



EURO-MERNET NEWS

Global voice of the local communities, local voice of the global communities

www.euromernet.org

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Monthly newsletter of the Euro-Mediterranean Resources Network (Euro-Mernet)

Our community development support work continues...

Strengthening the Albanian Community



Support from Euro-Mernet for diverse communities across the city of Brighton and Hove continued in the new year. On Thursday the 19th of January 2017, Euro-Mernet team members attended the first monthly Albanian Community Development Support Committee meeting of this year.

Since last year Sussex Police, Brighton and Hove City Council, and office of the Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner have been promoting community engagement process for Brighton and Sussex Albanian-speaking communities. Euro-Mernet has been supporting the local Albanian-speaking community for many years and has actively involved in the social and cultural events with Albanian themes.

This co-ordinated action of local authorities and community organisations originated from a common concern: despite a consistent and long-time presence of Albanian-speaking communities in Sussex, no voluntary contact had been established by said groups in terms of liaising with or reporting incidents or concerns to the local Police, in contrast to a number of other communities established in Sussex. As stakeholders in community safety recog-

nised how the absence of such a relationship could be a barrier for good policing, plans to systematically engage Albanian-speaking communities started to be put in action.

Additional -and equally important- concern for Euro-Mernet was the public mindset surrounding the word "Albanian" and the stereotypes in the society about people of Albanian origin. On top of the vilifying stories in mainstream media, quite often the "bad guys" in big budget movies are portrayed as Albanians, .

While it is true that in the UK prisons there are indeed a number of convicted criminals of Albanian origin -just like many other nationalities including English- they form a small fraction of the overall Albanian population in the UK who represent a peaceful, hardworking, law-abiding community with involvement in a wide range of arts and professions.

In this respect, Euro-Mernet aims to focus on two aspects of Albanian Community Development process: first and foremost, helping the Albanian-speaking and the local authority and police service to understand each other better.

Second aspect is the promotion of Albanian language, culture,

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arts, music, cuisine, history and cultural heritage as they have been obscured by decades of negative popularity. It is also essential to help Albanian-speaking community do all such cultural and social awareness-raising activities by themselves.

The pilot community support event was the "Albanian Festival" held at Falmer Campus on the 22nd of October 2016. It was co-organized by London-based Albanian community support organisation Shpresa Programme, Sussex Police, Brighton and Hove City Council and Euro-Mernet. Debora Barletta, Euro-Mernet Projects Manager, produced a report on the Albanian Festival, analysing in detail the outcome of the event and providing a base for the planning of future activities.

Another important initiative was the celebration of Albanian Independence Day on November the 28th at Brighton Town Hall

Euro-Mernet will also take part in organising a multicultural day during the Brighton Fringe Festival on 7th of March. There will be artists from the Albanian-speaking communities and performers with various cultural backgrounds who will entertain the audience in a series of performances.

Matteo Haenen

Editor's letter



Dear friends,

Greetings from the warm offices and warm hearts of the Euro-Mernet team. We hope that you will enjoy this issue of the newsletter.

We had a very busy month, with no hand brakes to apply throughout into also February. Diverse communities in our city and across the region need our support and here we are, proud to work for the community empowerment, community safety, and happiness and peace in the community.

Talking about the community empowerment, we continued our regular meetings with the other likeminded partners and the members of the local Albanian-speaking community to make sure that they will always have our support. You must have already read the full story on the cover page of this issue.

Our team members also attended the regular partnership meetings such as the International Migrant Needs Assessment project for helping to speed up the community survey and research process.

One Voice Partnership Brighton & Hove continues to enjoy our support in community resilience and safety. Our team members suggested the greater inclusion of counter and alternative narratives rather than focusing on the counter-terrorism strategies.

In the centrefold pages, you will see our projects manager Debora Barletta's special feature on Holocaust Memorial Day. "Never Again" should apply to all forms of violence and intolerance.

You will see brief reports from our regular film, poetry and cultural heritage clubs on page 3, and on page 6 a short version of our radio interview with Rose from the Resource Centre. It tells the sweet stories of community solidarity.

Our new section on page 7 aims to give you a glimpse of events in history this month and also paying tribute to people who worked for and served the communities.

Love, peace and solidarity.

Ümit Öztürk

Euro-Mernet project partnership news...

Euro-Mernet supports the Migrants Needs Assessment

Euro-Mernet team members have attended this year's first meeting of the Brighton and Hove International Migrants Needs Assessment project, which was held at the Hove Town Hall with participation of 20 people from various organisations.

The International Migrants Needs Assessment project (2016-17) was initiated by the Brighton & Hove City Council and they are working with local partners, including Community University Partnership Programme (CUPP) of the University of Brighton, NHS and community & voluntary organisations. Euro-Mernet is an active partner since last year.

The project aims to undertake a needs assessment of international migrants in Brighton & Hove with a view to capture information about the size and nature of the populations of migrants in the City and to harness the experience of community services and the migrants themselves to better understand their needs and the many assets that migrants bring to the city.

Focus will be on migrants who have come from overseas to work or study in the city and also those who have arrived here seeking protection as refugees or asylum seekers.

The needs assessment project will make recommendations for commissioners, service providers and decision makers to use to improve the lives and outcomes of international migrants in the City.

It will also lead to benefits for the whole City, allowing more efficient use of public resources and enabling us to maximise the assets that migrants bring into Brighton and Hove. The findings of the needs assessment will be available by Autumn 2017.

The migrant needs assessment project is part of the City's Joint Strategic Needs Assessment programme. Details including needs assessments on different population groups, are at: <http://bit.ly/1t9IYNd>

The project has adopted the UNESCO's description of a migrant: "Any person who lives temporarily or permanently in a country where he or she was not born".

Ümit Öztürk



On Wednesday, 18th of January, Brighton Town Hall hosted the first One Voice Partnership meeting of 2017.

The One Voice Partnership was founded in 2015 by local community groups and individuals across the city. Its meetings are hosted and facilitated by Brighton and Hove City Council. Euro-Mernet is a founding member of the partnership.

One Voice Partnership is aimed at empowering Black and Minority Ethnic communities (BME) by favoring positive media messages, developing resilience to extremism and encourage the joint and cohesive work of local communities to promote common values such as inclusion, pluralism and partnership working.

A large part of the meeting agenda focused on the subject of preventing radicalization.

A video presentation set up by the UK-based organization Families Against Stress & Trauma (FAST) offered an insight on the traumas suffered by the families of radicalized individuals.

Participants were also given an update of some of the activities and initiatives to be held in the city as part of the national Prevent strategy, including the "Web Guardians" Online Safety Program, a course offered to mothers whose children identify themselves as Muslim to help them have a better understanding of the internet, social media and the ways young net-surfers are exposed to the threat of radicalization.

Euro-Mernet's input in the discussion aimed at underlining how an efficient contrast to youngsters' radicalization cannot rely on an exclusive focus on counter-terrorism strategies, but a greater attention should be given to promoting positive alternative narratives to radicalization and encouraging youth involvement in community works.

Matteo Haenen



Words, Sights and Sounds of... Enlightenment, Entertainment, Amazement.

Explore the global cultural diversity through the monthly club sessions at our "People's University". Completely FREE, forever FREE.



EURO-MERNET FILM CLUB

Rams: Two bad-tempered sheep farmers faced with a tragedy in rural Iceland in a vivid, picturesque film.

On Tuesday the 7th January, we screened an impressive piece of cinematography from Grímur Hákonarson, who has been steadily becoming a leading director in Iceland.

The plot: Two brothers who haven't spoken in 40 years will incredibly get back together in a funny, perverse but loving way as an outbreak of scrapie threatens to wipe out the sheep they love.

It is refined storytelling with high human spirit, the acting is great and the stunning landscapes steal the audience's attention from minute one to the end. A delicate story, with a non-provocative message about community support and care, even if the community is small.

Many participants have enjoyed this Icelandic comedy-tragedy in the packed room at our usual venue, The Blue Man. We had interesting and inspiring conversation with the guests after the screening.

Euro-Mernet Film Club aims to raise awareness on social issues and promote the cultural heritage of diverse communities by screening films from around the world, with particular focus on Mediterranean, Middle East, and the entire Europe.

The films we screen are usually social comedies, satirical pieces, documentaries and similar independent productions. Sometimes our film screenings are followed by a talk by a director/producer/actor/actress themselves and/or a discussion between the guests.

All our film screenings are FREE. You are always welcome to join Euro-Mernet Film Club.

Valentina Auliso



EURO-MERNET POETRY CLUB

On Tuesday 24th of January 2017 we have dived into the poetry world, dedicating this event to a very particular and universal theme: Tea and Coffee!

We chose this topic because many poets say that tea and coffee give them strength and inspiration to write powerful poems.

During this poetry session, we read out poems from Japan to Palestine, to Italy, USA, UK to Spain. Mahmoud Darwish, Jay Giuseppe Parini, Matsuo Basho, to name but a few- have written about tea and coffee in many different ways.

Some poets link tea and coffee to family, unity, love and understanding. Some consider them like a lifelong addiction. Others sing a true ode, describing the art of their preparation and serving. With a cup of tea or coffee memories and traditions come to mind.

It becomes a moment of sharing in which friends, parents, lovers, extended families share thoughts, journeys, memories, ideas with each other. In many of these poems, having a cup of coffee provides the cornerstone of sharing love and heritage around the table.

Quoting the words of poet Giuseppe Parini, tea and coffee are the "divine nectars" that are able to connect people's soul and body to God, nobility and wisdom".

Euro-Mernet Poetry Club aims to provide a platform of free expression and an ambiance of inspiration, desire and passion for poetry lovers in a live ambiance. We read out poems on a variety of topics and from diverse local and global communities. All our poetry sessions are FREE. All welcome.

Roberta Gambardella



CULTURAL HERITAGE CLUB

On Tuesday 31st January, we hosted this year's first Cultural Heritage Club session. This month we flew to Mesopotamia, the "land between the rivers" Tigris and Euphrates, covering the territories throughout modern day Iraq, Kuwait, Syria, Turkey and Iran. Our guests explored the basics of ancient Mesopotamian Mythology.

Between 3500 BC and 400 AD the ancient Mesopotamia region was inhabited by various civilizations - particularly Sumer, Akkad, Assyrian and Babylonia, who had worshiped the gods in the ziggurat -structures with a terraced step pyramid shape.

Mesopotamian religion was polytheistic and over the centuries counted more than 2,400 gods and goddesses in a hierarchical order. It would be impossible to talk about all of them so we focused on some of the most influential figures:

Gilgamesh, the king of the city Uruk; Anu, the sky god; Ishtar the love goddess; Enlil, god of the atmosphere; Ninlil, Enlil's wife; Enki, the god of the fresh waters; Ninmah, mother of the gods; Nergal, a warrior and underworld god; Ereshkigall, the goddess of the Irkalla; Utu, the god of the sun; Marduk, the city god of Babylon; Lilith, demon goddess and Mushhushshu, guardian of the supreme gods.

In the end, we tested the memory of our guests with an exciting quiz session!

Euro-Mernet Cultural Heritage Club aims to highlight and promote the wealth and beauty of the cultural heritage of diverse communities from the UK and across the world. Various forms and techniques are used during the stage performances.

Roberta Fischetti

Holocaust Memorial Day:

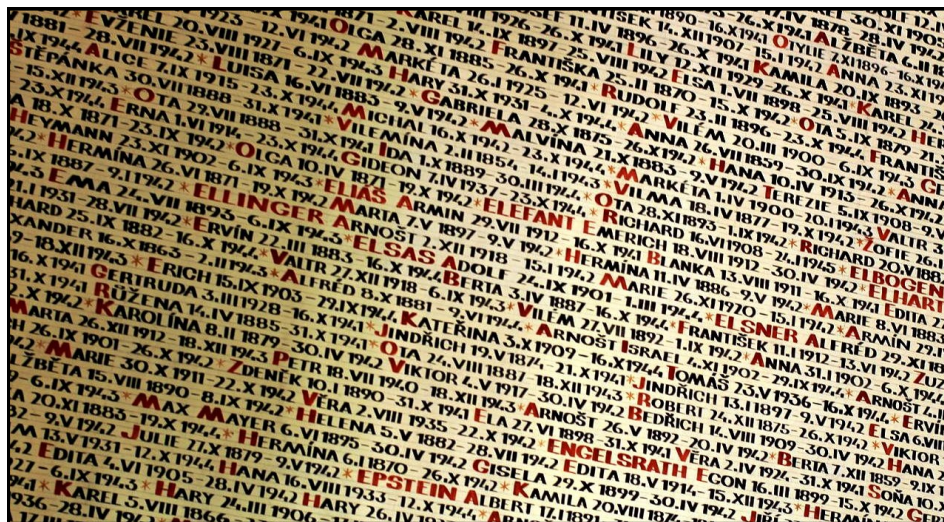
“How can life go on?”, or how can we ignore so much?

In the aftermath of the commemorations for the Holocaust Memorial Day, it seems mandatory to start from this year’s slogan to reflect upon the responsibilities everyone holds in the face of humanitarian disasters.



**HOLOCAUST
MEMORIAL
DAY 27/1**

Holocaust Memorial Day logo and HMD 2017 theme images courtesy of www.hmd.org.uk



Names of Holocaust victims; Pinkas Synagogue; Prague
© By Øyvind Holmstad - CC BY-SA 3.0, <http://bit.ly/2mxjNr6>

By **Debora Barletta**, Projects Manager of Euro-Mernet

January the 27th is the day in which Auschwitz concentration camp was liberated in 1945, signing the end of the genocide orchestrated and executed by the Nazis during the Second World War.

Those targeted were mainly part of the Jewish community, but the list of victims included other groups and communities whose names must be mentioned as well.

Not only in order to remind everybody of the enormity of the atrocities perpetrated during those days, but also to pay the right tribute to everyone involved, and that should never be forgotten, let’s have a quick glimpse of the bigger picture:

Among the victims in fact, there were members of the Sinti and Roma community (whose extermination went known with the name Porrajmos), black people, disabled people, LGBT people, Jehovah’s witnesses, Freemasons, political opponents, trade unionist and even “asocials” (people not conforming to the Nazi ideal in general).

The best way to get a clearer idea about this massive tragedy is

certainly to refer to some sources, such as the official website of the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust (HMDT - www.hmd.org.uk), which is one of the most reliable and inclusive with a wealth of factual information and bibliographic links.

The HMDT is a registered charity since 2005 and sets an example worldwide as it made UK the first country to officially commemorate the Holocaust Memorial Day back in 2001, before it was even officially designated by the United Nations in the respective resolution A/RES/60/7, adopted by the General Assembly on November 1st 2005.

The HMDT website is extremely relevant as it includes also the other genocides that afflicted humanity, at least in recent history, such as the ones happened in Armenia, Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur, making a memorandum for us and all the generations to come and creating a more universal ground for awareness and solidarity in relation to such an overwhelming topic.

The 27th of January in fact, can and should represent a firm and

distinct occasion to reflect on genocide in general. It should constitute - together with different sources, witnesses, documents, etc.- the basic knowledge for all citizens, in order to avoid such abomination to occur, as the slogan “Never Again” righteously affirms.

These conclusions in fact seems by all means natural and logical: nobody would ever accept or legitimise the mass killings of millions of people.

Nevertheless as the great Hannah Arendt pointed out in her renowned report “Eichmann in Jerusalem” (1963), “The trouble with Eichmann was precisely that so many were like him, and that the many were neither perverted nor sadistic, that they were, and still are, terribly and terrifyingly normal.”

That’s why the expression banality of evil came out: those who committed such heinous and murderous actions were human, normal if we want to use this word, and it’s precisely for this reason that the scariest things about totalitarian regimes is their ability to normalise



HOW CAN LIFE GO ON? HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY 2017



Auschwitz-Birkenau Concentration Camp Complex © www.isurvived.org

First they came for the Communists
And I did not speak out
Because I was not a Communist
Then they came for the Socialists
And I did not speak out
Because I was not a Socialist
Then they came for the trade unionists
And I did not speak out
Because I was not a trade unionist
Then they came for the Jews
And I did not speak out
Because I was not a Jew
Then they came for me
And there was no one left
To speak out for me.

Pastor **Martin Niemöller** (1892-1984)



© By J.D. Noske / Anefo - Nationaal Archief,
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evil and injustice, acting on human nature at its core.

So are everybody doomed to fall in the trap of dictatorship, contributing to the spread of evil without even noticing it? It might happen if the main attitude toward reality would be of blind acceptance and resignation, but it can and has to be avoided.

This year's Holocaust Memorial Day theme line is "How life can go on", with a view to keep alive the criticism and awareness.

Getting informed on what is possible to do on Holocaust Memorial Day is vital. Supporting this year's theme will not only help all those people who are still affected by holocaust's consequences in finding a way to go on, but will also spread knowledge and precious information.

Spreading the knowledge and information will provide space for discussion on how to improve the awareness and building paths of prevention.

It will help to create the ground for a better society, in which there will be no distinction between Jewish children who sought refuge in the 1930's and the Syrian ones who are seeking refuge in the 2010's.

Failing to see and embrace what unites us in place of what divides us for centuries will inevitably bring to a dangerous path, leading to hatred and violence, showing once again how ignorance can make an assassin out of a normal man. □

Scope of this year's HMD theme:

Trauma and coming to terms with the past: The theme will ask audiences to consider how individuals and nations who have survived the horrors of genocide can begin to come to terms with the trauma and their past.

Displacement and refugees: Times of genocide are always times of acute social upheaval; tens of thousands, sometimes millions, of people are forced from or flee their homes. The question of how life can go on is bound up with where it goes on.

Justice: Some claim there is no such thing as justice after genocide. The theme will encourage thinking about what the concept of justice means and who gets to decide what form it takes.

Rebuilding communities: Genocide destroys and divides communities. The theme will challenge people

to think about how communities can rebuild when whole sections are missing or when survivors and perpetrators live side-by-side

Reconciliation and forgiveness: Is true reconciliation and forgiveness possible or even desirable? The theme will explore attitudes towards forgiveness.

Remembering: The theme asks the questions: Why is remembering important to helping life go on? How do we remember when there is nobody left to tell the story?

Facing hate - denial and trivialisation: Denial is the final stage of genocide. The theme will call on everybody to fight denial and ask the question of how life can go on after the Holocaust and genocide whilst denial and trivialisation exist.

Facing hate - today: Anti-Semitism and other forms of hate continue today. The theme will help people to consider individual, organisational, community and governmental responsibilities for protecting the rights of marginalised communities.

Teach us about living: Everyone will be asked the question: 'what can you do to help those who have survived genocide, as well as all those from persecuted groups ensure that life goes on?' □

Resource Centre: Love & care for communities. 40'ever.



Radio Euro-Mernet:
"Global voice of the local communities,
Local voice of the global communities"

During one of our weekly Radio Euro-Mernet shows we have had the pleasure to interview Rose Rickford. Rose works for the Resources Centre, an organization that has been saving the lives of many communities and groups for 40 years, providing a wide range of services and working together with other organizations.



Let's start with the story of how Resource Center work started.

We are a charity in Brighton that supports community and voluntary groups that are very small, that don't have a big budget.

The Resource Centre began in the 70s and the idea came out of a meeting of 45 community groups who got together and decided that it would be useful to have a place where they could share resources.

Is the Resource Center trying to make sure that its services still are highly affordable?

The whole point of the Resource Center is to make it affordable for small groups, so, if it is not affordable for small groups there is no point, so that is really the foundation of what we are doing.

This is the fortieth anniversary of the Resource Centre. Any planned activities for this?

We are going to have an exhibition about 40th years history which will be at the Jubilee Library next week from 16 to 22 January. It should be lovely to hear stories of people who can remember the Resource Centre back in the 1980s and 1990s.

Can you recollect any particular success story that is connected to

the Resource Centre, people who changed life thanks to your work?

One of the things that we are really proud of is the way that we can work with groups who do not have English as their first language. The Rahanweyn community is made up of people who come to Brighton and Hove 10/11 years ago. The members of the organization were all refugees who recently have been relocated to here from a refugee camps in Kenya.

We are very proud that they have used the Resource Centre a lot, during that process and we have been able to help the Rahanweyn community to do things like understand correspondences that they received, respond emails also get to grips with things like keeping accounts, setting up a bank account, write a constitution in the first place.

You had faced different challenges - such as funding. Any particular concerns at present?

We do relying on funding from Brighton and Hove City Council; we've been very fortunate to have received what we needed for many years and we're working hard to hopefully receive funding again. We are at the moment one of the

mayor's 27th charity this year which has been a good opportunity for us to work with some of the other charities and there's going to be some fund raising events. It is very important to us that people can use this even if they can't afford to pay that's why we keep the equipment hire costs low enough that people and groups can afford to use them.

How can people support you?

We always appreciate donations, but it's also good if people know about us and meet us and find out what we can do for you in your community. So please publicize the Resource Centre.

Did austerity measures and the cuts in charitable funding affect your workload?

Small groups are working to try to fill the gaps that are being left by cuts to other services and sometimes their needs are very urgent. We hope that we are being a welcoming and pleasant place to be. Our aim is to provide some of the resources that people might not have and continue to make community organizing possible.

Resource Centre is open to the public Tuesday to Friday 9 am till 4 pm and you can pop in any time during this times. You can also call us: 01273 606160. Or you can leave us a message and we call back if we're not there; you can also email us: info@resourcecentre.org.uk.

Finally you can find many answers on our website. □



This Month in History

February 2, 1882: The Irish novelist James Joyce, was born in Dublin.

February 4, 1945: Churchill, Roosevelt and Stalin met at Yalta Conference

February 4, 1985: 20 UN member states signed "Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment."

February 7, 1478: Lawyer, scholar, author of "Utopia", Thomas More was born in London, England.

February 7, 1812: British novelist Charles Dickens was born in Portsmouth, England.

February 10, 1837: The Russian poet and novelist, Alexander Pushkin, was killed in a duel in St Petersburg.

February 11, 1990: Nelson Mandela, the leader of the movement to end South African apartheid was released from prison after 27 years.

February 11, 2011: In Egypt, President Hosni Mubarak resigned amid a massive protest calling for his removal.

February 12, 1809: Author and naturalist Charles Darwin was born in Shrewsbury, England.

February 13, 1991: Hundreds of Iraqi civilians were killed in Baghdad by American bombers.

February 14, 1974: The Russian writer, Alexander Solzhenitsyn was charged with treason.

February 14, 2005: The Lebanese Prime Minister, Rafik Hariri, was assassinated by massive car bomb in Beirut.

February 15, 1564: Astronomer and physicist Galileo Galilei was born in Pisa, Italy.

February 15, 1818: Chile formally proclaimed its independence from Spain.

February 16, 1959: Fidel Castro was declared as the new leader of Cuba.

February 17, 1473: Astronomer Nicolaus Copernicus was born in Torun, Poland.

February 17, 1600: The Italian philosopher Giordano Bruno, was burned at the stake for heresy by the Inquisition.

February 21, 1965: Outspoken black leader, Malcolm X, was assassinated in New York, USA.

February 27, 1991: "Desert Storm" ended as Allied troops entered Kuwait against Saddam Hussein's Iraqi forces.

February 28, 1986: Swedish Prime Minister Olof Palme was assassinated in Stockholm while exiting a movie theatre with his wife.

Compiled by: **Luminita Baciu**

Obituary

Prof Nigel Rodley



Photo courtesy of Foreign Office (FCO) - The Torture Reporting Handbook, CC BY 2.0, <http://bit.ly/2IPMOOM>

Professor Nigel Rodley, dubbed by some as the "founding father" of the contemporary human rights movement, has untimely passed away on 25th January 2017, at the age of 75.

At the time of his death, Prof Rodley was the head of the Human Rights Centre at the University of Essex. The Centre, co-founded by him, is highly regarded for its academic work on human rights law and for stronger legal instruments to protect human rights.

Prof Rodley has demonstrated himself as a tireless, prolific human rights worker and an inspirational scholar, wearing many human rights hats: He was the legal adviser of Amnesty International from 1973 to 1990 and he visited many countries to investigate human rights violations on the ground. He also worked on behalf of UN Commission on Human Rights from 1993 to 2001 as their Special Rapporteur on Torture. He was a Member of the UN Human Rights Committee, established under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which he chaired in 2013 and 2014

Like one of Euro-Mernet's untimely passed patrons, Prof Kevin Boyle, who had worked closely with Prof Rodley, Human Rights Centre at the University of Essex has lost yet another beacon. □ **Ümit Öztürk**

Obituary

Dritëro Agolli

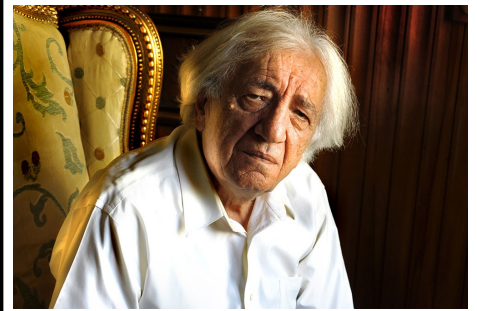


Photo courtesy of Endrit Mertiri via <http://bit.ly/2jMCKn1>

Dritëro Agolli, the doyen of Albanian literature, has passed away on 03rd February 2017, at the age of 85.

Agolli initially started with poetry and produced popular lyric poems, but he had also published two novels, *Komisari Memo* (*Commissar Memo*, English translation: *The Bronze Bust*) and *Njeru Me Top* (*The Man with the Cannon*). For many years, he also chaired the Albanian League of Writers and Artists.

Agolli returned to poetry and amassed very powerful books until the turn of the new millennium.

Although his two novels had highlights of partisan heroism, his persistent inclusion of the very human emotions and human questioning in his novels, contrary to the blanket agit-prop style of the time, provided him distinction from his contemporaries across the Balkans.

Most of Agolli's later works visibly offers his enjoyable versatile style, from being plainly funny to epic and satirical, merrily swinging in between an undiluted romantic soul to an incisive mind with a Gogol'esque style eye-opener.

Agolli has not been as widely translated into English as other renowned Albanian authors like Ismail Kadare. Therefore his treasure of works, especially his collections of poetry, are there awaiting discovery.

Entela Kasi, another great Albanian poet and the current president of the Albanian chapter of the international writers' union PEN, pays her tribute: "Agolli is one of the best writers of modern Albanian literature, and he is of those rare intellectuals whose personality and dignity remains as the light which all societies do still need." □ **Ümit Öztürk**

What's on, where, and when...

BRIGHTON AND HOVE

Carnival Collective Benefit Gig

On Saturday 25 February, Carnival Collective organises a fund-raising event for the Brighthelm Community Grants Fund, to help groups of all kinds to access the use of the centre's resources. Thumping Brazilian drums, fat horns and groovy bass-lines will fill the Brighthelm Auditorium with sounds ranging from reggae and jungle to cumbia and swing! Tickets £6 each.

25 February, 19:30, Brighthelm URC and Community Centre, North Road, Brighton, BN1 1YD <http://www.wegottickets.com/event/389066>

Brighton Digital Festival – Sonic Market Launch Party

On 2 March The Open Market will see the launch of Sonic Market, a permanent digital artwork by media arts organisation Meyouandus. The installation was co-commissioned with Brighton and Hove Council and has been in development since Brighton Digital Festival 2016. Free event.

2 March, 18:00 – 19:00 Brighton Open Market 1 Marshalls Row Brighton BN1 4JU <http://bit.ly/2mxRPM3>

Fairtrade under Fire

Zaytoun in partnership with Think Global organises a talk about fair trade in Palestine in the face economic and cultural restrictions imposed by the Israeli occupation. Speakers will be: Basema Barahmeh, Fairtrade Palestinian olive farmer and co-ordinator of the women's cooperative in the village of Anza; Lamis Zamzam, Canaan Fair Trade marketing assistant; Veena Nabar, cooperatives expert. Free entry.

2 March, 18:30 – 21:00, Brighthelm URC and Community Centre, North Road, Brighton, BN1 1YD

<http://www.bhft.org.uk/events/fairtrade-under-fire/>

Vitality Brighton Half Marathon

2017 will see the 2th edition of Vitality Brighton Half Marathon, one of the most popular races in the UK and the biggest annual fundraising event for The Sussex Beacon, supporting a specialist HIV care centre in Brighton. The start and finish of the race are on Madeira Drive next to the Steve Ovett statue

and international acclaimed DJ Fat Boy Slim will be the official starter! Race begins at 9am, but all runners are advised to be in start pens for 8:30 am

26 February, from 7:00, Madeira Drive, Brighton BN2

<http://www.brightonhalfmarathon.com/>

ACROSS THE UK

UWE Africa Week Launch Event

As every year, University of West England will dedicate an entire week, from 27 to 31 March, to celebrate African culture. To mark the launch of UWE Africa Week 2017, Spike Island Café will host an event in collaboration with Ujima Radio featuring an exhibition from artist Lubaina Himid as well as performances from top Bristol artists and UWE Bristol students and African-inspired cuisine. The event is free, but booking is advised

23 March, 18:00 – 21:00, Spike Island 133 Cumberland Road Bristol BS1 6UX <http://bit.ly/2IsAP8G>

ACROSS THE REGION

Jerez International Flamenco Festival

Once a year, The Jerez International Flamenco Festival attracts the very best Flamenco artists from around the world offering a series of concerts, workshops, master classes or simply impromptu performances to celebrate this world-wide famous style of Spanish folk dance. The festival is open to experience dancers as well as beginners. Ticket price varies for each event.

From 24 February to 11 March, Villamarta Theatre Plaza Romero Martínez, s/n 11402. Jerez de la Frontera, Cadiz, Andalusia, Spain

Official website (Spanish only): <http://www.jerez.es/index.php?id=festival-jerez>

Tickets: <http://tickentradas.com/fest/festival-de-jerez-2017>

Support our work: Donate, subscribe, volunteer...

BECOME A EURO-MERNET VOLUNTEER – Euro-Mernet is entirely run by volunteers. We always welcome volunteers/interns to maintain the highest possible quality of work. We have a variety of volunteering roles. Contact: volunteering@euromernet.org

DONATE – Contact: donate@euromernet.org

Euro-Mernet does not have its own revenue generating funds or investments. The sustainability and strength of our work relies on the continuity of our success in fundraising, including individual donations. No donation is too small. Thank you for your generosity.

WAYS OF DONATING

- Send your donation by cheque to our office address: Euro-Mernet, Community Base, 113 Queens Road, Brighton, BN1 3XG.
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