



THE KEFI CLUB NEWSLETTER

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“To Istanbul in seeking of Constantinople” by Malcolm Delingpole

What an intriguing title for a talk. Curiosity has got the better of me here and I hope those reading this newsletter. You feel you have to come along just to find out what the talk entails. We welcome Malcolm (who has been a regular member enjoying last years events) to give the talk for our November meeting to be held on 12th November at our usual venue of Rushwick Village Hall starting at 7.30pm.



Festive meal - 12th December

Preperartions are well under way for this years Christmas meal to be held on Friday 12th December 2008 at our usual venue of Rushwick Village Hall, commencing at 7.30pm. Tickets will be available at the next meeting on 12th November and from either, the Club Secretary or Club Treasurer. Price this year is £17.50 for members and £20 non-members. Menu is a meze style starter, with tzatziki, fava and spanakopita. Of course as always, there will be plentiful salad. Main course is Lamb yiouvetsi (lamb with tomatoes, garlic and pasta-orzo) and for dessert galaktoboureko (custard pie) and melomakarona (Christmas honey cookies). The wine and beer provided on the tables is included in the price. There is a vegetarian option from the lamb dish. Those who wish the alternative option need to make themselves known to Nick asp, thanks.

Delayed start didn't prevent fantastic fun



Yet again the evening spent Greek dancing proved to be of great enjoyment for all at our meeting in October. Unfortunately our teacher

Soula was held up in traffic having had to travel from Birmingham which delayed the start. This allowed some of the 32 members and guests time to sample the various food and drink available. Almost an hour later than scheduled it was straight down to it. First dance up was to

Kalamatianos a must to learn as this dance you will see everywhere you go in Greece. Next up was the Hasapiko known as the Butchers dance. A little more tricky than the first but still had most of the “class” participating. Finally we had a go at Zorbas' dance we started the attempt of this dance with three rows of people but, as you can see from the picture featured that had dwindled somewhat. I think in total I have been shown that dance seven times now and still struggle. We then had a break for more refreshments and a chance to sample the Kefthethes that Dianne had brought. Thanks they were excellent. We rounded off the evening with a quick resume of the first two dances. Thanks to Soula for a most amusing and pleasurable evening. We have invited Soula back for another go for our meeting in May.

German Invasion of Crete 1941

To start this years events off, in September we had a presentation and film provided by John Gatfield. The presentation quickly explained the 10 days in which the invasion took place mentioning personalities involved and some of the lesser known facts from the invasion. After a short interval the documentary film The 11th Day was shown. The film explained the build up to the invasion with real life footage of the invasion and eye witness accounts from members of the Cretan resistance and population who all played their part and concluding with the abduction of German General Kriepe.

Alexander's people unveiled

An impressive ancient golden wreath with oak leaves ornaments was uncovered by archaeologists at a dig in Vergina, northern Greece, one of the most significant sites of the ancient Macedonian kingdom. The wreath which was contained in an exceptionally large cylindrical copper vessel was lying atop human bones and immersed in water amid roots. The wreath is almost equal in quality and dimensions with those found in the Royal Tombs of the Great Tumulus (Megali Toumba) at Vergina, in the tomb of Alexander the Great's father. According to the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, which was conducting the excavation "the find is important since the wreath is almost equal in quality and dimensions to those found in the royal tombs".

Warriors found

Meanwhile, archaeologists in northern Greece unearthed in September 43 graves, dating from 650-279 B.C. The excavations, which are taking place in the site of Arhontiko, near Pella, the birthplace of Alexander the Great, brought to light the remains of dozens of warriors who had been buried in the Archaic period, with their copper helmets, iron sword, daggers and spearheads, as well as gold jewellery and pottery. Ornaments of gold foil, specially made for funerals, covered their mouths, eyes and chests. "The settlement (to which the cemetery belonged) flourished in wealth and population mainly during the Archaic period. The funerary use of the gold ornaments and the other grave goods points to a strong belief in life after death, and rebirth," said a statement of the Greek Culture Ministry. During the last eight years a total of 915 graves have been excavated in this field – just five percent of the cemetery, according to the archaeologists. Arhontiko was first settled around 6000 BC.

[News bulletin, Embassy of Greece]

The Greek Club Birmingham

Our next meeting will be on Thursday November 6th when Marsia Bealby Sfakianou will be giving a talk on : Disability and Deformity in Ancient Greece in the Staff Common Room on the first floor Faculty of Arts University of Birmingham 8pm start. Contact: Jennie Marathas on 0121 624 0359

Forthcoming events of the Anglo-Hellenic Club

Nov 27 Kate Rankine – **The Phillhellenes**

Dec 7 **Christmas Dinner**

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