

The Corfiot

Corfu's English Language Monthly Magazine

April 2009

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No. 220

To the Hills!

The Alternative North East Coast

Update on the
AGIOTFEST Music Festival

Easter
Events

Seeing the Light

Jean Walsh: Another Artist in Corfu

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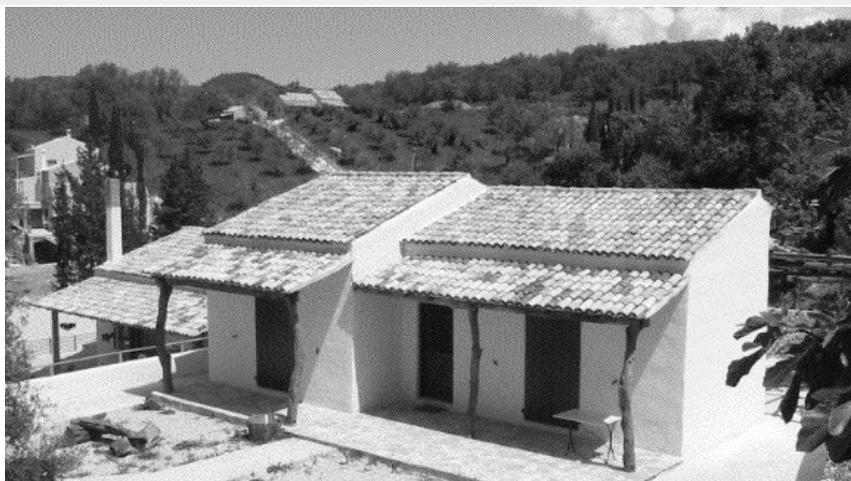
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ear to the ground

WHY OH WHY DOES THE BRITISH PRESS UNFAILINGLY DRAG UP THE NAME OF CORFU WHEN IT WISHES TO HIGHLIGHT THE DAMAGE DONE BY MASS TOURISM?

Mostly its been the Guardian to blame, whose middle-class liberal readers most likely holiday in and around Kensington-on-Sea (David Cameron, George Osbourne, Peter Mandelson) and want to keep the riff-raff at arm's length, thank you. But this time it was the Times (no pun intended), in an article written by the Chairman of the National Trust, Simon Jenkins, on the subject of 'beauty'. I guess Mr Jenkins has not been to Corfu, but instead of doing some research has lazily dredged up his prejudices. This is what he wrote:

"...few countries seem able to link their planning system to some concept of beauty, at least until it is too late. The island of Corfu may be enjoyed by millions more tourists today than when it was the idyll of Gerald Durrell, but its ruination by developers cannot be regarded as a gain for civilisation, or even really for the visitors. Spain now regrets the desecration of the Costa Brava, its towns reduced to such ugliness as to be deserted by package tours."

Everyone has seen pictures and heard stories about the desecration of the Spanish coastline. Thus, to juxtapose the Costa Brava and Corfu like this is sure to engender assumptions that our island looks just the same. Where are the high-rise blocks? Only in Corfu Town - elsewhere, seven metres is the height limit, and even in Town, about six floors is the maximum. Where are the huge developments of on-top-of-each-other apartments? Only in Barbati - elsewhere (out of Town Planning), you need between 2,000 and 4,000 sq.m. to build.

Far from being 'ruined', vast tracts of Corfu are practically untouched, and the seriously developed spots are tiny in proportion. I do wish that people would get their facts right before pontificating on things they know nothing about. Especially when it's our livelihood that can be affected by their bigotry.

I wish we could bring Mr Jenkins here and show him just what beauty is.

IT WAS ONLY IN FEBRUARY THAT I WROTE ABOUT NEW DIETARY ADVICE THAT CHOLESTEROL IN THE FORM OF ANIMAL FATS IS GOOD FOR YOU. Last month, however, a spoilsport organisation called the 'Fat Panel' laid in to several esteemed celeb chefs (including Corfu-cooking fan Rick Stein) for 'excessive' saturated fats in their recipes. Rick's Raspberry Cranachan was one of the recipes singled out for its wicked use of 300 ml double cream (shock! horror!), even though the other ingredients (oatmeal, honey and raspberries) are all healthy superfoods. The pudding apparently contains a whopping 36 grams of saturated fat, when the recommended daily limit for women is 20 grams... Hang on a mo... that's LESS THAN ONE OUNCE! I bet the Corfiots eat that amount in their daily portion of feta cheese alone.

This panel of fathead 'experts' are advising people to substitute "cholesterol-lowering margarine, yoghurt or low fat milk ... for 'bad' fats in the chefs' cookbooks", when the latest wisdom is that the transfats created by the hydrogenisation process required to turn refined vegetable oils into margarine are actively dangerous!

As one commentator subsequently pointed out, Britain's obesity crisis is not due to the middle classes' preparing dinner party

dishes containing butter and cream, but "to people who fill themselves with convenience food and hardly ever cook at all. It is a poverty problem". A few years ago a Sidari restaurateur tellingly observed to me that the fatter the tourists, the less cash they had to spend (before I get irate letters from Sidari residents, this is NOT a carp at you).

A couple of days later, a Scottish GP called for a 'chocolate tax' to reduce consumption, and therefore fight obesity... never mind that chocolate is certainly a minor factor in causing fat... and ignoring the fact that real chocolate is actively good for you.

In reaction to the butter-and-cream nonsense, a number of cookery writers came out in praise of dairy. "Butter contains vital nutrients; the vitamins in the fat help us absorb calcium and it also has strong anti-viral and anti-bacterial properties. There is also evidence that our bodies are much better able to process the fats in butter than those in refined vegetable fat. The only truly healthy vegetable oils are expensive, unrefined, cold pressed 'virgin' oils, such as olive oil," wrote Rose Prince in the Telegraph. In another Telegraph commentary, Jemima Lewis added: "Their notion that saturated fat clogs up arteries is based on a 1953 study which found that the Japanese, who don't eat much fat, were less prone to heart disease than Americans, who do. But the study ignored data from 16 nations that didn't fit the hypothesis. The French and the Inuits, who adore animal fats, have very low levels of heart disease."

Whom are we to believe them? Especially when I inform you that the 'Fat Panel' is part-funded by... the UK Margarine and Spreads Association.

So just to be contrary, I've dedicated this month's recipe column to puddings that contain faint-inducing quantities of butter and cream. You'll notice that, like Rick's raspberry pud, they are also stuffed with ingredients that are good for you. So enjoy...



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REGULAR EVENTS

Tuesdays 10.00 Library & Coffee Morning
Wednesdays 10.00 Coffee & Kids
Wednesdays 12.00-14.30 Lunch Box
Wednesdays 19.00 Scrabble Club (last Wed. in the month)
Thursdays 10.30 Bible Study, the Old Testament (new series)
Fridays 10.30-12.00 Informal Prayer Meeting

Current locum Chaplain is the Revd. Bruce Lyons who, with his wife Eileen, is at Holy Trinity until Greek Easter.

This month's name days

06. Evtichios
10. Dimos, Iraklis, Miltiades, Periklis, Sofoklis
12. Anthi
15. Leonidas
19. Anastasios, Paschalis, Lambros
21. Alexandra
24. Achilleas, Valentini, Elisavet
25. Markos
29. Iason

Name-day ritual dictates that you visit the home of the celebrating person, who will be holding an 'at home' - no invitation required. Take along a simple gift (alcohol, flowers, cake) and you will be offered a drink, nuts, cake, and possibly food.

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When: Sunday,
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Please contact Katie Flower for more information:
katiejaneflower@googlemail.com
0030 6955 263740

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Book Sale

Organised by and for the Council of Thinali Parents' Association. Held outside the Dimitra Supermarket in Acharavi between 10.00 & 1.00 every Saturday (weather permitting). All our books and handmade cards are 1.50 euros, and proceeds are used to enrich the lives of children attending Acharavi Primary School. Most of the books are donated by local residents, and local hotels and apartments are also encouraged during summer to recycle and donate books left by holidaymakers.

ACHARAVI

Even more down in the dumps

Promised EU visit fails to materialise

✍ Hilary Paipeti

In a 'stop press' in last month's report on the Tembloni dump, we announced that an environmental team from the European Commission was expected on an inspection visit. We were informed that the promised visit had been prompted by a short film we made about the dump which was posted on www.corfu-news.eu. Segments of the documentary were shown on national TV.

An inspector did arrive on the 27th of February. Polish commissioner Mrs Hubner was greeted on arrival at the New Port by protesters from Lefkimmi and Tembloni, who explained the problems and presented her with a file of evidence. But contrary to the earlier promises of Mr Dimas, she was only scheduled to visit some educational facilities to check that EU funding had been properly utilised.

At an impromptu press conference at the entrance to the port, Mrs Hubner indicated that she was completely unaware of the problem of the Tembloni dump and the one under construction at Lefkimmi, and she promised to examine the documentary evidence carefully.

Ten days previously, protesters from Tembloni had been tipped off that an inspection team was on its way, but they waited in vain at the gate for several hours.

The Tembloni dump, originally intended only for the waste of Corfu Town, has been forced to accept rubbish from all over the island for several years, and as a result it is overflowing. The initial siting of the dump was illegal under (then) EC law, being too close to habitation and located above underground water. Waste treatment has been improperly managed, resulting in a mountain of rubbish that has not been compacted or covered. Polluted black sludge, bubbling with toxic gases, overflows into water-courses which feed a series of lakes. Water from the area makes

its way into the sea at Gouvia, and appears to have contaminated boreholes, indicating that the water table may be affected.

Inexplicable chasms have suddenly opened as the ground has slumped inwards, leading to suggestions that the underlying rock is also damaged.

The bad management at the Tembloni dump provoked the ongoing protests by the Lefkimmi residents, where the new dump is also illegal according to EU law. While it should be at least 1500 metres from habitation, the nearest house is 500 metres away. Underground water which drains into rivers is only two metres under the dump, and caused a lake to form during excavation. The facility is close to the popular tourist resort of Saint Peter, near Kavos, and streams from the area under development drain onto the beach. Residents rightly fear that the dump will be mis-managed like the Tembloni one, and that the wider area will be similarly affected.

On the mainland near Igoumenitsa, the rubbish dump at Karvounari is also creating problems in the locality. The concrete tank where waste water is treated is cracked, and pollution will soon leak onto pastures where thousands of farm animals graze. Ecological farms in the neighbourhood will be affected.

Questions are now being asked about the role of the European Union in the problem. Vast sums of money raised from taxes in Northern European countries have been given to subsidize projects in less affluent Mediterranean ones, but there are few checks on where the money has gone or how it has been used.

Considering the precedents, those affected by the two dumps are wondering whether Mrs Hubner's promise to look into the matter is another empty promise. They are beginning to ask whether the European Union is part of the problem, rather than its solution.

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AGIOTFEST 2009

Next year with Steeleye Span?

✍️ *Phil Mawson*

This year, the Agios Ioannis Music Week undergoes a major transformation. From its humble beginnings in 2003, the event now evolves from a purely Classical, Folk and Country one into what may well become a leading venue for International and Corfiot acts.

Naturally, the current economic climate has a negative effect on all aspiring new ideas, but this event is sure to capture the imagination of the young and not-so-young, local and holidaymaking public alike. The island should feel positive in the prospect that the AGIOTFEST 09 will have the ability to create a wider touristic appeal, especially directed towards the Arts and Cultural sector.

SOUND INVESTMENT

The AGIOTFEST has enormous potential to become a great festival and a financially sound investment for Corfiot and Greek cultural tourism, since it combines music from all genres and styles - and more importantly provides a stage for local new and up-and-coming musicians to play alongside internationally recognised performers. The event can generate business in many areas associated with the performing arts and trades affiliated with tourism: accommodation, service industries, travel and transportation - all of which would be beneficiaries of such an enterprise.

AGIOTFEST 09 is experimental in so far as it has already been privately funded at great cost to the organisers, on the basis of support from the public in attendance figures - sale of the ticket allocation of 1000 is the target for this year's main evening performance on 12 September, ALL SEATED. Added to this main source of income, the event can develop much further in content form and audience figures with the aid of sponsorship and advertising revenue.

The originators of Agios Ioannis Music Week, Paul and Lula McGovern and Lionel Mann are this year supported by Jackie Dickenson, Philip and Liam Mawson and Hilary Paipeti. Pending the success of this first year, according to how well it is received by the public, 2010 is already projected to attain audience figures of 5,000. Leading Folk, Blues, Jazz and Rock musicians from all over Europe have already been provisionally contacted and are willing to participate.

AGIOTFEST 09 has as its headline act former and present members of Jethro Tull, Fairport Convention, Little Johnny England and the Steve Gibbons Band. They will play under the name 'The Dylan Project'. As the name implies, they perform Bob Dylan numbers, but not only... there will be lots of renditions of Jethro Tull and Fairport as well as new compositions. They intend to rock the house down!

Currently the band is touring the UK and Europe, attracting full houses. But the concept of AGIOTFEST has captured their hearts.

Additional acts will consist of Greek Ethnic Folk Bands, expat European artists, Richie Henderson from Scotland, Vasilis and Giorgos - local guitarists of note - and Russ Bartlett and his good old boys, not forgetting of course Lionel Mann and Elke Hornig with their classical recital which kicks off the week.

WORLD RENOWNED ARTISTS

Among artists provisionally 'pencilled in' for 2010 are Maddy Prior and Steeleye Span, Tir na Nog, the Bad Shepherds and the full complement of Fairports. Possibly a well-known Greek performer will also take the stage. BUT it all depends on this year being a success.

The 2009 event is already being promoted throughout Europe on radio and TV, and at Dylan Project and Fairport concerts. Mike Harding has mentioned it on his BBC Radio 2 slot.

Even hit by the economic crisis, the public still wishes to holiday somewhere. With growing competition for a possibly smaller number of overseas holidaymakers, Corfu cannot afford to sit on its laurels and rely on its past glories as a destination for sun-, sand- and fun-soaked holidays. The discerning visitor needs more, and events like AGIOTFEST create a meaningful alternative.

VALUE FOR MONEY

The AGIOTFEST organisation is serious about providing a value for money evening. Our all-seated tickets (1000 of them) for the main 12 September gig featuring the Dylan Project and other multi-performing acts are sensibly priced at 20 euros (postage and booking fees are added for overseas enquiries. The telephone number for the 'box office' is 26610 58177. Don't leave it too long - tickets are limited, and they are on sale internationally. We hope you will be a part of evolving music history, at AGIOTFEST in September 2009.

Man with Van
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Rubbish
Removed



Neil
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Information from The Ark

📧 Louisa van Vuurde

IDENTIFICATION

Several times a year we receive calls from desperate owners whose dog is missing. Often the dog comes home after a few days - un-neutered males are able to smell a bitch on heath up to 10 kilometres distant! While searching for the bitch, they can get lost or injured in fights with other males, or hurt in road accidents or even poisoned. Sometimes other people find the dog and assume that he is one of the many unwanted dogs which has been dumped; a collar does not always mean that he still has an owner.

To ensure that your dog (or cat) can always be identified, get it chipped. This small identification 'grain' is very easily put in by the vet under the skin of the left shoulder and contains an unique number so the owner can be traced. To check for a chip you have to take the dog to a vet who has a special scanner to read it. Of course, you should keep the record up to date, and inform the organization dealing with chipping of any changes of address. Last month a chipped boxer went missing, but the owner had not put the chip in their name.

In addition to the chip, we always recommend that you make the dog's identification visible from outside: write your mobile phone number on the collar with a permanent pen. If your dog is lost, draw up a poster with a good photograph of the missing animal. Do it in English and in Greek, using simple wording and asking that the person who finds it ties it up and phones to say where it is.

We have noticed that offering a reward can be beneficial. Put up the poster in the area where the dog left, in supermarkets and so on, but also in Corfu Town. If an owner mentions the loss to the Ark, we post the missing dog/cat on our website (www.corfuanimalwelfare.com) under 'latest news' section.

NEUTERING

In most western countries pets, whether male or female, are commonly neutered. Unfortunately, in Greece this is less common, and the result we see daily all around us: dumped puppies and kittens. Often these helpless beasts die of starvation or illness, but some are adopted because 'they are so cute and adorable'. However, many 'adopted' puppies are dumped when they get older and less cute.

Neutering of the dogs and cats is recommended not only to control the population, but also to reduce the risk of cancer. Cancer of the female/male organs is the most common cause of death in older age. The neutered animal will continue to be an even more loving companion for the family, and will not get 'fat' if you adjust the quantity of food.

FOSTERING

At the Ark, we try to find homes for unwanted puppies, but often we cannot help. At present, we are receiving almost daily offers of between four and ten puppies, often including the mother. In most cases people wait six weeks or longer to ask for help, but where can we find caring homes for so many?

From time to time we find good homes in Corfu, but otherwise we try with good contacts abroad. We also arrange temporary fostering, and really need to find individuals or families who can foster for a limited agreed time. If you have some space in your garden or house, you can save a dog's life just by looking after it for a few weeks whilst we seek a new family. Do not worry that you will be stuck with it - we do keep our promise to take the dog back at the end of the agreed period. It is very rewarding to help a dog with its passage to a new future - and we keep you informed of what happens to 'your' dog in the future. For more information, please phone Louisa on 6979 798202.

If you can help us with anything else, like administration, taking photographs, driving animals to the vet, please also contact us. And do not forget we need members, not for the sake of the contribution of 20 euros a year, helps towards the costs, but also to demonstrate that animal welfare concerns of a lot of people. Please phone 26610 32111 (Greek) or 26610 43278.

CARE

CORFU ANIMAL RESCUE ESTABLISHMENT

CARE is a non-profitable charity and relies solely on donations. For further information please call Cheryl Graham, Head of Operations, on 6972 072155, or check our website www.carecorfu.com

Harry, the dog featured last month, unfortunately had to be put down. He was found in Sidari with a rope embedded in his neck, which had made a hole in his throat. CARE and the vet did everything possible for the dog over a period of a few weeks, but in the end the damage was too great. Cheryl thanks everyone who helped.

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EASTER CELEBRATIONS

The First Easter

✍️ **Bruce Lyons**

On the first Easter Day, as dawn was breaking over Jerusalem, women were running through the awakening city. They had news to tell. The truly dead, crucified Jesus was alive. The angel at the empty tomb had said, 'Go, tell'. The four gospels are eye-witness accounts and they differ as to the effect this dramatic statement had. The disciples didn't know how to react. Some didn't believe. Some didn't know what to think. Peter and John jumped up and ran through the city to the tomb, to see for themselves. Luke states, 'The disciples didn't believe. It seemed like nonsense.'

Well, it does. A truly dead, crucified man, now alive. Of course it sounded like nonsense. They forgot that Jesus had said, many times, that after three days he would rise from the dead. We, too, differ in our reaction to the news. As the tapers are lit in Corfu streets on Easter Eve, the cry is, 'He is risen!' Do I believe he truly has risen? Jesus knew it was mind-blowing. He later came to tell the disciples himself. We only have the facts written down, but the question applies to us.

Of course, earlier, Lazarus had risen from the dead at Jesus' command, but he died again. Jesus rose again and lives for ever. The book written about him, the Bible, explains a bit more.

If this is true, then it is the greatest event in Time. Jesus said he was the Son of God. Either he spoke the truth or he was a fraud and a liar.

Jesus was crucified to take the penalty that our wrongdoing eventually asks for. If this is true, then we are forgiven and free.

Even as the disciples didn't know whether to come or go, to believe or not, maybe this Easter, we might think again. Is this true? What should I do about the greatest event in Time, that began and goes beyond time? Can this be true?

Easter Events

This year's Greek Orthodox Easter falls on Sunday, 19 April. A number of religious and cultural events take place in Corfu Town's churches and at city venues, but a diary was not available at the time of publication. Here is a list of the regular celebrations:

SUNDAY, 12 APRIL **Palm Sunday** *Procession of Saint Spiridon* around Corfu Old Town, 11am.

FRIDAY, 17 APRIL **Good Friday** *Religious Processions* ('Funeral of Christ') in Corfu Town, from 16.00 to late evening. Also candlelight processions in many villages, evening.



SATURDAY, 18 APRIL **Easter Saturday** *Procession of Saint Spiridon* around the Espanade. 9.00. 'Pot-throwing' Ceremony, 11.00. 'First Resurrection' Celebrations, with marching bands and majorettes, 11.05. *Midnight Mass*, Esplanade Square, 23.30. *Fireworks display*, Esplanade Square, 24.00. Also candlelight processions and *Midnight Mass* in many villages from about 22.00. Followed by 'chilhourdi' (Easter Soup) at home or in a local taverna to break the Lenten Fast.

SUNDAY, 19 APRIL **Easter Sunday** *Religious Parades* in the centre of Town, 7.00 - 10.00. Lamb lunch with red eggs.

Spring Walks

For information, call 6934 396335

SATURDAY, 4 APRIL **Old Perithia and the Parigori Gorge** (3 hours ***). Meet at Loutsas, Anapaftria Junction, 10.00 for car transfer to Old Perithia *. Lunch at Foros, Old Perithia.

SATURDAY, 11 APRIL **Mount Agios Mattheos** (2 1/2 hours *** Some new paths). Meet at Agios Mattheos coffee bars, 10.00 for 10.30 start, possibly for car transfer. Lunch at Alonaki Taverna.

SATURDAY, 18 APRIL **Karst Plateau, Taxiarchis and Spartillas** (2 1/2 - 3 hours *** mainly descent). Meet at Asteria Bar, Spartillas, 10.00 for car transfer to the Plateau *. Lunch at Stamatis, Strinilas.

SATURDAY, 25 APRIL **Lakones: Alimatades and the 'Bella Vista' Path**. (3 - 3 1/2 hours *** long but not tough NEW!). Meet at Lakones, first coffee bar, 9.30 for 10.00 start. Lunch at Doukades.

SATURDAY, 2 MAY **PICNIC at Agios Ilias Church**, behind Ipsos. Meet at the Town Hall, Ipsos Seafront, 11.00, for car transfer to start. Easy walk of about an hour precedes food. Bring food and wine,

SATURDAY, 9 MAY **Giannades: The Marmaro Hills and the Ropa Plain** (3 hours *** NEW!). Meet at Giannades Square, 10.00 for 10.30 start. Lunch TBA.

We are now offering easy alternative walks for those who cannot manage the full walk. Guiding may be from notes. Please call for information.

RATINGS

- * very easy
- ** easy with some climbs
- *** moderate, some steep climbs
- **** difficult / rough terrain
- ***** only for the fit!

Guiding fee 2 euros, kids under 12 and dogs free

* Please avoid car sharing to get to the start of this walk - it is a linear walks not circular. Since we will leave cars at the finishing point and drive to the start, we need space in the cars for others on the return.

To the Hills!

The Alternative North East Coast 🏠 Hilary Paipeti

Undoubtedly the drive along the North East Coast is one of the highlights of a stay in Corfu. The long and winding road to Kassioپی is punctuated by sudden views over silver olives down to the cerulean sea. Little bays invite you to stop and dabble your toes in the waves. And in April your way forward is not hampered by tourists travelling at the perceived speed of the road - 42.5 kilometres an hour - or by trucks laden with beer or frozen products.

Fewer people, though, venture further afield. Above the coast road, and higher than the 'olive line', higher even than the expensive villas with their pools, the priceless view over the Corfu Channel spreads in an even more dizzying perspective. This drive is an 'alternative' tour eastwards, taking you the length of the south-facing scarp of the Pantokrator Massif, using lesser-known by-ways to take you up to the hills!

The trip starts at the top of the Troumpetta Pass, where you take the road to Sokraki (on the right if you are travelling from the direction of Corfu Town). This road has only been asphalted in the past couple of years, and some maps don't even show it! The first section switchbacks up the mountainside - and if you thought the view from Troumpetta south over central Corfu was spectacular, see what it looks like from up here! At the top, near the inevitable forest of transmitters, the road passes around the shoulder of the hill and suddenly the whole of Northern Corfu comes into sight - there is a point where you can almost see both views at the same time. Then the way levels out amongst some flat, open terraces. This month, the orchid season, it's worth stopping to seek a variety of the Horseshoe Orchid which uniquely grows in this spot. A botanist once told me that the terraces here are rare in that they have never been cultivated - only grazed - and that they should be designated as an area of Special Scientific Interest. There are also wells and a couple of old stone bothies, shelters for shepherds. Your elevation is over 600 metres, the location being close to the summit of Tsouka, the highest point of the long ridge which stretches between Troumpetta and Spartillas. Thinking ahead to next spring, it's a great venue for the traditional Clean Monday picnic and kite flying. We once counted 13 kites in the air at once here.

The road now runs the length of the ridge, just behind the swell of Tsouka (670 metres), and the views are all north. Numerous cypress trees in otherwise relatively open land (as opposed to olive-clad) makes the scene sometimes reminiscent of Tuscany. The road follows the course of old footpaths accessing plots of land, so it twists and dives on its way to Sokraki, which you glimpse in the distance from time to time.

Though the distance is longer, many of the residents of Sokraki prefer to access their village by way of the new road to Troumpetta - now it is asphalted - rather than the dramatic 'old' way featuring 25 full-lock hairpin bends (and also a comforting safety wall). While only a couple of hundred people now inhabit

the houses which border the winding village road and the little alleyways leading off it, Sokraki supports three coffee bars, two of them in the delightful paved square at the eastern end of the settlement. In summer, you can sit and watch a stream of traumatized travellers, arriving by car, by bike or on foot, plonk themselves down and quickly relax.

Leaving the square and plunging deep into the village, you can follow the maze of alleyways on the right, and maybe find yourself at the apex of the houses where a water cistern provides a sitting spot with an outlook over rooftops and the surrounding countryside. The conical peak of Agia Triada is prominent. And, returning to the square, you can refresh yourself with a bottle of real ginger beer at Emily's Snack Bar.

Onward, your route takes you north out of the village and down to Zigos (coming down the hill there's a lovely view of this village on the other side of the valley). Turn sharp right in the settlement and, across open country, you reach the road between Spartillas and Episkepsis. Turn right to get to Spartillas, known as the 'Window on Corfu' because of the spectacular view southwards over the sea to Corfu Town and beyond. On a clear day, you can even make out the distant shape of Paxos.

The village nestles at a height of 400 metres, lying more or less at the 'olive line', the contour above which the tree will not grow. Such a location meant that the inhabitants, in past days reliant on their crops and animals, would not have far to walk to their daily toil - downwards to their olive groves and up to their pastures. When it was built, before the petrol age, villagers relied on donkeys for transport, so the alleys, winding between the houses, are narrow - just wide enough for a donkey and its panniers. Still today you may be treated to a glimpse of the past as a donkey guided by its owner meanders slowly down the street carrying its burden of wood or hay. With fewer donkeys around, the passageways have been taken over by flowers, spilling from balconies and pots. Ancient grapevines have been allowed to spread their shade wantonly, and even without spraying and cultivation they are productive.

Everywhere you look, architectural features catch the eye. Sandstone arches lead to a storeroom under a 'bodzo' - a first floor balcony which gives access to the living quarters. On the walls, stucco is painted with multiple layers of colour, peeling and faded. Traditionally, walls were lime-washed with the addition of natural tints, a practice still followed today by those wishing to preserve the integrity of older buildings.

There are staircases of old marble, and arched gateways that lead into overgrown gardens. A Venetian chimney rends the sky, and old olive-crushing millstones bear witness to the village's agricultural past.

Through the village, the way leads downwards around long switchbacks. About halfway down, it levels out on a plateau >12

DISCOVER CORFU

10> and here you turn left on a smaller road, barely known except amongst Spartillas residents accessing the beach or their business at Barbati. The road joins the main North East Coast route just before the resort.

The founders of Barbati arrived in Corfu in 1541, travelling in a Venetian galley that had sailed from Monemvasia in the Peloponnese. They were 'Stadioto', soldiers of fortune; Corfu's Venetian rulers granted them tax privileges and the right to bear arms, buy land and trade. They were envied by the aristocracy as well as by the peasantry due to their social mobility. Their leader, named Barbatis, was made a Knight of San Marco and given much land - you've guessed where!

Who were these people? They were Toske, southern Albanian warrior tribes of Greek Orthodox faith who were drafted in the 11th and 13th centuries to fight for the Byzantines. Subsequently, they fought for the Venetians. There are dozens of names in the local phone book whose ancestors arrived in the same galley as Barbatis - Bouas, Priftis, Vradis, Lekkas, Manassis and many others. Some, like members of the Priftis and the Vradis families, settled in the villages around Barbati and Agios Markos.

As tourism developed in the decades following the 1960s, many of their descendants built shops, restaurants and apartments on the land that was their inheritance, near the sea with its strand of large white pebbles. Unfortunately, a combination of misguided planning permission and rampant copycatism has seen the beautiful olive groves behind the beach (described in their 1930s guise in the last chapter of Gerald Durrell's 'Birds, Beasts and Relatives') wiped out under the only dense Spanish-style holiday-home developments on the island. Avert your gaze!

The typical North East Coast reappears between Barbati and Nissaki. At Nissaki you may take a detour into the hills by turning left off the main road just before the junction where a road goes down to Nissaki harbour (if you get this far you have passed the junction). A road of tight hairpin bends, the way leads up past sequestered villas to Viglatsouri. If you are really brave, you can continue on a track to the ruined and rather creepy Old Sinies, though beyond that deserted village only a very robust 4x4 will make it.

But this tour turns right before Viglatsouri, where a small road traverses the hillside to Apolysies, then leads down to the coast road again at Nissaki's centre. Turn left to continue along this really pretty section of the north east. The coffee bar opposite the petrol station at Kaminaki is a lovely spot for refreshments with a view.

After Kaminaki, the hillside is barer, then you cross a gully and swing round to Kentroma, where you leave the main coast road again. The turn is hard to spot, being just before the big bend, narrow and steep between buildings. It's signposted to 'The Old Schoolhouse Taverna' at Porta. The

road is mainly concrete, bumpy in places. A couple of minutes up, follow a hairpin bend left instead of going straight on. Above the sporadic villas and the olives, the sea is suddenly in view far... far... far below, and nervous passengers must hope the driver keeps his eyes on the road! Soon you are in Porta, meeting the road on the edge of the village.

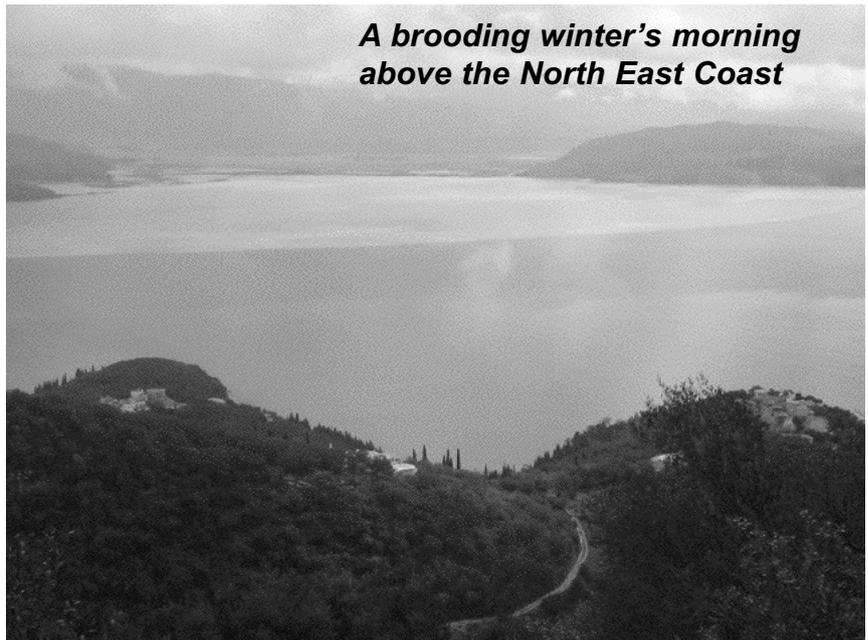
As the name suggests, Porta is somewhat of a 'gateway' to the mountain zone. Formerly, all the villages in the area were linked with each other and the sea by stone-cobbled footpaths, with Porta at the hub of a great network. Though many of these 'kalderimi' paths have tragically been bulldozed in recent years, traces of the network remain. Often you come across them on the inland side of the main Kassiope coastal road, opposite a sign indicating a way down to some beach; for these were direct routes from the mountain villages to the seashore and a caïque to Corfu Town's busy market, for there was no coastal road. Agni was one of these staging posts, and its tavernas have roots in these past times. A footpath (the course of the Corfu Trail in reverse) runs directly downhill from Porta to Agni, so you could drop off members of your party here, and meet them in one of the tavernas for an evening meal (open from May onwards).

For an alternative short walk to finish your trip, head up through Porta until you get to Agia Varvara Church and the Old Schoolhouse Taverna. Just after the church, a marked footpath heads off right. It's not a kalderimi, but does lead into delightful forest. Over a footbridge, the path climbs, crosses a track, then heads briefly downhill and up to Santa. You can walk back to Porta along the road, quiet and shaded in parts by chestnut trees.

To get back to the North East Coast road, just take the main way down from Porta, which leads down to the crossroads at New Sinies - right to return along the coast road, left to Kassiope and straight across to Agios Stefanos. From here on, the choice is yours...

(Keep this article for the benefit of your summer guests.)

A brooding winter's morning above the North East Coast



Seeing the Light

Jean Walsh: Another Artist in Corfu

 Hilary Paipeti

They came from Crete fleeing the Turks and from England following the Empire; and in our own times from all over the world. Artists in search of light and subject matter. Corfu grew its own too, like Angelos Giallinas, who in his landscapes is generally judged to have captured the island's soft light best of all.

Now another artist has joined their illustrious ranks. Jean Walsh just held her first exhibition in Corfu, a two-day event which took place in the Akti Arillas Hotel in North West Corfu. And from the 26 works on display, she sold 12, also gaining eight commissions.

'I'm extremely pleased,' Jean told The Corfiot. 'For my first event, it went pretty well. We had approximately 100 visitors, Greeks and foreigners, from all over the North West. And that was just from putting up posters in both languages. It's really put me on the map.'

Jean has been coming to Corfu for 20 years. During nearly the whole of that time, she and her husband Senan possessed a small house in Arillas on a long-term rent, 'so it was like our own, really.' Last May - even though Senan is still working and thus is



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MY CORFU

obliged to spend a week in the UK every month - they finally bit the bullet, sold up in England, and bought a house in Mesorachi, between Kavadales and Arillas. Eventually, she plans to build a studio and small gallery in the garden. 'But that's a long-term project.'

Jean describes herself as a 'natural artist'; she has never had formal training. 'It's a long story,' she says. 'I did my first oil painting when I was 11, and it went to an exhibition in London. My headmistress wanted me to go to art college, but the particular one was boarding only, and my parents, being very protective, wouldn't let me go.'

Nevertheless, she has exhibited on several occasions in the UK. 'On visits to Corfu, I always painted, and I flew the results back with me. That's why up to now I have only done commissions, so I wouldn't transport the paintings for nothing.' Now, because Jean lives, paints and markets the result in the same environment, she is free to choose her own subject matter.

'I love the beautiful scenery and the old buildings, but especially the people. They are such characters, with poses that you just don't see in England - all shapes and sizes, and so natural! It's important for me to capture these characteristics as a record of today's life, as it won't be around much longer. Dress style is changing, and the old people and the donkeys will vanish eventually. In the end, it will become just like everywhere else.'

Her ability to catch the atmosphere of the moment was best demonstrated at the exhibition with three takes on fishermen and other figures on the Arillas jetty (pictured in the lower part of the photograph). Much of her subject matter comes in threes, usually with a common colour scheme which accords with the topic - in this case the hue is the coral and russet of a typical Arillas sunset, which places the jetty folk in chocolate silhouette.

She also works with Celtic patterns (Jean is Welsh and Senan Irish), combining the designs with local motifs like birds, flowers and fish. Nowadays her work is in acrylic, though she has used oil and watercolours in the past. 'I love acrylics as you can mix such beautiful shades. But, when painting in summer, you do have to know what you are doing and what you mean to achieve, simply because it's so hot. You look around, and the brushstrokes you've just laid down have dried while your back was turned!'

As well as paintings suited for a domestic setting, Jean does commercial work - signs, paintings and murals - for bars, restaurants and offices. For example, Heracles Bar on the Arillas road is decorated with a mural depicting Hercules fighting a lion and another showing Aphrodite rising from the foam. The Indian restaurant in Sidari, Koh-i-Noor, the Night Owl at Afionas and the PADI Scuba Diving Centre in San Stefanos are

three more where her artwork is on display.

And inevitably, Arillas is full of Jean's signs and paintings, among them at Amourada Restaurant, C'Scelles Shop and Ina's Shop. 'We look out for each other here,' she says.

The Akti Arillas Hotel displays three paintings by Jean of traditional Greek boats, reminders that she will continue to exhibit at this venue on an annual basis, probably next time in November.

In the meantime, Jean will enjoy the long hours of light and the peace which Corfu provides - a perfect environment for an artist.

Jean can be contacted at 6981 754634.



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Cratastrophe

✍️ **Lionel Mann**

Here we go again! My infancy was blighted by the Great Depression and now we have another to plague my old age.

Somebody once said. "Those who ignore history are doomed to relive it." It is incredible that the lessons of 1929 should have so quickly been forgotten. To permit the voracious greed coupled with the abysmal stupidity of Manhattan hoodlums and their miserable lackeys to control the world's finances is to invite disaster. At least in the earlier fiasco those responsible had the sense to hurl themselves from their high office windows and thus rid the world of their pernicious scheming; today the villains expect to quit with a 'golden handshake'. Progress?

PERPETUATING THE PROBLEM

Moreover, their politician puppets, whilst 'bailing out' failed institutions, leave the morons responsible for the failure still in control. Those 'bail-outs' are no more than palliatives, perpetuating the problem. Government control is not a viable solution either; the record of government bureaucracy in managing anything successfully is notoriously bad. An entirely new system, subject to tight independent supervision, is needed.

Today's theory of economics is fundamentally flawed. For over two thousand years wise men have counselled against living beyond ones means. To exist on credit is folly, yet even major governments do it - and then print worthless money to hoodwink the brainless electorate.

Psalm 15 teaches, "He that hath not given his money upon usury, nor taken reward against the innocent; whoso doeth these things shall never fall."

In Hamlet, Shakespeare admonishes, "Neither borrower nor lender be."

There are examples in Dickens's books of the folly of incurring debt. Mr. Micawber is very explicit on that point. Authorities had a salutary way of dealing with financial irregularity in those days. As a youngster that author had visited his father in a debtor's prison.

Sir Daniel Gooch of GWR and Atlantic Cable fame, who rose from very humble and indigent origins, from the first managed his affairs very circumspectly, always shunning insolvency, and in his writings advised others to follow his example.

Between the ages of eleven and eighteen I lived in my grandfather's household. Almost every week I would accompany him on his 'Sunday constitutional' around the 'four-mile square' of roads surrounding our village. Aged fourteen he had been apprenticed to the cobbler in his Lincolnshire village; aged forty he was proprietor of a shoe factory employing

sixty operatives and a building business with a staff of twenty. Most of the houses in the newer part of the village were built by his men, and he named many of the roads. He owned tracts of woodland, scheduled for further development, that afforded venues for our youthful games. Although sixty-plus he yet marched at a good pace and our afternoon 'strolls' lasted about an hour, during which he would expound his business philosophy as well as commenting upon natural phenomena that his countryman's eye spotted. He was constantly drumming in, "Neither borrower nor lender be, Lionel; debt is a millstone around the neck." He had always followed that axiom. Although he encouraged my musical aspirations, I think he hoped that I, his oldest grandson in England, would succeed him.

SABOTAGING BRITISH INDUSTRY

The Great Depression hit my grandfather's businesses hard yet, despite running at a loss, he retained the six shoe operatives and the four builders who had been with him since he set up on his own account. "I shall never turn them out on to the streets." Neither did he evict any tenants who could not pay their rents. The war saved him by providing large orders for army boots. The shoe factory was back into full operation, and all his builders were taken on by the Ministry of Works or conscripted into the armed forces. In 1946, witnessing the Labour Government sabotaging British industry, he closed the factory after ensuring that all his staff were safely employed elsewhere. Within a year he was dead, no longer having any purpose in life.

Throughout my life I have followed his advice, never going to bed at night owing anybody anything. As a Headmaster I always insisted that my Chairman of Governors or School Treasurer (both rather amused - "it's not modern business practice")

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should provide me with counter-signed cheques so that I could settle promptly any invoice received. My last duty at night, if need be, would be to walk to the post office to post replies in payment of accounts delivered that day. Then I could sleep soundly. I also found that the firms with whom we dealt gave very good, equally prompt, service.

NADIR OF STUPIDITY

Only a couple of months ago my bank wrote to me offering me substantial credit. That was a gross insult. They have had my account for sixty-five years and I have never been overdrawn, nor have I ever sought credit. Their charges for ordinary business are extortionate and yet they try to lure the deluded populace into debt so that they may squeeze even more hard-earned money from them. The whole affair is utterly immoral as well as being the nadir of stupidity, resulting in today's monetary 'cratastrophe', another Great Depression. They call it an 'economic downturn' or a 'recession'. Whom do they think they are fooling when hordes are thrown out of work?

All of current 'pop' culture is basically economically wicked, "giving money upon usury and taking reward against the innocent", encouraging profligacy. It is the practice of extortion against the brainwashed masses, ruthless exploitation and corruption of the young. "Whoso doeth those things" has certainly fallen, but they have taken millions of innocents with

them. More power to those who would impose much stricter control; the 'free market', still cynically advocated by the unscrupulous guilty, has been tried and found utterly destructive. It is time that the world's honest citizens were given sound protection from the machinations of the 'tycoons' and others who seek to plunder them. Especially should the USA, the chief offender and again cause of the disaster, be compelled to mend its evil ways.

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Dance Workshops with Robyn Roth

16 May - 6 June 2009

Dance teacher Robyn Roth has been a resident of the Black Forest for twelve years. Robyn studied Greek Language and Culture in her native Melbourne, Australia. She has been dancing and collecting native dances of Greece, Minor Asia and the Balkan countries for over 30 years. For the last three years Robyn has been giving Dance Workshops on her favourite island, Corfu, in Greek for locals who also attend some of the seminar sessions, and also in English and German. Robyn constructs her workshops to create a relaxed and fun environment, so that everyone learns to love Greek Dancing as much as she does. Workshops take place from 10.00 am to 1 pm on 3 or 5 days per week. Cost: 3 days €105; 5 days €150; 10 days €250.

Dassia 16 May - 23 May

We will be dancing again this year right next to the beach, under the shade of the olive trees and grapevine covered pergola of the Dassia Beach Hotel.

Afionas 24 May - 30 May and/or 31 May - 6 June

We will be dancing on the edge of this idyllic village, in the North West, on the terrace of the Hotel Porto Timoni (Photo right). The terrace enjoys a heavenly view of the bay of St. George and the open sea far below. Afionas is a magical place for dancing, swimming, hiking or just allowing yourself to be spoiled by our hosts Kostas and Olga Bardis. Olga's cooking is famous all over the region. For hobby photographers there are many fabulous images to be captured. This part of the island is famous not only for the views but for the sunsets.

Inexpensive accommodation is available in both locations, at the Dassia Beach Hotel, Dassia and the Porto Timoni Hotel, Afionas. Guided walks of 4-5 hours can be booked at a cost of €8 per walk.

Contact: Robyn Roth 0049 (0)7633 500415. Email: info@go-greek-dancing.de



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RECIPES

This is how PUDDINGS should be!

Forget the anti-dairy PC propaganda nonsense of the so-called 'Fathead Panel' (see 'ear to the ground'), have a real unprejudiced look at the ingredients of these puds - and see how GOOD they are for you! Brimming with superfoods like honey and almonds and seasonal fruit!

You'll also notice that, proportionately, they contain very little sugar. Manufacturers of low-fat convenience products make up for the consequent lack of taste by adding lots of sugar (even in savoury dishes). Think about it: refined sugar contributes nothing but empty calories to a dish, whereas real dairy cream contains concentrated amounts of calcium and vitamins; butter helps the body absorb calcium as well as having other good-for-you properties. And of course, eggs are little packets of goodness. So it makes sense to eat puds with MORE dairy so you benefit from the ingredients' nutritional qualities, whilst at the same time you reduce the quantity of 'empty' sugar. Enjoy these Real Puds! (And just to get up the nose of the Food Police, the fatty stuff they object to is in CAPITALS.)

Syllabub

1 lemon, 110 ml white wine, 50 gr sugar, 250 ml DOUBLE CREAM

Soak the pared rind of the lemon in the white wine for 2-3 hours.

Squeeze the lemon, and strain its juice with the wine into a deep bowl. Add the sugar and stir to dissolve. Stir in the double cream and blend well, then whip it to a soft peak. Spoon into individual glasses and serve.

Apple and Almond Pudding

750 gr apples, sugar, 100 gr blanched almonds, 110 ml CREAM, 1 separated egg

Peel, core and slice the apples. Put them in a pan with a little sugar and 3 or 4 tablespoons water. Cook for 10-15 minutes until tender. Place in a ceramic baking dish.

Grind the blanched almonds and stir in the cream and the egg yolk. Lightly whisk the egg white and fold in to the almond mixture with 2 teaspoons of sugar. Pour over apples in the dish and spread to the edges. Bake at 150°C for 30 minutes. Serve hot with CREAM.

Fruit Pudding

250 ml DOUBLE CREAM, 50 gr soft breadcrumbs, 2 egg yolks, 1 egg white, 1 tablespoon white wine, 1 heaped tablespoon sugar, 8 large apricots or 4 peaches/nectarines

Heat the double cream almost to the boil and pour it onto the

breadcrumbs. Stir and allow to cool. Then stir in the egg yolks, the white wine and the sugar.

Poach the fruit until it is just tender, then drain, peel and puree. Stir the puree into the cream mixture. Whisk the egg white until it is stiff and fold in. Pour the mixture into a shallow baking dish, greased with butter. Bake for 40 minutes at 180°C. Serve hot with whipped cream.

Baked Custard

450 gr FULL CREAM MILK, 1 tablespoon honey, 4 large eggs

Warm the milk with the honey, stirring to dissolve. Crack the eggs into a bowl, beat lightly and add the warm milk. Strain into a one-litre earthenware baking dish. Cook for 1-1½ hours at 150°C until set.

Light Bread Pudding

50 gr BUTTER, 600 ml FULL CREAM MILK, 4 eggs, 4-5 slices white bread, 2 tablespoons sherry or sweet wine (Mavrodaphne or Samos), 4 tablespoons sugar, raspberry jam

Melt the butter, add the milk and heat almost to boil. Whisk 2 eggs and 2 yolks until light.

Trim the crusts from the bread and cube, then add to the eggs. Pour on the milk, slightly cooled. Add the sherry and 2 tablespoons sugar. Stir gently with a fork and pour into a buttered pie dish. Bake at 190°C for 30 minutes. Remove from the oven and spread the top with raspberry jam.

Whisk the remaining 2 egg whites until stiff, and fold in the remaining 2 tablespoons sugar. Spoon the meringue on the pudding and return to the oven for 5 or 6 minutes until the top is lightly browned.

Fig Gratin

12 fresh figs, 6 teaspoons honey, 1 lemon quarter, 6 tablespoons ground almonds, 6 tablespoons BUTTER

Preheat the oven to 180°C. Cut the figs almost into quarters through the stem, without cutting right through the base.

Squeeze each gently at the bottom, so that the fig quarters open out like flower petals.

Arrange them in a gratin dish and dribble half a teaspoon of honey into each fig 'flower'. Squeeze the lemon over them and scatter the almonds on top. Put a knob of butter in each fig.

Bake for about 15 minutes, until bubbling.

Allow to cool a little before serving with WHIPPED CREAM or full-fat yoghurt.

Cherry Clafoutis

25 gr BUTTER, 5 eggs, 140 gr sugar (plus extra for sprinkling), 80 gr plain flour, 500 ml FULL CREAM MILK, a few drops of vanilla extract, 1 kilo cherries

Preheat the oven to 190°C. Use the butter to grease a medium-sized oven-proof gratin dish. Wash the cherries and remove stalks.

Beat the eggs with the sugar. Add the flour and then the milk and the vanilla extract, mixing well to get rid of any lumps.

Put the cherries in the greased dish and pour the batter over them. Bake the clafoutis for about 45 minutes until it is golden.

Remove from the oven and leave to cool slightly before sprinkling with sugar and serving with CREAM.

Chocolate Truffles

110 gr bitter CHOCOLATE, 40 gr butter, 1 egg, 1 tablespoon milk, 25 gr cocoa

Melt the chocolate with the milk in a bain marie (a saucepan in a larger pan of simmering water works well). When it is smooth remove it from the heat and work in the butter and egg yolk. Refrigerate for 4-5 hours, then form into walnut-sized balls, which you then roll in the cocoa. Eat within 48 hours.

Italian Chocolate Mousse

175 gr dark cooking CHOCOLATE, 2 teaspoons sugar, 4 eggs, 4 tablespoons strong espresso coffee, 2 tablespoons rum, 170 gr CREAM

Melt the chocolate in a bain marie (a saucepan in a larger pan of simmering water works well).

Separate the eggs. Add the sugar to the yolks and whisk until they turn pale yellow. By hand, mix in the melted chocolate, the coffee and the rum.

Have the cream well chilled. Whisk it until it is stiff, then fold in the chocolate mixture.

Whip the egg whites until they form stiff peaks, then gently fold into the chocolate and cream mixture. Combine gently but well by hand. Spoon the mixture into glass goblets or any other attractive individual serving container. Refrigerate overnight and serve the next day.

Rick Stein's Rizogalo

150 gr short grain pudding rice, 600 ml FULL-CREAM MILK, finely grated zest of 1/2 lemon, 2 teaspoons cornflour, 75 gr sugar, 2 egg yolks, ground cinnamon

Place the rice in a pan with 300 ml water and simmer on a low heat for 8-10 minutes until most of the water has been absorbed.

Add all but 2 tablespoons of the milk and the lemon zest and continue to simmer, part-covered, for about 20 minutes, stirring occasionally, until the mixture is thick and creamy and the rice just tender.

Mix the cornflour with the remaining milk and add to the rice with the sugar. Simmer another 3-4 minutes. Remove from the heat and allow to cool slightly.

Lightly beat the egg yolks and stir them into the rice. Return the pan to a gentle heat and cook for about 30 seconds until thickened. Do not allow to boil or it will scramble. Spoon the mixture into 4 shallow bowls and leave to cool. Sprinkle lightly with cinnamon and serve at room temperature.

Thought of the Day

Maureen McNamara

There was once a monk who lived a very austere life in a cave. One day a gorgeous woman visited him to try and tempt him. She had with her a goat and wine and offered them to him. Thinking it to be the least harmful choice, the monk accepted a drink of wine, then another and so on. The outcome was that he finished the wine, slaughtered and ate the goat and made love to the woman. Think about it!

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FUN

Laugh of the Month

This is a true story from the Word Perfect Helpline, which was transcribed from a recording monitoring the customer care department. Needless to say the Help Desk employee was fired; however, he/she is currently suing the Word Perfect organization for 'Termination without Cause'. He should have been promoted, not fired!

Operator: 'Ridge Hall, computer assistance; may I help you?'

Caller: 'Yes, well, I'm having trouble with WordPerfect.'

Operator: 'What sort of trouble?'

Caller: 'Well, I was just typing along, and all of a sudden the words went away.'

Operator: 'Went away?'

Caller: 'They disappeared.'

Operator: 'Hmm... So what does your screen look like now?'

Caller: 'Nothing.'

Operator: 'Nothing?'

Caller: 'It's blank; it won't accept anything when I type.'

Operator: 'Are you still in WordPerfect, or did you get out?'

Caller: 'How do I tell?'

Operator: 'Can you see the C: prompt on the screen?'

Caller: 'What's a sea-prompt?'

Operator: 'Never mind, can you move your cursor around the screen?'

Caller: 'There isn't any cursor: I told you, it won't accept anything I type.'

Operator: 'Does your monitor have a power indicator?'

Caller: 'What's a monitor?'

Operator: 'It's the thing with the screen on it that looks like a TV.'

Does it have a little light that tells you when it's on?'

Caller: 'I don't know.'

Operator: 'Well, then look on the back of the monitor and find where the power cord goes into it. Can you see that?'

Caller: 'Yes, I think so.'

Operator: 'Great. Follow the cord to the plug, and tell me if it's plugged into the wall.'

Caller: 'Yes, it is.'

Operator: 'When you were behind the monitor, did you notice that there were two cables plugged into the back of it, not just one?'

Caller: 'No.'

Operator: 'Well, there are. I need you to look back there again and find the other cable.'

Caller: 'Okay, here it is.'

Operator: 'Follow it for me, and tell me if it's plugged securely into the back of your computer.'

Caller: 'I can't reach.'

Operator: 'Uh huh. Well, can you see if it is?'

Caller: 'No.'

Operator: 'Even if you maybe put your knee on something and lean way over?'

Caller: 'Oh, it's not because I don't have the right angle - it's because it's dark.'

Operator: 'Dark?'

Caller: 'Yes - the office light is off, and the only light I have is coming in from the window.'

Operator: 'Well, turn on the office light, then.'

Caller: 'I can't.'

Operator: 'Why not?'

Caller: 'Because there's a power failure.'

Operator: 'A power... a power failure? Aha! Okay, we've got it licked now. Do you still have the boxes and manuals and packing stuff your computer came in?'

Caller: 'Well, yes, I keep them in the closet.'

Operator: 'Good. Go get them, and unplug your system and pack it up just like it was when you got it. Then take it back to the store you bought it from.'

Caller: 'Really? Is it that bad?'

Operator: 'Yes, I'm afraid it is.'

Caller: 'Well, all right then, I suppose. What do I tell them??'

Operator: 'Tell them you're too f***ing stupid to own a computer!!!'

More 'Call Centre Chaos' next month.

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PERSONAL

HOMOSEXUAL HELP LINE CLUG (Corfu Lesbians and Gays). Information line: 6934 903726 or email us at corfulg@yahoo.gr We support any people in Corfu with Gay / Lesbian / Bi / Trans information

IF YOU ARE CONCERNED ABOUT YOUR DRINKING and would like to talk to someone who understands, or if you are interested in helping to start an AA group here, please call 210 800 1073.

DOES SOMEONE CLOSE TO YOU HAVE A DRINK PROBLEM? To help someone, you need to help yourself first. Al-Anon family groups give courage, comfort and support to the partners, families and friends of alcoholics. The Corfu group meets on Monday at 8.00 pm. Any Greek speaker welcome. Call 26610 38776 or 26610 23871 between 08.00 and 13.00 weekdays

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This month we thought we'd let someone else do the talking!

The Mediterranean Garden Society moved its existing web site to Truetype Web Solutions in 2005. As Web Editor I can testify that we have been most satisfied with the service we have been offered regarding both the everyday managing of the site - revisions to existing pages and the creation of new pages - and the more challenging task of modernising and synchronizing the format of the site. The ease of communication with Truetype Web Solutions and their attention to detail made the process as pain-free as possible. We now look forward to expanding and improving the site together.

The Mediterranean Garden Society

Thank you for the great work you did designing my website. The speed and professionalism your company showed was quality and unparalleled in my experience of the industry. You should be proud that I had to send my work to you even though I am in the heart of Silicon Valley here in California. I'm looking forward to working with you again in the future.

Andy Hewitt's Jensens, California

We have been working with Truetype Web Solutions for five years now. We are completely satisfied with the service they provide. They are very quick to make changes and additions to my website, always friendly and most supportive. The quality of their web design is excellent and they offer very good suggestions. They have been most helpful setting up the system for online payments. We thoroughly recommend them.

Chamber Music Holidays and Festivals

Truetype designed our website and have handled it for several years. We are very pleased with the way they always quickly accommodate our (often last minute) updates. They work quickly, efficiently and creatively. It is a pleasure to work with a company who obviously care for the interests of their clients.

The Ark

We have used Truetype Web Solutions for six years now and can only express satisfaction with their service. All our requests and updates are dealt with immediately - usually within 24 hrs - and we have reached the top of the search engines with no extra advertising costs.

The Invisible Kitchen

My compliments on your work. My website is working well and I have a lot more early reservations than last year.

Zambeta Apartments, Arillas

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