



LAPITHOS  
MUNICIPALITY

# Lapithos news

LAPITHOS MUNICIPALITY NEWSPAPER • ISSUE No. 53 • AUGUST 2019

## 2019 ANTI-OCCUPATION EVENTS BY KERYNEIA DISTRICT EVENT CONDEMNING TURKISH INVASION



Saddened and disappointed Keryneia's displaced residents once again categorically condemned the 45-year long illegal occupation of the whole our municipality and 37% of Cyprus territory. Along with Organised Groups from all around the District, the residents of all three municipalities of Keryneia, Lapithos and Karavas, united as one, held an event to commemorate and honour their homeland as well as to strongly condemn Turkey about the continuing illegal occupation and the violent displacement of its legal residents from the ancestral homes.

45 years after that dreadful day, the commemoration was held at the sacred Tomb of Makedonitissa on Monday 22 July 2019 at 7 pm, at the exact same day and time when Turkish invasion troops took the beautiful town of Keryneia only to cause sadness, outrage and indignation of Hellenism all over the world.

The event started with a remembrance service for the victims of the Turkish invasion and for our co-patriots who passed away as refugees. The service was conducted by the Most Reverent Bishop of Keryneia Chrysostomos; in his address, Bishop Chrysostomos condemned the continuing illegal occupation and expressed this hope for a quick end to the woes and unfair suffering of the refugee communities. His Grace also prayed for the establishment of the fate of all persons missing since the Turkish invasion and the end of their families' suffering.

The main address this year was by Lapithos Mayor, Mr Neoptolemos Kotsapas; the Mayor condemned Turkish invasion and the continuing illegal occupation of our fathers' land. He then highlighted the decline of Hellenism today and its inability to respond more effectively to foreign forces' will, which serves foreign interests and violates our own by promoting injustice, human rights violation and economic exploitation.

During this 45 dark years of Cyprus history that have traumatised in the worst possible way the lives of our refugees, words like barbarism, desecration, distraction, rape, death, missing persons and prisoners of war, fighting and misery, cast their shadow over words such as principles, values, human rights, justice, happiness and so on. There is one word, though, which they haven't manage to outshine: hope. When we believe in God and ourselves, when we have hope, no oppressor's will can ever bend our will and our resistance.

The memory of our occupied homeland that we keep dear, the sound of the bells of

our occupied churches that we can still hear loud and clear, capture our mind and soul. Everything is still there waiting for us; everything is still there longing for us.

Representing HE The President of the Republic of Cyprus who was absent due to health reasons, Government Spokesman Prodromos Prodromou attended the events.

In the framework of the commemorative event, representatives of the organisers also visited various embassies, the President of the House of Representatives and representatives of the UN and the EU reiterating the significance of the Cyprus issue and presenting a protest resolution.



### LEMON DANCE (IN LONDON)

From Lapithos, Karavas and suburbs Associations (GB)  
**SATURDAY, 26th OCTOBER 2019, 6:30 p.m.**

At the church hall of the community of Timios Stavros and Archangelos Michael,  
Golders Green Road, London NW11 8HL

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## Lapithos Municipality participated in the 83rd Handcraft and Culture International Fair in Florence, Italy

Lapithos Municipality participated in the 83<sup>rd</sup> Handcraft and Culture International Fair in Florence, Italy, successfully promoting Lapithos in Europe at a forum which believes in, carries on and advances elements of the Intangible Cultural Heritage and culture of the peoples of Europe.

Cyprus stand attracted the attention of thousands of visitors throughout the Fair from 24 April to 1 May 2019 and it successfully competed with national and regional stands presenting rich heritage and culture.

Lapithos Municipality presented three traditional elements already featuring in Cyprus National Register of Intangible Cultural Heritage, i.e. Lapithos glazed ceramics, Lapithos lace (ripilla/ριπίλλα) and Lapithos knife (tsiakkoudi/τσιακκούδι).

The display was complemented with short films showing how each of these items is made as well as a leaflet with relevant information in Greek, English and Italian.

Lapithos Mayor Neoptolemos Kotsapas, Deputy Mayor Soula Mourettou, Municipality Secretary and representative of the Lapithos Refugee Association Renos Koumi and craftsman Panayotis Mavros participated in the Cyprus mission.

Since the Fair coincided with Orthodox Holy Week and despite their busy schedule, the Lapithos Municipality team managed to attend two services, on Good Friday and Easter Sunday at the Orthodox Church of Saint Jacob in Florence. There, they had the opportunity to meet Grece's Consul to Florence and members of the city's Greek community exchanging Easter wishes and briefing each other.

The mission was made possible by the generous support of valuable help of the Culture Service of the Education and Culture Ministry, that provided a large part of the funding needed.



## COMMEMORATION OF THE SIEGE OF LAPITHOS

On 6 August "I Lapithos" Refugee Association held an event commemorating the siege of Lapithos and condemning Turkish Attila forces' invasion in 1974. The event was held at Ledra Palace crossing point, a quite symbolic spot for Lapithos because of the nearby monument in honour of "The Lady of Lapithos", hero Efrossyni Proestou.

A service was held in memory of the 96 Lapithos residents, victims of the Turkish atrocities, as well as of those who lost their lives fighting for the freedom of our homeland.

The event was concluded with addresses, wreath laying and a short concert.