

# Kamares Village Matters

## Kamares Village Houseowners' Association Newsletter

Issue 41, August 2019

---

### Note from the KVHA Chairman - John Merritt

As we have mentioned earlier this Year, The KVHA is looking for new members for the Committee. To date we have received only one nomination to replace the four outgoing committee members this October at the AGM on 17 October, including the Secretary, Treasurer, and Membership Secretary. Without more Volunteers the KVHA is facing dissolution or radical change in status to a mere unofficial residents group. The KVHA in its current guise and with anticipation of the new Cypriot Association rules, requires at least 8 committee members to exist and preferably one or 2 more, in order to make the committee diverse, share the workload, and able to meet the members' needs.

It is not known at this time which members of the committee will stand for re-election. Once known, closer to the AGM, current members will be notified of any vacant positions, and asked for their signed, proposed and seconded recommendations to fill them.

Of concern, there is also the fact that there have been 168 passive resignations (i.e. non renewal of Membership) so far this year- a near 30% reduction in Members.

This Subject will be included in the EGM scheduled for next month (date TBC)."

# Committee News

By Val Potter, KVHA Secretary

Dear members, we have decided to cover July and August in this one issue of the KVM, as we were waiting for responses to quite a few issues in July, and of course now there is the August 'shut down', which seems to affect all other departments of the Government.

July found us having meetings with our Lawyer to advance our application to become an 'Association'. The Government had twice extended the expiry date of the original Club licences, due to an overwhelming amount of applications, and introduced new Laws, all of which affected our application.

There has now been some progress and we have spent yet another week revising our old Constitution and incorporating the new Laws. Our Lawyer Nicole has guided us all the way and we owe her our thanks.

We were fortunate that we had actually completed all the paperwork ready for the first expiry date, so were able to concentrate on the new Constitution and all the committee were involved in cross checking twenty four pages and thirty 'Articles', most of which were legal requirements by the Government.

We have now submitted our latest Constitution to the Lawyer, she will check it for us then present it to the Paphos District Office for their approval. Once we receive all the approved paperwork back, it will be forwarded to our fully paid members, and at this point we are able to give a month's notice of the date for our EGM (Extraordinary General Meeting.)

We are unable to give you a date in advance for the EGM, as we have no idea of how long it will take to receive all our approved documentation back from the District office via our Lawyer.

Other Matters are of course the 'Slipping Building', it appears that we should hope for the building to be demolished and the road strengthened and reopened before the rains come at the end of this year. Until I hear officially from the District Office I will leave the champagne unopened.

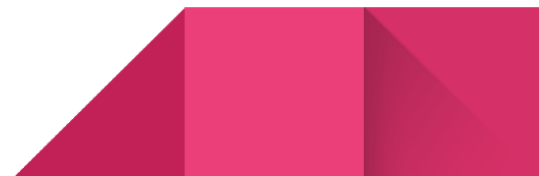


There have been complaints about barking dogs, dogs being left tied up outside villas, builders working late at night, the State of Kamares Village, potholes and the area where the glass recycling bin is positioned in Korallion Street, which is looking like a waste dumping ground! – an illegal one I hasten to add, and last but not least, the collection of rubbish last Friday 9th August before 7pm, thought it was Saturday morning....

We are doing our best to deal with all these issues.

Thank you and stay cool.

Val Potter, KVHA Secretary



# CASTLES OF CYPRUS

For its size, Cyprus has a large number of substantial castles and forts, as well as two fortified towns.

Cyprus' position on the East Mediterranean trade routes has made it a focus for many foreign invaders, who all built walled places to defend their trade, their lands and to keep control over the local population. These castles were rebuilt many times, are in varying states of repair, but can all be visited.

Current buildings date from four periods of foreign rule – most of what we can see today are Venetian.

58BC - 1191AD Roman & Byzantine

1191 - 1489 Lusignan (known as Franks, Latins)

1489 - 1571 Venetian

1571 - 1878 Ottoman

## PAFOS Castle

Earlier versions were replaced by the Ottomans, who surrounded the keep with stronger walls. It was a small fort, built in 1222, to protect the harbour. It changed hands several times during coastal raids. It has been used for other purposes, such as a prison and a salt store.

There is a good view of Kato Paphos from the roof, but it is bare inside except for occasional exhibitions. It forms the backdrop for the annual opera and other shows. (Inside the Archaeological Park, there are the remains of a typical medieval castle, 'Saranta Kolones', with a moat, bastions, tunnels and 'sophisticated' toilets).

## KOLOSSI Castle

The current structure dates from 1454, built by the Knights Hospitaller (St. John). Frenchmen in a Crusader state, they had been expelled from the Holy Land in 1291. Kolossi is a picture-book keep from the pre-artillery age, when walls needed to be high (21metres) but not necessarily so thick, with a door reached by a drawbridge and real battlements. There are several large rooms with fireplaces. Its use was residential and administrative, being the centre of a productive farming estate, the 'Commanderie', mainly for wine and sugar. It has a sugar factory and an aqueduct outside.

It is in excellent condition, in attractive honey-coloured stone, is used for exhibitions, and provides great views

## LIMASSOL Castle

The present building is adapted from a 13 th Century keep. Its predecessor (foundations visible) was where Richard 1 of England was married during his brief, violent rule (probably). The current exterior walls are Venetian, and the interior has

been rearranged many times. It was attacked occasionally, and is a windowless, gloomy building, previously used as a prison, but it now contains an excellent medieval museum. Its garden and shady square is the focus of Limassol's tourist restaurant scene.

## LARNACA Fort

This is basically a 14 th Century fort to protect the landing place.

The current structure was rebuilt by the Ottomans in 1625 and has a lot of domestic-type buildings. It has a squat appearance, with splayed bases to the walls, blocked cannon embrasures and an attractive gatehouse entrance.

There appears to have been no serious attacks on it and has been used as a prison by the British and for performances more recently.

There are some typical Ottoman cannons inside.



## KYRENIA Castle

The grandest and best preserved one of all, built to protect the intimate harbour. With Byzantine foundations, the Lusignan castle of 1192-1211 was later surrounded by much stronger Venetian walls with impressive round towers dominating the harbour and linked to walls around the town itself. In 1571, it surrendered to the Ottomans without a fight!

It contains good examples of gateways and defensive gun batteries within the walls themselves, as well as the famous shipwreck museum.

# FORTIFIED TOWNS

## NICOSIA

The original longer walls were reduced to 3kms by the Venetians, and are mostly intact; the best example left in our region. They form a circle, with 11 bastions, designed by the best Italian military architects of the time. Each bastion is named after a benefactor, and shaped like an ace of spades, giving protection in all directions. The 12m high walls were backed by rubble, and faced smoothly at an angle, to absorb the impact and deflect cannonballs. With a 30m wide moat and only 3 gates, it seemed invincible, but fell to the Ottomans in 1570, followed by a great slaughter. There were originally only three gates. The Famagusta Gate is the grandest, now used as a cultural centre, with its original wooden doors.

The Green Line divides the city walls. Currently the walls and moat are used for parking and sport.

## FAMAGUSTA

Famagusta was the forward base for the Crusades, (later a home for those expelled from the Holy Land,) even though the harbour itself is poor. A rich city based on trade (with Muslims), led to a huge range of buildings in Northern French Gothic, in particular St. Nicholas Cathedral (Lala Mustafa Pasha mosque). Visitors praised the city's wealth and churches.

The Venetians prepared for the expected Ottoman attack by constructing massive walls, ready for artillery bombardment. They used the latest techniques, strengthening the Citadel (Othello's tower complex), the Ravelin entrance gate, and innovative bastions (Martinengo)

There was a 10 month siege in 1570/1, when small numbers of defenders held off massive forces. The Venetians surrendered, but massacres followed. There are a substantial number of old churches, many in ruins. You can see cannonballs embedded in some of them. A huge amount of renovation has recently taken place, thanks to the UN & EU. You can walk around most of the walls, and visit Othello's Tower.

# PENTADAKTYLOS MOUNTAIN CASTLES

All three mountain castles along the North coast are in ruins. They began as lookouts/watchtowers and were fortified during Byzantine times. Their position allowed defenders to survey the sea and the land, and provided a last stronghold in case of attack.

They saw some action during Richard the Lionheart's invasion of 1191, when he chased the Byzantine ruler Isaac Komninos from one to another. They are not well looked after by the current authorities, with poor signage.

### ST. HILARION

This is the most atmospheric castle, with enough left to convey the strength of its position. It controls the pass into Kyrenia. A 10 th Century Byzantine chapel remains. The Lusignans rebuilt the site in the 13 th Century, with inner and outer defences, and it saw fighting between various later claimants to their throne. You can identify the Citadel and lower down, the barracks, stores and kitchen areas. Several pieces of Gothic window tracery give it a certain style.

The Venetians dismantled most of it, but ironically it saw its longest military action in the 1960s, when Turkish Cypriot fighters took it over and blocked the road below. Once again the area is a military base (now for the Turkish Army)

### BUFFAVENTO

At 950m it is certainly 'buffeted by the wind', perched on the top of the ridge. There is little left to see of the 13 th Century castle, but it is worth the climb.

There is only one way up, from the south. It saw some sporadic skirmishing during the Lusignan period, but again the Venetians dismantled it. It was used as a suitably remote prison.



### KANTARA

Again, Richard 1 took it, and Lusignans added to the walls using rough stones, finishing in 1228. It is the best preserved of the mountain castles, and has views in 3 directions. There were always cisterns for water in these 3 castles, and Kantara looks strong from below. It is possible to see the traces of the usual castle sections, with gates, high walls, barracks and a citadel for a final stand.

Every one of these castles are open to the public.

Thanks to Geoff Cosson for this article.

# A night at the opera



KAMARES VILLAGE  
HOUSEOWNERS' ASSOCIATION

Registered under Cyprus Statute 112

**SAVE THE DATE**

**SEPTEMBER 6TH, 2019**

**"A Night at the Opera"**

**A special event at the Kamares Club  
with famous Opera Singer ANOKI VON ARX**

**LYRICAL ARTIST/ SOPRANO**



**Cypriot Meze Dinner  
and  
entertainment  
€20 per person**

**Time  
7pm**

**Please book your  
tickets at the  
Kamares Club  
Reception, telephone  
26 880576,  
by no later than the  
4th September**

**Dress Code  
Evening Elegant**

*She was born in Vienna, but has lived many years in Paris, France, where she considers her home. Anoki currently lives, part time in Larnaca, and has taken the Cypriot culture to her heart. She tours in Europe throughout the year and returns to Cyprus to offer her unique art to the audience of her adopted home.*

*In 2017, she appeared in the Mozart opera "Die Entführung aus dem Serail;" production at the Castle in Paphos, to much acclaim. Her performances always impress the audience, and her recent performances in Paphos of "Homage to Maria Callas"; was undoubtedly a huge success, evidenced by fully booked venues, the standing ovations and the audience roar of approval and demanding encore.*

*Anoki has recently toured in Vienna and Estonia, with great acclaim.*



## Emergency Medical Centre

The Doctor is available Monday to Friday from 9am - 12 noon only.  
Please be aware if you wish to consult with the Doctor you should be there before 12 noon.

Emergency Number 99329434      Reception Number 26653328



## Kamares Club Weekly Activities

Day	Morning	Afternoon	Evening
Monday	Yoga & Bridge Club		
Tuesday	Sine Nomine Choir		Happy Hour 18:00 - 19:00 Quiz
Wednesday	Tai Chi & Art Group	Book Exchange	Monthly Wine Tasting ( no meeting in August )
Thursday	Bridge Club		
Friday	Orphean Singers & Tai Chi	Quilting Group	

## Useful Telephone Numbers

Emergency Number for Ambulance, Fire or Police	112 / 199
Police and Fire Services - Duty Officer	1499
Medical Assistance - Hospital Information	1400
Kamares Club Reception	26 88 05 76
Larnaca and Paphos International Airports	77 778833
Street Light Fault Reporting (EAC)	1800 with pole number



© 2019 This document may not be reproduced in whole or in part without acknowledgement being given to the Kamares Village Houseowners' Association and Kamares Village Matters.

The KVHA does not necessarily endorse the views expressed in this publication.



KAMARES VILLAGE  
HOUSEOWNERS' ASSOCIATION

Registered under Cyprus Statute 112