

The Corfiot

Corfu's English Language Monthly Magazine

August 2008

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No. 212

In the Lap of the Gods

Sailing through the Ionian

Donkey
Sanctuary
Saved

Songs of Blue and Gold

Restaurant Reviews
Information

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ear to the ground

ONE VERY ENDEARING TRAIT DISPLAYED BY OUR SUMMER VISITORS is their deluded trust that white strips painted across the road are zebra crossings. Their frustration is obvious as they stand on the roadside waiting for a driver to stop and let them cross, and it sometimes turns to anger at the perceived violation of traffic laws (an aside for non-local readers: zebra, or pedestrian crossings do not exist in Greece; the white strips merely suggest to walkers where they might like to traverse the highway). On the flipside, local drivers get cross (pun intended) when forced to stop by a British driver who treats the crossing like one back home and accordingly stops for pedestrians, forcing the driver behind to halt unexpectedly. Shunts have been known to occur.

So as a result of different expectations from both groups, the largely cosmetic zebra-crossing lookalikes can be very dangerous indeed.

The authorities have evidently not cottoned on to the hazard they constitute. In North West Corfu, around the tourist resorts of Sidari, Arillas and Agios Stefanos, they've decorated the roads with white and bilious yellow stripes, mostly outside tavernas and accommodation entrances, thus encouraging visitors to step out in front of traffic that has absolutely no inkling that they're going to.

Meanwhile, if they want to spend their road improvement budget, it would make more sense to fix a genuine hazard, rather than create another one. Not more than three or four years ago, and thus possibly within the memory capacity of the local authorities, a young man from Afionas was killed when the car in which he was travelling as a passenger went out of control as the driver swerved to miss a large pothole. That happened in winter when there were no tourists around. This summer, when there are some (at least in North West Corfu), the road into Agios Stefanos (NW) resembles an earthquake victim, with pitholes (sic) that have drivers yawing and tacking in their attempts at avoidance. Surely the authorities should better consider where their roadwork priorities lie.

FLICKING (OR SHOULD THAT BE CLICKING?) through the morning papers the other day, I came across an inspired article by Giles Coren on coinage of new words. Some of the most apposite ones were:

nadal n. 1) A lopsided structure, specifically one whose left side is more developed than its right. 2) A grunting thing.

house n. A thing of no value.

knife n. Children's fashion accessory.

easyPocrisy n. The phenomenon by which, after two or three years of being implored to stop travelling abroad so much because of the deleterious effect on the environment, 58 per cent of people suddenly cancel their foreign holidays because the credit crunch, the rise in living costs and the strength of the euro have made it seem a bit of an extravagance.

It was one of those articles which you pass around to friends, and our regular contributor Lionel Mann swiftly riposted with his own:

corfusion, n. Inconvenience and annoyance resulting from failure of supply of essential services, like water, electricity. 'We suffered corfusion for twenty-six hours last Monday and Tuesday.'

corfuous, adj. Of well-intentioned project that never materialises, illusory.

Can anyone come up with a new coinage which describes local authorities' tendency to commission unnecessary and superfluous works, whilst neglecting vital repairs?

BUT ANYWAY, THE SUN'S SHINING, and there's no crime to speak of, or PC, or CCTV.

unblairable adj. The state of the nation after eleven years of Tony.

WITH THE HEAT AND THE CROWDS, August is the month when most of us... just want to be somewhere else. So this month, we take you on vicarious some vicarious trips - southwards into the Ionian Sea, northwards to Venice and east to Butrint in Albania.

Also in this issue, we beat the heat with some cooling dishes, and review a great new novel set mainly in Corfu. And Lionel Mann remembers his teaching career just after the War. Lionel for Minister of Education!!!



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SUNDAY SERVICES

Sundays 10.30 Holy Communion
19.00 (1st, 3rd & 5th of month) Songs of Praise
(Sunday School & Youth Group run same time as Services except Family Service)

REGULAR EVENTS

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

HOW TO FIND HTC: From San

Rocco Square: Walk down Alexandros Avenue to the first set of lights TURN LEFT up the hill. Look for the Bella Venezia Hotel sign at the end up a bank. Bear right on up the hill past the Orpheas Cinema. The main road bends left; you should see the sea now! Turn immediately left into Zambeli Street. Holy Trinity Church is 100 metres past the Bella Venezia Hotel.

From the Liston/Spianada: Find the band stand in the middle! Take the street directly opposite (it takes vehicles). The old Ionian Parliament building is at the top of that street and HTC is behind it.

Revd. Dr. Clifford Owen will be finishing his time in Corfu on October 31st

This month's name days

- 06. Sotiris
Two-day fiesta at Mount Pantokrator Monastery. Fiesta on Agii Deka Summit
- 08. Triantafillos
- 10. Lavrentios
- 15. Maria, Despina, Panagiotis, Panagiota
Biggest fiesta day of the year, with events in numerous villages all over the island. Look for banners advertising them
- 16. Gerasimos, Stamatis
- 26. Adrianos, Adriana, Natalia
- 30. Alexandros

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 some nibbles.

Fiestas start about 8pm with traditional music and dancing, local wine, spit-roasted lamb, souvlaki and stalls selling unbelievably tacky toys!

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ACHARAVI

NEWS

Governor intervenes to save donkeys

Corfu Donkey Rescue Sanctuary will not be closed, thanks to intervention by the Nomarch (Governor) of Corfu, Stefanos Poulimenos, which followed a campaign by locals, expats and the media. The Paleokastriton Council, in whose area the Sanctuary is located, had given an order to vacate the premises at the end of July, which would have thrown out 40 aged donkeys onto the street. Now they will be allowed to remain until a new location is ready.

CDR Founder and Director Judy Quinn writes: *On 7 July, the Mayor of Paleokastritsa informed us that the Corfu Donkey Rescue is going to be 'sealed' within 20 days and 40 donkeys are going to be thrown out. It is the job of the local authorities to collect abandoned donkeys but they never did their job. CDR has been doing it for five years with no help or backing from government. Now the shelter is threatened with closure.*

We are within months of securing land purchase but this takes time as we need to get licenses and planning permission, and then fence and build stables. All of you who know Corfu, know this takes forever! The authorities say they cannot give us any time. They are receiving so much pressure from only one neighbour who refuses to be patient.

The authorities totally underestimate the popularity of the work done by the shelter volunteers. They underestimate the popularity of it for the tourists and even the Greek people themselves. We are known all over Greece and world wide. So rare is it to have a donkey shelter in Greece they cannot even categorize us. We believe that common sense will prevail and all we ask for is more time to prepare a new place for the donkeys.

Corfiot Editor Hilary takes up the story. *I responded immediately with an email to the Nomarch, Stefanos Poulimenos, pointing out that the Sanctuary is a very big tourist attraction which delights its many visitors. 'For many,' I wrote, 'it is a highlight of their visit to Corfu.' I pointed out that if the Sanctuary is closed, quite apart from the removal of this lovely tourist attraction, if the story was to reach the British Media, it would cause a big backlash of bad publicity, at a time when tourism in Corfu needs all the help it can get.*

I also got hold of Harry (Tsoukalas) who the next morning (Saturday) had a live phone-in radio show on Radio Kerkyra 100.1. I arranged to call, and we discussed the issue on air. The matter was subsequently taken up by the radio station.

Meanwhile, emails of support for the Sanctuary and condemnation of the authorities were pouring in from all over the world.

If you have any materials or products that might help build new stables for the donkeys, please call Judy on 6947 375992.

To donate money, please use the charity account at Alpha Bank: Filozoiki Frontida (Mi Kerdoskopiki).

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Above: Judy with one of the old donkeys in her care. The Sanctuary is near Poulades

An easyJet flight from Corfu to Gatwick had to divert in emergency to Geneva after a fire broke out on board. The 149 passengers on the Airbus A320 were terrified to see thick smoke pouring from a toilet in the rear of the plane. A member of the cabin crew managed to put out the fire, and there were no injuries. The passengers completed their journey on another plane.

While an easyJet spokesman insisted that there was no risk at any point to the passengers or crew, the attendant who put out the fire, which broke out behind plastic panels in the toilet, was later told he had saved the lives of everybody on board. 'Mid-air fires are one of the most dangerous threats to aircraft,' said the source. 'They can get out of control very rapidly. Aircraft have been brought down by what started out as a small fire. This was quick thinking by the cabin crew.'



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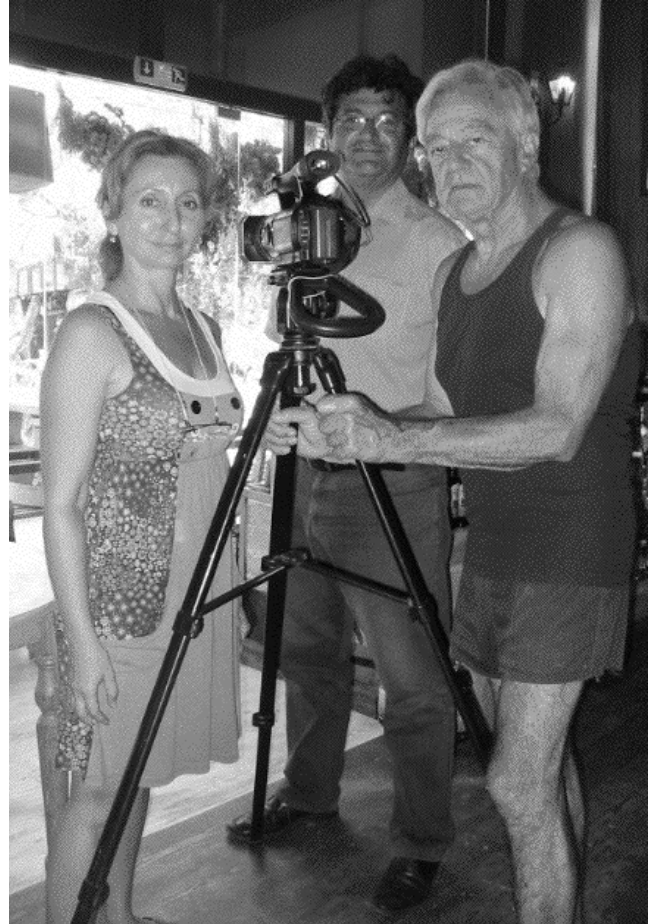
The Greek National TV Station ET3 paid a visit to Corfu during July to film for an episode of their autumn flagship series Methoroi Dromoi. The series features ten locations all over Greece - islands, rivers and lakes - and examines the lifestyle of people who exist in the specific landscape. As well as Corfu, the locations are the Acropolis; Kea and Samothraki (islands); Pinios, Aliakmonas and Nestos (rivers); and Prespes, Doirani and Ochrida (lakes).

Luvcorfu and Petra Director, and Corfiot contributor, Harry Tsoukalas was ET3's point of contact and advisor during the Corfiot shoot. 'This is a series about people, not landscapes,' said Harry. 'They filmed my mum and dad [a retired priest] in their garden, telling us about their green lifestyle and recycling. My mum said something fantastic: We don't use chemical pesticides and fertilisers, and whatever God wants to give us, He will. We also filmed my dad on Diaplo island, off Arillas, being a self-sufficient Robinson Crusoe, which he's very good at. Then they filmed the Petra showhouse near Arillas, which they thought was a wonderful example of an ecological home that fits into the landscape. And they came to the Made in Corfu shop at Perithia near Acharavi and filmed the local products we have on display.

'Down in the south, they found a priest who's got a museum with the remains of an American bomber that crashed near Lefkimmi during World War 2, and he told them about how the local people hid the crew from the Germans and got them to safety. The priest pilots a microlight, so they filmed him flying.

In Corfu Town they filmed Patounis soap factory and a class of students at Music Department of the Ionian University. Then they cut to one of the concerts at the Ionian Festival, where the professors were performing jazz! They were basically looking for normal people who do a normal job but who are also involved in some off-beat activity, like the blacksmith who's also a singer.

'They were really pleased with the material, and got so much that they may not be able to show it all!'



Harry (centre) with Director and Producer Iro Tsiflakou (left) and Director and Cameraman Nikos Grammatikopoulos (right) in the Made in Corfu shop near Acharavi.

Director and Producer Iro Tsiflakou explained that the viewpoint of the series 'is based on the person who lives, earns his living and dreams with a poetic disposition.'

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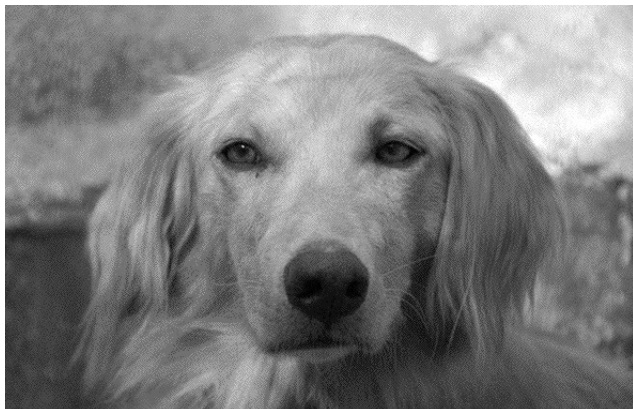
Rehomed in Corfu and Holland

by Louisa van Vuurde

Here at the Ark, Corfu's animal charity, many injured dogs, puppies and cats are reported to us. The injuries are mainly caused by car accidents, and broken legs are the main result. In one week, we had four cases!!! And that's not to mention the cases of poisoning, either on purpose or from ignorance, thinking only mice will eat the bait. But let's be positive and tell you about a few dogs which have found new owners.

ALMO IN CORFU

Almo came to us last August, a nice young male golden retriever-mix. Like all dogs we tested him for Leishmaniosis, a parasitical disease caused by the bite of the sandfly. Unfortunately, he tested positive. This illness is quite common in Corfu and Greece. The little fly is only active during warm summer nights as long the temperature is above 15°C, so in Corfu the dangerous times are from April/May to September/October. The tiny fly is out between sunset and sunrise, and if an infected fly bites a dog he might get the disease. The main source of infected animals is rats. Symptoms are often only seen if the illness has already progressed, like wounds which do not heal, long nails, lumps, weight loss; but often there are no symptoms. This was the case with Almo, so blood was sent to Athens for more analysis.



Fortunately, the progress of the disease can often be halted - but not cured - with 2xp.d., a simple and cheap medicine. Also there is a treatment with injections, but recently a new medicine which claims to cure it, named Milteforan, has been released. Almo was one of the first dogs on Corfu to get this new treatment. It's easy to administer, just some syrup mixed into the food for 28 days, continuing with tablets. Six months later, a blood test will give the result. The medicine is rather expensive, depending on the weight of the dog. StichtingAAI in Holland offered to pay for his treatment.

The results for Almo are not known yet, but despite this, a Corfiot family saw him and fell in love. They'd come to the Ark about a puppy, but then they saw Almo. Next day they phoned and offered the dog a good home. We informed them in detail about his medical situation, but they said not to worry! So Almo is now with his new family and their other adopted young dog. At the end of August we will have the test result, and of course hope that the new medicine has cured him; but even if it hasn't, Almo will be taken care of. Isn't it great that this Corfiot family will take care of him no matter what?

FATHER AND THREE PUPS TO HOLLAND

In this case we knew the father as well as the mother of the three pups reported to us. Yes, the owner was planning to sterilize his little dog, but... and he had a good fenced garden, he thought... There were four puppies, and the owner had found a home for one. Initially we thought we had found a home for one of the others, but then the woman changed her mind, and so all three went to Holland to nice families - Bali, (below) Balou and Wolfy have found their golden baskets there.



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ANIMAL WELFARE

We seldom know which dog fathered the pups, but in this case we think it must have been Pikos (pictured right), a small dog living in the same apartment building. Because his owner had health problems, Pikos also went to Holland. It was terrible for her to have to decide that she could not longer take care of the dog she had had for about a year. First we tried to find a home for him in Corfu, but after months of 'promotion' no-one showed interest. Then someone in Holland saw his picture and fell in love with this little dog; and finally, after a lot of hesitation, the owner decided that her Pikos could go.

Pikos had been spoiled, only fed chicken or steak, and so on. This was unusual; when we rehome dogs, we usually find the opposite - dogs on a short chain, with a barrel with dirty water to drink, and maybe only a piece of old bread to eat.

When we picked up Pikos, he came with a bag filled with his toys, shampoo, and a fresh chicken and steak. Now Pikos is with his new owner in Holland. We have received emails and photos to show that then dog is doing well... and we heard he now even likes dog food.

So several more Corfiot dogs have been successfully rehomed. Remember, if you are looking for a puppy, a dog, or a cat or kitten, please contact us first. We will certainly be able to help you or to put you in contact with people who are looking for a good family for a pet they cannot keep any longer. Also please contact us if you are in the position to offer your services as a volunteer; we need hands.

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CHAPLAIN'S CHAT

A Salute to my Predecessors

 **Clifford Owen**

I am conscious that the weeks are ticking away and by the time you read this I will only have ten weeks to go before I pack my bags and say 'farewell' to Kerkyra. It is of course difficult to try to do the job of Anglican Chaplain in Holy Trinity Corfu without a little reflection on how I think things have gone. No doubt some will be secretly satisfied to see my plane disappear into the distance; others may miss us. But whatever folks' personal thoughts, what matters, it seems to me, is how far one has been faithful to what one believes one was called to do at one's appointment. Again I will have to leave the final analysis to the One above who alone judges justly. Nevertheless I offer some reflections and I want to place on record the debt I owe to those who have gone before me.

Holy Trinity Corfu has had the ministrations of many Chaplains over the last century and a half, since 1860 when the Old Ionian Parliament Building became surplus to requirements as a place of local government. It became ceded to the Anglican Faith for as long as there was a worshipping community of Anglicans on the island. The old building was bombed in 1943 and for some years it remained open to the sky until it was handed back to Greece *. (Anyone know the date? We have tried to find out but drawn a blank.) The present Manse then somehow turned into the Vice-Consul's abode, and it was Major John Forte ** who restarted Holy Trinity back in 1970ish when he cleared a room of some boxes and laid out a worship space. He invited chaplains who happened to pass through Corfu to take the occasional service. From that flickering restart, HTC appointed its first resident chaplain in one Rob Pickering from 1984 to 1987. There are a few around who can still remember Robert's time here, mostly with affection. He died a few years after leaving Corfu, but his widow Gwen still occasionally visits the island. I have met her and she still retains a pastoral heart for the work here.

Rob was followed by Bob Bond, who by all accounts had a different style to his predecessor. Bob had been, I am told, in the Coastguard Service and that would have brought a sharpness to his style. Whatever Bob's time brought forth in HTC, one thing is sure: he had a gospel ministry. One former member of the church here told me that Bob had received some criticism for some things, but that despite all she owed her faith to him, and for that she will be eternally grateful. I am sure she was not the only one. Bob passed on two years ago, but his widow, June, has kept in touch since through Christmas newsletters.

But when Bill and Gerry Elliot came, they were told by Bishop Satterthwaite to come to Corfu and 'just love the people'. I have

got to know Bill and Gerry well in the last six years and we have talked much about the Church and island and the job here. We have wrestled with some of the common problems in prayer too. In my estimation I would say that Bill and Gerry set a benchmark in contact and pastoral care. They brought a stability. The years have trickled by but when I first came people still asked after them. I once went to an electrologio to have the car fixed in the days before I knew much Greek. The Greek electrician asked me about the 'pappas who threw darts'! They were real darts because Bill was in one of the local darts teams. It was his scene. Above all, the Corfu Golf Club missed Bill when he went ***. Gerry is still famous for her cakes ****.

After Bill and Gerry came Stuart and Kathryn Broughton. Stuart by all accounts was a sharp edged missionary, formerly of the South American Missionary Society. He and Kathryn spoke Portuguese, from their previous work. In particular Stuart was an evangelist. He sharpened the worship and challenge in sermons, and many owe their faith to him. His love for evangelism took him to those islands off the north coast of Corfu where on one occasion he gave out literature. However, he was not too happy with some of the other churches on the island. I have never spoken to Stuart, even over the telephone; but at the beginning of July I met Kathryn in Christ Church North Finchley, London. She is an enthusiast!

After Stuart and Kathryn there was a long gap of eighteen months inter-regnum, when several locum priests held the fort, and the barrel of chaplains was being scraped. Finally I ended up here. I never applied for the job but was asked by ICS (The Inter-Continental Church Society) to come, look and consider the post. In faith I accepted. I was given three specific tasks: 1. To get alongside the Greek husbands of 'the girls'. 2. To build fresh links with the other churches in Corfu. 3. To explore ministry on other islands and the Greek Mainland. How do I think I have done?

If 'getting alongside' Greek husbands means being friends and having a drink, dropping by, then I have passed. If it means converting them to a more evangelical view of things then I have failed utterly. I am not the evangelist that Stuart Broughton was,

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even though I count myself still an evangelical, and rejoice when people see that particular light. I have certainly been able to make contact with the other churches and I have felt a most warm hand extended from the Roman Catholics and the Greek Evangelicals. Finally, I have at last managed to have some semblance of contact with the Orthodox (and I have enjoyed the processions).

As far as the other islands are concerned, we now have a fledgling congregation in Lefkada, and good contacts in Paxos. Whilst Corfu can be the 'mother island' to the other Ionians, there is no way of providing satisfactory ongoing pastoral care to these other islands without their own priests and people working at it. But I have no doubt that in time that will happen. One great success has been the new annual gathering of Anglican Chaplaincies in Greece. We have met twice in Athens and next February 2009 we (they) meet in Thessaloniki.

I think I can sum it up best in the analogy of the fruit cake. What makes Christmas cake mouth watering is not just the icing on top but the various other ingredients that go into the mixing bowl in the right proportions. All the several chaplains of Corfu have provided 'something to be mixed in'. My ministry has definitely not been the icing! Maybe I have been the rum or sherry (delicious to some in small doses, but only leaves a flavour!). But the real cake substance is the people themselves. This is a pretty strong congregation of faithful people here. We fall out occasionally like all families, but by the grace of God we say sorry and stay on the journey.

So now the process is in motion to find the next man and wife. I pray that the right person will be found. Enough prayer has gone up in the matter. We wait and see.

Meanwhile I salute my predecessors.

* Since Corfu had never previously been part of the new Kingdom of Greece, the building was not handed 'back' to Greece, as it had never been theirs in the first place (Ed.).

** Not only did John Forte re-establish Holy Trinity, he also single-handedly saved Corfu's cricket tradition from extinction. He still lives in Paleokastritsa (Ed.).

*** He famously once hit a hole in one (Ed.).

**** She used to contribute an occasional column called 'Gerry's Cakes' (Ed.).

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• Corfu - Paxos

• Monday - Thursday

• Dep. Corfu: 07.00, 07.20, 16.30, 16.50

• Dep. Paxos: 07.40, 10.45, 17.30, 19.55

• Friday - Sunday

• Dep. Corfu: 07.00, 07.20, 16.10, 16.30 (except Friday)

• Dep. Paxos: 07.40, 10.45, 16.50, 19.55 (except Friday)

• Flight time 20 minutes

• Corfu - Brindisi

• Monday, Friday & Sunday

• Dep. Corfu: 12.15

• Dep. Brindisi: 14.00

• Thursday & Saturday

• Dep. Corfu: 12.15

• Dep. Brindisi: 13.50

• Corfu - Kefallonia

• Monday, Friday & Sunday

• Dep. Corfu: 07.20 (via Paxos)

• Dep. Kefallonia: 19.00 (via Paxos) (except Friday)

• Thursday & Saturday

• Dep. Corfu: 07.20 (via Paxos and Lefkas), 16.30 (via Paxos)

• Dep. Kefallonia: 09.50 (via Paxos), 18.30 (via Paxos and Lefkada)

• Corfu - Ioannina

• Friday, Saturday & Sunday

• Dep. Corfu: 08.20, 14.30

• Dep. Ioannina: 09.10, 15.20

• Flight time 30 minutes

• Corfu - Patras

• Monday - Thursday

• Dep. Corfu: 08.20, 13.00 (both via Ithaka)

• Dep. Patras: 10.15, 14.55 (both via Ithaka)

• Friday, Saturday & Sunday

• Dep. Corfu: 10.50 (via Ithaka)

• Dep. Patras: 12.45 (via Ithaka)

• Corfu - Ithaka

• Monday - Thursday

• Dep. Corfu: 08.20, 13.00

• Dep. Ithaka: 11.05, 15.45

• Friday, Saturday & Sunday

• Dep. Corfu: 10.50

• Dep. Ithaka: 13.25

• Flight time 45 minutes

Corfu - Lefkada

Monday & Sunday

Dep. Corfu: 16.30 (via Paxos), 18.40

Dep. Lefkada: 10.05 (via Paxos), 19.35

Thursday & Saturday

Dep. Corfu: 07.20 (via Paxos), 18.40

Dep. Lefkada: 19.15, 20.15 (via Paxos)

Friday

Dep. Corfu: 18.40

Dep. Lefkada: 10.05 (via Paxos), 19.35

Direct flight time 35 minutes

Corfu Flightseeing

Monday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday: 11.25

Monday & Thursday: 12.10

Friday, Saturday, Sunday: 10.00, 17.30

Flight time 30 minutes

FEATURE

In the Lap of the Gods

by Sarah Button

PART 1

Pete and Sarah Button sail to Cephalonia and back with the help - and hindrance - of a few Greek gods and the dulcet tones of Captain Pete's mandolin.

Gaios harbour on Paxos is tiny, but we squeezed Tighmara, our 40 foot sailing sloop, alongside other yachts tied to the harbour wall. Here we stepped off onto a pretty town square surrounded by tavernas. Mixing it with the locals in a cafenion that afternoon, Pete enjoyed entertaining some elderly drinkers with a tune or two on his mandolin. Then the earth shook; the ice in our glasses chinked as the table rumbled unerringly; our chairs wobbled sending shivers up our spines. Pete and I looked around nervously expecting the ceiling to come down, but the locals barely blinked. Apparently, it happens often. But could it be the work of Poseidon, god of the sea and renowned earth shaker?

Before our departure I thought it was time to bone up on Greek mythology, so I brought appropriate reading material to peruse during our summer cruise of the Ionian. I found myself becoming increasingly fascinated by the influence the gods used to have, and probably still do, on the Hellenic way of life; I decided to invite them into our lives during our summer cruise to see if they would influence the lives of a couple of English sailors. They did.

Paxos, however, wasn't letting us leave without an unwanted guest, and Tighmara took on a rat. Thumbing through my books I looked to see which god was responsible for this ghastly intrusion and considered Demeter the goddess of agriculture for the role. We couldn't blame her for certain, though, because her prime concern is protecting the corn and grain of the local fields - maybe she had chased the animal out and into the town, where it desperately grabbed the opportunity to make a getaway on our boat.

Used to stowaway rodents, we laid out chunks of lethal pink poison and waited for its demise. After a couple of days we set about looking for a body. No rat, but we found its lair behind the portside saloon berth. Here, neatly stowed, was half an onion, several cubes of poison - which, for some reason it had decided to stash and not eat - a lemon... and one of my bras!

Heading south and east, we made our way into the Gulf of Patras and the impressive new bridge which links the Peloponnese with the Greek mainland. We could see its stanchions glimmering in the haze fourteen miles away. This feat of modern engineering, with a span of a one and a half miles, marks the entrance to the Gulf of Corinth and our destination Trezonina, where we would leave Tighmara and visit the intriguing ruins at Delphi built to honour Apollo, the god of light music and prophecy. He's one of the most revered of the twelve gods of Olympus.



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We were sailing in a gentle and favourable wind, but were destined not to arrive.

The bridge had until now presented an awesome but inviting sight. Then, five miles away, the captain's jaw dropped and he started to curse. Through the binoculars, Pete saw white water. The sea was whipped into a chaotic frenzy, creating a misty haze. We literally battened down the hatches, took in some sail and prepared for a rough ride. Suddenly we found ourselves sailing into forty knots of a wind: a full-on force eight; a gale. We can't sail into a headwind, so we dropped the sails altogether and switched on our engine, but our boat was tossed about by steep waves which caught on our bows, sending streams of water along our decks. I looked at our speed, and we were going nowhere at all. Despite full revs on the engine, we were standing still. We had no choice but to turn tail and run with the wind straight back out of the gulf. Perhaps it was Poseidon, who apart from his seafaring antics was well known for his rages. Maybe he was having a battle with someone and we had got caught up in one of his tantrums. Nevertheless, he had seen us off.

The winds were forecast to continue to come from the east for at least a week, and we were beaten; we'd have to change our plans.

Our rat gave up its battle with nasty chemicals and we disposed of its body a couple of days later when we tied up alongside the quay at Sami on Cephalonia.

Sami earns a good living off the back of the success of Captain Corelli's Mandolin, the film of the book by Louis de Bernieres which starred Nicholas Cage and Penelope Cruz.

We were spoilt for choice for places to eat and drink. We could tuck out at Captain Corelli's Sea Food Taverna or Captain Corelli's Pizza Restaurant, then totter along to Captain Corelli's Gellateria for an ice cream, and round off the evening at Captain Corelli's Coffee Bar for some caffeine and a Metaxa. But Captain Pete had other ideas. He'd been preparing for arrival on this particular shore for months. Having shaved and donned his smartest shirt, he plonked himself down on the pavement outside the busiest taverna, laid out his hat and launched into a beautiful rendition of Pelagia's Song on his mandolin. It was beautiful, seductive - and very brave; for poor Pete remained just that: poor. Busking did not appear to be a good career move.

I reflected that the Olympian gods loved their music for Apollo used his lyre to seduce goddesses, nymphs and mortals alike. His precious instrument had been given to him by Hermes, the messenger of the gods... and this chap did have a real role to play for me at our next port of call.

Lefkada, and my camera packs up. I am miffed to say the least as it's practically new. I email Olympus - yes, Olympus! - and complain. After an exchange of messages which wing their way through the ether, the gods reluctantly agree to look at it, but won't promise anything. I wrap it up and post it, and who sends it? Good old Hermes of course - the logo of Hellenic Post is the winged messenger himself. I hope it gets there, because from what I've read this chap is prone to steal things and hide them - does that sound familiar?

We were beginning to wonder if anything else would go wrong, when it did. We'd had a wonderful few days at Frikes in Ithaca and I had planned to 'Walk with the Gods', taking a guided

walk around Odysseus's homeland. But the gods intervened again and something destroyed the thermostat of our fridge. We'd evidently offended Hestia, goddess of hearth and home. Thirty-five degrees of heat is no way to keep cheese, yoghurt, meat - and most importantly beer. Unfortunately all the perishables ended up in the bin. Boat fridges are not a simple piece of kit as they run on 12 volts and involve complicated compressors, so we had to set sail again, back to Lefkada where we could find a fridge engineer. Vernon of 'Stiff Nipples Refrigeration' - I kid you not - bounced aboard our boat and fixed the problem without sweat. He was kind and didn't rip us off, rather like Hephaestus, god of fire and art, who had a workshop on Lemnos, and gladly fixed things for people without fuss.

The gods have their philanthropic traits as well as their evil ones. They are naughty too, often playing tricks and winding each other up, just like we do today - because of that we can never really predict what's going to happen.

But, right now, we are paying homage to one of the lesser gods - Dionysus, god of wine... but we like to call him 'the party god', and the wine flows freely when he's around, as does our chilled beer. I just hope Hermes does his stuff and gets my camera back to me! But that, as they say, is in the lap of the gods.

Sarah and Pete continue their summer cruise in next month's Corfiot, when they encounter a swarm of wasps at the deserted village of Port Leone on Kalomo and get a little help from Artemis, the goddess of the hunt and the moon, on a challenging night passage.

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'Made in Corfu' Antiques on sale at Gastouri

Corfu's first 'village antique' shop has been established in Gastouri, central Corfu, near the Achillion Palace. Up to now, shops selling antiques have concentrated on the upper end of the market, with aristocratic furniture from mansions. In contrast, the Gastouri shop is an outlet for the sort of furniture found in village homes, much of which has in the past few decades been thrown on the dump and replaced by modern items. Most of the articles are made from local cypress wood.

The Gastouri shop also sells a range of 'Made in Corfu' products, including local ceramics and olive wood.

The premises also house an office of Luvcorfu Properties and Petra Traditional Constructions, with a portfolio of available properties.



'Dopio' at Perithia

Part of the same chain is the 'Dopio' (Made in Corfu) Shop at Perithia, on the main road between Kassiopi and Acharavi and next door to the Art of Olive Wood Shop. The shop functions as a bar and snack bar as well as selling local products such as wine and soap, olive oil, kumquat products, ceramics and souvenirs. In addition, there is a small selection of antique furniture.

You can also order 'Made in Corfu' products for delivery at your accommodation. Orders over 20 euros delivered free (see right). And the premises function as an office of Luvcorfu Properties and Petra Traditional Constructions. Other Luvcorfu offices are at Barbati and Tzavros (near Gouvía), by the traffic lights.

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Kumquat

Kumquat Liqueur	500 ml	7.50 euro
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Heimarios	330 ml	1.50 euro
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TRAVEL FEATURE

Butrint - A Visit to Remember Yvonne Basta

This visit to Butrint was organised by the Durrell School of Corfu (DSC) on 3 June and was part of the seminar which took place during the first week of the month. Those taking part were all professional travel writers and came from Britain, Canada, America, Ireland and China.

Where is Butrint and why is it worth visiting? Quoting from my guide book, it 'lies slightly inland from the eastern shore of the Straits of Corfu, to which it is connected by the Vivari Channel. The struggle to control the Straits and the island of Corfu has been fundamental to Butrint's history]from the first Peloponnesian War in the 5th century BC, to the Napoleonic War of the 19th century.' Over time, Butrint came under the control of the Romans, the Byzantine Empire, Ali Pasha and the Ottoman Turks. It was a fascinating history, well worth reading.

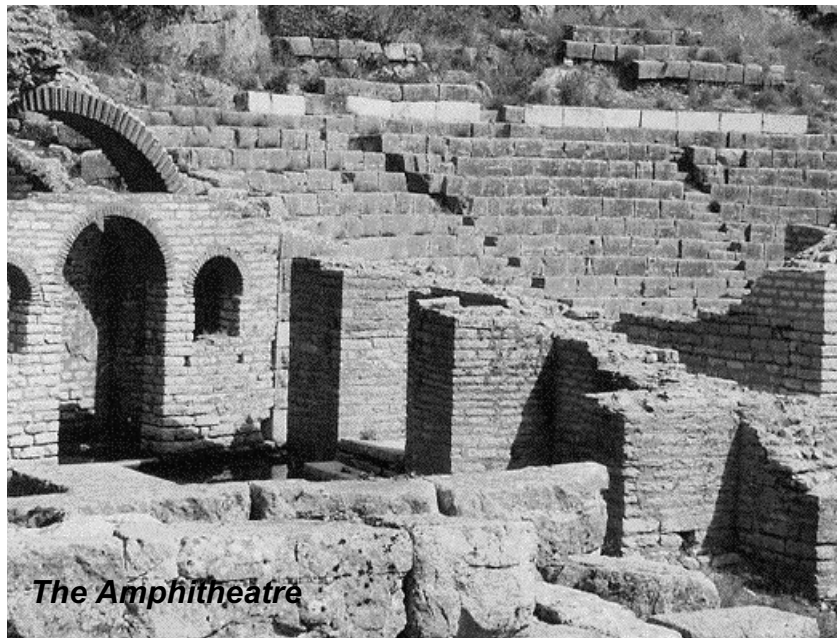
Now to our trip. Having all 22 of us gathered at the port, Alex uttered the words, 'OK, let's get going!' This was a somewhat optimistic comment, as we soon found out that we did not have a boat to take us to the Albanian port of Saranda! After some further questions, we were told that our boat, the Kaliopi, had mechanical problems and was out of service. What to do now?

By dint of refusing to leave, we managed to board a Flying Dolphin and arrived at our destination some 35 minutes later. There we saw 'our' boat and found out that it had been impounded the previous week (ask not why!) but were told that it might/could be released in order to ferry us back to Corfu at 5.30. Ha, ha!

Not being part of an organised tour, we had to pass through control as individuals and quickly realised that this was going to take forever, with 20 minutes needed for each one. This situation became apparent to an official, who issued some very loud and effective instructions, and we were processed paper-wise (as opposed to via the computer). Lo! and behold, in a short time we were legally in Albania for one day!

Taxis had been organised to take us to our destination, a somewhat bumpy ride. I could not but help noticing the massive differences in Saranda and suburbs during the seven years since our last visit. An enormous Vodaphone sign dominated the port and a plethora of shops and bars had grown up. Progress.

On arriving at the site, our dreams began to



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TRAVEL FEATURE

be realised. Our guide was to be Oliver, no less a person than the Site Director himself! What more could we possibly want? His knowledge, enthusiasm, unbounded energy and obvious love for the place and his work made the three hours pass without us realising it. A short stop at the Butrint Shop gave us a chance to purchase beautiful books and hand-painted tiles as souvenirs.

Lunch had been arranged at a super restaurant near the site, and it was here that we heard the next change to our plans. 'Our' boat had not been released, so new arrangements had been



*The 'Lion Gate',
reminiscent of Mycenae*

made. After eating, we were to be ferried in vehicles belonging to the site to the Albania-Greece border, where we were to make our way across! Shades of Le Carre!! As my husband remarked, 'Nobody batted an eyelid or expressed any disapproval', just carried on with lunch and finished off the wine.

The drive to the frontier was also bumpy but also another experience. The driver of my jeep was a young Irishman called Gerry who had studied archaeology at the University of East Anglia. He was really enjoying his work in Albania, where he found the people most helpful and kind.

We arrived at the border where we had our passports stamped (I now have two stamps in mine!) and photos taken for prosperity. Accompanied by Rupert, we walked the short no-man's-land into Greek territory, where taxis were waiting to take us to Igoumenitsa and the ferry. We arrived back in Corfu after a most interesting and unforgettable day.

If you have not been to Butrint, try to do so one day, because it offers so much, and is on our doorstep. I can't guarantee the rather unorthodox experiences that we had, but you will certainly enjoy it!

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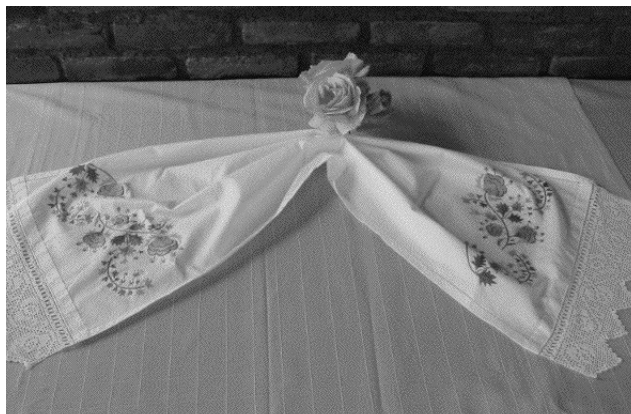
 Hilary Paipeti

For the past 20 years, Spiridoula has been running the family taverna, To Steki, in Doukades, and her Moussaka and Sofrito are justly famous all over the island. But not so many people know that along with her cooking, Spiridoula is highly skilled in needlework. She now has ready over 30 pieces, and plans an exhibition once the high season (and demand for Moussaka) is over. Watch this space for details.



Spiridoula was born in Zacynthos (Zante), where she still has family, and her work brings together traditional designs from the two islands, with pieces combining embroidery, crochet and 'cut' work. Each piece is unique, and they can be bought as gifts or adornments for your own home. Truly 'Made in Corfu'!

To Steki is in Doukades Square. Phone 26630 41701.



Songs of Blue and Gold

by **Deborah Lawrenson**

by **Hilary Paipeti**

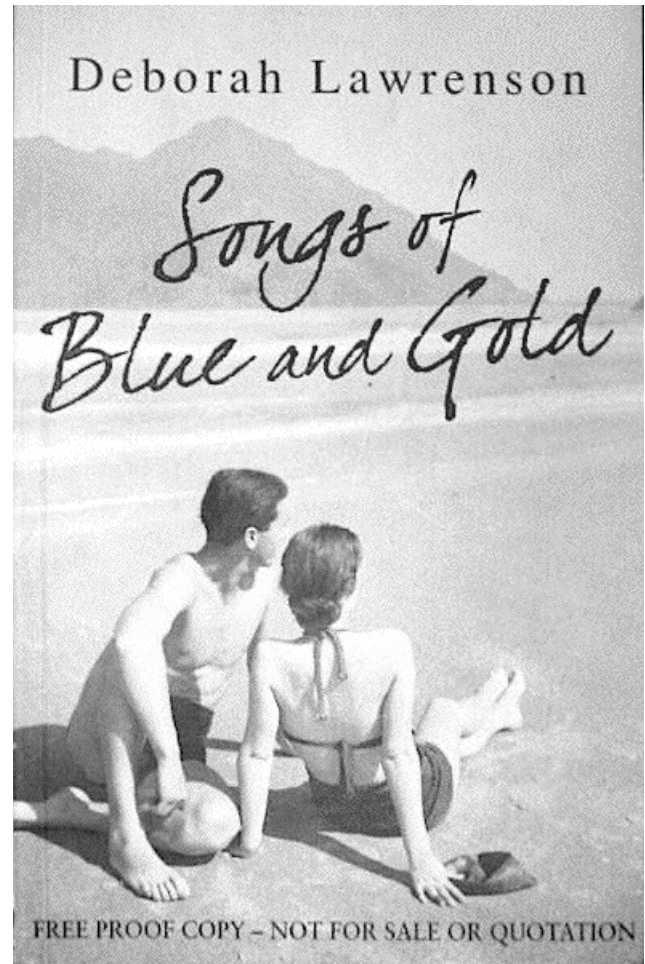
Over the years there have been numerous novels in which Corfu provides the setting. First of these may have been Mary Stewart's early 1960s book *This Rough Magic*, notable for its references to Shakespeare's *Tempest*. In this romance based around a smuggling plot, Stewart uses the literary device of a conversation between the main characters to argue that Corfu was the *Tempest* island of Prospero and Sycorax. In it, she enlarges on a theme which Lawrence Durrell develops in a similar way in his Corfu travelogue *Prospero's Cell*. Whilst researching *This Rough Magic*, Stewart was one of the Durrell 'set' which would meet at 'HQ', the Liston Bar, and she could well have joined in the debates on this subject.

Set mainly in Corfu, Deborah Lawrenson latest novel *Songs of Blue and Gold* can be enjoyed as a straightforward story; but it can also be read as an allusion to Lawrence Durrell and his works. A multilayered plot (like many of Durrell's) mingles four timeframes (two are purported biographical studies) as an Englishwoman searches for the truth of her mother's life. At the centre is the larger-than-life personality of Lawrence Durrell, Julian Adie in the book. Adie lived with his artist wife in Kalami's White House before the war, and later, in Egypt, he put together his memoirs of the time in a travelogue called *The Gates of Paradise*. He is also famous for his work *The Cairo Triptych*, and at the point we meet him, in 1968, is mourning the death of his third - and best - wife Simone. Though Lawrenson emphasises that Adie is a fictional character, for Durrellians the book is a veritable treasure trove of similar references, including a very funny parody of a magazine article by Durrell called *Oil for the Saint*, and a polymath character with elements of Durrell's friend and mentor Theodore Stephanides.

In today's timeframe at the start of the book, Melissa's mother Elizabeth is dying, and she is also losing her husband. One of Elizabeth's last actions is to present Melissa with a book of poetry that contains a message hinting at a connection with Julian Adie. Distraught, Melissa seeks solace in the search for the truth about her mother's past (which we discover piece by piece in the Durrell/Adie timeframe sections), and in doing so she rediscovers her own happiness.

Songs of Blue and Gold, we find out towards the end, is a work of poetry Adie had planned to write, just as Durrell must have been thinking out his *Avignon Quintet* at much the same period. Talking with Adie in 1968, Elizabeth describes Goethe's colour wheel, in which 'yellow... splendid and noble... is the polar opposite to blue...' [Have a look at the colour wheel on any computer programme for layouts, like QuarkXpress] This is the key to the book; the counterpoints of blue and gold that crop up time after time. The retroactive suggestion that the structure of the colour wheel would have inspired Adie's poetic cycle parallels Durrell's use of the quincunx for structuring his *Quintet*.

Lawrenson's novel also shadows Durrell's *Alexandria Quartet* in the witnesses' differing interpretations of its key event, the drowning which is catalyst in the relationship between Adie and



Elizabeth. Ambiguous interpretations of this event - suicide, accident or murder? - in the four timeframes hint at an underlying theme, which Melissa expands on: biography, its search for meaning, is essentially subjective.

It's a subtle and well crafted novel which deserves close attention, but you won't lose out by treating it simply as a finely written story in which Corfu takes one of the starring roles.

Songs of Blue and Gold

Deborah Lawrenson

Arrow Books (Random House)

ISBN 978-0-099-50519-8

Published August 2008

www.deborah-lawrenson.co.uk

Next month: An in-depth interview with Deborah Lawrenson.

The author's previous novel, *The Art of Falling*, is also available from Arrow Books.

Making the most of a few hours in Venice

 **Pete Button**

Obviously Venice is a fascinating city and to see it well you really need several days. Most of us won't have that luxury and will only be passing through on our way to somewhere else. This guide helps you have a taste of the city within the two to five hours you may have whilst waiting for your transfer to or from Corfu.

The starting place for any trip in Venice is the Plaza Roma; if you arrive by plane from either Marco Polo or Treviso airport the bus journey terminates at the Plaza Roma. If you arrive by train the station is just across the canal from the Plaza Roma and you can walk there in less than five minutes.

If you are travelling by car or ferry you will need to go to the port first. Minoan and ANEK both have a free shuttle bus to the Plaza Roma - don't forget about this or you're in for a long walk or an unnecessary taxi fare. Book into the port so your car is safe and park by the entrance; if you park close the terminal you will have a walk of a kilometre out. Once you leave the port go over the road bridge and down the slope 150 metres and you are in the Plaza Roma; it takes about 15 minutes.

Note: if you have arrived here by taxi, this guide is not for you, you either have loads of money or an expense account so you can probably hire a water taxi to guide you for your tour, or perhaps you have a very different mind-set to me.

Start your tour by getting a waterbus. There are loads of waterbuses to all parts of the lagoon, and clear maps, similar to the London underground ones, are posted at the waterbus stations. Take the waterbus up the Grand Canal to the Rialto Bridge. This will cost about 4€ but you can also buy an all-day pass for 12€, allowing you plenty of freedom to hop on and off.

The Rialto Bridge is one of the highlights of Venice and good spot for posing for photos. Allow yourself about 10 minutes, then walk to San Marco Square. The route is marked with rather poor yellow signs and you'll need to keep your eyes open as they are difficult to follow; but any route through this city is none the less fascinating! Allow yourself 15 to 20 minutes to find it.

Coffee in one of the pavement cafes in San Marcos Square is one of those 'logbook-of-life things' but expect to pay up to 12€ for the privilege. After your break walk, to the seaward side of the square, turn left along the promenade for about 100 metres, and over a canal to your left you find the very Romantic 'Bridge of Sighs', so named because for the prisoners going over it was their last sight of the city before being plunged into the darkness of a dungeon.

In some of the small streets just off San Marcos Square you will find pleasant restaurants doing set three course lunches for about 12€; good value.

In the small streets behind the art gallery at the opposite end of the square to the Basilica you will find a several high fashion shops. This area can also be found easily, by walking away from the Grand Canal at the San Marcos waterbus station.

Go back to the seaward side of San Marcos Square and walk

along the promenade, to the right this time, and it's another 100 metres to the big San Marcos waterbus station for your return to Plaza Roma - about 40 minutes for 5 euros.

You now have a few options depending on how much time you have and what the weather is like.

Go straight to Plaza Roma. *Or...*

Get off the waterbus at the Rialto Bridge and explore the bank to your left and walk back to Plaza Roma. *Or...*

Get off by the open air market and walk back from there to the Plaza Roma. *Or...*

If you have more than hour to pass, take a waterbus from Plaza Roma right round the outside of the city. This is a good way to see things if it's wet. Don't do this from San Marcos Square or you miss half the Grand Canal and that's the best section.

From Plaza Roma you can continue your journey to Corfu or Northern Europe. If you've been canny with your timings you may find that you have done a quick tour and still have an hour spare, so you can leave the plaza by the opposite corner to the waterbus station and you will find a walkway by a canal where there are a number of small restaurants, here you can have a coffee, a pizza or set meal. Across this canal and to the left there is a small supermarket, where you can stock up on snacks and Italian goodies for the ferry or plane.

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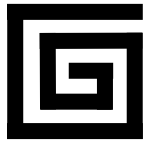
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Contact Robyn on 0049 7633 500415 or 0049 177 8666012 (mobile), Rola Hahn on 26630 51566 or Maria Tsoukis on 26630 51640. Or email info@go-greek-dancing.de



Cool Down when the Heat's Up

Grated Cucumber & Mint Salad

*1 large cucumber, 3 tablespoon extra virgin olive oil, 2 table-
spoon lemon juice, salt, chopped leaves of two mint sprigs*

Peel and grate the cucumber. Put the flesh in a clean tea towel and twist it to squeeze out all the juices. Mix with the rest of the ingredients and serve right away.

Pear and Leaf Salad

*Juice of 1/2 lemon, 3 tablespoon extra virgin olive oil, salt and
black pepper, 2 pears, 100 gr salad leaves (chicory, purslane *,
rocket, curly endive, lettuce hearts etc)*

Prepare the dressing in a flat salad dish, mixing the oil, lemon juice, salt and pepper well. Peel the pears and cut them length-ways into eight slices, removing the core. Turn them in the dressing until well coated. Just before serving, toss with the washed and dried leaves.

* Purslane sprouts up by itself after summer rain. Pick before the flower buds form.

Feta and Yoghurt Dip

250 gr feta, 250 gr 'Total' yoghurt, 4 tablespoons olive oil

Crush the feta with a fork then add the yoghurt and mash them together. Spread the dip in a shallow dish and dribble on the olive oil. Serve with toasted flat bread, olives and chilled cucumber sticks.

Cold Yoghurt Soup

with Chickpeas and Bulgur Wheat

*150 gr bulgur (bligouri), salt, 1 kilo full fat 'Total' yoghurt, 2
tablespoons crushed dried mint, 2 crushed garlic cloves, 1 x 400
gr tin chickpeas*

Put the bulgur into a pan with 250 ml water and some salt. Bring to the boil and cook on a low heat, uncovered, until the grain is tender and the water absorbed.

Pour the yoghurt into a serving bowl, beat in 250 ml water and add the mint and garlic. Season with salt and mix well. Stir in the strained chickpeas and bulgur and serve.

Watermelon Gazpacho

*2 cups watermelon, 2 cups orange juice, 2 tablespoons olive oil,
1 cucumber, 1 small yellow pepper, 1 small onion, 2 finely
chopped garlic cloves, 1 small chili pepper (optional), 3 table-
spoons lemon juice, 2 tablespoons chopped parsley or basil, salt
and freshly ground black pepper*

Deseed the watermelon, cucumber and yellow pepper. Chop these and the onion into dice of about 1/4 inch. Finely chop the garlic and chili. Process 1/2 cup of the watermelon with the orange juice and oil in a blender or food processor until pureed. Transfer to a medium bowl, along with the remaining ingredi-

ents. Season with salt and pepper to taste. Refrigerate to chill well.

Watermelon, Cucumber & Mint Salad

*4 cups seedless watermelon cut into inch cubes, 2 cups seedless
cucumber peeled and cut into 1/2 inch cubes, 2 tablespoons fresh
lime or lemon juice, 2 tablespoons olive oil, salt, 1/4 cup
chopped fresh mint, 1 bunch chopped parsley, 1/4 cup lightly
roasted pine nuts*

Place the watermelon and cucumbers together in a large bowl. Make a vinaigrette by whisking together the juice, olive oil and salt. Pour over the melon mixture, tossing to coat. Mix in the chopped herbs and the pine nuts and chill thoroughly before serving.

Vegetable Couscous Salad

*1 cup couscous, 1 large firm tomato, 1 red sweet pepper, 1/3 cup
red onion, 1 tin chick peas, 3/4 cup plain yoghurt, 1/2 teaspoon
salt, 1/4 cup mayonnaise, 1 teaspoon curry powder*

Cook the couscous by pouring on the same volume of boiling salted water. Cover and leave in a warm place (a low oven) for about 15 minutes. Fluff up with a fork or your fingers until all the grains are separated.

While the couscous is soaking, deseed and chop the tomato and pepper, and chop the onion.

Mix the couscous, vegetables and rinsed chick peas in a large bowl. Combine the yoghurt, salt, mayonnaise, and curry powder in a small bowl, then stir into the couscous mixture. Cover and refrigerate for at least an hour.

Chicken Salad

*2 roasted skinless chicken breast fillets, 1/3 cup chopped spring
onions, 1/4 cup chopped unsalted almonds, 1/4 cup plain
yoghurt, 1/4 cup light mayonnaise, 1 teaspoon chopped fresh
rosemary, 1 teaspoon Dijon mustard, 1/8 teaspoon salt, 1/8 tea-
spoon freshly ground black pepper*

Cube the chicken breasts and combine with the other ingredients

Chicken Salad with Nectarines in Mint Vinaigrette

For the dressing: *1 cup loosely packed fresh mint leaves,
1/3 cup sugar, 1/4 cup white wine vinegar, 1 tablespoon fresh
lemon juice, 1/4 teaspoon salt, 1/4 teaspoon freshly ground black
pepper*

For the salad: *2 cups chopped cooked chicken breast,
1 cup chopped deseeded cucumber, 1/3 cup chopped lightly
roasted almonds, 2 tablespoons finely chopped red onion, 3 nec-
tarines (peeled, stoned and cubed)*

To prepare the dressing, place the mint and sugar in a food processor and process until finely chopped, scraping the sides of the bowl. Add the vinegar, juice, salt and pepper, and process for 30 seconds to combine.

To prepare the salad, combine the chicken, cucumber, almonds, onion, and nectarines in a medium bowl. Drizzle the dressing over salad and toss well to coat. Garnish with lettuce leaves. You can use yellow melon instead of the nectarines.

ELPITHA'S BISTRO, SAN STEFANOS (AVLIOTES)

'You'd be hard pressed to get food as good as that in London!' exclaimed one of my dining companions after our meal at Elpitha's Bistro in San Stefanos (North West). While the resort is not famed for haute cuisine, it's got reliable tavernas, but until now nothing as inspiring as this one.

Elpitha's Bistro is a bit of a shrinking violet, though, and unless you go there by personal recommendation you're likely to ignore the single rather worn sign which points to it up the hill from the main village road. And the climb being quite a long one, I suspect many chicken out half way up at the first eatery they come to. Persevere!

Elpitha's Bistro is actually part of Nondas Corfu Holidays' apartments, and by day serves as the pool bar and communal lounge. Tables are set out by the pool, lit in the evening, with the resort twinkling far below. The decor is stylist, featuring antique furniture mixed with contemporary art and huge comfy sofas, in a warm-earth colour scheme of ochre, terracotta and russet, a colour-wheel contrast with the limpid cyan of the pool.

There are only three or four tables, so you get the full attention of brothers Dimitris (who serves) and Spiros (the chef). While the food is not Greek, there's so much to enjoy that it would be a shame to construct your meal English-style with a starter and main course. In other words, treat it like tapas, and ask Dimitris to bring out each dish as it is ready.

First to our table was a flat gratin dish of potato skins sizzling with bacon and cheese, then mushroom caps stuffed with spinach. This last caused a bit of a fight - have you ever tried to divide two mushrooms fairly between three people? Especially as it was so delicious we were fighting for every last morsel! Spiros's salads are lovely to look at as well as to taste, and ours was a gorgeously lush melange of leaves, avocado, cherry tomatoes and shaved cheese. This came along with 'Aubergine Millefeuille', a sort of meatless, bechamel-less moussaka drizzled with a lattice of balsamic vinegar sauce, a harmony of concentrated flavours. Enchilada followed, not a classic Tex-Mex blast-your-mouth-out dish, but a flat pie with a mild and creamy chicken filling. We had more problems dividing this, as it was cut into four and we all wanted the last quarter! Finally, we had ordered one dish from the main course menu to share - pork sauteed in ginger with rice, a dish which more than maintained the high standard. One another occasion, I have had a stunning dish of pasta with pesto, the pesto hand-ground from basil plants growing in the yard. We have yet to catch one of Spiros's mussel dishes, as he is such a perfectionist he'll only buy when they are at their prime. So - drat it! - we'll have to go back.

A London-quality restaurant... but London prices? Hardly. We paid just less than 15 euros a head, which included plenty of the excellent house Nemea wine. At this sort of cost, it might pay Londoners to fly out on easyJet for the day when they wish to entertain!

Elpitha's Bistro, San Stefanos - Avliotes. Tel. 26630 51808.

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ALBERT'S DROP-IN, PYRGI

Drop-In, on the main road above Pyrgi, recently changed hands and is now called 'Albert's Drop-In'. New owner Roger Albert has pared down the main menu - and this is no bad thing, for it often indicates a chef who prefers to prepare everything from scratch. Roger shops daily in the market for fresh, local ingredients, and the menu changes accordingly each day.

We started with the Greek Meze. Reading the menu, most customers will assume that it's meant for one person. I ordered two lots, just to keep the seven of us busy while the main courses were being prepared. What arrived was a platter with four bowls containing hummous, tzatziki, taramosalata and aubergine dip, surrounded by slivers of grilled pitta bread. The quantity of each dip was not much less than you'd get as a single portion in a Greek taverna, making this dish, at 4.50 euros, the best value starter on the island. The taramosalata was the real stuff, creamy and not the cheap commercial bright pink version many tavernas dupe tourists with. The hummous - which you rarely find in Corfu, was great; but we all agreed that the smoky aubergine dip was the best we'd ever tasted.

For main courses, four of our party chose the Cumberland Sausage, a dish from my part of the world and close to my heart. We couldn't, of course, expect it to be like the Cumberland Sausage I grew up with, I commented. Then out popped Roger from the kitchen and told us that he **MAKES THE SAUSAGE HIMSELF!** He also cures the gammon.

My own choice was the pasta with courgettes, wild garlic and chilli. The pasta was al dente, boiled to order, the courgettes and garlic just slightly crispy, and the chilli sufficient to cause me to blow my nose afterwards. Locals may find this sauce, with no lashings of tomato and oil, minimalistic; I thought it was accomplished.

Meal at an end, gravy mopped up by mash, carrots devoured, we were all full, and unable to sample pudding, even though there was Sticky Toffee. A very good reason to go back...

The menu includes traditional English and Mediterranean dishes, prepared to order. A la Carte and fixed price menus are available. Sunday lunch menu includes a choice of traditional English roasts. The restaurant boasts a romantic, panoramic view across the bay to Corfu Town. It's open daily in summer 12.00 - 22.00, except Sunday open for lunch only 12.00 - 17.30, and is located at Ano Pyrgi, Ipsos, on the main road to Barbati, opposite EKO petrol station. For reservations call 26610 97879 / 6938 835585.

TRUE STORY

Dwight

 *Lionel Mann*

He was a scrawny little eight-year old when he arrived at the school, the son of the colonel squadron-commander at the nearby USAAF base, living off-base in a large rented house a few hundred yards away from us. His mother, the Colonel's Lady, was the original Dumb Blonde.

A number of the officers and senior noncoms from the base sent their children to us, reckoning correctly that we offered a far better education than their children would receive on-base. Since their tour of duty in the UK lasted three years, that was the duration for which their children were our pupils. If those came to us aged four or five they arrived more or less on par with our British pupils of that age; arriving at six or seven they were already very backward; aged eight they posed real problems, and I would not accept any older US child since they were backward beyond our ability to remedy the weakness without distracting us from our duties to the rest of our pupils.

Dwight, however, proved to be something completely beyond our experience. We always worked in complete silence, utterly free from any distraction. Our older pupils were preparing for entrance examinations at the age of eleven to independent grammar schools, often amongst as many as two hundred or more applicants for twenty places. We had never had a failure since I had taken over as principal, and no pupil was going to be the first! I never needed to reprove disruption in class - the senior pupils jumped very promptly on to any of that! Our newest recruit tried to enter into conversation with the boy sharing his double desk at the front, but the youngster shunned in horror such a breach of discipline. Dwight then tried his luck with the boy across the gangway on the other side, with a similar result. "Dwight, here we work in silence. The louder the mouth, the smaller the brain," I counselled.

The very idea seemed to horrify him! He left his seat, tried to look out of a window, found it too high, took a spare chair and placed it so that he could mount to see out.

I sent a couple of senior boys to fetch a single desk from the store-room while I called Dwight to my desk and quietly tested his ability in English and Mathematics. It was my turn to be horrified! I sent another prefect to the Nursery, which comprised four-year-olds, asking for their relevant textbooks for Dwight's use. When all was ready I set Dwight, now accommodated in splendid isolation at the back of the large room, work commensurate with his ability - or lack thereof! I always taught the children, numbering some twenty-four, for the three years prior to their entrance examinations, using a tutorial system, 'each for himself and devil take the hindmost'. That way, the younger ones saw their elders revelling in competition, striving to excel, and were themselves encouraged to enjoy making rapid progress. Every child took home weekly a report card showing his/her position in class gained by weekly testing, in relation to position by age. A result above age-position stimulated even greater enthusiasm; below age-position spurred to greater endeavour.

Of course Dwight was immeasurably below the standard of any others in the class and needed more than his fair share of my time, but we were geared to handle such situation for at least a few days. If I were busy with another child any younger pupil finding difficulty could approach a prefect for help. Rendering

assistance also helped the older child to establish understanding. "What ever have you taken on there? You'll have your work cut out with that one!" My deputy voiced the opinion of the rest of the staff.

Predictably the pampered youngster, reared upon American junk, found our school catering little to his depraved taste. We had a rule that any child could ask for a small helping of the dish of the day or the dessert, but what they took they ate! I had seen starving children scavenging for food in dustbins in Germany in 1946 and in Hong Kong thirty years later; there was no way that food was going to waste in any school that I ran. I should not have insisted had we not been blessed with an absolute gem of a cook; I had been ruthless in dismissing the incompetent whom I inherited and a couple of others who followed. What Norma achieved on a limited budget had to be tasted to be believed. It was not run-of-the-mill food either. I was always amused to see a table of ten four-year-olds, encased in paper serviettes to protect school uniform, tucking into Spaghetti Bolognaise. Hungarian Goulash, Sweet-and-Sour Pork, Boeuf Bourignon, Lasagne, Paella, Tandori Chicken and a wide variety of salads were but a few specialities enjoyed by our pupils. An Austrian boy entered on Monday at the beginning of a term. That Friday's menu was Wiener Schnitzel and Apfel Strudel, which he pronounced as being the best that he had ever tasted. All pupils and staff ate the dinners. Children were always going home complaining that domestic catering standard was far below that of school dinners and Norma was constantly being asked by parents for her menus. Eventually she produced a book of recipes which we published and sold in aid of Parent-Teacher Association funds.

Of course all this was way beyond Dwight's experience, but he had to learn. With typical American prodigality, he asked for full helpings of first course, tasted a couple of mouthfuls and tried to leave the remainder. He was then condemned to sit all through the ensuing break with his plate in front of him until he finished what he had taken. He received no dessert until the first course was eaten. That first week he had neither dessert nor lunch break. The boy did not starve; he seemed to have an endless supply of 'candy' which he was always offering around in a futile attempt to win friends. Of course, children would accept it, but otherwise they shunned his company. He suffered from his national delusion that gifts and display of affluence will gain friendship. There were two other rather older American children in my form and I derived amusement from seeing their horrified avoidance of their compatriot.

Dwight displayed a range of expensive toys.

"Dwight, you know, you really shouldn't bring that to school; it may be damaged."

"Aw, Pa will buy me another."

In preparing the weekly mark cards that first Friday I generously gave Dwight three per cent, more than forty below the next lowest. Predictably, his position was twenty-fifth out of twenty-five.

To the obvious amazement and displeasure of the rest of the pupils, I bore with Dwight's disruption and intransigence for almost all that first week. Last period on Friday afternoon was

Boys' Gymnastics. The boys were performing hand-springs over a box and I was standing ready to catch anyone who encountered difficulties. That needed my full concentration and every boy, once he had done the exercise, went to stand quietly at the end of the line of those awaiting their next turn. Not so our latest entry. Dwight clambered upon the wall-bars, giving 'Tarzan' performances. Twice I called him to order, explaining not only his danger but also the danger to other boys should my attention be distracted. The third time I acted - lifted him from the wall-bars, carried him across the gym, sat on a bench, draped him across my knees, pulled down his gym shorts and delivered six hearty slaps to his skinny little behind. The other boys applauded to the echo. Dwight was not popular! He stood tearfully.

"Now you know what will happen every time you don't do as you're told. In this school you jump to it. Your life may sometimes depend upon instant obedience. Do you understand?"

All weekend I expected a visit from the FBI, the CIA, the Marines, or even a nuke through the roof. Nothing! On Monday morning I was going through the mail before school when the Colonel entered my study, propelling Dwight by the shoulder. "Mr. Mann, I'm pleased you paddled his butt. You see to Dwight. I'll see to his mother." He left. Obviously a man of few words!

"Dwight, you see how happy here the other children are. They come here to work hard and to play hard, because they see the success of pupils when they pass exams when they leave. You know how much you need to catch up. I'll help you, but it's not how hard I work; it's how hard you work that counts."

He faced a long hard haul. I heard from a parent of pupils who lived next door to the house that Dwight's parents had rented that the boy would go home from school to an empty house, feed himself from the refrigerator, expected to do his homework and even to put himself to bed while his mother was queening at the base. The youngster 'terrorised' the neighbourhood. He would ring or knock on the door of a nearby house, chosen at random, and when it was opened he would announce, "Hullo, I'm Dwight. I've come to live here." Then, uninvited, he would push in, walk around the rooms, examining furniture and opening drawers to inspect contents, all the time making critical comments. Of course, nobody wanted to hurt this little one, but people became very wary of answering doors. Not that that protected them, because Dwight would prowl around outside and clamber on to window-ledges to peer in.

Many of our older pupils stayed after school to do their homework, with the advantage that they could come to me if they encountered difficulty, and then to enjoy playing in the gym or on the playing-field. We always regaled them with biscuits and orange-juice. Additionally there were two boys 'boarding' with me in my large apartment above the school. I prepared breakfast, evening dinner and supper for them (and their friend or two) as for myself. I made all those facilities available to Dwight. I claim to be a rather good cook; I like to eat well. Over the years my 'boarders' lent support to my claim. However, Dwight was openly critical at first, though he soon became less outspoken. I later discovered that my two boarders took him aside and acquainted him with the facts of life at the school!

Then one evening we were having a ham salad as main course. Dwight seized the jar of Colman's mustard and spread its contents liberally upon the meat.

"Dwight, that's very strong mustard," I warned.

"I always have it like this." He-man stuff. Audie Murphy style!

We watched with great interest as the boy took a mouthful. He turned pink, crimson, purple, seized his glass of orange juice and gulped down its contents in one massive swig. I quickly refilled it. The three other boys were completely helpless with laughter. One fell off his chair.

It was a few minutes before Dwight recovered, but then he joined in the laughter. I think it was the turning point as regards his acceptance by the three witnesses; anyone who had taken a large mouthful of Colman's mustard and could laugh afterwards could not be all bad!

Dwight was a skilful little footballer, but he had no use for team tactics and tried to do everything himself. Accordingly, we left him behind with the little ones when we went away to play another school. He was amazed when we returned having won.

Eventually Dwight became civilised, ate full meals, started to work really hard to make up his massive leeway and learnt to play as a member of the team - at hockey and cricket too! It was not easy. "I think that Dwight's trying to set a record as the most smacked boy in England," one of my boarders suggested. By the end of his first year, though, he was already in touch academically with others of his age and had become completely accepted by everybody.

Amongst the new entrants the following year were two boys who had failed eight-plus entry to the preparatory department of a nearby independent Grammar School. One of the pair was an exceptional sportsman and athlete for his age. At once, doubtless inspired by fellow-feeling, Dwight took Peter under his wing. They shared a double desk and the older helped the younger, to the great benefit of both. They became a lethal pair of forwards on the football field too.

The second new boy, however, had spent all his time at his previous school smiling sweetly at teacher and thereby avoiding work. One day, called to bring his work for marking, he placed his book upon my desk and smiled hopefully.

"Look at this! It's filthy and it's all wrong. I taught you yesterday how to do it and you said that you understood. It's no good standing there smarming. That'll get you nowhere. Ask Dwight. When he came he tried lazing and crawling around everybody, and everybody hated him. Now he's working like fury and everyone loves him. One day he'll be President. No he won't - he's far too intelligent. He'll finish up in the top office of the Pentagon with his finger on the big red button, waiting to fry us all."

The class erupted with laughter and all that day whenever I met Dwight's eyes he giggled and I chuckled. He never became a prefect in his last year; there was too much all-round competing talent amongst his fellow pupils, but he was very popular throughout the school.

Dwight's father was 'rotated Stateside' a few weeks after the boy left at the age of eleven. About a month later I received a letter telling me that Dwight had been accepted as a pupil at a very prestigious military academy in the USA. After that I heard nothing more.

Then some seven years later right out of the blue came a letter from Dwight. He had gained entry to West Point and thanked me for what I had done for him. Teachers are told never to expect gratitude from a pupil. When it happens it is very heart-warming. I regret that I shall probably not be around to see Dwight in the top office at the Pentagon - with his finger on that big red button!

HEALTH

What is Reiki?

by **Maureen McNamara**

Reiki comes from two Japanese words - Rei meaning Universal, and Ki meaning life force energy. This Universal Life Force Energy flows through all living things. We receive this energy from a number of sources including sunshine, air and food, and it can be increased through Reiki. When the energy is high, you feel strong and confident, but when it is low you can feel weak, vulnerable and be prone to sickness.

Throughout the history of mankind, healing methods have existed which were based on the transfer of a universal, all-pervading life energy. The knowledge of Reiki would have remained lost forever had it not been rediscovered in 2,500 year-old Sanskrit sutras at a Japanese monastery by Dr Mikao Usui towards the end of the 19th century.

Reiki is not a religion, nor is it a faith system. All that is required of a person is the willingness to heal.

HOW DOES REIKI WORK?

When the Universal Life Force Energy Flow is adversely affected in some way, illness can result. Negative and disharmonious thoughts and feelings can cause a disruption in the flow of the energy. It has been stated that some doctors believe that 98% of illness is caused primarily through the mental/emotional state of a person.

The Reiki therapist channels the Universal Life Force Energy through the hands to the recipient, activating the body's own natural ability to heal itself. Reiki goes to the deepest level where many illnesses originate. It releases blocked energy, cleanses the body of toxins and helps to create a state of balance. Reiki functions on all levels of a person's being and adjusts itself according to the needs of the recipient, helping them to take responsibility for their life and to make changes in attitudes/lifestyle to promote a happy and healthy life.

WHAT DOES THE THERAPY ENTAIL?

Reiki is a very simple, yet extremely powerful technique. Normally a Reiki therapy session is done with the recipient

lying down on a massage table. The recipient remains fully clothed and is covered by a blanket. The therapist lightly places his or her hands in various positions over the whole body. Each position is held for several minutes. Throughout the session, no pressure whatsoever is exerted by the therapist. This means that Reiki can be given to those recovering from surgery, the elderly, the very young and pregnant women.

The whole body is treated to enable the energy to go to the source of imbalance and not just to the manifesting symptom.

A Reiki therapy session usually takes between one to one and a half hours.

WHAT WILL I EXPERIENCE?

What the recipient feels varies from individual to individual, but generally speaking you will feel warmth or a tingling sensation in the area being touched. As your energy is brought into balance, stress and tension are released. This results in a feeling of well-being and deep relaxation.

CAN REIKI HARM ME?

Reiki complements and increases the effectiveness of most kinds of medical treatment. It is a completely safe, holistic and natural way of treating 'dis-ease'. The therapist only uses channelled Reiki energy and therefore does not deplete his or her own energies. Indeed the therapist retains some of the residual Reiki energy.

WHAT CAN REIKI HELP?

Reiki can help most conditions including stress, anxiety, tension, depression insomnia, migraine, asthma, psoriasis, eczema, constipation, ME, MS, arthritis, back pain, sciatica, prostate problems, menopausal problems and chronic complaints. Even if you are fit, Reiki can help you to stay that way. It's also a good energy-booster. For further information contact:

Maureen McNamara - REIKI MASTER

Telephone: 26610 54796 - Mobile: 6938 644543

EXHIBITION

Giorgio Turchetti

Kind of Blue

8-31 August 2008

Municipal Gallery

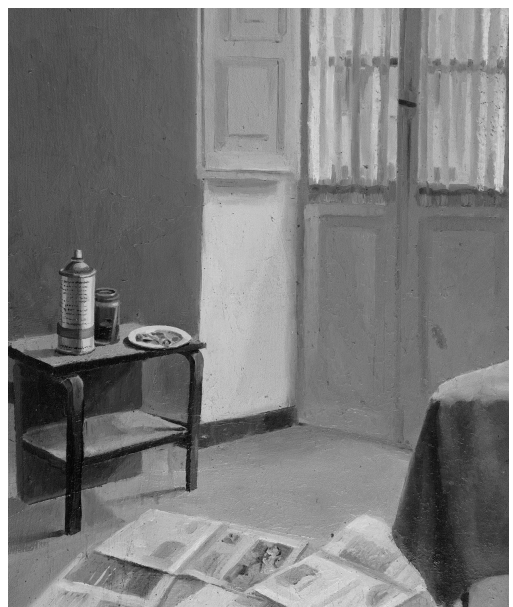
10:00 - 18:00

I have known GT for more than 30 years, and have always considered him an artist of the highest esteem.

He cannot be categorised as purely a landscape artist, although a great majority of his paintings use suburban landscapes as their subjects. These are approached with such poetry and melancholy so as to exalt them to a higher level. They are not landscapes in the 'classical' form, but transformations from the metaphysical. This is also how he creates much of his other work.

This is also true of the period called 'The Bulls'. Though inspired by his love of the works of F.G. Lorca, they cannot be defined or compared to the physical act of bullfights; on the contrary they are expressed with a personal vision of symbolism, and we must not forget that GT resides for long periods in Greece and is involved with archaeology and Greek mythology.

Hugo de Soto



AGNI VANDALS

Just a short note with a word of warning to readers who might visit Agni bay.

A few nights ago we decided to have dinner down at Agni bay, something we try to do at least 2-3 times every summer. We have a summer house in Spartillas since 1999 and come to Corfu with our own car every year. This time it was a Volvo that we bought just last year. After returning to our car just after midnight we found that someone had made big scratches all over the car - big zig-zags all over the hood, then going over the doors, the back and on the roof. We have no idea what could have provoked the person to do this, since we were not blocking anyone or anything. We reported this to the police and when returning home to Sweden the car will have to have a total repaint. Needless to say we will not return to Agni bay again.

Yvonne & Tommie Lindberg
Spartillas and Sweden

NEGLIGENCE IN MON REPOS

In the June issue of The Corfiot there was mention of the deplorable condition of the chapel of Mon Repos. The open roof allows rain and wind to ruin the remaining paint of the frescoes. The plastic sheets applied for 'protection' are ludicrous and have been hanging off for over a decade. This incredible negligence is painful to the eye.

There are two oil paintings of the 'Royal Chapel' of Mon Repos by the well-known Austrian painter Johann Viktor Krämer, a founding member of the Vienna Secession along with Gustav Klimt and others. Krämer had painted the chapel at sunrise and at sunset. Both these pictures are from the same perspective, only slightly different in format. The chapel appears completely intact, a sumptuous blooming glycinea covering the front wall, with a path leading to it and cypresses in the fore- and background.

One of these paintings is in the possession of the Austrian National Bank. The artist signed and dated them: J. V. Krämer, Corfu 1903.

Krämer, like many artists of his generation now known as 'Orientalists', travelled extensively to Southern Europe, the Middle East and North Africa. Starting his travels from Trieste, he stopped at Corfu. Krämer was well acquainted with the Consul of Austria-Hungary in Corfu, Count Greneville, and had made pictures for him. However, I do not know whether the two oil paintings of the 'Royal Chapel' were originally in the possession of the Count.

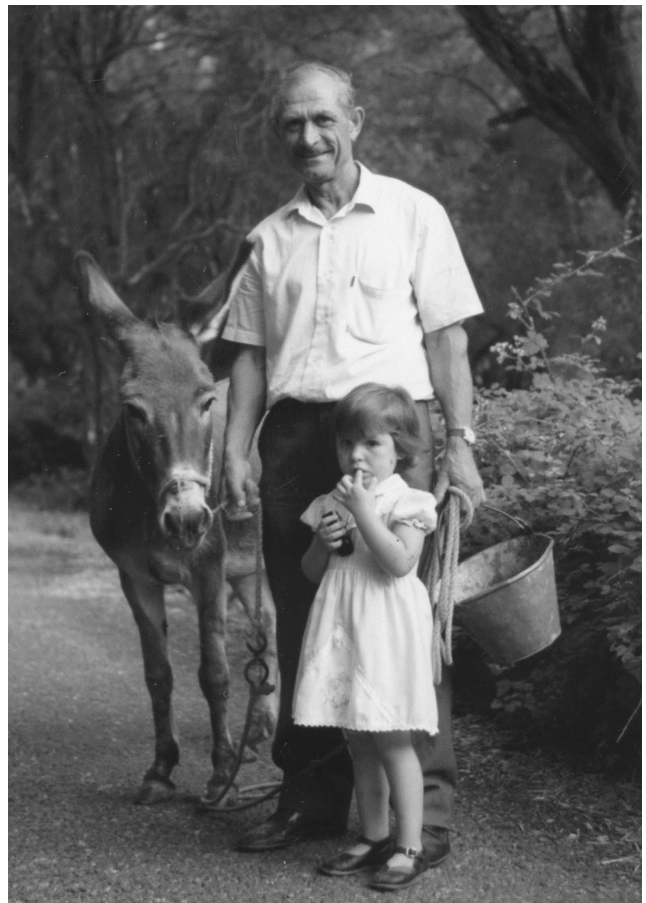
It is sad that this little jewel in the Park of Mon Repos has not been on the priority list for restoration by the City of Corfu. The important question is whom to approach. I hope some readers may help find the way!

Dimitra Tokatli-Schonegger
Livadi Velonades

There should be an umlaut on the 'o' of Schonegger but my keyboard won't supply it! Apologies also if I have spelt any names wrong, as the letter was handwritten and I may have misinterpreted it.

CAN ANYONE IDENTIFY THESE PEOPLE?

I am Jim Torony from Connecticut USA, and I spent one week in Corfu in the summer of 1987. One day I rented a motorcycle and toured the countryside - and I came across what looked to be a grandfather with his granddaughter walking along the road with a donkey. I stopped the motorcycle and asked them if I could snap their picture... and the man smiled and nodded yes. Some weeks later when back in the US, I got the film developed from my two and a half month European adventure - and there was the very best picture I ever took, and it remains so to this day. I have a large print of it hanging on my wall, and I have often wondered if it would be possible to find the family so I could send them a copy.



The tricky part is that I don't recall exactly where I was. I know I was 45 minutes to an hour away from the Pink Palace, Agios Gordis, just driving around in a pretty rural area. Maybe it is possible for you to publish it and ask people to make contact if they know who the family is?

It has been 21 years, but I still remember my time in beautiful Corfu like it was yesterday. I spent my honeymoon in Greece (Santorini, Mykonos and Rhodes) after getting married in 1990, 18 years ago yesterday, and we are planning to return with our children for our 20th anniversary.

Jim Torony
USA

If you know the identity of these people, please get in touch with *The Corfiot* and I will put the two parties in contact.

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
Dafnila Tennis Club 26610 90570

MEDICAL SERVICES

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

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

BOOKS

CORFU SKETCHES - A THIRTY-YEAR JOURNEY

BY THERESA NICHOLAS AND JOHN WALLER

This gorgeous book features sketches of local scenes drawn by Theresa Nicholas, with commentary by its publisher, John Waller. Theresa Nicholas has been called the 'Observer of Corfu' in recognition of her talent for capturing the essence of Old Corfu. Having sketched local scenes since the early 60s, her work serves as a record 'of a way of life that no-one at that time realized was already approaching its swansong.'

The book is not just for the coffee table (though it deserves pride of place there too); it's also a guide book which actively helps you track down what's left of the Old Corfu that Theresa first knew. The first section contains five themed walking routes around Corfu Town - a World Heritage Site - which, with the help of the sketches in the book, take the walker back in time. In the second section, which focuses on the villages, the book helps the visitor observe their remarkable architecture with a fresh eye. This is a trip that all Corfu lovers can - and should - take.

Corfu Sketches - a thirty-year journey is published by Yiannis Books (www.yiannisbooks.com), Twickenham, UK. ISBN 978-0-9547887-4-2. 128 pages, RRP 29 euros.



PUBLIC SERVICE INFORMATION

Following last summer's devastating fires in Southern Greece, the British Consulate and the Fire Department have issued the following Public Service Announcement

PREVENTION/ HANDLING OF FIRE HAZARD

PREVENTING FIRE OUTBREAK

- Do not burn garbage or dry grass and twigs during summer months.
- Do not light makeshift barbecue fires in forests or areas where there is dry grass during summer months.
- Avoid outdoor work that might cause a fire (oxygen torch welding, using a wheel or any other equipment that makes sparks),
- Never throw lit cigarettes when you are outdoors, or out of car windows.
- Never leave rubbish in the forest. There is danger of ignition.
- Respect the access prohibition signs in high risk areas.

IF YOUR HOUSE IS INSIDE OR NEAR A FOREST OR FOREST AREA

- Create a fire prevention zone around your house by clearing and moving to a safe distance any dry grass, pine needles, dry leaves, twigs, etc.
- Remove all dry branches from the trees and bushes that are in your yard.
- Reduce the bushes that grow around your house in size and if you have trees in your garden cut their branches to a height from the ground so that they can't catch fire easily.
- Do not position any plastic flammable water drains on your house walls.
- Protect the windows from the outside by placing inflammable shutters.
- Cover the chimneys and pipes of the building with special inflammable wire so that any fire sparks cannot penetrate the building.
- Do not stock any inflammable objects outside your house.
- Buy the appropriate fire extinguishers and ensure that they are frequently maintained so they can be used in case of an emergency.
- Buy a watering hose with a length corresponding to the area that you would like to protect in case of a fire.
- A water tank, a simple pump that will operate without electricity, and a water hose can protect you from the fire.
- Move all inflammable materials that are surrounding your house to enclosed sheltered spaces (e.g. underground cellars). Their inflammation could help spread the fire to the building.

IF A FIRE BREAKS OUT

- Call the Fire Centre IMMEDIATELY (199) and give them clear directions to the location and the exact spot where you are as well as information on the location and the exact point where you can see the fire.
- Describe the type of vegetation that is burning.
- Define the direction of the fire.
- Do not hang up the phone before you give all the appropriate information.

IF THE FIRE IS GETTING NEAR

- Remain calm.
- Close all entrances (chimneys, windows, doors etc) to prevent sparks from getting into the house.
- Immediately take in all tents/awnings that are spread over the balconies and windows of the building.
- Open the garden gates to facilitate the entrance of fire vehicles.
- Place a ladder on the outside of the building so that someone can climb on the roof immediately. The ladder must be placed on the side of the building that is on the opposite side from where the wind is blowing.
- Connect all watering hoses to the taps you have outside the building and spread the hoses so that they cover its whole perimeter.
- If visibility is reduced turn on all lights inside and outside the house in order to make it more visible through the smoke.
- Do not use cars while abandoning your area, because there is risk of entrapment from the smoke or flames as well as the possibility of road blockage which creates difficulties for the access of emergency vehicles,

IF THE FIRE IS AT YOUR DOORSTEP

- Close all doors and windows well and block any crack with wet cloths to stop smoke or fire penetrating the building.
- Remove curtains from the windows.
- Close all internal doors in order to slow the fire down in the interior of the house
- If evacuation of the area is ordered follow the instructions given to you.
- Ensure that there is sufficient quantity of stored water in buckets etc in order to protect the house by yourselves.

AS SOON AS THE FIRE IS OVER

- If you are near your house and not in danger when the fire is over, extinguish any small fires in the surroundings.
- Check the perimeter and all external areas of your house frequently for at least 48 hours for any small fires or renewed outbreaks.

CLASSIFIED

FOR SALE

HARLEQUIN GREAT DANE PUPPIES for sale. Pedigree imported parents can be viewed. Phone 6939 394669

OLD OLIVE PRESS STONE CRUSHING WHEELS (3 pieces). 2500 euros. Tel. 6947 269112

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EDUCATION

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BOOKBINDING Books of any age or condition restored to recovered in cloth or leather. Victoria Drew 26610 41570 or 6934 052734

THERAPEUTIC MASSAGE & SHIATSU to relieve muscular tension, stiff neck, back problems or just for complete relaxation. Call Alex on 26610 43273

INSURANCE SOLUTIONS Specialist in Life, Medical, Household and Company Insurance, also experienced in cover for cars and boats. For consultation, call Georgia Tsimbouli on 26610 37661 / 6932 671057

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PERSONAL

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

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

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

ARE YOU FREE AND ACCEPTED BUT WITHOUT A MOTHER? Then contact WB on 6945 717223

A RARE FIND - mid-sixties gent, attractive, solvent and secure, in NE Corfu, requires a lady-friend, 55+, for some good times together. Contact Sarah on 6844 644335 or Louisa on 6943 464075 to arrange a meeting

HELP OUR ANIMALS For successful rehoming, the Ark local animal charity is in constant need of helping hands. Urgently needed are homes where the stray dog/pup can stay for a limited time - just a few weeks will give us the opportunity to find a permanent solution and the dog will be saved from being left on the street on his own. Phone 6979 798202 or 26610 80308.

RENTALS

DOUKADES House for long term rent. Two bedrooms, lots of storage. Tel. 6948 479840 Spiridoula

AFRA Ground floor apartment, 3 bedrooms, furnished or unfurnished, shared garden. 6942 881222 Angelos

EMPLOYMENT

HOTEL MANAGEMENT SCHOOL

in Corfu is looking to recruit qualified **TEACHERS OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE**. Teaching experience up to Master degree level preferred. Availability October 2008 - April 2009. Please send full CV to ectt@otenet.gr or fax 26610 27841, call 26610 48620

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Small ads (for sale and offers categories) are only accepted if paid for in advance. Copy BY EMAIL ONLY. No attachments and no caps. You can leave your payment (5 euro up to 50 words) by advance telephone arrangement at the 'Made in Corfu' shop in Gastouri, the Petra office near Arillas, and the Luvcorfu Properties offices at Barbati and Saint Spiridon. Phone 6948 889174 for information.

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Part of our business consists of carrying out total redesigns of existing websites. Many of our clients have websites that were designed initially by themselves, a friend, family member, or using a template package that they bought for a few euros online. It's a cliché, but you get what you pay for. Just having a website is one of those areas where something is definitely not better than nothing. In fact, it can be detrimental to your business. A company that neglects its website may be committing commercial suicide. A website is the gateway to a company's brand, products and services. A useless website suggests a useless company and a rival is only a mouse-click away.

To help you decide whether you need to give your website some attention, here is a checklist of ten of the most common web design mistakes that are off-putting to potential customers.

1. It takes more than 4 seconds for everything on a page to load.
2. Your website uses a 'splash page' (an initial page from which visitors then have to 'click to enter site') or Flash animation.
3. Visitors have difficulty reading the text on your site because it is too small, or the font is in a style or colour that is hard to read.
4. The website hasn't been tested to see if it works in different browsers.
5. Not all of the links work.
6. The information is out of date.
7. Logos, images or photographs are bad scans or low resolution, making them out of focus or blurry.
8. Visitors cannot quickly and easily find the information they are looking for – often because the navigation is not intuitive.
9. The site's content is not engaging, relevant and well-written.
10. The site is simply unattractive and doesn't accurately represent the quality of product or service you offer.

If your website fails on any of these points then it's probably time to consider some therapy. We can redesign your existing site and produce a website that is going to attract potential clients and deliver results.

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The Corfiot Magazine is now available on line. The internet version is identical with the print one and comprises a pdf file in a secure location, whose URL will be transferred by email following payment of two euros through the user-friendly and totally secure PayPal system. The current issue and the previous two month's issues (three in total) will be available for sale at any one time. On publication of a new issue, the oldest one will be archived and can then be accessed as a free pdf download.

www.thecorfiotmagazine.com

luyc♥rfu properties

New This Month...

GASTOURI OFFICE - CALL 6948 180198

SINARADES (Central) Spitaki Cottage (Traditional - renovated) Tiny, immaculate one-bedroom house in popular village near sea. For sale fully furnished and equipped. 78,000 euro

KATO GAROUNA (Central) Almond Cottage (Traditional - restored) One bedroom cottage, beautifully restored and only needing kitchen finishing. Garden with nice view. 80,000 euro

KOURAMADES (Central) GoodGuy Villa (Modern) Compact villa in peaceful rural setting, yet walking distance to facilities. A good buy for popular location in central Corfu. 125,000 euro

ARILLAS OFFICE - CALL 6948 889174

PRINILAS (North West) Makis Farmhouse (Traditional - in need of renovation) Part-ruined farm-style building with courtyard on edge of pretty hill village. In Town Planning so rebuilding is possible. Interesting price for an imaginative buyer! 27,000 euro

KAVADADES (North West) Bretta House (Traditional - in need of restoration) Old two-floor terrace house with big garden and sea view. Can make two bedrooms. Excellent location near good facilities and short drive to beaches/resorts. 50,000 euro

AVLIOTES (North West) Angeliki House (Traditional - in need of restoration) Edge-of-village house with room for two bedrooms. Dramatic sunset sea view, secluded garden, parking very close - another one which ticks absolutely all the boxes, in a most popular village! 75,000 euro

TZAVROS OFFICE - CALL 6947 269112

SPILIA (Corfu Town) Shop premises in central location, near new city marina. 100,000 euro

SAN ROCCO (Corfu Town) Ground floor two bedroom apartment with garden, in town centre. Only needs rearrangement. 165,000 euro

BARBATI OFFICE - CALL 6948 180195

SPARTILLAS (North Central) Candy House (Traditional - in need of renovation) Very large old property comprising two adjoining houses - four or more bedrooms possible. Sea view, big veranda, small yard, close road access. Excellent structural condition - and at a bargain price, now reduced to 38,000 euro

ANO KORAKIANA (North Central) Pillar House (Traditional - in need of restoration) Good-sized old house for renovation, with small garden and sea view. Direct road access for deliveries. Could make three bedrooms. 70,000 euro

GIANNADES (Central) Bruni House (Traditional - restored) Amazingly designed one-bedroom house with huge roof terrace and wow-factor country view. Style-magazine interior by up-and-coming Italian artist/designer. Must be seen! 98,000 euro

SPARTILLAS (North Central) Blue Shutter Cottage (Traditional - restored) Very pretty cottage with fabulous sea view and wonderful patio garden. Fully restored in traditional style, with all mod-cons. For sale fully furnished. 125,000 euro

BARBATI (North East) Bay View Land (Building Plot) Exceptional plot, 1,500 sq.m. in Town Planning, at the unspoilt end of Barbati. Can build 400 sq.m. Beautiful sea view. Resort facilities and beach a few minutes walk. 130,000 euro

BARBATI (North East) Barbati Bay View Apartments (Modern) Exceptional low-key apartment development at the unspoilt end of Barbati. Fantastic sea view from spacious verandas. Shared pool. Resort facilities and beach a few minutes walk. For a modern, easily maintained holiday home by the sea, you can't get better than this! 130,000 euro & 260,000 euro

VATOS (Central) Kelia Unfinished House (Modern) Two floor house in tranquil rural location very near Golf Club. Structurally complete with all the hard work done - now needs only internal finishing, with arrangement to be decided according to new owner's requirements. 135,000 euro

VATOS (Central) Kelia Guest House (Modern) Two floor house divided as main and guest accommodation. Imaginative design features. Tranquil location near golf course. For sale fully furnished with quality items. 210,000 euro

VATOS (Central) Kelia Villa (Modern) Three bedroom country home with imaginative design features. Pool with large patio, bar area. Tranquil location near golf course. For sale fully furnished with quality items. 375,000 euro

VATOS (Central) Kelia Special Offer (Modern & Land) Buy two houses, get one free, plus a building plot with licence thrown in!!! Two of the houses are fully furnished. 550,000 euro

ACHARAVI (North) Beach Plots (Land) For the first time, affordable almost beachfront building plots in one of Corfu's most popular resorts! Can build 100 sq.m. on each 400 sq.m. plot. 100 metres from beach and its facilities! 45,000 euro each

PERITHIA OFFICE - CALL 26630 98002

KOULOURA (North East Coast) Nikos Villa Apartments (Modern) A foothold on the North East Coast at an affordable price! Three spacious apartments being sold separately. Secluded location, fantastic sea view, shared pool in landscaped grounds. 150,000 euro & 280,000 euro

AGIOS PANTELEIMONAS (North) Olive Grove House (Traditional - in need of restoration) Just what everyone's looking for but can't find - lovely old stone farmhouse in an olive grove. Rural location near a hamlet and not far from Acharavi. Also has development potential. 150,000 euro

ACHARAVI (North) Villa Laoura (Modern) Very spacious five bedroom villa 200 metres from the beach in large garden. Quality construction, clean and tidy, needs only decorative upgrading. For sale fully furnished, as seen. 340,000 euro

KALAMAKI (North) Shore Houses (Modern) Two semi-detached maisonette-style houses right on the coast with footpath 100 metres to the beach! Ready to occupy. For sale separately as homes, or together as lucrative buy-to-let on Corfu's prestigious Kassiopli coastline. 370,000 euro each

KALAMAKI (North) Seafront land, 5,500 sq.m., direct onto lovely sandy beach! Good access. 550,000 euro

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utes to sea, close to
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