



**LAPITHOS  
MUNICIPALITY**

# Lapithos news

LAPITHOS MUNICIPALITY NEWSPAPER • ISSUE No. 55 • APRIL 2020

## Easter Message by Lapithos Mayor Neoptolemos Kotsapas



**D**ear fellow citizens, Lapithos diaspora, friends and colleagues, Easter feast is once again approaching and we find ourselves forced to celebrate it far away from our beloved Lapithos for the 46th time.

After our violent displacement from our homeland that dark summer of 1974, this day still is and will continue to be a different day for all of us. We will only be able to celebrate our true Resurrection when God helps us to return to our homeland which we yearn and long for. Only then will we experience true Resurrection, when we get to pray and celebrate in our own worship places, picking up our historic journey and honouring our forefathers' legacy.

The Resurrection of Jesus Christ Our Lord is a true historical fact; it is no myth or mystery. The Christ has indeed Risen. The life-giving Light or Resurrection illuminates and brightens our path towards true life, the victory of love, of peace and of justice in the world.

Let's hope that our tortuous path to our own Golgotha will soon end and we will finally experience our Resurrection, like the life-giving Resurrection of Jesus Christ our Lord.

*Happy Easter  
Jesus Christ Has Risen  
All the best to you and  
your families*

## Easter Nostalgia – Lapithos memories before 1974

**A**fter the abolition of the idolatry and since the Early Christian years Hellenes warmly accepted the Christian faith; actually Hellenes were the first people who accepted and preached God's gospel around the globe. The Cypriots were also faithful and chosen people and with its Cypriot Apostle Barbabas teaching Jesus Christ's Gospel, they have been observing the customs and the Christian traditions, such as the ones around Easter.

The beautiful memories of Easter festivities at our beloved Lapithos before 1974 are still unforgettable, deeply engraved in our mind. Unfortunately, the modern way of life meant that some of them are now lost forever, while others have survived albeit changed or played down. In other cases we only go through the motions for the sake of observing our customs and traditions.

The people of Lapithos, violently displaced as all refugees, are forced to live far away of their national environment, crammed in flats or small houses without the necessary yard or infrastructure that could allow them to observe their traditions and customs. One would wonder today where are the swings for the neighbours to gather round, to sing, to share the joy filling the young people's hearts since this was the only opportunity to escape the formalities of the strict local community.

Where would we lay the big tables full of traditional dishes? Where would we hold the amazing, never-ending feasts now that relatives and friends live miles away or even abroad?

Where are the traditional wood-fired ovens that would be in operation throughout the Holy Week, baking the nicest-smelling Easter Bread, the sesame bagel (koulouri), the traditional red eggs and the flaounes? Unfortunately, ovens are now electrical appliances and traditional grills have become modern take-away and delivery places.

Even the Easter Mass is now held in a very different church environment. We do miss the beautiful parish church of our small town and the warm atmosphere of being amongst parishioners, relatives and friends. We do miss the Easter fire, the well known lambratzia at the church yard with the flames colouring the parishioners' faces. We miss the bell cord as the bell is now power-operated so young kids don't have the chance to race each other to ring the bell twice.

And when the time comes for the priest to say "the good words", to say "Christ has risen" and "It is the Day of Resurrection, let us be glorious", this is the time that our heart breaks and we bitterly weep. In a flood of candle light, happy parishioners exchange best wishes celebrating the victory of Jesus Christ over death and walk back home carefully carrying the Light of Christ to their homes, setting of the celebrations that follow. This is indeed the time that our heart breaks, we feel the injustice heavy on our shoulders since we cannot return to our family homes, we cannot bring the Light of Christ to bless our gardens, our orchards, our barns and our estates, as we used to do in Lapithos in the old days.

Today, after the mass we are forced, as we have been for the past 46 consecutive years, to return back to the settlements and our humble houses remembering the old days and patiently waiting for our own Resurrection.

Unfortunately, there is a lot we miss about Easter and mostly the simple and modest way in which we used to celebrate with absolute respect and devotion back then. We believe in our own Resurrection and we truly hope that our customs and traditions will live on as they are an indispensable part of our religious identity and the legacy we must pass on to younger generations.



## LAPITHOS, KARAVAS AND SUBURBS ASSOCIATION (GB)

Lapithos, Karavas and Suburbs Association (GB) remains to this day a historic association with rich activity, charity work and long history competently demonstrating and promoting to the best of its ability in the UK and beyond, the just positions and the prospects of a just and sustainable solution of the Cyprus issue.

The Member of the Board are endeavouring as much as possible to meet the key aims and objectives as per the Association's statute.

The Lapithos, Karavas and Suburbs Association (GB) was set up in 1985. Chrysostomos Papapavlou, Dinos Apostolides, Akis Kariolis and Takis Kalimeras, were some of the Association's founding Members who took the initiative for its establishment.

**Former Presidents are:** Chrysostomos Papapavlou, Dinos Apostolides, Christakis Kariolis, Andreas Yannakou, Andreas Ioannou and Savvas Pavlides.

**Has been members years ago:** Akis Kariolis, Chrysostomos Papapavlou, Dinos Apostolides, Sotiris Papaxenofondos, Takis Kalimeras, Alexis Arotis, Giorgos Christodoulou, Georgios Karamanos, Savvas Dimitriou, Andreas Rodotheou, Sergis Florides, Panayota Florides, Paris Georgiou, Nikos Kallis, Andreas Mylonas (Rikkos), Andreas Sokratous, Christakis Kariolis, Costas Solomonides, Andreas Yannakou, Sotos Siakidis, Andreas Ioannou, Panikkos Xenofondos, Afrodite Georgiou, Diomidis Panayotou, Soula Crouch, Savvas Soupasiis, Savvas Gavriil, Koula Partou, Natasha Hadjistefanou, Maria Constantinou, Eleni Constantinou.

### As of 13 May 2019 current Managing Board Members are:

Savvas Pavlides, President, **Communications & Public Relations Manager** (Mr Pavlides has been reelected to his position since 4 July 2010)

Christakis Kariolis, **Vice President and Secretary General**

Paris Georgiou, **General Treasurer**

Georgios Christodoulou, **Organising Secretary**

Dinos Apostolides, **Organising Secretary, Youth Coordinator**

Aphrodite Georgiou, **Assistant Secretary**

Christakis Kariolis, Savvas Pavlides, Giorgos Christodoulou, **Assistant Treasurers**

Diomidis Panayotou, Soula Crouch, Savvas Soupasiis, **Assistant Organising Secretaries**

Savvas Gavriil, **Koula Partou, Advisors**

Natasha Hadjistefanou, **Administrative Member**

In their capacity they have undertaken various responsibilities and initiatives. They have successfully organised important events and a range of other activities in order to attract co-villagers to the

Association as this has been the Association's main objective, i.e. to become a focus point for diaspora of Lapithos, Karavas and Kerynia District villages. Since its establishment the Association's firm aspiration is the creation, maintenance, enhancement and reinforcement of relations amongst its members.

At the same time the Association is an ark for the preservation, promotion and passing down to younger generations of our traditions, our history, the culture of our homeland. At the same time it is a constant stronghold of national contribution to and action towards a just settlement of the Cyprus issue on the right basis and right principles which will allow the safe return of all refugees, including the diaspora to their homes.

Despite the Board Members' best efforts the issue of new members remains a crucial one as younger generations are reluctant to come forward and engage in running the Association.

In the framework of service to the community activities Board Members once again held a series of visits to elderly or ill fellow countrymen at hospitals or homes throughout the UK, offering gifts.

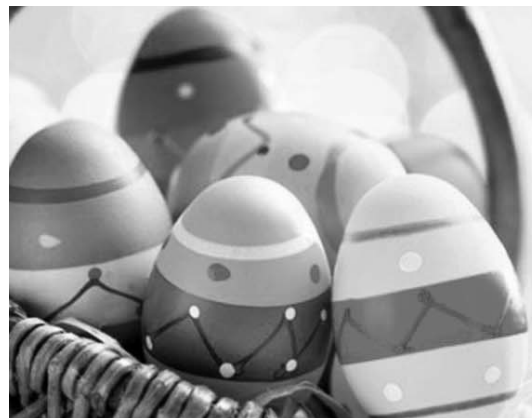
The Association renewed its subscription to The National Federation of Cypriots in the United Kingdom and Lobby for Cyprus and kept up its active participation in both their meetings and events.

On 4 April 2019 representing Lapithos Mayor Neoptolemos Kotsapas and Karavas Mayor Nikos Hadjistefanou, President Savvas Pavlides attended Dr Jennifer Webb's lecture «Cyprus in the Middle Bronze Age: New evidence from the Anglo-Cypriot excavations at Lapithos in 1913» which was held in the Cyprus High Commission in London.

On 26 October 2019 the very successful "Lemon Dance" attracted the participation of officials and guests from Cyprus and Cypriot diaspora including Cyprus High Commissioner Andreas Kakouris and House of Commons MP Pamos Haralambous who also addressed the event.

On 28 October 2019 the Association's President Savvas Pavlides accompanied Lapithos Mayor Neoptolemos Kotsapas and the Lapithos Refugee Association Representative Eleftherios (Lefkos) Eleftheriou to a visit to the British Museum. Following Mr Pavlides' prior arrangements the Cyprus and Greece Antiquities Curator Thomas Kiely himself offered a guided tour. After the tour Mayor Kotsapas presented Mr Kiely with recent Municipality's books about Lapithos antiquities.

Our wish and expectation is to finally attract younger Kerynia diaspora who would be willing to support and run the Association in order to continue its activity, its significant contribution and its historic journey to date.



The Mayor of Lapithos Mr. Neoptolemos Kotsapas, the Members of the Lapithos City Council and the Municipality Personnel, wish you all Happy Easter and a joyful Easter Saturday and Sunday celebration, Good health, prosperity and family happiness.

Wish you also, The President and the Board of Directors of the "Lapithos" Refugee Association, The President and the Members of the Lapithos School Board, the President and the Members of the Lapithos Youth Board, the village heads of the six Lapithos parishes, the President and the Board of Directors of the Lapithos and Karavas Association (GB).