

Report of the Annual General Meeting, 2015

Our AGM was held on 15th November 2015 at Lafkos.

Summary of the previous year's activities:

- Clearing and opening of the paths Niaou – Neohori, Neohori – Milies, Milies – Xourihti – Mylopotamos.
- Complete redesign of the webpage; particular reference was made and thanks given to Mandi Mathews for this and for all the work she does.
- Annual dance at Promyri and thanks to Jan Beugelaar for organizing this successful event.
- Ongoing preparation of an information board for Argalasti (and Horto) by Liz Avramides similar to that prepared by Chris Wicks for Platanias. An invitation was made to other members to take a similar initiative for other villages such as Pao, Milina, Lafkos, Trikeri, Afetes, Milies etc. For Neohori, we were informed that Philippe Benz has already undertaken the preparation of an equivalent board.
- The accounts for the previous year were presented by the treasurer, Liz Avramides, giving details of our expenditure and income over the past year. Our total income, mainly from the subscriptions of our members, was 3792.02 euro while our total expenditure was 3515.45 euro. Our balance of funds is 4877.12 euro.
- The meeting was informed of the destruction of the stone bridge on the Argalasti – Kalamos route (Amoursas) by an agricultural vehicle that tried to cross. A member of the society has taken the initiative to inform the Administrative Council of the Argalasti local authorities. A discussion followed. The committee will send a letter on the matter to the local council on behalf of the society.
- The names of a few members who owe subscriptions for 4 or more years were read out. The majority were recognized by people attending the meeting, who will assist in contacting them, but it was agreed by the AGM that 5 will have their names taken off the active members' list.
- A discussion followed with members' comments and questions to members of the Administrative Council.
- A speech of thanks was made by Thanasis Fleris who explained as in previous years how difficult it is for the local council to protect the kalderimi and to intervene in cases of its destruction or blocking by residents of the area, and he expressed his hope that we will continue our important contribution.
- Questions were asked and explanations given about the LEADER programs currently running in other areas. The cost of the programs was given in detail.
- Questions and discussion on how the kalderimi and footpath network could be declared as protected and then be placed under official protection. The representative of the local council explained that in situations where the kalderimi joins two villages or settlements, then the council is legally responsible. However, if the path is between other areas, agricultural land, fields etc, then it is the responsibility of the state.
- It was requested that the Administrative Council inform members when it will meet so that they can attend if they wish and that the minutes of the meetings be sent out by email or put on our webpage (not facebook) so that as many people as possible can be informed of the society's activities.
- Plans for the coming period for clearing work were announced and it was agreed that the budget for the following year would fund this, the opening of closed paths, signing and other work as the need arises to fulfill the aims of the society. The new routes to be cleared for 2015-2016 are Argalasti – Xynovrisi – Potistika and Byzitsa – Pinakates.
- An offer was made by a member to donate metal frames for benches. If wood for these can be found, they can be placed at chosen spots along the paths for the use of walkers.

We thank all those who took part in the meeting and send our wishes for a productive year.

