



VASSILIKO
CEMENT

SINCE 1963

DOMISI

ISSUE 21 (JANUARY - APRIL 2020)

building a better future



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SINCE 1963

CONTENTS

<i>Special feature on Corporate Social Responsibility</i>	3
<i>The Summer School 'INSTITUTION'</i>	4
<i>A warm round of applause to all of you...</i>	5
<i>Blessing of Holy Waters and cutting of Santa Claus cake</i>	6-7
<i>Commencement of Vassiliko Cement Works Solar Park operations</i>	8
<i>Riddles</i>	9
<i>New members in Vassiliko family</i>	10
<i>Standing by young people Career Guidance Information Days</i>	
<i>International Women's Day 5 emblematic women who made history</i>	12-13
<i>Easter</i>	14-15
• <i>Easter games reminiscent of a different era</i>	
• <i>The symbolism of Easter customs</i>	
<i>Rescuing Sousou</i>	16
<i>Figures who changed the history Dimitris Libertis</i>	17
<i>Vassiliko Recipe</i>	17
<i>Green Corner:</i>	18
• <i>How to ward off moths from my cloths in a chemically-free way</i>	
• <i>Nature Escape</i>	



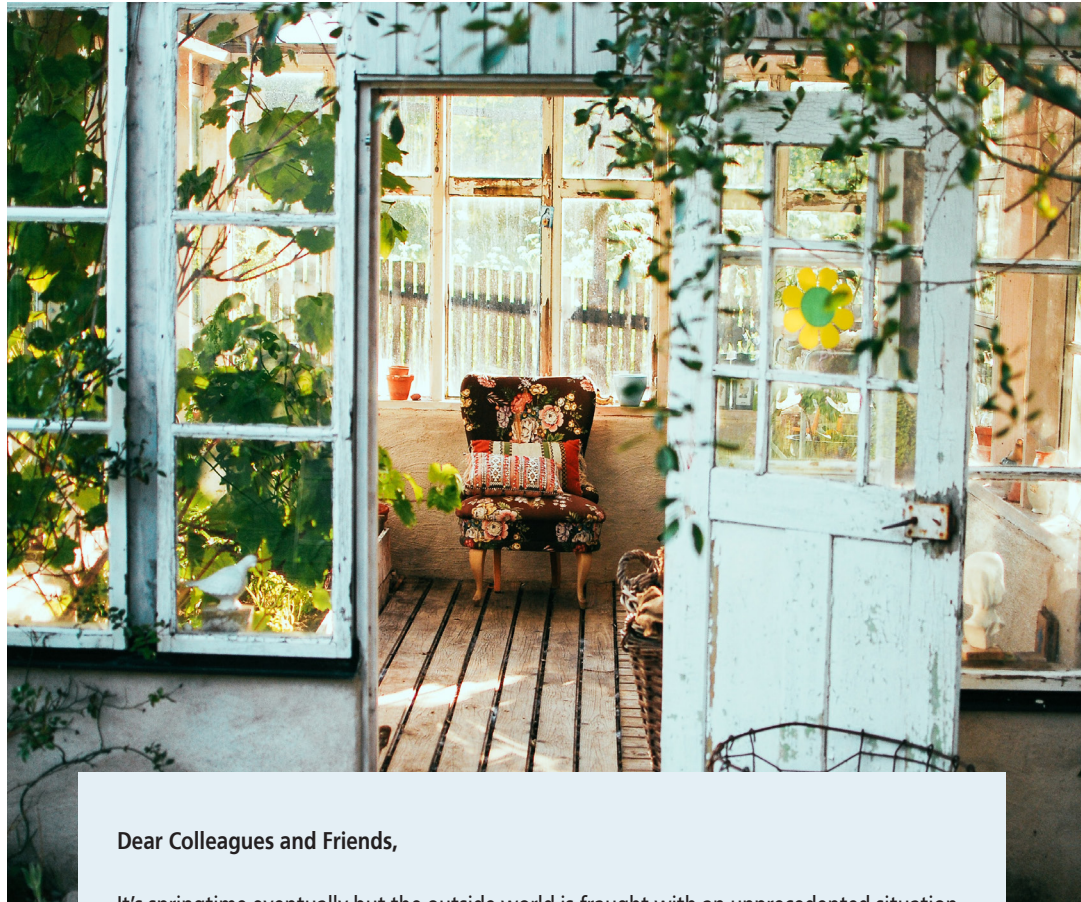
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Dear Colleagues and Friends,

It's springtime eventually but the outside world is fraught with an unprecedented situation.

A 'well-blossomed' spring is knocking on our door although we are bound to stay inside. For the time being, this is our mission....

As Odysseus Elytis writes, "If you cannot find spring, make it"; this is precisely what we should all do at the moment: create the spring inside us in order to be able to come to light when the time is appropriate.

Make your Spring; now is your chance! You don't need much; you only need patience and perseverance; we first create the spring for ourselves and then for the others.

In conclusion, we would like to wish all of you Happy Easter; Stay HEALTHY and be STRONG.

WE STAY AT HOME AND WE STAY STRONG.

Excerpt of the poem by Odysseus Elytis

FROM CLOSE BY

With something of earth the heavenly powers ascend
In place of the Virgin I would put vine leaves
Worldly things are sad. And also those outside
Be princely before your time Oil Sardinien!
If we suppose that all the noble metals...
A Recipe for a Fig Tree in Skyros or Sikinos
On our unbuilt on ground the still waters no matter what you do...
The Latter Part of the Century to feed Spring with essence...
Hand and stone so nearby deceive death in the sport of five hardships...
Actions of Little Tuesday and when I wept I saw the mountains
They call it small even though the blue globe
If you can't find spring you make it....
Fortune had a surplus it seems
May our life be adamantine polyhedrons of Trinakria
Deep-raging thunder is of little mind.
Everything can be seen even the holes of the sponge
And look! A half destroyed Thera...

A SPECIAL FEATURE ON CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY (CSR)

Our corporate mindset and mentality are underpinned on the conviction that sustainable and long-term growth of our business cannot exist without taking care of fellow human beings and protecting the natural and working environment. CSR is a dynamic business practice that incorporates sustainable development into our Company's business model. Our Company is active and evolves, showing respect to the natural and social environment where it operates and keeping always people at the core of its activity.

OUR MOST IMPORTANT ACTIONS...

We have taken actions and developed best practices into many directions. In 2018, the Company ran the 1st Summer School in Zygi, in order to support employees' balance between professional and personal life and to support the neighboring communities, by keeping occupied their children, aged 6-12 years old.

Moreover, the support of organizations such as the Karaiskakio Foundation, Sophia Foundation for Children, Miracle Babies, the Cyprus Center for Environmental Research and Education (CY.C.E.R.E.), PVCC, the Unique Smiles and Theotokos Foundation became for us a very important part of our culture, showcasing a socially sensitive attitude towards vulnerable social groups, by offering smiles through these actions.

Other actions which were pushed forward are a research program for the environment, tree planting initiatives, remediation actions and support programs such as 'Let's Do It Cyprus'.

One more program which is supported by the Company is by 'Terra Cypria' which offers information and education in environmental awareness and protection issues, to children through various educational activities.

Our short-term goals in CSR are the continuous business transparency to all stakeholders and the open dialogue. Another goal is the adaptation and application of new practices associated with society, employees, and natural environment.

It's time to further develop our social culture, by applying new practices that relate to the society, the employees and the natural environment.

CSR IN THE SPOTLIGHT

9 intra-company lectures addressed to the personnel (Health & Safety, Family, Environment, Volunteerism)

17 participations in environmental, social and charity campaigns

The celebration of International Days becomes an institution

The Volunteerism Week of PVCC becomes an established institution

The Summer School institution (Participation of 60 children July-August 2019)

7 visits of pupils and students to our facilities

Engineering Information Days become an institution (2019: 158 students)



THE SUMMER SCHOOL 'INSTITUTION'

Incorporation Year: 2018

Running: July & August

Place: Elementary School of Zygi

In the context of our social contribution, we ran the 'Summer School' for the first time on July 2nd, 2018 to keep occupied employees' and neighboring communities' children, aged 6-12 years old.

The Summer School is hosted in Zygi elementary school facilities and is open for two months, July-August, from 7.00' until 16.00'; it is staffed with five teachers, fully trained for the education, care and protection of children.

Children have the opportunity to constructively use their time during the summer period, by developing skills and gaining knowledge through creative activities, team spirit, respect and cooperation while forging new friendships at the same time.

The School's weekly program includes activities, such as sports (judo, taekwondo, gymnastics, football), artistic (dance, music, theater), group activities (cooking, confectionery, games) and excursions.

In cooperation with organized groups (BirdLife Cyprus, Clap3C, Terra Cypria, etc), we enrich our activities range by adding pottery, science and mathematics, environment-related activities, workshops with a child psychologist, and useful educational programs on personal hygiene and first aid by our Company's nurse.



AWARDS 2019: A warm round of applause to all of you...



- AWARDS
"Gold Environmental Protection Award" & Special Honorary Distinction of Best Performance

- AWARDS
Global Cem Fuels "Outstanding Alternative Fuels Project" Award

- AWARDS
Cyprus HR Bronze & Silver Awards

- AWARDS
Cyprus Responsible Business 2019

- AWARDS
Corporate Social Responsibility and Sustainability Good Practices Award

Blessing of Holy Waters and cutting of Santa Claus cake

14 January 2020



Holy blessing by His Beatitude Archbishop of Cyprus Chrysostomos B'



On Tuesday, January 14th, 2020 the annual Holy blessing of waters and the cutting of Santa Claus cake took place in the Company to celebrate the new year.

His Beatitude, Archbishop of Cyprus Chrysostomos B' performed the holy blessing waters rituals and blessed the traditional Santa Claus cake. In the event, the BoD members were also present.

During the event, employees were awarded in important sectors such as Health & Safety, Environmental Awareness, Social initiative and Volunteerism. Awards were also granted to employees numbering 35 years of service to the Company.



Cutting of Saint Claus cake by the Executive Chairman, Mr. Antonios Antoniou.

Awards 2019



Health & Safety Award 'Aristovoulos 2019' award to Emmanouil Stavropoulos *Production Department* & Stavros Karagiorgis *Electrical Maintenance Department*



Health & Safety Award 'Epameinondas 2019' award to Andreas Protopapas *Mechanical Maintenance Department*



Health & Safety Award 'Agisilaos 2019' award to Xenios Kyriakou *Electrical Maintenance Department*



'Environmental Awareness Award 2019' to Polymnia Glykeriou *Quality Assurance Department*



'Contribution & Volunteerism Award 2019' to Monika Afxentiou *Port Management Department*



'Social Initiative Award 2019' to Theodoros Moiseos *Electrical Maintenance Department*



'35 Years of Contribution' to Antonis Nicolau *Automations Department*

COMMENCEMENT OF VASSILIKO CEMENT WORKS SOLAR PARK OPERATIONS

The largest solar park in Cyprus...

Our solar park with a capacity of 8MWp was set in operation in February 2020. This project is part of the plan 'RES-fired electricity generation with outcome the inclusion of projects in the Competitive Electricity Market' by the Ministry of Energy, Commerce and Industry and is expected to cover 10% of our Company's needs in electricity.



Did you know that ...

The solar park is considered 'green growth' and contributes to Cyprus national targets attainment for 2020 and the mitigation of carbon dioxide emissions (CO₂), since it is estimated that it shall prevent the release of circa 10,000 tons of CO₂ per year.

The upgrade of that underlying area in an inactive quarry, owned by our Company, into this 'green' project is part of corporate responsibility.



Riddles

WHAT IS IT?



It travels
around the world
but stays
in one spot.

A Stamp

It disappears
as soon as you
spell its name.

Silence

It has
sharp teeth,
but it cannot eat.

A Saw

It has rivers
without waters,
forests without trees
and cities
without buildings.

A Map

It has legs,
a back but no head.

A chair

It moves on
but
it doesn't
move back.

The river

It runs like
a horse
but has
no legs.

The air

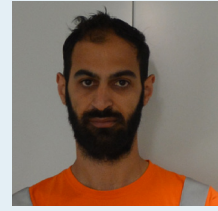
It falls from height,
dropping but not breaking.

The rain



DIMITRIS TRYFONOS
Department: Port Management

Favorite color: **Yellow**
 Favorite food: **skewer pork (souvlaki)**
 Mountain or Sea: **Sea**
 Your first impression of Vassiliko Cement Works in three words:
Friendly working environment



KOSTAS CHOPPAS
Department: Mechanical Maintenance (Garage)

Favorite color: **Lilac**
 Favorite food: **Potatoes with zucchini**
 Mountain or Sea: **A little bit of both**
 Your first impression of Vassiliko Cement Works in three words:
Organization, Cooperation, Success



CHRISTOS MATTHAIYOU
Department: New Projects and Investments

Favorite color: **White**
 Favorite food: **Steak**
 Mountain or Sea: **Mountain**
 Your first impression of Vassiliko Cement Works in three words:
Respect to the employee



KYRIAKOS KYRIAKOU
Department: Energy Management

Favorite color: **Blue**
 Favorite food: **Stuffed peppers and tomatoes with minced beef**
 Mountain or Sea: **Sea**
 Your first impression of Vassiliko Cement Works in three words:
Respect, Organization, Sustainability



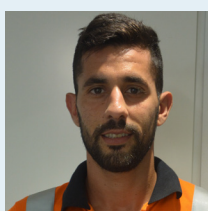
MARIOS MARKOU
Department: Safety & Industrial Health

Favorite color: **Light blue/blue**
 Favorite food: **Pasta**
 Mountain or Sea: **I love both equally**
 Your first impression of Vassiliko Cement Works in three words:
Organization/Team spirit/Responsibility



MARIA IOANNOU
Department: Procurement & Contracts

Favorite color: **Blue**
 Favorite food: **Pasta with shrimps**
 Mountain or Sea: **Sea**
 Your first impression of Vassiliko Cement Works in three words:
An amazing life experience!!!



IAKOVOS KYRIAKOU
Department: Customer Service, Packing & Loadings

Favorite color: **Blue**
 Favorite food: **Minced meat balls**
 Mountain or Sea: **Mountain**
 Your first impression of Vassiliko Cement Works in three words:
Professionalism, reliability, family



PAGONA SFOUNGAROU
Department: Communication

Favorite color: **Blue**
 Favorite food: **Beef stew in tomato sauce**
 Mountain or Sea: **Sea**
 Your first impression of Vassiliko Cement Works in three words:
Very big company

STANDING BY YOUNG PEOPLE

Career Guidance Information Days



In 2018, our Company established the 'Information Days on Engineering' addressed to students of B' and C' grade of Upper Secondary School and Technical Schools, in cooperation with the Technical Chamber of Cyprus (ETEK) and the Career Counseling and Educational Services (CCES) of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports & Youth.

The Information Days are held at the Company's facilities; the speakers who are engineers of different specializations (Mechanical Engineers, Chemical Engineers, Electrical Engineers etc) and representatives from the Technical Chamber of Cyprus (ETEK), aim at informing students on the Engineering-related professions. Ten (10) conferences have taken place so far with the participation of 255 students in total from Upper Secondary schools and Technical Schools of Cyprus. For the academic year 2019-2020, the conferences have been completed and a new round will begin in the next academic year.

During the Information Days, students are presented with various engineering-related professions by the Company's representatives, placing emphasis on the particularities of professions and how such features are utilized in a heavy industry. Students are, then, given a guided tour at the facilities, observing the way of working in every profession and are given answers to any queries raised.

The Information Days were held and became established in the context of the Company's regular activities for the academic community's briefing on the Mechanical Engineering developments.

5 EMBLEMATIC WOMEN WHO MADE HISTORY



“ Nothing in life is to be feared, it is only to be understood ”

Marie Curie

**“ I don't mind
if I have to sit on
the floor at school.
All I want is education.
And I'm afraid of no one ”**
Malala Yousafzai

**MARIE CURIE (1867 - 1934)**

A woman milestone in the science of physics and chemistry. The first woman to have been awarded a Nobel Prize in Physics (1903) regarding radioactivity.

AMELIA EARHART (1897 - 1937)

An American pioneer of aviation, author and defender of women's rights. The first woman who crossed the Atlantic Ocean alone.

MOTHER TERESA (1910-1997)

A woman who linked her name to social contribution and help to poor people.

BENAZIR BHUTTO (1953-2017)

The first woman to be a Prime Minister in a Muslim country. She took over the leadership of Pakistan in 1988, seeking to establish democracy after the coup.

MALALA YOUSAFZAI (1997-)

In 2013, she was awarded the Sakharov Prize and was a candidate for the Nobel Peace Prize; finally, in 2014 she was granted the Nobel Peace Prize for her fight to defend the right of children in education.

8 March

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

Mother Teresa



EASTER

Games reminiscent of a different era

The Easter traditional games are numerous, and we chose to remind you of some in order to stir up memories for the elderly and to teach the younger ones. Young ones and older ones used to take part in those games in the days close to Resurrection Day. Some of those games faded in time but others have survived until today.

VASSILITZIA TZAI MYRITZIA

Players are split in two teams of equal number of players. Each team may include from two up to ten players.

A draw determines which team will take over the role of 'vasilitzia', i.e. whose members would mount on the backs of the other team's members.

One player mounts on the back of the other and raising his finger, shouts 'Vasilitza, how many...'. The player below, without being able to see, should guess how many fingers are up. If the answer is correct, then they switch positions; otherwise they continue until the correct answer is given.

MYLONAS TZAI MYLONOU (the miller and the miller's wife)

Besides the abundant laughter enjoyed with the game, the players have the chance to stimulate their wittiness and readiness, in order to respond swiftly and accurately to challenges.

Players mutually choose their partner; preferably a team should consist of a boy and a girl. They stand in a circle, making pairs facing inwards and they tell their names. One couple, usually the one with the highest experience in the game, as acknowledged by the rest, is the miller and the miller's wife.

The miller opens the game with a spontaneous phrase such as 'I thresh the grain, I sieve, the wheat to be taken to the mill by...', or 'I harvest, I thresh, In order to make flour, the wheat to be brought to the mill by....' mentioning obviously the name of someone from the other players besides the miller's wife, i.e. his partner.

Immediately, the person who heard his name should seek ways to avoid the tedious task, putting forward an excuse and picking someone else out of the players to do it. Similarly, the player whose name was mentioned should try to avoid the task trying to encumber another player and so on and so forth.

If the player whose turn is to answer fails to realize that he should answer or delays for more than 3 seconds to answer, he/she and his/her partners are sanctioned and the penalty is imposed unanimously by the miller, the miller's wife and the couple that invited said player.

If the player who failed to take the challenge is the miller or the miller's wife, then they are deprived of this prerogative. Their position is taken up by the couple that provoked the couple and a new round of game begins.

AVGOULLODROMIES (Egg race)

The players who participate must balance a (boiled) egg upon a spoon and race with it covering a specific itinerary. The aim is to reach the finishing line without the egg falling.





DITZIMIN (weight-lifting game)

A game played by the most well-built and strong men during the days of big feasts. The game's aim was to showcase and honor the strongest lad of the village.

As an object, 'ditzimin' is a heavy stone up to 120 kilos (100 oka), a size that can fit in someone's embrace; the stone comes from a river or from fragments of an old mill stone.

Any man who wants to compete by showing his strength may take part in the game. Each player, in the order derived by a draw, is called upon to lift the stone and take as many steps as possible, holding the stone. The winner is the player who can obviously move 'ditzimin' further.

There is however a different version of the game when 'ditzimin' is too heavy; the player is not called upon to move it horizontally but only to lift it. The winner is the player who shall manage to lift it higher.

This movement is described by the phrase 'he dragged it above his shoulder'.

ZIZIROS (Cicada)

One person stands in a middle of the group with his/her left hand under his/her right arm with opened fingers. With his/her right palm, the player covers the right eye so as not to look back. The other players stand behind at a short distance and one of them taps the person on the back. After the tap, this person turns back immediately in order to guess who hit him/her. After the hit the rest of the players make a "ZZZZ" sound like a cicada (ziziros) and wave their right index, so as to confuse the player who was hit. If he/she is correct, then this person will take his/her place. If not, he/she must continue until the guess is correct.



THE SYMBOLISM BEHIND THE EASTER CUSTOMS

In addition to Easter games, let us now turn to the symbolisms deriving from the customs related to the Easter days. Customs traveled through time from generation to generation and are inextricably linked to our tradition.

Symbolisms are numerous; we chose to present some of them, as you will see below:

HOLY LIGHT: It symbolizes the victory of Jesus Christ against death. The custom whereby people receive the Holy Light from the candle of their fellow citizen is a symbol of brotherhood.

RED-DYED EGGS: Dying the eggshells red is associated with two traditions. The first tradition relates to the blood of Jesus that dripped from His forehead when the Romans placed on His head a wreath of thorns. The second tradition relates to a woman who is alleged to have seen miraculously her eggs on the basket turning red, once she heard the news of Jesus Resurrection.

The clinking of red-shelled eggs is a symbol of Resurrection as the egg symbolizes life and creation that envelops life within it. When the eggshell breaks, a life begins symbolizing the breaking of Jesus Sepulcher and His Resurrection.

LILIES: According to the Christian tradition, during the last hours of Jesus life, lilies blossomed every time his sweat dripped.

HARE: A custom that came from Western Europe. We usually come across it in toys and in Easter decoration. The Easter hare comes from the countryside and brings eggs to children. It is a symbol of Spring and of nature's rejuvenation.

LAMBRATZIA: Lambratzia is a ritual symbolism of the burning of evil (Judas) and the advent of good.

TSOUREKI (TRADITIONAL EASTER BREAD): It is a more sophisticated form of Easter bread, of Easter bread roll. This type of bread carries a symbolism because it represents the Resurrection of Christ, in the sense that flour comes to life and transforms into bread. The word tsoureki derives from the Turkish word corek referring to any bread, made of milk, butter and eggs.

FLAOUNA: It derives from the ancient Greek word flao meaning crush. It is a traditional Cypriot Easter food offered after the Resurrection. In Cyprus, flaouna is made since the 19th century.

Flaounes are traditionally served in Cyprus as a celebratory food for the breaking of the Lenten fast. It should be also stressed that flaounas are also prepared by Muslim Turkish Cypriots during the period of Ramadan.

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Rescuing Sousou

Melina Kyriakou

Accounting Manager



Almost a year ago, a female dog, Sousou, was found in a very bad condition outside our Company's facilities. After a great effort, her 7-day old puppies were tracked down, of which only 5 managed to survive due to thousands of fleas on their bodies. On the same day, three puppies were rescued from a previous birth.

The stray Sousou is 7 years old and was in this condition for many years. Colleagues in the area say that she has given birth many times.

The little dog was facing difficulties to walk due to subluxated kneecaps; she had lost many of her teeth due to the many births and was almost blind. Lead from bullets were identified on her body and two old breaks on the spinal cord. Beneath her dirty fur, one could see a skeletal, long-suffering creature. We have promised to this creature that it will never suffer again, that it will not experience hunger again...!

Sousou managed to be saved thanks to the animal welfare association P.A.W.S (Protecting Animals Without Shelter) and is currently in UK with her foster family that adopted it despite all her problems. Her family loves her a lot and considers Sousou the most beautiful gift to them. She is a very smart dog showing them great love and she has become good friends with her sister, Sriya. She enjoys going on excursions in the countryside, waits for her sister to arrive from school every day with enthusiasm and loves to hear fairytales, at night before they fall asleep.

If you wish to become a volunteer or to donate for those cute animals, please contact:

P.A.W.S (Protecting Animals Without Shelter)

Telephone number: 99769025

Email: info@pawscy.com

Paypal: info@pawscy.com



FIGURES WHO CHANGED THE HISTORY

Dimitris Libertis



*We wait day and night
For air to blow in this
Burnt place
That never sees freedom*

*We wait for the sunrise
To bring the light of the day
That will bring
Happiness and an ending.*

Dimitris Libertis was born in Larnaca in 1866. He was one of the poets who contributed to showcasing the Cypriot dialect. He studied English and French in the Fraternity of Jesuits and in the American College of Beirut. After his return to Cyprus, he worked as a secretary of the courts of Larnaca and in other state services (1885-1899). In 1899 he left for Egypt and then for Naples in Italy, where he attended philosophy and literature classes and he also went to Greece where he attended theology courses at the University of Athens. In 1901, he returned to Cyprus and worked in extraordinary government services and as a teacher (1913-1916). In his first collections of poems 'The relaxed harp' (Halaromeni Lira) in 1891 and 'Stoni' (Στόνοι) in 1899, the influences of the late Greek romanticism of the 19th century are apparent. In 1918, he turned to the Cypriot dialect and in 1923 he published the first volume of the four-volume collection of poems, the 'Cypriot Songs' (Tzipriotika Tragoudia). In 1930 he published the second volume that was prefaced by Kostis Palamas.

His work largely influenced the popular folk of Cyprus and many subsequent poets. He was an instructor of the Cypriot dialect which he bequeathed in an original form, stripping it of any foreign influences, such as the Turkish words. For some scholars though, this language was considered rather pretentious and 'contrived', far from the actual Cypriot dialect of his era.

Many of his poems were set to music by various composers. In 1931, he was honored with the title 'Officier d'Academie' by the French Academy. Dimitris Libertis died in Nicosia in 1937. In 1961, Libertis' 'Collected Works' were published in one volume.



AROMATIC PASTA IN 10 MINUTES

INGREDIENTS

- 500 gr of penne pasta
- 1 tablespoons of olive oil
- 40 gr of pine nuts
- 5-6 sun-dried tomatoes (from a jar with olive oil)
- 4 full tablespoons with pesto basil (ready in a jar)
- 40 gr of grated parmesan



PREPARATION

We boil the penne pasta in a cooking pot with salted water, according to the instructions on the package. When penne are ready, we strain.

In the same cooking pot, we roast the pine nuts with 1 tablespoon of olive oil. We then add the penne and we continue stirring. We chop the sun-dried tomatoes in large pieces, and we add them into the cooking pot alongside the pesto basil and the parmesan.

We stir well and serve.

Bon appetit!

Sources: gastronomos.gr

Green Corner



How to ward off moths from my cloths in a chemically-free way?

1 Essential oils: The essential oils, the dried flowers and the plants' leaves that moths do not favor constitute a good solution with guaranteed results. Place them in a pouch made of linen or cotton and put it in the cloths, in the bags or in the closets. Opt for: Lavender, mint, thyme, rosemary, cedar or wormwood.

2 Spice: Clove put in the cloths or in the pockets is equally effective to ward off moths. Another solution would be to place grains of pepper and place them in an old nylon-made sock. A moth cannot tolerate the smell of most of spice.

3 Sandal wood: Spray a little sandal wood in the drawer or your wardrobe or soak a cotton pad with sandal wood oil.

4 Soap: Do not throw away whatever is left over from the bar of soap. Put it aside and when you collect many pieces, place them in a piece of tulle, or gauze and then put them in the drawer or in the closet. Not only will you have avoided the moths, but your cloths will smell nice.

5 Wooden cloth hangers: Wooden cloth hangers are considered the best because they repel the moths.

NATURE ESCAPE

Location: Holy Mary of Love, Vavla, District of Larnaca

There is always time for a small escape, particularly in nature, when circumstances allow it. The clean air, the landscape and the river that flows take you far away from the stressful daily life.

A small church, built in 1934, is located north to the village Vavla and is dedicated to the Holy Mary of Love. It is the only temple both in Cyprus and in the world bearing this name. This small church is built at 3 km distance from the village, in the Easter bank of Agios Minas river. It is also located in just 46 km distance from the city of Larnaca and in 49 km from Limassol. On the way to the church, in some parts of the route, one will notice that the road is sharply downhill or the opposite and the closer it gets to the church, the narrower it becomes. It is a route running in parallel to the riverbed, where we may stop and admire the deep gorges created by the river.

From the church, a small road leads to a beautiful site by the river, where absolute peace and tranquility prevail. The only thing you will hear is the birdsong competing with the water's ripple sound.

We highly suggest it for a carefree stroll with your beloved ones, enjoy the ride!



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SINCE 1963