



Kypros Nikolaides bestowed the Gold Cross of the Order of the Phoenix by Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Nikolaos Dendias, at the Hellenic Residence in London, on the 22nd of July, 2022, under the presence of Greek Ambassador, Mr Ioannis Raptakis.



MFA, Mr Nikolaos Dendias, met with High Commissioner of Namibia in UK with concurrent accreditation to Greece, Ms Linda Scott, in London on the 22nd of July. They discussed bilateral relations and cooperation in the framework of International Organizations.



Also in this issue:

- *Greek schools of Manor Hill and Finley pay tribute to George Seferis*
- *National Geographic Traveller Food Festival*
- *Kastellorizo: The perfect setting for the "Beyond Borders" Film Festival*
- *Destination of the Month: Kythira*
- *10-year validity period for Greek passports*
- *Study in Greece - ALBA*
- *#Greece is Green*
- *#Underwater Greece*

Kypros Nikolaides bestowed the Gold Cross of the Order of the Phoenix

On the 22nd of July, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Nikos Dendias conferred, on behalf of the President of the Hellenic Republic, Katerina Sakellaropoulou, on Professor Kypros Nicolaidis the Gold Cross of the Order of the Phoenix, in recognition of his exceptional work, during a very moving ceremony that took place at the Hellenic Residence in London. Kypros Nicolaidis, a distinguished Professor of Fetal Medicine at King's College London and University College London, is considered the "father" of cervical transparency. During his speech, Mr. Dendias praised the work of the professor underlining that "hundreds of thousands if not millions of children owe their lives to him ", while he also made a brief reference to his rich CV, noting that it is a "special honor" for him to confer this medal on Professor Nikolaidis. From his part, Professor Nikolaidis, evidently moved, declared proudly that he accepts this honor as a recognition from the Greek state of the work of doctors, while he praised the Greek Minister of Foreign Affairs as a "patriot" who works for the interests of Cyprus. Both Mr. Dendias and Mr. Nikolaidis stood by their speeches in the importance of the Fetal Medicine Program that will be offered to eight countries (Ethiopia, Albania, Armenia, North Macedonia, Kenya, Kosovo, Rwanda and Moldova) for the period 2022-2025, with the funding from the Fetal Medicine Foundation, and in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Directorate-General for Development and Humanitarian Aid. This program will include the establishment of a Fetal Medicine Unit, which will be located within a public maternity hospital with free access for all women, the development of a postgraduate program in fetal medicine for medical staff from each selected country and a two-year internship at the Fetal Medicine Foundation at King's College London. As Mr. Dendias stated, it is important that outside these units which will operate in the eight countries the Greek flag will flap "as a proof of the offer of Greece and Kypros Nikolaides in the global community". Professor Nikolaidis added that he wants this program to be extended to as many as possible countries in the future, for the benefit of women and children.

Photo Credits: Alexios Gennaris



Greek schools of Manor Hill and Finchley paid special tribute to George Seferis, at the Hellenic Residence, in London



On Sunday 3 July, a special tribute to the great Greek poet, Nobel Laureate and Ambassador of Greece to the UK (1957-1962) George Seferis was held at the Hellenic residence. Students and teachers of the Greek schools of Manor Hill & Finchley prepared a presentation dedicated to the poet, which took place in the same residence as Seferis used to live in and work while serving as an Ambassador in London. In 2000, on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the birth of Seferis, a commemorative plaque of the English Heritage organization was placed on the facade of the building.

The Greek Ambassador Mr Ioannis Raptakis welcomed a total of 45 teachers, students and parents, saying that "Greece may be a small country in terms of population, but culturally it is a world power with a Language that has a past, a present and a future". He stressed that even though Greek is spoken by only about 15 million people, has two Nobel Laureates in Literature, which is considered a great achievement compared to other dominant languages, such as English. The Director of the Schools, Mr Michalis Ellinas, thanked him warmly for the initiative and referred in detail to Giorgos Seferis as a poet, but also as a diplomat. During the event that followed, the work of Giorgos Seferis and his ties with Asia Minor - on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the Asia Minor Catastrophe - and also with Cyprus, were presented. The presentation also included poems recited by the students of the schools. The students had the opportunity to enjoy a visit to George Seferis' study room, where his original office still remains untouched.



National Geographic Traveller - Food Festival, 16-17 July 2022, London



On the 16 and 17th of July 2022, National Geographic Traveller magazine organized in London an exhibition of culinary interest, entitled "National Geographic Traveller Food Festival", under the support of the Greek National Tourism Organization of UK and Ireland. The Greek participation aimed to promote Greek destinations and their connection to Greek cuisine and local products to a high-level British audience of 6,000 visitors, all lovers of gastronomy and profoundly interested in culture, travel and luxurious holidays. It is worth mentioning the presence at the exhibition of Deputy Minister for Tourism Sofia Zacharaki, who was really impressed by the interest that all visitors showed for the Greek stalls.

Major British tourism businesses from the catering industry and national tourism organizations with selected "brands" of distinctive products participated in the exhibition, while internationally renowned chefs were key speakers in the masterclasses and workshops that took place during this 2-day exhibition. This year, Greece participated with two stalls, and managed to secure the branding "Cinnamon Theatre", one of the two masterclass presentation theatres. Greece had the opportunity to present Greek recipes with local products in a total of seven masterclasses: well-known Greek chefs shared with the visitors some of the secrets of Greek traditional cuisine: Argiro Barbarigou, Irimi Tzortzoglou, Télémaque Argyriou and George Palisidis did their best to present local recipes from various Greek destinations, gaining the best impressions.



Kastellorizo: The perfect setting for the “Beyond Borders” Film Festival



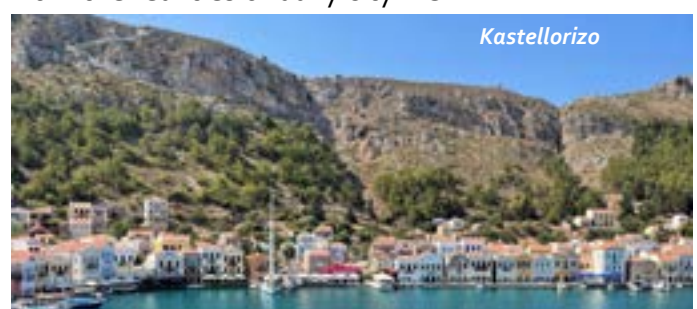
This year, Kastellorizo hosted the 7th international film festival between 21st and 28th August. The “Beyond Borders” festival is promoted internationally, offering an international audience an exciting experience of the films that shaped our shared identity. The Secretary-General for Greeks Abroad and Public Diplomacy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Professor John Chrysoulakis, visited Kastellorizo for a special screening of a documentary “George Bizos Icon” about the life and work of George Bizos - the four-decade-long human rights advocate in South Africa, lawyer, and close friend of Nelson Mandela – which was screened as part of the 7th “Beyond Borders” Documentary Festival. “With this initiative, we chose to not only honour the emblematic activity of George Bizos, but to also send a message full of symbolism and universal dimensions: to underline, from the cradle of democracy and the frontier island of Kastellorizo, the timeless value of human rights, as one of the most important pillars of democracy; in an era when, not far from us and Europe itself, the concept of democracy and its fundamental values are being undermined, disputed, relativized, or redefined by way of new walls of authoritarianism, nationalism, historical revisionism, and intolerance”, said Professor Chrysoulakis

Kastellorizo is an island located in a truly secret corner of Greece, just 2km from the Asian continent. If you have never heard of this island, you are probably not alone; with just 300 permanent residents, you will feel as if you know each islander by name within

minutes of your arrival. However, every August since 2016, this small island has hosted the “Beyond Borders” international film festival.

The island makes up for its small size with the warmest of welcomes. “Mass tourism does not exist on Kastellorizo,” explains Voula Doulgaroglou Pechlivani, Manager of the Hotel Kastellorizo, “and as a result, Kastellorizo has preserved its natural beauty & traditional architecture. It offers its visitors peace, rest and a magical picturesque landscape. It is the ideal place to visit if you want to get in touch with the authentic island life of Greece”. Indeed, the best thing to do in Kastellorizo is to simply sit back and admire the entrancing beauty of the port, lined with pretty caiques and inhabited by turtles. Kastellorizo blends authenticity and tradition with sophistication, resulting in an alluring mix of traditional tavernas, coffee bars and gift shops. Set against a cliff adorned with a painting of the Greek flag, the aristocratic neoclassical mansions lining the waterfront of the main port resemble a plasticene model. The contrasting colours of the houses provide a scene of perfection for photographers. The island can be reached via plane or ferry from Rhodes and also via a quick boat trip from the Turkish resort of Kas. The island also has a charmingly small airport, though “the few British tourists who come to us travel by charter flights to the airports of Rhodes or Dalaman,” adds Voula.

“The first thing that you should do as soon as you arrive here is to take off your shoes! You don’t need them, flip flops are enough.” Kastellorizo may not have sandy beaches, but the clear aquamarine waters are unrivalled throughout the Mediterranean. Swimming in the port is the simplest of pleasures on this paradisaical island. If you’re looking for peace, Kastellorizo is the place for you, as the island can be navigated entirely on foot offers a unique escape from the realities of daily city life.



Destination of the Month: Kythira



It has been argued that Kythira is perhaps the most perfect of all Greek islands with crystal clear waters, interesting architecture, mythical waterfalls and warm hospitality in each of the island's delightful settlements. Located south of the Peloponnese, Kythira is located at a crossroads of cultures. "You must visit Kythira because it is still pure. It is an authentic island and is aimed at those looking for peace, quiet, and in touch with nature and culture," writes Marianna Xintarakou, who was brought up on the island of Kythira and now owns the Filoxenia Hotel in the beach town of Agia Pelagia on the northeastern coast of the island – a place "where you can admire the most beautiful sunrise as the sun emerges from the sea."

Indeed, Kythira feels like a Greece of 30 years ago. A central road connects the north and south of the island, with routes branching off to reveal secret treasures hiding in the gorges and valleys of the interior. The Mayor of Kythira, Mr Charalakis, describes Kythira as a "unique island, that offers a lot of experiences. The British will find a piece of Britain's past there, as the island was under British rule from 1810 - 1864 when it became a part of Greece". Marianna adds, "In Kythira, great works were completed during the period when Kythira was a British protectorate such as the road network, bridges and schools, which the visitor can admire to this day". In the interior of the island, the visitor can wander around the old capital, Potamos, with its stately mansion houses, typically Greek square and famous local market. Further south, in Mylopotamos, you can admire the mythical Neraida waterfall and

enjoy a local pastry under the plane tree in the middle of the village. Of the sixty villages on the island, Chora holds the most commanding position, with a Venetian castle, archaeological museum, sugar-cube whitewashed houses, artisan gift shops and an awe inspiring view of the bay of Kapsali far below. All over the island, Marianna explains that the visitor find the highest quality local produce, "such as coarse sea salt, thyme honey, herbs, olive oil, wine, tsipouro and fatourada", and a unique mix of architecture, adding that "each settlement has its own distinct colour". The island is fringed by spectacular beaches all around – from Limnionas in the west, Plateia Ammos in the north and Diakofti in the east. But the most unique place for a morning swim is in the famous fishing village of Avlemonas, where a small cluster of whitewashed houses huddle around an idyllic cove filled with crystalline waters and fishing boats. Here, even in the peak tourist season of August, you can peacefully swim in the paradisiacal surroundings. As the Mayor says, "Kythira is a place worth discovering in all seasons; spring is full of colours painting the hills, autumn is like summer but with few crowds".

"You can visit Kythira by plane or by vessel (from the ports of Piraeus, Crete, Gythio & Neapoli)," explains Mr Charalakis, finishing his remarks with an easy-to-follow instruction: "so do not waste your time! Kythira is waiting for your booking!".



The validity period for Greek passports extends to 10 years

In late July, in a welcome change for all Greeks abroad, it was announced that the validity period of Greek passports would be extended for all Greek citizens over the age of 14. In accordance with Article 87 "Regulations for the issuance of a passport" of Law 4962/2022, the validity period for passports has been extended from 5 to 10 years for passports issued after 1st September 2022, without any change in the process for passport renewal. The renewal fee of €84.40 and all supporting documents for the process will remain unchanged. For minors under the age of 14, passports will continue to have a validity period of three years. The Minister for Citizen Protection Takis Theodorikakos welcomed the changes, stating that "bureaucracy is lessened for Greek citizens, and especially Greeks abroad. It is a situation from which both the state and Greek citizens will benefit, in a great convenience for citizens and the Hellenic Police Force". He also highlighted the fact that, prior to the change in the law, Greece was one of the few EU countries whose passports lasted for only five years.

<https://www.passport.gov.gr/en/npc/nea-anakoinoseis/anakoinosi-eid.html?fbclid=IwARorL88IDOOQRydQHFo6idpQpGJNX8X3NcrPOX2frQ6-vooPRa3cl34WD4zo>



Kostas Axarloglou, Dean & Professor of International Business and Strategy, Alba Graduate Business School, about studying in Greece

1. For a British person considering the next step in their studies, what are the advantages of studying in Greece?

After the challenge of a deep economic crisis, Greece is now in a period of rejuvenation. It envisions immersing the world in its culture and achievements through an environment that enables citizens from across the globe to live, learn, work and relish the country. Established 30 years ago by the Greek business community, Alba Graduate Business School serves this community through management education that focuses on academic excellence that is also business relevant. Besides its campus programs, Alba has recently enhanced its portfolio with a competitive online MBA program aiming to support highly-experienced managers through a flexible and remote mode of learning, suitable to the challenges of a demanding professional life.

2. The pandemic changed the way in which higher education is being delivered across the world. How do you think higher education will continue to evolve in the future? Is online education here to stay?

The pandemic, along with the rapid evolution of relevant technologies (e.g., virtual learning platforms and other enabling teaching technologies, etc.), revolutionizes how we learn and increases the need for continuous learning. At the same time, location and time become less important as technology allows learners to quickly engage in remote learning environments and learn from any place at a flexible time and pace, adapting their learning to their other priorities in life. Thus, online education rapidly grows, ensuring that academic institutions remain synced with modern learning styles and learners' circumstances. Alba's online MBA offering is only the beginning of a rich portfolio of online learning initiatives within our institution.

3. How would you describe the education system in Greece to sb who is unfamiliar with it?

Higher education in Greece is going through a significant transformation and advancement, focusing on knowledge creation through academic research that is relevant to tackling the problems of society. Moreover, higher education increasingly attracts more international students who decide to study in Greek-based institutions and pursue careers in the country's growing innovation/technology ecosystem. Graduates from Greek higher education institutions are empowered with skills and competencies which can be applied anywhere in the world. Indicatively, 60% of the 5,000+ Alba's alumni hold senior positions worldwide. All programs at Alba are taught in English by internationally recognized faculty with exceptional corporate and academic careers. Finally, Alba is proud to belong to a select group of international business schools that have received the Association of MBA (AMBA) accreditation in all its MBA Programs, including the Alba Online MBA.

#Greece Is Green

The Embassy of Greece in London launched a social media campaign in July, entitled "Greece Is Green", designed to highlight projects taking place across Greece with the aim of promoting sustainability, recycling and renewable energy. The destinations featured included Chalki's GR-ECO project, which involves the construction of solar panels, upgrade of public lighting, introduction of electric vehicles and public Wi-Fi; the introduction of 12 pocket parks across Athens to improve the urban environment in the city; the work of the Hellenic Society for the Protection of the Monk Seal in Alonissos; the "Smart & Sustainable Island" project in Astypalea, new solar farms in Kozani, the project of British NGO Common Seas to clean up the seas around Paros and the Just Go Zero scheme to promote recycling in Tilos; the Eurostat data that Greece has one of the highest numbers of bathing sites with excellent water quality across the whole of Europe; last but not least the announcement that Greece will host the 2024 Our Ocean Conference, raising awareness about marine protection.



#Underwater Greece



The Embassy of Greece in London launched a social media campaign in August, entitled "Underwater Greece". Greece is perhaps best known for two things: unparalleled archaeological treasures, and the beauty of its seas. Although the archaeological sites of Greece that are on dry land are mysterious enough, those which are submerged on the seafloor are even more fascinating. In 1976, a Special Peripheral Service of the Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports was founded, The Ephorate of Underwater Antiquities, which has an objective to protect all these underwater antiquities. There are so many underwater archaeological sites in Greece that it would be impossible to mention them all, but some of the most famous underwater archaeological sites are: -The ancient shipwreck of Peristera, off the Greek island of Alonissos, dubbed "the Parthenon of shipwrecks,". It opened up in May 2021 to divers, who are now able to visit this famous shipwreck of amphorae from the 5th century BC. -Pavlopetri, the oldest underwater city in the world off the coast of southern Laconia in Peloponnese- The sunken city of Olous, which is located less than one kilometre east of Elounda, in Northern Crete, which have a history that stretches back to the Minoan civilization. -The site of the Antikythera Wreck which holds the remains of a Greek trading or cargo ship dating from the 1st Century, BCE and is located on the east side of the Greek island of Antikythera near Crete at the crossroads of the Aegean and Mediterranean Seas.



Man of God, the movie

When: 9/9/2022 - 12/9/2022

Where: Exclusively at Odeon cinemas: Lee Valley, Acton, Haymarket, Holloway, Derby, Kettering, Birmingham, Leeds Bradford and Leicester

<https://www.facebook.com/manofgodthemovie/>

Apollo Cokkinis: Proud Greek, Proud Briton: From Odessa and Smyrna to London and Dorking by Alan Charlton

When? Wednesday 21st September, 19.00

Where? Hellenic Centre

<https://helleniccentre.org/event/apollo-cokkinis-proud-greek-proud-briton-from-odessa-and-smyrna-to-london-and-dorking/>

Smyrna On My Mind Book Launch

When? Wednesday 28th September, 19.00

Where? Hellenic Centre

<https://helleniccentre.org/event/smyrna-my-love/>

Michael Wood: The Marvellous Journey of St Theodore of Tarsus'

When? Thursday 29th September, 19.00

Where? Hellenic Centre

<https://www.anglohellenicleague.org/cultural-events/>

The Refugee Lesson: Life in Kokkinia Among the Mikrasiates of 1923 by Professor Renee Hirschon

When? Monday 3rd October, 19.00

Where? Hellenic Centre

<https://helleniccentre.org/event/the-refugee-lesson-life-in-kokkinia-among-the-mikrasiates-of-1923/>

Exiting the Crisis: the challenges of reform agency in Greece

When? Tuesday 11th October, 18.00-19.30

Where? LSE Campus

<https://www.lse.ac.uk/Hellenic-Observatory/Events/Research-Seminar-Series/2022-2023/Exiting-the-crisis-the-challenges-of-reform-agency-in-Greece/Exiting-the-crisis-the-challenges-of-reform-agency-in-Greece>

Embassy of Greece in London

1A Holland Park, London W11 3TP

Tel. 0207- 727 3071,

E-mail: pdo.lon@mfa.gr

<http://www.mfa.gr/uk>

Facebook | Twitter: [@GreeceInUK](https://www.facebook.com/GreeceInUK)

Instagram: [Greek Embassy in London](https://www.instagram.com/GreekEmbassyinLondon)