

# *The* Corfiot

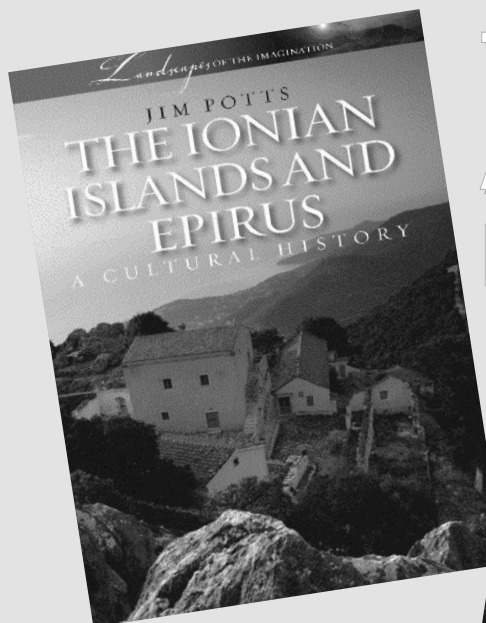
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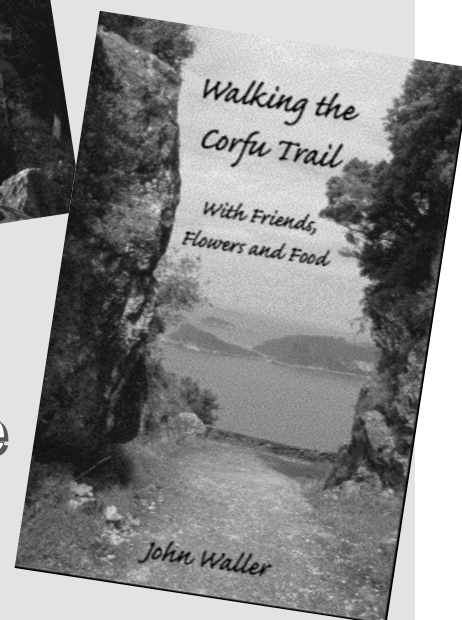
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Season's  
New  
Books



*Plus:*  
The  
Aphrodite  
Insult



*And: 1916  
Famous Female  
Soldier,  
in Corfu*



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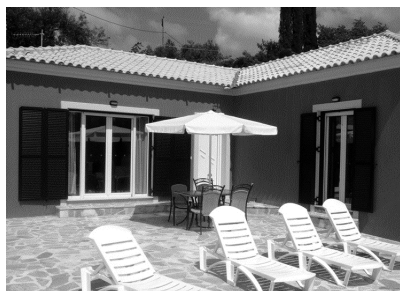
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## The Corfiot

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## Walk Corfu Town with John Waller

Just over a year after publication of 'Corfu Sketches - A thirty-year journey', which married Theresa Nicolas' sketches of Corfu Town in years gone by with John Waller's commentary, Mr Waller has brought out a set of four of walks around Corfu Town's World Heritage Site. The walks, which were in the book, are in the new format more user-friendly. They are printed on A5 sheets and laminated, and present the text and maps on one side, and (mainly) a selection of Theresa's sketches on the other, with cross references to where you'll encounter the same scenes on the walk.

The set, as well as the book, is on sale at Tourmouzoglou Bookshop at 47, Nikiforou Theotoki Street in the centre of the Old Town.

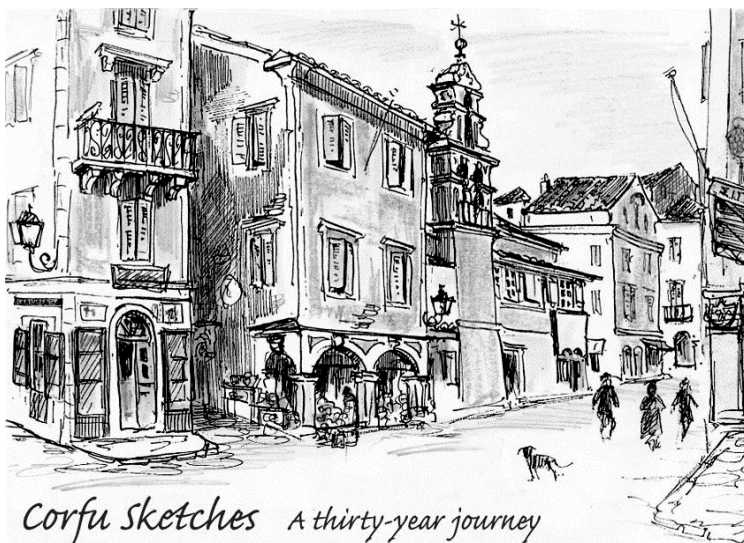
**Walk 1:** Along the Tourist Trail

**Walk 2:** To the Jewish Quarter

**Walk 3:** To the Old Port and the Market

**Walk 4:** To Campiello, the Old Town

**You'll see Corfu Town with different eyes!**



*Corfu Sketches A thirty-year journey*

Sketches by Theresa Nicholas Text by John Waller

## ear to the ground

---

IT'S NAME AND SHAME TIME: DON'T EVER, EVER BUY ELECTRICAL GOODS FROM DIELLAS (and possibly any other supermarket). I recently accompanied a friend to take back a microwave that's never worked properly from day one. It heats erratically - sometimes not functioning at all and other times boiling foods over. It has warped and melted a special microwave plate, and cracked several ordinary but microwave-proof dishes. It got to the stage when my friend was scared to use it.

So we took it back, with the two-year guarantee and the sales receipt, to Diellas in Alepou - to be immediately dismissed with the excuse that the receipt was more than a year old and therefore it was NOT under guarantee. As the guarantee was in Italian, this confident dismissal would probably have sent many consumers packing; but, with a background in French and Latin, I happen to read Italian and so was able to insist that the warranty was for two years and not one.

Past the first hurdle, I was put on the phone to a more senior manager at the Gouvía branch, who told us that the shop would change it if it was genuinely faulty (thus tacitly admitting that the one-year guarantee excuse was a ploy). We were then instructed to take it for tests to the Diellas repair man, one Mr Vasilakis.

Now, the Vasilakis emporium, on 'Electric Road' near San Rocco Square, could not be more inconveniently located, if you have to deliver an appliance there. In fact, many people, on hearing the address, would give up at this point. But my friend was determined. Unprecedentedly, we found parking right outside, so did not have to lug the microwave from Garitsa Bay.

We then came upon the next step of Diellas' 'no exchange' policy. The Diellas manager had (get this!) already phoned Mr Vasilakis (he foolishly mentioned the fact), no doubt with instructions to find nothing wrong with the beastly appliance (and perhaps with the implicit warning to toe the Diellas line or lose his repair contract). Of course, the erratic machine did not play up, so Mr Vasilakis blamed my friend for not using it correctly (though she has had microwaves for the last 40 years and never had a problem!).

I later asked another electrical engineer about all these obstacles when you return faulty goods, and he just said: Yeah, yeah, the classic excuses.

So, the moral of this story is to buy electric goods ONLY from a dedicated electrical goods store, and preferably not from a chain. And don't buy ANY electrical goods which are 'Made in China', aka P.R.C.

HAVE YOU BEEN LISTENING TO EXPERTS' ADVICE ABOUT WHAT YOU SHOULD AND SHOULDN'T EAT? Well, the latest studies have turned the advice on its head.

Eggs are the 'new superfood', not the high cholesterol danger they've been for the last few decades (I never stopped eating them). As well as being low in calories, eggs are a rich source of protein and are packed with nutrients thought essential to good health, particularly vitamin D, vitamin B12, selenium and choline.

The report confirms that among protein foods, eggs contain the richest mix of essential amino acids, and the high levels of antioxidants they contain mean they could even help prevent age-related macular degeneration - a leading cause of blindness.

Chocolate has more antioxidants than blueberries! Blueberries have been hyped as being the 'best' fruit to combat free radicals, but they are only rich in one family of antioxidants, anthocyanin, which is found in other fruits, like grapes, and especially the common-or-garden red ones (which is further proof that red wine is good for you!).

This isn't just good news for chocoholics, but for all of us on Corfu, since you can't get blueberries here, but choccy and grapes (in season) are freely available and cheap. But do note that this is not a license to eat any old chocolate; it needs to have at least 70% cocoa. Ion makes a good one (72%) that also contains almonds, themselves a superfood.

Broccoli? Love it or hate it, lots of people feel they should eat it because it's highly nutritious. But in fact the humble white cabbage is full of vitamins A, B, C and K, along with calcium, iron and fibre, while cauliflower is a great source of antioxidants, vitamin C and folate.

Other good news is that trans fats (margarines) are OUT. I have refused to eat them from my teens. I predict that the next food to fall out of favour will be... COWS MILK! You read it here first...

TALKING OF FOOD, THE BOSSY, NANNY-STATE EU RECENTLY TRIED TO BAN KOKKORETSI, that wonderful 'sausage' made of lamb offal (liver, lights, the lot), held together by entrails, which get all crispy over the charcoal, and is most popular at Easter as a meze. The Greeks told them where to go...

I'd love to see the Brussel's crowd wade into one of our summer panegyries, with lambs being roasted unhygienically in the open air over charcoal (!), and locals eating the brains and tongues (Ooops! that's me), along with the delicious greasy skins... and try to stop us.

Man with Van  
Removals  
Rubbish  
Removed



Neil

26630 92226  
6977 161036



# 20 years of *The Corfiot*

This spring, *The Corfiot* reaches the grand old age of 20.

Angela Papageorgiou and Hilary Paipeti founded it early in 1990 as a 12-page newsletter aimed at keeping people in touch with what was going on. It was initially called 'Epaphi' ('Contact'), but the name was later changed after suggestions that it might be misunderstood!

The very first issue carried an interview with the late Roy Castle, kicking off a tradition of featuring well-known persons (George Best, David Bellamy, Rick Stein, Nick and Eleni Gage and Nicholas Parsons being among the stars too numerous to mention individually).

Angela was soon unable to continue due to work commitments, and Hilary Paipeti has run the magazine almost single-handedly ever since, with lots of much-appreciated assistance from a team of regular and occasional contributors. They include the current British Ambassador to Greece, Simon Gass, and Corfu's former British vice-Consul John Forte.

'Between us,' says Hilary, 'we have carried off successful environmental campaigns: We were the first local publication to highlight the dangers of the illegal aerial spraying of olive trees, which was eventually banned; we were later instrumental in halting the radical chopping of olive trees (it was an article in the *Telegraph* featuring our campaigning work which allegedly forced the government to change the law).

'Other long-running and ongoing campaigns are the promotion of local produce and *Corfiot* tradition and, more recently, articles aimed at informing readers of the dangers of some food products (transfats, Aspartame, GM). We also campaigned, with ultimate success, for a regular scheduled air service from the UK, and eventually got easyJet. Not as we wished during the winter as well, but reliable summer flights are better than nothing!

'One coup was an exclusive report from the front-line in Afghanistan, in which we obtained first-hand information about a fact-finding visit by David Cameron to Camp Bastion, which

was not even mentioned in the British press.

'We have first whack at stories from AgiotFest, and remain the Voice of the Anglican Church and the Ark Animal Charity, as well as providing a platform for numerous other organisations to promote their work. We were also the first - and still the only - local publication to bring Corfu's ley-lines to public attention.'

*The Corfiot*, and other work achieved by its publisher/editor, have been featured in the *Telegraph*, the *Times*, the *Independent*, the *Mail* and the *Sunday Times*, among other publications (in many cases more than once). The latest feature appears in *Sunday Times Travel*, April 2010.

You can meet Hilary on Sunday, 23 May at the Corfu Enterprise Exhibition, which will take place at Verde Blu Akti on the Barbati seashore.



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### SUNDAY SERVICES

Sundays 10.30 Holy Communion  
19.00 (1st, 3rd & 5th of month) Songs of Praise

### REGULAR EVENTS

Mondays 19.00 Craft Group (1st & 3rd of month)  
Tuesdays 10.00 Library & Coffee Morning  
Wednesdays 10.00 Coffee & Kids  
Wednesdays 12.30 Lunch Box - pot-luck lunch and chat  
Wednesdays 19.00 Scrabble Club (last Wed. in the month)  
Wednesdays 20.00 Quiz Evening (second Wed. in the month)  
Thursdays 10.00 Bible Study, with John Gulland  
Fridays 10.00-12.00 Informal Prayer Meeting  
Saturdays 10.00 Nearly New Sale (first Sat. in the month)

A second Bible Study group meets on Monday evenings at 17.30 in the back of Takis Taverna, Kontokali, repeating the study of Thursday. If you would like to join, call Anne on 6942 844376 or Rhona on 6975 914373.

## This month's name days

04. Anastasios, Paschalis, Lambros  
06. Evtichios  
10. Dimos, Iraklis, Miltiades, Periklis, Sofoklis  
12. Anthi  
15. Leonidas  
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.

## HELP THE

## CORFU DONKEY SANCTUARY

- ~ Make a cash donation
- ~ Sponsor an individual donkey
- ~ Donate equipment
- ~ Volunteer to help with care or DIY

Call Judy Quinn on 6947 375992. Visit the Sanctuary to see your money at work.

To donate money, please use the charity account at Alpha Bank: Filozoiki Frontida (Mi Kerdoskopiki). IBAN: GR88 0140 6800 6800 0210 1302 116. SWIFT: CRBAGRAAXXX

## Car Boot Sales

Every Sunday, 10am  
at Navigators Bar, Kontokali  
To book a table,  
call Carol 6982 458157

Find Inner Peace and Happiness  
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6938 644543

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# Book Sale

Organised by and for the Council of Thinali Parents' Association. Held on Acharavi High Street opposite Ilo Ilo 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

## PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

# Musical Trip down Memory Lane with Joe Brown

One of Britain's best-loved, enduring and most acclaimed musicians, Joe Brown, will headline at the Agios Ioannis Music Festival (AgioFest 10) on 27 and 28 August.

It was half a century ago, as Lonnie Donegan was ruling the charts with Rock Island Line, that 16 year old Joe joined his first band, the Spaceman Skittle Group.

Three years later, he was the resident lead guitarist on producer Jack Good's groundbreaking show Boy Meets Girl. Her found himself backing visiting American stars such as Gene Vincent, Eddie Cochran and Johnny Cash.

In 1960 the Spacemen became Joe Brown and The Bruvvers and the hits began to roll in, starting with The Darktown Strutters Ball and reaching a crescendo in 1962-3 with A Picture Of You, It Only Took A Minute and That's What Love Will Do.

During this time, Joe was headlining British tours that featured Del Shannon, Dion - and an up-and-coming band called The Beatles.

The Beatles of course changed the whole pop music landscape, but Joe was already broadening his own horizons into television, film and theatre.

In the early 70s he formed Brown's Home Brew, which included his late wife Vicki and Joe Fagin, touring and releasing two albums. He has continued to headline his own tours as well as the hugely successful Solid Gold tour, and co-headlining with Marty Wilde.

Since the new millennium Joe has been confounding people's expectations of him on a regular basis.

If Joe has any regrets, it's that he hasn't released enough records. Indeed, between the mid-70s and early 90s he scarcely released any. That changed when he signed a publishing deal with Warner Chappell in Nashville in 1991, and he started going there to write songs for the country market.

That led to the release of the Come On Joe album in 1993, recorded at his own home studio, produced by his son Pete and featuring his touring band. It was closely followed by an In Concert video and by 1997's 56 and Taller Than You Think, recorded in Nashville and produced by Roger Cook, with who he later wrote a musical which premiered in 2005.

Joe's 50th anniversary celebrations included the release of a UK gold album with sales of more than 100,000: Joe Brown - the Very Best Of, a 37-date sold-out spring tour, and a concert performance at the

Royal Albert Hall with special guests including Mark Knopfler, Jools Holland, his daughter Sam Brown and Chas 'n' Dave.

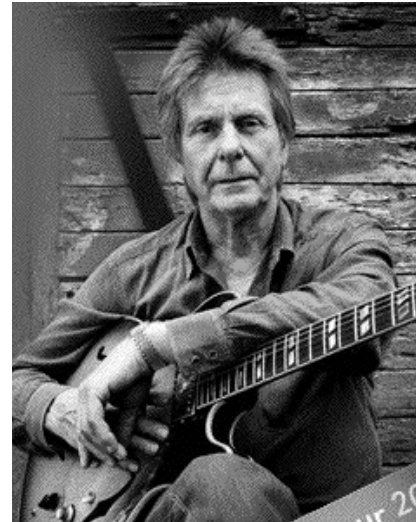
Joe plays guitar (acoustic and electric), ukulele, mandolin and fiddle. American music instrument manufacturer Kala recently launched a 'Joe Brown' series of ukuleles (I wonder if he'll try a bouzouki while he's in Corfu...).

At AgioFest 10, Joe will wrap up an evening which will include local band Jemma Bartlett and the Good Old Boys and young Manchester-based folk-rock ensemble 4Square (who wowed the crowd at last summer's Cropredy Festival). Expect timeless classics, rockabilly, gospel, country, folk and electric rock 'n' roll, all interwoven with Joe's effervescent delivery.

The first night of AgioFest, on 27 August, will feature everyone's favourite heavy rock band Omega 5, and will climax by the Thesalonika reggae group (with a big brass sound) One Drop Forward.

This is an event you'll not want to miss.

*Paul McGovern*



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# Lucciola

## A New Events Centre

At Lucciola, we intend to create a 'green' functioning centre which will host events, workshops and seminars of all sorts. Our aim is to promote co-operative, cross-cultural liaison and environmental awareness.

We intend to create a centre that focuses on a holistic approach to well-being, knowledge and sustainability.

We shall fuel our growth by marrying wisdom from the past with innovative modern technologies and philosophies. We shall utilise world knowledge and implement it into our daily practices in order to promote and sustain well-being; inner, physical and environmental.

In regard to our contribution toward environmental sustainability, the project will be entirely powered on renewable forms of energy (eventually). We also aim to reduce our carbon footprint by applying the three R's principle; Re-pair, Re-use, Re-cycle. The centre will also have a restaurant and will serve organic locally-produced food. We shall also embrace the philosophy of 'Act Local - Think Global' and therefore aim to establish a relationship with local farmers and craftsmen.

We also aim to integrate with the local community, and one of our interests is to work with local schools. We want to host workshops for schoolchildren, which will promote environmental awareness and sensitivity. This will be achieved through activities such as fun recycling art, science projects and nature walks.

Lucciola was built in the 1920s for storing hay. In the late 1950s it was converted into an olive press, and then in the early 1960s it was finally converted into an Inn. Lucciola means firefly in Italian. The name was conceived one early evening when my grandmother was waiting to be picked up and was thinking of how to name the hotel. Gazing at the glowing field of fireflies, she thought it an apt name for the business, and the name has remained ever since.

At his stage of our progress in realizing the full potential of our centre we offer:

An 80 square metre room which is bright and airy and has two WCs, up for rent for seminars and workshops, on a permanent or one-off occasion. The space is perfect as a rehearsal room, as a gallery for exhibitions, bazaars and parties.

We also organize children's events and parties. This may include the catering and/or entertainment.

For more information then contact us on 26610 91022 or 6993 330023 or [pickalot@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:pickalot@hotmail.co.uk)

### CURRENT EVENTS

Mondays 11.00 - 12.00: Aerobics with Janet.

Tuesdays 18.00 - 19.30: The five Tibetan Rites (exercises that strengthen, heal and rejuvenate) with Tilly.

Wednesdays 19.00 - 20.00: African drum and dance lessons with  
*Daphne Desylla*

## PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

# Buddhist Centre opens in Corfu Town

Wednesday, 24 March saw the official opening of the Tharlaping Buddhist Centre's new premises in Corfu Town. It was celebrated by a group of friends and interested people, who enjoyed an evening of chat (not Buddhist-related!) in a welcoming atmosphere.

On Wednesday, 28 April at the Centre, the Kadampa Spiritual Director of Greece Kostas Kapetanopoulos will give a talk on 'Patience versus Anger'.

The Centre is located at 87, Markora Street, the parallel road between San Rocco Square and the Market. To reach it from San Rocco Square, take the side-road past the Police Station and turn left at the top. The Centre is on the fourth city block on the right. Phone 6938 644543 if lost.

Meditation classes take place in Greek on Mondays at 5pm with Jason and in English at 4pm on Wednesdays with Maureen. Both teachers are fully qualified to teach meditation and Dharma.

In addition, the Centre is open on Wednesdays from 10.30 onwards, with a warm welcome for everyone, whatever their beliefs, for a chat and problem-solving. At the same time, a selection of new and used kitchen and household wares is on sale in aid of the Centre. For an out-of-hours meeting, call Maureen on 6938 644543.

### SPRING WALKS

**SATURDAY, 3 APRIL Agios Mattheos: Mountain, 'Balconies' & Oak Forest** (8-9 kms, 2 1/2 hours \*\*\*\*). Meet at Agios Mattheos, north end coffee bar, 10.00, start 10.30. Short walk: Halikounas Beach. Lunch at Alonaki Taverna, Alonaki.

**SATURDAY, 10 APRIL Lafki: The 'Deserted Mountain' and the 'Vista Loop'** (10-11 kms, 2 1/2 - 3 hours \*\*\*\*). Meet at Lafki Square, 10.00 for 10.30 start. Short walk: The Karst Plateau Track. Lunch at Stamatis, Strinilas.

**SATURDAY, 17 APRIL Giannades: Ropa Valley View** (12-13 kms, 3 - 3 1/2 hours \*\*\*\* NEW!). Meet Giannades Village Square, 09.30 for 10.00 start. Short walk: TBA. Lunch TBA.

**SATURDAY, 24 APRIL Kalami: Coast and Mountainside** (9-10 kms, 2 1/2 - 3 hours \*\*\* NEW!). Meet at Kouloura, last junction before the harbour, 10.30 for immediate start. Short walk: TBA. Lunch TBA.

**SATURDAY, 1 MAY PICNIC WALK Gastouri: In the Footsteps of Sissi** (5-6 kms, 1 1/2 - 2 hours \*\*\*). Meet at Achillion Palace Gate, 11.00 for immediate start. Potluck picnic at Sissi's Spring (please bring food and wine to share).

Walks will continue throughout May depending on weather conditions.

# Problems encountered for the Corfu Light Railway tunnel

✍ Ernest Porter

In the recent records of Corfu General Hospital it is often possible to spot evidence of the new railway under construction on the island because of the appearance of the labourers in the admission, discharge and death registers. Indeed, accidents to railway employees appear at regular intervals, usually when an engine driver did not notice a worker on the track. Some such occurrence seems to have been the fate of Buffa Railwindi, an immigrant worker from Pakistan, who had been in Corfu for but a few short weeks.

He came here in search of his father, himself an experienced railway worker on the Pakistan Railways, who had come over as one of the first workers to be employed on the innovative and controversial Pantokrator Massif tunnel.

The new railway tunnel which is under construction beneath the mountain is believed to be haunted.

During the last war there was an old mining tunnel still in use at this site, the entrance guarded by members of the Greek Home Guard. One night while on guard duty, a young soldier saw a ghostly figure coming towards him out of the tunnel. He experienced a feeling of extreme terror which prompted him to aim his rifle at the figure. He remained rooted to the spot for what seemed to be hours as the figure moved closer, until it disappeared.

Since the official closure of the former tunnel the area has been used as a playground by local children. One Easter night while some children were playing with fireworks in the tunnel a ghostly, bright figure came towards them. They ran away in terror, vowing never to enter the tunnel again. Perhaps this was the ghost of a worker from those far-off days who was squashed by a mining truck.

Trials have been rumoured to have already started on a short piece of track, under the bare new tunnel, yet to be given its chalcedony finish. An engine has been imported from Germany, containerized to avoid detection.

This 'tunnel locomotive' is similar to the class Tm 2/2 engines that are used by the RhB and BVZ. The number in the class description represents the power (European horsepower). All locomotives are double-axle engines; they weigh up to 40 metric tons. Class D 60 is a passenger railcar with a suitable trailer.



**The Pantokrator Tunnel Train**

The company Schöma in Diepholz near Bremen, Germany, specializes in light locomotives and tunnel locomotives.

I digress. It had been a freezing night and Buffa had been night-watchman at the entrance to Tunnel One (official name). All alone in this eerie cavern who can imagine what demons came to haunt him out of the bowels of the earth? Suffice it to say the next day, all that remained of Buffa were his flipflops, a chapatti and, oddly, a gold tooth - which was how he was identified later by his father, who had heard of his son's presence on the island from relatives.

The tunnel has been closed pending an enquiry, according to Chattanooga Choochoo, lawyer for the Railwindi family.

Controversy about the construction of the tunnel has been provoked by the Greek Orthodox Church, who have raised fears that it may undermine the foundations of the Pantokrator Monastery.

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## COMMENT

# Greeks should ignore German cheap shot *Aphrodite insult demeans its perpetrators*

✍ Theofanis Papas

In February, a German media organization published a magazine with a front cover depicting a famous Greek statue of Aphrodite sticking her finger up at all Greeks. Needless to say, this posture was not received by most Greeks as a friendly gesture from a fellow EU country. Quite the opposite.

It has occasioned widespread disgust among most Greek people and has helped to bring to the surface otherwise cloudy memories of war atrocities committed by German soldiers during World War II, and during older conflicts. As have many other countries in Europe, Greece has never forgotten Germany's unprovoked aggression and its atrocities committed upon innocent Greek civilians, even though it has tried to put these painful war-time episodes out of its day to day domestic and international affairs.

And over the many decades since World War II, Greece has sought to develop a friendly accord with the German state and its people. Countless Germans and Greeks have cooperated in a plurality of ways with the aim to mutually enhance their lives. And with the inclusion of Greece among the members of the EU - as a 'junior partner' so to speak along with many other 'juniors' - it was hoped that a stronger interconnectedness would develop between the people of Greece and that of all EU members and of course the German state and its people.

However, the recent economic turmoil that has been occasioned by the financial crisis of 2007 seems to have had a devastating affect on the otherwise cordial relations between economically strong EU partners and the many 'junior' EU partners. Greece seems to be a case in point. What is disturbing about the recent 'dispute' raging concerning the blow-out of the Greek Budget is not the actual amount of debt Greece seems to have accumulated, but more surprising is the level of anger internationally that has been meted out towards Greece over its alleged mishandling of its national finances.

Let's be clear here about one thing - Greece's politicians are not squeaky clean and a lot of the criticism about the handing of levels of public debt is well deserved. The point that we wish to make here is not that Greece is free of blame for its debt problems. The real issue is whether Greece is being used by the 'big boys' in the EU as a 'punching board' to distract public attention from the many ills and scandals that are plaguing many EU countries.

Many outside observers have suggested that Greece has indeed been singled out as a scapegoat to hide a multitude of more serious problems that are plaguing all EU countries. This sentiment is becoming more and more stronger day by day as we speak. The plight of Spain is a case in point. Spain's budget debt ratio is 11.4% of GDP. The EU stability pact requires its members to seek a 3% GDP debt ratio. When you take into account the fact

that Spain has a public debt blow-out many times that of Greece and shows signs of immanent financial collapse due to the countless billions of dollars of bad loans by its banks due to failed property speculators, and no public outcry is heard in the EU Headquarters at Brussels, then it does not take much intelligence to surmise that Greece is being singled out as an easy target. At a general level, the economic and fiscal troubles facing Spain and Greece illustrate how European monetary union makes it difficult for many of the EU countries to tackle economic problems. But at a deeper level, if we look at the treatment that is being meted out to Greece, it is plain to see that, as it is so often the case in personal affairs and in international politics, it's often easier to overpower some defenseless 'smock' while he is on the ground than to fight him like a man face to face standing up. Greece today is obviously being kicked again and again on a daily basis. But there is a deafening silence in the German, French and Brussels media concerning the huge blowouts in debt that are plaguing other EU member states.

Greek people today have not forgotten recent scandals in Greece concerning German companies that for many years had been paying bribes to Greek politicians and political parties in order to ensure that business equipment contracts were signed. It was found that these companies had been recording many of the behind-the-scenes deals and when they wanted to sell more defective products to the Greeks they routinely were blackmailing Greek politicians - and even the Prime Minister - to accept 'dodgy' deals.

The prices of the defective German products were loaded up, and the Greek Government was placed in a position whereby it was unable to purchase from another country. As a result Greece accepted faulty tanks and submarines.

When the details of this shameful affair became common knowledge, most Greeks were of the opinion that the faulty equipment

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should be sent back or repaired at no cost; but the German companies used recorded conversations detailing bribery to black-mail many more decision makers.

So we ask all good citizens of Germany a simple question: If some of your countrymen and women have a finger raised and poised ready to be inserted into someone's 'back-side' so to speak, would it not be more appropriate to direct that finger to some closer neighbors? Or better still towards some of your own multinational and national companies and bankers who are clearly responsible in no small degree for this financial mess the whole world is suffering from? It seems that the publishers of the German organization

that published the offensive article are suffering from acute myopia and a large dose of hypocrisy and stupidity. This is abundantly clear from the facts that are publicly available to anybody who really cares about finding out the truth about the mess that the world is currently experiencing.

There have been calls by many patriotic Greeks for a boycott of German goods and services. But there seems little doubt that a boycott of German products will only fan the flames of distrust and anger towards Greece and possibly hurt Greece more in the long run. It may also hurt the people who produce the products in other EU member states. Thoughts of gaining revenge should not be entertained at any time. There is no substitute for clear and thoughtful dialogue and elucidation of the true facts.

One thing that should be mentioned here that is highly probative in relation to Greece's debt problems is the fact that German financial entities during the lending boom were lending to Greek banks huge sums of money that in turn was loaned by banks to Greek citizens to speculate on the property market.

Now with the financial crisis biting deep into most countries and property valuations are at record lows, a vast majority of these loans are in arrears and in default and it is these same Greek banks - that had access to easy money from German and French organizations - that are in dire straits. This immense unserviced debt that is plaguing Greece and all EU countries is akin to an emerging 'Black Hole' and is directly linked to these 'Big Boy' financial organizations situated in Germany, France and Switzerland (to name just a few shady actors). The current financial crisis is indeed a global problem and has its roots in the capitalist system that exists in Europe and across the Atlantic. If politicians from around the world do not cooperate and develop a concerted plan to remove the potential problems, then these financial ills will seriously threaten the future prosperity of all the countries of the European Union. It seems clear to us that what is needed is not finger-pointing and innuendo. What is needed are firm plans to overcome the mountain of debt that is plaguing the people of the world.

The citizens of Germany are well known as an honorable, industrious, and intelligent race of people; and Germany is famous for her

products and her hospitality. Graphic images of Aphrodite sticking the finger at an alleged 'lazy' Greek EU member no doubt does wonders to raise the passions of some hard-working German people. But the vast majority of the people of Germany today are all too aware of the dangers of ungrounded propaganda that is designed to poison otherwise friendly relations between Greece and Germany.

So it is hoped that the people of Germany in due course will be able to see through the lies and hypocrisy of some of its leaders and media organizations and send a clear message to these politicians come election time. Similarly, it is hoped that the German people will choose not to subscribe to magazines that decide to use emotive and insulting images for propaganda purposes, instead of writing objective and factual reports on issues of domestic and international importance.

So in the final analysis, it would seem that the best course of action would be for the Greek people to ignore the 'cheap swings' at their rich cultural icons such as Aphrodite and do what they do best: and that is to act as a beacon of truth, humility, fairness, and freedom. We must engage in full and honest dialogue and point out the errors of those who choose to criticize us. It is only through this open and frank exchange of views that we can settle our differences and strive to live together in a union of many European states. Any misguided person who chooses to stick the finger at Greece and her culture is essentially sticking a finger at the cradle of civilization and of democracy; and at the roots of freedom. A vast majority of Western societies - including Germany - are heirs of this rich history and culture.

By sticking a finger at Greece, such misguided souls are really sticking a finger at their own cultural roots, and thus ultimately they are sticking a finger at themselves.

*Theofanis Papas is a lawyer and freelance writer residing in Greece.*

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## ANIMAL WELFARE

# Two Fairytale Endings

 Louisa van Vuurde

### A 'FAILED' REHOMING ENDS WELL

Elso, a big male pointer, was found in the summer of 2009 roaming around Benitses. He was a gentle boy, and we were asked to help, so we fostered him for some months. Unexpectedly, we found a nice local family. The dog was checked by their vet and was found to be positive for leishmaniosis (March article reproduced opposite), but the vet told them not to worry, and with pills and perhaps some extra treatment he would be happy and fine. (The dog had tested negative a month earlier, but that can happen.) The new owners were a rare example of a Corfu family which did not panic about leishmaniosis, and they wanted to keep the dog.

But the fairy tale did not last long. Suddenly, at the end of December, they did not want the dog and longer, and they gave it 'back'. But Elso's fairy tale had not ended; a lovely English couple fell in love the instant they saw him, the same week he was returned to us. Instead of the puppy they had planned to take away, they took this big boy, who they named Dexter. We informed them about his background and his leishmaniosis, but they did not mind and wanted to give him a good and safe future. Now Dexter is running around on the estate they take care of and despite his 'illness' (on top of this he has the odd seizure), they love and care for him.

### HUSSY TO ANJOLIE IN HOLLAND

This was one of many very successful rehoming via AAI, the voluntary organization in Holland which helps us to find homes for our Corfiot strays.

At the end of October 2008, Hussy was reported as being stray on the road, and so skinny that several people felt sorry for the friendly Husky-mix.

She weighed only about 11 kilos and we thought she might have leishmaniosis, but the test was negative. She loved her food, but it went straight through her. We tried different food with the same results - medicines made no improvement - until we found out that she was suffering from severe pancreas deficit, meaning that no food was absorbed (at one time she only weighed 10 kilos). Luckily Janice was willing to foster the dog and try to get her better. With a lot of patience, medical advice and special food with enzymes she started to recover. Then we found she was also suffering from heartworm, which is fatal if not treated (see article below); she had the injections and survived the treatment well. With several dogs of her own, Janice could not keep the Husky, so Hussy was put on the list for rehoming - not an easy case: a mixed Husky (one blue eye, no tail) of about four, with a big pancreas problem that would require special food and treatment for the rest of her life.

And then the miracle came: a family in the south of Holland showed interest in Hussy, people willing to go along with the trouble and costs of her special diet to give her a new chance in life.



**Above:** 'Dexter' gets a second chance at a new life

**Below:** Hussy plays in the Dutch snow



## ANIMAL WELFARE

Hussy went to Holland at the end of January, and landed in a snowy country perfect for Huskies.

I was there when Hussy met her new family. When the new boss wanted to put a coat on her to protect her from the cold, she growled at him; like a lot of Corfiot dogs, she had problems with men. Luckily he did not mind, and by now they are the best of friends. The family like jogging and we have lots of photos of Hussy running in the snow. She gained weight - by the end of February she was nearly 16 kilos - and has become the accepted leader of the family's two other dogs.

### TICKS AND MOZZIES SPREAD DISEASES

Besides leishmaniosis, two other diseases are becoming more and more common here on the island: ehrlichiosis from ticks, and heartworm from infected mosquitoes. Now the weather is (hopefully) warming up, those diseases will come as well.

**HEARTWORM** is transferred to the dog by an infected mosquito and is not related to the worms in the digestive system. The larvae get into the blood and grow into worms around 30 cm. long. When they multiply they can cause blockages, wind around the blood vessels around the heart, and finally cause death. In practice, the disease does not present many symptoms in its early stages - maybe a bit of heavy breathing or coughing. The way to find out is to have your dog tested. If negative, start as from the warmer months with preventive protection, like the pill Milbemax, which will not only kill the larvae of the heartworm but lots of other worms as well. Alternatively there is a special injection, or a pipette. But one has to be sure that the dog has not yet got heartworm, because the mentioned medicines do not kill the heartworm itself. If the dog tests positively, a special set of injections is needed. Prevention is always better.

**EHRlichiosis** is an illness caused by ticks. The first ticks of the season have been spotted already; some areas are more vulnerable than others, but the risk is everywhere. Quite effective against ticks are special collars or drops. Inspect your dog daily for ticks, especially in the area around the ears, which is the favourite spot for this tiny little insect, which grows huge from the blood of your dog.

We hope you all have a beautiful summer, and that you will try to control the mosquitoes, ticks and sandfly... for the good of your dog.

We are always seeking people who are prepared to foster for a limited time an animal in need of care, thus giving us a chance to find a solution. So if you can offer a bit of your time please contact us: [info@corfuanimalwelfare.com](mailto:info@corfuanimalwelfare.com) or phone 26610 32111 or 6979 798202.

Also we always need 'hands' to help with the dogs and cats we are fostering, or to assist with all kinds of other supporting tasks - like helping in our little charity shop, with our collecting boxes, translating, painting, and all kinds of odds and ends.

**LEISHMANIOSIS** should be tested for now. This illness is widespread on the island, and in other southern countries. The tiny little black fly that spreads the disease lives when the nights are 15 degrees or warmer (from about April to October in Corfu). When an infected sandfly bites a dog, it might develop the illness. Sometimes signs like long nails appear, or hairless spots, wounds which do not heal, or empty skin around the eyes. Without treatment the dog will eventually die, but if treated in time often it will live an happy and even long life. The treatment with Zylaphur, 2xpd will not cure but suppress the illness; there are also some other medicines which sometimes can cure it, like injections or a syrup. By testing now you cover all the 'dangerous months'.

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# BOOK REVIEW

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## The Ionian Islands and Epirus

### A Cultural History

by Jim Potts

This is possibly the most important book about our region to be published in recent years. A hasty glance at the title might suggest that it is a straightforward guidebook, but that is far from the case. Nor is it a travel book, though it does take you on a vicarious journey. Neither is it a book about the region's history, though you'll learn a lot about the past by reading it. In fact, its Oxford-based publisher Signal Books has possibly created a new genre with its lauded 'Landscapes of the Imagination' series, which already includes such diverse locations as Provence, Patagonia, the Danube and the Cotswolds.

In his contribution to the series, Potts takes the reader for a helter-skelter ride through the region's landscapes, legends, traditions and history, as seen through the eyes of travellers, writers and poets from Homer to Eleni Gage, from Professor Ansted to Billi Rosen. The journey is thematic rather than chronological (though it does start with a chapter dedicated to 'Classic Ground'), and discusses subjects from the location of the Dodona Oracle and perspectives of Greek identity, to the effects of tourism and the future of the olive harvest, each through the perspective of literature.

Potts never patronises the reader, and assumes a certain level of knowledge of the area covered. The author's own memories and experiences punctuate the narrative, sometimes in a highly amusing manner. Writing of Igoumenitsa's poor infrastructure, he recalls: 'when the National Bank of Greece opened there c. 1965 it had a glass frontage with indoor plants placed behind the glass window panes, but donkeys used to butt their heads against the panes, trying to get to the greenery to eat it.' Anecdotes like this one ensure that the tone of the book remains lively and in no way dry.

At one point, Potts mentions each individual's search for Greekness. With an immense and comprehensive bibliography to encourage further investigation, this book constitutes a stepping-stone on that journey.

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## The Commodore and the Colonels

by John Forte

John Forte's 'Sensational Scientology Saga' *The Commodore and the Colonels* was first published privately in 1981; this is an expanded reissue containing additional documentary material which brings this astonishing but little-known story to new life.

In 1968 Forte was British vice-Consul in Corfu, and he was thus involved at first hand when, in August of that year, L. Ron Hubbard's Church of Scientology flagship 'Royal Scotsman' berthed in Corfu's harbour. He had been instructed to keep an eye out for the ship, on which it was suspected that 'young persons [were being] detained under duress'.

The church proceeded to capture the hearts of the local shopkeepers by injecting some 1,000 pounds per day into the island's economy for provisions. The ordinary folk were won over through manipulation of the local daily newspapers 'Ephimeris ton Idisseon' and the 'Kerkyraiki' whose editors Hubbard quickly flattered. Front pages were dedicated to fawning articles focusing on the church, under headlines like 'All the World loves Greece, especially us.' Hubbard also used the papers to butter up the Colonels, who were then ruling the country. With lavish receptions, the Scientologists mesmerised the cream of local society.

Local people were not aware that Hubbard had a hidden agenda. And that was to establish a permanent 'University of Scientology' on the island. Indeed, Hubbard desired - and very nearly acquired - the Palace of Saint Michael and Saint George as his World Headquarters.

But protests from tourists, reactions in the international press and Forte's own behind-the-scenes diligence diverted the ruling Colonels from endorsing the agenda, and on 19 March Hubbard and his crew abruptly left.

This edition contains extracts from the Flag Officer's Order of the Day, which portray Hubbard's version of events, and include accusations that the author had 'told the most vile and fantastic lies about us'. Indeed, the book's epilogue tells of how, 11 years later, Hubbard attempted to sue both the Greek State and Forte himself. It concludes with verified copies of Reuters telegrams reporting the drama as it unfolded, spelling errors and all!

A must-read book which provokes chilling speculations of a different fate for Corfu.

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## Walking the Corfu Trail Friends, Flowers and Food

by John Waller

It's a book which 'captures the magic of this beautiful island in such a way that by the end of the journey you know the place so well that you can almost call it home,' writes Mark Palmer of the Mail about John Waller's latest publication, 'Walking the Corfu Trail'.

Three septuagenarians walk 180 kilometres of Corfu's long-distance footpath, photographing flowers and sampling Corfiot cuisine. They are joined by 15 guest walkers - among them the founder of the Trail - who tell their own stories about the island. The interaction between the three walkers - and with some of the guests - is sometimes very funny indeed.

Though this is not a substitute for the official guide book - you couldn't use it to find your way since it doesn't give directions, and the maps are small-scale - the detailed Freytag and Berndt maps and descriptions of the terrain and sights on the route provide a great companion for anyone attempting the hike. With close-up colour photographs of 48 wild flowers, it is also the first book to showcase the island's flora. 'Walking the Corfu Trail' looks set to follow the success of Waller's memoirs, 'Greek Walls' and 'Corfu Sunset'.

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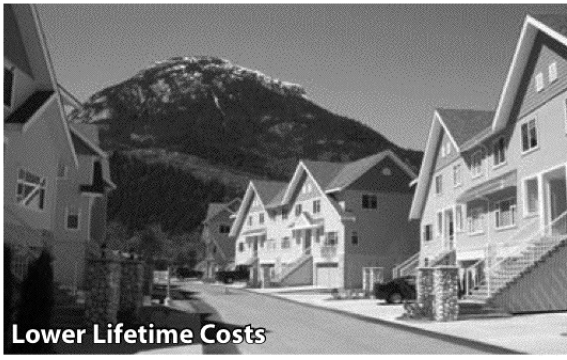
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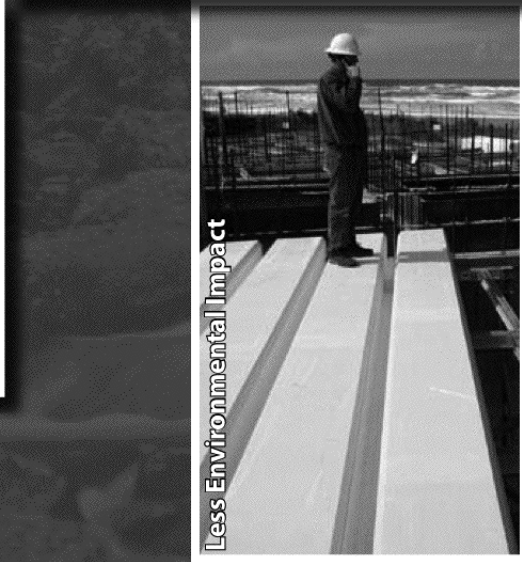
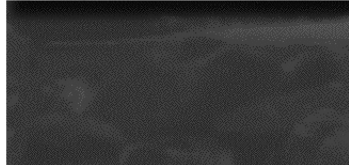
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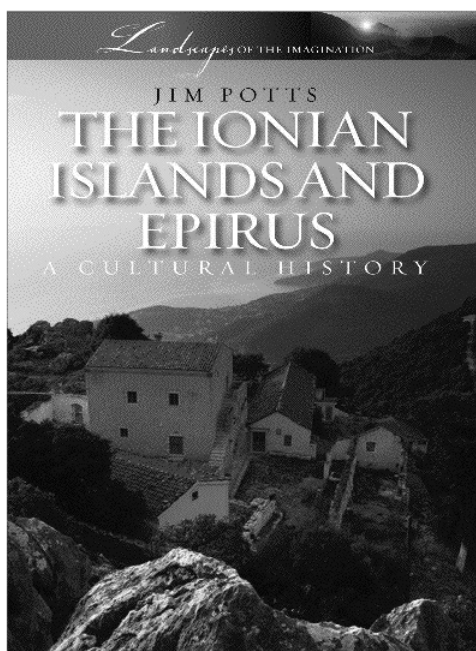
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## THE IONIAN ISLANDS AND EPIRUS

### *A Cultural History*

Jim Potts

Scattered off the west coast of mainland Greece are the seven Ionian Islands, celebrated for their spectacular landscapes, olive groves and classical associations. Together with the mountainous mainland region of Epirus, the combined populations of Corfu, Paxos, Lefkas, Ithaca, Kefalonia, Zakynthos and Kythira constitute less than a twentieth of the population of Greece, yet they have made a huge contribution to the culture of the country, before and since becoming part of the Greek state. The unsurpassed beauty of the islands and of the Pindus Mountains has stimulated the imagination of countless writers and artists from Homer to Byron, Edward Lear and the Durrells, Louis de Bernières and Nicholas Gage, as well as scores of nineteenth-century travellers.

Drawing a mosaic portrait of the Ionian Islands and special places of interest in Epirus, Corfu resident Jim Potts focuses on the landscapes, legends, traditions and historical events that have appealed most strongly to the imaginations of writers, residents and travellers.

**ODYSSEUS AND SAPPHO:** the landscapes of the poets; Homer's Ithaca and Scheria; Sappho's leap; the identification of Dodona; classic ground; King Pyrrhus.

**THE SEVEN ISLANDS:** Strategic issues; Corfu v. Kefalonia; Byron and Casanova; Empress Elizabeth of Austria; Greek writers, Solomos, Laskaratos, Theotokis and Valaoritis.

**TURKEY, VENICE, BRITAIN, GREECE:** conflict and occupation; union and liberation; the Second World War and civil war; nationalism and identity; cultural differences.

**JIM POTTS** is the author of *Corfu Blues*, and co-editor of *Swedish Reflections*, from Beowulf to Bergman. He worked for The British Council for 35 years in many countries. He now splits his time between Corfu, Epirus and the UK.

March 2010, 256 pp, 203x133mm

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## BOOK EXTRACT BY JOHN WALLER

### 'WALKING THE CORFU TRAIL'

My map suggests the next part of our walk will be along a minor road to the quaint village of Valanio which is deep in the middle of nowhere though not so far from Lear's village of Hokey Pokey on the right and later Klimatia on the left. It was here that a local wanted to buy the mock-up of Corfu Sketches as he pointed out the lovely old Venetian mansion which Theresa Nicholas had sketched. Was the village named after klimataria, the pergola which had been erected in front of the house and on which vines are still grown? I must return to the village one day and give my friend a copy of the book! Beyond Klimatia is Nimfes, named after 'Water Nymphs', with its ancient mini-monastery. Its name comes from the fact that all the streams off Pantokrator flow through this area, which is aptly known as the Paradise plateau. All the villages around are linked by footpaths with Klimatia as the centre.

As one would expect from Hilary's Corfu Trail, we stay on the minor road for just 100 metres. On the right is a wooden sign: 'Municipality of Esperion, Footpaths Network for Tourists - Map of Footpaths Network' with an arrow pointing to 'Entrance and Exit'. This is just what I like: a tourist trail, though few know about it as the publicity is non-existent. For this to change, an enterprising person must follow the example of more mature holiday destinations and place in every hotel a rack for flyers which describe all the tourist attractions in an area.

Within a few minutes we are descending through the dense undergrowth down a slippery, steep bank to the river, which is in full flow.

...boots and socks [are] removed, and we follow Hilary safely across the river. Socks and boots are put back on and my three companions climb up the other bank.

"Wait," I shout, "I have lost a sock - yet another bloody sock." Losing one sock on Day 1 was an accident, but losing a second on Day 7 is more than carelessness: the sock gods are against me.

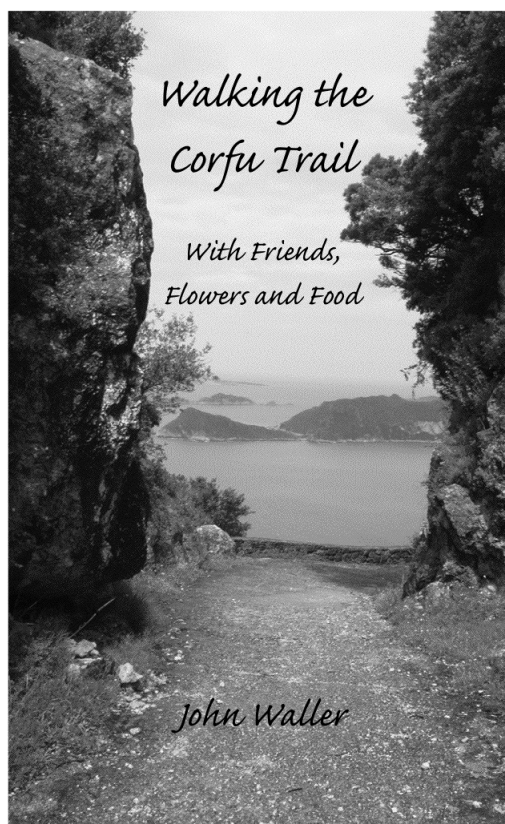
Eventually I give up the search and we continue along the south bank of the river. The walk meanders through a fabulous shaded glade, a perfect place for a summer stroll. Trees are overhanging the route; this must be like a tropical rain forest. A blindfolded visitor would have no idea that we were in Greece. Orchids poke their noses up from the undergrowth as we pass through a dense thicket.

We are now zig-zagging up from the lush dense valley through which the river flows; it never dries up even in summer. Half-an-hour after coffee we arrive at the village of Valanio with its picturesque square and mini-market, the key to the survival of a village.

Working villages in Corfu always have a surprise in store. In Valanio, the surprise is the overpowering smell of jasmine from climbers in full bloom. A few magnificent buildings suggest better times in the past.

Soon after Valanio, we are 'off-map' and on ancient tracks which are still very much in use by the locals.

"Sokraki is still an hour away; first we have a fast yomp and then a fierce climb," Hilary announces happily.



**"No one feels the beat of Corfu's heart more keenly than John Waller.** His latest book, 'Walking the Corfu Trail', captures the magic of this beautiful island in such a way that by the end of the journey you know the place so well that you can almost call it home." **Mark Palmer, Daily Mail**

"An enchanting book and a great companion for the walker and lover of nature and flowers." Tony Maniscolco, Ramblers World Wide Holidays

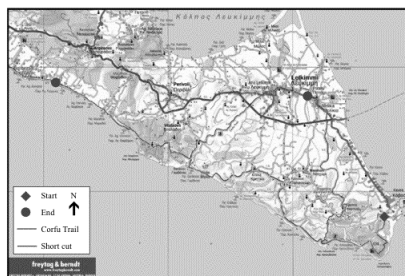


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Walking the Corfu Trail

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John Waller

YB

**Gardners' sales ranking for 'Corfu': John Waller #1 and #3; Gerald Durrell #2**

## HUMOUR

# Why? Good question...

Why... does Tesco make the sick walk all the way to the back of the store to get their prescriptions, while healthy people can buy cigarettes at the front?

Why... do people order double cheeseburgers, large fries, and a diet coke?

Why... do banks leave both doors open and then chain the pens to the counters?

Why... do we leave cars worth thousands of pounds in the driveway and put our useless junk in the garage?

Why... do they have drive-up ATM machines with Braille lettering?

Why... does the sun lighten our hair, but darkens our skin?

Why... don't you ever see the headline 'Psychic Wins Lottery'?

Why... is 'abbreviated' such a long word?

Why... is it that doctors call what they do 'practice'?

Why... is lemon juice made with artificial flavor, and dishwashing liquid made with real lemons?

Why... is the man who invests all your money called a broker?

Why... is the time of day with the slowest traffic called rush hour?

Why... isn't there mouse-flavored cat food?

Why... didn't Noah swat those two mosquitoes?

Why... do they sterilize the needle for lethal injections?

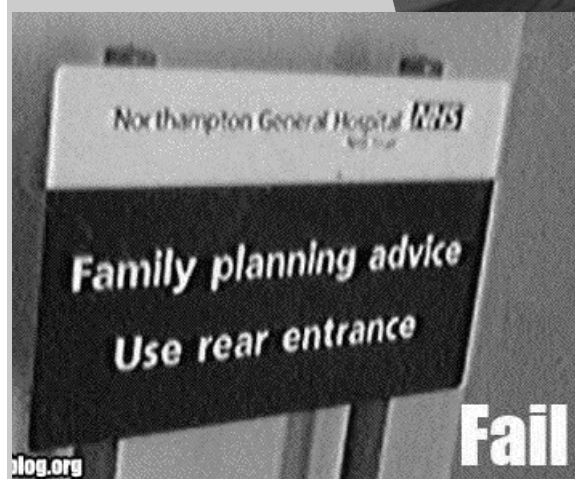
You know that indestructible black box that is used on planes? Why don't they make the whole plane out of it?

Why... don't sheep shrink when it rains?

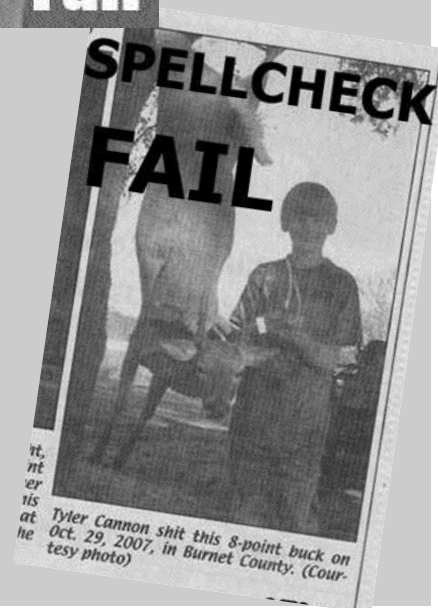
Why... are they called apartments when they are all stuck together?

If flying is so safe, why do they call the airport the terminal?

## Sign Failure (risque content)



...and



## HISTORY FEATURE

# Flora Sandes

## The First World War's most famous female soldier, in Corfu

The most famous female soldier of World War I, Flora Sandes was an Englishwoman who served with the Serbian army and endured their hard-fought retreat to the Adriatic Sea during the harsh Balkan winter of 1915. After volunteering as a nurse on the outbreak of the war, she joined a Serbian nursing detachment and after several postings, during which she showed her dedication, she was assigned to a front-line ambulance unit. Already knowing how to shoot and ride, she soon slipped into a combat role.

The Austrian attack in the autumn of 1915 forced the Serbian army to evacuate itself over the mountain ranges and into Albania, with the ultimate aim of establishing a government-in-exile on Corfu. Sandes pledged to stay with the regiment, and thus took part in the Long March over the snow-locked mountains to the Adriatic coast, becoming a mascot for the male soldiers (she was already over 40).

After the war, Sandes set off on a year-long publicity tour to raise money for the new Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes (subsequently Yugoslavia). Received as something of a novelty, she had enough fundraising experience to know full well how much interest she would arouse on her lecture tours in full military uniform, and comparisons to Nightingale and St. Joan indeed followed her around the globe.

She left the Yugoslavian army after demobilisation in 1922, and

.....

We were getting very tired of the Adriatic coast, and now that we were feeling rested again we were anxious to be once more on the move and take the next step towards getting back to Serbia. Speculation was rife as to where we were going to be sent to be reorganised and refitted; no one knew for certain, and there were the wildest rumours about Algiers, France or Alexandria, but at last the glad news came that we were really going, and to Corfu.

... on the 3rd of February we left our camp and went into Durazzo [Durrës in Albania] to wait for the steamer...

[The steamer took them to Vallona - now Avlona - where:]

... we were transferred in (the) harbour on to a big Italian steamer, a fine boat, where they treated us very well. We reached Corfu about 1 a.m., and disembarking began there and then. We hung on till the last, as we had nowhere to spend the night, our tents, blankets etc., being on another boat, and I had not even an overcoat with me and it was very cold, but at 8 a.m. we also had to go.

We had been looking forward to Corfu as a sort of land flowing with milk and honey, with a magnificent climate and everything that was good, but our ardour was rather damped when we landed at that hour at a small quay, feet deep in mud, miles away from the town, and about 8 miles away from our camp, so we were told. We did not know in which direction our camp was, and, even if we had got there, we would have been no better off without a tent or blankets; so we spent the remainder of the night sitting on a packing-case beside the sentry's fire, and I was glad enough to be able to borrow an overcoat from the Serbian

settled down in Belgrade. She married a Russian White Army General, and returned to England after the Second World War. She died in Suffolk in 1955, aged 79.

In 1916, Sandes published her autobiography, *An English Woman-Sergeant in the Serbian Army*, based on her letters and diaries. She used this account to help her raise funds for the Serbian Army. Here, we begin extracts from the book (not copy-right), starting from the end of the Long March and ending when the Serbian Army left Corfu to resume fighting.



.....

officer in charge.

There was one of the most beautiful sunrises I have ever seen, but under some circumstances you feel you would most willingly barter the most gorgeous panorama of scenery for a cup of hot tea.

We had a long, hot walk the next morning till we found our division, where the sixty men from our company were camped pending the arrival of our Commandant of the regiment and the rest who were coming via Vallona.

Corfu may be a lovely climate and a health resort and everything else that is delightful at any other time in the year, but it was a bitter blow to us when it rained for about six weeks without stopping after our arrival, added to which there was no wood, and camp fires were forbidden, I suppose for fear that the men might take to cutting down the olive trees with which the island is covered. There was no hay at first for us to sleep on, and the incessant wet, combined with the effects of bully beef, on men whose stomachs were absolutely destroyed by months of semi-starvation was largely responsible for the terrible amount of sickness and very high mortality among the troops during the first month of our stay there. This was especially the case among the boys and young recruits, who, less hardy than the trained soldiers, were completely broken down by their late hardships and died by the thousands on the hospital island of Vido. They could not be buried in the small island, dying as they were at the rate of 150 a day, and the bodies were taken out to sea. The Serbs are not a maritime nation, and the idea of a burial at sea is repugnant to them. I heard one touching story. An old man came to the island to see his son, but he had died the day



## HISTORY FEATURE

before. "Where is his grave?" he asked, "that I may tell my old wife I saw his last resting-place. We had seven sons; six were killed in the war, and he was the seventh and youngest." The kind-hearted doctor lied bravely and well. "That is it," he said, pointing to a little wooden cross among a few others, where some graves had been made one day when it was too rough for the tug to call. How could he tell the poor old father that even then his son's body was lying out on the wooden jetty waiting to be carried out to his nameless grave in the blue Ionian Sea?

We found there had been some hitch in the commissariat arrangements, and there was no food for our sixty men. We bought them some bread the next day, but bread was 8 francs a loaf, and a third of a loaf to a man with nothing else was not enough to keep them going, while endless red tape was being unwound before their proper rations came along. They never made a complaint; but, though we could have bought bread for ourselves, it nearly choked us with the men standing round silently watching and wondering what we were going to do for them.

On the second morning, seeing an empty motor-lorry coming along, I had a sudden inspiration and boarded it, dashing down the steep bank to the road, telling them I would be back in the evening from town with something for them, and taking an orderly with me. It was about fifteen miles' drive into the town of Corfu, and I tramped about all day in the pouring rain from one official to another, from the English to the French, from the French to the Serbians, and back again to the French, till I was heartily sick of it, and had I had the money would have bought the stuff in the town and had done with it. There was plenty of bread at the bakery, but, of course, they could not give it to me without a proper requisition, which apparently I could not sign because I was not authorised to do so. It was getting towards evening, and I was beginning to despair, and was thinking of doing the best I could with a hundred francs I had borrowed, when I thought I would have one more try with the French authorities. I was wet through myself, as I had had no time to stop for a coat when the lorry came along, and had been too worried to get anything to eat all day, but anyhow this time I managed to pitch them such a pitiful tale of woe about the sufferings of the men, and the awful time I was having trying to get them something to eat, that I quite softened their hearts, and they said they would give me what I wanted without any further signature, but that I must not make a precedent to this unofficial way of doing business. I was overjoyed, and sent my orderly off at once to hunt up a carriage, and we returned to camp in triumph about 9 o'clock with a whole sackful of bread, another of tinned beef, and two large earthenware jars of wine, which I bought on the way. There were plenty of men waiting, when they heard my carriage arrive, to dash down the road and carry the stuff up to the camp, and there was great rejoicing over the success of my expedition. I was soon warm and dry and having some supper myself. The men were all right so far, but another day's short rations would certainly have seen some of them sick. The question of transport was fearfully difficult, and the French and English authorities were working night and day to feed the troops, and, of course, they could never have got through the work if things had not been done in order; so I was duly grateful that under the special circumstances they let me carry out such an unauthorised raid.

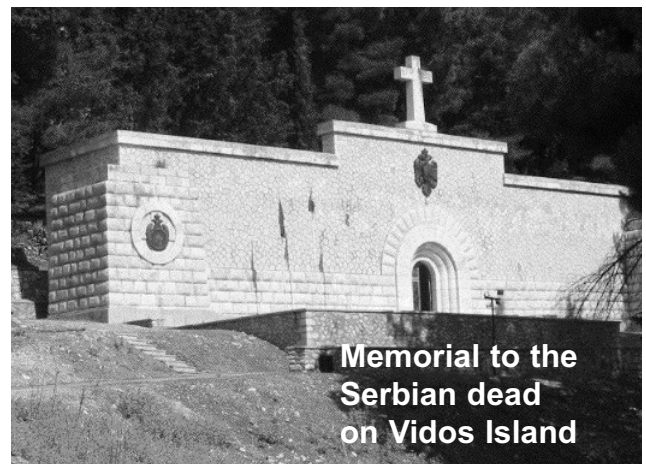
About a week later the rest of the company arrived about 10 o'clock one evening, and a sergeant proudly told me that out Fourth Company were all very fit and not a man fallen sick or fallen out.

We moved to another camp up in the hills, a nice place, but very far from anywhere, though I found I could get about anywhere I wanted to on the motor-lorries which used to come in with bread. The A.S.C. drivers of these lorries must have had a hard time at first; the roads were very bad and the weather shocking, and they were working sixteen hours a day carrying supplies, but they were full of pity for the deplorable condition of the Serbian soldiers, and were willingly working night and day to alleviate it.

One of the English officers gave me a small Italian tent in place of the little Serbian bivouac one I had been sleeping in. It was a capital little tent, very light and absolutely waterproof. My orderly built a foundation of stones about 2 ft. high, with the chinks filled in with earth, so that it was quite high enough to stand up in and also to hold a camp bed and a rubber bath, and he then made a nice little garden and planted it with shrubs and flowers, with a little wall all round ornamented with red bully-beef tines with plants in them, and it looked awfully nice.

The thing we missed most was not being able to have any fires to sit round. One day I came back on a lorry containing a load of wood intended for somewhere else, but I had got past any scruples about commandeering anything where my own company was concerned; so I persuaded the driver to drop a few big logs off on the road at the nearest point to our camp, and we had at least one small fire for some time afterwards, and anybody who liked could come and boil his billy-can and make his tea at that.

*Next month: Flora Sandes goes to work at Corfu Port.*



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## FEATURE

# The World According to Monsanto

 **Hilary Paipeti**

In the 1970s, my father, a GP, regularly received invitations to what he termed 'drug lunches'. As long as he had free time, he never refused the invite, for you got treated to a slap-up meal at a top-class local hotel, and the only 'payment' was having to listen to the pharmaceutical rep give a talk about the company's latest wonder-products. Since the invites were generally for two, and my mother was in the game of avoiding food, I was often my dad's escort.

'I know they're trying to bribe me,' confided my dad on more than one occasion. 'I just go along with it for the sake of the food. It's not going to affect what I prescribe.'

The increasingly more powerful Big Pharma must have realised at some stage that their promotions sometimes fell on deaf ears; they have gradually moved towards bribing governments rather than targeting individual doctors.

I believe - this of course is speculation but nevertheless a logical progression - that the sudden hike in the salaries of UK doctors, coupled with much shorter working hours, was the result of the Big Pharma agenda. GPs increasingly are prescribing for the symptoms of an illness, rather than searching for the causes, as my dad used to do (he was one of the first to add two and two together regarding the link between smoking and lung cancer - and promptly stopped smoking as a result). New vaccines (a huge earner for the drug companies!) are proliferating, with possibly a derogatory effect; even if you don't believe that the MRSA vaccine causes autism, it can't be a good idea to inject babies with a mixture containing toxic metals like Mercury. All money, though, for Big Pharma.

Could the government ministers who dictate medical policy be on Big Pharma's bankroll? Companies' 'influencing' politicians in exchange for favourable legislation is called 'lobbying', and is an accepted component of government function. In the States, the FDA (which green-lights foods and drugs) is in an incestuous relationship with Monsanto, with many influential figures holding posts at different times in both organisations.

We can at least avoid taking drugs unnecessarily (the proliferating use of Prozac comes to mind). But we may not be able to avoid the intervention of multinationals in our nutrition, in our food.

The biotech companies - the latest manifestation of Big Pharma - seem certainly to be bankrolling the powers-that-be. As I write, a petition is flying around the electronic world in protest against approval by the European Union of a Genetically Modified (GM) potato - the first approval of a GM crop for more than a decade.

In the Telegraph, eco-journalist Geoffrey Lean recently wrote: 'In a little-noticed move last week, the European Commission defied most of the governments to which it is supposed to answer to give the green light to growing a modified potato across the continent. It was the first time a GM crop had been authorised for cultivation in 13 years. But, now the long moratorium has been broken, similar approvals for others are expected rapidly to follow.'

The overwhelming majority of Europeans oppose GM foods, but under the European Commission's strongly pro-GM president Jose Manuel Barroso, their introduction is going ahead anyway.

Follow the money: arch-grasper Tony Blair is an enthusiastic proponent of GM crops.

The bio-tech companies - Monsanto being the largest and most powerful - are not in the game to 'save the world', or indeed to put better quality food on our tables. They are in it for the obscene profits that can be gained.

Campaigning Indian physicist Vandana Shiva says about Monsanto: 'They are in the process of owning food. All food. Patenting is the real aim. There's nothing they're leaving untouched. Once seed can be owned as their property, royalties can be collected. We will depend on them for every seed and every crop we grow. If they control seed, they control food. They know it; it's strategic. This is more powerful than bombs, it's more powerful than guns. This is the best way to control the populations of the world.'

Fine, you say. Just avoid GM food, as you avoid unnecessary drugs. Don't count on it, though.

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## FEATURE

At Oaxaca in Mexico - an isolated mountain village - scientists were shocked to find that the local variety of maize is already contaminated by Monsanto maize genes, which have somehow worked their way there from the USA. The world of science names this phenomenon 'transgenic contamination'; Monsanto prefers to call it an 'Adventitious Presence That is Part of the Natural Order' (the company's emphatic capitals).

Once those genes are out there, there's no going back.

A transgenic organism contains genetic material into which DNA from an unrelated organism has been artificially introduced. Some lettuces, for example, have shrimp genes (Why? WHY!?!). This genetic material can subsequently be passed around via natural methods, splicing randomly into the DNA and causing monstrous deformities in affected plants. Can this REALLY be a good idea?

A 'good idea' along the lines of feeding cows with dead sheep brains (BSE), or using a chemical loaded with deadly methanol to sweeten fizzy drinks (Aspartame)? Unintended consequences are liable to appear (or maybe intended ones!).

Novelist Dean Kroontz may well be sending out a warning about GM crops in his book 'Fear Nothing', the plot of which revolves around transgenic GM - in this case in the animal kingdom rather than the world of plants. 'We're screwing it up,' says an affected character, 'like we always do, but this is bigger than we've ever screwed up before ... We're losing it, all of it ... and there's no way to turn back, to undo what's been done.' That could just as easily be the way that GM crops are taking us.

Towards the end of the book, Kroontz warns: 'With a concession of responsibility unmatched by generations before ours, we have entrusted our lives and futures to professionals and experts who convince us that we have too little knowledge or wit to make any decisions of importance about the management of society. This is the consequence of our gullibility and laziness. Apocalypse with primates.'

Or Apocalypse with plants.

Can we trust Monsanto to look after OUR interests? Absolutely not; their record of causing and then covering up disasters is in the public domain. For an overview of the company's past, please read GM Foods: The 'Evil Empire', published in The Corfiot of June 2009 (free to read on the Internet: [www.thecorfiotmagazine.com](http://www.thecorfiotmagazine.com)), and watch the film 'The World According to Monsanto' (google 'world according to monsanto video').

One of the features of Monsanto crops is a 'suicide gene', which makes seeds infertile so that they cannot be kept for replanting the next season, as human have been doing for countless generations. Supposing this gene crossed the species barrier? Plants would no longer self-seed and would die out. Bees, butterflies and all the insects which symbiotically live on plants would disappear. I guess even that perennial plants, and those that regenerate by means other than seeding, would eventually lose their strength. What, then, would the animals we eat live on? Consequences, indeed...

It's a slippery slope, and Monsanto has us perched at the top, ready to give us a shove.

I hope I've frightened you. I hope you take action, before it's too late.

*Next month: Codex Alimentarius - Coming to a Store Near You.*

## LETTER

### ● ASHAMED TO BE HUMAN

● *A horrific incident took place one Saturday night, when I was on my way home from work, about half a kilometre outside Agios Yiannis (Aqualand).*

● *My boyfriend and I were driving along the road at about 3.30 am when to our shock we came across a badly injured horse in the middle of the road. Its right front leg was totally shattered from the knee down and it was bleeding from nose and mouth. There had clearly been an accident regarding a car since there was a load of broken glass and indicator lights shattered around it. Whoever had hit the horse had heartlessly driven off, and not only left the horse suffering major injury but also put other drivers in danger. The accident had occurred on a dark bend, with poor visibility for oncoming drivers from both directions.*

● *When we approached we noticed another two horses were there. It appeared they had all broken loose from being tied to an olive tree, as all three horses had long ropes still attached, and the two non-injured ones were actually dragging along a branch.*

● *As if that was not bad enough, our fellow humans' unforgivably callous behaviour continued!*

● *Since neither Tom nor I have a mobile phone we couldn't contact a vet or the police, so whilst trying to guide the horse to the side of the road - which proved a bitter task - we hoped for helpful drivers to come along.*

● *To cut a long story short, we managed to stop about three cars; none of the drivers wound their window down to talk to me face to face, and they denied having a mobile phone or claimed that they had no credit to call the police (you don't need credit to call 100!). Others simply didn't stop at all, and just by passed us!*

● *Eventually, after about 20 minutes of sheer frustration, a car stopped and we were able to contact the police. Now, I've never had much faith in the police, let alone the Greek police, but the two officers who cruised to the site were simply unbelievable. There was no road safety action taken, they were totally incapable of dealing with the situation, and all they managed to do was call the fire brigade, which came along about 30 minutes later and simply eradicated all evidence of the crime scene.*

● *Eventually, whilst the three of us tried to slow down cars and ask if anyone knew a vet's number, or if they knew the horses, a car stopped and recognised them. They gave the details of the owner to the police - or so we hoped as the police were by now was hidden around the next bend. At this point (around 5 am) we left, completely distraught by the whole experience.*

● *So I'm writing to you from pure frustration and anger toward our so-called fellow citizens, who made me feel ashamed and disgusted to be human! And I ask if we could kick up a fuss about this incident, because I strongly believe that the more we turn a blind eye to such behaviour the less likely it is to change. If you want to get in touch, my phone number is 26610 91022.*

● *Daphne Desylla*

## FOOD

### Have a Soup-er Spring!

Winter soups are a comfort zone, thick and homely with beans and root vegetables. Now the warmer spring weather is here, it's time to lighten up, with soups made from leafy vegetables and herbs.

#### Lettuce Soup

We tend to think of lettuce as only being a salad vegetable - but it makes a delicious and nutritious soup. Lettuce soup is most useful if you grow your own, and have a glut to use up. As long as they're not damaged, you can even use the outside leaves which you wouldn't put in a salad. Cos lettuce is the most flavoursome.

*2 onions, 1 head of lettuce or equivalent leaves, 2 potatoes, 1 litre water, 4 tablespoons olive oil, salt, plain yoghurt*

Peel and finely chop the onions, peel and dice the potatoes, tear the lettuce leaves in pieces.

Put all the ingredients in a large pan. Bring to the boil and simmer until everything is tender. Season to taste. Liquidise with a stick blender or other until creamy. Serve with a bowl of yoghurt for diners to add if they wish. Serves 4-6

#### Chervil Soup

Chervil is the most delicate-tasting of herbs. If you don't grow it yourself, you can get it at Kalliope and Fergal's Garden near Danilia (subject to availability - phone to order on 6976 552345). You could make this soup with parsley instead, but the taste will be different.

*1 bunch of chervil, 1 medium to large potato, 1/2 litre real chicken stock (not cubes) or water, salt, butter*

Peel and dice the potatoes and place in a pan with the stock or water. Cut the stalks off the chervil and add them to the pot - reserve the leaves. Bring to the boil and simmer until the potatoes are soft. Season to taste. Liquidise with a stick blender or other until creamy.

Just before serving, finely chop the chervil leaves and add them to the pan. Stir in a good knob of butter. Serves 2-3.

#### Fresh Pea and Ham Soup

*1 small onion, a slice of ham (real ham, not the sloppy, salty processed stuff), 1 stick of celery, 1 kilo fresh green peas in the shell, butter, 1/2 litre water, 1/2 cupful milk*

Shell the peas. Chop the onion finely and, in a heavy pan, melt it in the butter. Add the chopped ham and the celery, also chopped and with its leaves. After five minutes add the peas and let them get impregnated with the butter.

Add the water and simmer gently until the peas are thoroughly cooked. Liquidise with a stick blender and season if necessary (depends on the saltiness of the ham). Add the milk when the soup is heated up. Serves 3-4.

#### Creamy Potato Soup with Carrots and Celery

*700 gr potatoes, 40 gr finely chopped onion, 25 gr butter, 3 tablespoons olive oil, 40 gr finely chopped carrot, 40 gr finely chopped celery, 30 gr fresh grated Parmesan cheese, 250 gr milk, 450 ml chicken stock or the same amount of water with 1 chicken stock cube, salt, 2 tablespoons finely chopped parsley*

Peel and dice the potatoes and place in a pan with just enough cold water to cover. Cover, bring to the boil and simmer until tender. Puree the entire contents with the liquid and set aside.

In a frying pan, saute the onion in all the butter and oil until pale gold. Add the carrot and celery and cook for another two minutes, leaving them somewhat crunchy.

Add the entire contents of the frying pan to the pureed potato. Turn the heat to medium and add the cheese, chicken stock and milk. Stir as you cook at a steady simmer until all the fat has dispersed through the soup and the consistency is creamy. Add salt to taste and mix in the parsley off the heat.

Serve immediately in warm plates, with extra Parmesan on the side. Serves 4-6.

#### Spinach and Rice Soup

This is reminiscent of Spanakoriso, but without the dill flavouring - and of course it is soupy rather than the texture of a pilaff.

*450 gr fresh spinach, salt, 45 gr butter, small onion, 560 ml home-made stock or 2 stock cubes dissolved in the same quantity of water, 60 gr Italian Arborio rice, Parmesan cheese*

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## Springtime

### *Anthemis*

The winter seems to have flashed by, what with all the activity of the colder weather. Gardeners in slightly more northern hemispheres can close shop for a few months, but it is in the winter that we are at our busiest. The heavy seasonal rain brings on rampant weeds, but at least they are easily pulled out and added to the compost.

Rejoice when you see a good crop of nettles, and pile them into the compost heap. They are great activators and soon turn into a rich crumbly black mulch. They can also be treated like spinach or made into a soup, as the village grannies do.

*Viburnum tinus*, or *Laurestinus*, a local wild shrub, is in good shape. It is everywhere and will grow to 2-3 metres in time, and is well worth encouraging with its dark green leaves and pale undersides. At this time of year it is covered with flowers, tiny round white posies opening from pink buds.

*Arbutus unedo* is also looking good and is another welcome self-seeder. Sometimes called the Strawberry Tree, it has dangling clusters of rough red berries somewhat resembling strawberries; they are edible, but their only advantage is that they are not poisonous. 'Unedo' means 'I eat one' - the unspoken assumption being, 'and no more'. Alas not available here but meriting mention is its beautiful form - *Arbutus andrachne* - with glowing cinnamon- red bark.

*Vinca* - periwinkle - is in growing happily, covering the banks with its evergreen dark leaves, and now in full flower with pretty flat-faced mauve blue blooms. It has been a highly recommended and medicinal plant for centuries for all manner of ailments. There is a variegated sort, of pale green leaves with a cream border, very attractive and with the same blue flowers - but the leaves are the attraction.

Seedlings of Borage are popping up everywhere, which I encourage. In good soil, they can make handsome plants almost a metre tall. The pretty pendant bright blue flowers are seductive to bees and the whole plant is considered to have every virtue that Nature can bestow - all parts are edible. As I learnt from my village help many years ago, the young leaves fried in batter make a tasty meze. The flowers floated on wine are supposed to be a great restorative, and there was a saying 'I, borage, give courage'. It was used as a cure for depression and melancholy, floated on the wine given to the departing Crusaders, and is customary even now in a Pimms cup.

Seedlings of the Crown Daisy - *chrysanthemum coronarium* and

*chrys. segetum* - are now appearing en masse, and I shall transplant a lot of them to brighten up the banks along the drive. I first saw them growing in great glowing golden masses in waste patches around Athens many years ago and they make a glorious sight.

I have a lot of rosemary now in flower, the usual pale blue and a lovely deep cornflower blue. They root along as they increase in size so it's no problem to detach a piece for propagation. I have it all along my drive, both the trailing and upright bushy varieties; it's an essential for any garden and the source of many legends. Shakespeare's Ophelia says: 'There's rosemary, that's for remembrance; pray love, remember.'

Myrtle is another worthwhile shrub also evocative of many legends, and a Mediterranean native. It will grow into a small tree in time, but is easily controlled and clipped to bush size.

*Nandina* is at its best now - it is of the *berberis* family, although also known as Heavenly Bamboo. It is a neat decorative shrub growing to two metres, and more in time, with very attractive pinnate leaves tinged red and panicles of small white flowers which develop into glowing clusters of bright red berries in winter. It throws up slim stems all around its base which are easily detached to be grown elsewhere. Altogether a welcome guest which will look after itself and adorn any situation.

Seedlings of the wild delphinium are popping up all over and look as though they will be splendid examples of my newly enriched (by weeds) soil. I first collected seeds from plants growing below the monastery in Paleocastritsa and they seem indigenous to the north of the island.

Freesias have been wonderful this year. I have never had so many all out at the same time - white, yellow and mauve. The yellows predominate, rather a garish shade, known to painters as Cadmium Yellow, but among all the greenery the colour really glows.

The month just gone is really the busiest month in a gardener's year. Everything happens at once: seedlings appearing everywhere; the last call for any transplanting and seed sowing; and weeding is still a doddle with the soft friable earth. One week of sunshine and the ground will need a pick-axe for any serious planting, which will need regular watering from now on.

I hope you are all into serious mulching. A thick wreath or compost - even weeds - at least 10 centimetres or more thick around every shrub or rose will keep the moisture in and rot down to feed the plant. Overnight covered with a film of new filmy growth, *Wisteria* is telling us that there is no time to lose!

until the onion turns light gold. Add the spinach and saute over a lively heat for a few minutes, stirring.

Transfer all the contents of the frying pan to a large soup pan. Add the stock and 250 ml of the spinach cooking liquid. Bring to the boil, add the rice and cover the pan. Cook at a steady, moderate boil until the rice is done but al dente, about 25 minutes. Check the seasoning.

The soup should be quite dense but still runny on the spoon. If it thickens too much during cooking, add a small quantity of the rest of the spinach cooking liquid. But be careful not to make the soup too thin.

## Have a Soup-er Spring!

Cut the root off each spinach cluster and wash really well in several changes of water until no grit appears at the bottom of the basin.

Cook the spinach in just the water that clings to the leaves plus a good pinch of salt, for no more than 2-3 minutes after the water comes to the boil.

When cool enough to handle, scoop up the spinach with a large slotted spoon. Gently squeeze all the liquid from the spinach back into the pan and reserve. Set the squeezed spinach aside.

Put the butter and finely chopped onion in a frying pan and saute

## THE GREAT OUTDOORS

# A Walk for Springtime

## Giannades: Mount Tsamourou and the Theotoki Valley

Two contrasting landscapes are the feature of this wonderful walk. First you head along an olive-clad hillside with fine views, then descend to the plain and follow a delightful country lane. An off-path section through an olive grove and you climb back to the lovely village of Giannades.

Starting Point: Giannades Village Square  
Ascent: 150 metres  
Rating: Moderate

Time: 2 1/2 - 3 hours  
Terrain: Tracks, minor roads, paths, olive groves  
Shade: Partial

Start by taking the lane into the heart of the village, marked with a 'No Entry' sign. The paved lane bears right, passing first between high buildings and then running along an embankment where the land falls off on the left. Just out of the dense houses, after the paved lane becomes asphalt, take a concrete lane to the left, winding steeply downhill. At the foot, where it meets a road, go right, and then, meeting another road, bear right again. You are now on a narrow asphalt road - there may be a little traffic accessing the olive groves. Proceed across a gully and then uphill. Where the road bends sharply right, take a track left (on the outside of the bend).

Climb on concrete and gravel until, at the top of the ascent, the way divides. Take the left-hand branch, now downhill. Ignore a track going left (with beehives beside it) and then follow the main track as it undulates along the hillside. Occasional views of the Ropa Valley and Giannades can be enjoyed where the olive trees are cut low. Pass two tracks heading left (one clear, the other less distinct) and one climbing to the right, then take the next track downhill and left (check: if you are on the correct track, a few metres down look back at the mountain - you should see a rock formation which resembles a fortress wall with gunslits). The descent takes you through a forest of cypress trees and on downhill to meet a crossing gravel road. Here turn right and follow the road, again undulating along the hillside but at a lower level. After a little rocky plateau which gives a view of Vatos, the track soon begins to descend. A very sharp drop beside a rubbish dump takes you down onto the valley floor. Pass a couple of houses and you reach a minor road (which links Ermones with Giannades).

Here turn left and proceed along the road. Traffic is light, but it's a good idea to keep dogs on a lead. About 500 metres along, and after a substantial concrete skeleton, a clear track leaves the road on the right. Follow this track, which winds over the valley floor towards the tree-covered hillside of the Theotoki Estate. It can be very wet here in winter. Cross a concrete culvert over the stream, after which the way divides into three. Take the left-

hand track, leading across the field straight towards the hillside. Reaching the foot of the hill, the track swings left to follow its base, running between the woods of the estate and the valley floor. It's a delightful tree-bordered lane through a lush landscape. Further on, the fence of the estate borders the lane on the right. Gradually climbing, the lane reaches olive groves. At a fork, go left and continue to a crossing road (linking Giannades with the main Ropa Valley road).

With care for traffic, cross the road and take a track opposite, leading down into an olive grove of widely-spaced trees planted in straight lines. A few steps down the track, go left. The track you are now on immediately swings right to follow one of the 'corridors' between the olives. Half a dozen trees down, leave the track, heading off it at about 45 degrees. This part is off-path, but easier to follow than it reads. You are making for the bottom left-hand corner of this extensive olive grove. You may encounter a ditch or two. Don't head too far to the left. It can be squelchy underfoot. If you reach a line of shrubs, bear right. If you find a crossing track ahead of you (on the other side of a deep ditch), go left. You should find a concrete bridge which crosses the ditch and gives access to the track.

On the track, turn left and follow it to a crossing road. Here go right and follow the minor road (leading to Marmaro) for a couple of hundred metres, then leave the road by way of the first clear track left (a track leads right just before, alongside a deep ditch with a large pipe in it). Follow the track, first over flat land and then ascending, to meet a crossing track. Here turn sharp left and continue uphill to reach a road at houses. Go sharp left and almost immediately leave the road by way of a concrete lane, leading up between houses. Continue the climb up the lane, partly on steps, until you reach the village road again. Take the village road straight on to quickly reach your starting point in the square.



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## THE GREAT OUTDOORS

# Lake Korission

## A Wildlife Paradise

Get to Lake Korission from Agios Mattheos village in the central south of the island. Follow signs for Halikounas.



Endless olive groves which blanket rolling hills; blue and green where land and sea meet. This is familiar territory, the Corfu of the picture-postcards, of the villa brochures.

Habituated to these gentle bucolic scenes, the traveller, coming on harsher landscapes, is caught by surprise.

Such a scene presents itself at the end of a little road which leads from Agios Mattheos to the ocean on the west coast. Here is Lake Korission, a brackish lagoon which extends over 1500 acres under an open sky. Bordered by forested dunes and edged by marsh plants and grasses, it is the island's most significant wetland biotope.

The road ends near the sea at Halikounas, but you may continue northwards or to the south by way of unmade tracks.

Southwards, the track runs along the narrow spit of land which separates the sea from the lagoon. Juniper trees, low-growing and battered by the west wind, blanket the dunes.

The track runs on and ends at the lake's outlet, where a wooden footbridge crosses to the Issos peninsula, forested with rare cedar trees. Here you continue on a footpath to the lake edge, then bear right into the forest of holm oak trees, their distorted trunks and writhing branches conjuring up an illustration by Arthur Rackham. You expect to meet fairies, but there are only

some wandering tortoises and a herd of goats. Here, centuries of leaf-fall, mouldering in the dank shade of the close-woven branches, have generated a deep layer of soil where, in sunny pockets, wild flowers grow luxuriantly.

Then the holm oaks give way again to junipers and you emerge onto sandy dunes again; only the sight of distant, olive-green hills around Hlomos remind you that this is not a real desert. Onwards, following the wheel-tracks made by 4x4 vehicles, you reach the shore at Agios Georgios Beach - the quiet end, a mile or more from the tacky resort.

All this region, from the Lake to the furthest extent of the forest, is a notable wildlife habitat. 126 species have been recorded, among them widgeons and cormorants, while the endangered Great White Egret number over 90.

Northwards from Halikounas, the track takes you to a low cliff above the sea, where there are benches so you can sit with a view of the open water.

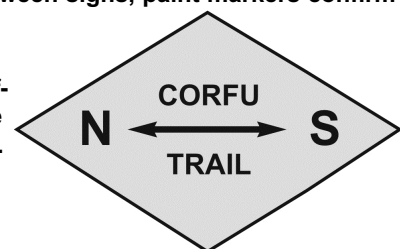
Eat at Alonaki Restaurant (well signposted) near Halikounas. It's one of Corfu's best-kept secrets, set in semi-cleared forest on a low coastal cliff. Go for Fried Tomato Balls, a seasonal vegetable casserole, and minute deep-fried brown shrimps.

.....

**The Corfu Trail - the island's long-distance footpath - runs from Arkoudillas at Corfu's southernmost tip (start near Kavos) to Cape Agia Ekaterini at its northernmost point. Since the most dramatic scenery and the biggest concentration of highlights are in the north of the island, walkers are recommended to follow the route from south to north. Approximately 220 kilometres long, it takes 10-11 days to complete. It's waymarked in strategic locations with yellow signs, bearing the letters CT and a directional arrow. Between signs, paint markers confirm the route.**

The Trail was financed partly by the European Union's Interreg II programme and partly from a private source on the island. It is administered by a non-profit-making trust, and income from walkers, who are requested to contribute five euros, is ploughed back into maintenance and improvements to infrastructure.

The Companion Guide to the Corfu Trail (with full route descriptions and detailed maps) is available as a pdf file (10 euros) from [www.corfutrailguide.com](http://www.corfutrailguide.com)





## INFORMATION

### POST OFFICE

Alexandras Avenue.  
Open 07.30 - 20.00. Stamps for  
Europe 70 lepta

**TOURIST POLICE** Samartzi 4, San  
Rocco Square. Tel. 26610 30265

### EMERGENCY TELEPHONES

Police	100
Traffic Police	26610 39294
Port Police	26610 30481, 26610 32655
Fire Brigade	199, 191
Radio Taxi	26610 33811-2
Animal Welfare (ARK)	26610 32111 26610 43332 26610 34628

### CONSULATES

Great Britain	26610 30055 & 23457
Holland	26610 39900
Germany	26610 31452
France	26610 26312 & 26630 22500
Italy	26610 37351
Denmark	26610 38712
Norway	26610 39667 & 32423
Sweden	26610 31386 & 36241
Switzerland	26610 39485
Eire	26610 32469 & 39910
Finland	26610 93438

### CHURCHES

**Anglican** (Holy Trinity Church): 21  
Mavili St. Tel. & Fax: 26610 31467.  
email: holytrin@otenet.gr  
Website: www.holytrinitycorfu.net  
Sundays 10.30 Holy Communion &  
Children's Sunday School. 1st, 3rd &  
5th Sundays at 7pm: Songs of Praise  
**Roman Catholic** Cathedral of St  
James: Town Hall Square. Sunday  
Mass at 8.30, 10.00 & 19.00  
**Evangelical** Church of Greece: 3  
Iakovou Polila St. Tel.: 26610 37304.  
Sunday Morning Service 11.00.  
Evening Service 7.30. email: EV-CH-  
OF-CO@ker.forthnet.gr

### SPORTS

Walking Information	6948 889174
Mountainbike Hire	26610 93344
Golf Course	26610 94220
Dafnili Tennis Club	26610 90570

### MEDICAL SERVICES

Corfu General Hospital	26610 88200
Private General Clinic	26610 36044
Ambulance	166

## PLACES TO VISIT

### Regional National Health Surgeries

Agios Mattheos	26610 75110
Gastouri	26610 56153
Giannades	26610 51210
Kastellani	26610 54333
Kato Garouna	26610 53000
Strongili	26610 75200
Agros	26630 71201
Ano Korakiana	26630 22123
Velonades	26630 71343
Gimari	26630 91395
Doukades	26630 41555
Karoussades	26630 31377
Kassiopi	26630 81238
Makrades	26630 41368
Lefkimmi	26620 23333
Argyrades	26620 51421
Perivoli	26620 22196

## Need a reliable weather forecast?

A detailed five-day forecast is at:

[www.corfunet.com/weather/index.php](http://www.corfunet.com/weather/index.php)

### IN CORFU TOWN

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM** Diverse exhibition of Corfu's  
archaeological heritage, including Gorgon Pediment. 1, Vraila St., near  
Corfu Palace Hotel. Open 8.30-15.00 except Mondays  
**BYZANTINE ART MUSEUM** Fabulous Byzantine and post-Byzantine  
icons. Church of Antovouniotissa, just off Arseniou St. Open 8.30-15.00  
except Mondays  
**MUNICIPAL ART GALLERY** Corfu Artists of the 19th & 20th centu-  
ry. Also changing exhibitions of modern art. Palace of Saint Michael and  
Saint George, East Wing. Open 09.00-21.00  
**OLD FORTRESS** Site of the original town, with battlements and bas-  
tions and the best view of Corfu Town. **BYZANTINE ART MUSEUM**  
and **MUSEUM COPIES SHOP** (closes 14.00). Entrance from the  
Esplanade Square. Open every day, 08.30-19.00  
**NEW FORTRESS** Built by the Venetians and British, a stunning work  
of military engineering. **MUSEUM OF CERAMICS**. Entrance from  
Solomos Street. Open every day, 10.00-19.00  
**PALACE OF SAINT MICHAEL & SAINT GEORGE** Built in 1823  
as seat of British government, with impressive official rooms. Contains  
**MUSEUM OF ASIAN ART**, a world class collection of art objects  
from far eastern countries, beautifully displayed and presented in con-  
text. Esplanade Square, North End. Open 08.30-15.00. Closed Mondays  
**BRITISH CEMETERY** Lovely garden containing graves from the  
British Protectorate to the present. Interesting plants and trees, and fine  
cemetery architecture. Entry is free - please leave a generous contribu-  
tion to its upkeep. Kolokotroni Street. Open all day  
**VIDOS ISLAND** Off Corfu Town, an extensive, traffic-free islet with  
lots of walks and beaches, plus Serbian Mausoleum and fortresses. Good  
restaurant. Caique service every half-hour from the Old Port until late  
**MON REPOS** Birthplace of the Duke of Edinburgh. **MUSEUM OF**  
**ARCHAEOLOGY, REGENCY DESIGN AND BOTANY**. Extensive  
park with paths and ancient temples. Grounds open daily 08.00 - 18.00,  
Museum open 08.30 - 15.00, closed Mondays  
**PATOUNIS SOAP FACTORY** Traditional olive oil soap factory, over  
100 years old. 9, Ioanni Theotoki Street, San Rocco Square. Open shop  
hours. Tel. 26610 39806

### IN THE COUNTRY

**ACHILLION PALACE** Corfu's most famous building displays memo-  
rabilia of its previous owners, Empress Sissi of Austria and Kaiser  
Wilhelm II of Germany, plus lovely gardens. Gastouri Village. Open  
daily 08.00 - 19.00  
**FOLK MUSEUM OF CENTRAL CORFU** A village house left intact  
with its original decorations, furniture and fittings. Sinarades Village.  
Open every day except Sunday 09.30 - 14.30. Tel. 26610 35673 / 44530  
**MUSEUM OF TRADITIONAL GREEK COSTUMES AND**  
**CORFIOT FOLK MUSIC** 40 years in the making, a unique collection  
of traditional costumes from all over Greece, plus recordings of tradi-  
tional songs. Pelekas, opposite the 'Graffiti Wall'. Open 10.00 to  
13.30 or by advance notice.  
**PALEOKASTRITSA MONASTERY** A small museum with icons and  
other relics, as well as some curiosities. Paleokastritsa, end of the road  
**CORFU SHELL MUSEUM** One of Europe's best museums dedicated  
to the treasures of the sea. Thousands of exhibits, scientifically labelled.  
Benitses Harbour Square, north end. Open every day 10.00 - 20.00  
**TRIKLINO VINEYARD** Agricultural tradition and local products.  
Video showing olive and wine production. Wine tasting, traditional  
snacks and music. Walk through vineyards with panoramic views.  
Karoubatika, on Pelekas Road, 6 km from Town. From 12.00 daily  
**CORFU DONKEY RESCUE** Charity that takes care of old abandoned  
and abused donkeys. Phone 6947 375992. Gavrolimni, near Poulades -  
follow the signs  
**KASSIOPI CASTLE** Ruins of a medieval castle stand on the headland  
above the harbour of Kassiopi. Access is indicated from near the  
Harbour Square. Currently under reconstruction.  
**ANGELOKASTRO** Dramatic ruins of a Byzantine castle, capping a  
rocky peak. Currently being reconstructed. Near Krini  
**GARDIKI FORTRESS** Extensive ruins of a Byzantine fort, located  
near the village of Agios Mattheos in the south. Reach it by taking the  
road to Lake Korission.  
**GARDIKI CAVE** Occupied by humans around 20,000 BC, near  
Gardiki Fortress. Reached by a short path from the road between Agios  
Mattheos and Paramonas.

# Website Checklist

Does your present website meet these ten criteria?

**The First Glance:** Visitors need to be able to tell what you do right away. Don't hide behind a splash page or make people wait while something loads - many won't take the time.

**Navigation:** Make sure visitors can find things easily. Put your navigation in the usual places, and make it very obvious what your visitors need to click in order to find each section

**Contact Information:** Can customers find you when they need you? Your contact information must be clear, accurate and easy to find.

**The End Game:** It should be easy to to complete an order through your website or get more information. Regardless of the content of the page make sure that you include clear instructions.

**Above the Fold Focus:** Most visitors won't scroll unless you have already convinced them that it's worth their while to do so. Make sure important aspects are above "the fold" – the point where scrolling becomes necessary.

**Inviting Content:** To develop relationships with your clients, you need to have them visit more than once. In fact, most people won't commit themselves the first time they come to your website. You need to offer them something to make them want to return.

**Well-Organized Pages:** Don't make your visitors search. Always ensure that your page layout is clear, concise and gives the visitor exactly what they want without having to search for it.

**Visual Appeal:** While the content on your page is the most important thing, an attractive page will be more enjoyable and appealing for visitors. Choose colours that work well together, leave some open space so it's not too busy, and make sure you have everything lined up nicely.

**Sincerity and Trustworthiness:** The internet is all about trust. If you can ensure that your website is trustworthy, people will be more likely to complete an order. What's more, the search engines also base your rankings on how trustworthy they think your page is.

**A Polished Finish:** Do your links work? Make sure you check your grammar, spelling and layout are correct? Is all the information up to date and accurate? Your visitors will have less faith in you if you have errors on your website.

If your website lacks these vital ingredients then maybe you should be looking at a 'makeover'. Truetype Web Solutions can carry out a full analysis of your website covering all the points above and more - for free! If you then decide that you need to redesign or upgrade your present site, the low prices of both our web design and site management services may surprise you. At Truetype Web Solutions our speciality is designing and optimising cheap, but highly efficient, websites for small businesses. We are proud of our close personal relationship with all our clients and we are always happy to update your web pages to reflect changes in your business.

## Truetype Web Solutions

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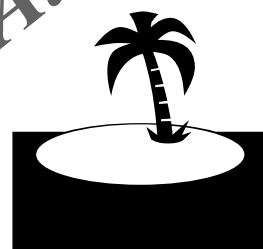
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