

The Corfiot

Corfu's English Language Monthly Magazine

November/December 2009

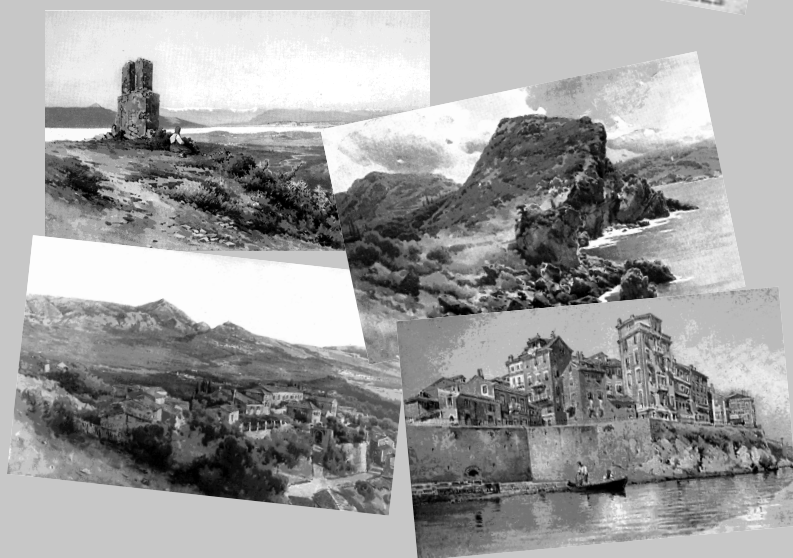
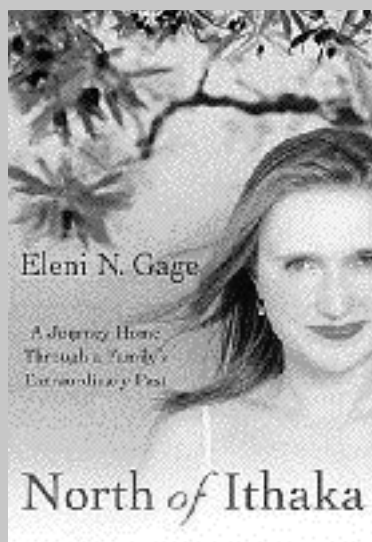
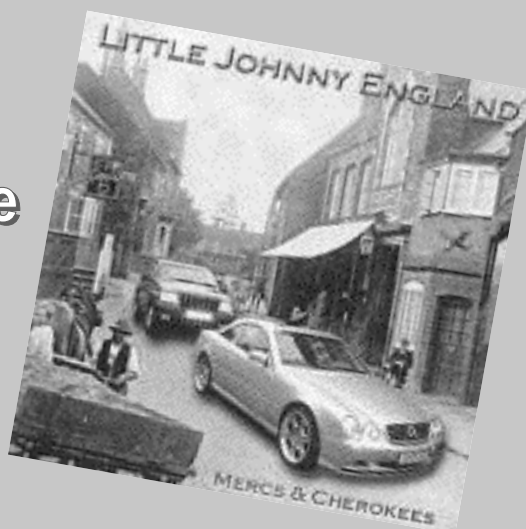
2 euro

No. 227

Christmas Gifts ...without the shopping

32 page

Bumper Edition



Wherever You Wish To Go... Travel First To

ALL WAYS TRAVEL

IATA AGENT - SAN ROCCO SQUARE

A MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL OUR FRIENDS

CALL: **26610 33955** (5 LINES)

Fax 26610 30471 Email: allwaystravel@ker.forthnet.gr

Website: www.allwaystravel.cd2.com



luv♥rfu properties

Affordable Homes!!! with ready paperwork



DOLL'S HOUSE, central village. Three bedroom house, ready to occupy. Cosy cottage style. Covered yard, quiet edge-of-village location, facilities close. 79,000 euro



KATIKIA HOUSE, Arillas. Delightfully pretty resale mini-villa in rural 'hamlet' ten minutes walk to lovely beach. Traditional Corfiot aesthetics, up-to-date construction and installations. Two bedrooms, garden, parking, sunny location, country view. Very quiet yet near to facilities of low-key resort. 150,000 euro ono



TRANQUILITY COTTAGE, New Perithia. Charming converted one storey home with large garden. Two bedrooms with en-suite bathrooms, large kitchen / living room. Permission to build further accommodation. Ten minutes walk to beach and a minute stroll to shops and restaurants. 139,500 euro



SPRING MEADOW HOUSES, Agnos. Four luxury houses, rural location near beach. Unique heated pool with Internet control. From 145,000 euro



LYRA HOUSE Ano Korakiana. Character village house, renovated with imagination. Three bedrooms, three bathrooms, sun terrace with sea view. Road access, parking close. 150,000 euro



SANDIE'S HOUSE, Agios Panteleimonas. Two bedroom village house, renovated and immaculate. Two large patios with outstanding sea view. Parking, bus, tavernas close. Near Acharavi. Reduced to 90,000 euro



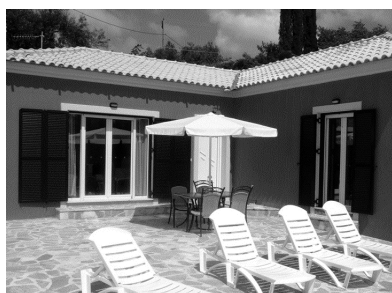
YELLOW HOUSE, in a Mountain Village. Spacious old house with three bedrooms, restored and ready to move in. Peaceful location 10 minutes from beach. 175,000 euro



THE SPITAKI, Sinarades. Little one bedroom house, fully equipped and furnished, and decorated to high design standard. 60,000 euro



GAVRADES HOUSE, Near Dafni. In a peaceful hamlet 10 minutes from the beach, two bedroom cottage-style house, fully renovated with style. Garden front and back, pleasant country outlook, parking bay. Now reduced to 149,000 euro



AGIOS IOANNIS, Elegant villa, two bedrooms, air-conditioned, with large pool. In peaceful country setting yet near good facilities. EOT license for tourism rental. Furnished and equipped. 189,000 euro ono

For these and many other properties,
call 6934 396335

email: Hilary.Paipeti@gmail.com

www.corfurealestate.com www.luvcorfurealestate.com

This Month...

AGIOTFEST 10 GETS UNDERWAY	14
<i>Paul McGovern starts planning AgiotFest 2010</i>	
CHRISTMAS IS COMING!	16
<i>Hilary Paipeti finds out what people want for Christmas</i>	
MANDOUKI - COMMENTARIES ON A SUBURB	20
<i>Jim Potts looks at what history's been saying about his 'village'</i>	
GALLANT GREECE	22
<i>Just after 'Ochi Day' Lionel Mann tells how Greece helped win the War</i>	
THE INSECTS OF CORFU	23
<i>Hilary Paipeti discovers butterflies, beetles... and a touch of magic</i>	
Regular Features	
Ear to the Ground - <i>It's Autumn!!!</i>	4
News - <i>Corfu Channel Incident wreck found?</i>	5
Church Notices - <i>What's on at Christmas at Holy Trinity</i>	6
Chaplain's Chat - <i>Celebrating a Real Person</i>	7
Notice Board - <i>Post your events</i>	8
Exclusive Report - <i>Rows over re-establishment of Corfu Light Railway</i>	9
Walks Programme - <i>All the walks 'til March & a Walk for Boxing Day</i>	10
Animal Welfare - <i>Promotions and Adoptions</i>	12
Doctor in the House - <i>Neck Pain</i>	13
Advice - <i>To Let or Not to Let</i>	24
In Your Garden - <i>Autumn Gold</i>	25
Food - <i>Simplifying the Christmas Meal</i>	26
Humour - <i>Holiday Complaints & Dumb Tourist Questions</i>	29



The Corfiot

The English Language Monthly Magazine
ISSN 1107-3640

Proprietor & Publisher

Pedestrian Publications

Afra, 49100 Corfu

Mobile: 6934 396335

email: Hilary.Paipeti@gmail.com

Website: www.thecorfiotmagazine.com

Postal Address P.O. Box 445, Corfu 49100

Editor

Hilary Whitton Paipeti

6934 396335

Columnists - Contributors

Anthemis, Pauline Buchan, John Gulland

Lionel Mann, Phil Mawson, Paul McGovern

Ernest Porter, Jim Potts, Lucy Steele

Alexandros Tsopelas, Louisa van Vuurde

Printed by

TYPOEKDOTIKI

ALIKES, NEXT TO MOTHERCARE

Tel. 26610 37755

Walk Corfu Town with John Waller

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

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

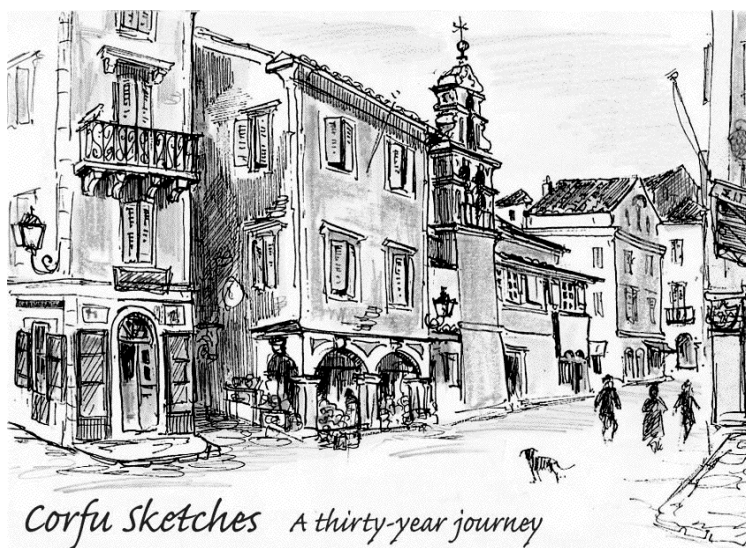
Walk 1: Along the Tourist Trail

Walk 2: To the Jewish Quarter

Walk 3: To the Old Port and the Market

Walk 4: To Campiello, the Old Town

You'll see Corfu Town with different eyes!



Corfu sketches A thirty-year journey

Sketches by Theresa Nicolas Text by John Waller

ear to the ground

NOT MANY YEARS AGO, THE CORFIOTS WERE MOURNING THE LOSS OF FOUR SEASONS. First autumn diminished and disappeared; we would go to sleep on a summer night, and wake on a winter's morn. I even remember the changeover happening whilst I was paying a visit to some relatives who were staying in Gouvia; having set out on the bike in summer clothes, we froze on the way home.

Then spring deserted us. There would be no slow build-up in the hot weather, but a sudden heat-wave which would wither all the bright spring flowers.

Just now, at the time of writing this month's 'Ear' (though winter's blast may have descended on us by the time you read it), we're in the grip of a genuine autumn. Daytime temperatures hovering around 20 degrees, nights still mild enough only to require a light duvet (and half the time you end up throwing it off), and even some mosquitos still around (not such good news, that one). Unfortunately, the same autumn weather brings torrential rain; the lanes are rivers, and fields are one big squelch already. It seems that our reverting climate has also restored the proverbial 'forty days' of precipitation that the older folk remember. I remember a few of those, too.

For relatively new arrivals who possibly thought they were settling in a nice warm, unrainy Mediterranean island, it is interesting to note that Corfu is wetter than a lot of places in the UK. Up to the end of October (that is, before the really violent storms set in), nearly 95 centimetres of rain had fallen on the island. That's nearly 32 inches. And goodness knows what's been added during the last couple of weeks. Updates in coming editions!

I don't know what supporters of Climate Change (note: they no longer call it 'Man-Made Global Warming') would make of this. I'd like to sit them in the middle of a clanging Corfiot storm and ask them if they REALLY believe that mankind could be in have any influence on such events. The Ancient Greeks had more sense when they blamed the Olympian gods.

Talking of which, Climate Change has officially been promoted to the status of a religion. An English judge has ruled that an employee who refused to fly on business because of his fanatical belief in 'Man-Made Global Warming', and who was sacked as a result, was a victim of discrimination, just as if, said the judge, the belief had been a religious one. I predicted this in January 2001, even before 'Man-Made Global Warming' had really exploded into public consciousness:

Thousands of years ago, more 'primitive' cultures, living at the edge of survival, blamed a higher power for natural phenomena. They often blamed natural disasters on their own errors and misdemeanors - a punishment for their neglect of the gods. Thus was religion born, and it was only after the Age of Enlightenment and through the development of physics as a science that Man recognized the physical - rather than metaphysical - causes of natural phenomena.

It seems that deep in the human psyche there exists a guilt that tells us that our misfortunes are our own fault. Just as the primitives blamed their own bad actions for the wrath of the weather gods, so we in present times are driven by the same deep seated need for self-castigation.

Global Warming fits the bill! The floods and fires and famines are all our own fault, a punishment for our materialistic outlook,

which has caused it to happen! What a satisfying target for self-reproach!

There are other people who think that climate is cyclical, and that there's nothing we can do about it. Maybe that's what the return to Corfu's old weather patterns is telling us.

AS I ANNOUNCED IN THE OCTOBER ISSUE, DUE TO NON-PAYMENT BY A FEW ADVERTISERS, I am having to 'double-up' some issues this winter. In compensation, I've made this somewhat of a 'bumper issue', with extra pages, and an increase in the number of features, some of which - even this early - have a Christmas flavour. Lucky chance has also dictated that our new permanent Chaplain's first message is a Christmas one.

So it only remains for me to wish you a Very Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year. I'll see you again in mid-February.

Garden Maintenance

**Trees and Lawns Cut
Clearance Undertaken**

Own equipment

**Plus all year round
Villa Management and
Maintenance**

6939 161398



**SATELLITE
INSTALLERS**

☐ NATIONAL
GEOGRAPHIC

**TPS
star**

BBC PRIME

**TPS
cinefamily**

**LARGE SATELLITE DISHES FOR BBC
SPECIAL OFFERS
FOR THE FULL SKY PACKAGE**

**TPS
foot**

**TPS
CINECLUB**

**WATCH MOVIES, SPORT & DOCUMENTARIES
WITH A ONE-OFF PAYMENT**

from: **190 euro**

BBC

**Tel: 26610 34657 / 26947
6944413900 Ask for Paul**

FOUR

English spoken - Visit our shop behind Methodiou St.

I. ROUSSOS - ANDREA MARMORA 9 - TK49100



AUTOMATED ELECTRICAL SYSTEMS

SALES AND INSTALLATION OF SATELLITE SYSTEMS

Specializing in 2.4 m Dishes to receive BBC, ITV and Sky freeview or Sky package on the 80cm dish, also Hotbird, Astra, World sat, Hispersat and many more. All systems and needs catered for with free on-site no-obligation survey and quote.

SALES AND INSTALLATION OF SECURITY SYSTEMS

Wireless and hard wired systems for the home and villa market. From a basic alarm to more advanced systems with GPS mobile dialing that notifies the owner of any activation from flood, fire or intruder. Free on-site no-obligation survey and quote.

CALL CHRIS

26610 57263

6937 813195

csharp@otenet.gr

Established in Corfu since 1991

Now installing in
Kefallonia
Zante
Paxos

NOTICE BOARD

Carol would like to thank
all her customers from the
'Merry-Go-Round'
for their support over the years.
She has now closed
but will be busy running Car Boot Sales

Car Boot Sales

Every Sunday, 10am
at La Veranda, Dassia
(facing the Corfu Chandris Hotel)

To book a table,
call Carol 6982 458157

*New! Learn to Linedance
Never danced before?
Why not give it a try!*

*Join Janet & Kevin in our new beginners
class, open to both males and females.
No need to have a partner.*

*Classes start Tuesday, 1 December,
from 11.00 - 13.00
at @home, Danilia*

*For more information, call
26610 75161 or 6955 334676*

Find Inner Peace and Happiness
through Meditation. For information on
classes, call Maureen McNamara on
6938 644543

HELP THE

CORFU DONKEY SANCTUARY

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

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

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

IBAN: GR88 0140 6800 6800 0210 1302 116.

SWIFT: CRBAGRAAXXX

THE ARK

ANIMAL WELFARE SHOP

11 Ag. Dimitriou Street, Corfu Town
(Behind Serano Cake Shop)

**OPEN Tuesday, Wednesday,
Thursday, Friday 10.00 - 13.00**

Get a bargain & support animal welfare!
www.corfuanimalwelfare.com

Craft Fair

The annual Craft Fair will take place
on the last weekend in November

Friday, 27 November 16.00-21.00

Saturday, 28 November 10.00-21.00

Sunday, 29 November 10.00-17.00

The new venue is the Viros Community Centre, near the local school
Come along for a huge selection of unusual Christmas gifts!

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

CHURCH NOTICES

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH

Open Monday to Friday 09.30 - 13.00. Tel: 26610 31467

Email: htccorfu@gmail.com Website: www.holytrinitycorfu.net

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.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES & EVENTS

Sunday, 20 December, 19.00 Nine Lessons & Carols
Tuesday, 22 December, 17.30 Carol Singing around Town
Followed by mince pies
and mulled wine
Thursday, 24 December, Christmas Eve, 22.30
Midnight Holy Communion
Friday, 25 December, Christmas Day, 10.30
Holy Communion

Holy Trinity Church runs a 'Kids Club' at the same time as the Sunday Service on two Sundays a month, the first and the third. If you are interested in learning more about the activities in the Club, please come along to the Church, or call the Church office on 26610 31467 or phone Chris on 6936 077380

Christmas Fair

Holy Trinity Church

Saturday, 28 November

10.00 - 13.00

Free Admission

Refreshments, Games, Books

Great Christmas Gifts, Cards

and lots more...

Including a

Christmas Puppet Show

11.00

Nativity Play

(by Jackie Dallos from Lefkada)

& Christmas Singalong

Friday, 4 December, 19.00

Due to very few children at Sunday School, last year's Nativity Play was performed by adults. It was such fun that we've decided to do it again! Don't miss out on the great performance!! Get there early to ensure a seat!!!

Refreshments will be on sale afterwards.

This month's name days

04. Varvara	05. Diogenos, Savvas	06. Nikolaos
09. Anna	12. Spiridon	14. Anthi, Elefterios
17. Daniel, Dionysios		22. Anastasia
24. Evgenia	25. Christos, Chrysa	26. Emmanouil, Iosif
30. Stefanos		

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 some nibbles.

Corfu Channel Incident wreck discovered?

Researchers believe that they have discovered a section of the bow of a British destroyer that was badly damaged by Albanian mines in 1946. The wreckage was found 50 metres underwater in the channel between Corfu and Albania, where the peacetime mining incident took place. Known as the 'Corfu Incident', the event strained the relationship between Britain and Albania for decades, and diplomatic ties were only restored in 1991.

The destroyer, HMS Volage, was one of a squad of four Royal Navy vessels which were attempting to maintain the Corfu Channel as International Waters, after British warships had earlier been fired on from the Albanian shore. Whilst making a dog-leg near the shore, HMS Saumarez hit a mine, causing severe damage to the structure and engine. Attempting to establish a tow, Volage also hit a mine, blowing off her bow and killing six sailors instantly. Altogether, 44 crew members died on the two ships; their memorial, together with the graves of 12 bodies that were recovered, stands in Corfu's British Cemetery.

Despite suffering severe damage, Volage managed to tow Saumarez to port in Corfu, proceeding backwards due to loss of the bow.

'While largely obscured by mud, the remains show steel frames, electrical wiring, ammunition, stacks of ceramic plates, a British canteen and the remains of boots or shoes,' said James Delgado, president of the Institute of Nautical Archaeology, who was part of the international team of experts. The institute is nonprofit research body affiliated with Texas A&M University.

The discovery was part of an effort to create an underwater cultural heritage map of the Albanian coastline and is being coordinated by the Key West, Florida-based RPM Nautical Foundation and aided by Albanian authorities.

The artifacts are to be raised and analyzed for confirmation, 'but the nature of the finds strongly suggest ... this was where HMS

Volage hit the mine that tore off its bow,' Delgado said. 'The area of Volage blasted off by the mine was forward of the deck guns and included the forward mess, where some of the crew ate and slept, as well as storage compartments. The dishes, shoes and ammunition are evidence that fit.'

The wreckage, which lies off the Albanian port of Saranda, 185 miles (300 kilometers) south of Tirana, the country's capital, was examined by a remote-controlled submarine carrying three cameras.

The British sailors' deaths started a dispute between Britain and Albania that lasted 45 years.

Albania refused to pay Britain damages awarded by the International Court of Justice at The Hague. Britain retaliated by blocking the release of Albanian gold seized by the Nazis during World War II. The claims were settled in 1992 and 1996 agreements, under which ownership of most of the gold was returned to Albania.

Project Director Auron Tare told *The Corfiot* that the wreckage was found three months ago, but the British and Albanian governments have only now decided to make the discovery public.

With great regret we report the death of John Forshaw. A very popular member of our community, John lived in nearby Kokkini and was a very keen golfer, frequently on the links at Ermones, as well as a regular on the Saturday Walks. He had been bravely fighting leukemia for a number of years. Our deepest sympathy to his wife Judith and the rest of the family.

Lionel Mann

KALAMI TRAVEL

Winter Travel - Summer Holidays

Central Office: Kalami

Tel. 26630 91062 Fax 26630 91369

Port Office: 8, Sp. Gardikiotis St.
New Port

Tel. 26610 81581

Fax 26610 81582

■ 20 years in Kalami

■ Accommodation for winter

in hotels and apartments

■ Air & ferry tickets

■ Organised trips

■ Winter holidays all over the world

email: kalamits@otenet.gr & kalamitr@otenet.gr

website: www.kalamits.com

Christmas Message: Celebrating a Real Person

✍ John Gulland

As the recently arrived new Chaplain to Holy Trinity Anglican Church I have been asked by Hilary to continue the long tradition of writing the regular Chaplain's Chat column for the Corfiot. This is a privilege which I am very pleased to continue in the belief that Holy Trinity has faithfully served the English speaking community of Corfu over the years, and I trust will continue to do so. As my Bishop would say, the Chaplain has responsibility for the cure of souls in the congregation of Holy Trinity and for the wider English speaking community of Corfu.

I always anticipated that I would hit the ground running upon arrival and that prediction has been fulfilled. Sadly, I was involved in three funerals within the first 10 days, but it is at these times that the Church seeks to support those in need. Happily, the Church is also there to serve on joyful occasions as well, and I have already had the privilege of conducting a 'Marriage Blessing'.

My wife, Mary, and I arrived on 15 October, and we have realized that this was good timing because it enables us to get to know the residents and local people of the island during the winter months before everyone becomes embroiled in the next major influx of visitors in the Spring.

In the coming month we will be celebrating Advent, Christmas and the New Year. A time in the calendar when we appreciate as much light as possible in our lives. Advent and Christmas lights and candles are a symbol of the coming of 'The Light of the World', Jesus the Son of God. However, it is very easy for this to remain a merely symbolic experience and we fail to celebrate the real person of Jesus Christ. Let me illustrate this with a true story:

A young boy was being brought up by his mother alone because the boy's father was away at war. A beginning to life which many youngsters must have experienced. However, the boy's mother was determined that her son should be aware that he was dearly loved by his father.

She placed a photograph of father prominently on a chest of drawers in the boy's bedroom. It was a photograph of Father in his impressive uniform to help her son to understand why he wasn't at home and in the hope that he would grow up with a real love and respect for him.

Each evening mother and son would pray together about the things of life which concerned them most. Naturally, at the end of

their prayers about daily life they would pray for the boy's absent father and give thanks for him. To help her son to relate to his father, she encouraged him to kiss the photograph before jumping into bed for the night. This had become a ritual in the boy's life which he appreciated and enjoyed. It gave him a real sense of security.

The greatest joy for mother came when it was announced that the war was over, and she waited impatiently for father's return. The boy was glad because his mother seemed so happy, but he was at an age when he couldn't really understand what the excitement was all about. The father's homecoming was an occasion of much smiling, weeping and laughing.

On the first night of the homecoming, mother insisted upon prayers together and father was there, too, of course. The time came for the boy to give thanks for his father and then a strange thing happened. Mother said to him, 'You can kiss your father now.' The boy leapt out of bed to the chest of drawers where the photograph was. As usual he took the photograph carefully and kissed it affectionately, leaving his father bemused!

We, too, can get so committed to the symbols of Christmas that we forget or don't recognize the real person we are celebrating.

Spear Travels

RETAIL AGENT FOR ATOL HOLDERS



40 High Steet, Boroughbridge,
York YO51 9AW



*British based travel agent
with over 30 years Corfu experience*

*Charter and Scheduled Flights. All durations. Late deals.
Packaged & Tailor-made holidays, Car hire, Hotels, Boat hire*

*UK agent for several independent
Corfu & Paxos operators*

Contact: Peter Cookson

Tel. 01423 324545 Fax: 01423 323432

email: peter@spear-travels.com

website: www.spear-travels.com

Rows break out over establishment of Corfu Light Railway

✍ *Ernest Porter (Transport & Communications Reporter)*

A row broke out in the Corfu government last week, over the proposed reintroduction of a Light Railway System for the island.

Plans had been well underway to start excavations in the old village area of Agios Ioannis but Dr Leon Locomotopoulos (Secretary General of Organismos Sidirodromon Ellados), speaking on behalf of the association, stated that any introduction of a small-gauge railway on the island would 'fly in the face' of O.S.E.'s own plans to build a conventional railway on Corfu, linking up with the main lines of the Greek mainland.

Tempers flared at this 'closed to the General Public' debate, culminating in a Triang OO Tender being hurled at the mainland delegates by an undisclosed member of the C.L.R. Luckily, he missed.

The CLR has been under increasing pressure of late, with the unexpected departure of former Secretary Phillipos (Fat Controller) Noswamiadis within the last few weeks. He has yet to be replaced effectively, having been 'shunted into the sidings'; a euphemism for being shunted into the sidings.

On top of that, a row erupted between local mayor Giorgos Halikia and his uncle, Kostas 'Silverback' Halikia, the latter objecting to the proposed compulsory purchase of his vegetable plot at the back of the taverna, the plot in question to be used to build a state-of-the-art dormitory station for the Corfu Flyer, the first stop on the way west out of Corfu Town. Alternative plans to site the station on Arapaho land in the Ropa valley were scuppered when the quantity surveyor sent to assess the area was reported missing.

O.S.E. are using these divisions within the C.L.R to further their own ambitions, but may yet be thwarted, as an independent report recently published in Trainworld suggests that the Ropa Valley may become too waterlogged in the winter months for the easement of heavier rolling stock across it, and slower trains in this vulnerable area will obviously be subject to delay and ambush.

Things are coming to a head (of steam) over the building of a mainline station in Agios Ioannis. A rival bid, not previously disclosed, has come in from a German firm to construct an S.S. (super-station) at a location close to Varipatades. Despite the tender not being accepted, work has already started on this massive rival to the more modest template of the Agios Ioannis version,

Work is occurring daily on this edifice, or I should say nightly, as the C.L.R. (its membership heavily split now on the entire issue) has conceded to night-construction only, to proceed with the new station without too much attention from interested parties. The sheep have noticed, however, as they have been prevented from their traditional grazing by a posh new wire fence surrounding the perimeter of the station with its attendant marshalling yards.

On a happier note, Mr Giorgos Kolourades has revealed the livery to be adopted by the first trains: a smart olive green, indis-

tinguishable almost from the surrounding flora; the timetable is for the first commercial journey to take place Easter 2010 with an 0-6-0 Joffre steam locomotive drawing six smart carriages. The only main issue here would seem to be the confusion as to exactly which stations the train will travel between. Oca Services have asked for a station to be built in Agios Ioannis in any event, to form part of an infrastructure capable of carrying the large audience numbers expected at Agiotfest 2010.

In a separate development, controversy was raging in the Ionian Parliament over the 'leak' which has shed doubt upon the rumour concerning the systematic theft of Corfu's seabed by Italian dredgers, and transportation of the golden horde to islandbuilding Arabs in Dubai.

An anonymous tip-off to this journalist led to a clandestine meeting with a member of said parliament in a basement in old Corfu town. Chainsmoking and sweating profusely, the politician - who of course for legal reasons cannot be named - admitted that the rumour had been spread by officials in the first instance, to detract attention from the real reason lying behind the narrowing of beaches at Glyfada and Myrtiotisa. It appears that a deal has indeed been struck with the Italians.

But instead of Dubai developers, Corfu Light Railway is once more at the centre of the crisis. Breaking down in tears, the informant admitted that, yes, there have been Italian dredgers in the area off the western approaches, and, yes, a section of seabed has been scoured. But the perpetrator behind this industry has been a consortium of businessmen known to have links with Trenitalia and the Corfu Light Railway.

So the fantasy of a high-speed connection between Brindisi and Glyfada may become a reality after all. The mysterious consortium is operating under the name of EasyRail. Bullet trains have apparently been ordered from Japan, bringing the hope of swift and sure migration of Italian tourists to our beaches (slim or otherwise) by the year 2015.

It would seem that the tender is being put before the engine, as no precontract talks have yet taken place with Contractors, although it has been suggested, without sarcasm, that Lego are interested in the development of a 'plastic' tunnel of immense strength, being laid from shore to shore, at great expedience.

Following up on this lead, I flew to Palermo to meet with the 'brains' behind the Italian end of this operation, Signor Alberto 'Knuckles' Baloni. He assured me over a balone sandwich, that the link would happen 'ifa necessary over thera deada bodies'

'How can you be so sure?' I asked, politely refusing the pretty white stuff laid out in a simulated railway line on the desk before me.

'Becausa', he replied, snatching the straw from my hand, and fixing me coldly with his remaining eye as he inadvertently sliced the tip of his finger with his razor blade, 'I willa maka them an offera they cannata refusa.'

WALKS

WINTER PROGRAMME

SATURDAY, 21 NOVEMBER Agii Deka: Old Path to the Summit (2 1/2 hours ***). Meet in Agii Deka Village car park, 10.15.

SHORT WALK Benitses: The Waterworks (1 hour **). Lunch at Paxinos, Benitses.

SATURDAY, 28 NOVEMBER Kassiopi: The 'Saracen Trail' (2 hours ***). Meet at Imerolia Harbour, near Kassiopi, 10.15.

SHORT WALK Kassiopi: The Headland (1 hour *). Lunch at Skondros Taverna, Acharavi.



**Kassiopi Headland:
Short Walk, 28 November**

SATURDAY, 5 DECEMBER Pelekas: Sinarades and the Kyriakis Valley (10-11 kms, 3 hours ***). Meet at Pelekas, last bend before the village, 10.00.

SHORT WALK Agios Ioannis Heath (1 hour *). Lunch at Kostas Taverna, Agios Ioannis.

SATURDAY, 12 DECEMBER Agros: The Valley of the Great River (10-11 kms, 3 hours *** NEW!). Meet at Athini Junction, Agros, south end, 10.00.

SHORT WALK Doukades (1 hour *). Lunch at Doukades.

SATURDAY, 19 DECEMBER Giannades: Circuit of the Theotoky Estate (6-7 kms, 2 - 2 1/2 hours ** NEW!). Meet at Tristrato (Giannades/Marmaro/Ermones junction, just before Giannades), 10.30.

SHORT WALK Theotoki Valley (1 - 1 1/2 hours *). Christmas Lunch at Raffles (advance booking essential).

SATURDAY, 26 DECEMBER Sinarades: West Coast Loop (6-7 kms, 1 1/2 hours **). Meet at Sinarades Square, 10.30.

SHORT WALK Same Walk and meeting point & time. Lunch TBA.

SATURDAY, 2 JANUARY Liapades: The Olive Way (7-8 kms, 2 - 2 1/2 hours **). Meet in Liapades Square, 10.00.

SHORT WALK Liapades: The Short Olive Way (1 hour). Lunch at Doukades.

SATURDAY, 9 JANUARY Agios Stefanos: Cape Agia Varvara Lagoons, Coast & Hinterland (9-10 kms, 3 hours *** NEW!). Meet Agios Stefanos Car Park, 10.00.

SHORT WALK Agios Stefanos: Cape Agia Varvara Easy Circuit (1 - 1 1/2 hours). Lunch TBA.

SATURDAY, 16 JANUARY Paramonas: The Pavlianas & Vouniatades (9-10 kms, 2 1/2 - 3 hours **** NEW!). Meet at Pavliana junction on Agios Mattheos - Paramonas road, 10.30.

SHORT WALK The Pavlianas (1 hour). Lunch at Angela's Taverna, Pentati.

SATURDAY, 23 JANUARY Lakones: Alimatades, the 'Ghost Village' and the 'Bella Vista' Path (12-13 kms, 3 - 3 1/2 hours ****). Meet at Lakones, first coffee bar, 10.00.

SHORT WALK Lakones: Short Circuit (1 1/2 hours). Lunch at Doukades.

SATURDAY, 30 JANUARY Strinilas: The High Track & the Well Descent (7-8 kms, 2 1/2 - 3 hours ****). Meet at Stamatis, Strinilas, 10.00.

SHORT WALK Strinilas: The 'Dragon Church' (1 hour). Lunch at Stamatis Taverna, Strinilas.

SATURDAY, 6 FEBRUARY Agios Mattheos: Mountain, 'Balconies' & Oak Forest (8-9 kms, 2 1/2 hours ****). Meet at Agios Mattheos, north end, 10.00.

SHORT WALK Agios Gordis Beach. Lunch at Angela's Taverna, Pentati.

SATURDAY, 13 FEBRUARY Kaminaki: Hills and Coast (10-11 kms, 3 hours **** NEW!). Meet at Kaminaki Petrol Station Kafenion, 10.00.

SHORT WALK Coastal Path (1 hour). Lunch at Thomas Taverna, Dassia.

SATURDAY, 20 FEBRUARY Vatos: The 'Best Beach in the World' (8-9 kms, 2 1/2 hours ****). Meet at 19th Hole Bar, Vatos, 10.00.

SHORT WALK Ropa Valley (1 hour). Lunch at 19th Hole Bar, Vatos.

SATURDAY, 27 FEBRUARY Agios Panteleimonas: The Nun's Trail & the Upper Roman Path (8-9 kms, 2 1/2 - 3 hours ****). Meet at Freddo Bar, Acharavi, 10.00 for onward car trip.

SHORT WALK Saint Spiridon Headland (1 hour). Lunch at Skondros Taverna, Acharavi

For information about the Winter Walks Programme please call Hilary on 6934 396335. For information on the parallel programme of short walks, please call Maureen on 6938 644543 to find out time and place of meeting, which may not be the same as for the longer walk. Guiding fee 2 euros. Lunch optional.



**Coastal
Lagoons
near
Avlaki:
9 January**

A Walk for Boxing Day

Kanakades: The Olive Hills

A short exploration of the north-east quadrant of the olive-cloaked hills between Liapades and Giannades. The climbing is at the very start, and thereafter you are in rolling country, with a long descending yomp back to Kanakades.

STARTING POINT: Kanakades Village Square (you could start in Liapades square if it is more convenient)

TIME: 1 1/2 - 2 hours

ASCENT: 150 metres

TERRAIN: Tracks, minor roads, paths

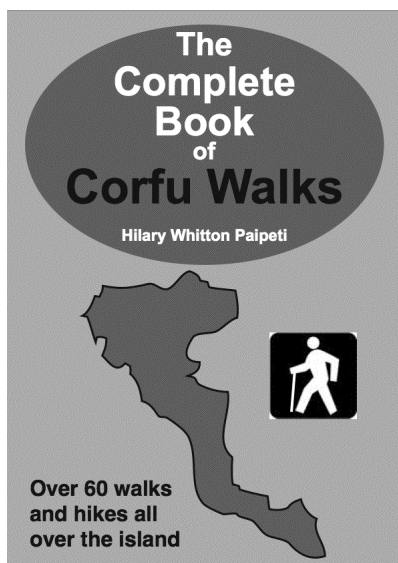
RATING: Moderate

Start in the square by taking the paved alley between the shop and the church. Go right at the first junction of alleys, then bear left on a lane. The lane climbs gently to the rear of the village; after it curves left and runs flat, you take a lane to the right, marked with a yellow Corfu Trail sign (though this now is not the course of the Trail). At the next junction bear right again and climb more steeply past a quarry. Ignore the first track left immediately after the quarry, and a few hundred metres further up, take the next track left (the second after the quarry). A short ascent, and this track runs out. On the right is a barbed wire strand and on the left a line of rocks. At the top of the line of rocks, look for the start of a path. This is hard to spot, but cast around; a metre off the track, it is obvious. The path winds up through the olive grove, the sections as it ascends the low terraces being well worn, while flat parts are less defined. In general, the course is uphill and bearing right. After a few minutes, you see the horizon at the top of the grove. Make for this, and you emerge on a track. Turn right and follow the track through forest and olive groves. Where the surface becomes concrete and a concrete way leads uphill on the left, carry straight on.

Follow the main track until you reach a junction where a roofless breezeblock building stands on the left. Here take the track to the right. Ignore the first track right, and proceed to a more major junction of tracks, where large red arrows are painted on the rocks. Here turn right and follow the track initially through low, open forest, then down through olive groves. You pass the entrance to a quarry and continue, partly with a steep descent, to a junction. Here bear right, now gently downhill.

This way, straight on and almost continually descending, is your route back. At one point, you pass a disused dump bordered by massively reinforced fencing with a barbed wire extension tilted inwards, obviously intended to prevent the dangerous rubbish from escaping (though, as you will see at the far end of the fence, it can quite easily sneak out the side). Occasional sweeping views of the Ropa Valley are on the left and altogether it's a good yomp on a gentle downhill that doesn't tax the knees. Eventually, the way levels out and hits a proper motor road. Here turn right and it's about ten minutes back to Kanakades square (bear right at the fork just as you enter the village proper).

This walk is one of more than 60 contained in:



In response to popular demand, the publisher of The Corfiot Magazine has just launched 'The Complete Book of Corfu Walks', a follow up to the successful and much acclaimed 'Corfu Book of Walks' (1987) and 'Second Book of Corfu Walks' (1995, 1999). Ten years down the line, author and Corfiot editor Hilary Whitton Paipeti has catalogued many new walks, and made changes and improvements to old favourites from the books. Already, the publication contains more than 60 walks, and a total of over 100 is planned within the next two years.

The Complete Book of Corfu Walks is now on sale at a price of 20 euros, with payment set up via the secure and user-friendly PayPal system. As soon as payment is verified, the purchaser will receive by email the pdf copy (file size 750 KB approx). Each walk is published on one or two A4 sheets, so there is no need to carry around a book, and possibly worry about it getting ruined by rain.

Buyers' contact details will be kept on record, and they will be sent FREE UPDATES on an annual basis or upon request, for three years after purchase. This means that the guide can be continually brought up to date - unlike a printed edition, which rapidly loses relevance due to changes on the ground. Corfu Walks buyers are encouraged to help by sending information about any changes they encounter.

Buyers who do not wish to use the PayPal system may contact the publisher by email for bank account details, in order to transfer the money direct. hilary.paipeti@gmail.com

ANIMAL WELFARE

News from The Ark

Info/Bazaar in Corfu Town Centre

Because World Animal Day fell on the day chosen for the national elections (4 October), we were unable to organise any celebrations. However, a couple of young girls walked around in the town centre with billboards and a collecting box, also handing out leaflets. Thank you Cloe, and also Karen and Willy.

If WAD had been a week later, we could have made an excellent promotion for animal welfare and what we trying to achieve. A ship-owner kindly lent us his empty shop, in a prime location - the little street leading from the National Bank of Greece towards the little square with the well-head. Lots of people stopped and had a look on our information, and of course many also visited the shop section, where we had many articles at bargain prices.

The result of being in such a good central spot was evident, with more sales and more people informed about animal matters.

We also had some missing dogs reported to us, and some people interested in adopting a local dog instead of buying a pedigree, often from a Balkan country. We hope to have a similar opportunity at the start of December. So if you have good articles we can sell or and you can give us a hand in the shop, contact us. Thank you, John, for lending us the little shop for a while.

Adoption and Paperwork Problems

New owners made a special trip for Kyri, now in Dover, England. A Greek family took Kyri as a puppy, but when she grew a bit bigger the landlord forbade them to keep the dog, even though it is stipulated in Law 3170-2003 that 'everyone living in a apartment building in towns can have two dogs/cats.' As we know, there are laws in theory and laws in practice... So this sweet black pup came to us. Fenella, an Englishwoman who had already saved a Corfu dog on Paleokastritsa beach in October last year, felt that she had also to adopt Kyri; she went from Dover to France, then drove through Belgium and up to Amsterdam where Kyri was arriving at Schiphol Airport, then the same journey back. At the ferry terminal in the evening, the customs would not let the dog on board. It was a problem with the paperwork: in the passport the flea and tick treatment had been written down as taking place first at 16.00 and then changed to 18.00. It was just an error, and whether it was 16.00 or 18.00 both times were within the limits. As a result, they had to stay overnight and visit a French vet the next morning, obtaining a fax from the Corfu vet confirming the paperwork. The case was settled so easily, and Kyri could board. Now she is a happy dog, enjoying the company of Corfiot Filos and three English dogs. So everyone travelling with their dogs to UK, be warned: The jobsworth customs officials can make difficulties over nothing...

Louisa van Vuurde

The ARK Shop wishes a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all our valued customers and friends.

We will have our annual Xmas Raffle in the shop on Tuesday, 22 December at 12 noon. There will be lots of excellent prizes to be won! The shop is located in Corfu Town, behind Serano Cake Shop.

We will re-open at 10am on Tuesday, 12 January 2010.

Christmas is nearly here and it's time to reach out and offer a little comfort to our dear furry friends. While we care for our beloved family pets, let's not forget the stray and abandoned animals on Corfu. Could you bring a poor, defenseless animal in from the cold; find a space in your home for a loveable kitten or puppy this Christmas? Could you foster an animal while it recovers from an operation? They all need our help, please don't forget them! Please call 6979 798202 for information.

MOVING HOUSE? LEAVING CORFU?

If you are at the stage of having a good clear-out, for whatever reason, don't throw your unwanted items away.

Most of you know The ARK has a small shop in town, and we will sell anything from a set of cutlery to a washing machine! All items accepted must be in clean condition; all electrical items must be in working order.

So, if you have any unwanted items, like books, dvds, winter clothing, shoes, electrical items, kitchen equipment etc., we will be happy to take them off your hands!

Proceeds from all sales go towards helping the stray, abandoned animals on Corfu, of which there are too many.

Please call 6975 833654 to make arrangements for drop-off or pick-up. Visit our website www.corfuanimalwelfare.com

AN APPEAL

Marj PANDI is an ardent animal lover. She works long hours housing, caring for and finding homes for so many of Corfu's stray and abandoned animals.

Marj is being sued in court on 7 December 2009 on the charge of breeding and selling dogs without a license, the last person who would do such a thing, as she is a strong advocate of sterilisation!

We can show our support by being in the courthouse on 7 December; let's all stand strong behind Marj!

Lucy Steele, M.B.E. - Former British Vice Consul, Corfu

VETERINARY CLINIC

Dr C. Bourloyiannis - Dr E. Efthimiadi

Surgical and Medical Care

Full range of Diagnostic Equipment (X-Rays, ECGs etc)

Hospital Facilities Pet Accessorires

BOARDING KENNELS FOR DOGS AND CATS

24 - Hour Emergency Service

Tel. 26610 33277 & 54695

Eth. Paleokastritsa 31 - Solari

DOCTOR IN THE HOUSE

Neck Pain

 **Alexandros Tsopelas**

Dr Alexandros Tsopelas M.R.C.G.P.
General Practitioner (UK trained)
Diplomas in Dermatology,
Medical Acupuncture, Diabetes
39 Alexandras Ave, San Rocco Square
Surgery: 26610 24096
Mobile: 6945 791120



Most people will experience neck pain at some point in their lives. Neck pain can be acute, meaning it lasts a few hours to a few weeks, or it can be chronic. Neck pain that lasts several weeks or longer is considered chronic neck pain. Most causes of neck pain aren't serious. But sometimes neck pain can signify something more serious. If your neck pain is so severe that you can't touch your chin to your chest despite a few days of self-care, seek immediate medical attention.

SYMPTOMS

Neck pain takes many forms.

Signs and symptoms of neck pain may include:

- Pain in your neck that may feel sharp or dull
- Stiffness in your neck
- Difficulty going about your daily tasks because of pain or stiffness in your neck
- Shoulder pain in addition to neck pain, in some cases
- Back pain in addition to neck pain, in some cases
- Vertigo

CAUSES Neck pain is common. More than half of people develop a bout of neck pain at some time in their life. One survey done in the UK found that, of adults aged 45-75 years, about 1 in 4 women and about 1 in 5 men had current neck pain.

Types and causes of neck pain include:

'MECHANICAL' NECK PAIN is the most common type. This is sometimes called 'simple' or 'non-specific' neck pain. Causes include minor injuries or sprains to muscles or ligaments in the neck. This type of pain sometimes can last for years.

A WHIPLASH INJURY, most commonly due to a car crash, causes neck pain.

ACUTE (SUDDEN ONSET) PRIMARY TORTICOLLIS. This is sometimes called 'wry neck'. A torticollis is when the head becomes twisted to one side and it is very painful to move the head back straight. Most cases are thought to be due to a minor injury or poor posture while sleeping which causes one or more muscles on one side of the neck to go into 'spasm'. The pain and spasm usually ease and clear away over a few days without any treatment. Occasionally, torticollis is due to more serious causes.

DEGENERATION ('wear and tear') of the spinal bones (vertebrae) and the 'discs' between the vertebrae is a common cause in older people. This is sometimes called cervical spondylosis.

CERVICAL RADICULOPATHY is when the root of a nerve is pressed on or is injured as it comes out from the spinal cord in the neck (cervical) region. This causes symptoms such as numbness, pins and needles, and weakness in parts of an arm supplied by the nerve in addition to neck pain. The common causes are cervical spondylosis and a disc problem.

More serious and rarer causes include: rheumatoid arthritis, bone disorders, cancers, and serious injuries that damage the vertebrae, spinal cord or nerves in the neck.

TREATMENT Severe neck pain that occurs after a neck injury can be a serious problem, and you should see your doctor immediately. Also, if you have problems with neck pain and

experience symptoms such as shooting pains, numbness, tingling, or weakness in the arms or legs, especially if these symptoms come on suddenly, you should see your doctor straight away.

SELF-CARE MEASURES you can try at home to relieve neck pain include:

■ **Over-the-counter pain relievers.** Try over-the-counter pain relievers, such as aspirin, ibuprofen, paracetamol, muscle relaxants.

■ **Rest.** Lie down from time to time during the day to give your neck a rest from holding up your head. Avoid prolonged rest, since too much inactivity can cause increased stiffness in your neck muscles.

■ **Gentle stretching.** Gently move your neck to one side and hold it for 30 seconds. Stretch your neck in as many directions as your pain allows.

■ **Over-the-counter pain creams.** Creams and gels made to relieve muscle and joint pain may provide some temporary relief from neck pain. Look for products with ingredients such as menthol and camphor.

FOR PAIN THAT DOESN'T GET BETTER with simple home-care measures, your doctor may recommend one or more treatments, such as:

■ **Neck exercises and stretching.** Your doctor may recommend that you work with a physical therapist to learn neck exercises and stretches.

■ **Transcutaneous electrical nerve stimulation (TENS).** Electrodes placed on your skin near the painful areas deliver tiny electrical impulses that may relieve pain.

■ **Acupuncture.** Acupuncture involves the insertion of thin needles into various points on your body. Studies have found that acupuncture may be helpful for many types of pain. Acupuncture can release muscle spasms, cure trigger points and decompress nerves. Acupuncture also relieves pain with the production of analgesics hormones. For results, you may need to undergo several acupuncture sessions. Acupuncture is generally considered safe when performed by a certified practitioner.

■ **Massage.** During a massage, a trained practitioner manipulates the muscles in your neck. Massage is generally safe for most people with minor neck strains, as long as it's performed by a trained massage therapist. If you have chronic neck pain or neck pain that's caused by injury or arthritis, ask your doctor if massage would be safe for you.

■ **Pain medications.** Your doctor may prescribe stronger pain medicine than what you can get over-the-counter. Opioid analgesics are sometimes used briefly to treat acute neck pain.

■ **Surgery.** Surgery is rarely needed for neck pain. However, it may be an option for relieving nerve root or spinal cord compression.

(Continued on page 27)

AGIOTFEST

AgiotFest 10 gets underway

by Paul McGovern

It may seem like early days, yet ten months will soon tick away on the great time-bomb of life. So, with this in mind, plans are already underway for next year's event.

AgiotFest 10 is scheduled for three consecutive days in August, namely the 26th, 27th and 28th of that month. The event will take place in the Old Village of Agios Ioannis, and we are giving good notice in the hope and expectation that patrons will pencil in those dates to come and join the fun, whether they are islanders or from far-flung lands.

The line-up of performers will be announced later in the winter. Negotiations are in hand, so it would not be right to name names at present. Suffice to say that the music performed will cover the genres of Folk, Classical, Greek, Jazz and Rock... at least. We are hopeful of brining a household name here, together with some brilliantly outstanding young acts, surely destined for wider acclaim. Each evening will experience a different 'mood' of music.

The overriding response from 09 was the number of people who have said, 'Er, where, what, who, AgiotFest? What's that? We thought we were doing a good job in getting the word out... BUT OBVIOUSLY NOT GOOD ENOUGH.

It was good enough, though, to reach the ears of Greek State Radio (ERA), who came along and recorded the entire seven hours, which they subsequently broadcast from Athens.

So this time round we are going to be less shy. The 350/400 who attended the inaugural event were almost unanimous in their appreciation. We hope that the vast majority will return, bringing with them friends and relatives.

09, above all, was fun. We will ensure this is the underlying motive for 10. People have told us they liked the professionalism of the musicians in combination with the party atmosphere. This is how we intend to continue. Children were not only 'allowed'; they were part of the joy.

Accommodation will be key to those travelling from abroad. Please contact us through www.agiotfest.co.uk or mail on mcgovern@otenet.gr for full details of where you can stay and how far it is from the venue.

Please also keep watch on the above site for the AgiotFest 09 DVD we shall release for Christmas (PayPal facilities available). AgiotFest T-shirts in all sizes are still on sale through the site, at a price of 17 euros including postage and packing, plus an AgiotFest 09 poster.

Another big thank-you to our 09 sponsors, and an invitation to further sponsors for 10. To create a yearly event of this growing magnitude we need your support. As the hundreds of visitors turn to thousands in the next few years, the positive benefits of AgiotFest to Corfu will become increasingly evident. Be among the first to benefit.

This is the start of a 5-year plan to bring each summer a truly special and grand international Festival of music to Agios Ioannis. The village has for forty years been a favoured destination for travellers from afar; AgiotFest seems a natural progression.

Steve Gibbons plays Dylan at AgiotFest 09



Your German Specialist for all types of heating systems

"Petros"

Special for Central Underfloor Heating

25 years of work experience

Service, repair and installation
for all types of heating systems

- ❖ Central heating with wood for your existing heating
- ❖ Ventilation systems
- ❖ Ventilation systems with energy from well
- ❖ Geothermic
- ❖ Energy fence
- ❖ Solar energy
- ❖ Sanitary installations
- ❖ Boiler service

24 hour emergency service available

**Peter Korn 49081 Kerkyra
6971 813054**

Quad-Lock Insulating Concrete Forms

Why Quad-Lock?

Energy Performance

An R-40 insulation value will get up to 70% energy savings – high mass walls keep indoor temperatures continually moderated.



For Floors



Superior Indoor Air Quality

No air infiltration – you control the air exchanges. Sound deadening – high STC ratings.

Building Durability

damage. Four-hour fire rating.

Recyclable Product

Less than 2% on-site waste – all waste is recyclable.

Less Environmental Impact

Over the lifespan of the structure – virtually hundreds of years.

No Emissions

No CFCs, HCFCs, no off-gassing.



BY PROFESSIONALS • FOR PROFESSIONALS

National Paleokastritsa Road, Alikes Potamou (next to OPEL), Corfu 49100

Tel: 26610 46428 Fax: 26610 49867 email: marketing@quadlock.gr

CHRISTMAS FEATURE

Christmas Gifts ...without the shopping

✍️ Hilary Paipeti

Being the opposite of a 'shopaholic' - and like many people in Corfu these days rather skint - I thought this year I'd try to do the Christmas shopping without actually visiting any shops (a very few 'real shops' excepted).

But... if you don't shop, where do you pick up your Christmas gifts? Well, there's the wonderful Craft Fair, and the Church Bazaar, both on the last weekend in November; every Sunday a car boot-style sale takes place at La Veranda in Dassia; The Ark Shop in Corfu Town raises funds for animals by selling all sorts of clothes and household items; and there's the Internet and mail order. Shopping in this manner means your money either goes to help a good cause, or direct to the owner or creator of the item you buy; rather than being shared out amongst a long chain of middlemen (and the taxman!).

CARDS

First of all, for your cards, look no further than The Ark Shop. This year's design carries a cute cat, and packs of ten cards cost only four euros. All proceeds go to help stray animals. Sorted.

THIS YEAR'S TOP GIFT

The gift on everyone's wish-list this Christmas must be a voucher for the Ivi Spa, at the St. George's Bay Country Club in Acharavi. This is a gift suitable for blokes as much as for gals of all ages, since the Spa has a semi-Olympic pool and a state-of-the-art gym. And everyone enjoys a sauna. It's a gift that will always be appreciated and utilized, even if someone else has given the same! The Day Ticket costs 19 euros, and you can also give therapy sessions, and massage and beauty treatments, plus all sorts of combinations - for example, with two therapies, the Day Ticket is free. If friends or relatives are coming next year, send them a voucher to use during their holidays.

Right: A session in the 'Valentine Pool' is a perfect gift for a couple.



This year, I asked a few people associated with The Corfiot to tell us what they would be doing on Christmas Day, also what would be their ideal gift, and their idea of Christmas Hell, either a gift or an event.

Our gardening correspondent, **Anthemis**, says she'll be 'staying in, taking phone calls.' Her perfect Christmas gift would be a Day Ticket for the Ivi Spa at St George's Country Club, but she expects people will take her hobby into consideration and give her 'bulbs, a few trees and the like.' Her idea of Christmas Hell would be to attend a children's party.

Anthemis's son Chris, who's currently staying with her, intends to get 'so hog-snorting, commode-hugging sozzled that I'd be unable to find 'G for Gardening' in the dictionary even if it was tattooed on the velveteen inner thigh of December's centrefold Miss Playboy. What he'd really, really like for Christmas is 'a Red Cedar acoustic amplifiable cutaway Taylor guitar with Expression System pick-up so I can play with my buddy Roy Kendle as well as let those homies at the excellent "@home" club savour the full splendour of my 'sound'... but I expect to get a book. What I do NOT want is the slightest sotto voce whispered whiff of even the soupçoniest gossamer hint at any intimation of a reminder of the 'G' word.'

John Waller, author and publisher (*Greek Walls*, *Avrio Never Comes*, *Corfu Sketches*) and occasional contributor, will spend Christmas Day 'over-eating my wife's Danish Xmas meal - roast goose stuffed with apples and prunes, caramelized potatoes and red cabbage with red current jelly; dancing round the Xmas tree; then collapsing.'

Top of his 'wish-list' is 'a new foot - plantar fasciitis or 'policeman's heel', is agony and stops me going on Hilary's walks.' But he expects to get 'a woollen sweater and a calendar from my daughter in the Bahamas - she and her husband both think England is too cold at Xmas.' He hopes he doesn't get a copy of Tony Blair's Memoirs, 'since it wouldn't tell me the truth about Iraq and Afghanistan.'

Contributor **Lionel Mann** thinks he will spend Christmas Day feeding cats. For Christmas, he'd like tins of cat food, but expects to end up with another kitten - which coincidentally is the one gift he doesn't want!

Another contributor, **Maureen Macnamara**, will be 'spending a lovely day at home with friends helping to cook lunch, with the aid of a glass or two of pale cream sherry and lots of traditional carols. plus a roaring log fire. YUMMY!' She'd like the gift of 'world peace, the end of poverty and of man's terrible abuse and use of animals and his fellow men. But realistically I expect not a lot, but that's fine. As long as I DON'T get news of even more disasters.'

Author and musician **Jim Potts**, who this month writes about his Corfu home in Mandouki, says: 'I'd love a traditional family get together, with the three grandchildren enjoying all the excitement. But since they are far away, in Bermuda and Brussels, we will take it easy this year. No Brussels Christmas Market until 2010. I will be singing Elvis's Blue Christmas again. Although I love Bob Dylan, I hope nobody gives me his new Christmas CD! In Dorset, where I am writing this, I will be reading the wonderful Dorset dialect poems of William Barnes. His poems about Christmas come close to symbolising all that I loved about West Country Christmases as a child. So maybe I will read and reminisce.'

CHRISTMAS FEATURE

BOOKS

For those back home, a Corfu-themed book will remind them of you every time they pick it up. Being unbreakable, books are also easy to send, even if the postage is not cheap. Corfu's best foreign-language bookshop is Tourmouzoglou, under the arches at Pinia (on Nikiforou Theotoki Street, the wide way that runs back from the Liston). Look for:

Corfu Sketches, a thirty year journey, text by John Waller with Theresa Nicolas' evocative drawings. A trip back into the Corfu of yesteryear, and a must-have for any Corfu enthusiast.

North of Ithaca, Eleni Gage's tale of how she returned to her family's Epirot village, rebuilt her grandmother's home, and laid to rest the demons of the Greek Civil War. The ultimate sequel to the best-selling *Eleni*, by Eleni's dad Nicolas.

The Cat of Portovecchio, Maria Strani-Potts tragicomic tale of people and events in Mandouki of the 1950s.

Corfu Blues, a collection of poems, songs, translations, interviews and essays by Jim Potts, inspired by the greater part of a lifetime's experience of visiting, living and working in Greece.

Wild Flowers of Greece, by Vangelis Papiomitoglou, is the definitive book on local flora - an ideal gift for a botany-minded person who's planning a trip to Corfu next spring. Unusually for a book in translation, the English cannot be faulted.

The *Freytag and Berndt Corfu Map*, at a scale of 1:50,000, is twice the size of most maps, and - while not perfect - has fewer errors. A great gift for next summer's guests, and one which might even encourage them to plan some trips of their own instead of waiting for you to take them!

SECOND-HAND BOOKS are one of the 'bread and butter' items on sale at car boot sales, usually selling at a euro or two. My own ideal gift would be a parcel of (say) ten books from one of these sales. It's a flexible gift, since once you've read the books, or if you've read them before, you can use them as 'currency' to obtain more reading material at book-swaps! (Raffles near Aqualand has a book-swap, as does Night Owl in Arillas, both open all winter.)

Continued on page 28

Corfu Postcards

A reproduction set of 14 postcards featuring the work of Corfu watercolourist Angelos Giallinas is now available, at the price of 15 euros (including postage and packing). Direct shipping to anywhere in the world for a hassle-free Christmas gift with Corfu appeal.

Go to www.corfupostcards.com
or call 6934 396335



Left: Potamos Above: Benitses

Ivi Spa

*at the St. George's Bay
Country Club in Acharavi*

With 2,000 square metres of floorspace,
the largest Spa on the island
and certainly the best equipped.



Run on an environment-friendly geothermic system. Large semi-olympic indoor pool with heated seawater, 25 m long, constantly at 28°. Large jacuzzi, biosauna, nordic sauna, steam grotto (asthma, bronchitis), tepidarium (dry warmth of 45° good for arthritis, rheumatism etc.). The sauna, steambath etc. area is for visitors over 16 years of age only. The **Palaestra** is a large fitness room with state-of-the-art TechnoGym equipment. Floodlit tennis court.

Winter 2009/10 rates:

Day ticket 19 euros Monthly ticket 120 euros

Open daily except Monday from 10.00 to 17.00
(Saturdays open 10.00 to 22.00)

Ladies' sauna

Wednesday and Friday 10.00 to 12.00

A large variety of paid-for treatments: Western and Eastern massage, Shiatsu, Ayurveda, Kneipp (to get you blood circulation going), Schiele, thalasso, mud, beauty treatments, manicure, pedicure, hamam and rasul.

When booking at least one treatment the day ticket is reduced to 10 euros and with at least two treatments the day ticket is free. Treatment rates start at 30 euros for 30 minutes.

Professional European-trained therapists.

For reservations and vouchers
call 26630 63987
or 26630 63203

Ivi Spa

An Evening Out @ Home in the Company of a Double-Dutch Act

✍️ Phil Mawson

Our rekindled Corfiot Summer of Love has been banished to the annals of history - or has it? This summer's sound of music remains in our memories: Eric Burdon and his-not-so-wild Animals, who played in Corfu Town, and of course Bob Dylan's tribute act - the flamboyant Dylan Project who appeared in Agios Ioannis's traditional village square, of all places. And the spirit lives on.

While not all expats possess a cultural mindset, there are many who seek to drink in moderation and combine this pastime with convivial company and some artistic activity. It is a fact that Corfu has an enormously talented populace, comprising both locally born artists and musicians and equally gifted immigrants, a combination which provides potential for its evolution as a Sanctuary for Artistic Thought and Development.

Two foreigners who are providing a forum for such activity are Lenno and Se, who have established a Music and Arts venue called @home in Danilia; they are attempting to create a venue where local talent as well as invited overseas acts can perform, and aiming at attracting an audience from all over the island. They are now expanding their repertoire, with an innovative and imaginative format in the shape of a weekly winter programme of varied events that encompass all aspects of artistic activity.

Each week begins on Sunday with a Film Night, featuring a classic or cult movie. Other evenings focus on music - rock, jazz or blues; an Arts and Crafts demonstration or workshop; a musical Tribute Night that will run alongside the existing @home jamming session, and during which individuals will be invited to perform as a band or solo act in the style of a particular artist. Another evening is a story-telling night, when individuals will relate a short true or fictitious story or humorous anecdote. This may well inspire local writers to take to the platform, in what should become a popular and educational alternative evening's entertainment. And the hosts hope that any like-minded folk will help them to expand the format with new ideas; it's a really great opportunity to establish an extremely popular venue for the performing arts in Corfu.

And so, as the sun set over a particularly fragrant grove of trees and shrubs on an autumnal Sunday evening, it was with great anticipation that my wife and I joined a group of Dutch expats to witness the inaugural evening of @home's season of cinematic classics. It began with the groundbreaking and subsequently cult film *Easy Rider*. The film itself was born out of one man's perception of the society that also inspired the Summer of Love; it so much identified with the critical stance that many - particularly young - people took against the arrogantly indifferent established political and social order of the day. An establishment that in America most notably was upheld by many less intellectual individuals and backward members of society, and often exemplified by unrestricted or unopposed racial, religious and social intolerance. In its own way, the raw, rough and ready element that produced *Easy Rider* and similarly hard-hitting productions of the period offered an outlet that the by-then-growing Protest Movement could identify with, in its quest for social justice through creative awareness. What Woodstock did for the music

scene, *Easy Rider* did for the film industry. Peter Fonda took on the established order and won.

@home's new enterprise was further enhanced by a most interesting and informative pre-viewing piece of film which highlighted its background. This overview took into account its inception and form, the actors (who became household names as a result: Peter Fonda, son of Henry and brother to Jane; Dennis Hopper; and the magnificently charismatic and undoubtedly talented newcomer - the one and only Jack Nicholson), plus the controversial production style which included an insight into how some of its more eccentric and violent scenes evolved.

The content was provided by a locally-based Dutch couple with a media background. Talented artist and sculptress Mirjam Mulder really delved into the archives to gain such vivid details of the production. Whilst the details were being displayed on the large projected screen, the film score was played in the background, enhancing the atmosphere. *Born to be Wild* became its clarion call; and Hendrix and Dylan, amongst others, feature in the score.

Other films already in the can are *The Rose* and *Clockwork Orange*. You can put forward your own request; they're all ears @home - unlike that other Dutchman, Van Gogh! Lenno and Se's cosy taverna and bar is centrally located between Agios Ioannis and Gouvia, near Spiti Nikos. It's becoming increasingly renowned for an innovative new style of community spirit, camaraderie and socializing - a place where one can eat, drink, chat, listen and sing, in an ambience last felt way back in the late 60's and early 70's - a period which of course embraced the Summer of Love.

Contact Lenno and Se for further details of the December programme - you can request regular updates by email.

26610 90136 or 6947 090071 Email athomecorfu@live.com

NOVEMBER PROGRAMME

70'S MUSIC WEEK (with special tribute to The Moody Blues)
Wednesday, 18 November: Jam Night

Thursday, 19 November: Festival Night - *Woodstock, The Movie*
Friday, 20 November: Acoustic Live, with special 3-course meal

Saturday, 21 November: Live Band Performance

Sunday, 22 November: Movie Night - *Love Story*, with Ryan O'Neill and Ali McGraw.

SOUL & FUNK WEEK (with special tribute to James Brown)
Wednesday, 25 November: Jam Night

Thursday, 26 November: TABU (Exciting word game involving two opposing teams)

Friday, 27 November - Acoustic Live, with special 3-course meal

Saturday, 28 November: Live Band Performance

Sunday, 29 November: Movie Night - *Shaft*, with Richard Roundtree and music by Isaac Hayes

Regular contributor Phil Mawson provided the initial musical-contact introduction which resulted in AgiotFest 09 - Ed.

Mandouki

Commentaries on a Suburb Jim Potts

Mandouki is the suburb, or *borgo* (borough outside the walls), of Corfu Town that inspired Maria Strani-Potts' novel *The Cat of Portovecchio, Corfu Tales* (2007). Turn-of-the-century Corfu was the setting for Konstantinos Theotokis's moving and atmospheric novella *Honour and Money* (*I Timi kai to Chrima*, serialised 1912; book 1914), written before the Balkan Wars. It's a work that I am tempted to translate into English, with other stories from the Ionian Islands. It was made into a film (*I Timi tis Agapis, The Price of Love*, 1984). Writing about the novella and its social context, Periklis Pankratis (*Theotokiki Topografia*, 1997), refers to Mandouki's special customs and particular ways, and describes its inhabitants at the time as poor daily-wage-earners, labourers, both male and female, builders, carpenters, errand-runners, boatmen, contraband smugglers, local party-men, some persecuted by those in power, some supporters of the ruling party.

With the exception of a few families, it was not a community noted for literacy.

The Mandouki of the 1950s was the real landscape of Maria's imagination. Mandouki, or rather that part of Mandouki called Aliades or Aghiades, was still a fishing village in the fifties, in the years before the New Port was constructed. The slaughterhouse was also situated there, and on slaughter days the sea turned red with blood. We now live a short distance beyond the border between Aliades and Kefalomantouko (Kefalomantouko begins at the steps below the Church of Aghios Ioannis tou Lazou). We face the church of the Merciful Virgin (*Panagia tis Eleousas*), a little further up the hill.

Although much neglected, Mandouki can now boast a cobbled square (a luxurious place for people to park their cars!) and a long-delayed, semi-pedestrianised cobbled street through its centre. Most people come to Mandouki for its good value, no-nonsense tavernas or grill-restaurants, like *O Bekios*, which serves the best meat and grilled liver on the island. It's very popular with Corfiots and discerning foreigners who appreciate value for money. Georgia's late husband, Vassilis, used to work in the local slaughterhouse, so the owners know about good quality meat. Maria has known Georgia since she was a child living in Mandouki. Other popular eating-spots, are the small fish taverna, *Ta Psarakia tou Daou*, which I'm told serves an excellent ink-fish speciality, and the grill-tavern *Oi Pente Adelfes*, once as famous for its five sisters as for its souvlakia. There's something about having churches, coffee-shops and tavernas right on one's doorstep; unless a real local, one tends to go further afield. I enjoy having our base at the upper end of Xen. Stratigou Street. We can always park the car, we can make a quick get-away to the ferryboats to Epirus, and it's just a short cycle ride into town. Mandouki is still a traditional settlement, in most respects, but new buildings are springing up, like the very trendy music bar Epic. It is worth climbing the steps and exploring the alleys and lanes hidden from view behind the main street, to appreciate the whitewashed courtyards full of flowers.

There is one version of the Odysseus-Nausicaa legend that makes a Mandouki beach the spot where Odysseus came ashore, and Potamos the location of the river where Nausicaa and the other maidens were washing clothes. That's what the Swiss traveller Albert Mousson (*Ein Besuch auf Corfu und Cefalonien im September 1858*, Zurich, 1859) believed.

Mandouki certainly appears in the historical records from the beginning of the sixteenth century. It suffered from the raids of Barbarossa in 1537 and during the second Turkish siege in July and August 1716. It also suffered from an outbreak of cholera in 1855. 'The population living outside the town walls in Corfu was largely poor and destitute. A particular moment of crisis came when in 1855 there was a cholera outbreak in Mandouki, a suburb of Corfu, and the Health Committee considered the option of cordoning off the suburb, thus condemning its residents to death. Instead, the philanthropic initiative by merchants to establish a fund that raised subsequently considerable sums for the care of the cholera infected diffused the situation.' (*Class formation in the Ionian Islands during the period of British rule, 1814-1864*, Dr Sakis Gekas, Economic History Department, LSE).

Maria might agree with controversial Spectator columnist Taki on one or two points (*Days before Burgers*, 26 July, 2008), about the marvellous Ionian lifestyle and about Corfu Town in the late 1950s when there were few cars: 'I thought I was in Venice without the pigeons,' he said. Describing Old Corfu Town on her book-tour in Australia, Maria often said that Corfu was like Venice without the canals or palaces. Mandouki was different, being a fishing suburb, but also an area of small-scale industrial development, with a shipyard and the now derelict and abandoned olive-oil and soap factory (*Elaiourgia Kerkiras AE*, founded 1924; later, and until 1980, AEBEK), which employed around 127 people before World War II (*Mantouki, Ena Taxidi sto Chrono*, Corfu, 2005, p. 31).

A Greek-American playwright, Demetrius Toteris - more accurately a Corfiot-Californian - once wrote about Mandouki, in a letter to me (24 Dec. 1997, quoted in my own *Corfu Blues*, Ars Interpres, Stockholm, 2006):

'Not only was I born Greek but I had the fortune to be born a Corfiot in the *sinikia* of Mandouki, a district of Corfu that was once populated by outcasts, outlaws and smugglers. Law evolved in Mandouki according to immediate necessity ... a code of self-proclaimed honour and a devotion to friend and family. To say that you were born in Mandouki is to say that you would rather kill or be killed than live with an insult. We don't discipline easily, we bow to no one, we try our best to die without shame. We try to live without the shackles of fear. We cry like children over the words of a song and the next second place a dagger in the heart of a prodoti (traitor) ... We never forget ... But Mandouki is gone and its people have been dispersed throughout the world ... a world whose virtues are ambition at the cost of one's honour ... To be what I am is to be an anachronism...'

Dr. John Hennen (1830) agrees with A.G. Saint Sauveur (Paris, 1799) that Mandouki was more violent than Garitsa (then known as Castrades): 'while the inhabitants or Castrades are peaceable and industrious, the Manduchians are fierce, piratical, and often murderous.' He wonders whether the fact that sailors tended to be concentrated in Mandouki could explain the difference in character of the two villages.

Kirkwall (1864) writes that when General Chabot, who was the commander of the Republican French, disarmed the citizens of Corfu (towards the end of 1798), 'The inhabitants of Manduchio refused to give up their arms, and bravely defended Fort Abraham. They were, however, overcome.' The French bombarded their houses and did great damage to Mandouki. Some residents tried to put up a defence by barricading themselves inside the monastery of Platytera; the monastery's church was attacked, looted and burned by the French in November 1799 (during the war between the French and the Russian/Turkish allies). It was subsequently repaired and renovated.

Many of the most important Suliots found refuge in Mandouki (including Markos Botsaris, for around five months), and Fotos Tzavellas, buried in the nearby Monastery of Platytera, in the Karteria district.

A central meeting place of the Mandouki Suliots was the church of Aghios Haralambos, as D. Karamoutsos has shown, with details of their names from the church records.

Markos Botsaris, a Suliote hero of the Greek War of Independence, had been forced to leave Suli for Corfu, like Fotos Tzavellas. The 1808-1810 proceedings of Markos' divorce (as Marco Bozzari) from his first wife Eleni Karakitsou (Ellena Carachizzo da Prevezza) were discovered in the archives of Corfu. After Markos Botsaris married Eleni Karakitsou on 25 March, 1806, Botsaris and his wife lived for five months in Mandouki. Later they were based in Lefkas, but according to his testimony, and that of witnesses, she 'dishonoured him' with other men. He claims, probably falsely, that he was cuckolded, in short. The Archbishop of Corfu found her guilty of adultery and the marriage was dissolved. Heroes and men of action do not always seem so heroic. As for his wife, Eleni, she says it was all lies, that the real reason for the divorce proceedings was the fact that her father-in-law, Kitsos Botsaris, didn't like her.

Spiros Katsaros (1984) hints that the men of Mandouki had the reputation of being warm-blooded and amorous. In *The Cat of Portovecchio* it's the women of Mandouki who are portrayed as the willing and warm-blooded 'moroze'.

Tertius Kendrick (1822) writes that the inhabitants of Manduchio 'are distinguished by a ferocious cast in their manners, which causes them to wear long and sharp knives: formerly under the Venetians, the Manduchians were much accustomed to wear pistols, often employing them against a neighbour. These instruments of death were, however, taken away from them by the French, who placed some of the worst pistols in the armoury, keeping those which possessed a more handsome appearance.'

I. Zervos - an editor of the collected works of Andreas Kalvos, whose father, Ioannis Kalvos, came from Mandouki - describes it as a suburb by the sea with a homogeneous seafaring population, which had been much more mixed in the past, with suggestions of Moorish or 'dark blood' ('*me kapoian epikratisin isos*

mauritanikou aimatos'). The Mandoukiots are, to offer a number of English equivalents for his range of Greek words, expansive, unreserved, open-hearted, boastful, lovers of originality and eccentricity, fierce and impetuous, even violent, rich in imagination: more so in these regards than the other Corfiots, he believes, but lacking their taste and judgement, positive qualities which tend to make the Corfiots cautious, timid and conservative. Communication and more mixing between the town and the suburb had meant that these differences were disappearing quickly by the end of the Balkan Wars and by the inter-war years of the twentieth century, but there must have been a great difference at the time of Kalvos. Zervos believes that Kalvos must have inherited many of the elements of thought and character of his Mandoukiot father.

Prof. D.T. Ansted (1863) wrote that 'Manduchio ... is chiefly occupied by the lower classes, but among them is a colony of Parguinotes, the former Christian inhabitants of Parga ... establishing themselves in a curious wide street of small houses in the middle of Manduchio. There they remain to his day, industrious, hardy, and respectable.'

Giorgios Sourtzinis, in his book on the place-names of Corfu (2006) also notes that during the centuries that Epirus was occupied by the Turks, many inhabitants of the small fishing-port of Sayiada, on the mainland opposite Corfu, came across to settle in Mandouki.

Over the years many people from other parts of Turkish- or Albanian-ruled Greece sought refuge in Corfu: Cretans (who after the fall of Crete in the seventeenth century brought with them to the Ionian Islands a tradition of poetry and drama), Pargans and Suliots.

Sandys observed during his journey begun in 1610 that Corfu was 'inhabited to the most part by Cretians, as is the whole island, and subject to the Venetians.'

Apart from the displaced Cretans and Epirotes (including the Suliots and refugees from Parga and Prevesa), many Venetians, Maltese and Serbs were to settle in Corfu. After the events of 1922, more refugees came from the coast of Asia Minor.

So where does the truth lie concerning the inhabitants of Mandouki, their origins and their character? Those are questions for Corfiot social historians. All I can say is that it's a fascinating place to live. It has its own identity and traditions (like the 'lambadari' on the evening of June 23, when men, women and children leap over bonfires lit in the narrow streets, shouting 'Let the witches burn!' ('*Na kaoun I magisses kai ta magissopoula*'; see *Mantouki, Ena Taxidi sto Chrono*, Corfu, 2005, p. 74). The people have a special bond of solidarity, and I've always felt very welcome here, even though I've never been a pirate, a rebel, a smuggler, fisherman, sailor or fierce knife-fighter. I have sometimes heard voices raised in anger, but I've never seen anyone use a dagger, as happens when Rini stabs Andreas towards the end of Theotokis' novella!

Jim Potts, is the author of Corfu Blues, Ars Interpres, Stockholm, 2006 and The Ionian Islands and Epirus, A Cultural History, Signal Books, Oxford, 2009 (in press).

Gallant Greece

 **Lionel Mann**

Writing on this 'Ochi Day', October 28th, when Greece celebrates its defiance of Mussolini in 1940, I wonder if the world appreciates how great a contribution the Greeks made to the defeat of Fascism and Nazism.

When the Italian dictator, in arrogant emulation of his German lord and master, presented Ioannis Metaxas, the Greek head-of-state, with an ultimatum demanding that Italian troops be allowed entry to his country, Metaxas is alleged to have said, 'Ochi' ('No'), but more likely, 'Alors, c'est la guerre', French being the language used by diplomats at that time.

The demand was issued in such a manner that it would have been impossible to comply. Mussolini wanted a fight - and he certainly got one. The Greeks lured the Italians into the mountains in winter, licked the pants off them and chased them, running frantically, back halfway into Albania.

Hitler came to his lickspittle's rescue, sending his forces into the Balkans, seizing Yugoslavia before eventually overcoming the courageous Greek army and their meagre British support, all that could be scraped together, by sheer weight of numbers. The Nazis then invaded Crete, gaining a Pyrrhic victory that left their airborne forces so badly mauled by the mainly New Zealander defenders that they never again presented a serious threat.

All this vitally upset the plans for 'Operation Barbarossa', the Nazi attack on the Soviet Union. Its launch was originally scheduled for March, but because necessary forces were engaged elsewhere it did not take place until June. Those three months were absolutely critical; the Wehrmacht was held by heroic Red Army resistance at the gates of Moscow at the onset of Russian winter. The invaders were not prepared for the extremely harsh weather which caused them such severe damage and casualties that they were never able to advance further, giving the Soviets valuable time to realise their assets in arms and new forces. Then came Stalingrad, Kursk and El Alamein, Nazi disasters. Thereafter the Wehrmacht was always on the back foot, striving to avoid the inevitable.

The rest is history. Anyone who attacks Russia is an absolute idiot; its resources, including climate, area and population, render it utterly invincible. That ignorant jumped-up corporal was freedom's best ally throughout the war, his lunatic autocratic 'strategy' leading to the destruction of the combined Wehrmacht and Luftwaffe, the best-organised military machine that the world has ever seen. For over three years, the enraged Red Army, despite suffering heavy casualties, fought all the bitter way to Berlin, further than a thousand miles, to bring Nazism to abject defeat. It was inevitable from the moment that Hitler stupidly decided upon his Russian adventure, but it was certainly greatly helped by the delay that Greece forced upon the inception of that madness.

In the meanwhile, until Hitler hastened his demise by crazily declaring war on the USA, thus dragging it into Europe when it was chiefly engaged by the threat of Japan in the Pacific. The

'Great Champion of Democracy' had sat on the fence, enriching itself by supplying arms and munitions to both sides. Hitler paid with funds looted from Occupied Europe; the USA arms debt bankrupted Britain. Even when at last the Americans became substantially involved, not until well into 1942, there were still US firms sending supplies to Germany through neutrals in South America and Spain, although the Luftwaffe was regularly knocking down U.S.A.A.F. bombers with eleven or thirteen aircrew at a time. Hail, Holy Dollar!

Actually, by the end of 1941 the eventual result in Europe was already decided, merely a matter of time. The writing was on the wall. Britain had been saved by a few young men of the R.A.F. who had hacked the Luftwaffe from the daylight skies and made invasion of the island impossible. The Wehrmacht had been held at Moscow; thereafter all was retreat. And all this had come about with considerable input from Greece, whose stubborn defence of its homeland had critically disrupted Hitler's timetable for conquest.

When at last Adolf and his miserable minions had been brought to ignominious defeat, the Greeks yet faced years of tribulation, but nothing can detract from their gallant contribution to the overthrow of Nazism. They have well earned their right to celebrate on Ochi Day.

Land Clearance

Trees Lopped

Cultivation

(ploughing, planting etc)

Tree Grafting

Property

Maintenance

Call Harry on:

6997 722113

26630 51786

English & Greek Spoken

Butterflies, Beetles and a Touch of Magic

The Insects of Corfu

✍ Hilary Paipeti

In August 2002 I was invited as guest on a BBC Radio 4 show called 'Behind the Taverna', which aimed to demonstrate that there was an abundance of wildlife even close to holiday resorts. As I wrote in a subsequent article, 'I was tempted to point them in the direction of Kavos and have done with it.' It now turns out that I should have done just that.

Regular Corfu visitor and dedicated entomologist Dr Peter Sutton has christened the watercourse which flows into the sea just south of Kavos as the 'Stream of Plenty' after he discovered a wealth of insects and other wildlife in and around a pool formed by a culvert. During a brief visit, he photographed a Black Pennant Dragonfly (a new species for the Ionian Islands), and found in the silt at the edge of the pool a Mole Cricket (the first sighting on Corfu), an 'extraordinary subspecies' of newt, and a freshwater crab (only the second sighting in Corfu).

Dr Sutton's 'incredible half hour' - as he describes it - by the pool is documented in the August 2009 edition of The Bulletin of the Amateur Entomologists' Society (Volume 68, Number 485), along with descriptions of trips to Lake Antiniotissa, Agios Gordis and Avlaki.

'Corfu,' he writes, 'is a passion of mine. It is the greenest and lushest of the Ionian Islands and its jewelled scimitar rises from the turquoise sunlit waters off the coast of Albania and Greece, taunting the barren ruggedness of those brown mountainous lands with its emerald beauty.' Thus he introduces a five-part review of Corfu's insects, taking up almost the entire booklet.

People often ask whether there are any publications about Corfu's flora and fauna; flowers are now dealt with by Vangelis Papiomitoglou's excellent 'Wild Flowers of Greece' (Mediterraneo Editions 2006), but apart from generic books identifying species on a Europe-wide basis there's nothing generally available about animal life - despite the fact that Corfu, because of the books of Gerald Durrell, is virtually synonymous with wildlife. But now, thanks to Dr Sutton and the Bulletin (and particularly its 38 colour plates), I know a great deal more about the island's insects. For example:

❖ Naturalists have recorded 83 species of butterflies on Corfu. A previous paper, which came up with a checklist of 79 species, concluded that 'probably more species of (butterflies) are to be found on Corfu than any other Mediterranean island, except Sicily.'

❖ Corfu has 40 species of dragonflies, out of 41 species recorded in the whole Ionian. The island's biodiversity is demonstrated by figures from the other Ionian Islands: Kefallonia and Lefkada have 20 species, and Zakynthos only 14.

❖ Corfu is a beetle-watcher's paradise. One beetle, *Agapanthia schurmanni*, is only found on Corfu and in parts of Northern Greece and Macedonia. The study of beetles on the island is in its infancy.

❖ The island has 64 species of crickets and grasshoppers, among them the bizarre Mole Cricket, which as its name suggests digs burrows, in locations with moist soils, for its eggs.

Some of the best locations for insect-hunting are:

❖ The 'Stream of Plenty' between Kavos and Spartera, which runs alongside the track leading up from Ulla's Pool (dragonflies, the Mole Cricket).

❖ The Ropa River, Ermones and the golf club (dragonflies, water beetles).

❖ The meadows and woodlands of Agia Ekaterini Headland (butterflies and beetles, crickets and grasshoppers, praying mantises and the Greek Magician, a predatory bush-cricket, formidably armoured and spanning a man's hand).

❖ The area around Agios Gordis (a 'beetle hotspot').

❖ The lagoons on Agia Varvara Headland between Agios Stefanos and Avlaki (dragonflies).

❖ The dunes around Lake Korission (beetles. Here we once watched a tortoise laying its eggs).



Concluding his report, Dr Sutton writes: 'What happens to the big biodiversity of Greece and Corfu ... very much depends on the ability of Greece to preserve that biodiversity with the same passion and pride that it routinely attributes to its great archaeological heritage.'

Of the areas Dr Sutton focuses upon, Lake Korission and Agia Ekaterini Headland are theoretically protected as Natura 2000 sites, though a recent battle to prevent construction of a giant hotel complex on the headland demonstrates that constant vigilance is required. Agia Varvara Headland is designated as forest land and under present planning laws cannot be developed, though danger always lurks where money can be made. The 'Water Beetle Pools' of the Ropa Valley are safe as long as the Golf Club remains. The Ropa River seems little polluted; the plain is mainly pastoral, with crop growing - and therefore agrochemicals - confined to small plots. The only commercial grower, Alexos Armenis, uses minimal fertilisers, while the vast Theotoky Estate with its olive and vines is run totally on an eco basis. With tourism declining, Kavos seems unlikely to burst its boundaries and infect the 'Stream of Plenty' valley, while the 'beetle hotspot' at Agios Gordis is too precipitous to build on.

So at least for the foreseeable future, Corfu's insects should happily continue to inhabit a parallel world, where we can join them if we wish.

One thing's for certain, though. With the Bulletin in hand, and Dr Sutton's vicarious presence, our Saturday walks will never be the same.

Dr Sutton is currently writing a book about his time on the island, which will include pictures of most of the reptiles and amphibians found on Corfu, as well as many invertebrates.

ADVICE

To Rent or not to Rent

 **Pauline Buchan**

Thinking of letting your villa? Read on... and you might change your mind

Having had time to enjoy the summer in my villa, it has also given me time to reflect on the previous six months, during which I had a most unfortunate letting. I now feel that it would be useful to share my experience and (mis)adventure with other potential landlords!

CONTRACT First and foremost, treat the letting as a strict business arrangement. A bona fide and legally binding Contract between Landlord and Tenant should be drawn up by a qualified Lawyer. A rental charge should be agreed and understood, together with a method of payment, eg paid into a Euro Bank Account. Tenants may request payment to be made in Sterling into a UK bank account, but I would avoid such an arrangement unless an agreed rate of exchange is written into the contract. From experience, tenants can all too often renege on a verbal agreement and prefer to use a rate of exchange favourable to them. They feel that YOU should bear the changing effect of the state of Sterling against the Euro.

DEPOSIT BOND The purpose of a deposit - generally paid at the commencement of the tenancy, and normally one or two months rent - is to serve as a bond against breakages, damages or cleaning at the end of the tenancy. (Also a point to be included in the terms of the contract). Less scrupulous tenants may use this deposit bond as their last month's rent and may therefore vacate the accommodation without paying for damages, breakages and cleaning etc.

UTILITY METER READINGS It really is VITAL to take readings (and have them witnessed) on entry and departure of the letting period. Bear in mind that the power company often estimates electricity bills, with a final bill being submitted annually. This can have a serious effect when you return to your villa and are faced with a huge final bill of which the tenant refuses to acknowledge and pay 'because the meter reading on vacating the letting was not witnessed.' It is also wise for an agreement to be reached regarding heating oil and gas cylinder consumption. Unfortunately I returned to my villa and did not have either. However, the villa was warm - an air-conditioning unit had been left on in the 'heating' mode.

NON-SMOKING TENANTS If you are given a guarantee that the tenants are non-smokers themselves, bear in mind that their guests/family might not be. This can have a disastrous effect on upholstery, carpets and furnishings. The cost of cleaning and dry-cleaning the stained and contaminated items can be quite pricey. Make a note of the non-smoking policy in the agreement and state that this is regardless of guests/family habits.

CHILDREN Bear in mind that small children will have no respect or regard for property, especially if they left unsupervised. Nice clean walls are an invitation to scribble their works of art on, and electricity points obviously look better to them with brown sticky tape placed across them and onto the wall. Be prepared to redecorate; not all writing implements wash off.

GARDEN Finally if you like a tidy garden and you treasure your plants and pots then it would be advisable to remove them. Footballs and golf balls can do a remarkable amount of damage to these items.

I hope I have managed to convey a few important points. Happy lettings...

We are setting up a NEW CLEANING SERVICE for villas

All villa owners who are experiencing difficulties in finding reliable cleaners every summer, please call

Mrs Simons on:

6946 580632 26630 91641

0044 7760 486241

email: violette.simons@gmail.com

FREQUENT & REGULAR DELIVERIES DIRECT FROM ENGLAND TO CORFU, & FROM CORFU TO ENGLAND

ALSO TO OTHER EUROPEAN DESTINATIONS

**OVER 20 YEARS EXPERIENCE WITH THE
MOST ECONOMICAL RATES**

MONDIAL FORWARDING LTD

LOCKFIELD AVENUE
BRIMSDOWN, ENFIELD
MIDDX EN3 7PX

TEL. IN UK: 0208 8053344

TEL. & FAX IN CORFU: 26610 32879

MOBILE: 6945 791473

OUR PREMISES ARE NEAR TRIA YEFIRIA, ON THE LINKING
ROAD BETWEEN ETH. PELEKAS AND ETH LEFKIMMI



Autumn Gold

 **Anthemis**

After the long expected and eagerly awaited heavy downpours that announce the change of season, we are now into that lovely time of year memorably described by Lawrence Durrell as 'Corfu's second spring'. Everything is fresh and green and open spaces are carpeted with cyclamen in every shade of pink. Our variety is *C. neapolitanum*, or *C. hederifolium*, which are found all along the northern Mediterranean coast from France to Turkey. Its unattractive old English name is 'sowbread', as it was once used to feed pigs; indeed, its absence in parts of France and Italy is due to wild boars. Luckily, we have no such problems here.

It is interesting and attractive at every stage of its growth: its petals turned back from a rolled-back pentagonal mouth and, when the petals have dropped, notice the seed head within the tightly coiled stem. These circles – in Greek *kykloi* (kikli), are possibly the origin of the name 'kiklamina'. The seed eventually bursts and is distributed by ants. The leaves appear after the flowers are over and are exquisitely marked and variegated, no two plants ever being alike. The tubers, which are rather like flattened dark brown potatoes with fine roots sprouting from the top surface, can grow to the size of a bread plate, but even a pea-sized tuber can produce a tiny leaf. I have accidentally dug up a really big tuber and am going to try it out in a pot.

We don't get much autumn colour here as it isn't cold enough for the best coloured deciduous trees. For this, you must take a trip to the mainland and drive from Ioannina to the Zagoria and see the mountainsides clothed in sheets of russet reds and golds. The roads are so good now that you can easily make a day trip.

I do have a few shrubs and small trees which colour well, all the more treasured for their rarity among my generally dark green cypress-dominated background. My jewel is the persimmon which is now showing and shedding its glorious large leaves – striped, blotched, plain or mottled – in every variation of orange, gold, red, coral, yellow and sharp green. The colours keep quite well if the leaves are pressed between blotting paper and make lovely book marks – something to keep small children occupied.

The Greek name for this treasure is 'lotus' – pronounced 'lotoos' – and, in Albanian, 'oorma'.

Pomegranates are also an autumn bonus, shrubby rather than tree-like. I have a splendid one about three metres high, planted about 20 years ago, and this year it is laden with fruit, wonderfully coloured. In spring, it is covered with bright red waxy star-like blossoms. You can also find miniature versions which make attractive and unusual pot plants, the fruit no bigger than a small plum.

Berberis is another first-class trouble-free shrub which colours well in the autumn.

They thrive in sun or shade – I have one known as *B. Purpurea* and, as its name suggests, the leaves which grow on long spiky stems are a velvety purple which turn dark red in autumn. There are small yellow flowers along the stems in spring which produce tiny red berries in autumn. Quite trouble-free and strikes easily from cuttings.

There is a great deal of pruning and clearing going on all the time and my indispensable shredding machine is working flat out producing barrow loads of chopped-up compost which is immediately piled on to the beds and round all the shrubs and roses to the depth of about 20 cms or more. I have had my machine for about five years and have never had to buy any sort of fertiliser since. The original soil here was heavy impervious clay which needed a pickaxe to dig a small planting hole. Another good source of compost at this time of year is gutters with their rich storage of fallen leaves. My only indulgence is the occasional sack of peat, which is not in fact a fertiliser but a conditioner that will lighten heavy soil and retain moisture. A few handfuls mixed into the soil for potted plants is always a good thing.

End of season is rather like the end of a school term, a time when I go round praising or deciding to expel my various charges. One of my best is a bulb, *Tulbaghia*, which has been in flower since May and is still putting forth its stems of lilac blue umbels of small bell-shaped flowers, growing from a mound of dark green grassy leaves. It needs regular dead heading and adequate watering to last this long but it is worth the extra attention. Good in pots, too.

The shredder/wood chipper can be found north of the port just before the entrance to the ferries and unmissable with its orange-fronted 'Stihl' signage and the Tsiringakis owner's name. Heavy machinery in the forecourt, tempting tools within.

INTERNATIONAL LIFE FOR ALL YOUR INSURANCE NEEDS

Life. Hospital. Medical. House and Contents. Buildings.
Car. Boat. Motorcycle. Invalid Pensions.
Investment. Business. Travel. Liability.

For further information or to arrange an appointment
to discuss your requirements:

2nd kilometre Paleokastritsa Avenue

Telephone: 26610 36781

Email gr6017@inlife.gr

English and English-speaking agents

Because it is important to know what you are covered for!!!

Simplifying the Christmas Meal

Top chef Marco Pierre White questions why the British treat the traditional Christmas meal 'as if it were some sort of Herculean task.

'Why is it that cooks feel compelled to haul themselves out of bed, heat up the oven and start putting cross shapes in sprouts when it's still dark outside and the kids have yet to reach for their stockings? Just step back for a moment and think about it - the traditional Christmas roast is not gastronomy. We're not talking about a dish that requires technical wizardry and years of kitchen experience. Every part of it is extremely simple. In fact, the less fussy you make it, the better the result.'

THE PLATE

He advises, first of all, to visualise the food on the plate. Do you REALLY need to peel a mountain of potatoes, when realistically, people will only eat three or four pieces? Do you REALLY need to spend half the morning peeling vegetables. How many sprouts will you and your family consume?

White's imaginary plate looks like this: 'a couple of slices of beautifully cooked, tender turkey; three golden roast potatoes, crisp on the outside, succulent on the inside; two roast parsnips; two pan-fried Brussels sprouts, glazed in butter; a spoonful of swede puree and another of sage and onion stuffing; perhaps a roast onion; and a delicious sauce or gravy made from the turkey juices that brings together all the flavours.'

'Guests might want second helpings,' he continues. 'But you get my point. Over-catering is wasteful as well as causing all the extra hassle of preparing and cooking too much.' He says that most cooks just end up feeding the bin instead of the family.

THE TURKEY

So White's second rule is 'Size Matters'. Giant turkeys - like 20 pounders - are too large for a domestic oven, so that the heat cannot circulate around it, and it ends up being overcooked and dry. And providing endless leftovers of sandwiches, curries and rissoles. He recommends a turkey weighing about 10 to 11 pounds. 'This will feed 12. And if I were catering for a larger number, I'd prefer to cook two smaller turkeys rather than one massive bird.' Personally, I think that a turkey weighing 12 to 14 pounds (that is, about six kilos) will give just the right amount of leavings for a Boxing Day buffet and perhaps a few sandwiches. With a bird of this size, if you've got an oven with a fan, you don't even need to go into all the palaver of stretching bacon across the breast and covering it with layers of foil. Just keep turning and basting with the juices every 20 minutes for the couple of hours of cooking it will require (don't do this if your oven only operates with radiant heat). This will result in a bird that's golden brown and crispy all over, instead of one that's been partially steamed.

Once the turkey is cooked, wrap it in foil and place it in a warm corner. It will continue to cook and will not start to get cold for at least 30 minutes.

THE STUFFING

White's advice regarding stuffing is - don't. 'To do so will slow down the cooking so that by the time the inner meat is cooked, the white meat on the outside will be overcooked and dry. Instead, cook the stuffing separately. And why not use Paxo or another packet stuffing that you like? No one will kick up a fuss and it will give you more time to concentrate on perfecting the turkey and vegetables.'

Present the stuffing as a cake, which you slice, rather than as little dry bullet-balls.

THE GRAVY

I know everyone will be reaching for the Bisto at this point, but White's opinion is that gravy granules 'make a sauce like brown syrup. I use Knorr chicken stock cubes in my sauce because they provide seasoning, and their flavour - which is quite distinct - develops during cooking, enhancing all the other flavours of the dish.' He makes a paste of a cube mashed with oil, with which he rubs the turkey before cooking. The pan-juices are thus ready-seasoned. He adds a couple of halved and peeled onion to the roasting pan about half-way through cooking, to caramelize and brown the juices. He then proceeds like this:

'Now you want everything to come together, like it would in a professional kitchen. Begin to heat the roasting juices in the tin. Remove the giblets, chop them up and add them to juices in the tin. They will add a rich colour to the sauce.'

'Add two chicken stock cubes and, using a balloon whisk, incorporate them into the roasting juices. Add one pint of water. After a few minutes of whisking, all the flavours from the base of the tin should be whisked in. Strain the sauce from the roasting tin into the saucepan and let it reduce and thicken. Add any juices which have come from the resting turkey.'

You may try it, and risk it, but my own gut feeling is that this sauce - incorporating as it does THREE Knorr stock cubes - would be intolerably salty. I will try out the basting paste, the caramelized onions and the (fried?) giblets, but while the turkey's resting, I'll tip out the pan juices and deglaze the roasting dish with half a glass of very hearty red wine. If you do this, allow to bubble for a minute or two and add to the reserved pan juices. Boil over high heat for a minute or two, then add hot water mixed with just a little Bisto - enough to thicken it slightly but not turn it into wallpaper paste - to make up the sauce to the required quantity for your numbers. Even better, the day before, make a nice stock from a little cheap 'soup' beef and a few chicken wings, and add a small amount of Bisto to thicken it. In either case, just before serving, don't forget to add the juices from the resting turkey.

THE SPROUTS

White's final piece of advice (and I agree fully) is to 'go for frozen Brussels sprouts. If I buy so-called 'fresh' sprouts, how do I know they're fresh? I've got no idea when they were picked - it could have been a week ago. But I know frozen sprouts have been picked and frozen within a few hours.

'The frozen sprouts have already been boiled, so whatever you

do, don't open the packet and chuck them into boiling water. As they're already cooked, all you need to do is re-heat them by pan-frying them in butter. That's the way I've done it in all of my Michelin-starred restaurants.'

A few minutes before you plan to serve up 'heat a saute pan and add butter. When it's foaming, add the (just defrosted) sprouts and some chestnuts, if you like. Remember, the sprouts are already cooked; all you're doing is caramelising them, so it will take just a few minutes. Add salt, pepper and more butter to taste.' Send them to table in a hot dish so the butter doesn't congeal.

Ready-cooked, vacuum-packed chestnuts are available in AB Supermarket so there's no reason to go through the nuisance process of cooking and peeling them.

THE MASH AND CARROTS

I like carrots and mash in addition to the turkey, roasties and sprouts. For the mash, you'll need a largish potato per person. Cut for boiling, they'll need about 20 minutes of boiling. Use plenty of butter when mashing them, and hot milk (evaporated milk like NouNou gives an extra-creamy taste). You can keep the mash warm in a dish covered with foil in a low oven for a while. Any leftover mash makes lovely potato cakes for Boxing Day breakfast or lunch. Add chopped parsley, some grated cheese, black pepper and an egg or egg yolk (depending on how much is left) to the mash and, with wet hands, form into cakes. Dip in flour or breadcrumbs and fry in hot oil until golden.

Here is a lovely recipe for honey-glazed carrots:

Wash and peel the carrots (a large carrot per person and a couple extra for seconds will do) and slice them crossways finely into oval discs. Gently cook them in a non-stick pan with a tight-fitting lid, with a knob of butter and similar of olive oil (about a couple of tablespoons of each), a slurp of water, a loaded teaspoon of honey (or more if you like them sweet), salt and, most importantly, a good handful of finely chopped rosemary. They

take about 15 minutes to cook, but you'll need to check a couple of times that there is still a little liquid, so they don't burn on the bottom - if there is liquid in the pan when the carrots are cooked, take off the lid and allow to reduce to just a glaze. Once soft but still with a slight bite, add the zest and juice of a small lemon.

Jossy's Fish & Chips Bar Ipsos Also Jossy's Fried Chicken

Winter opening hours:

Tuesday 17.00 - 22.00

Friday 17.00 - 22.00

Saturday 17.00 - 22.00

Tel. 6974 845043

DOCTOR IN THE HOUSE (CONTD.)

OTHER ADVICE

■ A good posture may help. Brace your shoulders slightly backwards, and walk 'like a model'. Try not to stoop when you sit at a desk. Sit upright.

■ A firm supporting pillow seems to help some people when sleeping.

■ Physiotherapy. It is not clear whether this makes much difference to the outcome of mechanical neck pain. Therapies such as traction, heat, cold, manipulation, etc, may be tried, but the evidence that these help is not strong. However, what is often helpful is the advice a physiotherapist can give on neck exercises to do at home.

OUTCOME Most uncomplicated neck pain is associated with poor posture, anxiety and depression, neck strain, occupational injuries, or sporting injuries. Rarely, disc prolapse and inflammatory, infective, or malignant conditions affect the cervical spine and present as neck pain with or without neurologic features. If you suffer from neck pain consult your doctor. There are several different treatment that you can try to minimize your pain and discomfort.

SMALL ADS

SUZUKI LIANA STATION WAGON 2005 model, 1600cc, 105,000 kms. Permanent 4x4 (Subaru/Suzuki/Fiat automatic system). Aircon, CD mp3 player. 18,000 euro new, selling at 7,999 euro ono. Call 6997 722113

SEAT TOLEDO 2000 model, 1600cc, 120,000 kms. Silver, VGC, aircon. 4,500 euro ono. Call 6945 107900

MERCEDES CLOSED VAN Furniture-removal style. 70hp diesel. 150,000 kms. 4,500 euro ono. Call 6997 722113

OLD HOUSE ON ERIKOUSSA ISLAND 40 sq.m. in 1000 sq.m. land with 14 mature olive trees. Sea view towards sunset. 5 minutes walk to beach. 98,000 euro. Call 6934 396335

PLOT OS LAND ON ERIKOUSSA ISLAND 500 sq.m. in Town Planning, can build 400 sq.m. 5 minutes walk to beach. 98,000 euro. Call 6934 396335

INTERIOR DOORS Two beautiful old mahogany (?) solid doors for interior use. Call 6934 396335 for appointment to view.

ANTIQUES Three floors of village-style antiques and various old bric a brac. Call 6934 396335 for appointment to view - serious customers only

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

ARE YOU COMPUTER LITERATURE? One to one computer training can help upgrade your office skills, and improve your employment prospects. We can tailor a personal instruction course to suit all your requirements. Phone 26610 95263 or 6976 242376. email info@truetype2000.com

QUALIFIED TRADESMEN in all aspects of construction for internal/external works. 30 years experience. Also owner-operator of micro-digger and 2 ton mini-digger. Good daily rates for all works. Call Mark on 26630 92452

Holiday Complaints

A woman threatened to call police after claiming that she'd been locked in by staff. When in fact, she had mistaken the 'do not disturb' sign on the back of the door as a warning to remain in the room.

A tourist at a top African game lodge overlooking a waterhole, who spotted a visibly aroused elephant, complained that the sight of this rampant beast ruined his honeymoon by making him feel 'inadequate'.

"The beach was too sandy."

A guest at a Novotel in Australia complained his soup was too thick and strong. He was inadvertently slurping the gravy at the time.

"Topless sunbathing on the beach should be banned. The holiday was ruined as my husband spent all day looking at other women."

"We bought 'Ray-Ban' sunglasses for five euros from a street trader, only to find out they were fake."

"No-one told us there would be fish in the sea. The children were startled."

"It took us nine hours to fly home from Jamaica to England, but it only took the Americans three hours to get home."

"My fiancé and I booked a twin-bedded room but we were placed in a double-bedded room. We now hold you responsible for the fact that I find myself pregnant. This would not have happened if you had put us in the room that we booked."

"I compared the size of our one-bedroom apartment to our friends' three-bedroom apartment and ours was significantly smaller."

"The brochure stated: 'No hairdressers at the accommodation'. We're trainee hairdressers - will we be OK staying here?"

"There are too many Spanish people. The receptionist speaks Spanish. The food is Spanish. Too many foreigners."

"We found the sand was not like the sand in the brochure. Your brochure shows the sand as yellow but it was white."

"We had to queue outside with no air conditioning."

"It is your duty as a tour operator to advise us of noisy or unruly guests before we travel."

"I was bitten by a mosquito - no-one said they could bite."

"I think it should be explained in the brochure that the local store does not sell proper biscuits like custard creams or ginger nuts."

"It's lazy of the local shopkeepers to close in the afternoons. I often needed to buy things during 'siesta' time - this should be banned."

"On my holiday to Goa in India, I was disgusted to find that almost every restaurant served curry. I don't like spicy food at all."

"We booked an excursion to a water park but no-one told us we had to bring our swimming costumes and towels."

Dumb Tourist Questions

"Which side of the road do we stand on to wait for the bus?"

"Are there any lakes in the Lake District?"

"In what month is the May Day demonstration?"

"What is the entry fee for Brighton?"

"Why on earth did they build Windsor Castle on the flight path of Heathrow?"

"Is Wales closed during the winter?"

"Can you tell me who performs at the circus in Piccadilly?"

Asked by a tourist at Whitby Abbey, North Yorkshire: "Why did they build so many ruined castles and abbeys in England?"

"Which bus do I get from the Orkney Islands to the Shetland Islands?"

"What time of night does the Loch Ness monster surface and who feeds it?"

"Is Edinburgh in Glasgow?"

"Can I wear high heels in Australia?"

"Which direction is North in Australia?"

Asked by a tourist at the Grand Canyon National Park: "Was this man-made?"

Asked by a tourist at the Carlsbad Caverns National Park: "How much of the caves is underground?"

Asked by a tourist at the Mesa Verde National Park: "Do you know of any undiscovered ruins?"

And...

Comment by a Corfiot visiting Venice: "Aren't the Venetians lucky to have architecture just like we have in Corfu!"

Asked by every single member of a 50-strong botany group from Australia, on holiday in Corfu, addressing their guide:

"What sort of house do you live in? Has it got hot and cold running water?"

Rhetorical questions from an American visiting Corfu's Old Town: "Why do they have all these twisty alleyways? Why can't they just bulldoze a straight road right through?"

Man with Van

Removals

Rubbish Removed



Neil

26630 92226

6977 161036

CHRISTMAS FEATURE

EBOOKS

A new trend in publishing is the book-that's-not-a-book, but actually a pdf file which the recipient prints out. As far as I know, the only Corfu-themed ebooks are my own two, the 'Companion Guide to the Corfu Trail' and the 'Complete Book of Corfu Walks'. If you've got active visitors arriving next summer, send them the latter so they can plan walking trips in advance, in anticipation of their holiday. And you don't pay any postage, or even have to pack the thing! On request, I'll send the file on Christmas Eve, with a personalised message from the giver. See page 10 for more information.

MUSIC RELATED

The *AgiotFest* is going to be BIG, and rock fans will more than thank you for souvenirs of the first event. The AgiotFest 09 DVD will be released for Christmas and can be obtained through the website www.agiotfest.co.uk with payment by PayPal. Or phone 26610 58177 to obtain it locally. AgiotFest 09 T-shirts are also available via the same website and phone number, in all sizes and accompanied by a must-have AgiotFest 09 poster.

Google artists from the and order their CDs as a special gift for musically-inclined friends and relatives - Mercs and Cherokees, reviewed on the right, involved Dylan lead guitarist, PJ Wright.

OTHER ITEMS

Holy Trinity Church has a small shop selling Corfu-related items at low prices. Money goes towards church funds.

A set of 14 postcards, each one a reproduction of an early 20th century postcard by local artist Angelos Giallinas, is available via www.corfupostcards.com, payment by PayPal and direct shipping anywhere in the world - another gift you don't have to pack and post. I'll gift-wrap and -tag on request. www.corfupostcards.com or phone 6934 396335.



Patounis Olive Oil Soap is the real stuff - no nasty chemicals, and it's really easy on the skin. Each soap comes in a cardboard box, tied up with natural string. It's a pocket-money-sized gift that would be ideal for a small one to send to Granny back home.

And the Patounis establishment, in the corner of San Rocco Square as you head down towards the Green Bus Station, is one of the few shops I really enjoy visiting, for its old-fashioned atmosphere and the friendly presence of Mr Patounis himself. (A 'real shop': one which sells stuff you need rather than stuff you want.)

Album Review

Mercs & Cherokees

LITTLE JOHNNY ENGLAND

If ever a musician deserves to be better known, it's PJ Wright, introduced to a Corfu audience at the AgiotFest 09 as lead guitarist and supporting vocalist in the festival's star act, the Dylan Project. PJ plays the same role in the Steve Gibbons Band; he had a critical success with *Galileo's Apology*, an acoustic album with Dave Pegg of Fairport Convention and the Dylans (formerly Jethro Tull); and he has issued a debut solo album, *Hedge of Sound*.

PJ also fronts Little Johnny England, a folk-rock group which produced the album *Mercs & Cherokees*. The five-piece band includes melodeons (small accordions of German origin, played especially by folk musicians) and a fiddle, giving it a tone which is more to the folk end of the folk-rock spectrum (as against the Dylan Project, which tends towards the more rock end).

The songs are varied, and include four instrumentals which would not be out of place in a traditional folk environment, interspersed with songs which run the whole gamut of the genre, as far as the surprisingly rock-ey *Lost Boys* by Ralph McTell (their latest album is more rock-folk than folk-rock, so perhaps *Lost Boys* - the last song on the album - was an indication of where they intended to go).

PJ admits to being a ranter, and he's got two on this album. Co-writer of *My Heart's Where My Home Used To Be* (the album's keynote song), he laments the urbanisation of the countryside, with brief reference to the 'Mercs and Cherokees' which jam the rural lanes where once a horse and cart would trundle. The CD sleeve reprises the rant, which grafts the alien vehicles onto a monochrome photograph of a street in a - 1930s? - small town, where the only other spot of colour is the Shoulder of Mutton pub, unconscious of its projected future as a 'Play Pool' venue (the artwork is shown on the cover). Typically, PJ's songs involve witty lyrics and tunes that sometimes take off in unexpected directions.

Several songs by the undervalued Peter Scowther - who also wrote the wonderful ballad *Lily of Barbary* on PJ's *Hedge of Sound* - are full of an atmosphere that develops both in the lyrics and the music, the latter leading off from a simple voice-and-melodeon start to progressive use of the rock elements in the band. Scowther's wonderful song *Moon at My Window* - second on the album - embodies this approach whilst exploring the destructive effects of passion. Beginning in innocence, it's only in the final devastating line of the last verse that you discover why the moon is shining at the narrator's window. And where that window is located.

If you - or your friends - like folk-rock, folk and Fairport, you'll love this album. Search it out.

Mercs & Cherokees 2001, Fellside Recordings - www.fellside.com

For more information on PJ Wright: www.hedgeofsound.com
You can purchase the CD through the Internet at:
<http://www.play.com/Music/CD/4-/734561/Mercs-Cherokees/Product.html> Or google it.

Five Crucial Components of Web Design

There are five crucial components of web design that you must focus on in order to make a site valuable to its visitors and successful for you.

- SEO (Search Engine Optimisation) - Getting free - as opposed to pay per click - traffic to your site.
- Usability - Ease of navigation around the site in order to find the information you need as quickly as possible.
- Aesthetics - Visual appeal.
- Content - Valid, up-to-date, relevant information.
- Graphics - Images that relay relevant visual information to the visitor.

SEO SEO is the art of designing a site in a way that gives the site an advantage in obtaining free and abundant traffic. The number one aspect of SEO is selecting keywords relevant to your site. The keywords you select should be based on high usage, low competition and relevancy to your topic; this requires detailed research. Once you select your keywords you can then begin the development of your site. Keep in mind keywords are a critical aspect of the design and that the keywords you choose should be applied within the design in strategic fashion to benefit the flow of traffic to your site.

Truetype Web Solutions has an outstanding local reputation for SEO and most of our sites are at the top of the search engines for their chosen keywords.

Usability Your website must be easy to navigate and designed in a way that makes it easy to find information. Visitors will not stay long if it takes more than one or two clicks to get the information they want. One of the goals of your site design should be to keep usability as easy as possible. Provide both simple, intuitive and consistent site navigation, and logical, simple to follow content.

Truetype Web Solutions always design with the visitor in mind and ease of navigation is a major priority.

Aesthetics A website should look clean and uncomplicated. Pleasing aesthetics are achieved when the colours of a site complement each other and any graphics you use blend harmoniously with the overall theme and layout. Many web designers view a web page as an opportunity to blast a visitor with lots of information in the hope that this will convince them to take action. Usually it just results in a quick exit due to the overwhelming visual effect and complicated look.

Truetype Web Solutions' design mantra is "Less is More" and it's with this in mind that we continue to produce clean and attractive web pages.

Content An important feature of any website is the quality of the text content. Visitors come to a site expecting to find answers to their questions, solutions to their problems or for entertainment value. The content offered on your site should be well-written and without grammatical or spelling errors. It also has to be relevant to the theme of your site, with valid, up-to-date information for your visitors.

Truetype Web Solutions takes great pride in turning out well written site content in a number of languages. As native speakers we have a definite edge over some of our competitors.

Graphics The necessary companions to any well-designed site are the images and illustrations that grace its pages. These images should support your branding and communicate the message you are trying to convey. Before you incorporate graphic elements into your site, take some time to look around the web. Notice what looks good and how they are laid out. Adopt these layouts as models for your site.

Truetype Web Solutions can call on the services of a professional graphic designer, as well as providing high class photography and video to enhance your site.

Truetype Web Solutions' speciality is designing and optimising cheap, but highly efficient and visible websites. Our websites enjoy high rankings on the search engines and we are proud of our close personal relationship with all our clients. We also offer a FREE and objective analysis of your existing website, pointing out any defects and suggesting ways in which it could be improved. If you have any queries regarding your site or our services, please don't hesitate to get in touch with us. You can also visit our website where you will find a wealth of information about website design, search engines and the Internet, as well as a portfolio of some of our latest work.

Truetype Web Solutions

www.truetype2000.com

e-mail info@truetype2000.com

(+30) 26610 95263 / (+30) 6976 242376

The Complete Book of Corfu Walks

60 walks and hikes all over the island

Now available exclusively as a pdf file from the Internet

Payment by secure PayPal system

www.corfuwalks.com



ALL WAYS TRAVEL

**A Name To Trust Because We Are A Family-Run Business
Which Cares For Its Clients Like Family**

The IATA Licensed Agent

DO YOU WISH TO TRAVEL?

Then travel first as allways to All Ways Travel

Charter Flights from Athens

EasyJet and all other on-line sites

ALSO VISIT US FOR:

SCHEDULED FLIGHTS

Daily Departures Worldwide



DOMESTIC FLIGHTS

with Aegean and Olympic

PACKAGE HOLIDAYS

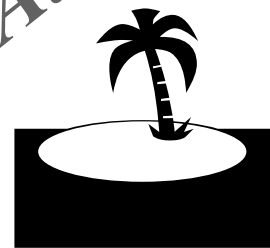
Tailored to your Needs

FERRIES

**International
& Domestic**



Best Prices as Allways!



San Rocco Square ~ Tel. 26610 33955 (5 lines)

Fax 26610 30471 ~ email: allwaystravel@ker.forthnet.gr

Website: www.allwaystravel.cd2.com

***Wherever you wish to go...
travel first to ALL WAYS TRAVEL***