

The Corfiot

Corfu's English Language Monthly Magazine

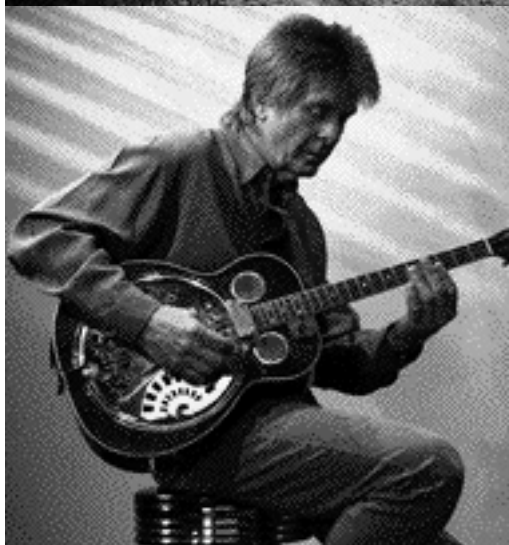
August 2010

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No. 233

A Film Star on the Corfu Trail!

The Other
Side of the
Mountain



Joe Brown headlines
at Corfu Music
Festival

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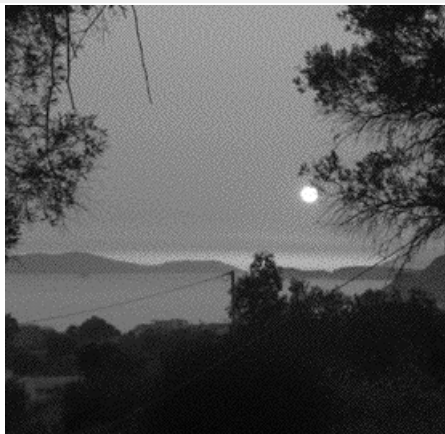
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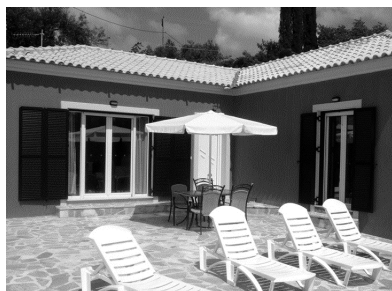
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This Month...

SHREK - A FILM STAR ON THE CORFU TRAIL
Hilary Paipeti finds out how a British visitor raised money for Corfu Donkeys

THE OTHER SIDE OF THE MOUNTAIN
Hilary Paipeti remembers a wilder Pantokrator

HOW WE CAN KEEP OUR TOURISTS
'A Corfiot' examines ways to 'cultivate' our major industry

Regular Features

Ear to the Ground - *Who's poor now?*

People in the News - *Las Call for AgiotFest*

Notice Board - *Post your events*

People in the News - *What's Up in Corfu?*

News - *British Behaviour Abroad Report*

Animal Welfare - *How to help Corfu's stray animals*

Events - *Fiestas, concerts, plays and other happenings*

Diary - *A School Trip to Corfu*

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The Corfiot

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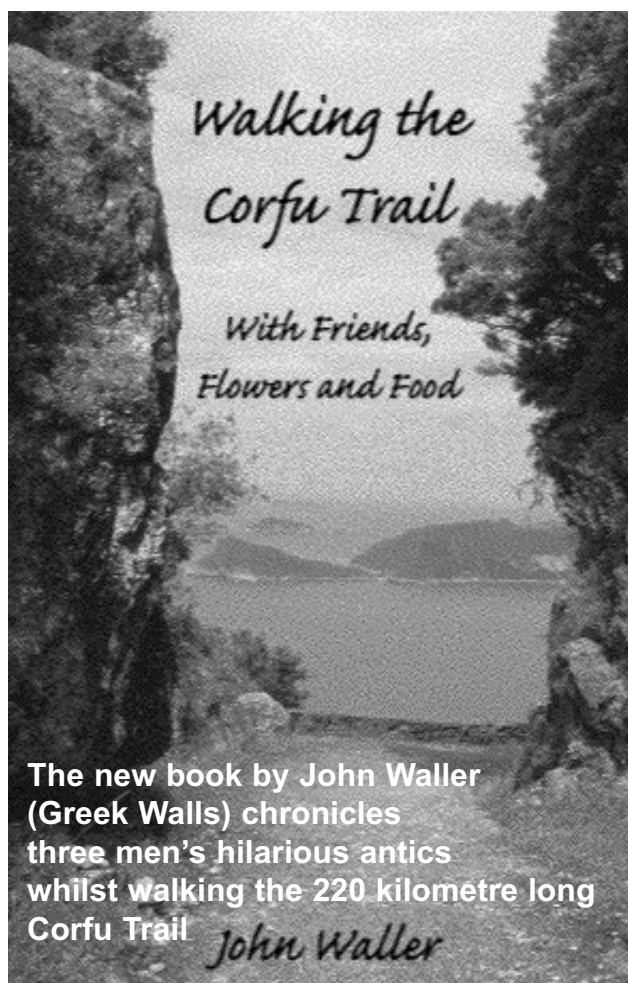
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CORFU TV & SECURITY

ear to the ground

JUST BEFORE THE WORLD CUP FINAL, A BLOGGER ON THE TELEGRAPH SITE EXPRESSED HIS WISH THAT SPAIN WOULD LOSE 'precisely because I love Spain ... winning will destroy everything I love about the country ... millions will parade onto the streets to hero worship chavs that kick a ball ... their captain thinks footballers deserve to get paid millions, even when the country is in poverty (as Spain is right now).' Along, so the papers would have us believe, with Italy, Portugal and Greece.

Sometimes we forget that Britain wasn't always the affluent country it is today. Talking of growing up in hard-up 1950s Britain, chef Mark Hix commented that 'there was no money but always a lot of fresh food around.'

In support of present hard times (and because I don't much like meat, and detest processed food of any kind), I have a standing order for a weekly basket of vegetables (cost 5 euros from Alekos Armenis at Giannades). I never know what will be in it exactly, except that there will be a mix of tomatoes, cucumbers, courgettes (from tiny ones to marrow-size), aubergines and peppers (capsicum and chilli), and sometimes vlytra (a leafy green). I cook on the basis of what's in the basket instead of what catches my eye in the supermarket or on the pages or a recipe book, with only onions, garlic and potatoes (the last only occasionally) as veggie extras.

So there may be no money in Corfu, but there sure is plenty of fresh food. And this 'poverty food' is far from a drag. Crisp-fried aubergines and courgettes with tzatziki (yogurt extra), boiled courgettes with skordalia (see recipe page), a wheel of a kolokythopitta (marrow pie - cheese, eggs and rice extra) that lasts two people a couple of days, risotto made with grated marrow (cheese and rice extra), lots of variants on pasta sauces made with combinations of aubergine, courgette, peppers and tomatoes (pasta extra), Imam Bayeldi (stuffed aubergine - no extras), vegetarian moussaka (only eggs needed for the topping), stuffed peppers and tomatoes, pepper and tomato stew, Briam (the local version of ratatouille), Spanish-style omelettes, aubergine parmigiana (Parmesan, mozzarella), gazpacho, aubergine dips (combined with yogurt or tahini)... the list goes on and on.

With this sort of food, and blessed with sunshine that allows us to enjoy outdoor entertainments which don't cost an arm and a leg (a lingering ouzo in the village square, a trip to the beach, a garden BBQ with friends), we're not in poverty.

In fact, it's the still relatively affluent people of Northern Europe who are the ones in poverty. We have our fresh vegetables; they buy processed convenience food made with high-glucose corn syrup and trans fats, and frozen vegetables. We have free sunshine; they go to the pub or stay in to watch the telly or play computer games. For most of the year, we don't need central heating; they live in overheated houses and lack fresh air.

Who is the poorer? As Mark Hix suggested, it's relative wealth which degrades a country's lifestyle. People all over southern Europe, whom the northern folk pity, can count their blessings.

TALKING OF POOR COUNTRIES, DESPITE HAVING TO GO CAP-IN-HAND FOR AN EU BAILOUT, the Greek state still manages to spend our cash on totally unnecessary adjuncts. Take the new giant road signs. We did manage to find our way to - say - Pelekas without them, didn't we? They are only necessary when approach to a junction requires a lane change. And do we REALLY need markers every half kilometre telling us how far we are from some point which the authorities have designated as the centre of Corfu's road network?

What about the road decorations between the airport and Vrioni (the way southwards)? I have always been an advocate of cat's eyes, and am delighted that they been installed on most of Corfu's main roads, but this display of orange lights - parallel strips, plus crossing ones - is way over the top. They'll have aeroplanes landing on them next!

AS MID-JULY HIT, THE WEATHER GAVE US A SERIES OF THREE-T-SHIRT DAYS. You know the scenario: You get up and put on a T-shirt. After a couple of chores, a bit of cooking - or even just reading a book - it's time to go to the shops or see a friend. Your shirt's drenched so you put on a fresh one. Get home and that one's soaked, so after siesta you need a new one for the evening. But I prefer to change T-shirts to living with air-conditioning...

I GLEANED THIS PIECE OF DOGGEREL from a blog on the Internet: 'Britain's gone; sadly missed. A welfare state, and largely p****d.'

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Last Call for AgiotFest Paul McGovern

Twelve solid hours of music over two days are set to get rockers on their feet at Corfu's 'AgiotFest 10' festival on 27 and 28 August. Veteran songster Joe Brown will head a line-up which includes Manchester folk-rock group 4Square, Greek reggae combo One Drop Forward and Serbia alternative rock band Kuriri, as well as local musicians. Ticket prices are an affordable 20 euros for one night, and a discounted two-night special at 35 euros. AgiotFest 10 takes place near the centrally located village of Agios Ioannis.

Last year's AgiotFest 09 starred the Dylan Project, with Steve Gibbons and former Jethro Tull bassist Dave Pegg, founder of Fairport Convention's annual Cropredy Festival in Oxfordshire. AgiotFest's organisers aim within five years to establish the festival as a 'Cropredy-in-the-Sun' style summer event.

Although Joe Brown is without doubt the star of the show, the two-evening festival will parade more than 50 musicians from Greece, Britain, Serbia and Germany. 4Square had rave reviews from the renowned Cropredy Festival last year, and we hope and believe they will make a big impact at the Saturday AgiotFest. Laura Zakian, with her unique swing-style, will add sophistication to proceedings and local musicians will complement these artistes. Look out for 'new faces' which may impress, following our intention to 'give a stage' to new talent.

On the Friday the headliners are the Thessalonika group One Drop Forward, a nine-piece reggae band well known throughout the Balkans. They will be backed by Kuriri from Serbia - 2009

Rock Champions - plus last year's 'discoveries' Omega 5 and Jemma Bartlett.

Food and drink will be on sale at reasonable prices. Car parking will be free and well-signposted. Our aim is to please our audience, just as we did in 2009.

Please visit www.agiotfest.co.uk regularly for updates between now and the show, or contact us through the site, or on 26610 58177, to ask any questions you may have, and to find out where your nearest ticket office is located.

AGIOTFEST 10 - PROGRAMME (Times may vary)

FRIDAY 27 AUGUST

6.00 pm Doors Open - Food, refreshments and memorabilia available

6.30 pm Live music starts - Warm up bands, featuring Jemma Bartlett & The Good Old Boys - Look out for surprises

8.15 pm Kuriri (Serbian Rock Champions 2009)

9.30 pm Omega 5 (Back by popular demand)

11.00 pm One Drop Forward

SATURDAY 28 AUGUST

6.00 pm Doors Open - Food, refreshments and memorabilia available

6.30 pm Laura Zakian

7.30 pm New Faces, including Sonia Grammatikos

8.00 pm 4Square

9.30 pm Joe Brown and his Band

11.00 pm An Element of Surprise



The Good Old Boys entertained a large crowd of locals and foreign residents at the annual Music Evening of the Ark animal charity. Held in the garden of the beautiful Sylva Estate in Kanoni on 12 July, the event raised 4,000 euros to help Corfu's stray animals. The Good Old Boys will act as 'warm up' at AgiotFest on Friday, 27 August.

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SUNDAY SERVICES

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

REGULAR EVENTS

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

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

HELP THE

CORFU DONKEY SANCTUARY

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

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

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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 roadside advertising banners
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!

THE ARK

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Book Sale

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

ACHARAVI

What's Up Corfu provides new info service

Any initiative taken on the isle of Corfu encounters a major challenge in communication. People may have something really interesting to offer, but how do they let everybody know? How often do we hear about a very interesting event ... but only after it has ended already? Which services and products can make life on Corfu easier, if we only knew of their existence?

There are websites with useful information but often in Greek only, which makes it less accessible to many of us. Besides, we would need to search frequently to stay properly informed.

Wouldn't it be nice if we could get such useful information delivered via email?

The above summarises a discussion we (Dick Mulder & Daniel Blom) had when looking for ways to promote an art exhibition that includes work from our respective spouses, and five other artists.

And so we decided to set up a new information service, which will be sending emails from WhatsUp-Corfu@live.com

WhatsUp-Corfu only provides information that is particularly interesting to people that either live on, or regularly visit, Corfu. There are no costs or obligations for the receiver. Commercial advertising is not facilitated, but objective information on services and products from commercial organisations may be included, providing it is directly or indirectly related to living on or visiting Corfu. Please contact us if you wish to republish the information we provide.

Organisations and individuals that want to use WhatsUp-Corfu@live.com to share information, can send this via email to the same address. We reserve the right to edit or refuse information provided, and will confirm motives for such decision to the originator.

All you have to do to get regular updates is send a blank email to WhatsUp-Corfu@live.com with the word SUBSCRIBE in the subject box. Please make other people aware of this service.

PRIVACY STATEMENT

WhatsUp-Corfu will not provide email addresses or other personal information to any other party.

Emails from WhatsUp-Corfu@live.com are always sent as blank carbon copy (invisible BCC addressing).

Dick Mulder & Daniel Blom

Note from the Editor: What a great idea! As a monthly magazine, The Corfiot has exactly the same problem: I need to know about events at the latest on the 20th of the month before they happen, which sometimes can mean six weeks in advance! That's why we often don't publish information about events - we aren't informed in time! So What's Up Corfu is set to provide a very necessary service. Do support it by subscribing.

EXHIBITIONS

Exhibition of Original Works by French painter **Nathalie Ruttyn**. La Feuille d'Or Art Gallery, 3, Sofokleous Doumani St. (behind the Reading Society). Runs to 14 August - Open shop hours. <http://www.artincorfu.com/exhibitions.html>

Exhibition of water- and ink-paintings by a French painter **Claude**, and a young Czech painter, **Jakub Cervenka**, all featuring the island or Corfu Town. La Feuille d'Or Art Gallery, 3, Sofokleous Doumani St. (behind the Reading Society). Runs from 18 - 31 August - Open shop hours. <http://www.artincorfu.com/exhibitions.html>

Exhibition entitled 'Maelstroms of Passions' by Greek painters **Elena Chirdaris** and **Irini Penna**. Gallery Tenedos, 52, Solomou St., New Fortress entrance. Runs to 20 August - Open Monday - Friday, 9:00 to 13:00 and 18:00 to 23:00.

See more events on page 15.

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NEWS

'British Behaviour Abroad' Report: Foreign & Commonwealth Office releases 2009-10 incident figures

The Foreign & Commonwealth Office (FCO) released its annual British Behaviour Abroad report on Friday 16 July. The report is based on cases notified to FCO staff around the world, between April 2009 and March 2010. It provides details of the assistance Consular sections provide in the event of, for example, road traffic accidents overseas, deaths, serious injury or illness resulting in hospitalisation, and lost or stolen passports. Figures for Greece are annexed below. The full report is available on the British Embassy website ukingreece.fco.gov.uk

With so many of the report incidents being preventable, the FCO is appealing to British Nationals travelling or going to live abroad to make some simple preparations before they go in order to minimise problems.

Consular staff in the British Embassy in Athens and the Consular network in Greece are responsible for helping British nationals who face serious difficulties while in Greece. Equally importantly, we work throughout the year proactively with local authorities, communities, police and tour operators to try to avoid problems and to ensure that British nationals enjoy a trouble-free stay in Greece. The overall aim is to ensure British nationals act responsibly in accordance with local law, and take common sense steps to enjoy a problem-free holiday. In addition to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's 'Know Before You Go' campaign, we run focused local initiatives such as this year's 'Another Side to Paradise' campaign, with key personal safety messages for visitors to major Greek tourist resorts. In another initiative to strengthen practical cooperation, in 2009 we arranged a visit to the UK for Greek Police Officers from youth tourism resorts, with the aim of sharing best practice and experience.

The British Ambassador to Greece, Dr David Landsman, commented: 'We know that the overwhelming majority of visitors to Greece enjoy their holidays with no trouble whatsoever. With the tour operators and the local authorities, we share the same approach: it's better to avoid problems happening, than have to deal with the - sometimes tragic - consequences later. I am glad that the cooperation between our consular staff and all those involved is now well established, but there is always more we can do.'

Mayors of some of the Greek tourist resorts which are popular with British tourists have commented on their cooperation with the UK:

'Since 2002 our cooperation with the British Embassy and Consulate is excellent and has significant results as there are no problems. We have effectively dealt with all tourism related issues.' Mr Yannis Iatridis, Mayor of Kallithea (Rhodes)

'Since 2007 the Municipality of Laganas has started a cooperation with the British Embassy which included British Ambassadors' visits and conferences at the British Embassy with the participation of Greek and British authorities, mayors of major tourist resorts and tour operators. As a result young tourists' misbehaviour has been significantly controlled.

'The Municipality's decisions regarding the quality of the alcohol, bars' working hours, policing and tour operators' cooperation with the shops and bars, have paid off and today's picture of

Laganas is significantly better compared to previous years.

'British Consul, Ms Alison Beckett, visited me a few days ago; our cooperation has been and still is excellent. We agreed that we will continue our joint efforts as our shared goal is for tourists to come to Laganas, have fun and return home, healthy and happy.' Mr Dionyssios Komiotis, Mayor of Laganas (Zakynthos)

'Until today our collaboration with the UK Consulate in Herakleio and the Consul Mrs. Clairi Fragakaki, on issues related to the prevention and treatment of problems caused by the reception of British tourists, especially young people, in Malia, has been proven efficient, effective and crucial.' Mr Konstantinos Lagoudakis, Mayor of Malia (Crete)

British Nationals in Greece requiring consular assistance

1 April 2009 - 31 March 2010		1 April 2008 - 31 March 2009	
Number of visitors	2,350,000	Number of visitors	3,000,000
Number of British Residents	35,000	Number of British Residents	18,000
Drug Arrests	12	Drug Arrests	36
Total Arrest/Detention	222	Total Arrest/Detention	237
Total Death	149	Total Death	118
Hospitalisation	471	Hospitalisation	433
Rape	27	Rape	28
Sexual Assault	11	Sexual Assault	9
Total Other Assistance	43	Total Other Assistance	60
Total Consular cases	923	Total Consular cases	885
Passports Lost/Stolen	496	Passports Lost/Stolen	441

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Helping Corfu's stray animals

...with the Ark charity

 **Louisa van Vuurde**

With the tourist season in full swing, the Ark continues to receive innumerable calls and emails from visitors concerned about the condition of animals: dogs on short chains and without shade, kittens with dripping eyes, abandoned puppies and so on. They ask us, where is the shelter? Well, there isn't one, but even if official shelters did exist it would not really help, as they would be full up in no time. As long as the local attitude towards animal care remains unchanged, a shelter would be mainly a place to dump animals people don't want any more. Such a place would be filled with puppies and kittens more or less immediately, a consequence of the view that 'the shelter should take them'. So rather than providing a shelter, we need to focus on better awareness of the animals' fertility, and encourage neutering of the beasts to avoid two or more litters a year.

NEUTERING

With the help of local vets, the Ark has succeeded in sterilizing many dogs and cats over the last years; it is a big financial burden to our charity, but we will continue the work. We also try to motivate the Corfiots to neuter their animals, and in many cases we offer financial help.

REHOMING

Rehoming of unwanted puppies/dogs and kittens/cats is an ongoing process. We always try first to find homes here on Corfu, and luckily we are seeing that more and more good reliable Greek families are caring for their new pet for a lifetime. Like the dog Laura who we found a nice home for in the north of the island, and who will have a safe and happy future. However, we can never find enough of these precious 'golden baskets'.

Sometimes rehoming is not so successful. A family may take on a puppy 'for the children', not realizing that the little one needs time and training. Like we reported last month: we got a sweet puppy back from its new home after one day, as it peed in the house - but what can one expect of a three-month-old puppy? And this was after we had a long talk with the adopters about all aspects of caring for a small puppy.

Another puppy was also sent back after one night as it cried and barked constantly - naturally, as it was the first time the pup had been parted from his brothers and sisters, and at the same time placed in strange surroundings. Unfortunately, these were short rehoming.

FOSTERING

Even if you don't want a 'dog for life', you can help the Ark by fostering a dog or a pup for a limited time, until we can find an alternative home. We do not expect you to keep the animal for longer than agreed, and

indeed we manage to rotate the responsibility of fostering if finding a new home takes time.

Out of Corfu, we find reliable homes with the help of the Dutch charity society AAI, or sometimes with serious tourists. One example was Nicolette, who was here on holiday and fell in love with a dog needing help. Dassia, as she's called now, went to Holland and became the princess of the house, surrounded by the family's six cats. This big dog is now learning how to become a real Dutch citizen.

VOLUNTEERING

Another way you can help the Ark is by volunteering with 'hands on' assistance, like Melanie, Pat and Debbie. They turn up at my place every week for a few hours to help with combing, brushing and washing the animals, cleaning the grounds and other tasks. Mel says the work gives her satisfaction and energy, so perhaps more volunteers would be interested to join them. Of course coffee and wine assist in the oiling of the work...

Other help that volunteers can offer include translating, maintenance and transporting injured dogs to the vet. Also, if you are flying back to Holland, you may be able to help by escorting a dog to its new home. We hope to hear from you.

TRANSPORTING

Returning to the story of Princess Dassia above, her new owner is helping us with organizing transport from Holland to Corfu; a big supply of transport boxes, dog baskets and so on arrived from there recently, so we now have enough to last the summer. We'd like to thank Dassia's boss Nicolette, Rick Kappert from Intercontor Holland Bv, and Stelios and Katerina in Saloniki. Not forgetting the overland shipping company Mondial, which has been helping with transports from the UK for years.

Enjoy the summer, and help us look after the animals.

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FEATURE

Shrek: A Film Star on the Corfu Trail

...to raise money for Corfu Donkeys

✍️ Hilary Paipeti

A British holidaymaker has raised around 400 pounds for Corfu's donkeys - by walking the Corfu Trail... in the company of Shrek.

Dave Hancy, of High Wycombe, hiked the Trail, which runs 220 kilometres from Asprokavos in the south of the island to its northernmost point at Cape Agia Ekaterini, in the late part of May and early June. Whilst on the walk, he made notes about his day-to-day experiences and subsequently produced a blog, a delightful read which thoroughly captures the atmosphere of 'off-road' Corfu. <http://www.travelblog.org/Bloggers/Daveyh>

To introduce the main characters: Dave visits Corfu a couple of times a year, and his resort of choice is Sidari. 'It has everything,' he writes in his blog. 'Nice beach, nice mix of Greek tavernas and tourist tavernas (if you want to eat on a budget they are very good both pricewise and value for money), plenty of shops, even if some are filled with rubbish that next to no tourist would buy. Nice bars and choice of loud bars, quiet bars or nightclubs in the evening. Just a stroll to Canal d'Amour area, where it is quieter and there are more tavernas and bars, and some lovely small beaches between the sandstone mini cliffs. It's a beautiful area and a good base.'

Dave is an enthusiastic supporter of Corfu Donkey Rescue (CDR), established in 2004 by Judy Quinn and currently run out of a base near Poulades. CDR is a registered charity which relies on donations to provide a refuge for aged, abandoned and injured donkeys. As space is limited, some are rehomed in sanctuaries elsewhere. CDR will shortly be moving to permanent premises near Doukades, once enough money is raised to build stables.

'I visited (CDR) on one of my first trips to Corfu,' explained Dave. 'I have been back to see Judy and I also make a small monthly donation to them. I like donkeys and it was sad the condition of some of them after giving a hard working life of maybe 30 years. They deserved better in retirement than to suffer or be sold to who knows where. I was overweight and unfit and needed a motivation to get fit to walk the Trail. Weight loss itself wasn't enough motivation as I have been overweight for

years. To try and raise some funds for CDR as well provided that motivation.'

Dave lost five stone during training!

Shrek is an ogre, the central character in a series of critically acclaimed computer animated movies made by DreamWorks. Four films have been released so far. At the start of the movie cycle, Shrek is a solitary ogre who lives in a swamp, and his first friend is a talking donkey!

'Taking Shrek was the idea of my mate Ian,' said Dave. 'I met Ian when holidaying in Corfu, and we have been firm friends ever since. He couldn't make it to Corfu this year and was jealous (not of the walking, just being in Corfu!). He had a Shrek that was to be thrown out as part of house clearance on his divorce. As Shrek had a donkey friend in the film, he thought it was suitable that I should take him on my walk. I think it was also his way of seeing that I really did walk, as I would have to show him photos I'd taken of Shrek along the way!'

'Shrek was strapped to my rucksack and really enjoyed the trip! He only missed the Agios Georgios to Rekini section as it was raining and he would have been a trouble to dry out. The look on his face always made me laugh when I was having a beer (and food) as he appeared to want some too! In a way he represented Ian being jealous, hence the photos with beer and food. I even captioned a photo of Shrek looking at a plate of sardines and beer: 'green with envy'. Halfway through the walk Shrek's head gained a buzzard feather which we found in the forest.

'Locals always spoke and waved. In most cases they didn't spot Shrek until I had passed, as face-on they couldn't see him. Children liked him and then their parents spoke to me; such as at Spiros Taverna in Strongili. People also asked about him at all my overnight stops and was particularly popular at the Belle Helene in Ag Georgios NW. Foreigners, be they English or German, could be heard talking about Shrek. Few approached me, but it was a conversation starter when I stopped at tavernas and bars along the way. I also was tooted at a few times on road sections. Children loved him and sometimes even asked to take

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photos; their parents would then ask why Shrek was with me. I would tell them and hand out a note with my blog address.'

Dave set up the blog facility before setting out, writing initially about his training, the Corfu Trail and CDR, including how to donate.

'I'm not into technology and it was all very basic. Whilst I was away walking Ian was my ghost writer. I would text or phone him at the end of the day, and he would write a short report. On my return I wrote up the day-by-day notes I'd made, starting from when I landed in Corfu until I left to come home, and of course I included many of the photos I'd taken each day to give a flavour of the trip. [These are some of the best photos of Corfu I have seen on the Internet - Ed.]



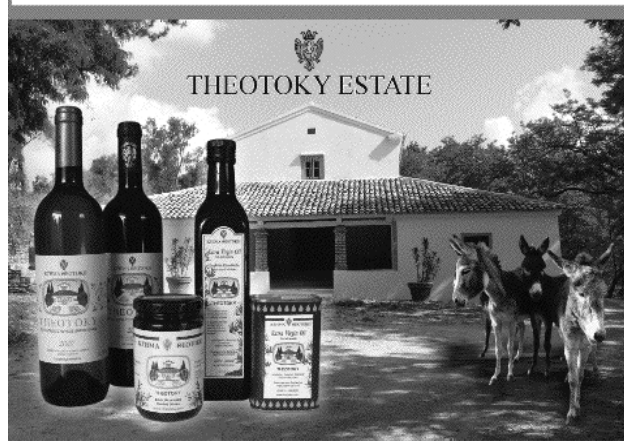
Dave subsequently decided to auction Shrek to raise additional funds for CDR, and he has now gone to a new home in Bavaria, with Susanna as his new best friend.

'I met Susanna at Ermones Bridge, near Vatos, along with her three companions, and we walked as a group to Giannades, chatting along the way. She obviously could see Shrek on my rucksack and inevitably asked why I had him. When I explained the reason for my hike, she said she was interested in the donkeys and would like to visit the refuge, but wouldn't be able to on this walking holiday. The group was on the Trail using German maps and instructions, booking their own accommodation as they went and carrying all their gear themselves! They were carrying large backpacks, which weighed about 12.5 kilos and contained all their belongings. No luxury of Chris [of Aperghi Travel] to transport their bags during the day as I had! Having completed the Trail, I can say it must have been hard going for them in places, and tough on the steep climbs and descents.

'I don't know why she wanted him; she didn't express any particular interest during the walk, but sent an email to me via the blog when she read about the auction. She actually bid £55, but missed out because there was a later higher bid; she sent a message saying how sad she was to have lost out.

'The winning bid was £66, but the winner thought Shrek should remain with me, as the heroes of the walk shouldn't be separated. He just wanted the photos. But I didn't want to keep Shrek, so I asked Susanna to make her donation so she could acquire him. Susanne says he will be on her rucksack during her future travels.'

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FEATURE

So Shrek personally raised £121. Other donations came from the blog appeal, which was referred to by the CDR website and by their facebook page. A few people gave Dave donations on the route, and he's also collected from family and friends, so that he was able to send an additional £230, with money still trickling in as people read the blog.

'On future Corfu holidays I will continue to walk, but just daily ones,' said Dave. 'I plan to visit areas not covered by the Trail, like around Chlomos. I will also be visiting some of the places on the Trail again by car, with Ian hopefully. I'll certainly take him to the kafenion at Krini and walk him onto the walled cliff path for the views before we return to the car.'

Dave travelled to Corfu by easyJet. His walk on the Trail (accommodation and luggage transfer) was organised by Aperghi Travel (0030 26610 48713 - www.travelling.gr/aperghi). The latest update of the Companion Guide to the Corfu Trail - the walk's 'bible' - can be purchased at a price of 10 euros from www.corfutrailguide.com. For daily walks all over the island (from 30 minute strolls to six hour treks), the Complete Book of Corfu Walks now contains over 75 routes, and can be purchased at a price of 20 euros from www.corfuwalks.com. For information about John Waller's book Walking the Corfu Trail with Friends, Flowers and Food - an excellent commentary on the Trail and a valuable insight into many aspects of life of Corfu - go to www.yiannisbooks.com.

From Dave's Blog: Did the Corfu Trail live up to my expectations? I had read several blogs written by others who had walked the Trail, and of course John Waller's recent book, but it still was better in the walking than any description, my own included. I just don't have the literary talent to do justice to the sheer beauty of the views, the colours of the trees, the flowers, the sea, the sky and even the villages... even the photos only give an indication of what you see. The pictures especially cannot do justice to the views; particularly when you also see them through binoculars. The only downside for me was I walked a bit too late to see orchids; there would have been some about still if there hadn't been big storms the week before my arrival; but there were many other flowers to see and the smell was lovely; the scent of the wild herbs made you feel you were entering an open kitchen. The butterflies were plentiful but difficult to photograph as they usually land with wings closed; lizards everywhere and the large Balkan Greens particularly beautiful and fast. The snakes who move like Usain Bolt into the distance, and the bonus for me of my meeting with the Beech Marten. The people I met, be they at accommodations, or fellow walkers or tourists, the bar, taverna, kafenion, ouzerie, restaurant and shop staff and the villagers just passing by or in the countryside working as I passed, were all so friendly. Never was a 'kalimera', a 'kalispera' or a 'haretai' - or even a wave - ignored. The often two hour stints when I saw nobody but nature were tranquility at its best. I was able to walk the walk of life and be at one with my surroundings, and almost just blend into the island itself.

I must also praise Anna and Chris at Aperghi Travel for their organisation; so efficient. My bag moved as if by magic. My transfers were always at the stated time, and they are such lovely and genuine people with a love of Corfu. Thank you both so much for helping make my holiday so enjoyable and thank you for the gift of ouzo; I will toast you both each time I have a shot.

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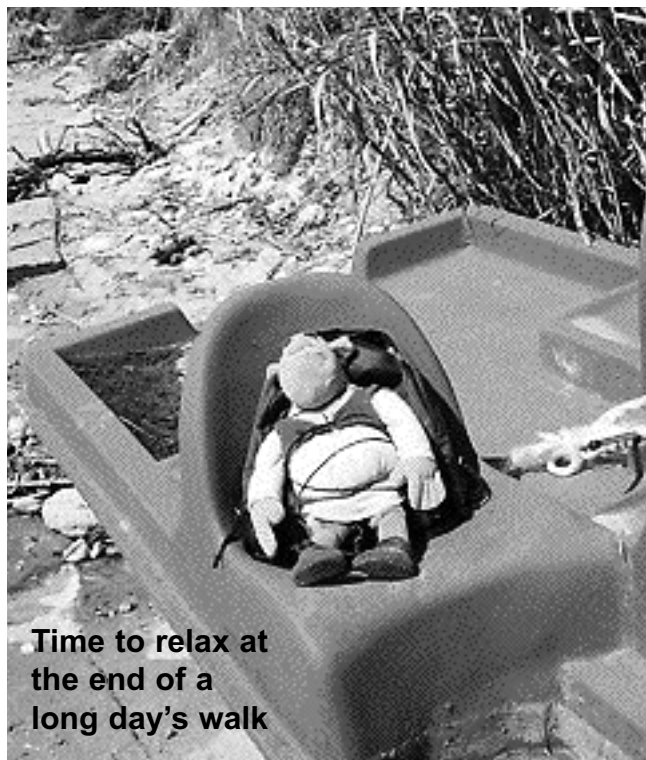
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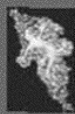


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TUESDAY 24 AUGUST

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SUNDAYS Fuego de Lunar: International music duet

Diary of a School Trip

by Tony Lydon

The Lady Jane Franklin School is a special school for children with social, emotional and behavioural difficulties. The students have to work very hard to be included on this trip and it is intended to give them an experience of a different way of life and an insight to a holiday destination that is totally new to them. Tony Lydon is a year 10 pupil at the school.

12-13/06/10 We left school at 11.25 pm for our flight to Corfu out of Gatwick at 6 am. The flight was on easyJet and it lasted for two and a half hours. We had a 45 minute transfer to our apartments in Kassiopi, where we unpacked and familiarised ourselves with the surroundings.

14/06/10 On Monday we were up for 08.00 and walked two miles to Avlaki bay for beach studies and lunch. After walking back we changed and went for tea at the Gyros Taverna at 07.00.

15/06/10 Today we are going out in cars (thank goodness; it's hot). We went to San Stefanos and the surrounding area (more commonly known as Kensington-on-Sea). We left the cars in Kalami and walked passed Lawrence Durrell's house, which is called the White House. This then took us off the beaten track - we all wondered where it would lead us. We arrived at a lovely beach. This was not where we would stay as we made our way to Agni Bay which was better than ever and we had a interesting Greek lunch. We had whitebait, squid, souvlaki, lamb chops,

tzatziki. After a walk back to Kalami we drove up to Old Perithia so that we could book the final evening meal at Harry's in New Perithia. Then back to Kassiopi, and back to Gyros for a meal.

16/06/10 Up early and in the cars to Corfu Town. Slight problem - there was nowhere to park and most of the roads were blocked off because of demonstrations. So we drove through very small back streets and alleyways, and with good luck arrived at the British Cemetery. When we drove to McDonald's we were very lucky to find somewhere to park. On our way back to Kassiopi we stopped off at Avlaki. Back to the apartments to pack (sob sob) and to get ready for the meal at Harry's.

17/06/10 Get up and get on the bus to the airport (VERY BAD).



The Other Side of the Mountain *by Hilary Paipeti*

It was a morning in May, sometime in the early 1980s, and I'd set out from Nissaki to walk to Old Sinies and - I hoped - beyond. This was my first excursion on Mount Pantokrator, except by car on the then-gravel road as far as Strinilas. Further, the road, now asphalt all the way to the top, deteriorated into an obstacle course of boulders and bumps. On the other side of the massif, Old Perithia was just about accessible by car, as long as you were prepared to risk shredded tyres and damaged undercarriage. A few settlements in the foothills were reachable by road, but otherwise, the Pantokrator range was only foot-friendly.

The steep, twisting road led up from Nissaki to Viglatsouri; today, if you drive, it's still full lock on the steering on some corners, and a tight squeeze between the stone walls of the many villas which have sprouted there in the last three decades. But then, at Viglatsouri's last house, the road suddenly ended, and the only way forward was on a footpath between sage bushes.

In days past, this old path was the 'donkey M1', the main route over the mountain, which allowed the shepherds of the high settlements access to the sea. With no coastal road, the harbour at Nissaki was their doorway to the markets of Corfu Town, where they could sell their cheese and meat, and perhaps a few wool products. The path led to Old Sinies in its dark valley, then up over the high col to Old Perithia, and on to the north coast near Acharavi by way of the Parigori Gorge.

On this May day, I found the way easy to follow. Still showing evidence of its original cobbled surface, it ran straight up the valley, then turned behind the shoulder of the hill. Now the sea was out of view, and all I could hear was the sound of bees rum-maging in the flowers, and a far tinkle of sheep-bells. The path descended to cross a stream bed, already dry, then squared its shoulders for the attack on the mountain proper. Here, the cobbles were intact, leading up in a series of disciplined switch-backs past a large stone sheepfold and towards the high horizon.

This was a way I would take on many future occasions, both on my own and with groups. Once, I encountered a large Alsatian-type dog, who was sitting firmly on the path ahead. Such dogs are often trained to protect the herds, and they can be very fierce and aggressive; it looked as if my walk was over. But I thought I'd give it a try: 'Hello, doggy!' His ears went back, his tail went waggy, and he trotted down to me. Then that goat-guardian turned into a person-guide, and he accompanied me all the way up Pantokrator and back, keeping close at my side, and cuddling up to me as he shared my sandwich and water. By the year of that walk, they'd already pushed a track over the col. But back to my first attempt.

The high horizon turned out to be a ridge. Reaching the top, at an old threshing floor (though I didn't know what it was then), the sea was suddenly back in view behind, and ahead was a great bowl containing a stone city. At least, that's what it resembled to my virgin eyes, until the shock wore off and I realised that it was just a very extensive but low density village, with little groups of houses scattered across the flanks of the bowl, all abandoned.

Old Sinies - for that's where I was - has a very spooky atmosphere, unlike Old Perithia, which feels bright, light and friendly. Even on a sunny day, I never liked to stay long. But here the lovely path gave out, and instead of there being a clear way forward, it branched and sub-branched into an infinite network of little goat trails between the brambles and old walls. On this day, not yet confident of the terrain, I headed back; and it took me several attempts before I found a way out of the bowl and on up to the col; a way which involved a long scramble on shale up a steep gully, until the path became clear again swinging round the next bowl-like valley.

The first time I reached the high col it was a wilderness. I had reached cloud-base a few minutes back and, driven by a speedy wind, the mist was being funneled over the col. I took shelter behind a ruined hut, where now there is a wide gravel road with benches so that people who've made no effort to arrive can rest.

At some stage - whether it was that day or later I can't recall - I negotiated the maze of goat-trods and found the onward route to Pantokrator, a fine rough mountain path which took me onto the monastery access road just before the last push to the cone-like summit.

The path's gone now, a victim of a parallel road bulldozed just above. Boulders and screes created by the digging work crashed down onto the venerable path and hindered easy passage. In any case, everyone - even hikers - began to utilize the less taxing track.

By the time my explorations had turned to finding the way from the col down to Old Perithia, this track had already 'civilized' the once-wild mountainside around the col. Though you can now drive (with a little care) down to Old Perithia from Pantokrator, a section of the old path still remains. It crosses a little flat valley where signs of cultivation endure (threshing floors, a ruined farmhouse), then plunges down a ravine to the village. Here, the cobbled surface is in evidence in some places.

Beyond Old Perithia, the original route to the coast, before they constructed the road in the parallel valley, was down the mighty Parigori Gorge, which channels all the rainwater from the north side of Pantokrator into the sea near Almiros. Except after rain,

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the riverbed is dry, but I am told it is a spectacular sight when in flood. In the upper part of the gorge, the path runs on the bare mountainside, but after a tiny shrine it plunges into thick forest, where you expect to meet Pan. Thanks to the efforts of Fried Aumann of the St George's Bay Country Club, this long-forgotten path was rediscovered and cleared, and it makes superb walking.

Once you reach civilisation again - bizarrely at a portaloo - the course of the old M1 footpath falls victim again to a need for vehicular access. But the very last section, between Portes and the coast road, still exists as a footway, running down a beautiful oak-shaded valley.

When creating the Corfu Trail, my explorations of Pantokrator's old footpaths - the cobbled ones are known as 'kalderimis' - proved vital. It would have been easy to utilize the new network of mountain tracks, which were bulldozed with EU money in the 90s; but I wanted to give walkers the authentic experience of Corfu's high places, as people had traversed them in the 'old' days (that is, before the track-building orgy of the mid-90s). Thus, the first rendering of the Trail's course descended on part of the old 'M1' from Nissaki - the 'disciplined switchbacks' where I had encountered the friendly goat-guardian pooch, and the section between Old Sinies and the high col (though for those who wanted to avoid the hairy scramble down the shale gully, I allowed the track as an alternative route). But even though thousands of walkers have hiked the routes since the Trail's inception in 2001, the paths have fallen victim to time, the elements and - like the path from Old Perithia up to Pantokrator - bulldozing.

For decades now, no-one has repaired the cobbles of the 'kalderimi' switchback path below Old Sinies. No goats graze to keep encroaching shrubs at bay. The path - that beautiful path in whose stones were written the socio-economic history of the region - is no longer passable, and walkers now must follow the long, dreary contour-track, in and out of small gullies and taking miles to get back to a spot less than a kilometre away across the valley. Donkeys could do steep, but cars can't.

Because this is such a long grind - and in the full sun - the latest version of the Corfu Trail guide makes it optional. Unless they particularly want to walk in the North East Coast area, independent Corfu Trailers may descend from Pantokrator to the high col, and go directly down to Old Perithia, thus cutting out a full day. Those on a pre-planned itinerary (groups or self-guided) will be offered only the quicker option, with the possibility if they wish to walk a circular route on the flanks of the North East Coast, which more or less follows the original Corfu Trail through the region. But no longer my first, lovely way to Old Sinies.

At least the wonderful path down the Parigori Gorge remains. However, this has been 'gen-trified' by the local council, who obtained the

absurd sum of nearly 100,000 euros to 'establish a seven kilometre walking route between Old Perithia and Krinias'. Having myself in the past been involved in studies to create walking routes, a major part of the budget for the proposal is earmarked for the clearing of the way. But it didn't need clearing, having been re-established by Mr Aumann ten years ago, and walked by thousands since! Waymarking comprises another large part of the budget for a walks project; it didn't need waymarking, having been already marked not only with Corfu Trail signs, but with Mr Aumann's 'Blue Route' guides. Enough of them to point the way, but not so many to impinge on the natural environment. Though the Corfu Trail signs were part-funded by the EU Interreg II programme, the local council workers took them down and replaced them - every hundred metres - with metal pipes stuck in the ground (without cement so you can just pull them out), each with a sign roughly wired on that tells you how many hundred metres along the seven kilometre way you have gone! Too much information, patronising to walkers, and a blight on the beautiful countryside. Dave Hancey, a recent Trail walker whom we feature elsewhere in this issue, wrote in his blog: 'They are overmarked in my opinion... a large pole with a sign saying distance every 100 metres.'

To top this... silliness (to use a very mild term), the council has constructed rustic seating areas, but already the year after their emplacement, most had been knocked down by the semi-wild cattle that range the area... And the portaloo (in an area characterised by lots of... bushes) is locked. Presumably, you have to run along to the Town Hall in Acharavi to collect the key if you want to use it...

Readers, this is where your taxes go... Certainly not, at any level, for anything which enhances either tourism or the habitat it exploits.

And on a final note, the 220 kilometre Corfu Trail was created using a fifth of the budget designated in this case to seven kilometres of already existing and marked footpath. I wonder where the money *really* went?

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How to keep our tourists

 **A Corfiot**

As the title of my June article seemed to suggest, tourism is in trouble. There is no need for me to prove this, as you need only to look around...

I am writing at the start of July. Vacant sunbeds cover the lifeless beaches, tourist shop owners are lazily hanging outside their empty stores, the waiters of the restaurants are distractedly watching the FIFA matches, loud music is blaring out of unfrequented bars, the locals are curiously looking around, waiting for the tourists to arrive... but, where are they?

It's been a few years now since we lost some English tourists to the cheaper Turkish coasts, and also to long-haul destinations, now more affordable and popular. The Dutch are still going strong, but salary cut-backs are forcing them to travel less, and their holiday season is shorter. We're hearing that the Germans are boycotting Greece, furious at having to pay for the loan we are unlikely to be able to pay back; and for sure, the fact that there are fewer tourists around is not going to help us pay it back! I'm not sure what to think about other tourists, such as Italians, except that their economies are not doing too well either, so we cannot expect they'll be flocking into our island in August like other years. As for the Greek tourist, I think we've undervalued them for so long now that we've provided an excellent deterrent for them to come to Corfu! It seems as if we must be content to receive our Eastern European neighbours - though of course 'they don't spend any money'!

As a result, we're all seeing a knock-on negative effect on businesses and on employment in the tourism industry, as employers avoid taking on staff, at least until the last minute, making for a shorter working season for some, and an altogether UNworking season for others.

What is left for us to do now? Well, we might like to look at others' mistakes and learn from them. Why don't we take a look at Spain? Back in the 1980s, Greece was the reason for her initial downfall in tourism when Northern European visitors got fed up of being 'ripped off'; as a result, they diverted from the Spanish costas to the Greek islands (and different Costas!), a cheaper holiday destination at the time. It took Spain about a decade to learn from its mistakes and adapt to what changes needed to be made - primarily balancing out quality with price, but also promoting diverse forms of tourism such as festivals, congresses, sports, culture, agriculture and so on, offering that 'something different' that other destinations could not beat. Their slogan at the time was the inspired 'Spain - Everything Under the Sun'. But it's worth noting that Spain invested heavily in general tourist facilities, whereby foreigners do not feel at a loss of 'how to get by' when they don't speak the language (i.e. clear and abundant sign-posting, maps at hand, etc.) and they can move around with a certain luxury (i.e. fast trains, developed air network throughout Europe, Latin America and beyond). For now, Spain has established itself as a fairly reasonable and interesting tourist destination.

And with Northern European tourists once again fed up with being 'ripped off' - this time by Greece - and thus heading to Turkey or beyond, I think we, like Spain, have to do something about it. Especially since tourism is Corfu's Number ONE industry, never mind Greece-wide.

Now, how complicated can it be to keep our visitors?

Let's just start by giving them a 'warm welcome', one of Greece's most special traits - and one that we seem to have lost somewhere along the way. What about saying 'hello' and 'good morning' with a smile on our face? How much would that cost us? And making sure there's some drinking water and toilet paper in the new arrivals' rooms after a long, tiresome, hot and sweaty trip, very often in the middle of the night.

And when the visitors drive into Corfu Town to check out our historic centre and shops, have a meal and a stroll, maybe we could bite our tongue and hold in our frustration, instead of cursing and swearing at them because they drive slowly (and carefully), and because they've just grabbed that parking spot we'd been eyeing! Then, maybe, they'll be happy to spend in our shops and local businesses. But... what about making sure there's something worth spending on? Something like fresh home-made food instead of frozen moussaka or frozen hamburgers and chips? Something like local products instead of Taiwanese plastic knick-knacks that they can get elsewhere? Something like hand-made crocheting instead of bright coloured T-shirts with vulgar slogans? Something like a relaxing day out on a traditional caique, instead of a hectic day out on an uncomfortably tightly-packed boat with blaring music and cheap wine? Something like a calm day of some gentle sight-seeing, good food and a swim, instead of the 'Grand Island Tour' that combines ALL the sight-seeing in one day, leaving one feeling dizzy, confused, certainly tired, and most likely unsatisfied?

Oh! I already know what your (defensive) response will be to all this: 'But the holidaymakers do not care for quality, just for low prices'. Is that really so nowadays? I would agree with you that it was the case back in the 90s. But things have changed, people have changed, standards of living have changed and demands have changed. And we need to recognize this in order to adapt. Plus, we are the ones who can determine the type of tourist we will attract.

What makes everyone assume all visitors enjoy loud music in the bars until the early hours of the morning? Automatically, when you do this, you are eliminating families, couples or elderly people who seek a peaceful holiday and an early night's sleep. Or, when you serve poor quality food in your restaurant, it is tantamount to ensuring that Greeks and Italians (who are good eaters) do not come back. And when you overcrowd the village harbour with your fishing and rental boats and make no room for yachts and sailing boats, you are of course turning away an additional form of tourism.

Back in the 80s farmers and fishermen abandoned their trade for the easier 'tourist-money', whereby they worked five months and lived twelve, instead of working all year round and living in basic style. But, just like in agriculture where you need to plant and seed in order to grow produce, similarly in all industries - tourism included - 'you need to give in order to get'. It's an old and wise saying yet one which is up-to-date - and it's sadly not reached the younger generations, who do not seem to realize that a tourist will not give if he doesn't get in return.

The above article is the opinion of the writer, whose name has been withheld on request. The writer is a Corfiot of mixed local and European parents, both involved 'hands-on' in the tourism/hospitality business, which the author grew up around. The author has worked in tourism locally and abroad.

Garlic is good for you!

Garlic doesn't just keep vampires at bay - it also fends off a host of other baddies. Containing high levels of antioxidants, it improves immune function, warding off colds and helping prevent cancer. Garlic also lowers cholesterol, protecting the heart and circulation. It thins the blood, assisting in fighting high blood pressure. And it has antibacterial, antiviral and antifungal properties, as well as being effective against internal parasites. These are very good reasons to consume plenty of garlic - but the best one of all is that it makes for absolutely delicious food!

Tip 1: To peel garlic easily, crush the cloves lightly with the handle of a knife. The papery skin will slip off.

Tip 2: Invest in a small mortar and crush garlic cloves to a paste with a pinch of coarse sea salt. Stir the paste into stews (meat, vegetables or pulses) just before serving. Garlic is at its most effective when crushed and only lightly cooked - that's why skordalia (see below) is a superfood!

Roasted Garlic

The very simplest way to prepare and eat garlic!

1 whole garlic head per person, olive oil

Preheat the oven to 400°F.

Peel away the outer layers of the garlic bulb skin, leaving the skins of the individual cloves intact. Using a knife, cut off 1/4 to a 1/2 inch of the top of cloves, exposing the individual cloves of garlic.

Place the garlic heads in a baking pan; muffin pans work well for this purpose. Drizzle a couple teaspoons of olive oil over each head, using your fingers to make sure the garlic head is well coated. Cover with aluminum foil. Bake for 30-35 minutes, or until the cloves feel soft when pressed.

Allow the garlic to cool enough so you can touch it without burning yourself. Use a small small knife cut the skin slightly around each clove. Use a cocktail fork or your fingers to pull or squeeze the roasted garlic cloves out of their skins.

Eat as is or mash with a fork and use for cooking. Alternatively, spread over warm lightly toasted bread, mix with yoghurt for a topping for baked potatoes, or use as a sauce on pasta, with grated cheese.

Tuna Spread with Garlic and Pesto

2 x 175 gr cans tuna in water, 2 tablespoons mayonnaise, 1 tablespoon prepared mustard, 2 tablespoons basil pesto (from a jar or home-made), 2 cloves finely chopped garlic

Drain the tuna well and mix it with the mayonnaise, mustard, pesto, and garlic.

You can use this spread as a starter dip, on toasted bread as bruschetta or as a sandwich filling with sliced tomato and lettuce (makes 4 sandwiches).

Skordalia

This is the local equivalent of Aioli (garlic mayonnaise), but instead of egg yolks pounded potatoes provide the emulsifying medium. It's served with a variety of vegetables according to the season, and is the traditional accompaniment for salt cod.

To make skordalia for four people, you need 4-6 medium potatoes (or more, depending on how much you like it!), 1 - 1 1/2 cloves of garlic per potato (start with one and work up!), olive oil and the juice of a lemon, and coarse sea salt. And a large wooden or stone mortar.

Peel and boil the potatoes in salted water until tender. When they are ready, remove from the water, cut into pieces and set aside to cool a little. Keep the water they were boiled in.

While the potatoes are cooling, put a large pinch of salt into the mortar with the garlic cloves and pound them with the pestle until the garlic has turned into a paste. Add the cooled potato pieces a few at a time and pound until they are completely mashed. As you pound, add a little of the boiling water and a good glug of olive oil. Keep adding a little boiling water and oil, and continue to pound. As the potato absorbs the moisture and becomes glooppy, start to beat the mixture with the pestle against the side of the mortar. It should reach a texture similar to mayonnaise, and be just thick enough to drop slowly off the pestle when you lift a blob of it. Finally, beat in the lemon juice. (You can cheat by giving it a brief blast with a stick blender, but don't overdo it - it shouldn't be like wallpaper paste; and it's the pounding that brings out the qualities of the garlic.)

Serve with a variety of boiled seasonal vegetable (some ideas below), which should include sliced boiled potatoes (or fried potato cakes). Add boiled or fried salt cod (battered or in fritter form) if you like. You can boil the potatoes together in one pan - just remove as many as you need to make the skordalia; the rest will keep warm in the water.

Other accompaniments:

In winter: chick peas, greens (wild or cultivated), sliced beetroot (not preserved in vinegar), steamed broccoli.

In spring: artichoke hearts, broad bean pods before the beans have developed (top and tail them and boil until tender), boiled eggs.

In summer: courgettes, green beans, vlytra (green leafy vegetable).

Spaghetti with Garlic

One of the easiest and tastiest pasta dishes you'll ever prepare! From humble origins in the slums of Rome, it has become one of the classic dishes of Italian cooking.

1/2 cup olive oil, 10 cloves garlic, 1/2 teaspoon salt, 1/2 teaspoon crushed red pepper flakes or a good grinding of black pepper, 3 tablespoons chopped fresh parsley, 500 gr spaghetti, 1/3 cup grated kefalotiri (Greek hard cheese)

Cook the pasta according to packet directions.

While the water for the spaghetti is heating, peel the garlic and chop as finely as you can. Put the oil and garlic in a small pan and place on a low heat. Allow to heat gently, then saute until the garlic is light gold. Remove from the heat; it will continue cooking. Add salt, pepper and parsley.

When the pasta is done (al dente), drain well and toss with the oil and garlic mixture. Serve the cheese at table for those who want some - but it is just as good without!

You could also add chunks of sausage (browned separately), and crumbled feta instead of the kefalotiri. Serves 4.

More garlic recipes next month.

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. Saturday
Mass at 19.00, Sunday Mass at 10.30
& 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

MEDICAL SERVICES

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

PLACES TO VISIT

Regional National Health Surgeries

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

IN CORFU TOWN

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

IN THE COUNTRY

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

Website Checklist

Does your present website meet these ten criteria?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Truetype Web Solutions

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The Corfiot Magazine

Corfu's English Language Monthly Established 1990

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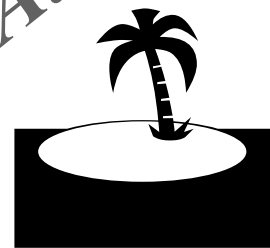
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