

AD LIB

The magazine of
Paphos Third Age



www.paphos3rdage.org

Editors: Keith and Marian McEwen

June 2020



KEITH ADAIR *Sends his message from the chair*

Dear Members,

Welcome to Ad Lib, in this our 10th Anniversary edition.

In our last regular edition, I wrote confidently about the Anniversary Gala Dinner to be held on May 28th to celebrate the occasion. Our Vice Chair, Keith McEwen, did an excellent job and spent many hours in the planning of this event to ensure its success. However, the unforeseen occurred and now disappointingly, the time to meet and celebrate has passed. None the less, a big thank you to Keith for the time and effort devoted to those preparations for what would have been an extremely memorable evening.

As well as members' contributions, I wish to point you to a report starting on page 9, written by the first Chairman of P3A, Mr Alan Wagstaffe. You will see that it was written exactly ten years ago today. The rocky beginnings of P3A's early history and the uneasy times during its inception as described in Alan's report, is a testament to the determination required by him and his committee in order to bring about the formation of Paphos Third Age. It is through their efforts and the subsequent continuing efforts and commitment of committees, group leaders and our members, that today we are able to be proud of such a strong, vibrant and thriving organisation.

In dealing with the effects of coronavirus, P3A's groups are remaining within the law and the spirit of Government guidelines. Where it looks possible for certain groups to resume activities, group leaders will initially consult with their members for consensus. Other groups, where close distancing cannot be avoided, may hopefully look towards September before resuming.

Do continue to stay healthy and please keep supporting our vulnerable members.

Best Wishes

Keith Adair - Chair

P3A committee members

Chair	Keith Adair
Vice Chair	Keith McEwen
Treasurer	John Harper
Secretary	Karen Ikin
Membership Secretary	Dale Ikin
Groups Coordinator	Jean Alston
Magazine Editors	Keith and Marian McEwen
Website Officer	Ros Sparrow
Events Organiser	Marian McEwen
Co-opted Member	Simon Welch

Contact details: <http://paphos3rdage.org/committee.htm>

CONTENTS

Message from Chair	1
Committee News	2
Groups News	3-8
10th Anniversary 1st AGM Chairman's report	9

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS 2020/21

It has been decided that because of the significant impact Covid 19 has had, not only on our community but also the curtailment of all P3A activities since mid-March, annual subscriptions for the year, 1st September 2020 – 31st August 2021 will be waived for this one year.

Your current membership is therefore now valid until 31st August 2021.

I am sure that this will be well received by all members however; it does cause some administrative problems for the membership secretary and their ability to accurately maintain the membership database.

It is therefore most important that if you were intending to renew your membership for 2020/21 you reply to The Membership Secretary and confirm your wish to continue your membership.

Equally, if you were not intending to renew it would be very helpful if you could reply to let the membership secretary know.

It will be assumed that anyone who has not replied by 31st December 2020 wishes to leave P3A and their membership will automatically lapse. This will then be confirmed by email to each individual.

Please note: New members and those wishing to re-join P3A will still be required to do so in the normal manner with the joining fee remaining at €10

Kind Regards

Dale Ikin

Membership Secretary

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NEWS FROM THE GROUPS

P3A Bridge

What did you do in lockdown Grandad?

By Ian Hines, May 2020

One day your great Grandchildren will appear with some futuristic 3D mood modelling interactive recording device, stick a camera/mic/biometric sensing device in front of you and ask "What did you do in lockdown Grandad?". The machine will sit there silently intimidating you as you struggle to remember what lockdown was.

Then – if you were a P3A bridge player in a former life (when you could still remember things) – distant memories will come flooding back.

If you were an experienced player those memories will be of three hour bridge sessions three times every week and on top of that a three month event where seven Paphos teams battled for glory with eight other teams drawn from across the island.

If you were a less experienced player those memories will be of shorter sessions every Monday and Thursday with a new fangled Zoom thingy which somehow meant you could still have your coffee breaks half way through the bridge session and talk to all your friends via a video link. At the time it all seemed amazing. Now, in your dotage, it seems remarkably old hat – like those credit cards everyone carried around before we all had the chips and the truth sensors implanted.

So what was it all about?

Well back then, in 2020, there was a worldwide problem, a virus, and one of the impacts was that people couldn't socialise. Everyone learnt a new language full of phrases like social distancing, quarantine and secondary transmission rate. Oh, and we all learnt there was a city in China called Wuhan. We all washed our hands a lot and in some Countries they ran out of toilet rolls. Of course the big issue was that we were stuck at home for weeks on end. We were allowed out – a little – but not to socialise.

Back in those days we played a lot of bridge together. We met to learn, we met to play, we met to laud our victories and to commiserate over our losses. We shared bottles of wine and the occasional brandy sour, we ordered chips and shared those too.

And then – suddenly – we didn't. We were, from one day to the next, confined to barracks.

One of the amazing things about those lockdown days was how, with more time available, creativity flourished. And so it was with P3A bridge. Very soon after the restrictions started people started to wonder how we might enable the bridge community to maintain some semblance of normality.

It wasn't long before we had an on-line playing environment for intermediate and advanced players up and running with up to eighty players competing at a time. We realised that there were huge benefits of this on-line world and that lockdown wasn't all bad.

Bridge con't

Within a few days of getting the advanced players on line we turned our attention to getting the beginners on line. The beginners of course weren't happy with just bridge, they wanted to keep their coffee break too – and we achieved it. We taught everyone to use Zoom (which only two weeks earlier we'd never even heard of) and the coffee breaks became video enabled and virtual.

In days we went from one hundred bridge players wondering how they would while away their lockdown time to those same players wondering what they ever did before on-line bridge became the norm!

At the same time as we were bringing the beginners up we were planning a very ambitious Teams event. Strange that we had never done it before even though the opportunity had always been there! At that time we promised ourselves that we would learn from the experience and make sure we continued to exploit our new tools and opportunities.

Of course it wasn't all plain sailing, many of our off-line players needed help and support to move to our new on-line virtual world and we ran live help desks to make sure everyone would benefit from the efforts people had made. Social distancing restrictions meant all support had to be remote - but it worked. We had players in their nineties logging on and signing in to on-line tournaments and then playing for three hours and checking their own results at the end!

We made great efforts to look after our older members, to engage them and get them playing in our new virtual world with sign-ons, user names, passwords, on-line invitations and so on. From all the feedback we received we succeeded.

None of this could have been achieved without the unstinting support of the Cyprus Bridge Federation and especially of their President Philippos Frangos. We owe him a massive debt of gratitude and we tried to go some way to repaying that debt by raising funds to support CBF nominated charities.

What a revelation lockdown was. Oh, and the answer to the original question? Well I wish you'd get that sensing thing out of my face but – pull up a seat, now let me tell you what I did in lockdown.

P3A Bridge Groups Go Online

The Wednesday Intermediate Group are now competing with pairs from all over Cyprus every Monday, Wednesday and Friday and maintaining the honour of Paphos amongst a regular field of 40 Pairs of online Bridge Players.

It's serious stuff – 3 hours of continuous play and concentration.

The Monday Improvers' Group are now meeting online every Monday and Thursday morning with 32 regular players.



Here's a glimpse of Group Leader, Sue McGough at Mission Control.

.... and a view of the dedication of one of our Players



LIFE MATTERS GROUP

What are Life Matters?

The phrase is all-encompassing, but at the same time vague and non-specific, so I will attempt to describe what happens in our group.

When the group began, topics discussed included 'Capital Punishment', 'What is Truth', 'What makes a Society Civilised?' and 'Did Darwin Kill God?' I wish I had been a member for the last one! The leader at the time, Vivienne, had a philosophy background, and the topics tended to reflect this.

When Vivienne returned to the UK, Linda took over, and the topics became more general, for example 'Age vs Youth', 'Immigration', 'Friendship' and 'Taboos'. We also had meetings such as 'Pot Pourri', where people put topics into a 'hat' and names into a separate 'hat', so the person drawn kicked off the discussion from the 'top of their head', before others joined in. We also changed the name of the Group from Philosophy to Life Matters, to more accurately describe the content.

I have been running the group for 18 months, and topics have included; 'Heroes', 'Does Man need Religion?', 'The ethics of DNA testing' and 'The Stages of Family Life'.

Before our enforced stop, we were planning to set aside time in a meeting to discuss the moral and ethical implications of current events. We also want to introduce the idea, like a book club, of sharing and discussing a piece of writing.

Unless it is a General Session, the person co-ordinating a topic will prepare a summary, together with suggested points to start discussions off. I then circulate this, to give people time to think about the topic beforehand. Our meetings last two hours. We talk for an hour, stop for drinks and biscuits, then carry on for another 45 minutes.

Several regular members have gone back to the UK recently, so numbers are down and new people, bringing new ideas, would be very welcome.

We usually meet on the third Wednesday afternoon of the month, at Neos Sports Bar, near Peyia / Coral Bay, and hope to resume meetings in September.

For more information, or to contact me, Geoff Bliss

my e-mail is; geoffjean1@hotmail.co.uk

SAD DEMISE OR NEW BEGINNINGS

Two popular groups could be about to close if we can find no one willing to take over or share as group leaders.

Please read and let us know if you are interested in becoming involved in continuing either of these groups. They need not follow the current format or timing. Any thoughts, ideas or volunteers would be appreciated.

Jazz Appreciation

I'm sorry to have to report that the Jazz Appreciation Group is no more.

I have run the group for the past three years and for personal reasons I decided to step down. (It's an age thing!). I told the group of my decision and asked someone to come forward and take over the leadership but unfortunately no one has done so and so the group is closed .

There have been around 20 members on average and we kept going through the lockdown by emailing various artists and genres of jazz to each other which worked quite well and I was disappointed to note that no one to date has felt able to take the group over .

Keep well,
Best regards
Colin Mercer

CLASSIC FILM GROUP

Classic Films is one of the longest standing groups in the P3A. It started in 2004 or thereabouts.

You will have read in a previous edition that Paul Clarke is sadly standing down. He did ask if one or even two people would be interested in taking this group on.

I do not have the time to take on this popular group on my own. I would however be interested in 'co leadership' if 3, ideally 4 of us could share. This would mean we could rotate, cover for each other and present perhaps one film per month instead of two. Less if we have a 'summer break'.

I am sure Paul could be persuaded to 'train' us all in setting up the equipment to show the film.

I would be happy to set up a meeting to discuss a way forward if anyone is interested.

Please contact me, Marian McEwen, at

marianadlib2020@gmail.com

(Not) Dancing withLemons!

Having arrived on the island to adopt as our home in early 2019 we sought out activities to fill our early retirement. Meeting new people was always on the cards and we soon made some lovely acquaintances who have become firm friends. Encouraged by our daughter who teaches it, we decided to try Yoga. The benefits it brings we have thoroughly enjoyed.

Moving on to evening activities our Scottish roots were stirred by the thought of dancing and in particular our Country's traditional form. On joining the St Andrew Group, we arrived with some trepidation, as novices. Our fears were soon dispelled with the warm welcome we received from Janine, Peter and all our fellow participants.

Over winter, contortions in Yoga and missteps in the dance seemed often to be the order but all was enjoyed with the willing and friendly support received.

Then just as winter was ending and lighter nights were arriving, the dreaded Covid struck!

All the fun and frolics were swiftly curtailed as life was planned round a single text per day. Our Yoga teaching daughter made best efforts to help with Zoom Yoga classes during her lockdown also.

In an attempt to alleviate boredom (and deflect the missus from contemplating foul deeds) refuge was sought in the kitchen.

A kindly neighbour with abundance of lemons turned into our saviour.

There followed Lemon marmalade, Lemon drizzle cake and even Gin and Lemon Sorbet. Having contemplated an entry in 'Great Cyprus Bake Off' (is there one?)

We moved on to discover the delights of Grapefruit. (via another generous neighbour).

The Grapefruit and Greek Yoghurt cake may be the final nail, if dear Mr President doesn't get us back to the 'new normal'. Hopefully We will soon be able to walk, dance and bend off the extra pounds gained.

Namaste

Mike and Margaret Langan

P3A 10th ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL

P3A 1st AGM 8th June 2011 Chairman's Report

Those of you who know me well realise that I am fond, perhaps too fond, of understatement.

This has been a difficult year!

It has also been outstandingly successful!

I suppose you could call it the Tale of two Organisations!

Following the democratic decision last June to continue operations as the Paphos Third Age and to dissociate ourselves from the dysfunctional C3A your committee have been subjected to intemperate language and defamatory statements. Funds raised locally for the benefit of local members have been appropriated by C3A and many of you have received unsolicited emails attempting to discredit your committee and raise doubts and confusion in your minds. You may have wondered why we have said nothing about all this. The reason is that we have not responded is to avoid wasting time and more especially your funds on legal arguments.

In other words it was a rough time but very cheap!

Moving on.

After their AGM last November I had a meeting with C3A Chairman Mr. Tolladay. It was friendly and positive and we believed that we could move forward to a more normal, cooperative relationship between the two organisations. Unfortunately he had to resign from his position on the C3A committee and they returned to attacking us. **Just before Easter** I met with the Acting Chairman of C3A Mr Hutchinson who was pressing for the "return" of "C3A Funds and Assets". I explained that we do not believe that we are holding anything that belongs to C3A and that the boot is really on the other foot. We agreed that recourse to legal action would profit only the lawyers and was to be avoided. It was further agreed that he would set out his case for making his claims and that P3A would consider this and make an appropriate response. I reserved our position re the appropriated funds, the defamatory statements and the infringements of the data protection legislation. So far there has been no further communication from C3A.

Now for the good news!

At last years' AGM I stated that our membership was 337. This was the number of members who had paid subscriptions during the year. However subscriptions were paid at different times in the year and because any organisation loses people through a variety of causes the active membership then was probably closer to 300. A small number of those people have decided not to become members of P3A. I can now tell you that the number of subscriptions for 2011-2012 received since April 1st is 400. More than 200 new members have joined us since October last year. This is a phenomenal rate of growth that can be attributed to our successful Open Day, good publicity and most important word of mouth from satisfied members.

First Chair's report cont'd

Thanks are due to committee members who have worked very hard and very well. I am personally grateful for the way in which they have pulled together as a truly professional team. Special mention must be made of Secretary Robert Hobbs, who stepped into the breach and has been a tower of strength in the difficult times, and of course Treasurer Danne Johnston who was the victim of very unpleasant treatment from C3A. She has looked after our funds and prepared reports with characteristic thoroughness. She also plays a big role in leading groups (and frequently relieving you of your money at meetings!)

Membership Secretary Bill Stokes and his wife Paula have coped with the major task of creating a membership data base and coping with the huge influx of new members. Well done and thanks to you both. Distributing membership cards has been a major headache for him and we must address this issue in the coming months.

Thanks also to your group leaders who continue to unstintingly and unselfishly run the groups we all enjoy so much. You could say we are all Groupies! And of course thanks to all members who have supported groups and open meetings so enthusiastically. Well done everyone.

Lets's just look at some of the highlights.

Following up on a call for more open meetings last June Denise Holt has done a magnificent job organising publicity, the Open Day at the Paphos Gardens Hotel and open Speaker meetings. Let me remind you of those

Alan Wagstaffe	Earthquakes
Shirley Kay	(Author) Olives and Lemons
Judge Gareth Jones	Working Life as a Judge
John Harper	Trusts
Richard Palmer	Looking back on his Life as a Child Actor
Geoff Bond	Lifestyle Anthropologist and Nutritionist
Jill Campbell-McKay	Journalist/Cyprus Mail and Restaurant Critic

Amazingly, she has already booked more speakers for the Autumn and continues to have great success with the Natural History group. Thank you Denise.

Still on the subject of meetings open to all members, co-opted committee member John Rathband has organised 5 film evenings with buffets at the Coral Star. He has also been heavily involved in the creation of new groups Luncheon Club, Petanque and with Vivienne the Book and film group whilst continuing to run the Classic Film Group. Thank you John

Co-opted committee member Carole Manuel has produced 3 excellent online magazines. The fourth will come out shortly. She has also been extremely supportive and a valuable source of thoughtful and insightful comments. Thank you Carole

First Chair's report cont'd

Paul Clarke has set up and managed a really good and useful website. I hope you use it and enjoy it. Send him any ideas you have about extending it. **A reminder to group leaders you have a page to which you can add relevant information.** He also runs the Walking group and is co-leader of Book group 1. Thank you Paul

John Harper (who unfortunately cannot be with us today) has kept us all informed about our groups. And has provided important business and accountancy advice to the committee. Thank you John.

New groups started **in response to requests from members** include
Art Appreciation

Book and Film

2 Book groups

Canasta

Lunch Club

Petanque

Astronomy

Military History

We close the year with 38 groups listed. Please let us know if you feel that others are needed!

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News from a few of our groups

History has been covering the fascinating origins and course of the French Revolution and in addition to entertaining large attendances at Coral Star Wally Oppenheim has run a new course on Military History and a very successful course in Giolou for people in the west of our district. This is a very interesting development and one which has brought in many new members. Thank you Wally.

Geology group has focussed on the sedimentary rocks of Cyprus and has alternated indoor sessions with field trips. We had had a successful weekend field trip to the Kyrenia coast and organised, with the Limassol Geology group leader, a memorable visit to the Skouriotissa copper mine when both C3A Limassol and U3A Larnaca were represented

Archaeology group has had another busy and successful year and Geoff Cossen has now picked up the baton from Val Wagstaffe. Two members are back from an excellent archaeological tour of Jordan led by outgoing CAARI Director Tom Davis. The annual CAARI workshop coming soon is eagerly anticipated.

First Chair's report cont'd

To Sum Up

I believe that we have a successful, dynamic and innovative organisation of which we can ALL be justly proud. You will shortly hear from Treasurer Danne that we are in a sound position financially. So everything is perfect? Not quite! Although it is a vote of confidence in your committee that we are all unopposed it may also be a problem.

A successful operation needs to have people willing and able to succeed those who have been leading it. This applies in our case as much or even more to the Group Leaders as to the committee members. Please think what you can do to support. As we go into our second year P3A is a great success! You know P is for Paphos but also Positive and Progressive! You can help to keep it that way and improve it! P3A needs YOU! Be Proactive!

Thank you for coming and for listening.

My sincere congratulations to all the committees, Group leaders and membership who have supported, developed and built on the early P3A ; it's a magnificent achievement.

***Best wishes
Alan Wagstaff***

First Chair P3A

As a founder member of the P3A

***I can say that the success and strength of the organisation was totally due to the members and the Group Leaders so congratulation to all.
Here's to the next 10 years***

Danne Johnston