb 2006



New Venue Sort

Due to the sudden and shock notice given by the Committee of the Bradbury Centre that they were unable to offer the Kefi Club the use of their excellent facilities any further, we are now looking for a replacement venue. If any of our members can assist or knows of a place then can they contact Nick Kontarines.

However, for the short term we have secured the use of Norton Parish Hall.

Unfortunately this is a little way out of Worcester and I have included directions on how to get there for those who may not know the whereabouts of Norton Parish Hall.

From Malvern

Head for M5 junction 7. Continue straight over roundabout after new bridge and junction of A38 at the Ketch Public house for ½ mile. At next roundabout take 3rd exit sign posted Norton/Littleworth for ½ mile until next roundabout take 1st exit. Follow this road for 1¼ miles until you reach the Retreat Public house. Turn right into Wadborough Road continue for a further 1 mile through the village of Littleworth, at end sharp right hand bend you will see Norton Parish Hall 20m on left hand side. There is ample parking available.

From Junction 7 M5

If travelling southbound take 1st exit or northbound 3rd exit left from motorway junction onto the B4084 (old A44) sign posted Pershore. Continue for 1 mile turn right into Woodbury Lane for ¾ mile until you reach the Retreat Public house on left immediately after turn left and follow directions as above.

POSTCODE

For those wishing to use the inter-net or Sat-nav the postcode is WR5 2QB. This will put you within 200m as the bookings lady could not give me the exact postcode.

Toppling the topless towers of Troy

Our guest speaker is Martin Harris from the Department of Classics, Malvern College for our next meeting 10th Mar. Martin's last talk you will remember was titled "We'll watch murder and incest – but no sex please, we're Athenian!" and gave us an exceptional evening of dramatic readings in ancient Greek performed by three Upper Sixth students from the College. What has he in store for us this time, come along to our new venue to find out.



Cookbooks at the ready

The April meeting on 07 April not the 14th as published in our Kefi Club membership booklet will be the hotly contested Greek Cooking Competition. Now's the time to dust off those Greek cookbooks to maybe start getting an idea on what to prepare for our third competition. This event has always been a very well attended event and the standard of cooking has always impressed the judges.

“Dry, sharp, fruity” or “Hints of blackberry, cherry & current”

These were but a few of the words banded about during our Greek wine tasting held for the last time at the Bradbury Centre on Friday 10 Feb. This was our fourth such wine tasting and we have had different wines at each of those tastings all the wines have been very palatable. Each distinctive because of the different grape varieties used, not well known albeit to the wine connoisseur. This time we were treated to a couple of wines from Cyprus. These were very distinct due to the grapes being indigenous to Cyprus. With 10 wines to try it was down to Geoff our host to guide us through each of the wines. (Thankfully I managed to keep a few notes as we were introduced to each of the wines or my article would finish about now). We had 4 whites to sample. The first, named Likno, was dry, sharp and fruity, ideal with shellfish. Second was Lantides Moschofilero from the Peloponnese, dry sharp and aromatic. Then to my favourite, Lycos Panselinos Assyrtiko/Sauvignon Blanc, perhaps because it was slightly sweeter, with a hint of gooseberry. Lastly the Cypriot Kathikas Vassilikon, we were informed by Geoff, it would be ideal with Sword fish. It was on Cyprus that I first sampled Swordfish. After a short comfort break it was onto the reds. First a Cypriot wine made from six grape varieties best suited for pork or lamb. Then Lanides Agiorgitiko/Cabernet from the Nemea region of Greece high in tannin, a good accompaniment with Stifado. Lastly, before the sweeter wines was Panselinos Cabernet Sauvignon. As soon as Greek sweet wine is mentioned everyone thinks of Mavrodaphne. Our tasting session was treated to Karelas Mavrodaphne of Patras Fumé. The distinction with this particular one was that it had been stored in oak barrels for 18 months giving it a certain smoothness and roundness and at 15% alcohol need I say more. Our final tasting was Karelas Cherry Liqueur very nice and ideal poured over ice cream if you dare. Thanks to Geoff for guiding us through these wines and for passing on some of his vast knowledge of all wines.

News reports

Loud owls at Athina’s arrival (The Daily Telegraph 27 Jan 2006)

The newly wed Athina Onassis was to become president of her billion-dollar family foundation when she turns 21 on Sunday. In the past, descendents of the legendary ship-owner had to satisfy just three conditions to become president – to be capable of serving, willing to serve, and to be over 21. However the incumbent president, Anthony Papadimitriou, doesn’t rate her as successor, launching a legal battle to stop her taking the post. Athina’s lawyers in London, Baker & McKenzie, aren’t saying a word but, having inherited £320m on her 18th birthday, she’ll presumably have enough to get by.

Hailed as hero despite loss



Unseeded Cypriot Marcos Pagdatis falls to Roger Federer in the Australian Open final

Marcos Pagdatis remains a hero on the Mediterranean island of Cyprus despite losing to top-ranked Roger Federer in the Australian Open final yesterday. The unseeded Pagdatis — ranked 54th in the world before the tournament — made the final in Melbourne but lost to Federer 7-5, 5-7, 0-6, 2-6. Pagdatis was bidding to become the first unseeded player to win the title since 212-ranked Australian Mark Edmondson won in Melbourne in 1976. The Cypriot’s ranking has now climbed to 26. His defeat did not stop Greek Cypriots from pouring into the main square of Paramythia village — the home of Pagdatis’s parents — under the deafening sound of fireworks, gunfire, church bells and music. Celebrations also spread to the Aghios Nikolaos roundabout — the traditional venue for all sporting celebrations in Limassol — where fans draped in Greek and Cypriot flags chanted his name. Pagdatis, a former world junior champion, beat several seeded players, including No. 2 Andy Roddick, Ivan Ljubicic and David Nalbandian, to reach the final. “We don’t care if he lost, he is still a winner for us,” youngster Kyriakos Theodosiou said. Pagdatis became the first Cypriot to play in a Grand Slam final and local authorities in Limassol are preparing a massive welcome for him. The port city’s council has announced it will name a street after him and establish a Marcos Pagdatis prize for athletes who excel.

(ekathimerini.com, edited)

Typhoid blamed for the fall of Athens

(The Daily Telegraph, 24 Jan. 2006, by Roger Highfield, Science editor)



The plague of ancient Athens has been identified as typhoid, ending centuries of speculation about the identity of the disease that contributed to the end of its golden age. The plague broke out during the siege of the city by the Spartans in the early summer of 430 BC. After a hiatus in 428 BC, the epidemic returned in the winter 427 BC and lasted until the winter of the following year. One-quarter of the Athenian army and the charismatic leader, Pericles, also perished. In his history of the Peloponnesian Wars, the 5th century Greek historian Thucydides, who himself fell ill but recovered, gave detailed descriptions but researchers have never managed to agree on its identity, with candidates including bubonic plague, smallpox, anthrax and measles. From remains, now typhoid fever has been identified as the culprit after a study of dental pulp from teeth recovered from the ancient cemetery in Kerameikos. The teeth were found piled in a manner that suggested a hasty burial, without the usual care that the ancient Greeks showed for the dead. A group of Greek scientists co-ordinated by Manolis Papagrigorakis, of Athens University's School of Dentistry, today report in the *International Journal of the Infectious Diseases* evidence that *Salmonella enterica* sarovar typhi – typhoid fever – was responsible. Dr Papagrigorakis said: "Studying the historical aspects of infectious diseases can be a powerful tool for several disciplines to learn from. We believe this report to be of outstanding importance for many scientific fields, since it sheds light on one of the most debated enigmas in medical history".

Editor's Note

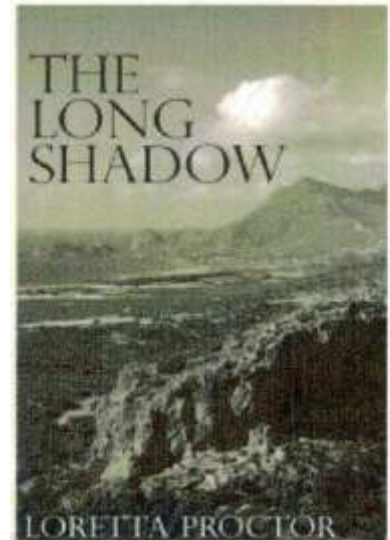
As you will appreciate we (the Committee) were a little stunned at the quickness of loosing out on the use of the Bradbury Centre. We believe it may have something to do with the new licensing laws and the problems with the front door. The decision was made and has affected the other users of the Centre, not just us alone.

You will have noticed I have put in more information about the other Greek clubs in the area. May I remind you that you are most welcome to attend any of their meetings. As you can see they offer different topics about Greece for those like me who can't get enough of the place.

At the Anglo-Hellenic meet last week, 23 February 06, Chris Lloyd was there and is around until 06 March. Apparently she had booked her holiday last year before our change of meeting dates.

I would appreciate any little snippets about Greece or with a Greek influence from our members for inclusion in the Newsletter. These can be e-mailed, typed or handwritten, which ever you prefer. Photographs can also be included and of course will be returned if standard photographs.

For those of you who like reading about tales of Greece. This synopsis was handed out by the author, at the last Anglo-Hellenic meeting.



Fourteen-year-old Andrew discovers his mother's hidden diary during a Christmas gathering. His eyes are opened to a family secret when he reads about the tragic love affair she had with his father, a Greek Officer who died in battle. Four years later, Andrew is impelled to visit his father's land and trace his roots. What - and who - he finds there will change his life forever. Dramatic images of battle and the terrible conditions endured by the Allied Armies entrenched around Salonika in the "Birdcage" in WW1 are authentic and vivid. Greek music and dance play a vital role, reconciling in Andrew the dichotomy of belonging to two very different cultures and helping him to unite them in his heart and soul.

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price £15.50 (on Amazon.co.uk, Borders, Gardners and Bertram, Goldboro Books)

Other club events from around the region



WORCESTER ANGLO-HELLENIC CLUB

MARCH 30 – Riding for the marbles. *Dr Chris Stockdale* has cycled from the British Museum to the Acropolis to publicise the campaign for returning the Elgin Marbles to Greece. A great evening is promised.

APRIL 27 – John & Pat Bosworth What did the Greeks do for us? – from mastication to hysteria. An eclectic, but hopefully illuminating, illustrated talk by *John Bosworth* on things that would astonish you!

MAY 25 – Geoff & Shelagh Peters – Travels in the Dodecanese.

All meetings are held at The Worcester Golf & Country Club, Bransford Road, Worcester.
Contact David Leggott for further information Tel: 01905 21886.

The Greek Club - in Birmingham

March 2nd Wyn and Ralph Brauhnoltz. 'Pots, Passes & Palaces: Travels in Crete'

April 6th Easter Celebration and Symposio.

May 4th Marsia Sfakianou 'The Story of Greek Food'.

June 1st Claire Kelly – Blazebey 'Archaeology, Tavernas and Wine'.

Directions of how to get there.

By car. The University is off the Bristol Road South (A38) in Selly Oak. Turn into Edgbaston Park Road (on the right coming from Birmingham, on the left coming from south Birmingham). Go up the hill as far as the minor road on the left with the two security barriers. Turn left into the University Campus and at the barrier tell the security guard you want the Greek Language Club. Once through the barrier, turn right at the crossroads, keeping the Barber Institute on your left and follow the road as it curves to the left. After about 2-3 hundred yards you go under the Muirhead Tower, (the name sign is on the left hand side of the building). Immediately after this turn left into the little side road. There is a car park on your right or you can follow the little road and turn left at the end where there is another (small) car park. The Muirhead Tower is on your left. The Faculty of Arts is the building on your left, as you stand with your back to Muirhead Tower] The entrance to the Faculty of Arts is on the left through the revolving doors.

Useful contacts

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