



AFICS – Cyprus NewsLetter

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EDITORIAL

For many, Cyprus has proven to be the idyllic tropical island paradise where nearly everybody speaks English and where the hand of friendship and hospitality is offered at every corner. Furthermore, Cyprus offers a low crime rate, a relatively low cost of living and tax benefits which attract many retirees.

The financial world has pretty much moved on since 2013, when the island was briefly the epicentre of market anxiety. Cyprus has managed to survive, and by some measures is doing better than expected with good progress so far in implementing its reform programme. If it continues like this during the last year of its adjustment programme and beyond, Cyprus has good prospects of returning to sustainable growth and sound public finances.

Recently, thanks to the intensification of the talks and constructive deliberations on the outstanding issues by those involved, significant progress has been acknowledged by all parties towards reunification of Cyprus. More recently, the United Nations Secretary-General's statement to the press encouraged the leaders to capitalize on the current positive momentum and also called on all interested parties to do their utmost to facilitate and support the leaders in their quest for overcoming the division of Cyprus.

In this issue, we are introducing the first of a series of articles on the cultural heritage of Cyprus. Our aim is to brief members and readers on the island's history and culture. Perhaps this is why Cyprus is proving ever more popular with many older people looking to retire. Dotted with ancient ruins, medieval castles, Byzantine churches and monasteries, Cyprus is a land steeped in ancient mythology with a fascinating history and compelling culture and lifestyle.

Let's move into the New Year with confidence to face any new challenge. May you all have a great 2016.

Miriam Pericleous
NewsLetter Editor

Association of Former International Civil Servants
(AFICS)-Cyprus
c/o UNFICYP Registry, P.O. Box 21642, CY-1590 Nicosia,
Cyprus

Telephone: +357 22 614726

E-mail: afics-cyp@un.org

Website: www.afics-cyprus.org

AFICS-Cyprus Annual Dinner



On 6 October, AFICS annual dinner took place at the Esperides Restaurant in Aglangia, Nicosia. This date was chosen as it celebrated the UN International Day for Older Persons, a splendid occasion for 22 members with seven guests to meet.

Prior to the meal, half an hour was devoted to participants enjoying pre-dinner drinks. This enabled all present to mingle and socialise, and was so successful that the Executive Committee decided to follow the same pattern in forthcoming social events.

If any of our readers has suggestions for future venues, the Committee would be delighted to hear from you.

AFICS-Cyprus Website

In 2015, over 500 hits were recorded on the AFICS-Cyprus website, mostly from Cyprus but also from China, the USA and Brazil to name a few. As at 31 December 2015, the Association's Facebook page had a total of 21 members. It should be recalled that only members of the Association are accepted onto this site.

FB is a great tool to share information and pictures amongst members and beyond, so those who have a FB account and would like to join the AFICS' FB page should send a FB request accordingly.

Fourth AFICS-Cyprus Assembly Meeting

The fourth Ordinary AFICS-Cyprus Assembly Meeting will be held at UNFICYP HQ (SRSG's Dining Room), Blue Beret Camp, UNPA Nicosia on Tuesday 8 March at 11.00 am. With a membership of 76, it is hoped that as many of you as possible will attend. Currently there are two vacant seats on the Executive Committee, and volunteers are requested to come forward.

Following the meeting, lunch will be available in the HQ cafeteria at a cost of €7 per person. Meal tickets will be available on the day.

The Cultural Heritage of Cyprus – An Introduction



The Stone Age
9,000-3,900 BC
Anthropomorphic stone
figurine from Khirkitia



The Bronze & Copper Age
3,900-1,650 BC
Copper ornament



The Late Bronze and Iron Age
1,650-1,050 BC
Iron Age Figurine



The Cypro-Geometric Period
1,050-750 BC
Terracotta female figure



The Cypro-Achaic Period
750-450 BC
Cypriot pottery amphora



The Classical Period
475-320 BC
A limestone head



The Hellenistic Period
320-30 BC
Attic red-figure pelike

In Cyprus, the island of Aphrodite, there are numerous activities available for residents and visitors alike. In fact, some of the older Cypriot generation have never left the island because they say they have everything here!

Over the past 70 years, Cyprus has passed from the agricultural age direct to the age of Information Technology. It has gained the reputation of an economic bridge between Europe, the Middle East and North Africa with wide opportunities for businessmen to base their activities on the island. In spite of the troubles faced since Independence, the development of Cyprus has been remarkable.

The mass media has a plethora of information on glorious beaches, high class hotels, refreshing mountain scenery, charming, remote villages and great restaurants, not forgetting the easy-going lifestyle and the wonderful friendly welcome. But many visitors view Cyprus only as a sea, sun and fun spot.

So what do you know about the cultural heritage of this island?

Since Stone Age times, when settlers first came to Cyprus, there have been a number of prominent figures whose claim to fame includes Alexander the Great, Anthony and Cleopatra and Richard the Lionheart to name a few. Over the past 9,000 years, Cyprus has served as a melting pot for the various civilisations which have settled on the island and which show evidence of its rich and varied history.

In this newsletter, we are happy to present a brief overview of a number of archaeological and historical sites throughout the island. First of all, we are presenting a handy description of the island's key time periods – a road map to the fascinating wealth of historical, physical and cultural heritage of Cyprus. It is a useful reference for our readers, which can be consulted as we continue with the series in forthcoming newsletters.



The Roman Period
30 BC-330 AD
Cyprus Found Roman Period
Military Intaglio Ring



The Byzantine Period
330-1191 AD
Byzantine Art in Cyprus



Richard I of England and the Crusaders
1191-1192 AD
Two golden lions, first arms of
King Richard I "The Lionheart"



The Frankish Period
1192-1489 AD
Cyprus-Frankish hammered
medieval silver coin



The Venetian rule
1489-1570/1 AD
Map of Nicosia, Cyprus



The Ottoman Rule
1570-1878 AD
Flag of the Ottoman empire



The British Administration
1878-1960 AD
British Penny Red
overprinted for use in Cyprus



Cyprus Independence
1960 AD
The coat of arms of Cyprus

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