



On the bicentenary of Lord Byron's death, Greece paid tribute to the great British Philhellene poet



On the 80th anniversary of D-Day, Ambassador Yannis Tsaousis laid a wreath at the Normandy Memorial Wall in Portsmouth



Greek Ambassador with the Athens2004 Olympic Champions Dame Kelly Holmes and Voula Kozompoli at an event to celebrate the Olympic values and universal ideals



Presentation of the Book "Adrias: The were all heroes" at the Hellenic Residence in London

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Honouring the Bicentenary of Lord Byron's death



The Greek Embassy paid tribute to the Greek hero, Lord Byron, at an event held at the Hellenic Residence, honoured by the presence of the Minister of Defence, Mr Nikos Dendias, and the then Deputy Minister of Culture, Mr Christos Dimas.

The Greek Embassy celebrated the work and legacy of Lord Byron through engaging speeches, poetry recitals and documentary video clips, thanks to the Hellenic Broadcasting Corporation - ERT and the Theatre Lab Company. An exhibition of objects related to Lord Byron, as well as some of the personal armour of fighters from the Greek War of Independence, and the display of traditional costumes from Messolonghi, captured the interest of the audience. Also on display at the Hellenic Residence were some facsimile manuscripts relating to Byron's participation in the Greek War of Independence, courtesy of the National Gallery of Scotland, and a copy of Lord Byron's last letter, written in Messolonghi, in which he predicts his own death, courtesy of the Harrow School.

It was a real pleasure to hear the Professor and poet, Ms Alicia E. Stallings, speak on "Byron and the Translation of Liberty": Don Juan and the Greek National Anthem', and Nottingham Councillor Pavlos Kotsonis, who also highlighted the importance of Byron's personality and Nottingham's cultural programme in relation to Byron.

The event was organised in partnership with the Hellenic Foundation for Culture in London and the Greek Library of London.

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On April 19, 200 years after Lord Byron's death in Messolonghi, having joined the struggle for Greek Independence, Greece paid tribute to one of her truest friends, Britain's greatest poets and the world's champions of freedom; a figure who epitomises, as few others do, the long-standing Greek – British friendship.

Greece's Defence Minister, Nikos Dendias, Deputy Minister of Culture, Christos Dimas, and Ambassador Yannis Tsaousis laid a wreath at a ceremony taking place at Trinity College in Cambridge, to honour the great Philhellene who paid the ultimate price for Greece's freedom.



“Passing the Olympic flame” An event to celebrate the Olympic values and universal ideals



Nearly two decades since the Athens Olympics in 2004, and just months away from the Paris 2024 Games, we were delighted to host at the Hellenic Residence on May 15, 2024, an event to celebrate the enduring relevance of the Olympic values and trace the story of the Games from their birth in ancient Greece to their revival in modern times, and until the present day.

Titled “Passing the Olympic flame: a universal journey of values from ancient Greece to now”, the event featured an exceptional lineup of speakers – including Athens 2004 Olympic Champions, Dame Kelly Holmes and Voula Kozompoli, as well as representatives from Brazil, France and Japan -this year’s and the two previous Olympic host countries.

In their contributions to the evening, they delivered insightful remarks and engaged in thought-provoking conversations exploring the history of the Games from antiquity to our times, and, more importantly, investigating why the values of Excellence, Respect and Friendship that are attached to the Olympics, are of paramount importance today.

Bringing the practitioner’s perspective and invaluable first-hand experience into the discussion, Dame Kelly Holmes, double Olympic gold medallist at the Athens Games, who joined us virtually from the Greek Consulate General in Manchester, and Stavroula Kozompoli, water polo player of Greece’s silver team in Athens, spoke with Ambassador Yannis Tsaousis about what the Olympic values mean to them and how they shaped them personally and professionally.

Before that, the evening had opened with remarks by France’s Ambassador to the UK, H el ene Duch ene, had opened the evening with remarks on the hosting of the Olympic and Paralympic Games in Paris, Pierre de Coubertin’s contribution to the revival of the Games and on her own personal ties with Greece.



In his opening address, Minister Yasuyuki Okazaki, Head of Public Diplomacy and Media at the Embassy of Japan in the UK, referred to the ideals of the Olympic and Paralympic Games, and made special mention of the Greek-Irish writer Lafcadio Hearn, one of Japan’s most celebrated authors, whose books introduced Japanese culture to the West.

Their words set the scene for the first panel discussion that saw IAS Professor Angelos Chaniotis, Ms Elizabeth Filippouli, and Ms Vicky Pryce touch upon the history of the Games and their modern revival, as well as its links with the Greek Diaspora and Philhellenism, the global movement that saw numerous people from across the world –including prominent figures such as Lord Byron, join the Greeks in their struggle for Independence in 1821.

The event was organised by the Embassy of Greece in London in partnership with Komvos-Node: Networks of Global Hellenism. Alongside the discussions it also featured an Olympic pins exhibition -courtesy of Ms Filippouli- so as to celebrate both in words and objects the history of the Games and the worldwide journey and impact of the Olympic values.



Networking Event at the Hellenic Residence in partnership with UCL Alumni



On 3 June, the Embassy of Greece in London hosted a networking event in partnership with University College London - UCL Alumni at the Hellenic Residence, which was honoured by the presence of UCL President & Provost, Dr Michael Spence, who highlighted the enduring links between UCL and Greece. For his part, the Greek Ambassador, Yannis Tsaousis, commented on the significance of the event and the recent legislative changes in Greece aimed at promoting international academic cooperation".

During her speech, UCL Professor in the Faculty of Law, Helen Xanthaki, described and explained a two-year European Union project she is leading in Greece to improve the quality of Greek legislation. Following the appointment of the Prime Minister in 2019, Professor Xanthaki has also been appointed to the Committee for the Scrutiny of the Quality of the Legislative Process, an independent committee of the Presidency. Her research has reshaped the training of over 350 civil servants in the Greek government. Professor Dimitrios Kanoulas, Lecturer in Robotics and Computation at UCL East, described 'RoboHike', a robotics project that gives autonomous four-legged robots the ability to navigate through difficult terrain.

At the end of the event, everyone agreed that it had been an excellent opportunity to discuss the next steps in building new partnerships between UCL and Greece.

Photo: John Moloney



Minister of Education, Kyriakos Pierrakakis in London



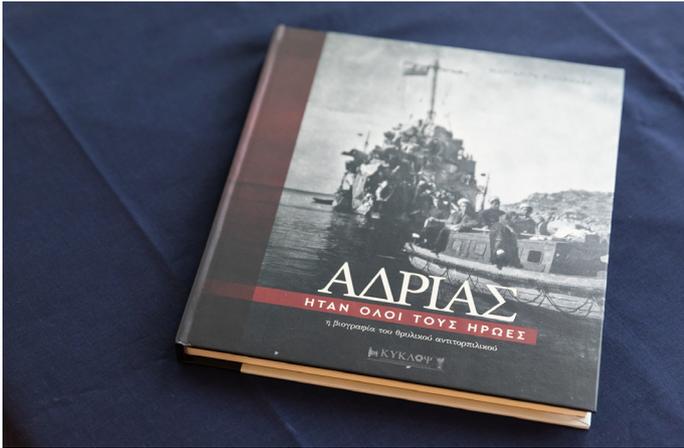
Minister of Education, Kyriakos Pierrakakis, visited London on April 25, where he met with the Ambassador Yannis Tsaousis and His Eminence Archbishop of Thyateira and Great Britain Nikitas; the main focus of their discussions was the needs of Diaspora Greeks in the UK and, in particular, the large Greek student community studying and living in the UK. While in London, K. Pierrakakis also visited the permanent exhibition "George Seferis: the man, the poet, the diplomat" at the Hellenic Residence.

Award ceremony for the Greek Language Competition



On Thursday 27 June, at an event held at the Hellenic Residence, the Ambassador of Greece to the UK, Mr Yannis Tsaousis, presented the awards to the students who participated and excelled in the Greek Language Competition organised by The Greek Online School in collaboration with the Daughters of Penelope in London. During the event, it was stressed how important it is for the younger generation of Greeks abroad to keep alive their connection with the Greek language, which continues to produce history and culture in all corners of the globe.

The 80th anniversary of the D-Day Presentation of the Book : "Adrias. They Were All Heroes"



On the 80th anniversary of D-Day, 6 June 2024, the Embassy of Greece in London, with the kind support of Thyateira Union, organised a presentation of the book "Adrias. They Were All Heroes" written by Margarita Pournara.

The men of the Greek destroyer Adrias and the British HMS Hurworth, and their heroic story during the WWII is the focus of the book. The two ships served together during the WWII and on 22 October 1943 were struck by mines off Kalymnos, suffering heavy casualties, with the Hurworth sinking after attempting to come to the aid of the Adrias. The book is a story of bravery, comradeship, humanity and self-sacrifice. As Margarita Pournara said, "The story of Adrias and Hurworth defines what the British call 'brothers in arms'". At the beginning of his welcoming remarks, the Ambassador also conveyed a message of greeting from the Greek Minister of Defence, Nikos Dendias. It is "a story of heroism and bravery that I will always remember," said Minister Dendias, referring to the painting of Adrias that hangs in his office at the Ministry. "British-Greek stories of bravery and courage such as that of the two ships and their crews," added Ambassador Tsaousis, concluding his speech, "are themselves the reason for our strong ties and friendship".

Greek and British descendants of the people involved in the heroic story of the two ships, spoke during the event to honour their brave ancestors: Andrew Pettie, Aliko Mouriki, Wayne Fenney, Vassilis Mamouzelos, Konstantinos Savvakis. It was deeply moving to see the families of the rescued with those of the rescuers. It was great to have Commodore P. Pitcher of the British Royal Navy and the current Commanding Officer of Hurworth, Lt. Cdr. D. Briscoe with us on this day to underline the continuing strong maritime partnership between Greece and the UK.

Photos by John Kolikis



On the 80th anniversary of D-Day, Ambassador Yannis Tsaousis, together with Defence Attaché Nikos Filias, paid tribute to those who fought for freedom and peace by laying a wreath at the Normandy Memorial Wall in Portsmouth. On this occasion, Greece and the United Kingdom, together with our allies, fought side by side in defence of our shared values. The inclusion this year of the name of Georgios Panagiotopoulos, commander of the corvette 'Tombazis', on the Normandy Memorial Wall in Portsmouth, alongside those of other Allied D-Day veterans, is a testament to this fact. Tombazis' was one of two corvettes that took part in the D-Day operations. The other was 'Kriezis', commanded by Dimitrios Kiosses. These two Greek ships with their 155 men contributed to the success of the Normandy landings.



Ministry of Defense, Nikos Dendias, visits the NATO Allied Maritime Command Headquarters



On 13 June, Minister of Defense, Nikos Dendias, visited the NATO Allied Maritime Command Headquarters in Northwood, London, which exercises the operational command and control in the Alliance's Area of Responsibility and it is the main advisor of the inter-service HQs on issues of naval operations. In the context of his visit, Nikos Dendias was briefed by the HQ Commander, Vice Admiral Mike Utley on the operational activities of the Alliance in the maritime field. The HQ Commander praised the assistance provided by Greece in aeronaval assets and the participation of our country in the naval operations of the Alliance.

Ambassador Yannis Tsaousis' visit to Bristol



During his first visit to the city on Friday 28 June, Ambassador Yannis Tsaousis had the opportunity to meet and speak with representatives and members of the Greek community in Bristol. During a visit to the Greek Orthodox Church of St Peter and St Paul and the Greek School of Bristol, the Ambassador discussed with the President and members of the Greek Orthodox Community of Bristol the work of the Community and issues of interest to them. He later met with members of the Board of the Hellenic Cultural Society of Bristol "Methexis", who described the Society's projects to promote Greek culture, language and heritage.

Ambassador Yannis Tsaousis visits Birmingham



Ambassador Yannis Tsaousis had a fruitful meeting, on April 30, with the Lord Mayor of Birmingham, Councillor Chaman Lal, where they discussed Birmingham's strong ties with Greece, due to the city's large Greek community, and explored opportunities for future cooperation.

Meeting with members of Birmingham's Greek Diaspora at the Midlands Greek & Cypriot Association, Ambassador Tsaousis joined Consul General Alexandros Ioannidis of the new Consulate General in Manchester and the Head of the Economic & Commercial Office in the UK, Vivi Kabouroglou, to discuss issues affecting the local community and their expectations of Greece. Ambassador Tsaousis later visited the Greek Orthodox Cathedral of Apostolos Andreas in Birmingham, where he met with Bishop Maximos of Melitene.

At the international exhibition Food & Drink Expo in Birmingham, Ambassador Tsaousis had the opportunity to visit the Greek pavilion. 15 Greek companies from the Attica region and the region of Central Macedonia took part in the Expo, where they presented their high-quality Greek food and drink products.

Later, they visited Bridgnorth Aluminium Limited, a leading company in the aluminium sector, which is 100% owned by the Greek group Viohalco. With 75 years' experience in rolling aluminium and 90% of its products exported, Bridgnorth remains the UK's only manufacturer of lithographic material and one of only three in Europe.



“Greeking out in London”: Greece’s innovation ecosystem takes centre stage at UK event



As a growing number of Greek startups and entrepreneurs start making their presence felt on the global tech scene, Endeavor Greece returned to London this year on May 15 for its “Greeking out in London” event, co-hosted with Genesis Ventures.

Touching upon the series of policies and initiatives that Greece has implemented in recent years to drive innovation, and highlighting the enormous potential of the Greek start-up sector, Ambassador Yannis Tsaousis delivered a welcome address at the event, that brought together over 250 people for an evening of insightful discussions and valuable networking between founders, investors, and talent.

Two days later, the Ambassador hosted Endeavor Greece entrepreneurs at the Hellenic Residence for a working breakfast to take stock of their presence in London and discuss today’s evolving tech landscape, while also having the opportunity to visit the Embassy’s permanent exhibition about the Greek poet and diplomat George Seferis.

Growing trade ties strengthen the Greece-UK relationship



The flourishing trade relationship that Greece and the UK enjoy, continued to grow in 2023. Totalling £12.0 billion in 2023, trade in goods and services between Greece and the UK was up 28,5% compared to the previous year, while the value of the bilateral goods trade grew by more than 50% over the past decade (£2,4 bn in 2023). The latest data show that the Greece-UK trade volume is on an upward trend in recent years with huge potential for further growth.

The London Greek Film Festival Awards: Celebrating Greek cinema in London



The Greek Embassy hosted for one more year the awards ceremony of the 18th London Greek Film Festival, on Friday the 21st of June. Spanning different genres, subjects and themes, the awards delivered for yet another year on their promise to showcase in the UK some of the best Greek and Greek-related filmmaking.

Now in its 18th iteration, the London Greek Film Festival has served for almost two decades - thanks to the dedication of its founder and artistic director Christos Prosyliis- as a meeting point for Greek and international cinema creators across the world and as a bridge bringing closer the Greek community in the UK to the exciting filmmaking output taking place back home.

The ceremony opened with the keynote speeches, via video message, of Deputy Foreign Minister Giorgos Kotsiras and Secretary General for Greeks Abroad and Public Diplomacy John Chrysoulakis, and welcome remarks by Ambassador Yannis Tsaousis.

During the event, a video about filmmaking in Greece entitled "Studio Greece, home to your next best story", produced by the National Centre for Audiovisual Media (EKOME), as well as trailers of award-winning films, were screened and immediately captured the audience's interest.

The London Greek Film Festival was held under the auspices of the General Secretariat for Greeks Abroad and Public Diplomacy of Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs, with the support of the Greek Embassy in London.



European Writers' Festival: #Transformation



Building on the success of the 1st European Writers' Festival in 2023, this year's festival, themed Transformation, took place at the British Library on 18-19 May 2024. The 2-day festival consisted of thought-provoking talks and highly stimulating exchanges of views, with the participation of 30 writers and poets from across Europe.

Greece was represented by author Christos Chomenidis and his novel Niki, which won the Greek State Prize for Literature in 2015 and the European Book Prize in 2021. The Greek author enchanted the audience as he spoke about his book and the art of writing in the session entitled 'Transforming Historical Narratives'.

The European Writers' Festival was organised by EUNIC London in partnership with the British Library, the EU in the UK, the European Literature Network and the European Parliament in the UK.

Following his successful participation in the European Writers' Festival and while in London, Christos Chomenidis visited the Hellenic Residence, where Ambassador Yannis Tsaousis showed him the Embassy's permanent exhibition on George Seferis.

<https://euniclondon.org/project/european-writers-festival-2/>

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In Short Film Festival Europe: #Best of Best



The 6th edition of In Short Film Festival Europe, themed Best of the Best, took place in Scotland for the first time - in the framework of Glasgow Film Festival (20-21 April)- and in London at the Ciné Lumière (26-28 April). In this year's festival of 38 short European films, Greece was represented by the silent short film Piece of Liberty by Antigoni Kapaka. The In Short Film Festival Europe is organised by EUNIC London in collaboration with the EU in the UK, the Glasgow Film Festival and the French Institute in London.

<https://euniclondon.org/project/in-short-europe-best-of-best-2024/>

EUNIC meeting @the Hellenic Residence



On Monday, April 9, the monthly EUNIC (European Union National Institutes for Culture network in London) meeting was hosted at the Hellenic Residence. At the end of the meeting, the fellow EUNIC members were given a guided tour of the permanent exhibition on George Seferis. They were all excited to learn and discuss on Seferis' poetic work as well as his diplomatic career.

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