@GreeceInUK

Cherish the Past, Embrace the Future

Issue No 23- 2021



Greek PM Kyriakos Mitsotakis on International Greek Language Day: "Greek is the language of Homer and Aristotle. It is also the language of Seferis and Elytis.





Είμαι ο εικονικός βοηθός της Πρεσβείας. Πώς μπορώ να βοηθήσω; 😃



Greece's Foreign Minister Nikos Dendias visits London

International Greek Language Day is celebrated on 9 February 1821 - 2021 Greece celebrates the Bicentenary of the Declaration of the War of Independence

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AGENDA

Politics Issue No 23 - 2021

Greece's Foreign Minister Nikos Dendias visits London



On 2 February 2021 Minister of Foreign Affairs Nikos Dendias visited London and met with his counterpart, the Foreign Secretary of the UK, Dominic Raab, and with the Under-Secretary of State for European Neighbourhood and the Americas, Wendy Morton.

In a statement, following his meetings, Minister Dendias spoke about the historic bonds between the two countries, the deep people-to-people ties and the common will to forge a strong post-Brexit partnership to face common challenges.

As he said, "We are linked to Great Britain by many things. First of all, common values. Greece is the birthplace of Democracy. The United Kingdom is the birthplace of parliamentary democracy. Greece and Great Britain have been traditional allies in all of the conflicts of the past 200 years. And as we are celebrating the bicentennial of the Modern Greek State, I reminded my interlocutors of some British figures who championed Greek independence and prosperity. George Canning, William Gladstone, David Lloyd George, Winston Churchill. I told them that no Greek can forget Lord Byron; there is no Greek who does not know Admiral Codrington's contribution to Greek independence."

"Britain left the European Union, but it remains a considerable and important power. Both our countries exercise foreign policy based on International Law. Both our countries honour their contractual obligations deriving from international law. Whether these concern treaties signed a few years ago or ones signed a century ago. We look forward to our neighbours' doing the same. At the same time, Greece and Great Britain are linked by the Greek community in Britain, the British community in Greece, and the millions of British

visitors Greece welcomes every year. And there are also the priceless monuments of our cultural heritage, which are housed in the British Museum, and a framework obviously has to be formulated for their return to Greece. The main subject of my talks today was the creation of a bilateral cooperation framework between the two countries in the post-Brexit era. And of course, this framework must be compatible with our obligations as a member state of the European Union, but it must also exploit on the huge capital of our bilateral prospects. The goal is ambitious. To create a strategic partnership between Greece and the United Kingdom."

Furthermore, during the meetings Minister Dendias briefed his interlocutors in depth on the situation in the Eastern Mediterranean. "We expect the United Kingdom to contribute – as a Permanent Member of the UN Security Council, and with its major capabilities – to the creation in the Eastern Mediterranean of a framework for implementation of the rules of International Law and the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). After all, the United Kingdom is a signatory to the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea."

The Cyprus issue was also discussed. "Given that both Greece and Great Britain are guarantor powers, we talked in depth about the Cyprus problem and the upcoming informal meeting, which, it appears, will take place next month. In this context, I reiterated Greece's firm position, which Great Britain shares. That the solution must be based on a bizonal, bicommunal federation in line with the Resolutions of the UN Security Council, and it must also be compatible with European Law."

Finally, Minister Dendias noted that "the bicentennial of the Modern Greek State is a brilliant opportunity for an ambitious new beginning in our bilateral relations with the United Kingdom."

As mentioned in a press release on the visit, issued by the UK's Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office, "both Ministers reaffirmed the strength of the UK-Greece relationship, noting 2021 marks 200 years since the beginning of the struggle that led to the foundation of the modern Greek state, in which the UK played a key role. The Ministers also discussed proposals for new initiatives to deepen UK-Greece co-operation, including in the fields of education, cultural exchange and defence. The Foreign Secretary and Minister Dendias shared perspectives on prospects for an enduring solution in Cyprus, looking forward to upcoming talks under United Nations stewardship. The two Ministers also agreed on the importance of ambitious global action on climate change, an area where the UK and Greece continue to share knowledge and expertise."

International Greek Language Day is celebrated on 9 February

Greek PM Kyriakos Mitsotakis on International Greek Language Day:

"Greek is the language of Homer and Aristotle. It is also the language of Seferis and Elytis. The starting point of history and culture. A compass for today and a beacon for the future. A bridge beyond borders that embraces the world. That is why we learn Greek; in order to speak and feel Greek".



"A language with a course of 4,000 and with a written word dating back to 1,500 BC and on a regular basis for 2,800 years, a language like this cannot been seen in a way other than through than the prism of diachrony", Prof. George Babiniotis on the Greek Language.

This year Greece celebrated the International Greek Language Day along with all the people around the world who are being taught the Greek language. You can see the video <u>here</u>



The Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Konstantinos Vlasis' International Greek Language Day message

"International Greek Language Day is not just a reminder of our language's uninterrupted continuity through time, but also a recognition of its timeless global contribution. It is precisely this recognition that is the essence of the annual celebration of our language. The Greek Language is over 5,000 years old, with its proto-Greek form dating to from about 3000 BC to the current day. The Greek Language is an emotion. It is the language of Dionysios Solomos, who gave us the Hymn to Liberty, our national anthem. Honouring our national poet every year on 9 February, we remember his words: "Does anything else occupy my mind but liberty and language?" But what makes our Language unique is that it is in



essence an attitude to life. In their effort to interpret the world, the Greeks created words that give meaning to existence, guide us to what is actual, what exists, and what is transcendent. Words that precisely signify singular notions, ideas and values. Democracy, Philosophy, Dialogue. This has been characteristic of the Greek Language throughout its history. Through the Greek Language, the language of the Gospels and the Church Fathers, the universal human message of Truth, Faith, Charity and Peace was spread and is still being spread today. "Since Homer's time, we have spoken, sighed and sung the same language," George Seferis writes, capturing the timelessness, the emotional riches and the attitude to life and essence as they are reflected in the Greek Language. We all have a duty to teach it in order to preserve and pass on the Greek Culture."

You can read the full message here

1821 - 2021 Greece celebrates the Bicentenary of the Declaration of the War of Independence

Photos from Greece2021 eshop













2021 — a symbolic year for Greek women and men, as it marks 200 years of freedom and independence for the Greek State — has arrived. The "Greece 2021" Committee was appointed to coordinate the actions and events for the celebration of 200 years after the Revolution.

The "Greece 2021" Committee invited the Greek society and all Greeks submit worldwide to proposals for actions and events, so that we could all participate in designing the anniversary celebration programme. authorities, organisations, associations, institutions and active citizens submitted a total of 1,827 proposals for actions taking place throughout the entire anniversary year. All events are available on the map of events https://www.greece2021.gr/ <u>map</u>

These proposals concern events that highlight the Greek Revolution as a leading historical event of its era and of international significance, the 200-year course of the modern Greek State, and the extraordinary personalities that left their mark on this course. Nonetheless, the majority of the actions will open a window into the future and leave a legacy.

The Committee's Numismatic Programme

The Committee's Numismatic Programme is a unique programme for the issuance of 14 coins (two bimetallic, eight silver, and four gold) of enormous collectible value, with depictions that constitute a journey through the history of modern Greece. The coins are available through e-shop.

Collaborations

At the same time, in order to further promote the messages and symbolism of the anniversary year, the Committee has secured a series of collaborations, such as, for example, with the Hellenic Post for the issuing of stamps and philatelic products that will emphasize the special meaning of the 200th anniversary of the Revolution. Also, collaborations with the country's Academic Institutions as regards research and competitions.

More info https://www.greece2021.gr/en/

The British Committee 21in21

21 in 21 is celebrating the 2021 bicentenary of the outbreak of the Greek War of Independence in 21 Greek-British encounters, representing a wide range of activities, meant to reflect collaboration across London-based institutions and organisations and to engage broad audiences of non-specialists as well as specialists.

Steering Committee

Coordinator: Gonda Van Steen, Koraes Chair (KCL)

Roderick Beaton (KCL), Nikandros Bouras (KCL), Anastasia Christophilopoulou (Fitzwilliam Museum), Richard Clogg (Oxford), Charalambos Dendrinos (RHUL), Spyros Economides (LSE), Kevin Featherstone (LSE), Liana Giannakopoulou (Cambridge), Agatha Kalisperas (Hellenic Centre), John Kittmer (Anglo-Hellenic League), Julia Knights (Science Museum), Ioannis Manos (Advisor, National Bank of Greece), Paris Papamichos Chronakis (RHUL), Marios Psaras (Cyprus High Commission), Nick Salmon (BSA), Neal Spencer (British Museum), Konstantinos Trimmis (Bristol)

The events are generously sponsored by the A.G. Leventis Foundation and are affiliated with the Protovoulia 1821-2021 (Advisor: Mr Ioannis Manos, National Bank of Greece). They represent a UKbased collaboration among The Hellenic Centre, The Anglo-Hellenic League, the Society for Modern Greek Studies, the Society for the Promotion of Hellenic Studies, the British School at Athens, the Hellenic Observatory at LSE, the Hellenic Institute at Royal Holloway, the Cambridge Centre for Greek Studies, the A.G. Leventis Visiting Professor at the University of Edinburgh, the University of Bristol, the Centre for Hellenic Studies at King's College London, and many more contributing individuals (special thanks to Prof. Richard Cloqq, Dr Marios Psaras, CHC, and our supporters at the Greek Embassy's Press Office).

More info https://21in21.co.uk/



Photo from 21in21 celebratory opening Event

Events related to the Bicentennial

Reinforcing bridges between Greek universities and diaspora

On the occasion of the celebration of the World Education Day and the Bicentennial of the 1821 Greek Revolution, the General Secretariat for Higher Education of the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs and the General Secretariat for Public Diplomacy and Greeks Abroad of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs joined forces to present online the conference Reinforcing Bridges between Greek Universities and the Greek Diaspora on Sunday, January 24.

21 in 21 Celebratory opening event

Concert dedicated to Greece: Sir Simon Rattle (London Symphony Orchestra) conducting Leonidas Kavakos, violin: Berg Violin Concerto Schubert Symphony No 9, 'The Great'. In collaboration with the National Bank of Greece and Initiative 1821-2021.

Power and Impunity: What Donald Trump and Boris Didn't Learn from the Ancient Greeks

Are we living in a world marked by a new impunity of power? How did we get here? Our notions of the good society, of the responsibility that comes with power, and, of course, democracy and its discourse, stem from ancient and classical Greece. Our deepest sense of Western values, embedded in education curricula across our societies, emanates from classical Athens. Is it no longer of use or value? Are we now judging utility and cost differently? If so, how and why are our leaders safe in doing so?

Thirtieth Annual Runciman Lecture

Prof David Ricks: 'The Shot Heard round the World: The Greek Revolution in Poetry'. Like the shot fired at Concord, Massachusetts, in 1775, the Greek Revolution was heard around the world, and many poets, Byron and Hugo among them, fired off their own poetry in response. This lecture turned to Greek poetic responses to '21 – and not just at the time, but as the noise of old battles has echoed through subsequent decades of Greek experience up to the present day. The focus was on tensions between the pen and the sword, or rather the pen and the gun, over the years since 1821: the best Greek poets have faced such tensions memorably, and in doing so have made a distinctive contribution to the world's poetry.

Greek Diaspora Issue No 23 - 2021

Innovative Digital Services from the Consular office

The Embassy of Greece in London has introduced three important and innovative digital services to facilitate the Greeks in the UK when addressing the Consular Office:

- A) The internationally used appointment booking platform SuperSass
- B) MyConsulLive platform for serving citizens remotely via video calls
- C) Virtual Assistant services using artificial intelligence (chatbot)

The Embassy of Greece is aiming to improve the services for the 150,000 Greeks who live in the UK. The above mentioned services facilitate citizens addressing the Consular Office to find an appointment through the SuperSass platform and book a video appointment using myConsulLive services. Also, citizens are better informed regarding the services offered. It is not necessary to contact the Embassy by phone, since they get answers to their questions using the digital chatbot assistant, but also from the enriched website of the Greek Embassy www.mfa.gr/uk which includes detailed information about the services provided.

SuperSass

The internationally used booking platform (SuperSass) has been launched. The new platform provides the ability for users to cross-check the number of appointments available on a daily basis, as well as the period of availability. New one-week appointments are available on a quarterly basis every Friday at 12.00 noon.

myConsulLive

MyConsulLive is a platform for serving citizens remotely via video calls. Through this service, Greeks in the UK can book an online appointment for a scheduled video call with a competent official. The video call services provided by the Consular Office of the Embassy of Greece in London are as follows::

Certificate of Permanent Resident Abroad

Copy or Extract of a Deed

Declaration of the Beneficiary of Pension

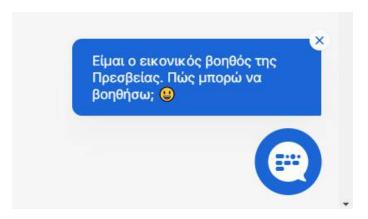
chatbot

At the same time, Virtual Assistant services are offered. This is an internationally innovative virtual assistance service using artificial intelligence (chatbot) that provides access to all information requests submitted to the consular authorities and guidance on how to process them in Greek and English.

https://myconsullive.gov.gr/



https://www.mfa.gr/uk/



https://www.supersaas.co.uk/schedule/login/ Greek Embassy London/



Despite the restriction measures in force due to the pandemic, which we are obliged to implement, the Consular Office operates between 09.00 and 17.00, serving, daily, at least 75 pre-arranged and many emergency appointments with daily attendance at the Consulate exceeding 100 people. Approximately 3,451 appointments have been made available for the next quarter.

Culture Issue No 23 - 2021

Dr. Zetta Theodoropoulou writes about Matti Egon-Xylas, Founder of the Greek Archaeological Committee UK.



Matti Egon-Xylas (1935-2020)

On Wednesday 14th October 2020 the Greek Archaeological Committee UK lost its dear Founder, Matrona Egon, nee Xylas. For many people in Britain and Greece 'Matti' was the doyenne of generous philanthropy, demonstrable patriotism, erudition, culture, hospitality, elegance.

Matrona (Matti) Xyla, the daughter of Chians, Michalis and Stamatia Xylas was born in Greece, but aged 11 moved to Britain, and there went to Secondary school and University, developing an appreciation for most things British. Her natural talents, parental encouragement and the education she had received, helped her build an impressive and versatile portfolio of interests but music, art and archaeology were her principal, happy preoccupations. Later, she gladly and generously offered financial but also moral support to numerous artists, musicians, and performers as well as to cultural institutions such as libraries, museums and concert halls, and many other charitable institutions, both in Britain and Greece including in her island, Chios. Among her interests were also psychology and mental health, charitable causes for which she gave generously. Her loss has left many bereft but grateful talented people and establishments.

It was archaeology, however, that brought a sparkle to her eyes, a palpable excitement and was to lead to an extraordinary tale of success. In the autumn of 1986, with her encouragement, her uncle Constantinos Bonis, the then President of the Archaeological Society at Athens and George Mylonas, its Secretary General, arrived in London to seek closer links with their British counterparts and also some financial support from the London Greek, mainly shipping, community. Matti had always passionately sought opportunities for linking Britain and Greece in a cultural embrace. The presence of the two senior officers of the Archaeological

Society seemed an opportunity too good to miss. She invited to her London home members of the Greek and Greek Cypriot community whom she considered to be receptive to her plan to provide practical help to Greek archaeology. That evening, with her enthusiastic drive, the Greek Archaeological Committee UK was born. GACUK, as it became known, was to have two aims: firstly, to present the latest archaeological work in Greece to British audiences through lectures given in London by eminent Greek and Cypriot archaeologists. The inaugural lecture, given a few days later by Mylonas on Mycenae at the spacious V&A lecture hall was attended by numerous British archaeologists, the founding members of the fledgling GACUK, a bevy of ambassadors - her second husband, the painter Nicholas Egon had seen to that! - and many friends. Matti later admitted to sleepless nights before the event, worrying about the likelihood of an almost empty lecture hall. Instead, it was standing room

The second aim of GACUK, after it had been successfully registered as a British charity in 1992, was to offer scholarships to first class graduates from Greece and Cyprus so that they could afford to undertake post graduate studies in top British universities. The first such scholarship was offered by Matti Egon. To date, thanks to her two annual scholarships but also to other very generous donors and members' subscriptions, GACUK has in its "books" 70 scholars. The very first scholar, Dr Olga Karagiorgou, senior Researcher of the Centre for Byzantine and post-Byzantine Art at the Academy of Athens, gave the 60th, most recent lecture, in December 2020, in memory of her benefactor.

Sadly, Matti has left us, but her ideas and the results of her generosity are here to stay. She had funded all the lectures and had hosted unforgettable dinners in honour of the speakers. In Europe and the USA there are many successfully employed archaeologists who are indebted to her for her scholarships.

In memory of her inspirational leadership and example, and with the valued presence of our loyal donors and growing Membership, GACUK will continue its activities well into the future, promoting that same passion for all things Greek of its founder.

Dr Zetta Theodoropoulou Polychroniadis, Chair.

Culture Issue No 23 - 2021

Students in the UK among the winners of the International Painting Competition: "near or far, WE are all ONE"

Nine Greek students living in the UK have been awarded distinctions for their art works in the International Painting Competition for Children and Youth "near or far, WE are all ONE". The competition was organised by the General Secretariat for Greeks Abroad of the Hellenic Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Children's Art Gallery of Greece in collaboration with the Greek Section of the International Board on Books for Young People - The Greek Children's Book Circle.

Thousands of children of Greeks abroad, who have been out of school due to the restrictive measures taken by countries internationally to prevent the spread of coronavirus, have been spending their time at home without sharing their friends' company, but sharing instead a common global reality that shows that near or far we are all one. The competition was an invitation addressed to children of Greeks abroad all over the world to express their feelings, to describe through their art the daily life they have been experiencing during this difficult period of humanity, and to display through their artistic creations an auspicious and peaceful future. As the agents of

hope and optimism, children were invited to send a universal encouraging message of love, strength and mutual respect.

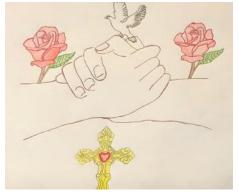
3130 entries were submitted by children and young adults, aged 6 to 16, from 30 different countries around the world, gathered with the participation of hundreds of educational organizations, schools, expatriate communities and cultural associations of the Greek Diaspora.

Nine students from the UK were among the 122 students who have been awarded distinctions for their art work worldwide: Chris Ameachi, Emmanouela Dimitriou, Rafaela Dimitriou, Lydia Ibrahim Magoufopoulou, Eirini Kafka, Chrysafenia Katsapi, Victoria Mantzouki, Mary Nomikou and Pavlos Rachovides. Four of them are students of the St Cosmas and St Damian School in Northwest London. Congratulations to all the talented young artists as well as to their supportive and proud teachers.

All of the distinguished artworks are displayed online on the website of the Children's Art Gallery of Greece: https://sites.google.com/site/ppepinakothiki









EVENTS TO COME

Kiki Dimoula by Dr Despoina Papastathi

When: Wednesday, 17 February, 2021, 7pm

Where: Online

https://helleniccentre.org/event/kiki-dimoula-by-

dr-despoina-papastathi/

Panel Discussion: "1821: The Migration of

Revolutionary Ideas" (Pt 2)

When: Monday 22 February, 6pm (UK) / 8pm

(Greece) Where: Online

https://www.bsa.ac.uk/events/panel-discussion-

1821-the-migration-of-revolutionary-ideas-pt-2/

Greek Dialogues Online - Greek Manuscripts in Cambridge Libraries: an insight into The Polonsky

Foundation Greek Manuscripts Project

When: Tuesday, 23 February, 2021 - 11:00 to 12:00

Where: Online

https://www.ccgs.csah.cam.ac.uk/events/greek-dialoques-online-greek-manuscripts-cambridge-

<u>libraries-insight-polonsky-foundation</u>

'A 'bare life' in the borderlines of the Mediterranean' Organised by the British School at Athens and the Greek Politics Specialist Group

When: March 1, 7:00 pm UTC+2

Where: Online

https://www.bsa.ac.uk/events/foteini-kalatzi-a-

bare-life-in-the-borderlines-of-the-mediterranean/

Niki Marangou by Dr Liana Giannakopoulou Organised by The Hellenic Centre and The Society

for Modern Greek Studies

When: Wednesday 3 March, 7 pm

Where: Online

https://helleniccentre.org/event/niki-marangou-by-

dr-liana-giannakopoulou/

Hellenic Centre Carnival and Kathara Deftera

Celebration

When: From Saturday 13 March, 8.30pm to Monday

15 March, 11.30pm Where: Online

https://helleniccentre.org/event/hc-carnival-and-

kathara-deftera-celebration/

Crisis and Change: the right of Greek citizens to vote

abroad, LSE, Hellenic Observatory

When: Tuesday 16 March 2021, 16:00-17:30

Where: Online

https://www.lse.ac.uk/Hellenic-Observatory/ Events/Research-Seminar-Series/2020-21/ Research-Seminar-Diaspora-Vote/Crisis-and-

<u>Change-the-right-of-Greek-citizens-to-vote-abroad</u>

 $\verb|`The Weird Wave of Greek Cinema: a Movement or a$ |

Moment?', Anglo-Hellenic League When: Tuesday 16 March 2021, 7pm

Where: Hellenic Centre

https://www.anglohellenicleaque.org/cultural-

events/

@GreeceInUK is a newsletter with a regular roundup of news related to Greece, Greek Politics, Economy, Culture, Civil Society, the Arts as well as Greece's distinctive vibrant presence in the UK. Our ambition is to offer an accurate and rich source of information to those interested in Greece and her people.

Embassy of Greece in London
Public Diplomacy Office

1A Holland Park, London W11 3TP
Tel. 0207-727 3071 / Fax. 0207-792 9054

E-mail: pdo.lon@mfa.gr http://www.mfa.gr/uk

Facebook: <u>@GreeceInUK</u> / Twitter: <u>@GreeceInUK</u> / Instagram: Greek Embassy in London