



THE KEFI CLUB NEWSLETTER

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Welcome



Here we go! After what seems like ages between finishing off last years events with the BBQ and the start of this year. We have an exciting programme to look forward to, with a mix of events, some return as they are always popular like the cooking competition. We again have a chance to sample Greek wines (always gets my vote). A variety of speakers, a film night and hopefully a chance to have a go at learning some Greek dances are included this year. We will again be meeting at Norton Parish Hall for the majority of our events. For those members starting or continuing their Greek language studies I wish you every success. I felt I had to mention the fires that have devastated huge areas of mainland Greece. I am sure you like me are totally shocked at the loss of life these fires have caused. I hope that our member's family and friends who live there have not been affected too much.

Change to Clubs programme



As with all best laid plans they are open to changes. Due to unforeseen work commitments and Chris Lloyd arriving back in England sooner than first planned the club has had to change it's programme. Thankfully the dates are remaining the same.

The changes are:

- 21 Sept My house in Crete by Chris Lloyd
- 19 Oct Greek wine tasting
- 23 Nov Greek Dance ** Not confirmed yet (alternative: Quiz Night)
- 25 Jan Film Night.

My house in Crete by Chris Lloyd

We welcome back to the Club Chris Lloyd as our first guest speaker for our September meeting. For those who are not familiar with Chris, she has moved to Crete and is going to give us an update on her vast undertaking of almost re-building the house she bought there. After seeing the first set of photos I for one can't wait to see how Chris has got on.

News reports



A lumberjack hands...

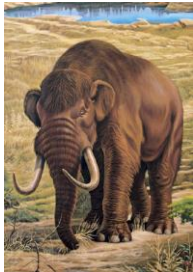
YIORGOS KARAHALIS/REUTERS [ekathimerini.com
9/08/07]

A lumberjack hands nails to a colleague during work taking place on Mount Parnitha, north of Athens, yesterday. Workers are chopping down burnt trees in order to construct barricades to prevent flooding which could hit Athens after a large part of the national park forest on Mount Parnitha was destroyed by fire earlier this summer. Experts have said that the anti-flood measures need to be completed as soon as possible before the first rains hit the Attica region. The fire that burnt some 4,200 hectares of the mountain at the end of June has also raised concerns about the environmental impact the lost forest will have on the capital, home to some 4 million people.

Greece wins first medal in Japan

Piyi Devetzi picked up Greece's first medal at the athletics World Championships in Osaka, Japan, yesterday. The 31-year-old Olympic silver medalist had to settle for third place and the bronze medal in the women's triple jump. Devetzi's best jump of 15.04 meters came with her first attempt. Cuba's Yargelis Savigne won the event with a jump of 15.28 meters. [www.ekathimerini.com 01/09/07]

MIGHTY MASTODON FOUND IN GREECE (The Daily Telegraph 27/07/07)



The tusks and the petrified remains of the mammoth-like mastodon have been discovered by paleontologists in Greece and could help to explain why the creatures died out more than two million years ago.

Greek and Dutch experts discovered the remains near Grevena in the northern Milia region. The tusks – which weigh a ton each, and 16ft long – are the oldest ever found. “This is a unique find in Greece and is useful for studies of a period dating back three million years,” said Prof. Evangelia Tsoukala, of the

Aristotle University in Thessaloniki. Dick Mol, a scientist from the Natural History Museum in Rotterdam, described the discovery of the tusks as “spectacular” and said the find should help explain why mastodons died in Europe.



Prehistoric remains at Kafkania, some 7 kms north of Olympia, and part of Ileia province, abundant in remnants from various periods. - NIKOS VATOPOULOS

Amid the terrible loss of human life, as well as the economic and ecological impact of the major fires in the Peloponnese, a further setback has come to complete the overall tragedy, this being the damage inflicted on the region's cultural network.

For it is not just Ancient Olympia or the temple of Apollo Epikourios at Bassae, one of the most important and imposing temples of antiquity, which, not surprisingly, have attracted most of the attention. The devastation has also struck the unique cultural structure of the region's villages and larger towns, which has traditionally been the lifeblood of a wider area that stretches far beyond the respective geographical boundaries. The fires have made a mess of the regional infrastructure, including dirt roads, footpaths, cemeteries, excavations, shrines, walls, small and large parts of history, like village churches or oak trees.

“My childhood memories were burnt along with all the photos,” one devastated woman told media crews last Sunday night.

The numerous voids caused by the destruction and the links with the past that have now been destroyed, leaves too much up to the imagination, which will gradually wane.

At this point in time, nobody knows how many families have lost their livelihoods and sense of personal history. Nobody is in a position to judge whether the role of a historic town such as Andritsaina, a pivotal town in the central Peloponnese with an important library, will ever be the same again without an active and organized economy. It is as if this catastrophe has eliminated a network of human journeys that have, on a daily basis, provided the raw materials necessary for culture at a regional level.

Apart from the immediate, tangible loss, this tragedy has also been the cause of a severe loss of culture on an intangible level – things mostly generated on a daily basis.

Now that the daily basis of life is in complete disarray, and the psychology of citizens is overwhelmed, culture – in the broader sense of the term – as generated by daily life and manifested through creativity, has taken a step backward. The inclination and the will for its re-establishment will return, but for the time being all we can do is record a period of great darkness. [www.ekathimerini.com, 29/08/07]

Ancient Olympia race begins

The burnt trees surrounding Ancient Olympia in the Peloponnese need to be removed quickly in order to avoid a plague of insects in the area, experts said yesterday. Experts agreed that a combination of low-growing vegetation and different trees need to replace the 100-year-old trees destroyed in the blaze but did not specify what type of varieties this might involve.



Sources pointed out yesterday that the government will want to restore the forest area by March next year when the eyes of the world will be on Ancient Olympia for the lighting of the flame that will travel to China for the Beijing Olympic Games. The burnt land will not have enough time to recover by then, a source said, however, improvements can be made to make the area look better than it currently does, the source said.

The essential reforestation in the area is not expected to be completed by 2012 and is budgeted at a total cost of 204,600 euros. Among the first tasks required is the removal of the burnt trees while keeping some tree trunks to help prevent soil erosion. The fire at Ancient Olympia has done more damage than initially thought.

The German Archaeological Institute said yesterday that 105,000 euros and the services of 10 more art restorers will be needed to complete repair work. [www.ekathimerin.com 05/09/07]

CULTURAL INFORMATION AND RECIPES FROM HEAVEN FOR THE DISCERNING PHILHELLINES

I visited recently the web-site www.hepo.gr and I click on “KERASMA”. I find there a treasure of articles about Greek food and drinks. The articles are informative. The recipes are innovative and still faithful to the ideal of Greek cuisine.

All these can convince any doubter, that Greece is a remarkable and loveable place in all aspect. We all, the Kefi-ists know very well. [Nick Kontarines]

We're on the web. www.kefi-club.org.uk

ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΦΙΛΙΚΗ ΟΜΑΔΑ WORCESTER ANGLO-HELLENIC CLUB

I have been asked by Geoff Peters from the above club (and a frequent visitor to our club) of the reciprocal arrangements we have between the two clubs. As a member of one of the clubs you have the advantage of the concessions afforded to members of the other club, without additional membership fees. We are fortunate in Worcester to have two clubs both offering a varied selection of topics all about Greece. The Anglo Hellenic Club meet 7.30 for 8pm at Worcester Golf and Country Club, Bransford Road, Worcester. Details of their next events are listed below.

Thursday 27th September.

Film night. 'The Woman in Black'. Made in 1955, we follow the nostalgic story of a beautiful heroine, Ellie Lambetti, the shy daughter of an impoverished, yet genteel Greek family.

Thursday 25th October.

Greek Music: 'Rembetika' A power point presentation by John Gatfield.

Thursday 29th November.

Greece 1944 – John Davies will be talking on a pivotal year in Greece's turbulent mid-20thC history, as the Axis powers left and Civil War loomed. Not to be missed – though we might wish some of the events of this time had not taken place.

2ND DECEMBER.

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS DINNER. At THE QUAY. 7.15 for 7.45. As always, a relaxing opportunity to socialise with good food, good wine and very warm camaraderie with Russell at *The Quay* – as long as he hasn't incorporated the Severn into the restaurant! A perfect end to the year.



Theatre Anyone?

Friday 28th & Saturday 29th September – Aristophanes' CLOUDS – a dazzling new musical comedy adaptation of this 2500 year old classic satire on education – with a touch of Hollywood glamour. Riotous, raunchy and never less than utterly ridiculous, it is a high/low-brow daymare/nightdream! At the Courtyard Theatre, Hereford. Tickets £10 (£6.50 concessions) on 0870 1122330, or www.courtyard.org.uk

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