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Corfu's English Language Monthly Magazine

July 2009

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No. 223

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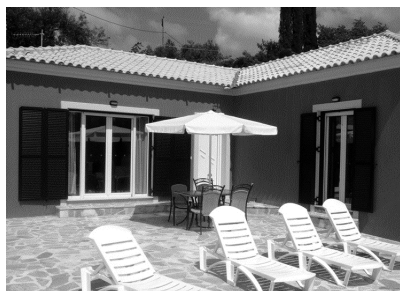
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TAKE AWAY ALSO AVAILABLE

ear to the ground

TIME WAS WHEN CORFU TOWN STOPPED AT THE RADIO STATION (OPPOSITE DIMITRA HYPERMARKET AFTER THE AIRPORT, and on the north side at the Polyclinic on the Kontokali road. Nowadays, every highway out of Corfu Town comprises a solid strip of development, when all was fields and olive groves. Each year it creeps further, so that villages which once were defined settlements have become almost suburbs of the town.

The walking season is over now, save for a little dog exercising early morning and at twilight, but on our second-last Saturday walk, in mid-May, we headed into new territory. Anyone been to Notos and Kaliviotis? Anyone know where they are? Sometimes you get to places by accident, but you would have to be quite spectacularly lost to find yourself there! Heading down the south east coast, most folk get as far as Boukari. The road used to end about here, and continued as a bumpy track, often blocked by slumps of soil off the cliffs. Now they've black-topped the road, so it's an easy drive onwards to Petriti, a no-frills working port, with a fish meal about a third of the price of tavernas on the North East Coast. Following the coast southwards, you can only get to Notos Beach by foot or bike, and by car you have to take a long detour inland by way of a confusion of little lanes. Between Notos and Kaliviotis, hardly any development spoils the coast-line, just the odd low-key taverna (we recommend Savvas Beach!).

Our walk followed part of this road - traffic-free in May - then headed inland to the village of Agios Nikolaos. Here, on the long, wide main street, we spotted a bar, and since the walk wasn't a long one, we stopped for a coffee.

Agios Nikolaos reminds me of how villages in central Corfu used to be before they got tarted up and became suburban. A little bit ramshackle, slightly dusty, no cars (only one passed while we were there), and a few purposeful people getting on with things like strimming (and that was the women). Apart from at the very top of the village (seemingly the oldest part), few houses were derelict; the settlement seems spacious, thus the houses are of sufficient size to prevent an exodus to larger accommodation elsewhere. Agios Nikolaos is by no means picturesque on the lines of the postcard-pretty villages of the centre and north, but we liked its sunny, peaceful atmosphere. Though there's no Tree of Idleness to shade the bar, we managed to relax in a little corner of Corfu that seemed to take us back to the past, to an older island we thought was gone.

THOSE OF YOU ON HOLIDAY WHO WISH TO RELAX CORFU-STYLE, take a leaf out of the locals' book and find a Tree of Idleness to sit under. See page xx for details on how to find one!

I MANAGED TO CATCH THIS SIGHT ON FILM WHILE WALKING IN THE ROPA VALLEY RECENTLY. It appears to be a Giant Green Grasshopper - I estimate it at about the size of a large bungalow. The film is slightly blurry as it was moving so quickly across the sky. It's believed to be the first GGG caught so clearly on film - usually something goes wrong with the camera or the developing process when a GGG is photographed.

This GGG appeared to be heading in the direction of the Tembloni dump when it disappeared from sight over the ridge. So when GGGs invade, we know who to blame, don't we?

Or it's possible it was heading for Agios Ioannis to secure tickets for the AgiotFest, coming up on 12 September. The Festival is attracting interest from all over Europe. Have aliens now heard about this great event too?

See inside for more on the Temploni dump and the AgiotFest.



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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)
Thursdays 10.30 Bible Study, the Old Testament (new series)
Fridays 10.00-12.00 Informal Prayer Meeting

The Revd. Michael Counsell is acting as Locum Chaplain on until 13 September.

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.

wanted! - Paintings of Corfu Calling all Local Artists!

Corfu Donkey Rescue is holding an auction of Corfu artwork this summer to raise funds for the construction of a new donkey hospital at Doukades.

Where: Hotel Nefeli,
Kommeno When: Sunday,
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Can you contribute any artwork of the island?

Please contact Katie Flower for more information:
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This month's name days

- 07. Kyriaki, Kyriakos
- 08. Theofilos, Prokopios
Fiesta at Agios Prokopios Village
- 11. Olga
- 17. Marina
Fiestas at Benitses and at Analypsis, Kanoni
- 20. Ilias
Island's biggest fiesta near Magoulades
- 22. Magdalini
- 24. Christina
- 26. Paraskevi, Paraskevas
- 27. Panteleimon
Fiesta at Agios Panteleimonas Village
Name-day ritual dictates that you visit the home of the celebrating person, who will be holding an 'at home' - no invitation required. Take along a simple gift (alcohol, flowers, cake) and you will be offered a drink, nuts, cake, and possibly some nibbles.

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Book Sale

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

ACHARAVI

AGIOTQUEST

✍ *Phil Mawson*

Preparing for AGIOTFEST with The Dylan Project

As the early summer heat-wave broadens everyone's smiles, especially those of the tourists and their selected watering hole hosts, TEAM AGIOTFEST continues with the foot-slogging task in missionary-style fashion by spreading the word according to the Agiot-Master - St. Paul of Agios Ioannis.

The expedition is gathering impetus and we are delighted with the response from all the island's varied community and visitors alike as we eagerly await AGIOTFEST Day on 12 September.

Artists, craft-workers and demonstrators, poets, authors and street-entertainers, each with something different to offer, will participate in officially recognized FRINGE SHOWS along the route to the festival/concert field from 12 noon up to the 6 pm opening of the doors. Headline act The Dylan Project will be supported by Richie Henderson's East of Memphis band. Such complimentary acts will provide a wealth of existing established talent, as well as giving some who may be exhibiting for the first time a stage to promote themselves to a greater audience.

Locals as well as the various ex-pat communities are in for a treat at this year's AGIOTFEST. Not only will they be witnessing Musical History being made on a musical island - it's the first time leading rock musicians have performed here - but they will be part of developing it into 'Cropredy in the Sun'.

Dave Pegg of Fairport Convention and The Dylan Project, and formerly of Jethro Tull, informs me that he is still on the marathon FAIRPORT CONVENTION ACOUSTIC TOUR 09, and in his own words is 'quite knackered'. The Fairports continue to perform to packed houses the length and breadth of the UK, a testament to their magnetism and pulling power. They culminate the UK tour with the Cropredy Festival in August - just a few weeks ahead of our own AGIOTFEST 09 - so Dave and Gerry should be rested and recovered sufficiently in the period between to give their all along with Steve Gibbons, PJ Wright (currently in the recording studios) and keyboardist Philip Bond, in The Dylan Project's first CORFU GIG.

AGIOTFEST PRACTICALITIES

TICKET AVAILABILITY Our ticket sellers grow in number and we have allocated/appointed OFFICIAL TICKET OUTLETS in Sidari, Acharavi, Arillas, San Stefanos and Afionas in the North West. Dassia, Kontokali and Corfu Town areas too are covered. Dutch hosts, Lenno and Seas, offer a welcome visitor great hospitality and JAM SESSIONS and TICKET SALES at their taverna near Danilia called @home.

Full details available of TICKET AVAILABILITY and OUTLETS on our FESTIVAL OFFICIAL WEBSITE
www.agiotfest.com

SEATING is limited to 1000 so hurry up and book your seat for this musical and festive extravaganza. Standing area tickets are on sale from late August but are restricted to the rear of the seating area.

DEMONSTRATIONS and FRINGE ACTS Anyone interested in exhibiting art work, doing craft demonstrations or seeking to perform musical fringe at various locations around the village in the afternoon of AGIOTFEST DAY should contact me as soon as possible to arrange matters and discuss the possibility of inclusion in the event. Call Phil on 6943 050593

FESTIVAL DETAILS The evening AGIOTFEST 09 concert/main event is set to be in the festival grounds, probably beside Villa Theodora at 6pm(doors open time) whilst the show begins at 7pm til late.

Souvenirs AGIOTFEST 09 OFFICIAL T-SHIRTS, PROGRAMMES etc will be available for purchase at the Festival. Supplies are limited so come early to avoid disappointment - these items are set to become COLLECTORS ITEMS of VALUE in due course.

See you all there!

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Who's Who at AgiotFest: Phil Bond

I was born in the city of Worcester and started piano lessons at the age of nine. There was a lot of music in my family, with my grandfather the bandmaster for his town band in Ireland. My piano teacher was actually a good friend of Elgar; he was also sub-organist of Worcester Cathedral. He encouraged me to improvise from a very early age, and I've been doing it ever since. At secondary school I formed a duo, and it's gone on from there. Names that I've played with include Del Shannon, Eddie Holman, Ruby Turner and of course Steve Gibbons whom I've worked with a lot over many years. I've written music for the BBC, and had a musical performed by the Liverpool Children's Theatre.

I've been playing Greek music for about eight years. I first backed a Greek singer called Knoussis on a UK tour in the 80s. I've worked with a lot of Greek musicians in England in clubs and restaurants and at weddings and christenings. I especially like the old school such as Hiorti and Gazangides, and the poetry of Gerge Seferis. I'm not sure what's happening in modern Greek music at the moment.

I don't play any traditional Greek instruments such as the bouzouki or baglama, but I know a lot of Greek songs. Tsiftatelli, Zebbekiko, the women's dances in 7/8.

I'm playing Jewish music as we speak with a fiddle and double bass player and we will be doing some gigs in England in the near future.

I play music everyday, write and improvise. I've got my own recording set-up and do some everyday. I love all music. I get out of my musical comfort zones and enjoy learning new stuff. I've been a regular with The Dylan Project for about three years, though they called me up for odd gigs before then.

I've been to Corfu on holiday. It would have been in the mid-80s and we stayed in Kassiopi. Very nice.

I like Greek culture, film and literature. I was introduced to Theodorakis, and thence to the artists who resisted the Colonel's regime of the 60s.

I'm looking forward to reconnecting with all things Greek in September. And I'm brushing up on my Kalamatianos!!!

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The Temploni Dump: The European Commissioner's response Hilary Paipeti

Construction of a SECOND rubbish dump at Temploni is the European Commission's solution to Corfu's waste problem. Regular readers will recall our disclosure in the March issue of the appalling management of waste disposal at the tip - including dumping outside the protective membrane - which has resulted in the leakage of toxins into neighbouring fields, pollution of underground water, and possible decomposition of the underlying rock. Local residents are reporting health problems. It is likely that the new dump will be administered by the same company, with its track record of willful incompetence.

The original landfill dump was initiated illegally in 1986, despite a hydrological survey which established that underground water drains towards the sea at Gouvia. Construction of a second dump (also illegally sited due to the proximity of underground water) near Lefkimmi has been held up due to protests by local people; a year ago a mother was killed during an intervention by special forces (MAT).

In February, residents of Temploni blocked access to the dump as a protest. As a result of reports in national media, an inspection visit by EU officials was promised, but when it finally materialised Commissioner Mrs Danuta Hubner did not visit either site, and indicated that she was completely unaware of the problem. She promised to examine documentary evidence presented to her by protesters who met her at the Port.

This is her (edited) reply:

Answer to the letter sent to the Commissioner Mrs. Danuta Hübner on critical remarks concerning Commissioner's visit on Corfu.

REF: CAB A(09)630

Thank you for your message regarding the situation in the waste management system in Corfu and in particular in the Temploni landfill. Commissioner Hübner is very much aware of the problem you discuss in your message, both in its local and national dimension, and she has asked me to reply to you on her behalf.

The project to which you mainly referred, titled 'Construction of the landfill in Kerkyra' in the site of Temploni, Corfu, was co-funded by Cohesion Fund I with a Community contribution of €2.240.000. The sanitary landfill in question has been operational since 2002. However, the cell of the landfill (the project has a capacity to include three cells but only one cell has been constructed) completed its life cycle within a much shorter time than was initially planned due to the lack of effective recycling policy in Corfu and to the fact that the Temploni site was the only operational landfill on the entire island.

The involvement of Commissioner Hübner and of her services (Directorate-General Regional Policy) in this policy domain, as co-managers of the Structural Funds, is to provide the necessary funding in order to materialize projects which contribute to making regions and cities more attractive places in which to live, to work, and to invest.

Therefore DG Regional Policy also co-funds waste management and other environmental management infrastructures through the Cohesion Fund and the European Regional Development Fund, so as to assist Member States in acquiring infrastructures that comply with standards deriving from European environmental legislation. Please note, however, that, according to the principle of subsidiarity and the applicable regulations, it is national authorities implementing such projects which should fulfil the obligations deriving from the relevant directives and in particular those concerning the construction and operation of waste management infrastructures. It should be underlined that the decision on the level of planning for waste management falls under the responsibility of the national authorities. The national authorities also decide on the methods and the type of landfill. This cannot be subject to a control by the Commission. Consequently, national administrative and judicial instances - not the European Commission - are competent for judging the correctness and lawfulness of specific aspects of this implementation.

We at DG Regional Policy certainly consider that the investments made by the financial instruments of cohesion policy over the years have indeed helped Greece and its regions to come closer to attaining the objective of full compliance with European law in the domain of environmental policy. The existing record of thousands of useful projects in a variety of sectors attests to the good use of European taxpayers' money, which the European Commission and its partners in the Member States have made. Potential failings in certain cases could neither be allowed to blacken the considerable successes of regional policy across Greece and the entire Union nor be used to attack the European Commission, as the successful implementation of co-funded interventions, in their technical details (such as the localization of waste disposal sites), is the responsibility of national, regional and local authorities. Moreover, these few failings cannot be used to absolve local societies, which are the first concerned, of their primary responsibility to find lawful and appropriate solutions to the problem of managing the waste they produce themselves.

Additionally, on what concerns the Temploni waste disposal site in particular, I should inform you that the applicable Regulations provide for a maximum period of 5 years past the construction (of an infrastructure, after) which the national authorities have specific responsibilities concern(ing) the post-construction operation of the project. It would not be reasonable to expect the Commission or any other European-level organ to monitor in perpetuity the post-construction operation of the tens of thousands of infrastructure projects ... all over the European Union. This is clearly a responsibility of national authorities and local societies.

As you may conclude yourself from the facts I mentioned at the beginning of my reply, the five-year period has expired in the case of the Temploni site. Therefore environmental concerns caused by the Temploni site, as illustrated in the audiovisual material you annexed to your letter, can only be addressed to national authorities, and, in case of infringement of European environmental legislation, to the European Commission's DG Environment.

However, in its continuous efforts to assist Member States and regions to solve problems hindering economic development and to reduce intra-regional socio-economic disparities, the European Commission is ready to help Greek authorities, through the structural funds, to manage the grave situation caused by waste in Corfu. Specifically, Greek authorities have decided the construction of a second cell in the Temploni site. The public procurement procedure for this project will be finalised in the following months. At the same time a project to upgrade the existing landfill in Temploni has been initiated.

The project (has) a total budget of €1,300,000 and it includes the construction of a perimeter wall, works for the management of biogas, and a system of tertiary treatment.

Let me conclude by adding that waste management is an issue which goes beyond the acts and/or omissions of authorities and concerns the public first and foremost. Citizens in Greece could and should take bolder steps towards assuming the indispensable part they have to play in the success of any policy concerning the waste management, among other by participating in systematic and widespread recycling.

Jacques Toncet

On behalf of Commissioner Hubner

So basically what the Commission is saying is that it is not their responsibility, but that of the local/national authorities. And that it is the fault of the Corfiot people for not recycling! This altogether misses the point, which is that the authorities themselves are incapable of ensuring correct management of waste disposal at the dump. It is not up to the citizens to monitor the operation of the dump, nor is it the citizens' responsibility to provide infrastructure for recycling. The local authorities, whose responsibility it is for both, have shown themselves to be incompetent on one hand and indifferent on the other.

The letter is contradictory, first passing the buck to the local authorities, then blaming the Corfiot people for not processing their waste properly, when the letter's designated 'responsible' authorities have not provided facilities for them to do so! A recycling plant was planned as part of the dump infrastructure, but it is not in operation. Whose responsibility is that? Lots of citizens WOULD recycle if infrastructure was available for them to do so.

Will a second dump at Temploni be run any better? Or will recyclable waste just go straight into the landfill as it does now?

Indeed, we would not expect the European Commission 'to monitor in perpetuity... tens of thousands of infrastructure projects'. But here they have not had to monitor anything... their own citizens brought the problems to their attention. So why is no action being taken? Whose side are they on?

Nearly three million euros (so far) has been spent on deploying special forces at Lefkimmi, who use tear gas and truncheons against unarmed locals exercising their democratic right to protest. This is TWICE the EU share of funding for upgrading of the dump! Could this money have been better employed to ensure better waste disposal techniques and construction of recycling plants? Or is there some other agenda?

The documents and photographs presented to Mrs Hubner (which the author saw as they were handed over) clearly show violation of EU environmental legislation at the Lefkimmi dump, specifically illegal proximity to housing and the presence of on-site underground water. The letter writer indicates that structures are in place to deal with such infringements. So why don't they deal with them, when they have blatant documentary evidence in their hands? Or is it the responsibility of some other department? More to the point, why does the Commission continue to fund infrastructures, when they have evidence that they are illegal under their own rules?

It should be noted here that the Temploni dump is also illegal under EU laws. While dumps should not be located closer than 1,500 metres from residences, the nearest building - pre-dating the dump - is just 210 metres from the boundary fence. The European Commission was already in possession of evidence of this when it funded the extension of the pre-existing illegal and unplanned landfill. And that's not to mention the hydrology report showing underground water, which also means the dump is illegally sited according to EU laws! Why?

As usual with the EU, the letter raises more questions than it answers.

But the most worrying phrase in the above letter is: 'Potential failings in certain cases could neither be allowed to blacken the considerable successes of regional policy across Greece and the entire Union **nor be used to attack the European Commission...**' (my bold) This statement, penned by a patronizing non-elected bureaucrat, demonstrates that this is an organization which does not accept criticism. Indeed, the Lisbon Treaty (aka 'EU Constitution') specifically bans criticism of itself by its citizens as an illegal act, thus essentially muzzling the media and dealing a death blow to free speech. ■

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Skin cancer is a malignant growth on the skin. It generally develops in the outer layer of skin (epidermis), so most skin cancers are detectable in the early stages. Skin cancer is the most common cancer in the UK. Around 100,000 cases are diagnosed each year. From them there are 9,500 new cases of melanoma each year, and 2,300 deaths. It is the most common cancer in the young population (20 - 39 age group). It is estimated that about 85% of cases are caused by too much sun exposure.

TYPES

MELANOMA ('malignant melanoma'). This type of skin cancer develops from melanocytes. Melanoma is the less common form of skin cancer, but it is the most serious. It is the one most likely to spread to other parts of the body and it causes the majority of deaths from skin cancer. Melanoma is the second most common cancer in people aged 15-34. It is more than twice as common in young women than young men. A typical melanoma starts as a small dark patch on the skin and it can develop from a normal part of skin, or from an existing mole.

NON-MELANOMA. These are about 20 times more common than melanomas. These are divided into:

Basal cell carcinoma (BCC) - This is the most common skin cancer in white and fair skinned people. BCC is rare in dark skinned people, and it is more common in older people. A BCC typically develops on a sun-exposed area of the skin such as the head and neck. BCCs very rarely spread on other parts of the body. The first sign is often a small red, pink or pearly lump, and they usually grow very slowly.

Squamous cell carcinoma (SCC) - This is the second most common skin cancer in white and fair skinned people. Like BCCs, SCCs are more common in older people. Those over 75 years are about thirty five times more likely to have an SCC than those aged between 50-55 years. An SCC typically develops on the face - most commonly on or around the ears, nose or lips. An SCC may also spread to other areas of the body. However, this is uncommon in the early stages and most are treated before any spread occurs.

Other types of skin cancer are rare.

CAUSATION

The cause of most skin cancers is sun damage to the skin. About 9 in 10 non-melanoma skin cancers, and about 6 in 10 melanomas are thought to be caused by excessive exposure to the sun. In particular, past episodes of sunburn significantly increase the risk.

DIAGNOSIS

Clinical diagnosis is made with visual appearance or with the aid of a dermatoscope. The ABCD is helpful for identifying melanoma. Clinical diagnosis can only be confirmed with a skin biopsy. It can develop from a normal part of skin, or from an existing mole. A melanoma is often different to a mole in one or more of the following ways (summed up as ABCD) - that is:

Asymmetry - the shape of a melanoma is often uneven and asymmetrical, unlike a mole which is usually round and even.

Border - the border or edges of a melanoma are often ragged, notched or blurred. A mole has a smooth well-defined edge.

Colour - the colour (pigmentation) of a melanoma is often not uniform. So there may be 2-3 shades of brown or black. A mole usually has one uniform colour.

Diameter - the size of a melanoma is usually larger than a normal mole, and it continues to grow.

However, some melanomas are not dark, and some melanomas are not typical in how they look. As a melanoma grows in the skin it may itch, bleed, crust or ulcerate.

TREATMENT

All three main types of skin cancer - BCC, SCC and melanoma - are curable if they are detected at an early stage. For non-melanoma skin cancers the overall cure rate is over 95%, even for ones which have been present for a while.

For melanomas the risk of spread to other parts of the body is high. This is why urgent early treatment is needed. An operation is required to remove the melanoma. If it has already spread to other areas of the body then there is less chance of a cure. Treatments such as chemotherapy, radiotherapy or immunotherapy may be used for melanomas which have spread.

PROTECTION

Although it is impossible to completely eliminate the possibility of skin cancer, the risk of developing such a cancer can be reduced significantly with the following steps:

- reduce exposure to ultraviolet (UV) radiation, especially in early years
 - avoid sun exposure during the day, especially from 9 am to 4 pm when the sun is highest in the sky
 - wear protective clothing (long sleeves and hats) when outdoors
 - use a broad-spectrum sunscreen that blocks both UVA and UVB radiation
 - reapply sun block every 2 hours and after swimming
- avoid sunburn as persons with history of sunburn are on increased risk of developing melanoma in the future.

OUTCOME

Skin cancer incidence is increasing in our days. Therefore it is important to know the site and look of the normal moles or marks on your body, so that you will know if there has been any change. If you notice any new growth or new change on your skin and in particular, any change in the size, shape or colour of an existing mole, or if a new dark area of skin develops, then you need to consult your doctor.

Remember that sun protection is the cornerstone of preventing skin cancer.

How does your garden grow? Hilary Paipeti

'Hi! Hang on! I've got to get some gloves. There's a locust here for Rexie, but I can't bear to touch it!' With these mysterious words, Kalliope greeted me at the gate of her garden. Who was Rexie? And what was he, she or it going to do with a locust?

All was revealed as I followed Kalliope. 'Rexie! Rexie!' she called. And bounding down from the top of a fenced area came a huge cockerel. Straight to the fence he strutted, and took the locust from Kalliope's gloved fingers, bashing it on the ground with his beak and then gobbling it down.

Rexie was hand-reared, and is both king of the roost and a family pet. He's one of a couple of dozen chickens, of which the latest member is Houdini, a fluffy salt-and-pepper chick who followed us round the vegetable patch. Houdini was rejected by his mother, and now sleeps in a basket in the house. Night was drawing in, and Houdini's shrill squawks were getting increasingly frantic. Then Kalliope picked him up and he snuggled down in her arms. His squawks turned to comforted cheeps.

Kalliope grew up around animals. Her father is from Metsovo high in the mainland mountains, where sheep are a way of life. 'We had sheep when we were kids,' she said. 'We took them for walks when they were lambs. It was such a wonderful place to grow up.' Kalliope and her soon-husband-to-be Fergal live in the old house where she and her sister were raised, now extended and modernized. Next door live dad and Kalliope's South African mum. The garden around the house is family land, but the couple has acquired adjoining plots to secure an acreage large enough for their naturally produced market garden business.

'We can't call it organic because we haven't got the official certification yet,' explained Kalliope. 'But everything is naturally produced. We fertilise with manure from the chickens and from my dad's sheep. Also organic fertiliser made from earthworms. We use companion planting instead of insecticides. We've got over a hundred olive trees, and we hand-pick the olives so we'll soon have top quality oil.'

Kalliope was educated in South Africa, where she lived with her godmother. She met Fergal in a nightclub where he was working as a DJ. Fergal is Irish, but his family moved to South Africa when he was seven. The couple have come a long way from city life in Johannesburg to the depths of rural Corfu!

'Yes, it is very different - where we came from and what we're doing now. From my side, a lot of it's come from my dad, and from our garden here when I was little.

He's got green fingers and is our best source of information. And Fergal had planted himself a little garden in his Jo'burg suburb. That's his experience, but it shows he was already interested! Why did we change our life? We just got sick

and tired of city life, and all the stress. You take it up to a point, and then think: it's not worth it, then you go back to basics.'

When I first visited Kalliope and Fergal's garden, I expected something more... rustic and utilitarian. I drove up and down the lane several times before I worked out that the only likely venue was a verdant and neatly clipped lawn with a border of lavender, and an area of raised beds enclosed with old rooftiles! But the workaday rows of veggies and greenhouses are round the back. Courgettes, chard, potatoes, lettuce, beetroot... and there's always something new burgeoning.

'The garden changes so fast,' says Kalliope. 'We can't plan exactly what we're going to have. It takes just one big order, and we could be wiped out of one particular vegetable for the time being. And the climate is so harsh that things go to seed much earlier than you would expect.'

Kalliope and Fergal have a product list (apply to kellyk-erkyra@hotmail.com to get on the mailing list), but it's best to go along to the garden with no pre-conceived idea of what you're going to buy, and plan your menu according to what's available rather than the other way round. Sometimes chefs on the big yachts in the Marina come up, and Kalliope gives them a bag and tells them to go and pick what they want. 'They are so thrilled. It's not something they normally get to do,' she says. 'Some people, though, get cross because we don't have exactly what they want. They bring expectations from the UK, and think that everything should be available all year round. Like coriander in August, because it's on the supermarket shelf at home. The supermarkets have done away with people's knowledge of seasonality.'



Framed by lavender, Kalliope and Fergals stand in front of their raised beds

A year down the line, and what are plans for the future?

'Our priority is to get our organic certification. Then we have to think. But broadly we want to be different from the average grower. We don't want to follow the mainstream, so we plan to grow things like cherry tomatoes, chilli peppers and Chinese cabbage, various squashes, and herbs like red basil, lemongrass, coriander and chervil. And of course we'll get honey bees.'

Patty pan, anyone?

FROM KALLIOPE'S HERB GARDEN

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Chives	20 gr bunch	1.00 euro
Lavender	20 gr bunch	0.70 euro
Cinnamon Basil	20 gr bunch	1.00 euro
Sweet Basil	20 gr bunch	0.70 euro

HOW TO GET THERE

From the Gouvia side, take the road towards Temploni. After passing the old Danilia Village, the road swings left. Take the first road on the left. The garden is a few hundred metres along, on the right.

CONTACT DETAILS

Phone 6976 552345

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Right: The product basket contains lettuce, purslane, courgettes and cucumber. 'Anything fresher is still growing,' says Kalliope.



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In Search of the Tree of Idleness

by Hilary Paipeti

It was in Bellapaix, now in Northern Cyprus, that Lawrence Durrell in his book 'Bitter Lemons' identified the Tree of Idleness. 'Its shadow incapacitates one for serious work... if you intend to try and work, (do) not to sit under the Tree of Idleness,' Durrell's guide warned him. Most readers assume that this tree, subject of a full chapter in the book, is THE Tree of Idleness, the one and only tree with the ability to induce torpor. But it is a metaphor; Durrell was identifying a state of mind rather than a specific location.

All over the Greek world, village squares have two features in common - a kafenion and a tree for sitting under while slowly sipping the coffee or ouzo and passing the time. The Tree of Idleness provides a focus for the village, a forum for exchange of information and gossip as well as shade, and its roots are the roots of the people. It's a state of mind rather than a particular location. And when the features are absent and thus the state of mind in retreat, the authentic Greek way of life is in peril.

When Lawrence Durrell arrived in Corfu in April 1935, perhaps his first act after dropping off his luggage at the Pension Suisse was to head downstairs to the Liston Bar. Perhaps he had already singled out his table from an overlooking window - Perhaps the one tucked in under the massive oak tree on the park side of the promenade. Here, he must quickly have understood the attraction of simply sitting and doing nothing. The Liston Bar subsequently became 'HQ' for Larry and his brother Gerald when they later visited Corfu.

This original Tree of Idleness still provokes sloth. Invariably, the table is taken by a usually solitary person enjoying a little cup of Greek coffee, a cigarette and a newspaper - those great partners of idleness.

In Corfu Town, the Tree is thriving, but in villages all over the island its role is diminishing as the villages themselves die. In Makrades, the tiny square which formed the centre of the ancient village is derelict, unvisited except as a result of an accidental wrong turn. Meanwhile, coachloads of visitors swarm around the plastic-tented souvenir shops selling Made-In-Taiwan souvenirs masquerading as traditional local products, while just steps off the main road an authentic village awaits exploration. Inside the old village, high, unwindowed walls give a fortified atmosphere, indicating the aeonian existence of the settlement. Grey-stone cottages seem to have grown haphazardly out of the rocks which

provide their foundations so that the angles of the roof pitches and pantiles lead the eye into a confusion of perspectives. But the maze of alleyways leads into dilapidation; roofs sag as rotten timbers can no longer support their load of ochre tiles. Cracked lintels foretell further collapse. As the tourism industry gobbles euros, a piece of Corfu's heritage is in decline.

In Rachtades, the Tree of Idleness shades an unchanged and unchanging scene. Three old folk sit on the stone bench, resting their bent backs against the lime-washed wall. They don't talk. The odd car passes on its way to somewhere else, somewhere more modern. The kafenion beside the Tree has closed down. Rachtades, the village built on the ridge, is on the road to nowhere.

Some village Trees, though, still play an important role.

At Sokraki, high above Ano Korakiana on the main ridge radiating west from the Pantokrator Massif, the Tree plays an important role, is reached up a dramatic road which features 25 full-lock hairpin bends (and also a comforting safety wall). The village is also on the course of the Corfu Trail, the island-long walking route. In a little paved square at the eastern end of the settlement, Sokraki's Tree of Idleness is shared by two coffee bars, and the drink of preference is Corfu ginger beer. Traumatized travellers and weary walkers visibly fall into relaxation beside the Tree.

Strinilas's square supports two huge elms and two tavernas. It's Corfu's highest village, and being on the road to the Pantokrator summit (915m) it sees a constant stream of rent-a-cars heading for the somewhat disappointing attraction, where the air vibrates with the buzz of half a hundred transmitters and the view is usually lost in the heat haze. Determinedly set on their destination, few stop - and they don't know what they are missing, specifically the best egg and chips in the world at Stamatis Taverna. And Stamatis's wine induces a soporific state under the shade of the Tree.

Possibly Corfu's third largest settlement, Agios Mattheos has a whole line of Trees, shading a series of coffee bars and tavernas. Throughout the day and especially in the evening, the bars are packed with professional Idlers keeping each other company. This is Idleness at its best.

(Even though many Corfiots are among the hardest working people I have ever met!)

The Corfu Trail

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The *Companion Guide to the Corfu Trail* is now available as a pdf download from www.corfutrailguide.com

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A Buddhist Festival

✉ **Maureen McNamara**

I recently attended the Buddhist Spring Festival in Ulverston, Cumbria. There are many International Festivals worldwide, and two main ones in the UK, the word 'festival' having a very different meaning from the Greek village festivals. We do not have music and dancing, drinking and eating animals! But if the word denotes having fun and being happy, then it fits. It is a time to meet up with friends made over many years (this is my fifteenth festival), some of which we have not seen for twelve months. All over the site are groups of people hugging. It is also an opportunity to speak and debate with like-minded people, which does not present itself very frequently in Corfu. All this as well as the wonderful teachings from our spiritual guide, meditation sessions and pujas-chanted prayers.

The Priory is in a superb setting, with a large wooded area (where hundreds of festival-goers camp) which boasts several tracks leading down to the beach. Surrounding the site are many quiet country lanes. It is a time for reflection away from the hurly-burly of modern life - a spiritual holiday.

At each festival we receive an 'empowerment' to a certain Buddha. Although all the Buddhas are one, we concentrate on their different aspects; this last one being Buddha Maitreya - the aspect of loving kindness. So naturally all the teachings concerned loving and cherishing our fellow beings - something we so easily forget day to day, when we become wrapped up in ourselves and our problems.

We believe that we receive many blessings from all the Holy Beings when we attend the festivals, and these blessings help us in our understanding of how to help others - spiritually as well as materially.

All too soon it ended, and sadly we had to leave this magical place - more hugs - until the next time, with plenty of food for thought.

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Fooling the People

 **Lionel Mann**

The story goes that one night, rather less than two-and-a-half thousand years ago, Pericles was tossing and turning in bed, unable to sleep through worry. Some citizens were beginning to enquire uncomfortably closely into his management of the affairs of Athens, and the Ancient Greeks had an endearing habit of requiring that prominent persons who had been detected in unsatisfactory conduct should swallow a nourishing dose of hemlock. (What a pity that such a salutary custom seems to have fallen into disuse these days - how much agony the world would be spared!)

At last the young orphaned Alcibiades, sharing his guardian's bed and favours, could bear with the disruption to his own rest no longer. "Start a war somewhere."

"Shut up and go to sleep." But then Pericles thought, "Hey, that's it! That'll give them something else to think about. The kid's got brains!"

It worked perfectly. There were always the Spartans looking for an opportunity to participate in their favourite pastime, and obstreperous colonies in Asia Minor and Italy that needed to be brought to heel. Pericles ensured that his reign in office extended for many more years, but Alcibiades grew up to pursue a rather spectacular chequered career and came to a sticky end.

The Periclean Ploy - when faced with domestic problems go to war somewhere in order to distract the shallow minds of your populace - has since those days been a regular recourse of politicians who have bungled their home affairs. Of course you must try to find a location suitably remote for your bellicose activities so that your own peoples are not unduly inconvenienced: Korea, Vietnam, Somalia, the Falklands, the Balkans, Afghanistan or Iraq, possibly Iran or Pakistan for instance. However, if you are so stupid as not to choose a 'pushover' you are in real trouble.

Today there is an added bonus to embarking upon such conflict; ease of travel may mean that your chosen enemy can infiltrate your own land, thereby enabling you, Big Brother, to impose severe surveillance and curtailment of civil liberties upon your own bovinely compliant people in order to 'protect' them from 'terrorists'. Xenophobia has always been a politicians' tool to scare the gullible masses into compliance with their devious schemes. In my youth through the thirties and early forties it was 'the filthy Hun'; then came 'Reds under the beds'; today it is 'Imams on the divans'. There have been intermittent variations; throughout the ages the Jews have been a target for envy, and social differences have always been exploited to induce internal blind jealousy, 'divide and rule'. "You can fool all the people..."

A couple of centuries or so after Pericles, the 'upper crust' ruling-class Romans - the patricians - were faced with the problem of keeping their underlings - the plebeians - subservient while they themselves pursued lives of lascivious luxury. They hit upon the stratagem of 'bread and circuses': hand-outs and entertainment, food and chariot races, gladiatorial contests, throwing dissidents to the lions. Today our leaders use minimal 'social security' coupled with cheap cinema, television soap-operas, sitcoms, sport and scandal to keep the mindless populace happy while they feather their nests, pursue very dubious policies and attempt to conceal their lack of ability: The Roman Racket. What's new? "You can fool all the people some of the time..."

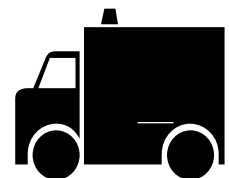
A perennially proclaimed politicians' 'policy' is 'to improve the standard of education', yet to have a well-educated, intelligent, thinking populace is the last thing that they would want; their own pitiful, pathetic ignorance and inadequacy would be instantly detected. Who believes the Schooling Scam? "You can fool all the people some of the time, but you cannot fool some of the people..."

Adolf Hitler is credited with advising his lackeys, "When you tell a lie make it a big one; the ignorant hordes are more likely to believe that." Unfortunately at present the only qualifications required for becoming a politician are a loud mouth, a plausible manner and the ability to tell lies without blushing, a crippling weakness of 'democracy'. Why is it that so many failed lawyers, trained in twisting truth, turn to politics?

From 1939 to 1945 we were led to believe that all the broadcasts in the English language emanating from Germany were deceitful and that the bulletins from Allied sources were impeccably truthful. Of course it later transpired that it was 'six of one and a half-dozen of the other'. In the avowed interest of 'maintaining morale' or 'deceiving the enemy', both we and our foes were often fed a tissue of lies by leaders, usually in an attempt to hide their monumental blunders. The Press and radio were pressed into being willing or unwilling accomplices. Today television and the internet have become additional tools in hoodwinking the populace: The Hitler Hoax.

There is absolutely no depth to which embattled politicians will not descend. Big Business too has joined them in corrupting and exploiting the impressionable young and the poorly-educated unthinking masses; consider the deluge of beguiling advertising that descends daily upon the world together with the current economic chaos. However, there may just be hope. "You can fool all the people some of the time, but you cannot fool some of the people all the time." How many, though, is 'some of the people'? Is it enough to combat perpetual pernicious perverted political perfidy? Today the combination of the Pericles Ploy, the Roman Racket, the Schooling Scam and the Hitler Hoax is working as well as ever. ■

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Pepper up your Summer!

Peppers are quintessentially a summer vegetable, and a most versatile one! Here are some Italian ways with peppers. When buying red peppers, the long, tapering Florina peppers are best. Yellow and green peppers only come in the bell variety. Always choose meaty and unblemished ones, and avoid any that look wrinkled.

Peperonata

8 red peppers, 10 small ripe tomatoes, a large onion, salt, black pepper, olive oil, garlic (optional)

Cook the sliced onion in oil until very lightly browned.

Meanwhile, clean the peppers, remove all the seeds and rinse. Cut them into strips and season them with salt. Put them in the pan, cover and cook gently for 15 minutes.

Peel the tomatoes by pouring boiling water over them and quarter. Put in the pan with the peppers, season with black pepper and cook another 30 minutes. Add finely chopped garlic if you like. The mixture should be quite dry, so if the tomatoes have thrown off a lot of liquid, raise the heat and remove the cover towards the end of cooking.

This makes quite a lot, but it is excellent reheated the next day.

Peppers and Anchovies

8 sweet peppers (red, yellow or green), 16-20 tinned anchovy fillets, salt, black pepper, oregano, 3 tablespoons capers, 4 cloves garlic, olive oil

Place the peppers under a hot grill. When the skin blisters and partly chars, turn another side towards the heat. When all the skin is blistered, remove the peppers and rub off all the blackened skin (you can also do this over a gas flame, spearing the peppers with a carving fork and turning until lightly charred).

Cut the peppers into strips about 4 centimetres wide, removing all seeds and pulpy core. Rinse and pat dry with kitchen paper.

Choose a serving dish which will hold the peppers in four layers. Arrange a layer of peppers on the bottom. Place 4 to 5 anchovies over the peppers. Add a tiny pinch of salt, a good grinding of pepper, a pinch of oregano, a few capers and a crushed garlic clove. Repeat the layers until you have used all the peppers and anchovies. Add enough olive oil to cover the top layer.

Refrigerate for 4 hours or more, then bring to room temperature before serving. If preparing in advance, remove the garlic after 24 hours.

Pasta with Roasted Sweet Peppers

3 meaty sweet red peppers, 2 meaty sweet yellow peppers, 3 tablespoons olive oil, 4 garlic cloves, 500 gr pasta (rigatoni or penne), 60 gr butter, 15-20 basil leaves, 75 gr freshly grated Parmesan cheese

Prepare the peppers as in the previous recipe, cutting them into strips about a centimetre wide, and half the length of the pepper long.

Place the olive oil and garlic - peeled and roughly chopped - in a large pan and saute until the garlic for a few seconds. Add the peppers and cook for five minutes or more until tender but not mushy. When they are nearly done, salt them liberally. They must be well seasoned or the dish will be insipid. Turn off the heat.

Cook the pasta in abundant salted water until al dente (or however you like it).

While the pasta is cooking, melt the butter slowly over a low heat. It mustn't cook.

Rinse the basil leaves in cold water, pat them dry gently and tear into two or three pieces.

When the pasta is cooked, drain well and place in a warm serving dish. Add the peppers with all their oil and juices, the melted butter, basil and cheese and toss thoroughly. Serve at once.

Spaghetti with Aubergines and Peppers

2 large sweet red peppers (or one red and one yellow), 1 medium aubergine, olive oil, 2 cloves garlic, 1 chili pepper (optional), a heaped tablespoon capers, salt, black pepper, 500 gr spaghetti

Prepare the peppers as in the above pasta recipe and set aside. Cut the aubergine into thinnish half-moon slices, place in a colander on a plate, sprinkle generously with salt and set aside for about an hour.

Rinse the aubergine and dry with kitchen paper.

Cook the pasta in abundant salted water until al dente (or however you like it).

While the pasta is cooking, fry the aubergine slices in oil until just tender. Add the pepper strips, the seeded and finely chopped chili and the roughly chopped garlic and saute for a minute more.

When the pasta is cooked, drain well and place in a warm serving dish. Add the aubergine and pepper mixture with all the oil, the capers and a good grinding of black pepper. Toss well and serve at once.

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Commenting on a complaint from a Mr Arthur Purdey about a large gas bill, a spokesman for North West Gas said, 'We agree it was rather high for the time of year. It's possible Mr Purdey has been charged for the gas used up during the explosion that destroyed his house.' (The Daily Telegraph)

Police reveal that a woman arrested for shoplifting had a whole salami in her underwear. When asked why, she said it was because she was missing her Italian boyfriend. (The Manchester Evening News)

Irish police are being handicapped in a search for a stolen van, because they cannot issue a description. It's a Special Branch vehicle and they don't want the public to know what it looks like. (The Guardian)

A young girl who was blown out to sea on a set of inflatable teeth was rescued by a man on an inflatable lobster. A coast guard spokesman commented, 'This sort of thing is all too common.' (The Times)

At the height of the gale, the harbourmaster radioed a coastguard and asked him to estimate the wind speed. He replied he was sorry, but he didn't have a gauge. However, if it was any help, the wind had just blown his Land Rover off the cliff. (Aberdeen Evening Express)

Mrs Irene Graham of Thorpe Avenue, Boscombe, delighted the audience with her reminiscence of the German prisoner of war who was sent each week to do her garden. He was repatriated at the end of 1945, she recalled. 'He'd always seemed a nice friendly chap, but when the crocuses came up in the middle of our lawn in February 1946, they spelt out 'Heil Hitler'.' (Bournemouth Evening Echo)

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Joke Factory

In a zoo there lived a Ree. You won't have heard of this little animal, since there are very few in captivity, and hardly any left in the wild either. I'm surprised no-one's started a 'Save the Ree' campaign, as it's quite a cute beastie, about the size of a pine marten, with silky brindled fur.

One day, the Ree escaped from the zoo. I didn't mention that it's a carnivore, and it managed to survive quite nicely by killing Farmer Hamley's chickens.

Now, Farmer Hamley was not amused at finding dead chickens every morning (the Ree ate everything except the feathers, the feet and the beak), so one night he kept a watch, and spotted the Ree in the act. He just knew he had to get that animal.

But how? The government's firearm laws meant he didn't have a gun anymore, and he didn't want to risk poison because of his cats and dogs. So he decided to set a trap.

The trap was in the form of a cage, which the farmer baited with a juicy piece of raw chicken breast. The Ree was tempted - it didn't even have to kill tonight, thank you! - but when it grabbed the meat - slam! - the cage door dropped behind it. The Ree was trapped.

Now the farmer wasn't sure what to do with the Ree, very much alive in its cage. Being a little squeamish, he didn't want to bludgeon it to death, and as I said before, he had no gun. So after scratching his head for a while, he decided that the best way of getting rid of the Ree was to throw it over the cliff at the far end of his farm. It didn't occur to him to take it back to the zoo; he wasn't aware that he would have got a nice reward for the return of such a rare animal. And he didn't care that the Ree was cute; for him it was just a piece of vermin. So Farmer Hamley carried the cage with the Ree to the top of the high cliff. Just as he was going to fling it over the edge, the Ree looked down, then looked up at the farmer and started to sing:

'It's a long way to Tipperaree...'

PUBLIC SERVICE INFORMATION

With the hottest part of summer on its way, the British Consulate and the Fire Department have issued the following Public Service Announcement

PREVENTION / HANDLING OF FIRE HAZARD

PREVENTING FIRE OUTBREAK

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

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

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

IF A FIRE BREAKS OUT

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

IF THE FIRE IS GETTING NEAR

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

IF THE FIRE IS AT YOUR DOORSTEP

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

AS SOON AS THE FIRE IS OVER

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

INFORMATION

POST OFFICE

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

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

EMERGENCY TELEPHONES

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

CONSULATES

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

CHURCHES

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

SPORTS

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

MEDICAL SERVICES

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

PLACES TO VISIT

Regional National Health Surgeries

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

Need a reliable weather forecast?

A detailed five-day forecast is at:

www.corfunet.com/weather/index.php

IN CORFU TOWN

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM Diverse exhibition of Corfu's
archaeological heritage, including Gorgon Pediment. 1, Vraila St., near
Corfu Palace Hotel. Open 8.30-15.00 except Mondays

BYZANTINE ART MUSEUM Fabulous Byzantine and post-Byzantine
icons. Church of Antovouniotissa, just off Arseniou St. Open 8.30-15.00
except Mondays

SOLOMOS MUSEUM A collection of memorabilia of the Greek
national Poet. Arseniou St. Open 09.30-13.00 weekdays

MUNICIPAL ART GALLERY Corfu Artists of the 19th & 20th centu-
ry. Also changing exhibitions of modern art. Palace of Saint Michael and
Saint George, East Wing. Open 09.00-21.00

OLD FORTRESS Site of the original town, with battlements and bas-
tions and the best view of Corfu Town. **BYZANTINE ART MUSEUM**
and **MUSEUM COPIES SHOP** (closes 14.00). Entrance from the
Esplanade Square. Open every day, 08.30-19.00

NEW FORTRESS Built by the Venetians and British, a stunning work
of military engineering. **MUSEUM OF CERAMICS**. Entrance from
Solomos Street. Open every day, 10.00-19.00

PALACE OF SAINT MICHAEL & SAINT GEORGE Built in 1823
as seat of British government, with impressive official rooms. Contains
MUSEUM OF ASIAN ART, a world class collection of thousands of
art objects from far eastern countries, beautifully displayed and present-
ed in context. Esplanade Square, North End. Open daily 08.30-15.00.
Closed Mondays

BRITISH CEMETERY Lovely garden containing graves from the
British Protectorate to the present. Interesting plants and trees, and fine
cemetery architecture. Entry is free - please leave a generous contribu-
tion to its upkeep. Kolokotroni Street. Open all day

VIDOS ISLAND Off Corfu Town, an extensive, traffic-free islet with
lots of walks and beaches, plus Serbian Mausoleum and fortresses. Good
restaurant. Caique service every half-hour from the Old Port until late
MON REPOS Birthplace of the Duke of Edinburgh. **MUSEUM OF**
ARCHAEOLOGY, REGENCY DESIGN AND BOTANY. Extensive
park with paths and ancient temples. Grounds open daily 08.00 - 18.00,
Museum open 08.30 - 15.00, closed Mondays

PATOUNIS SOAP FACTORY Traditional olive oil soap factory, over
100 years old. 9, Ioanni Theotoki Street, San Rocco Square. Open shop
hours. Tel. 26610 39806

IN THE COUNTRY

ACHILLION PALACE Corfu's most famous building displays memo-
rabilia of its previous owners, Empress Sissi of Austria and Kaiser
Wilhelm ii of Germany, plus lovely gardens. Gastouri Village. Open
daily 08.00 - 19.00

FOLK MUSEUM OF CENTRAL CORFU A village house left intact
with its original decorations, furniture and fittings. Sinarades Village.
Open every day except Sunday 09.30 - 14.30. Tel. 26610 35673 / 44530

PALEOKASTRITSA MONASTERY A small museum with icons and
other relics, as well as some curiosities. Paleokastritsa, end of the road

CORFU SHELL MUSEUM One of Europe's best museums dedicated
to the treasures of the sea. Thousands of exhibits, scientifically labelled.
Benitres Harbour Square, north end. Open every day 10.00 - 21.00

TRIKLINO VINEYARD Agricultural tradition and local products.

Video showing olive and wine production. Wine tasting, traditional
snacks and music. Walk through vineyards with panoramic views.
Karoubatika, on Pelekas Road, 6 km from Town. From 12.00 daily

CORFU DONKEY RESUCE Charity that takes care of old abandoned
and abused donkeys. Phone 6947 375992. Gavrolimni, near Poulades -
follow the signs

KASSIOPI CASTLE Ruins of a medieval castle stand on the headland
above the harbour of Kassiope. Access is indicated from near the
Harbour Square. Currently under reconstruction.

ANGELOKASTRO Dramatic ruins of a Byzantine castle, capping a
rocky peak. Currently being reconstructed. Near Krini

GARDIKI FORTRESS Extensive ruins of a Byzantine fort, located
near the village of Agios Mattheos in the south. Reach it by taking the
road to Lake Korission.

GARDIKI CAVE Occupied by humans around 20,000 BC, near
Gardiki Fortress. Reached by a short path from the road between Agios
Mattheos and Paramonas.

CLASSIFIED

FOR SALE

LAND FOR SALE Kontokali, near the new hospital. 400 sq.m. in Town Planning, can build 240 sq.m. Flat with good access. 75,000 euro. Tel. 6934 396335

SHUTTERS (DOORS) Three pairs. Hardwood painted construction, in excellent condition with no rot or worm, to fit hole 82 1/4" by 38 1/2" complete with ornate euro each or 130 euro all three. can deliver. Email domestic@btinternet.net.com or call 26630 82042 in July

PINE BUNK BEDS varnished, in good condition with two mattresses, one brand new (Mattress Factory 100 euro) accept 145 euro the lot, but will split if needed. Call 26630 82042 in July or email domestic@btinternet.com

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 please

OFFERS

FREE ACCOMMODATION of 50 sq.m. in return for 3-4 hours work per day. Would suit retired couple or those with flexible working hours. Perama area. Tel. 6997 583960 / 26610 21691

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. A basic 6-8 hour course will teach you how to set up, use and maintain a PC, basic word processing skill, and how to send and receive emails. After that, how far you go depends on you. We can tailor a personal instruction course to suit all your requirements. Phone 26610 95263 or 6976 242376. email info@truetype2000.com

BRITISH PLUMBER AND TILER with 35 years experience. Competitive prices. No job too small. North Corfu. Call Mick 6948 135851 / 26630 63989

ELECTRICIAN English qualified and experienced in all Greek installations. All types of work undertaken with free quotations. House maintenance also quoted for. Call me for advice or a quotation on 6976 333688 Carl (Oct)

ENGLISH MASTER BUILDER All kinds of building. Extensions, roofing, pergola. General Maintenance. Dave Redman 6958 277764

PAINTING & DECORATING Woodwork. Pool & garden maintenance. Call Klaus 6942 449049

PERSONAL

MEN'S CIRCLE is an open discussion group. Here we can talk together in trust and confidentiality about every issue that touches us. The main topic is the improvement of relationships whether personal, professional or family etc. We exchange views with respect and understanding, offering each one the opportunity to speak and express himself. For information contact: Bruce McAlpine (6907 916270), Aris Anthi (6996 444469) or: men.corfu@gmail.com

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

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

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

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

WORK

BRITISH REGISTERED NURSE with 20 years experience, now living in Kassiopi, available for care work for young and old in

North/North East Corfu. Please contact Debbie on 6945 669252 or 6948 867162

BABYSITTING Mature Englishwoman offers babysitting services. Evenings only. Corfu Town and surrounding villages. Susan Skoupoura 26610 48015.

SEMI-RETIRED LADY WANTS WORK Villa maintenance, looking after pets, anything considered within easy reach of Aqualand. Replies to: maria@soundofmusic.plus.com

Small ads (for sale and offers categories) are only accepted if paid for in advance. Copy BY EMAIL ONLY, written direct on the document. No attachments and do not write in capital letters please, except where you would normally use caps. Leave your payment (5 euro up to 50 words) by advance telephone arrangement at Typoekdotiki Printshop near Tsores Toys.

RENTALS

GARDELADES Pretty house near quiet village square. Two bedrooms, large sun terrace. Road access and parking close. 400 euro p.m. Tel. 6945 556821

AGRAFI Delightful village house with fertile garden, wide country view and plenty of space and light. Two bedrooms plus studio annex, spacious living area. Direct road access. 500 euro p.m. Tel. 6945 556821

MAGOULADES Lovely old stone barn completely renovated, in elevated position by village road. Two bedrooms, garage, patio garden, great view. Popular village near beach. 500 euro p.m. Tel. 6945 556821

AGIOS MATTHEOS Renovated house with two bedrooms, large lounge/kitchen, balcony, small covered yard. Parking close. 300 euro p.m. Tel. 6945 556821

GIANNADES Renovated house in sunny edge-of-village setting, with roadside parking, great country views from two balconies, small yard. Two bedrooms, separate lounge and kitchen. 400 euro p.m. Tel. 6945 556821

ANO KORAKIANA Renovated house, 2 bedrooms, plus separate guest studio. Roof terrace with sea view, road access. Tel. 6948 180195

LONG TERM RENTAL WANTED 1-2 year on North East Coast - Barbati, Ipsos, Dassia, Kassiopi, or South Moratika - Messongi, or other area close to sea. Three bedroom house with garden, not too remote, unfurnished. We are currently living in Calabria, Italy and wish to move permanently to Corfu.

Email: tinathegypsy@hotmail.com

Search Engine Optimisation (SEO)

Let's start with some statistics: There are 1.3 billion Internet users. Over 85% of these start at a search engine and less than 25% will go beyond the top 10 search engine results. Top 10 results get 80% more traffic than those ranked in the 11-30 spots.

Even the most beautifully-designed site won't do you much good if potential customers can't find it. That's where Search Engine Optimisation (SEO) comes in. SEO helps ensure your site is more visible in the search engines, drive qualified traffic to your website, and convert that traffic into actual customers. In short, SEO increases your website's rankings in the search engines by making the pages within your site more attractive to the search engines. The more attractive your site is to Google, the higher its rankings in the search engine results pages. And the higher your rankings, the more likely users will visit your site. Obviously, a site with a result on Page 1 of Google is going to get more traffic than a site buried on Page 14. If your site is missing from the top search results, then you may not be maximising your ability to generate new business and increase the income from your website.

SEO consists of several key elements that work together to generate increases in a website's rankings, traffic and conversion from visitor to customer: Namely, Keyword Selection, Copywriting, Link Building, HTML Optimisation and Analytics. Let's take a look at each element in more detail.

KEYWORD SELECTION The foundation of any SEO campaign is good keyword research. That's because targeting the right keywords is essential to getting your SEO on the right track. If you sell silver ladies watches, then you're going to want to rank in the search engines for the phrase "silver ladies watches" and other similar phrases. If you target the wrong keywords, then you may not get visitors who want what your site has to offer.

COPYWRITING Getting potential customers to your site is only half the battle; you've still got to convince them to buy. That's where persuasive copywriting comes in. Be sure to tell people why they need your products or services. The search engines like content, so you also need to optimise your copy to include your keywords.

LINK BUILDING Link building is like a big online popularity contest and search engines like popular sites. Your success in the search engines depends, in part, on the amount of relevant incoming links to your site. Of course, having lots of good links also drives more customers to your site. Links can come from various sources, including directories, business partners, organisations, social media sites, etc.

HTML OPTIMISATION HTML is the hidden code behind your website. Title tags, header tags, Alt tags, Meta-descriptions may not mean much to you but they are bread and butter to the search engines who want your site's HTML to be descriptive and clean. Search engines want to know exactly what your page is about; they don't want to sort through a bunch of extraneous code to figure it out. That's why you'll hear SEO professionals talk about the importance of having clean code and how to use CSS (Cascading Style Sheets) to make that happen. Truetype Web Solutions is rightly proud of its HTML coding and all its sites are designed using CSS.

MEASURING SUCCESS No SEO campaign is complete without analytics. After all, if you aren't measuring things like traffic, link popularity, and conversions, then how do you know if your SEO strategies are working? If your current site management company isn't providing you with detailed analytic statistics maybe you should be asking why.

How Do We Put All This Into Practice?

An effective SEO campaign should include each of the five SEO elements listed above. Here at Truetype Web Solutions all our projects give design and SEO equal importance. This means that new sites have an immediate advantage over those of our competitors who do not include ongoing SEO as part of their service.

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.

As well as getting new projects online, we also offer a popular SEO service for existing sites. We have been approached by many clients who simply want their existing website to perform better on the search engines. Sometimes this necessitates a complete redesign, but in many cases some basic SEO has resulted in dramatic results in both ranking and traffic.

The starting point is to contact us and request a FREE and objective analysis of your existing website, pointing out any SEO 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

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The Corfiot Magazine

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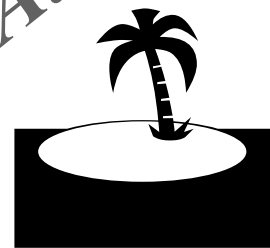
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