

By *Andrianna Philippou*

LIMASSOL 41

Mayor highlights town's 'changing face'

CHRISTOU OPTIMISTIC ABOUT IMPACT OF REGENERATION PROJECTS

Limassol is undergoing a facelift, while remaining true to its traditional character, Mayor Andreas Christou told Rotarians on Wednesday.

Addressing the monthly dinner of the Limassol Berengaria club, Christou highlighted the many projects underway in the city. These include the development and upgrading of the area known as Peace Square between the Turkish Mosque and Agios Antonios Church in the Old Port sector of the historic old town. Close to this area are plans to build a major conference and exhibition centre as a BOT (build, operate and transfer) initiative "We believe this will begin next year".

Many of the projects showed the dramatic changing face that Limassol is presenting to the international community.

Many of the bigger developments such as pedestrianising the Castle grounds and piazza, the Old Port regeneration and new terminal buildings, Limassol Marina development and local infrastructure upgrades are well underway. Some other projects, for example, 'lifting' the facades of some of the existing seafront buildings, now over 30 years old



ALL SMILES: Roulla Daghfal (membership Ambassador), Tim Drohan (President of Limassol Berengaria Rotarians), Mayor Andreas Christou and Kevin Mudd (ex President)

and looking 'tired', will begin next year.

Christou was keen to emphasise these will not be rebuilt, but 'refreshed'. He highlighted the striking contemporary buildings like the Olympic Residence and Pafilia project, which are dramatically changing the landscape of the seafront.

Two new seafront bridges to link the promenade to the sea are due to begin construction shortly. Many other smaller projects were highlighted including smaller sports and recreational grounds, arts centres and renovation programmes for local community project initiatives. The Pattachion Theatre, due to open soon following a major refurbish-

ment programme, the Municipal Zoo, due to complete in about three months, three boat launching ramps plus the infrastructure improvements and major road links that are currently being developed and others which are earmarked, including the notoriously uneven Lady's Mile road, and Garryllis River, within the Limassol municipality boundaries.

Taking questions from the guests, the Mayor spoke passionately about his optimism for Limassol as the city moves forward.

He talked about the benefits and "additional value" these projects will bring to the town, and stressed that one of the major assets for

the city is that it now boasts an impressive University - Cyprus University of Technology (TEPAK). A major issue in town is parking, and there are ambitious plans to build an underground municipal car park although as the Mayor said "the issue is to get people out of their cars and using more buses, bikes and motorbikes...and walking after all the distances are very small". Much of the work has been financed through EU funds. Asked what his proudest achievement is to date, Christou said "it is that we applied for and were awarded €50m from the EU for our regeneration programme. That made me very proud".

LIMASSOL NOTES

Embarrassed, moi?

You know when you really wish you'd kept your mouth shut? Walked away calmly and not given in to that rant after all? Well, I'd love to say that has never happened to me... (but of course we all know that's not quite true. After all I've ranted in this column more than once or twice over the months so

who am I trying to kid?) However, this week, I really did have to eat humble pie. So by way of a confession, I thought I'd use my column to say a public 'sorry' to my lovely 'new best friends' at the Docks (especially the wonderful Kyriakos).

So, Wednesday found me racing to Limassol New Port for an 11am appointment to board a cruise ship. I stop at the gate to be checked in by security. Meanwhile with four strapping gentlemen milling around at the windows I'm thinking

here we go again, how many men does it take to check a name on a list? Anyway, several minutes later confusion abounds since my name does not appear on any of their check lists. They have no record of me. Persona non grata. Furthermore, the vessel I'm supposed to be boarding is not apparently in the docks today. How can this be? Obviously a breakdown in communication and I'm the victim (who's now running late and getting very stressed by the way). So my composure is beginning to fray. So is my insistence they sort out whatever they need to sort out and let me through ASAP, complemented by my now increasing decibel levels and renewed passion as I express my demands. In fact, I'm now telling the security guard how to do his job.

I refuse to leave my ID card with him, as instructed, and take the authorised clearance pass he has just issued me (Why should I? My name should be on the list). Furthermore, what a cheek, he's asked me to pay 95 cents for the privilege! However, calling my bluff, he smiles sweetly, offers me back my ID card, re-

trieves the pass he wrote out for me and asks me to leave the site. Oops, a rant too far Andrianna.

Ok, realising I better toe the line here I pay up, take my pass and drive onto the dockside to board my luxury cruise liner (now about 11.15). Boy, am I fuming? As I approach the harbour I can't see my vessel anywhere (the MSC Magnifica would be a bit tough to miss I hasten to add, so something doesn't feel quite right here...). A quick call to my hosts to check whether I'm in the right place says it all. "Andrianna, it's next week, the 30th". Aah, well, that explains quite a lot really. How stupid do I feel? So, nothing else for it; I drive straight back to my security men, zoom in on Kyriakos with my humble, most apologetic tone and sweetest smile and beg forgiveness. And bless him (and his team, who by now have appeared at the window to also smile knowingly at me), he does. Returns my ID, reimburses me with my one euro and says, very graciously, "No worries, we'll definitely remember you for next week". I hope so, although sadly, not for the reasons I'd have chosen.



WHAT'S ON

The Rialto Theatre, Heroes Square, Old Town
Friday November 25 - PINA - in collaboration with Dance House Lemesos

Tuesday November 29 - Aikylis Protopsalti and Stefanos Korkolis at the piano Tickets - 7777 7745 Book on line: rialto@cialto.com.cy Contact: www.rialto.com.cy for the full schedule or call: 7777 7745

Music:
Chris King as Elvis! Sunday November 27 - Taps Grill & Bar, Amathus Ave.
Show starts at 9.30pm - tickets €10.00 - call 99 656712 to book a table Draught beer on tap at your table! Unique in Cyprus www.tapsbarlimassol.com or email: info@tapsbarlimassol.com

Craft and Christmas Fairs/Markets:
Friday November 25 - Charity office morning/Craft/Fayre/Day-10am-4pm At the second hand shop in Kakossi, next to The Angel Pub on road to Akrotiri All proceeds to the Penny Brohn Cancer Centre

Saturday November 26 - Christmas Bazaar at St. Barnabas church (near the old hospital) from 10:00 - 1:00pm

Saturday November 26 - Annual Christmas Bazaar held by 'Evangelische Kirche Zypern' in Yermasoyia - next to the church from 11:00 - 3:00pm

Creative Market - Saturday December 10 - Old fruit and veg market of Limassol - starts at 9am - 6pm: photography, painting, collage, pottery, jewellery, clothes, hand-crafts, books, music, games, jugglers.

Creart Crafts Fair - Curium Palace Hotel (opposite Municipal Gardens)

Sunday December 11. Jewellery, painted glass, ceramics, mosaics, accessories and home decorations, paintings and prints, organic and natural products like soaps and cosmetics, herbs and essential oils, homemade cakes and deserts, candles. From 10am-7.30pm.

Art and Exhibitions:
Thises Group Art Exhibition 'Mythos and Abstract Image' at Thises Art Gallery - until November 23. Visiting hours Monday - Friday 9am - 1pm/2pm - 6pm/7pm - 8pm. Saturday by appointment only, call: 99 674243/96 335 889 for further information.

Dino's Art Café presents Raymond Wilson - Exhibition of previously unseen collection shows a diverse range of work over the last 8 years including his myriad influences of his global travels to India and Egypt.
Opening Monday October 31 from 7 - 8pm. Will run to Sunday December 4, 2011

'The Object: Stories and Representations' - Exhibition currently on at the Evagoras and Kathleen Lanitis Foundation, at the Carob Mill, Old Town. Exhibition runs till November 30. It presents a historical and aesthetic perspective of Cypriot art from the beginning of the 20th century until today. Exhibition opening times: daily (except Monday): 10.00-13.00 & 16.00-20.00. Saturday and Sunday: 16.00-20.00. Call: 25 342 123 for details

Mori Gallery, 84 Anfyas Street (behind Limassol Castle) - an exhibition by Kostas Georgiou "Traces and Visions" - runs till November 30. For info call: 25 378733
Group Ceramic Exhibition at Panicos Mavrellis Art Centre Foundation, 71 Itrinis Street - Opening November 23 at 7.30pm till November 26. For more information call: 25 341572

Group Art Exhibition, 50 Pin 1 Gallery, 49 Eliados Street - "OCOne" (Original Certified Copy one) - opening November 29 at 8.30pm, runs till January 7, 2012. For more information call: 25 340727 - Currently, the gallery is hosting the Group Exhibition by Cypriot and Greek Artists until November 24

Limassol Cycling Club: November programme now available - cycles rides around Limassol - for more info call: 97 80945 or visit www.limassolcycling.eu

Limassol Walk - a stroll through Neapolis, Nemesos, Limassol... Lemesos Walking tours organised by the Municipality of Limassol in collaboration with the CTO and the Cyprus Tourist Guides Association. Takes you through the historical city centre, visit monuments of the past, traditional workshops, unique architectural features, the old market place, a glimpse of traditional Limassol. Walks leave every Monday at 10.00am from the new CTO office at St Andrew's Street, no 142, on the intersection of Anekartias Street and St Andrew's Street, Old Town - Tel: 25 362756