

T.VINE

Issue 12, 2019

Free

UK's first & only English language publication about the world of Turks

Yonja Ali

INSIGHTS INTO THE LIFE OF A PSYCHIC MEDIUM

**The Godfathers of
Anadolu
Rock**

**Zeki
Kuneralp
Boris Johnson's
amazing uncle**

**Best of
this year's
New Year
Parties**

**The
mystic
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Hello Selam!



The polarising effect of the 2016 Brexit referendum on British society resurfaced during the UK General Election. Much was at stake, and emotions got the better of too many people. Prime Minister Boris Johnson has said, "let the healing begin." He'd do well to give our cover star, psychic medium Yonja Ali a call: her healing powers are legendary, as you will read!

In this issue, we delve into the fascinating world of Anadolu Rock, retracing the history of this 50-year old genre whose popularity now extends globally; and how the chance discovery of a photo from 1964 became a trip down memory lane for Boris, revealing the unexpected tale of his uncle, Ambassador Zeki Kuneralp, and his defence of Turkish Cypriots following the outbreak of the Cyprus Conflict.

Into the present day, Yasemen Kaner-White takes us on a whirlwind tour of the mystical city of Konya, while our interview with Erkin Guney exposes the near-extortionate costs of UK burials versus those abroad. We also have some great tips for those seeking childcare, and we welcome author and psychotherapist Dr D.U. Sivri to our editorial team as our new 'Agony Uncle'.

Along with wishing our readers good health and happiness during this festive season, I also hope 2020 brings out the activist in us all. Whatever we care about – homelessness, the environment, or human rights – we will only see the change we want by speaking up about the key issues and then taking action.

Sevgiler,

Ipek Ozerim



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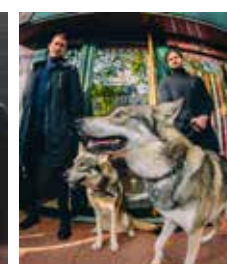
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Remembrance
Sunday, TRNC News



The wolf in
Knightsbridge



Happy Christmas,
WWW.Turks



Barış Manço:
Anadolu Godfather

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Dear T-VINE

Re: Which political party should British Turks be backing? (10 Dec. 2019)

As a life-long Labour supporter I have never felt so alienated from the party as now – and I am not alone. As someone of Turkish origin, I want to have confidence that the party I vote for will recognise and respect my heritage and ethnic homeland of Turkey. Yet my party of choice, Labour, displays open hostility to Turkey at every given opportunity.

It was good to see this highlighted in T-VINE's excellent analysis of the three parties and their leaders. As the author notes: "Jeremy Corbyn's positions on the PKK, Turkish forces in Cyprus and overt Greek Cypriot sympathies leave him as the least Turkish and Turkish Cypriot-friendly leader."

Sadly Turks are not alone in experiencing a bashing from the UK's political Left. For the past few years, we have all borne witness to British Jews raising their concerns about the language used when criticising Israel. It has evolved into the demonization of the entire country. The party failed to address these legitimate complaints, allowing the situation to morph into something far more sinister, and still Mr Corbyn has yet to act with any degree of earnestness against this vicious racism that has taken root in his party.

We know exactly how British Jews feel: Corbyn's Labour is anti-Turkish too! It's vital British Turks push back on this state of affairs, so that we can collectively check the bias before it becomes an entrenched part of the Labour Party.

*Mrs Servet Hassan (see full letter online)
Former Vice-President of the Federation of Turkish Associations in the UK*

Financial problems force AtlasGlobal to suspend all flights (27 Nov. 2019)

That's because most people are flying out from Larnaca Airport. Such a shame this had to happen.

Serap Gench via Facebook

Poor passengers. No thought given to them by this disgraceful airline.

Mumune Kok via Facebook

We welcome all comments, including setting the record straight where we've made errors. Send your letter, including your full name, address, & daytime telephone number by post or email us at letters@t-vine.com or leave a comment on our Facebook page. Alternatively, tweet us @1tvine.

We Remember

Turkey adopts European time & calendar,
26 December 1925

The founders of the Republic of Turkey took steps to make people's lives easier and to modernise the country in line with Western standards. One of the measures was to adopt European time and calendar.

There were a few different systems used to decide the time in the Ottoman Empire: under the Alaturka system, sunset marked 12:00, but these timings varied under the Ezani and Grubi systems. Another time system called Zevali set 12:00 noon at the point when the sun was highest in the sky. As such, there was no national standard in the country. The December 1925 'Law of the Division of the Day' introduced a 24-hour clock, which started the day at midnight. Each new day was reset at 00:00 24 hours later.

Alongside changing its time system, a new law also paved the way for Turkey to use the Gregorian Calendar as its official calendar. Previously, Islamic calendars were used in the Empire, which took their cue from the lunar-



-based Hicre, which marked the migration of the prophet Muhammed from Mecca to Medina. The solar-orientated Rumi calendar was also popular. The Gregorian calendar came into use in Turkey on 1 January 1926.

First 17 women elected
to Turkish Parliament,
8 February 1935



A year after they were given the right to vote and stand for office, 17 Turkish women were elected to the Grand National Assembly of Turkey (TBMM) on 8 February 1935. A by-election in 1936 saw their number increase to 18 and they constituted 4.6% of the Parliament: the second biggest proportion of female MPs in the world.

This ground-breaking move meant Turkey leapfrogged many nations at the time, which had yet to grant voting rights to women, among them France and Switzerland. In later years, however, Turkey lagged behind. In the 2018 General Election, 103 women were returned to the 600-seat Parliament - equivalent to 17.2%, ranking them 119th globally.

Also of note among these 17 pioneering women is their diversity of geography, occupation and education. They included: Mebrure Gönenç (Afyon), teacher; Hatı Çırpan (Ankara), farmer, also one of the first female village heads in Turkey; Türkan Örs Baştuğ (Antalya), teacher; Sabiha Gökçül Erbay (Balıkesir), teacher; Şekibe İnşel (Bursa), farmer; Hatice Özgener (Çankırı), educator; Huriye Öñiz Baha (Diyarbakır), teacher & author; Fatma Memik (Edirne), doctor; Nakiye Elgün (Erzurum), teacher, also the first female councillor for Istanbul City Council; Benal Nevzat Iştar Arıman (İzmir), poet & writer, philanthropist; Ferruh Güpgüp (Kayseri), tailor; Meliha Ulaş (Samsun), teacher; and Seniha Hızal (Trabzon), inspector.

Albums

1. Kimler Geldi Kimler Geçti
Vol. 1 (Fikret Şeneş Şarkıları)
2. Budala Aurası
Ahmet Aslan
3. Karsu
Karsu
4. Daha Bi' Aşık
Ayla Çelik
5. Devran
Merve Özbey



Books

1. Erdogan Rising: The Battle for the Soul of Turkey
Hannah Lucinda Smith
2. The Turkish Cookbook
Musa Dağdeviren
3. Nicosia Beyond Barriers: Voices from a Divided City
Edited by Alev Adil, Aydin Mehmet Ali, Bahriye Kemal, Maria Petrides
4. MeM Tekari
The Fairy Tale of Peckham Rye Park
5. The Runaway Snowman
Bilgin Anadolu



Movies

1. 7.Koğuştaki Mucize
2. Bombshell
3. Karakomik Filmler
4. Cinayet Süsü
5. Jumanji: The Next Level



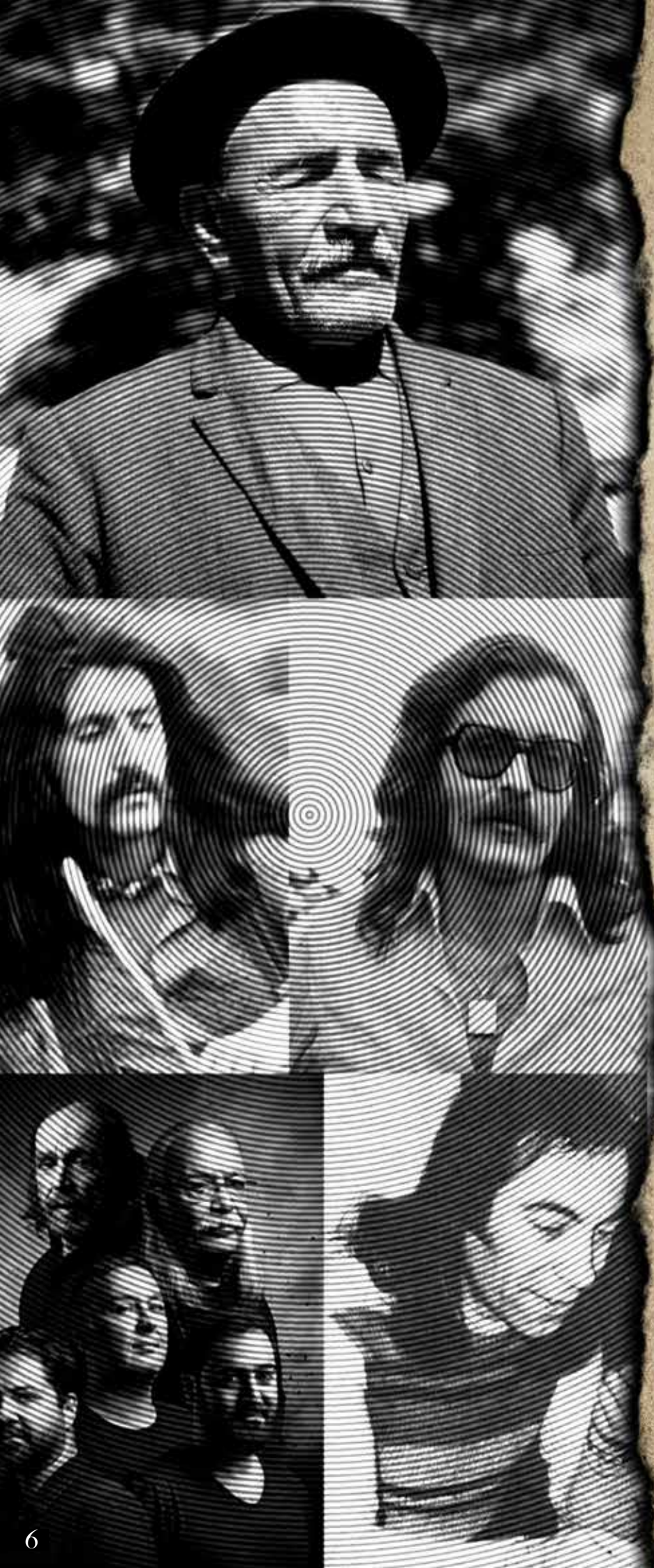
JAZZ CAFE

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The Godfathers of Turkish Psychedelic Rock

By Barış Mumcu

Photos clockwise, from top: Aşık Veysel, Cem Karaca, Erkin Koray, Moğollar, & Barış Manço

ROOTS

The effects of the French Revolution in 1789 reached the Ottoman Empire nearly fifty years later. Starting from 1839 until 1876, during the regression period of Ottoman Empire, a set of reforms were implemented to modernise, centralise and improve the legal, economic, social and political structure of the government, which was called the Tanzimat Period.

These reforms, influenced heavily by Western-educated Sultans, helped reconcile Eastern and Western culture and also affected the cultural activities, which were mainly under the control of Ottoman intellectuals. The Ottomans started to put their own national stamp on the arts. For example, Giuseppe Donizetti Pasha was leading Daru'l-Elhan (House of Melodies / Istanbul University State Conservatory today) and played a significant role in introducing European music to Ottomans, inspiring them to compose their own hybrid of classical music.

The Tanzimat reforms were the underlying force behind the establishment of the Republic of Turkey in 1923, under the leadership of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk. Turkish Folk music, for example, became more prominent



through education and improving the technical skills of musicians, who were sent to Europe for education on a state scholarship and returned to the country as researchers, academics, and music teachers.

Community centres also played a big role in improving the Anatolian people's cultural appreciation. A new modernised, polyphonic approach was adopted to preserve the roots and



nature of the music, which finally became known as the "Anatolian sound". Folk songs that were initially verbally composed and performed by Anatolian troubadours (*aşık*) in rural areas were notated and documented.

As contemporary Western music such as Jazz, Rock'n'Roll and Pop, took hold in mid 20th century Turkey, as in the rest of the world, the country's biggest hits were all unique local works fostered by Anatolian culture.

Aşık Veysel (Şatıroğlu), who was born in Sivas and lived between 1894 and 1973, was probably the most famous *aşık* in the country. He was a poet, songwriter and saz (bağlama) virtuoso. He was blind for most of his lifetime and his tunes were usually sad, and the lyrics were based on love, life, death, moral values and beliefs.

Another famous Folk musician was Aşık Mahzuni Şerif, who brought strong intellectual and social elements into Turkish folk music. He passed away in 2002. Ruhi Su and Neşet Ertaş were also among the Folk artists that influenced Anatolian Pop musicians over many generations.

BIRTH & WINTER SLEEP - PHASE I

The term "Turkish Psychedelic" was invented by European music critics. The music was originally called 'Anatolian Pop' and later Anatolian Rock. During the late 60s, the hippie culture was dominating the music industry in America and Europe and the 'Psychedelic' genre was for bands such as Jefferson Airplane, 13th Floor Elevators, Iron Butterfly; most of the musicians were using LSD, inspiring the genre name, although this was not the case for the Turkish scene at the time.

It all started with the Altın Mikrofon

(Golden Microphone) song contest that Turkish daily Hürriyet held in 1965. It aimed to promote popular original music with Turkish lyrics, instead of new artists merely doing covers of Western hits.

The contest, which ran between 1965 and 1968 and again in 1972, launched a new era and was a springboard for many Anatolian Pop/Rock musicians such as Cem Karaca, Erkin Koray, Selçuk Alagöz and bands like Moğollar, Mavi Işıklar, Silüetler. Edip Akbayram won the last Altın Mikrofon.

The influence of Aşık culture on Anatolian Pop cannot be overstated. Many songs were inspired by Folk songs, with the new era artists visiting these Aşıks, so they could learn how to play the saz. The link could be observed in many artists' songs and lyrics including Fikret Kızılok.

Moğollar were a hit in France: they signed a contract with CBS, released several singles and won a music award. Barış Manço found fame with a band called Les Mistigris in Belgium. Welcomed with open arms for their overseas success when they returned to Turkey, these artists toured towns and cities across Turkey. However, their long-haired appearance and Western-influenced sounds drew criticism from conservative circles, who accused them of being 'anarchists' and 'atheists'; yet it did not deter ordinary people from loving them.

The musical history of Turkey from 1965 until the coup in September 1980 is legendary and worthy of an entire book.

For young Turks especially, popular music became synonymous with leftist thinking and protests for greater equality, freedom,





Pentagram, then and now

“ Early heavy metal bands such as Pentagram turned their faces towards their own country, discovering rich layers of Anatolian music ripe for picking. ”

and workers' rights. This was the era of the 68 Movement. Interestingly, many famous musicians were from highly intellectual Istanbul families with artistic backgrounds, with several attending the city's prestigious French schools as children. The bands' fans were ordinary middle and working class Anatolian people, who were politically conscious and attracted to their lyrics and modern western sound.

THE RESURRECTION - PHASE II

A deep silence followed the coup d'état, and it took over a decade for freedom-screaming Turkish rock music to resurface. On the fringes, a punk, heavy metal and hard rock music scene emerged, but it was like a drop in the ocean given the huge popularity of Arabesque in the country during 80s.

All the quality music of the 70s was seemingly forgotten, like a quick format to a hard drive, but could not be completely erased. Yet it was such a devastating memory loss that a new generation of rockers started discussing 'if rock music could be composed with Turkish lyrics or not' in the late 80s and early 90s, ignoring the massive history lying in the past.

During the dark ages of the military-controlled 1980s, many artists had to flee abroad, while others were imprisoned. With no chance of surviving in the music business, some abandoned their careers for other jobs or remained recording artists without touching political ground. Towards the

end of the decade, some artists started performing live in small local concerts. But they were ignored by government-controlled mass media, ensuring their profile and voices were weak.

Cem Karaca had to stay in Germany for a long time and could not see his son grow up. He made albums in German and performed in the country. In one interview, he said he was 'crying while looking towards the shores of western Turkey from Greek Islands'. When he braved a trip to Turkey and kissed the Prime Minister's hand to show his respect, Karaca was heavily criticised by his early fans, but the star was then allowed to return permanently by the Turkish authorities.

In the spring of 1993, Moğollar made a welcome comeback with a huge concert in Istanbul after a magazine campaign urged their return. The following year, they released an album comprising new and old songs. One of the new tracks was dedicated to the artists killed in Sivas Massacre of July 1993. The lyrics of the album's other songs also reflected the band's political and environmentally-conscious stance.

THE RISE - PHASE III

Until the invention of publicly-available digital music, it was not easy to find or buy old cassettes or records. Vinyl factories had already shut down, and there was no great demand to buy old stuff to encourage a repressing.

Artists like Barış Manço, Erkin Koray and

Cem Karaca and bands like Moğollar continued producing new albums, but the sound and content was markedly different to their recordings of the 70s. The analogue sound was replaced by keyboard-fuelled tunes, enhanced by electronic gadgets. Koray had ventured into Arabesque culture, while Manço was composing songs for children and producing travel programmes for TRT.

The CD revolution lent itself well to a new wave of Turkish Pop and Rock music, driven by a new generation of artists. Early heavy metal bands such as Pentagram (Mezarkabul) turned their faces towards their own country, discovering rich layers of Anatolian music ripe for picking. Their 1997 album *Anatolia* included authentic Turkish instruments and Turkish lyrics, going against their own early albums and the popular convention of Turkish bands singing in English.

After the advent of the internet, bands and the public had access to a vast archive of music newly digitized, which was shared on unregulated online platforms and downloaded freely. File-sharing applications became popular and this communal culture created awareness among a new generation of a musical treasure that had lain hidden for decades.

Although many international artists were furious about the illegal, free sharing of their music, that was costing them money, it sparked a rebirth of Anatolian Pop & Rock music.

Writers who had witnessed the era first time around, or had access to the artists, started to scribble articles and write books. With a resurgence in their popularity, fans old and new encouraged these iconic artists to produce new music.

EXPANSION - PHASE IV

As US-based Turks Ahmet Ertegun,

Arif Mardin and İlhan Mimaroğlu received international acclaim for their contributions to music, their influence was felt in Turkey too.

More foreign artists gave concerts in Turkey and this, coupled with the internet, meant the young generation enjoyed a boom in diverse music from around the world.

A 'third eye' helped Turkish musicians understand that to succeed abroad they needed to produce original material that drew on the unique sounds and culture of their homeland as much as contemporary music and technology. It was not dissimilar to the journey of their fathers' generation in the late 60s & 70s, where Turkish instruments and the folk songs of



BaBa ZuLa live at Jazz Cafe, Nov. 2019 © Barış Mumcu

Aşiks were recorded with Western arrangements.

In 2008, the movie Issız Adam (Lonely Man) by Çağan Irmak helped popularise record players. People flocked to flea markets and second hand stores hoping to buy records and a player, creating a resurgence of Turkish vinyl-hunting. Suddenly, not only Anatolian Rock, but Turkish music genres from classical to pop from the 70s and 80s became collectors' items, with popularity driven by DJs, radio airplay and online playlists giving greater exposure to the sounds and artists of Anatolia.

The music of Turkish Folk Rock stars became heavily sampled in the West. Selda Bağcan in particular saw her song İnce İnce sampled by Mos Def and Dr Dre among many others. Gaslamp Killer sampled Özdemir Erdoğan's Gurbet (1972) on Nissim, while Erkin Koray's Hayat Bir Teselli (1976) ended up on Klowds by GonjaSufi.

Leftfield underground Turkish bands such as BaBa ZuLa formed in the late 90s, producing soundtracks for films, performing in local clubs, and touring abroad. They became Turkey's modern troubadours. Although influenced by the Anatolian heartland, their music was more progressive. The Replikas also paid homage to 70s Anatolian Rock, while carving out their own sound.

Talented new artists such as Gaye Su Akyol has gained international prominence, performing in major festivals. Turkish contemporary DJs such as Baris K, Kabus Kerim, Hey! Douglas, Kozmonotosman, Oceanvs Orientalis – pioneers of the Disco-Folk sound – are also fusing the melodies and songs of Anatolia in their electronic sets. Dutch-Turkish combo Altın Gün have excited crowds across Europe with their hybrid sound.

Before all of these came saxophonist

“ Suddenly, Anatolian Rock from the 70s & 80s became collectors' items, with popularity driven by DJs, radio airplay & online playlists giving greater exposure to the sounds & artists of Anatolia. ”

İlhan Erşahin, of Wax Poetic and Nublu jazz club fame; his fluid Istanbul-inspired recordings had the instant cool factor. Mercan Dede (Arkin Allen) was also an important forerunner, with his electronic Sufi jams spawning many imitators.

The recent political and economic challenges across Turkey has also contributed to the rise of the country's alternative music scene; an essential escape hatch from the grey clouds and depression hanging over young people. It came amid a backdrop of protests, and a host of concerts and cultural events cancelled due to terror attacks and even politics, at the whim of the Turkish authorities.

Those who could, who understood foreign languages, including artists, moved towards the West where art is an integral part of society. Many educated people and artists uprooted themselves

from Turkey and migrated to Europe due to rising unemployment, a lack of freedom of thought and speech, and economic instability. With them travelled the sounds and archives of Turkish music.

Around 2009, during a visit to London, I was hunting for vinyl records in Soho when I heard a famous song by Erkin Koray. I approached the guy at the counter, asked him if he had that record. He said a Turkish friend had prepared him a mix CD, and he was also looking for the original record. It was great to hear that, though I was sad Koray's LP was unavailable. A decade on, the British capital is awash with Turkish tunes in many unexpected places.

The term Turkish or Istanbul “Psychedelic” has stuck internationally, defining the music of an era that has its roots in the Turkey of the 1960s and carries through to the present day. It is a blend of psychedelic, progressive, jazz, rock, electronica and Turkish folk with syncopated rhythms. It is stamped by the dedicated souls who forged a new musical path under tough circumstances in the country, and left us a huge legacy.

Today, record companies like Pharaway Records or Finders Keepers in Europe are releasing these Anatolian Pop and Rock stars' records. New Turkish record labels and old ones, which are the remnants of Unkapanı (the former music district of Istanbul), are also re-releasing classic albums.

For many Turkish Anadolu Rock fans like myself, this is no passing fad; it is a fully-fledged passion, being shared and enjoyed by music lovers the world over. Popular artists from the 70s who are still alive are making new recordings and collaborating with other musicians, their status as icons and fathers of the genre fully established. The market is alive again, and there's still a lot to discover and tell.

The Best Turkish New Year's Eve Parties

If you are after a Turkish-flavoured party to enjoy the last night of this decade, and greet in a new one, read on!

There are several options for London Turks. The biggest is a New Year's Eve Ball at the Prince and Princess Banqueting Suite in Edmonton. Catering for in excess of 500 guests, the night will include an array of Turkish flavours, from Pop to Arabesque, courtesy of headliner Ali Babutsa, Kral Eray, Semra İleten, talented young saz player Hüseyin Erdinç, and everybody's favourite entertainer Kader Ateş. Prices range from £55-£65 per person and include a fixed-menu meal. Call 07738 410 870 to make a reservation.

Located on Great Portland Street in Central London, Kibele is also hosting Turkish

night. With a more exclusive feel, this £100 per head evening includes a set menu of champagne, hot and cold mezés, mix grill, and baklava with ice cream. Artists on the night include Buğra, Tanju, Taçkın, with dance shows in between, including by the world famous belly dancer Özgen. A DJ will take the party into the early hours. Reservations via 020 7436 0600.

Over in South London, Rox (formerly Rixos) Restaurant in Eltham will have live music, a DJ, belly dancers, and a tasty three course meal for NYE diners. The night runs from 9pm to 1am and is £60 per person. Reserve your place via 020 8850 0634.

Probably the coolest Turkish party will be by Bey Events at a hidden address

in Finsbury Park. From Bromley to Shoreditch, the promoters have been organising brilliant pop-up parties all over the capital this year and know how to make a party kick. Tickets to their NYE bash are £20. Contact them online: facebook.com/BEYEVENTSLONDON.

If you're looking to enjoy the start of 2020 in warmer climes, look no further than the plush Elexus Hotel in Girne, North Cyprus, where the biggest Turkish pop star on the planet, Tarkan, will be performing.

The hotel is offering a range of packages combining stay plus NYE entertainment, as well as tickets for those who simply want to attend the concert. Details and reservation online: elexushotel.com.tr



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Gaye Su Akyol © Aylin Güngör

PREVIEWS

Food

February 2020

The Yunus Emre Institute's *A Pinch of Anatolia* proved an instant hit in October. Starring distinguished Turkish chef Ömür Akkor and master bread baker Şevki Dilmaç, this multi-faceted project included a lecture and supper clubs with rich tasting menus at leading Turkish restaurants in London. The Institute will be presenting a new edition of *A Pinch of Anatolia* in February

The inaugural event featured Ömür Akkor, who doubles up as a Turkish cuisine history researcher. He gave a talk titled "The Oldest cuisine in the World: Food Stories from Anatolia" at Kings College University of London. It was attended by over 350 people, who heard how food culture transitioned from the Hittites to the present. Akkor also shared snippets of these fascinating stories covering the Hittite, Seljuk and Ottoman periods, along with their unique dishes, at two supper clubs.

Amongst the dishes prepared by Akkor for tasting were Keşkek, which is understood to be the world's first dish. Bread was made from siyez flour, olive oil and honey, which was considered by Hittites to be the 'food of the Gods'. Also on the tasting menu was

A PINCH OF ANATOLIA: stories about the world's oldest cuisine



a different Hittite dish, Hapena, starter Ali Nazik, humus and Firik Rice, and lastly a 500-year-old dessert called Mud Heaven, and Helva-i Hakani, a second dessert, which were regularly served in the Edirne Palace during the Ottoman Empire.

This gastronomic heaven not only allowed guests to sample delicious flavours dating back hundreds of years, but also to learn about the traditional ingredients and preparation techniques that were used.

The Yunus Emre Institute will be delivering

the second instalment of this exciting project in February, when a new (yet to be confirmed) expert speaker and chef will shed light on other aspects of Anatolia's amazing and often hidden gourmet treasures.

The events are open to everyone. Guests in October included UK based chefs, food bloggers, and editors of British newspapers. Look out for details on the YEI website yeelondon.org.uk and book your tickets fast, as they are guaranteed to sell out!

Music



Fazıl Say in recital
Barbican Hall, 02 March 2020

With his extraordinary pianistic talents, Say has been touching the emotions of audiences and critics alike for more than 25 years. The award-winning musician and composer is famed for his improvisations and intense, epic reworkings of notable pieces such as Beethoven's Piano Concerto No 3, or a Turkish take on a Western classic in Fazıl Say Violin concerto 1001 Nights in the Harem (2009). His approach can surprise traditionalists, but his concerts are always original and highly memorable. barbican.org.uk

Museum



Inspired by the East: How the Islamic World influenced Western Art
British Museum, on until 26 Jan. 2020

Charting the fascinating history of cultural and artistic interactions between East and West from the 15th century onwards, this exhibition explores the impact of the Islamic world on Western heritage. A diverse selection of objects globally sourced includes a portrait of Sultan Bayezid and depictions of Ottoman dress by European artists, helping to highlight the incredible influence of the East in art, fashion, jewellery and more. britishmuseum.org

Theatre



The Importance of Being Earnest
Tower Theatre, N16, 06 Jan. 2019

Pan Productions returns with a re-run of its powerful, contemporary interpretation of a British classic, performed by immigrants. The play by Aylin Bozok brings together diverse people to explore the unspoken rules of English society which confront foreigners daily, as they try to fit in, from their accents to their upbringing and different cultural expectations. It offers a vivid portrayal of identity politics that plague all immigrants, as it asks, 'Who are we?' in Great Britain today. towertheatre.org.uk

REVIEWS

Leisure

The 'bull-slaying' Temple of Mithras – London Mithraeum, City of London, EC4N 8AA

By Muhsin Mustafa

Many of us know the City of London as one of the most important financial centres in the world. Did you also know that the City is the oldest part of London? It was founded by Romans nearly 2,000 years ago.

A recently-renovated and re-sited Roman attraction is the Temple of Mithras. Originally discovered 63 years ago and re-opened to the public in 2017, the London Mithraeum is a reconstruction that includes recent finds beneath the site of Bloomberg's new European headquarters.

The entrance is situated on Walbrook, between Cannon Street Station and Bank Station. The site sits on three levels: the ground floor reception area contains a display of historic pieces found in the recent excavations. These include Roman



shoes in perfect condition, jewellery, writing tablets and many other fascinating artefacts.

The writing tablets are probably the earliest manuscripts ever found in Britain and are also thought to be the earliest surviving example of the name Londinium. The wooden manuscripts reveal the cosmopolitan nature of early London and the huge variety of people who lived there. You can get more information about these by using the iPad provided on your arrival. From here, you descend to the lower floor

where, with the help of interactive apps, you will learn more about the Temple of Mithras, which was essentially a Roman bull-slaying Sun cult.

The lowest level, via darkened stairs and an entryway, presents the ghostly outline of an atmospheric temple, with the physical ruins of its foundations visible below.

Through subtle use of light, shadows, and sound, the reconstruction of the Temple of Mithras takes visitors back in time to the ancient Roman London of the 3rd Century. The structure did not always have such a lavish and immersive presentation. It took a collaborative team of experts from across two continents, including archaeologists, historians, stonemasons and light artists, to restore and reimagine the temple, bringing it back to some of its former glory.

For more information visit: londonmithraeum.com

Music

Derin Derin by BaBa ZuLa (Glitterbeat Records)

By Baris Mumcu

The term 'Istanbul Psychedelia' defines BaBa ZuLa, although their inspiration goes beyond to the whole of Anatolia. They are deeply fascinated by the sounds of the late 60s and 70s when Anatolian Pop, later Anatolian Rock, was king.

Retaining this influence, BaBa ZuLa has achieved major success, blending traditional and modern instruments in the same pot, to create a distinctive sound. On one side is the fuzzy *saz*, *davul* (large drum) or *bendir* (frame drum), *kaşık* (wooden spoons), electro oud, and syncopated rhythms, and on the other, we have synth-fuelled, atmospheric and ambient sounds, krautrock-influences and electronic rhythms. It's an East-West sound that travels well across borders, giving them an opportunity to collaborate with international artists, play in major festivals, and attract a global fan base.

In September, they released 'Derin Derin' [Deep Deep]. The 10-track album is a little over half-an-hour long.

Title track *Derin Derin* takes you to another dimension, with elements of metaphysics

and spirituality in shamanic style. It's classic BaBa ZuLa: emotional, touchy, melodic and nurtured by the forces of nature, with local folk harmonies fused with dub electronica, and soulful lyrics.

With *Haller Yollar*, BaBa ZuLa delves into the moods and manners of human beings, who are determined and fighting for love against all odds. The song starts with a *saz* melody from the Anatolia heartlands and evokes the essence of Aşık Veysel.

The song *Salıncaksın* is inspired by Murat Ertel's son, Arel, who suddenly started to sing while on the swing. *Kızıl Gözlüm* is a love song written by Ertel for his wife, Esmâ. *Şahin İksiri* and *Rüzgarın Akışı* are catchy instrumentals, which will have you dancing in wild abandon. *Kervan Yolda* and *Port Pass* tell the life of a wandering troubadour.

Towards the end of the album, the music transforms into something else, with magical Krautrock elements, synth-fuelled strings and atmospheric electronic hypnotizing loops. *Kosmogoni*, *Kurt Kapma* and *Transendence* seamlessly



meld Anatolian Aşıks with tribal sounds from the Amazon, interweaving the shamanic sounds from Asia, the rituals of Indians, and a dance around the fire in a desert. It's immersive and truly psychedelic, while also purifying the soul.

The band's music follows, transforms, and transports the Aşık culture successfully. It is the culture of the Anatolian people, which is naive, honest and true. Aşıks always support the weak and poor; it is the voice of the Other and against hegemony. And it's up to us, the audience, to dignify this valuable piece of art.

Marion E. Stuart's British Classics

The Londoner, and now iconic North Cyprus resident, is a teacher, writer, and wedding celebrant (and also oversees a few funerals). Below she shares her all-time favourite British film, album and book.

Music



The World of Kathleen Ferrier

Kathleen Ferrier, Decca, 1990

Not just classic, but classical, this amazing Contralto's recording of British folk songs and British composers shows the range of a rich voice, which was snatched away from the arts world by cancer when she was 41. There have been few voices since from the British stable that equal her velvet tones that made this ex-telephonist a globally-recognised gift to the music world. But she was forever 'Our Kat' to all who knew and loved her.

Book



A Christmas Carol

Charles Dickens, 1843

Poverty, meanness, hope, love, redemption, ghosts/spirituality – Victorian Christian England – a tale of the times, with an enduring popularity going far beyond that of a book. It is an inspiration that in the bad, good triumphs as 'love comes down at Christmas.' There are Scrooges in every town and Cratchett families struggling against modern 'Dickensian working conditions'; yet always there is hope that light can be found in darkness.

Film



The Lavender Hill Mob

Dir. Charles Crichton, 1951

Set in post-World War 2 Britain, at a time of decency and good values, this crime story claimed to be 'The most hilarious case history in the annals of crime' – and it was! It was even included among the Vatican's list of 'Decent Films' of the era. With a cast of great Brits – Alec Guinness, Sid James, Stanley Holloway and more (even a guest appearance by Audrey Hepburn) from the Ealing comedy stable – it epitomised Britishness.

Hatice Salih Kerimgil's Turkish Classics

Originally from Çınarlı and Gonendere, Hatice lived in South London until 1989, moving to North Cyprus to teach English and English Literature. Now retired, she is a former English newsreader at BRTK, and the coordinator for the Association of Turkish Cypriots Abroad.

Music

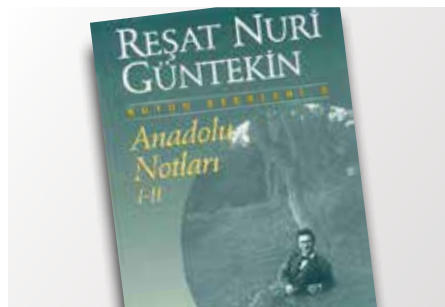


To Whom It may Concern

Okan Ersan, 2004, Cansakay

Lefkoşa-born Okan is a Jazz fusion guitarist, composer and recording artist from a musical family. He entered his debut album To Whom It may Concern into a competition run by the British magazine Guitarist, which chose him as one of the world's 5 best guitarists of 2003. He released the album in 2004, which brought him great acclaim. He went on to tour Europe & the USA, sharing the stage with legends such as Billy Paul, Chick Corea and Dave Weckl amongst others.

Book

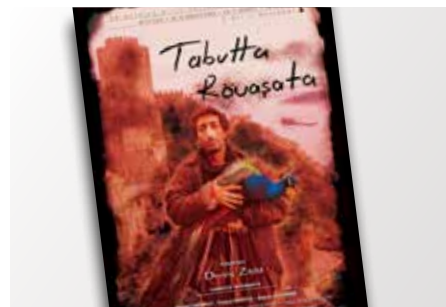


Anadolu Notları

Reşat Nuri Güntekin, 1936

Güntekin is considered one of the most important novelists of early modern Turkey. He served in many different areas of Turkey as a teacher and inspector. The book, now considered an important classic, is a collection of notes, observations and memories about Anatolia. Originally in two parts, it was eventually printed as one volume. Starting in 1931, the book depicts family life, problems, social interaction, and realities, as well as cultural and social norms of the time.

Film

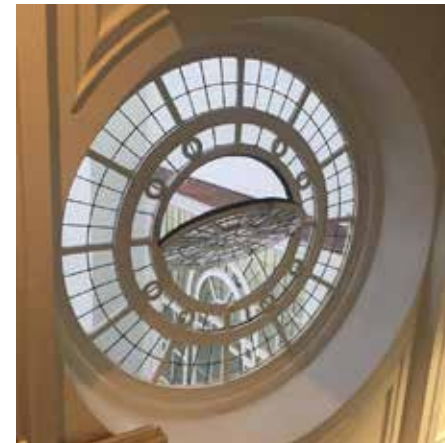


Tabutta Rövaşata (Sumersault in a Coffin)

Dir. Derviş Zaim, 1996

This is one of Limassol-born director, filmmaker and novelist Derviş Zaim's first films. It has won over 30 awards, and is based on a true story, depicting the life of homeless Mahsun in Rumelihisari, Istanbul. Mahsun survives with the help of local fishermen and by stealing cars at night to stay warm, which he returns in the morning. The beginning of his downfall is falling in love with a drug addict. He eventually resorts to stealing a peacock to eat.

Melih Yoru is Head of Menswear Merchandise and Special Projects Manager at fashion label Chalayan. He is also a Reiki master and practitioner. In his spare time, Melih takes great photos of the incredible and quirky world around him. For more, visit his Instagram page: @melihyoru



'Window of opportunity': Dover Street Market building, London



With your Sunday best on: art by Joana Vasconcelos.



A hidden gem: staircase at Pandeli Restaurant, Istanbul



Pumpkin harmony: art by Yayoi Kusama, at Benesse House, Naoshima Island



Get lucky with prayers at the Lama Temple, Beijing



Happy Christmas and welcome 2020. Love and light from Lisbon

PROPA TURKISH

Tensions on NYE



Eray & Koray

Tensions are at an all-time high. People are being forced to choose sides, victimised if they choose differently, and the atmosphere is so tense you can cut it with a knife.... No we're not talking about BREXIT; we are talking about the politics of whom to spend New Year's Eve with.

Do you go with the yenge that wants to yak the mangal, or the amca that wants to go to an overpriced balo because he knows the caterers and can get extra meze? But let's not forget the younger

dayı that drags you across the West End because he "knows a barman" somewhere and feels he doesn't need to be on the guestlist, only to end up watching fireworks in the rain outside a 24-hour McDonald's.

Whatever you choose to do, make sure you have enough food and drink to celebrate!

Yeni Yılınız Kutlu Olsun everyone! Eray & Koray

YONJA ALI

Insights of a Psychic Medium

By İpek Özerim

The world of a psychic medium is intense and, to those of us on the outside, insane. Apparently gifted with paranormal senses, psychics serve as a link between the dead and the living, carrying messages from our deceased relatives and other guides, while their magical hands appear to detect and cure illness. Their intuition and third eye help people find lost keys and jewellery, and also learn the fate of lost people.

Yet so many of us refuse to accept these gifts are real. With a proliferation of online fraudsters preying on the vulnerable, it's not surprising that mentioning the term 'psychic medium' will make people roll their eyes and mutter "scammer"; while the less cynical imagine a woman gazing into a crystal ball in some hazy, mystical setting. It's all too fairy tale-like.

I've known Yonja Ali for over a decade. She is a beautiful 5ft 2in powerhouse, with a gorgeous smile and warmth that radiates the moment you meet her.

We met through mutual friends and initially I had no idea she was a psychic medium. When I started T-VINE Magazine in 2013 and asked her to be our Agony Aunt, I started to learn about her gifts, but didn't probe further. I'm not one to seek out psychics, but not because I am an unbeliever: it's more because I am wary of dabbling in the spirit world, or of somehow pre-determining my fate. Yet my curiosity was piqued earlier this year.

My housemate Aisha was keen to go to a psychic for a reading and asked if I knew any. I promptly telephoned Yonja. While we were catching up, Aisha left the room and when I told Yonja about my housemate wanting a reading, she asked me if her birthday was "25 May". "I have no idea", I replied, at which point Aisha walked back into the room and confirmed her birthday was indeed 25 May.

Lucky guess? I suspected it was more than that. And with good reason. For most of the time Yonja has known me, my mum has battled multiple illnesses, from rheumatoid arthritis to breast cancer, and more recently kidney infections, sepsis and heart failure. These past two years have been extremely difficult, yet somehow Yonja would always know when the worst was hitting mum, and call to ask after her and send "healing". This hidden energy would alleviate immense pain and help my bedbound mum become

mobile. How was this possible? A few months ago, I sat down with Yonja for an in-depth understanding of her life and work, talking to people she had been seeing regularly: their stories blew my mind.

WHO IS YONJA ALI?

She was born at North Middlesex Hospital on 25 March 1972 to Turkish Cypriot parents, Fatma and Mustafa Ali. The eldest of four children, she has a sister Ayla and twin brothers Okan and Ozan. The family's early life was spent in Tottenham, before they moved to Palmers Green when Yonja was aged 6. She's now a married mum of three living in deepest Essex.

When describing her psychic talents, Yonja explains that she is a "Clairvoyant", with two key skills. She has "Clairaudience" (clear hearing), receiving information in the form of "messages and sounds direct from the spirit world", which she deciphers to give "detailed and accurate readings on any subject matter". It's an extra-sensory paranormal hearing, so she may sense words and sounds, but not necessarily hear them.

Yonja is also "Clairsentient" (clear sensing): she can not only "sense spirits", but is also able to "tune into" the emotions, feelings, wellbeing and sensations of her client, or remotely to people she knows. This psychic sense may not be very strong with some mediums, but for Yonja it is a core strength.

If you go for a reading with Yonja, often in her own home, she will sit next to you in a calm, warm, incense-scented space. Candles and crystals will be laid out on the table before her, and she will hold a crystal rock in one hand, and your palm in the other. She grounds and protects herself and starts tuning in to

her guide, who could be known to her, like her maternal grandfather, or an unknown spirit who's come to pass on a message.

There are times when she has "spoken foreign words, or mimicked voices and even mannerisms" that are completely alien to her, but very much understood by her client. Her accuracy levels are startling, as client after client confirms.

People seek out Yonja as much for her healing, as for her readings. She is a Reiki healer, able to channel energy through her hands into a person's body, pinpointing physical and mental pain and "pushing it out". For the seriously-ill, Yonja's healings are needed regularly, and the results can be quite spectacular.

I have yet to take a full session of healing, but even a 60-second blast of her holding my hand created an instant warmth and calming sensation within me. I can only imagine how amazing a 30-minute session would be.

DISCOVERING SHE HAS A "GIFT"

I asked Yonja about when she first discovered her paranormal talents: "At six years old. My dad had



come home from work and I said, 'I've just seen so and so, he's in black and white and says hi'. But I'd never seen this man. It was one of my dad's friends in spirit. It was crazy. The man had already passed. So I was 'seeing' from a very, very young age. My mum was totally freaked out. She said I needed to go to the hoca to get blessed."

"I use my gifts to help others," she adds, repeating the phrase, "and I have to be sensitive about sharing insights. If a client comes for a reading and I pick up there's something wrong with them health-wise, I won't say 'oh you've got breast cancer'. I'd say, 'you have to go to the doctor. You need to have a check-up' or 'You need to go for a blood test, or a mammogram, or a smear'; and they ask 'why', and I say, 'trust me', and they do it because they do trust me."

I ask how she's learned to harness the gifts she has; did she have any guidance? After a pause, Yonja says, "No. I've had to work things out for myself." People think I'm crazy," she laughs: "The most important thing is trust."

Yonja is very self-assured, but not cocky. She exudes self-confidence in a down-to-earth way, speaking her mind and,

“I was ‘seeing’ from a very, very young age. My mum was totally freaked out. She said I needed to go to the hoca to get blessed.”

when necessary, using 'tough love'. "I once had a lady suffering from cancer who was convinced she was going to die. I could sense she'd be OK, but she would not have it. I got angry with her, reminding her about her children and partner, and telling her how selfish she was for giving up the fight. I said I'd not see her again [for healing] until she had a more positive outlook. It worked. She's still with us."

Yonja's diverse clientele includes cancer patients, those recently bereaved, and

those whose lives have hit a brick wall. Most people remain clients of hers for years. She's also had unsavoury characters contact her, which she politely rejects: "If I don't warm to someone, I won't do a reading."

“I WAS CONVINCED ABOUT YONJA'S GIFT FROM MY VERY FIRST READING”

There is no shortage of testimony from people wanting to tell me about their incredible experiences with Yonja.

Helen recently spent three days looking for her Cartier watch, but to no avail. Yonja, who has not visited Helen's new home, tuned into the item and told her "it is by a green children's toy box". Sure enough the watch was there.

Gina had a telephone reading from Yonja, who was in Cyprus at the time. Her mum had been killed by her father, since imprisoned for murder, when she was very young. The young lady was curious to learn more about the circumstances of the death, which her family had shielded from her.

Yonja described it as "one of the most disturbing readings I have ever done. I couldn't share all that I saw and sensed; it was too gruesome." She told



Yonja Ali with client Sandra Riley

"When I went back to Yonja, she told me I also had a sugar and dairy intolerance, which doctors later confirmed. Those changes to my diet and regular healing meant I went into remission. I'm still off the prescribed medicine and, as you can see, I'm fine."

Nurten had lost touch with the father of her children for over a year when she went to see Yonja. I asked her when she was convinced Yonja had a gift, and she said, "From my very first reading. She told me he was with another woman and they'd had a baby. I couldn't believe it. As soon as I left Yonja, I tried to contact him. He didn't pick up immediately, but sometime later that day we spoke. I can't forget it. I pulled over by Barnet Library and congratulated him on his new baby. He went silent and then asked how I knew. I said, 'that would be telling'. He told me his partner had given birth that day..."

“I WOULDN'T BE HERE IF IT WASN'T FOR YONJA: SHE SAVED MY LIFE”

There are endless client stories that reaffirm Yonja's incredible skills as a clairvoyant, each client as passionate as the last. Yet it is the story of former bank worker Sandra Riley which stands out.

Sandra lost her older sister to breast cancer when she was just 39. She met Yonja through her daughter Leah, a dog handler who was grooming Yonja's dog. Leah had tried to get her mum an appointment for a reading, but was told there was a waiting list.

When Sandra found a lump in her breast, she panicked. She had some tests and was awaiting the results when she received a call from Yonja informing her of a cancellation, and offering her an appointment. Sandra's husband drove her to Yonja's home the next day.

"As soon as she saw me she hugged me. She said, 'oh my darling, you've got breast cancer, but I promise you will be alright,'" explained Sandra in a phone call to me.

"She said, 'your sister had cancer, but you don't have the same type as your sister. Also your sister's [tumour] was on the right, and yours is on the left."

The information left Sandra gob-smacked. Sure enough, the doctors confirmed hers was a hormonal cancer, while her sister's had been the triple negative variety. Calls to her sister's family also confirmed that her lump had indeed been on the right, while Sandra's was on the left.

Gina that a lady in spirit, her mother, was with her. "I could see a 70s garage with a bath. I could smell chemicals and burning. It was horrible. She did not have a good passing over." Gina found newspaper cuttings with details of the case: her mother had been killed and dissolved in acid. Yonja's reading was an important confirmation.

I meet two of Yonja's clients, Havva (she didn't want her surname used) and Nurten Halil, in a restaurant in Woodford. Over a meal they tell me how they have benefitted from regular visits.

Havva, now aged 36, was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis (MS) when she was 15. The onset of the disease meant she would regularly lose her balance and the control of her movements: "I would walk into doors and my friends would wonder why, but I could not stop myself," she told me.

Doctors put her on prescribed medicines to curb the effects of MS, but they had other debilitating side-effects. She was introduced to Yonja some five

“Yonja insisted the cancer had “gone into the lymph nodes”, which the consultant rejected. 3 days later he called to say they had detected cancer in 3 of my 11 lymph nodes”

years ago and says her "magic hands" had an instant effect. For a time Havva stopped using the medicines, opting instead for just the healing. But when she stopped seeing Yonja, the MS returned.



Yonja Ali exchanges notes with a fortune teller in Bali

Yonja's initial reading revealed other crucial details for Sandra. She insisted the cancer had "gone into the lymph nodes", a point rejected by the consultant Mr Smith. Yonja encouraged Sandra to "stand her ground" and insist on being given a lymph node biopsy.

"I was doubtful about saying I needed it because my psychic said so, as I thought they'd think I was a crackpot. So I told them I was worried because of what happened to my older sister, which convinced them. I was given a radioactive dye to check if there had been any spread. Sure enough, 3 days later the consultant called me to say they had detected cancer in 3 of my 11 lymph nodes."

Sandra describes the hands-on role Yonja then took in her treatment. She came with her to see consultants, advised her about diet and lifestyle, and told her to use cannabis oil and avoid chemotherapy, which Sandra is convinced killed her sister. When her oncologist refused to respect her wishes, Yonja urged her to get a second opinion.

"It was just as well, as the second doctor,



Dr Sunil Skaria [from the Royal Marsden] agreed the chemotherapy would not be good for me, and could actually be very dangerous as they later found I had heart problems, including a leaky valve. If it wasn't for Yonja, I probably wouldn't be here."

That was three years ago and Sandra, now aged 52, repeatedly tells me, "Yonja is amazing. She knows everything. My doctor, friends and family are all blown away by her."

Sandra claims the psychic knew her daughter Leah was pregnant before they did, and has accurately read for her and her friends, even passing on messages from her father-in-law that would have been impossible for Yonja to know, but for her paranormal gifts.

She sees Yonja on a weekly basis for healing. In hour-long sessions, the Reiki specialist's hands travel from the head down, transmitting energy that Sandra describes as like "a magnetic force. The pain just goes. Wherever her hand is, the pain just disappears."

Towards the end of our calls, Sandra tells me "Everyone needs a Yonja. She always comes up with a solution," and says she is "truly grateful" for all Yonja has done for her. The pair have become so close that Yonja was invited to Leah's wedding and is also going to be present for the birth of the baby.

I have no way of verifying these claims, but the sincerity of the way each woman recounts their story, coupled with my own experiences, leave me in no doubt that Yonja does indeed possess astonishing powers.

After my many conversations with clients, I tell Yonja, "hun, who needs Google, Amazon and Apple's Siri and Alexa, when we got you." She bursts out laughing.



WATCH OUT KNIGHTSBRIDGE!

there's a Wolf in town!

R.W.Wolf is funk up the Knightsbridge area, seriously funk up. Residing on Brompton Road, a comb's throw from Harrods, is a luxury men's hairdressers which is both old and new. Old because the Wolf's haircutting heritage stretches back over 150 years and new because it's the first time he has launched his barbershop in Knightsbridge.

The brainchild of Mus Ismail, of Ted's Grooming Room fame, this latest opening takes his new barbering empire to three. Currently, you can find an R.W.Wolf in North London (Cockfosters), in the City (Monument), and now in the West End. Each barbers' shop boasts three vital ingredients, says the press release: "traditional Turkish techniques, modern hairdressing styles and the wild side of the Wolf".



R.W.WOLF[®]
BARBERS



The serial entrepreneur has unleashed them into the “ultimate luxury salon for men” in Knightsbridge that will wow visitors as much for its stunning contemporary interiors as for its incredible men’s grooming services. The unique designs and imagery inside the store are a sensory feast for the eyes, matched in effort and artistry by their treatments.

They claim that “No other barber shop in London pays as much attention to detail as the Wolf; from the signage to the signature services like Tame the Beast – we are unrivalled!”

Taking his cue from his previous successful barbering business model, Ismail’s R.W.Wolf is taking over the capital one territory at a time. He told T-VINE, “We’re converting the gentlemen of London to our shops because they recognise the superior quality they can get from artisan craftsmen who have barbering in their blood. When you really care about what you do, your customers can sense it and that’s why they stay loyal to the Wolf.”

Their new Knightsbridge barbershop isn’t just about raising their flag in a new part of town, it’s also about raising the standards of the industry, as Ismail explains:

“From a service, experience and design perspective, we are blowing the competition out of the water because we pour passion into everything we do, and we don’t stop until we have achieved perfection.

“The way our luxury barbers treat the faces of our customers, is the same as the way we view our shops – it’s a piece of art with purpose and definition.”

Don’t just take his word for it, experience “the best barbershop in Knightsbridge”, located at 144a Brompton Road, SW3 1HY. It’s open Monday to Sunday.

Alternatively, indulge your special man with a fantastic gift this Christmas, such as Tame the Beast: an incredible all-inclusive 1.5 hour treatment.

Products and gift vouchers are available online and in the store. Head to RWWOLF.com for more details.



Turkish supermarket chain TFC celebrates its 40th anniversary

The Turkish Food Centre, or TFC as it is better known today, opened its first branch in 1979 when there was a high demand for, but virtually non-existent supply of Turkish groceries in Britain. Four decades on and owners TFC Holdings were celebrating the chain's 40th anniversary with a plush bash at the Park Lane Hilton.

Some 400 guests attended the event on Saturday, 30 November, including TFC executives, employees, and businesspeople from the UK, Turkey and Europe. TFC founder and chairman Hüseyin Uçar co-hosted the event with his son Can Uçar, the vice chair and CEO of the company, his daughter Şerife Suyur, and son-in-law Deniz Suyur.

In his welcoming speech, Mr Uçar Snr thanked his managers, business partners, suppliers, and family for their contribution to TFC's growth. He said:

"TFC has been like a school for other businesses that launched as grocers or wholesalers in this country. We have been contributing to both the British and Turkish economies. But what makes me happiest is being able to decrease



our [community's] homesickness a bit by providing our motherland's tastes in a foreign country."



our [community's] homesickness a bit by providing our motherland's tastes in a foreign country."

TFC's expansion from a small grocer into a multi-million pound business in forty years is impressive. The chain started its journey as a single outlet at the top of Ridley Road Market in Dalston, East London, and expanded rapidly. There are ten branches across the London region, stretching from Croydon to Welling and Waltham Cross, each one bringing its customers a rich selection of ethnic foods.

It is also vital in the distribution of Turkish brands in Britain. Food giants Pinar and Tamek, as well as pasta brand Piyale, herbal tea maker Doğadan, Öncü Salça (sauces and paste used by the kebab sector), and Turkey's oldest

coffee brand Kurukahveci Mehmet Efendi all enter the UK via TFC Holdings. TFC's sister company Tees is responsible for distributing Turkish alcoholic drinks such as Efes Beer and Doluca wine.

In recent years, TFC has opened its own cash and carry (Esin) and became a member of Landmark Wholesale. The business also underwent a major reorganisation, relaunching as a family holding. It currently employs 600 staff and has a turnover of £150 million.

At the anniversary, Can Uçar underlined the importance of family businesses: "Family businesses in the UK account for a quarter of the gross national product and provide employment for 12.2 million people." He also said they are aiming to increase their turnover to "£500 million in the next seven to ten years."

Award-winning tour operator sets sights on Malta



The UK's largest tour operator to North Cyprus is expanding its horizons by adding another destination in the Mediterranean to its portfolio. Award-winning Cyprus Paradise has launched a sister website called Malta Paradise and is offering "hand-picked holidays" to the two biggest islands in the Maltese Archipelago: Malta and Gozo.

Operating as a niche tour operator since 1992, Cyprus Paradise has been at the forefront of popularising North Cyprus through its affordable holidays and high level of service. It is part of the DMG Group, which handles the bulk of incoming tourists to North Cyprus.

Last month, Cyprus Paradise was again crowned the "Best Holiday Company to East and Southeast Europe" at the British Travel Awards. It was the seventh consecutive year it has won the award, which is voted on by the British public.

The Harringay-based business will be drawing on its many years of experience in the travel industry to help the Maltese realise their potential. Cyprus Paradise managing director Dr Muhammet Yaşarata said:

"We are proud of the close relationship we enjoy with our Maltese hotel suppliers and are keen to promote our mantra for holidays: 'Made in Malta



crafted by locals'. All our tours are offered with Maltese Guides who have genuine warmth, to extend local hospitality to UK visitors."

The tour operator's entry into the Malta travel sector has been warmly received by the Maltese government, which supported its stand at the World Travel Market, held in London's ExCel in November.

News in brief...



PRIME MINISTER BORIS JOHNSON dropped by the home of Chingford Conservative Councillor Ilkay Isa in one of his final pre-election rallies. The Turkish Cypriot local politician has been a key part of the campaign team for local MP Iain Duncan Smith, whose seat was under threat from a strong Labour challenge. She opened the doors to local activists, who flocked to see and hear the Prime Minister boost the team's morale. Cllr Isa's pop star daughter Eylem made Turkish coffee (Eylem said she made it sade – without sugar), which the PM described as "çok güzel", and sipped as he mingled with Conservative supporters, among them Turkish Cypriots. T-VINE editor Ipek Ozerim also created an unexpected buzz when she turned up with a photo from 1964 of PM Johnson's uncle, former Turkish Ambassador Zeki Kuneralp, and her father Oktay Hamit (see full story on page 26). Pointing to his "uncle Zeki" the PM enquired about the photo and asked for a copy.



FERYAL DEMIRCI CLARK made history winning Enfield North for Labour, beating Tory challenger Joanne Laban 23,340 to 16,848. Feryal is the first person whose roots hail from Turkey and the first woman of Kurdish descent to become a British MP. Fellow Kurdish Labour candidate Ibrahim Dogus, and Conservative Turks Gonul Daniels and Neva Novak failed in their bids to become elected. The UK General Elections

resulted in a landslide win for the Conservative Party. Among those returning to Westminster is Iain Duncan Smith, who has championed direct flights to North Cyprus, and Bambos Charalambous, who played a key role in the campaign to improve the state of Tottenham Park Cemetery – the UK's largest Turkish burial ground.



ACTOR SEN MONRO told T-VINE his new short film Stages could be made into a TV drama by "Amazon, Netflix, or one of the UK's TV networks". Each one had representatives at the packed double premier of the film in Soho in October. Sen co-wrote and starred in the 24-minute

movie, which is based on a true story about two Parkinson's Disease sufferers whose lives fall apart until they discover each other. Produced by Donna Taylor (DT Films), Michelle Orpe, and Sen's Gripping Yarns Films, the film features two former Eastenders stars, Gary Webster and Noeleen Comiskey, and Lewis Nicolas.



Boris Johnson's uncle Zeki Kuneralp: a lifeline for Turkish Cypriots under siege

By İpek Özerim

It's not every day you discover a bit of family history you share with the British Prime Minister, but it happened to me this summer.

I was flicking through family photo albums with my father, Oktay Hamit, when I came across a large black and white one of him and seven other men. I recognised a few of the faces in the photograph: Ahmet Gazioğlu, top row, second from the right, was the Turkish Cypriot Representative to London in the 1960s. Also Fikret Derviş, the uncle of best-selling author Sibel Hodge and a



Former Ottoman Minister of the Interior Ali Kemal was Zeki Kuneralp's father & Boris Johnson's great-grandfather

future president of the Council of Turkish Cypriot Associations in Britain (CTCA UK), on the far right of the front row.

My father, who was seated on the far left in the picture, pointed to the gentleman standing in the top right: Zeki Kuneralp. I didn't recognise his face or name. My father said he had been the Turkish Ambassador to London in 1964, when the photo was taken, and casually mentioned he was Boris Johnson's uncle. My eyes opened in amazement and I stared more closely at the photo.

"As the ambassador, why was he standing and not seated in the middle?" I asked my father.

"Because he was a very decent man who didn't covet the limelight," came the reply. "He placed a lot of importance on young people, so although we urged him to sit at the front, Zeki Bey said 'You young people are more important, you are the future', so he preferred to stand and let us sit," my dad added.

I was astonished. Given the patriarchal nature of Turkish society, where our male elders always dominate, such modesty was indeed a rare thing.

I enquired how the photo came about, and it was through this exchange I realised Boris' uncle had played a pivotal role in helping Turkish Cypriots at one of the most critical times in our recent history. It also turns out that Ambassador Kuneralp was a most brilliant diplomat who endured tragedy at several points in his life.

WHO WAS ZEKİ KUNERALP?

He was born in Istanbul in October 1914, and was the son of Ali Kemal – Boris Johnson's great grandfather – and Kemal's second wife Sabiha Hanım (Boris's family line is through Ali Kemal's first marriage to Winifred Brun).

Zeki Kuneralp was raised in exile by his mother in Switzerland after his father, a journalist and former Ottoman Minister of the Interior, was lynched and killed in 1922.

With the Ottoman Empire collapsing, Ali Kemal had advocated the Turks capitulate to British rule, which was seen as treason by the Young Turks. In 1919, when he was a Minister, Ali Kemal also ordered the arrest of Mustafa Kemal, later known as Atatürk, who was leading the Turks in the War of Independence. With the tide turning in the Turks' favour, Ali Kemal was ordered to face trial on charges of treason a few years later, but he was abducted from a barbers shop in Istanbul, and killed by a mob for his alleged treachery.

Like his father, Zeki Kuneralp was academically gifted. He gained a Law doctorate from the University of Bern in 1938 and was keen to return to his native Turkey, but was advised not to by family and friends due to his father's disgraced background. Yet Kuneralp would not be deterred and was keen to serve his country. He lobbied and eventually obtained the express permission of President İsmet İnönü to return and apply to join the diplomatic corps.

Kuneralp entered the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1942, and went on to serve in posts across Europe. He was appointed Turkish Ambassador to



Zeki Kuneralp's wife Necla & her brother were murdered by Armenian terror group Asala in Madrid in 1978

Switzerland, the United Kingdom (1964-66 and 1969-1972) and Spain, as well as twice serving as Secretary-General of the Foreign Ministry.

He survived an assassination attempt by Armenian terrorist group Asala, which sadly claimed the lives of his wife Necla and her brother in Madrid in 1978.

Kuneralp retired, in part due to ill-health, in 1979, and turned his attention to writing instead. His autobiography *Sadece Diplomat* was translated into English in 1992, while others of his books are considered important sources of twentieth century Turkish history. He died in Istanbul on 26 July 1998, leaving two sons Sinan, a leading Istanbul publisher, and Selim, who followed in his father's footsteps and became a diplomat.

ZEKİ KUNERALP'S VITAL ROLE IN TURKISH CYPRIOT HISTORY

On 21 December 1963, three years after Independence, the Cyprus Conflict broke out. As the whole world shut down for Christmas, Greek Cypriots mounted a bloody coup that lasted ten days. 133 Turkish Cypriots were murdered, and thousands were made homeless, as their former partners installed themselves as the sole government of Cyprus.

As news of the bloody coup reached London, Turkish Cypriots were furious and fearful. Not all homes had phones and details of events in Cyprus were being gleaned in a haphazard manner. My father, then a student studying civil engineering in London, and his friends were among the organisers of the large demonstration in central London on 27 December.

They set up a crisis desk in the Kıbrıs Türk Cemiyeti building in D'Arblay Street, Soho. My dad said he didn't leave the



Zeki Kuneralp is regarded as one of Turkey's greatest diplomats, serving in the United Kingdom twice, as well as in Spain & Switzerland.

desk for 48 hours, such was the frenzy among the people to learn the fate of their loved ones. Young Turkish Cypriots quickly formed an Aid Committee, to raise money and collect essential items, such as clothes and blankets, for the many thousands left homeless in the bitter cold winter months.

My father was elected the head of the group, while my mother, Suzan, who had been working in the Cyprus High Commission in London when she heard her elder brother Fuat had gone missing, was elected the head of the women's equivalent (it was at this time that my parents met, fell in love and later got married, but that's a tale for another day).

The two aid committees worked round the clock, organising collection boxes, and holding meetings and publishing

weekly bulletins to update people on events back home, and the fate of those who had been reported missing in Cyprus.

Early in 1964, Zeki Kuneralp arrived as the new Turkish ambassador to London. Turkey and Britain, along with Greece, had been Guarantor Powers in Cyprus since 1960; but the carefully-constructed power-sharing agreement between Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots now lay in tatters.

The Turkish community in Cyprus was under siege and was desperately trying to hang onto the fishing village of Erenköy in the northwest of the island. To a man, they knew that holding on to this territory, with its 5 km long coastline and sea port – the only one in Turkish Cypriot hands – was of paramount importance to

ensure essential supplies from Turkey got through. They were also vastly outnumbered and outgunned, with enemy forces encircling them on land.

Turkish Cypriots from neighbouring villages, such as Bozdağ (Aytodoro), Mansur (Mansoura) and Selçuklu (Selaintapi), collectively known as the Dillirga (Tillyria) area, numbered 1060 in 1963. Many fearing Greek Cypriot attacks fled to Erenköy for their safety.

Turkish Cypriot students abroad, including those in Britain, were desperate to return home and help the fight.

Ambassador Kuneralp invited my father and others from the Turkish Cypriot Aid Committee to the Embassy. Together, they reviewed the situation and its demands. The community in London had raised money to buy radio equipment to help set up a new station in Anamur, in southern Turkey, so Turkish Cypriots could broadcast freely. "The ambassador arranged for the transmitter and other kit to be immediately dispatched to Turkey. This is how Bayrak Türk Radyo started."

"Kuneralp Bey was great for morale," my dad explained. "It was such an emotionally charged time, but he would always keep our thoughts calm and positive. He regularly praised our volunteer efforts, and added us to the embassy's 'protocol' list, so we would get invitations to key events and receptions at the embassy, helping to raise the community's profile. He was also a superb diplomat."

"We were so proud to have such a dignified and knowledgeable man represent us. He articulated our concerns and issues so well to the British press and politicians, countering the Greek Cypriot narrative of events."

The ambassador and his staff were in daily contact with the Turkish Cypriot UK Representative Gazioğlu. While the Turkish Embassy was not involved in the actions of Turkish Cypriots in London, they would keep a close eye on everything and offer support where appropriate.

The Aid Committees maintained pressure on the British government with mass rallies, while keeping the community informed through weekly cinema screenings, which brought the community together. Their contacts through the Embassy helped with fundraising appeals to other Muslims in Britain, such as the Pakistani community.



Prime Minister Boris Johnson points to his uncle Ambassador Zeki Kuneralp in a 1964 photo taken in London that also includes T-VINE editor İpek Özerim's father Oktay Hamit, as MP Iain Duncan Smith looks on.

By 5 August 1964, military units led by experienced terrorist EOKA leader General George Grivas had intensified their attacks on Erenköy, determined to bomb or starve the Turkish Cypriots out.

Along with heavy artillery on land, Grivas was also able to call upon gunboats from Greece to join Cypriot naval patrol boats, then in Greek Cypriot hands, to shell the village. For several days they pummelled Erenköy with rockets, mortar shells and machine guns. It was difficult to believe Turkish Cypriots could survive the relentless bombing.

It was against this backdrop that Turkey, through its right as a Guarantor Power of Cyprus, decided to intervene by sending aerial support to the besieged villagers. A small squadron led by pilot Cengiz Topal, who died in action, left Turkey on 8 August. A day later, Turkey significantly increased its aerial bombardment of the Dillirga region, sending 64 aircraft and a clear warning to Greek Cypriots that

“ We were so proud to have such a dignified man represent us. Kuneralp articulated our issues to the British press, countering the Greek Cypriot narrative of events ”

this was one battle they could not win. The show of force worked. Twenty-four hours later a ceasefire was declared.

Greek Cypriots mounted a big protest outside the Turkish Embassy in London. It was countered massively by the Turkish Cypriot community, fiercely loyal to Kuneralp and Turkey for its vital intervention.

This was a major turning point, and while it did not end the conflict, Turkey had given important respite to Turkish Cypriots and ensured they retained control of the strategic port at Erenköy. The world was also made aware of the terrible plight of Turkish Cypriots, which was covered extensively in British and other international press.

The siege of Erenköy stands as proof that Greek Cypriot brutality towards Turkish Cypriots began a whole decade before ever Turkey's Peace Operation became necessary in 1974, to rescue thousands of civilians from the sword of EOKA after ten years of bloody persecution. To that end, Ambassador Kuneralp's role was crucial, "a lifeline" my father said, for Turkish Cypriots.

Ersin Tatar the first TRNC PM to attend Remembrance Sunday

Prime Minister Ersin Tatar made history as the first TRNC leader to attend a Remembrance Sunday service. The Turkish Cypriot politician was a special guest at the Royal British Legion's event at the Old British Cemetery in Girne, which was held on Sunday, 10 November.

The date coincided with the anniversary of the death of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, the founder of the Turkish Republic, and some had thought the TRNC Prime Minister would opt to attend the annual remembrance service for Atatürk. Instead, Mr Tatar broke with tradition and stood alongside a variety of dignitaries from Britain including Air Chief Marshal Sir Michael Graydon, who laid a wreath on behalf of the Queen, and Lady Doris Butterworth.

Ahead of the service, organiser Major Brian Thomas told local press: "It is an important event for us, being the 10th anniversary of the unveiling of the British Cyprus Memorial in 2009".

The granite memorial was built with £80,000 of public donations from Britain

following a campaign spearheaded by Sir Michael and a small group of senior officers from the three services, and politicians. It commemorates the 372 British servicemen who died during the Cyprus Emergency. A second memorial, unveiled in November 2014, is dedicated to the 62 British and Cypriot officers that served in the colonial police force.

The two memorials record the names of every soldier, sailor, airman and police officer who died during the Cyprus Emergency, which lasted from 1955 to 1959, as a result of multiple terrorist attacks by EOKA (the Greek acronym for the National Organisation of Greek Cypriot Fighters).

Nearly a thousand people took part in Remembrance Sunday, among them 51 British and Cypriot veterans and their relatives, members of the British expat community in North Cyprus and the Turkish Cypriot general public.

The service was conducted by the Reverend Mike Graham: Colonel John Hughes-Wilson and former British MP Stephen Day were among those



who spoke at the event. Mr Tatar, a Cambridge graduate, has long-enjoyed good relations with North Cyprus' British expat community. He was accompanied on Remembrance Sunday by his wife Sibel. TRNC Foreign Minister Kudret Özersay was also present.

Drones in North Cyprus reinforce Turkish drilling claims



The first drones from Turkey landed at Geçitkale Airport, just outside the coastal city of Mağusa, in the early hours of Monday, 16 Dec. The move

comes as Turkey and the Turkish Cypriots assert their right to carry out energy exploration in the Eastern Mediterranean.

A statement issued by TRNC Prime Minister Ersin Tatar said that his government had approved Turkey's use of Geçitkale Airport for unmanned aerial vehicle flights, which include both armed and unarmed drones. "In light of developments in the Eastern Mediterranean region, and at the request of the Turkish Cypriot Peace Forces Command, the TRNC government is allowing for activities of unmanned aerial vehicles [UAVs] at Geçitkale Airport to protect Turkey's and the TRNC's legitimate rights and interests," the statement said..

Temperatures have been rising throughout the year, as Greek Cypriots refuse to entertain Turkish Cypriot

demands that both sides work together to explore gas found off the coast of Cyprus. Instead, Greek Cyprus has forged ahead with maritime agreements signed by Greece, Egypt, and Israel, which deliberately exclude Turkey and North Cyprus. The agreements set out the Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ) of these four states in the Eastern Mediterranean as they launched their own exploration efforts.

Ankara has made its displeasure felt by increasing its activities in the Mediterranean, and sending its own drilling vessels to explore for hydrocarbons. Last month, Turkey signed a new maritime deal of its own with Libya's embattled government of Tripoli, sending a clear message to other actors in the region that the gas game will not be played without Ankara's consent.

News in brief...

CTP LEADER Tufan Erhürman has thrown his name into the Presidential ring. The academic-turned-politician, who heads up the centre-left main opposition party, announced his candidacy in Lefkoşa on Tuesday, 17 Dec. CTP is the first of the TRNC's six Parliamentary parties to confirm their Presidential candidate. The TRNC Presidential Election is held every five years and is next scheduled to take place in April 2020. The incumbent, Mustafa Akıncı, is expected to stand, as are the leaders of the two coalition partners, Ersin Tatar of the UBP, and HP's Kudret Özersay.



GREEK CYPRIOT AUTHORITIES slammed for preventing young student from collecting her exam certificate. When Berilsu Meral, 15, a high school student at Bülent Ecevit Anadolu Lisesi, heard she had scored the highest mark in the world in her IGCSE Turkish exam, she was delighted. But her joy turned to frustration when the Greek Cypriot authorities prevented her from crossing into South Cyprus to attend an awards ceremony in Larnaca and collect her certificate. The issue came to light when Meral went to the Metehan Crossing with her teachers on 12 Dec., but was refused entry because she was born in Ankara.

The decision was condemned by TRNC FM Kudret Özersay, who wrote to the United Nations about the incident. He said: "This approach, which first dashes a child's hopes and then enthusiasm, is at best a shame in this century and [also] a violation of human rights; it is far removed from a [decent] human being. I condemn this shameful [political] action against a young child."

DOG REFUSES to leave his dead master. A man who went missing after going out to hunt near Yarköy and Kurtuluş villages on Sunday has been found dead in İpsiro. A major search was launched for Nazım Tekman after he failed to return home. Rescue teams found Tekman's beloved hunting dog desperately trying to move the hunter, dragging off his waistcoat and one boot in the process. An autopsy showed Tekman had died of a heart attack.



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Record-breaking 15 million tourists flock to Antalya



Turkey's premier tourist region Antalya hosted a record-breaking 15 million foreign tourists this year. Known as the 'Pearl City', Antalya was also named by Mastercard among the world's top 10 destinations, alongside Istanbul.

According to official figures from Antalya's Provincial Directorate of Culture & Tourism, 15,567,000 visitors from 193 different countries travelled to the city, with December 2019 statistics still to be added. 5.5 million Russians head the list, followed by Germans (2.5 million), Ukrainians (800,000), and British (686,000). 2018's total was 13.6 million.

It comes as no surprise that the Turkish

Riviera attracts so many visitors: Antalya is blessed with a rich history, natural beauty and a diverse local lifestyle. Most tourists come for a beach holiday, enjoying an all-year warm climate and multiple blue flag beaches, as well as incredible resorts suitable for all budgets in seaside towns such as Alanya, Belek, Side, Kemer, Kaş and Kalkan. The 'Maldives of the Mediterranean', Suluada Island is also in Antalya, famed for its turquoise water and white sand.

Antalya offers much more than the sun and the sea, however. It has well-preserved historical sites like Hadrian's Gate and Yivliminare Mosque, and the ancient cities of Aspendos, Termessos,

Xanthos, Phaselis, Perge and Olympos. Aspendos has a 2,000-year-old theatre, which hosts concerts in its unique atmosphere. A hipster favourite nestled in a nature reserve, Olympos has tree house accommodation and stunning beaches running alongside ancient ruins. Antalya's city centre district Kaleiçi is also a must-see area with its entertainment spots, hotels, restaurants and bars.

This stretch of Mediterranean coastline is also awash with natural wealth: Köprülü Canyon, Altınbeşik Cave and Güllük Mountain National Parks, as well as several waterfalls, including Alara Uçansu, Kurşunlu, Düden, Manavgat and Uçarsu, as well as Turkey's top rafting area, Köprülü River.

Cultural and social life are also very rich. Major concerts, festivals, art exhibitions and sports events take place throughout the year. It is a hub for golf lovers, boasting great courses, weather, and the Turkish Airlines Open Tournament. Dining out, shopping, and a great night life all add to the appeal of Antalya, with many tourists returning as permanent guests.

According to Mastercard, tourists spent \$7.65B in Antalya in 2018, which is expected to increase by nearly 10% this year. Antalya's tourist record has been well received by the Turkish tourism industry, which declined several seasons ago due to disturbances.

Are Turkish mothers ignoring Erdoğan's call to have bigger families?

Turks want smaller families, a dating app revealed recently. According to OKCupid's figures, 60% of users want only one or two children, while 35% want none. It suggests that Turks ignore their President's call to have at least three, a plea he has made repeatedly since his Premiership, for the sake of Turkey's future population. According to 2015-19 official figures, the number of people over 65 has increased by 16%, but the birth rate is declining.

Currently the total fertility rate in Turkish women is 1.99, with highest rates in the Southeast and Eastern Anatolia: Şanlıurfa is the leading city with 4.13 child per woman, followed by Şırnak, Ağrı, Muş, Siirt, and Mardin.



It is not only numbers the President values, but also people's beliefs and lifestyle. He targeted Muslim women,

calling on them to have more children so the AKP could dominate Turkish society with a religious generation.

An advocate of fertility, the Turkish leader opposes birth control. He once claimed it was 'a plan by Western states to keep the Turkish population low', while they try to increase the birth rate in their own countries. He also said, 'Muslim families should reject birth control and follow what God and their prophet told them'.

While President Erdoğan accuses the West of trying to interfere in Turkey, he has no qualms about calling on Turkish families in Europe to have 'five children', not three, telling them 'you are the future of Europe'.

Italian far-right politician urges Nutella to boycott Turkish hazelnuts

The leader of Italy's far-right opposition party, Lega (League), has said he is no longer a fan of Nutella after finding out the product is made with Turkish nuts. Matteo Salvini, the former deputy Prime Minister, has called on the company to use Italian produce – despite the nation not producing enough to meet demand.

According to the UN, Turkey is the world's largest producer of hazelnuts, supplying 70 per cent of the world's hazelnuts compared to Italy, which is the second largest producer, growing 20 per cent of the global crop.

Nativist Salvini's mantra is "Italians first". It is his Lega party's motto and a core part of their populist appeal. Nutella, made by Italian manufacturer Ferrero, became his latest target after he discovered the chocolate spread uses Turkish hazelnuts.

Ferrero is the world's biggest purchaser of the crop – buying up 25 per cent of the global supply of the nut in 2015. The firm has a factory in Manisa, western Turkey, and looks to Turkish producers for 80% of its hazelnuts.



A passionate champion of products 'Made in Italy', Salvini told supporters at a rally in the northern city of Ravenna on Thursday that he is no longer a fan of Nutella, arguing that manufacturer Ferrero should use Italian-grown hazelnuts instead of Turkish produce.

"I found out that Nutella uses Turkish nuts and I prefer to help companies that use Italian products," he said, after

a woman suggested he have a Nutella sandwich.

"I prefer to eat Italian and help Italian farmers".

The League party leader, who was ousted from government over the summer, has since been mocked by political opponents and members of the public over his stance.

Berlin's Turkish mosque receives bomb threat

Far-right extremists threatened a Turkish mosque in Berlin, claiming they planted plastic explosives in the mosque complex.

On Monday 26 November, Şehitlik Mosque received an e-mail from neo88@web.de, signed by Combat 18, a neo-Nazi terrorist organisation.

The mosque belongs to Turkish-Muslim body DITIB (Turkish-Islamic Union for Religious Affairs) and is located near to Neukölln and Kreuzberg, where most of the city's Turkish residents live. It is one of the largest mosques used by Turks, and is especially popular for Friday prayers.

The mosque has received bomb warnings several times over the past few months.

Turkish Consul General to Berlin, Rıfki Olgun Yücekök said the police has been informed about the situation and he urged German authorities to take stronger measures to protect mosques: "This is a hoax, but still it's an attempt to disrupt peace."

Just a few days before this incident,

another Turkish mosque in North Rhine-Westphalia was also threatened. Menden Yeşil Mosque received an anonymous letter saying 'foreigners should bugger off by 31 December 2019'.

With the rise of the far right in Germany, Islamophobic crimes have also increased in recent years. A slight fall was recorded in 2018, down from 960 to 813 in the previous year. However, this number is seen as conservative by many:

"Run-of-the-mill attacks, insults and discrimination... are not even recorded," said Ulla Jelpke, Die Linke's (Left Party) domestic affairs spokesperson in the Bundestag (German Federal Parliament), according to a news report by Deutsche Welle (DW).

Mosques in the country are increasingly under attack from hate crimes, with Turkish mosques seemingly bearing the brunt of these. Many have reported receiving threatening letters and emails insulting their Islamic values. Others have been sent bullets, while pigs' heads have also been left at mosques



in different cities. Several mosques suffered arson attacks, including Hagen's Ulu Mosque in May.

German Muslims are now demanding an Islamophobia Commissioner to tackle the crimes, on a par with the anti-Semitism commission that was created last year, Abdassamad El Yazidi, Secretary-General of the Central Council of Muslims in Germany (ZMD) told DW:

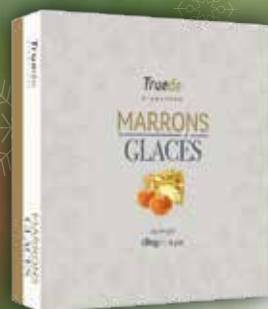
"We reject any part of German society being threatened, be they Jews, Muslims, blacks, women or homosexuals."

After France, Germany has Europe's second largest Muslim population, with nearly 5 million Muslims. Of these, 3 million are of Turkish origin.

Christmas Gift Ideas

If you're in need of inspiration for those last minute Christmas and New Year gifts for friends and family, look no further than our fine selection below: there's something for everyone, from books and music, to confectionary and clothes.

CONFECTIONARY



Marrons Glacés: vegan, natural, gluten free, Truede: 90g £12.99, 180g £24.99 truede.com



Mixed chocolate Turkish delight selection, SELAMLIQUE, Exclusive to Selfridges, 220g £27.99 selfridges.com

HOME



Okka Automatic Turkish Coffee Machine in black or white, Arzum, £196.00



Handmade Porcelain Cups: set of 2 in different colour & design options, Özerlat, £75.00 – £80.00

Both items available from Ozerlat.co.uk

FASHION + ACCESSORIES



Men's Silver Mother of Pearl Cufflink & Dress Stud Set: silver or gold colour, Hawes & Curtis, £39.00, hawesandcurtis.co.uk



Artemis Emerald Drop Earrings: 21 ct gold plated brass, emerald semi-precious stones, Ottoman Hands, £56.00, ottomanhands.com



Red girl's penguin Christmas jumper, Select, £5.50. selectfashion.co.uk

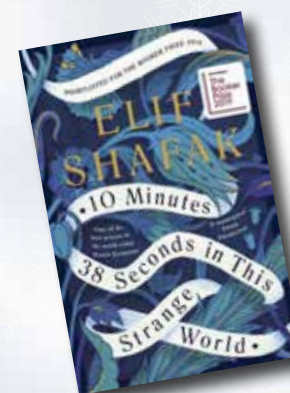


Az Beanie Navy Hat, Palace Skateboards, £32 palaceskateboards.com

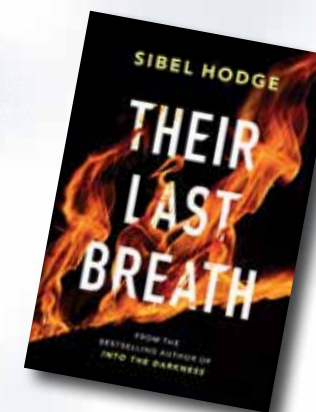


'COOL GIRLS' cap, Havva, £30 havamustafa.com

BOOKS



10 Minutes 38 Seconds in this Strange World, Elif Shafak, £12.99



Their Last Breath, Sibel Hodge, £8.99



Madame Atatürk: The First Lady of Modern Turkey, İpek Çalışlar, £12.99

All books available from Waterstones, www.waterstones.com

MUSIC



Rüya, Olcay Bayır, £11.15, and Gece by Altın Gün, £11.39, both from Amazon, www.amazon.com

Turkey is textile heaven, especially when it comes to high quality menswear: even my British husband usually gets his clothes from Turkey whenever we visit. Here are some of the country's leading men's fashion brands, alongside London-based label Chalayan, to freshen up your winter wardrobe.

One of the pioneers in cool Turkish men's ready-to-wear fashion is Kiğılı. Their AW19 collection, featuring jackets, jumpers, stain-resistant shirts with nanotechnology, ties, cashmere scarves, gloves, bags and wallets, is perfect for modern, urban men who want to feel comfortable yet stylish. Key colours are black, navy, brown, saffron, white and – one of the season's peak trends – orange.

With more than 900 designer brands in its stores, as well as its in-house labels such as Academia, Beymen Club and Beymen Collection, Beymen is a prominent name in luxury women's and men's fashion. Academia's men's street fashion collection is inspired by the contradictory moods in David Lynch's Twin Peaks television series and reflects the conflict between dreams and reality. This hybridism can be seen

This Winter's Essential Men's Collections

By Ceren Gunel

in the combination of different fabrics and materials, and also in the use of traditional patterns with a modern twist. This season's colours are pink, black and red, with leopard print visible on accessories such as boots.

Beymen Club's new menswear collection is inspired by nature and urban life. Key pieces include long puffer jackets and duffle coats, as well as shirts, jumpers, sweatshirts, hooded blazers and knitwear jackets. The Beymen Collection boasts an extensive menswear section

split into three sections. 'Casual' is sophisticated-yet-sporty leisurewear that includes cashmere knitwear, shearling jackets and flannel trousers. The seasonal favourite off-white is used with other colours such as black, navy, khaki, camel and grey. Its 'Sartorial' collection is for formal wear, while 'Travel Line' is for travellers and has handy non-iron shirts and tracksuits.

Globally renowned Turkish Cypriot designer Hussein Chalayan creates around a 'Pretension' theme in his AW19 men's collection, combining riding, fetish, and the experiences of nature and army life to create an indefinable fashion aesthetic.

Fabrics are mostly light, with warmth achieved through deep pleats and layering. Classic winter colours sit alongside seasonal neon ones.

Chalayan's collection is on sale online and from his usual stockists. Kiğılı's and Beymen's collections can be purchased in Turkey. Both brands have overseas presence, but sadly not yet in Britain. Beymen Club also has a shop at the new Istanbul Airport, which you can visit while you are waiting for your flight.



ACADEMIA (BEYMEN), AW19



BEYMEN CLUB, AW19



BEYMEN COLLECTION, AW19



CHALAYAN, AW19



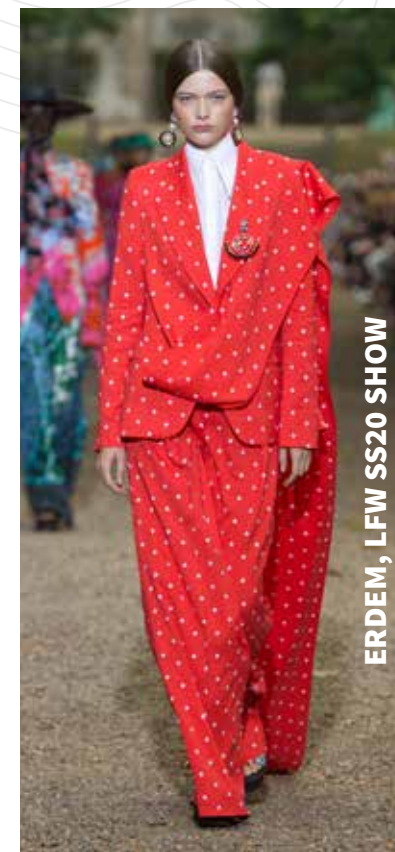
KIĞILI, AW19



BORA AKSU, LFW SS20 SHOW



HUSSEIN CHALAYAN, LFW SS20 SHOW



ERDEM, LFW SS20 SHOW



TUNCER TONUN, LFW SS20 SHOW

To warm the ladies during these cold winter days, T-VINE looks at the Spring Summer 2020 collections of four London-based Turkish designers, as seen at London Fashion Week in September.

Popular with celebrities and royalty alike, designers Erdem and Bora Aksu returned to familiar themes, paying homage to extraordinary historical female personalities in their SS20 collections. Hussein Chalayan, regarded as one of the fashion industry's intellectuals, continued to play with narratives around cultural identities and anthropology, while emerging designer Tuncer Tonun sent 'green' messages with his collection.

Erdem's inspiration is Tina Modotti. Originally from rural Italy, she became a silent Hollywood film star, a community photographer in Mexico and eventually a communist activist in Russia, Spain and Mexico. We can observe the different periods in her life and their fusion throughout the collection, from drop-waisted tulle dresses to woven blankets

How to Stand Out in Spring 2020

By Ceren Gunel

tailored as jackets. Seasonal trends such as suits, yokes and polka dots were combined with Mexican-inspired accessories of earrings and brooches on the runway.

Bora Aksu dedicated his collection to female empowerment through the life of the Persian Princess Taj Saltaneh, who is known as a feminist and trailblazer for women's rights in Iran in the early 20th century. Aksu uses structured shapes combined with soft, feminine fabrics to reflect two different sides of Taj's life: feminine and flamboyant

opulence versus simplicity and masculinity. Seasonal shades include burnt orange and coral pink. Aksu also launched a capsule of handbags as part of this collection.

Chalayan themed his SS20 collection, "The Postcolonial Body", drawing on dance and movement from ethnic groups such as the Japanese and South Americans, which have been colonised by Western forces. Prints imitate indigenous Japanese rituals fused with step instructions for the Tango printed on silk. On the runway, Chalayan used walking sticks as an embodiment of colonialism. Featured colours are navy, burnt orange, red, pale blue, yellow and white.

With sustainability increasingly important in fashion, as elsewhere, eco-friendly designer Tuncer Tonun revisits a theme central to his fashion ethics, devoting his SS20 collection to Mother Nature. This was particularly visible in the green and earth tones he used, and materials such as vetches and dry trees, which aimed to draw attention to deforestation, global warming, and forest fires. Items from all collections will be on sale from January 2020.

KONYA'S

Memorable Medley of Mysticism and Mouthwatering Meals

By Yasemen Kaner-White

A magical city full of history and intrigue, Konya is the resting place of the 13th century Sufi mystical poet and founder of the Mevlevi order (dervishes) Rumi (Jalal ad-Din Muhammad Balkhi), whose insightful and inspirational words are known throughout the world.

The followers of Rumi are also known as 'whirling dervishes', due to their dance called *Sema*, which they believe brings them closer to God, as they whirl round and round trance-like with unfocused eyes, allowing them to be in the moment, akin to meditation. Saturday is the day to watch a *Sema*. The dervishes' original lodge, which is now

a museum, has recreated rooms with figurines to imagine what it was like to be one of them, living there in days gone by. The Mevlana, as Rumi is known, is buried in the museum and visitors can see his mausoleum, as well as those of his family, alongside examples of intricate 13th century motifs.

Extravagant gifts from prominent visitors are also on display, including a hanging sculpture made from one piece of marble that took 20 years to carve and complete.

Konya's Hich Hotel couldn't be in a better place: light floods each of the rooms where the windows open to look out directly on to the Mevlana Museum, a stone's throw away. Kick-start your

exploration days with their buffet breakfast brimming with fresh local fare such as olives, cheeses, honey, fruit, herbs, local speciality buttery cheese-filled flatbread, *yağ somunu*, and a meze served with traditional Turkish eggs cooked in a copper skillet.



Konya Şekeri

“ If you are in Konya on a Sunday & a wedding is happening, feel free to join in. It is customary that whomsoever wishes to go will be fed ”

Konya is divided into three main districts: Meram, Karatay, where the Mevlana Museum is, and Selçuklu. Meram is very green, attracting locals to come and have picnics among the pine trees, hike or indeed barbecue during the summer months. An affluent area with many large villas, you can play paint ball there and hire quad bikes in the mountains.

The city centre is nice to wander around and find a cafe to eat the Konya delicacy *saç böreği*, a thin pastry with potato, meat, mushroom, cheese or a combination of these. Lunch at Gökçem restaurant, named after its owner, serving local delicacies such as *bamya* (dried okra) soup and the sweet treat *irmik helvası*. Originally the healthy okra

soup (which is thought to have antibiotic qualities) was made of meat, meat stock and dried okra; it was not until after the Selçuk period that tomatoes were introduced.

Incidentally, Konya was once the capital of Selçuk. Whilst in Meram, you must swing by Zeliha Cylan Tandır Evi to buy some *tandır* bread straight from Zeliha's stone oven. You'll see ladies crossed-legged, hair up in a scarf, kneading and preparing the bread in front of your eyes. A takeaway treat is the *tandır gevreği* – dried bread peppered with crunchy cannabis seeds.

If you are lucky enough to be in Konya on a Sunday and a wedding is happening, feel free to join in. It is customary that the entire village and whomsoever else wishes to go will be fed, and it is not uncommon for as much as 250kg of meat to be cooked for guests in huge pans. Whilst the men and women sit separately, all can enjoy the music.

Another famous dish in Konya is *etli ekmek* (literally, bread with meat) and Lokmahane Çarşı restaurant, with its built-in traditional stone oven, makes a great one: delicious thin bread topped with mincemeat, tomato, onion and green pepper, wrapped up with a squeeze of lemon and fresh coriander inside. Follow with a *fırın kebabı* (oven cooked lamb) – order the neck in advance (the best bit) – and sweet pumpkin with tahini and walnut.

In Selçuklu lies a small village named Sille, which is similar to Cappadocia, though on a smaller scale. It boasts a rock face with fascinating cave formations to explore: climb to the top for a unique panoramic view. Rest and revive at a rooftop café with a glass of Turkish tea and perhaps a shisha. Historically, it is one of the villages where Greeks and Turks lived alongside each other peacefully for centuries before Turkey's Independence War changed relations.

Today, Sille has a daily organic market where you can stock up on sun-dried dates, cherries, figs, plums, mulberries, okra, assorted local nuts and much more. Wander around one of the oldest churches in Anatolia, Sille Aya Elenia Müzesi: a Byzantine Orthodox Church now turned into a museum. In summer and winter alike you'll find quirky artisan stalls along the street offering handmade gifts such as beaded necklaces, ceramic tiles, and pottery featuring the iconic whirling dervishes. Nearby is Baraj Park, which makes for a beautiful walk around the lake: you can indulge in a spot of fishing, ride



Vişneli Ekmek Tatlısı

on a jet ski, or simply relax in the café surrounded by calming nature.

As well as the Mevlana Museum, Karatay is an interesting place to walk around and perfect for picking up items specific to Konya, for example the *Konya şeker*; essentially sweet candy in an abundance of colours, white being the original. There are also specialised local crafts such as antique carpets made with natural dyes, marbled paintings

called *Ebru*, whirling dervish paintings, conical felt caps known as *sikke*, and the finest examples of *Hat Sanatı* (Arabic calligraphy), which you can, if pre-ordered, have personalised.

Go for a kebab at Konya's renowned Özel Ciğerci, or tuck into a bowl of delicious white bean *piyaz* and lamb *köfte* at Asmaaltı Köftecisi. The busy pedestrian Zafer Street, Konya's answer to the famous Istiklal Avenue in Istanbul, is where you'll be able to see some nice old buildings, as well as shop to your heart's content. Go to the Alâeddin Mosque, which was the mosque of the sultans in Selçuk times; it is said that there is a tunnel under the huge Alâeddin roundabout, which leads directly to the Mevlana.

“In the words of Rumi...
“Only from the heart can you touch the sky”

Nearby is the ancient Neolithic town of Çatalhöyük with dwellings dating back to over 9,000 years ago. It is a simpler, less polished than say Pompeii, but no less intriguing, given this is where the seeds of urban living began. To see more of the recovered *objets d'art* from Çatalhöyük, you'll need to visit the Museum of Anatolian Civilizations in Ankara. The concentrated farming community produced exceptional art and architecture for its time,

making it one of the most important archaeological sites in the world.

For a dinner to remember, head to Dedeman Hotel where the menu is inspired by a 1858 cookbook written by Ali Eşref. Start with a shot of vinegar, water and honey to clean your palate, then *tarhana çorbası* – a classic Turkish soup made of fermented yogurt and cracked wheat or flour. Tradition has it that to signal to the waiter you wanted more water, guests would place a piece of bread in their top breast pocket.



The Mevlana Museum

Gorge on courgettes stuffed with mince & rice bound with egg; stewed tender lamb with baby onions and garlic alongside a compote of unsweetened figs. Green plums, cumin and cinnamon are on the table to accompany the dishes. A stand-out dish has to be the incredible pudding, *vişneli ekmek tatlısı*: white bread, lightly buttered and cooked in the oven to make it crisp, then soaked in sour cherry syrup, sandwiching thick *kaymak* (cream) with cherries on top. Round off your meal with *pelteşin*, a warm drink made from rose water and corn starch.

Another special place to dine has to be Lokmahane with a menu devised by renowned foodie and local gourmet Ahmet Ergun. Start with their Soup of the Day using a wooden spoon (helps cool it down – no burnt lips!), followed by Anatolian specialties including handmade *yaprak dolma* (stuffed vine leaves), a whole lamb on a bed of chickpeas and rice so soft the bones slide out, then more delicious lamb cooked with molasses and dried apricots (melt-in-the-mouth), and yet more lamb (*tirit*) this time topped with sumac spice, which has become crispy in the oven and rounded off with helva topped with walnuts.



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Konya Yeşil Türbe

BURIALS:

North Cyprus vs the UK

Few of us want to talk about death much less plan for it, and yet its inevitability means at some point in our lives we are all likely to have to deal with the funeral arrangements for a loved one.

For Muslims, the Islamic code requires a whole burial. However, the rising cost of buying a plot in Britain (starting at £4,000) and other expenses, such as the funeral itself and a headstone, can see families fork out between £7,000 and £10,000 for quite modest arrangements.

Erkin Guney, the chairman of the UK Turkish Islamic Trust (UKTIT) and Shacklewell Lane Mosque – the UK's first Turkish-owned mosque – remarks that “few people have £10,000 to spare when alive, let alone when they're dead.”

He believes it's a major reason why British Turks are increasingly looking to bury their relatives abroad, which can see costs drop by at least a half.

“A person being buried in North Cyprus will cost around £3,000. This includes the embalming and standard coffin, repatriation, airport transfers, a local burial plot, and funeral costs,” said Mr Guney.

“Few people have £10,000 to spare when alive, let alone when they're dead”

Yet the process for repatriating the deceased can be bewildering, especially for families still in shock at the loss of a loved one.

With over forty years' experience of burials in Britain, and repatriation to Cyprus and Turkey, as well as elsewhere in the world, UKTIT is well-placed to compare the two options. The chairman describes the steps involved:

“The starting point for both is the same: you need to obtain the medical cause

of death, which in turn enables you to register the death formally with your local Registry Office. There is no charge for this, but there is a small fee (around £11) for each death certificate you require.

“You will also require a release form, so your undertaker can collect the body and prepare it for burial. The forms are different depending on whether the person will be buried in Britain or abroad.”

Muslim burials should be undertaken quickly, and many Registry Offices and Coroners are sensitive to this. However, there is no fast track for those being buried abroad.

“If you are planning to repatriate the deceased, they must be embalmed. You will also require a certificate stating the body is ‘free from infection’. The latter is usually something the medical registrar provides alongside the medical cause

of death certificate – you need to ask them for this though as they will assume the person is being buried in the UK unless told otherwise,” explains Mr Guney.

“You then need to obtain the relevant paperwork from the Coroner's Office, which must be satisfied with the cause of death. If they feel no further investigation is needed, they will consent to the body being taken abroad. Working with experienced funeral directors like UKTIT helps as they understand the formalities and have the contacts to process this as quickly as the law allows,” he continues.

“Organising a funeral in another country can be daunting because there are different procedures and sometimes a language barrier to overcome too. When families contact us wanting to bury their loved ones ‘back home’, we will oversee all aspects. We book the flights for the deceased, prepare all the paperwork and contact the relevant authorities abroad, so the body can be received and transported to the cemetery the family have requested. We can't process payments for local costs, such as burial plots and local



transfers, but we can advise and help make all the necessary arrangements.

“While people naturally want their loved ones to be buried close by, so they can visit them easily, they do also balk at the huge costs of a UK burial. At UKTIT, we've seen a significant rise in those wishing to be buried ‘back home’, especially for those who were born in Cyprus and Turkey. But given the rising costs of British funerals, being buried

abroad is also becoming a consideration for second and third generation Turkish and Turkish Cypriots,” he added.

If you have any questions or would like some advice about burials, Mr Guney and his team would be happy to help. You can contact them by phone (020 7249 2244 / 07836 338766 / 07900 161079) or email (info@ukturkishislamictrust.co.uk), or simply pop down to Shacklewell Lane Mosque.



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ASK THE UZMAN

Tips on picking the right childcare for working parents

Finding pre-school childcare can be one of the most daunting things for a parent. There are so many elements to consider. We asked Letife Mehmet, an OFSTED-registered childminder with nearly 20 years of experience in childcare, for some pointers on what parents should look out for and what to ask when they are searching for the right facilities for their young child.

Letife bases her experience on her own business, Elis Childcare in Orpington, which is open weekdays from 7am to 6:30pm, for 46 weeks of the year. She explains that she can care for a child of any age, but her primary focus is on children aged between 0-5 years. Elis follows the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), where the daily routine varies but includes outings, crafts, cooking and children's choice of play, with activities planned to support the child's individual learning and development needs. Here are her top tips:

Ensure the staff have the right qualifications and licences to operate as childminders

A childminder must complete a certified course in 'understanding how to set up a home-based childcare service' and be registered with Ofsted. They must also be Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) Checked, and have undertaken a Paediatric First Aid course, as well as training in Safeguarding Children and Child Protection. In group settings, the manager must hold all relevant Level 3 qualifications, and have at least two years' experience. All details about the team and their qualifications, their training and DBS checks should be openly displayed. They should also be registered on the local council's website.

Check for best practice, such as child-to-minder ratios

Childcare providers must follow the Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage guidelines. This also covers the ratio of how many children there should be per childminder. For example, carers can look after a maximum of 3 children aged 0-5. Nurseries, which operate on a larger scale have slightly different ratios, with less staff needed the older the children are, but for every age group there must be at least one staff member with a Level 3 qualification.

Ofsted and EYFS also require all childcare providers to have policies in place for safeguarding. These do not need to be written policies (though ideally they should be), but the management and staff must be able to explain their procedures to parents and the authorities. At Elis, we have written Policies and Procedures on Safeguarding Children, Managing Children's Behaviour, and Health and Safety as part of the 'Welcome Pack' that we give to parents.

What's core in terms of early child development?

There are seven core areas of Learning and Development set out in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), which must be covered to help children develop properly. Education and learning should always be discussed with parents, so there is a clarity and consensus around a child's needs, the next steps in learning, and how the childcare team and parents should work together to improve the child's development.

The primary areas we focus on are Communication and Language; Physical Development, and Personal, Social and Emotional Development. In addition, the following specific areas are incorporated at age-appropriate stages: Literacy; Mathematics; Understanding the World; and Expressive Arts and Design.

What's the ideal daily routine for nursery-age children?

Every day is different when childminding, but we find it's good to have some structure, as babies and children love to know what is coming next and it helps them to feel more confident and secure. At Elis, we mix fun with child-led activities required by the EYFS. A typical day looks something like this: welcoming children in, breakfast, free play time/set activity time/ outings (depending on the weather, we try to go on outings 3 days a week, which could be to places where there is soft play, or to places that offer story sessions/ toddlers groups, and toddler music and dance classes). We offer a mid-morning snack and outside play (weather permitting) for active play, then lunch. In the afternoon, we have reading and then nap time. There is also free play time/ set activity for afternoon children, active play, then tidy up and "Circle time". For some, we also offer dinner time, then getting ready for Home time.

What about costs and government funding for childcare?

The fee can vary according to geography. In our local area in Kent, the average hourly charge for a childminder is £10. This may change depending on the number of childcare hours needed, so a weekly or monthly fee is offered instead. Additional services, such as food for the children, will cost extra.

Every child aged 3 to 4 years old is eligible to receive 15 hours of free childcare or education for 38 weeks a year in England. The government has funding available to help parents on a low income, topping up their childcare costs for children aged 2 to 16 years old with grants of up to £2,000 per child per year. Details can be found online at www.childcarechoices.gov.uk.

If you have any questions, Letife can be contacted via her website: elischildcare.co.uk



ASK DR SIVRI • HAVE I GOT OCD?

Dear Dr Sivri,

I'm a middle-aged man, divorced and now in a happy new relationship. However my partner recently told me she thinks I suffer from Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (OCD). To be honest, I'd not heard of OCD before and had no idea what she was going on about, but she says my obsession with cleanliness and tidiness is driving her insane.

For me, cleanliness is next to Godliness – at least that's how my siblings (male and female) and I were brought up in Turkey. We weren't rich, but we never compromised on our personal hygiene and our home was always immaculately maintained.

Working as a hairdresser, I'm mindful of health and hygiene, and so keep my salon spotless. At home too I cannot abide mess or dirt, and will get out the mop, hoover and duster as soon as it's needed. I would have thought these are good qualities. But apparently not!

My partner says I am fixated on the little things and get irritated irrationally. She gets upset because I don't like it if she is too tired to wash up before she goes to bed, or hasn't folded away the washing the instant they are dried. Why wait?

Please advise: I feel like this is really driving a wedge between us. Surely my behaviour is not that unreasonable?

Name & address not supplied

Dear Sir,

When you continually think about something (obsessive) and you have a constant urge to do something about it (compulsive), then you could be described as having OCD.

Remember ALL relationships require an element of compromise and some sacrifice even, so if you expect your partner to wash up before bedtime or fold away clothes at YOUR behest, then do you not think that this is irrational in some way?



Where is the compromise in your wishes/demands? Was this an issue in your previous relationships?

Many of our behaviours are deep-rooted, so your thinking patterns are symptomatic of your childhood, and if maladaptive thoughts aren't remedied then they will continually affect all your interactions.

Try to be more mindful of what you say and how you say it. And learn to challenge your thoughts when they pop up in your head. Talk to your wife and tell her you will make a concerted effort to control your feelings and urges.

Of course it's good to be clean, but be careful you don't "over-egg the pudding". There's a difference between scratching an itch and ripping it to shreds! Everything in moderation is best.

You can always get professional help for more clarity on your behaviour patterns.

Best wishes,
Dr. Sivri

Dr Sivri takes over from Yonja Ali as our new agony uncle. If you have a problem? Email mindstations@aol.co.uk and he will try to answer.

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