



THE KEFI CLUB NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 13

Jun 2006



BBQ – Put on Hold

Due to an exceptionally large amount of members being away for the original date of the BBQ, 16th June, it has been decided to postpone the event until later on in June once a venue can be found. We will keep you posted on developments as soon as we know.

Points from the AGM

Our May meeting started with the Annual General Meeting and due to members not being able to attend for various reasons I would like to go through the main points. Les the Treasurer read out the statement of accounts. The Club is in a healthy state and because of this it was decided to keep the annual subscription to just £7. Nick the secretary produced a list of events for next year and this was agreed upon (full details later in the Newsletter). No members had made themselves known to take on any of the committee posts. The same committee were happy to continue for another year. It was decided to use Norton Parish Hall for the foreseeable future unless better facilities are found closer to the city. Jo our web site editor spoke about our website. On average we get 12-16 hits a day. Of course hits from Greece but also India and the American sub continent as well. Our links with Greek-o-file and the like have produced hits. John asked whether members were happy with the content of the Newsletter and would they like to see anything in particular added. Recipes were an addition members would like to see more of. I thought about a book review (more of that later). Any other business, members asked whether another attempt to go to a Greek restaurant could be arranged and an evening of Greek dancing would go down well. This will be looked into.

13 Unlucky for some.



Unlucky only for those members who unfortunately had to drive home after the Clubs' ouzo and mezethes evening that followed the AGM. 13 being the number of different bottles of ouzo brought in by members to sample. Although Lesvos is reputedly the island for ouzo, we had at least four varieties to try from there. One aptly named Kefi. Crete, Corfu, Rhodes and Samos also featured in our line-up to try. The Cretan ouzo deserves a mention as it stood out from the rest because it had an after taste of almonds. The variety of ouzo which was enjoyed the best by our members was from Plomaras on Lesvos. As is the Greek way all ouzo was tasted whilst enjoying loukanika (Sausage), octopus, dolmades, tomatoes and bread.

Yammas

News reports

Greeks get fit on back of Olympics, Euro win

Greece's success at the Euro 2004 soccer championship in Portugal along with the Athens Olympic Games have encouraged Greeks to get off the couch and onto the sports field, medical experts said yesterday.

The president of the Sports Medicine Association of Greece, Constantinos Natsis, said that the number of Greeks exercising after the two international sports events has risen by 15 percent to four in 10 people.

The increase in athletic activity has also been accompanied by a higher rate of sports injuries and, in some cases, even death, Natsis added. Despite the rise in exercise levels, the country still ranks fourth to last among the list of European Union countries whose populations exercise most. Sports injuries are most common while playing soccer and basketball, data showed.

[www.ekathimerini.com 10/05/2006]



Vlassis Maras holds on to the high bar to produce a gold-medal-winning performance at the European gymnastics championships in Volos yesterday. The 23-year-old put on an impressive display in front of a cheering crowd to earn a score of 15.725 which put him in first place. He then watched as the last three gymnasts all fell from the bar.

[www.ekathimerini.com 8/5/2006]

Red Arrows to hold 30-minute show at Palaio Faliron

Britain's Red Arrows, an air force aerobatics team, return to Athens and are scheduled to display their skills in the sky over Palaio Faliron at 5.30 p.m. in a 30-minute show. The 10 participating pilots will be headed by Dicky Patounas, whose father's family comes from the island of Rhodes. Last year's show was watched by more than 80,000 people who crowded along the beach area. Glyfada-bound traffic in the area will be blocked for two hours, as of 4 p.m., due to the air show.

[www.ekathimerini, 1/6/06]



Warm Welcome

We have two new members to the Kefi Club, Celia and Leigh Canham who have a particular liking for Lesvos and have bought a property there. On behalf of the committee and members I would like to welcome you and hope you have many enjoyable evenings with us. This brings our membership to 44 and is a timely reminder that subscriptions are now due.

Programme of Events 2006-2007

30th Aug Walk on the Malvern Hills (meal at the Nag's Head afterwards)

22nd Sep Quiz Night
We have asked for the questions to be a little easier this time.

20th Oct Greek Diet (Dr Bernard Mason)

17th Nov Holiday Experience (by one of our members)
We are looking for volunteers

15th Dec Christmas Dinner

19th Jan Greek Music (John Gatfield)
Based on history, artists, instruments of Rebetika music.

16th Feb 4th Greek Cooking Competition
Always a firm favourite

16th Mar Film Night

13th Apr Greek Easter, Customs & Feasts

19th May Symbolism of the Greek Orthodox Church
To be held at the Greek Church in Walsall and a meal afterwards

22nd Jun BBQ



Book Review

At the AGM I spoke about the addition of reviews on books our members like reading whilst in Greece, or to remind them of Greece during the winter months. In the June addition of Greece Magazine the hard work on my part has been taken away as they have had readers write in to inform them of their best reads. I have listed the books mentioned. Perhaps we could get some comments from our readers? It will also serve as a good reference for those wishing to buy a book. Happy reading.

The Cretan Runner by George Psychoundakis
Winds of Crete by David MacNeil Doren
Eurydice Street, A Place in Athens by Sofka Zinovieff
Falling For Icarus by Rory Maclean
Dinner with Persephone by Patricia Storage
Little Infamies by Panos Karnezies
Eleni by Nicholas Cage
Mararita's Olive Press by Rodney Shields

It's All Greek To Me by John Mole
A house in Corfu by Emma Tennant
Ela, A Greek Affair by Michael Saunders
Birds without Wings by Louis de Bernieres
The Potter's House by Rose Thomas
Gates Of The Wind by Michael Carroll
Near Myths by John Ebdon

The Penelopiad by Margaret Atwood

Penelope was the wife of the Greek hero Odysseus (as most of us know) and was famed in legend for the devotion and fidelity that she showed to her husband. But what did she really get up to during those long years when Odysseus was away fighting the Trojans and outwitting his mythical foes? Odysseus was, of course, a master of deception, but it seems he could have learned a thing or two from his wife.

Taken from an article by Simon King (Mail on Sunday May 14, 2006)

Club Chair
Pat Marshall (01905 745567)
Email: trishmarshall@tesco.net

Club Treasurer
Les Roberts (01684 591156)
Email: lesroberts@hotmail.com

Website Editor
Jo Taylor
Email: jo.taylor@hotmail.co.uk

Club Secretary
Nick Kontarines (01684 566323)
Email: kontarines@btinternet.com

Newsletter Editor
John Gatfield (01905 356431)
Email: John_Gatfield@hotmail.com



Next edition out
Jul 2006