

**MARCH 2011**

**Dear Friends,**

Yes, for a change this is your Editor speaking!! I have now had time to digest – both mentally and physically – the wonderful Party organised for me for my special birthday at the end of last year. I absolutely had not a clue about it at all and I think I gave my daughter, Sarah, several bad moments that evening as she and the girls tried to steer me in the right direction! I had thought we were going out to supper at Marzano's.

Anyway, I wanted to take this opportunity to thank everyone for making it such a memorable occasion for me and for my family. I know it must have taken a great deal of organising and it was just all so perfect – the hall looked lovely, the beautiful table decorations, the scrumptious food, gorgeous cake – it couldn't have been better. Above all, the friendship and good wishes from everyone there was quite overwhelming and the most wonderful birthday present I could have had.

Of course I also have to thank you all for your very generous birthday gift. I have decided to equip myself with a nice cosy duvet and covers, etc. I have never had one and thought I preferred blankets, but as I get on in years I find the blankets weighing a bit heavy, especially these very chilly nights, so I think I shall come up to date with a duvet. I also very badly need some new luggage, so that is where it will go.

The day after, we left for Luxembourg and Ryanair took us very efficiently on time to Charleroi, which is known as Brussels South! It was freezing cold, everywhere covered in snow but not much seemed to have fallen since Sarah and the girls had left. Apart from the weather, I really enjoyed seeing where they lived, in a small village about 30 minutes out of Luxembourg City towards the Belgian border. We did have a couple of nights in Cheltenham when we took the girls back to school so had a quick round of shopping! I have given a few bits of information about the tiny little Duchy of Luxembourg further on which I hope will be of interest.

If its not too late, a very Happy New Year to everyone and Happy Valentine's Day!!  
With all good wishes,  
Susan

## ***MEMBERSHIP NEWS***

Our Honorary President will be leaving us again for a few weeks to continue her nursing career in the far north of Canada. We hope Carol has a safe journey and look forward to her return in March.

We have had sad news from Kathy Becker that she has to go back to the States for some urgent medical treatment. Our thoughts and prayers for the success of the treatment go with her.

Re Ella's letter for the February UPDATE, we have now heard that our sponsorship of Tina Behara, the little fiveyearold in Bengal with the very tragic history, has been confirmed. We hope to have more news of her soon with a photograph, and also to hear what has happened to our previous sponsored child, Munniya, who has now left the Home.

Congratulations to Joy and Stuart Haggett, who have recently had their 40th Wedding Anniversary. Don't know if any rubies were involved but they are celebrating by going off on a cruise in the Far East in March, visiting Thailand, and China among other countries – Bon Voyage to them!.

**Don't forget to keep saving your Alfa Mega coupons and give unwanted ones to Hilary Ives to save for the current gift offer of crockery.**



## ***CATHEDRAL NEWS***

Unfortunately the advertised Valentine's evening, 'Love is in the Air'. has had to be cancelled.

### **Friday, March 4: Women's World Day of Prayer**

This is to be held at the Armenian Church this year and the service will begin at 10.00.

**Shrove Tuesday, March 8** There will be a Pancake Supper in the Deanery at 07.00

**Ash Wednesday March 9:** There will be Communion Services at 10.30 and 19.30.

### **DATE FOR YOUR DIARY**

**ST. PAUL'S MAY FAYRE – SATURDAY, MAY 14 2011**



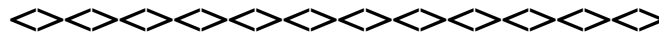
**FIREWOOD FOR SALE** – with all these cold evenings, now's the time to be thinking of stocking up with firewood. Anna can supply all olive wood or mixed wood, delivered to your door. Phone her on 99678813.



**COFFEE DUTY – MARCH 10**

Pat Broughton  
 Katrina Frangou  
 Ann Kakoulli

Please try to take your turn as above.  
 If you cannot do it and cannot find a substitute, ring Frauke Christodoulides (22352419) as soon as possible. Aim to arrive by 8.30 a.m. to prepare and, between you, bring milk and eats – cakes, biscuits, etc. **Please do not clear refreshments until after the talk.**

**STOP PRESS FOR FEBRUARY – DON'T FORGET**

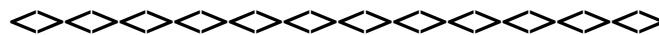
**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – 2011  
 THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 24**

**Programme: 09.15  
 10.00**

**Communion Service in the Cathedral  
 AGM with Continental Breakfast**

Please make every effort to attend this important meeting, especially to elect the new Committee and make suggestions for future charity and social activities. Now is your chance to make your voice heard! Sign up at the Coffee Morning or let Brenda Lazaridou (22351825) know if you are coming as the caterers need to know numbers.

The present Committee are willing to stand again but Miriam Paschalides had to leave us during the year so we do need more nominations. Why not stand yourself or propose someone else? Nomination forms are available at the Coffee morning and were included in the February Update.

***Chinese New Year***

*February saw the beginning of THE YEAR OF THE RABBIT. According to Chinese astrology, anyone born in 2011 (or 1999, 1987, 1975, 1963, 1951, 1939 or 1927) is born under the signs of virtue and prudence, and will tend to be sweet-natured and houseproud, with a strong network of friends. They may dislike conflict and lack assertiveness. Others enjoy your company and you get on especially well with Goats, Oxen, Snakes and Pigs but may experience difficulties with Rats, Roosters and Horses. Famous Rabbits include John Cleese, Frank Sinatra, Jamie Oliver and Kate Winslet.*

## NEWS FROM OTHER ORGANISATIONS

**Cans for Kids** is holding a Gala Dinner on February 25 at the EAC HQ in Nicosi to celebrate 20 years of recycling and support for the paediatric wards at Makarios – to date they have donated €250,000 medical equipment with the proceeds. Another donation of a volumetric infusion pump and 3 infusion syringe pumps for the neonatal intensive care unit will be donated to the Minister at the dinner. The evening will consist of a 3 course meal with wine, a fashion show with dresses donated by Cyprus' top fashion designers, live music and a disco. Tickets at just €50 are available from Rosie Charalambous on 99666011. A very good cause to support!

**ACT** is putting on another Agatha Christie play – ‘**And Then There Were None**’ at the Russian Cultural Centre on March 16, 17, 18 and 19, and at the Skala Theatre in Larnaca on March 24 and 25. Tickets will be on sale in March at €15 – ring Andreas Karides on 99623620.

### **THE WHITE LIE CAKE**

Have you ever told a white lie? You are going to love this, especially all of the ladies who bake for church events: Alice Grayson was to bake a cake for the Church Ladies' Group in Tuscaloosa, but forgot to do it until the last minute. She remembered it the morning of the bake sale and after rummaging through cabinets, found an angel food cake mix & quickly made it while drying her hair, dressing, and helping her son pack up for Scout camp.

When she took the cake from the oven, the center had dropped flat and the cake was horribly disfigured and she exclaimed, "Oh dear, there is not time to bake another cake!" This cake was important to Alice because she did so want to fit in at her new church, and in her new community of friends. So, being inventive, she looked around the house for something to build up the center of the cake. She found it in the bathroom - a roll of toilet paper. She plunked it in and then covered it with icing. Not only did the finished product look beautiful, it looked perfect. And, before she left the house to drop the cake by the church and head for work, Alice woke her daughter and gave her some money and specific instructions to be at the bake sale the moment it opened at 9:30 and to buy the cake and bring it home. When the daughter arrived at the sale, she found the attractive, perfect cake had already been sold. Amanda grabbed her cell phone & called her mom. Alice was horrified - she was beside herself! Everyone would know! What would they think? She would be ostracized, talked about, ridiculed! All night, Alice lay awake in bed thinking about people pointing fingers at her and talking about her behind her back. The next day, Alice promised herself she would try not to think about the cake and would attend the fancy uncheon/bridal shower at the home of a fellow church member and try to have a good time. She did not really want to attend because the hostess was a snob who more than once had looked down her nose at the fact that Alice was a single parent and not from the founding families of Tuscaloosa, but having already RSVP'd, she couldn't think of a believable excuse to stay home. The meal was elegant, the company was definitely upper crust old south and to Alice's horror, the cake in question was presented for dessert! Alice felt the blood drain from her body when she saw the cake! She started out of her chair to tell the hostess all about it, but before she could get to her feet, the Mayor's wife said, "what a beautiful cake!"

Alice, still stunned, sat back in her chair when she heard the hostess (who was a prominent church member) say, "Thank you, I baked it myself.."

**Alice smiled and thought to herself, "God is good."**

## ALL YOU MIGHT WANT TO KNOW ABOUT LUXEMBOURG!

*The world's only Grand Duchy, Luxembourg is a constitutional monarchy surrounded by Belgium, France, and Germany. Covering less than 1,000 square miles, Luxembourg is home to nearly 450,000 residents, with about a fifth of these individuals residing in or near Luxembourg City. Roman Catholicism is the primary religion, and foreign residents represent more than a third of Luxembourg's population. Three primary languages are spoken in Luxembourg: Letzebuergesch or Luxembourgish (recognized as the national language), German, and French. English is also spoken, primarily in the city and its surrounding areas.*

*The capital of Luxembourg was founded in 963 when Count Siegfried took possession of a castle situated on the rocky promontory overhanging the valley of the River Alzette called the Bock. The castle became an insurmountable fortress, which came to be known as the "Gibraltar of the North." Long before Count Siegfried arrived on the scene, the area was under Roman rule. The famous legend about the Count and his beautiful wife runs as follows:*

*Melusina is said to have been the wife of the founder of [Luxembourg](#), Count Siegfried. When they married, she had one particular request, namely that Siegfried must leave her alone for one full day and night every month, and that he should not ask or try to find out what she was doing. Of course, Melusina was such a beautiful girl that Siegfried could not refuse her this one small wish, and all went well for years and years, when on the first Wednesday of the month, Melusina would retire into her chambers in the "[Casemates](#)", a network of caverns hewn into solid rock underneath the city, not to be seen again until early light on Thursday. But one day, Siegfried's curiosity got the better of him. Wondering what on earth she might be doing alone all the time, he peeped through the keyhole, and was shocked to see that Melusina was lying in the bathtub, with a fishtail hanging over the rim. As you all know, mermaids like Melusina, have a very keen sixth sense, which tells them instantly that they are being watched, and thus she recognised her husband through the door, and jumped out of the window into the river Alzette below, never to be seen again ... except every now and then, some people say they saw a beautiful girl's head pop out of the river, and a fishtail rippling the calm waters of the river Alzette. (see *The White Queen* – Philippa Gregory)*

*Luxembourg went through an extended period of foreign sovereignty (Burgundians, Spanish, French, Austrians, and Prussians) and regained its national independence in 1815. The Congress of Vienna raised Luxembourg to the rank of Grand Duchy when it granted ownership to the King of the Netherlands, William I of Orange-Nassau, an arrangement that lasted until 1890. During this period, the political independence and autonomy were strengthened, and the democratic institutions were developed. The 1867 Treaty of London reaffirmed Luxembourg's territorial integrity, and political autonomy (already granted by the 1839 Treaty of London). Luxembourg was declared neutral in international affairs and this neutrality was protected by the great powers. In 1890, Luxembourg embarked on its own dynasty when Luxembourg relinquished its ties to Holland's House of Orange and Adolf of Nassau was at the helm.*

*The Nazis invaded Luxembourg on May 10, 1940. The Battle of the Bulge was fought in 1944 and 1945 and, during this time, Hitler caused great destruction to the Grand Duchy. After the Nazi occupation during WWII, in 1948 the country gave up its neutrality to join various economic, political, and military organizations such as NATO and the United Nations. The Grand Duchy is a founding member of the European Union, and was host to the first European Institutions in 1953. In 1994, Luxembourg City was listed as a UNESCO World Heritage site and is the home of the European Court of Justice. The present monarch, H.R.H. Grand Duke Henri previously served as "Lieutenant Representant" and, in October 2000, succeeded his father H.R.H Grand Duke Jean to the throne. H.R.H. Grand Duke Henri is married to Teresa Mestre. They have five children. Executive power rests with the Grand Duke and a cabinet of 12 ministers. A Parliament, elected by men and women over age 18, possesses legislative powers.*