

The Corfiot

Corfu's English Language Monthly Magazine

July 2010

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No. 232

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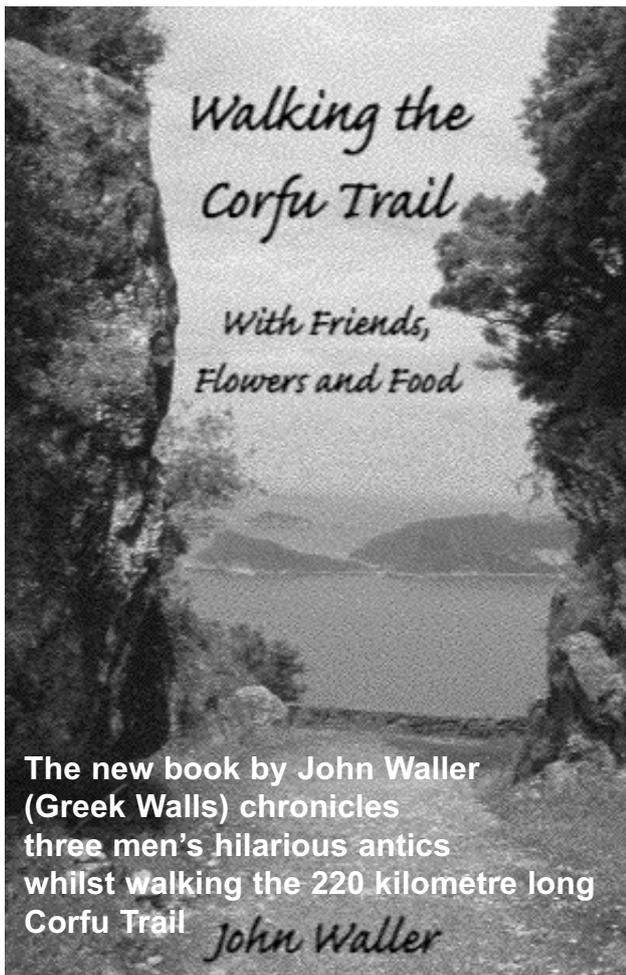
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ear to the ground

CLOUD ATLAS IS ONE OF THOSE NOVELS EVERYONE'S HEARD OF, ONE THAT EVERYONE VIRTUOUSLY PLANS TO READ, BUT IT IS A BOOK THAT FEW PEOPLE HAVE GOT ALL THE WAY THROUGH. Since the first part's written in a slightly archaic English (it's set in the 19th century), the first impression is that it is going to be a struggle (I only persevered because I'd nothing else new to read that day). Get through the first few pages, though, and the book takes you on a helter-skelter ride through interconnected stories, each set in a different time zone, from the past to a post-Apocalyptic future.

The central story - the only one that isn't broken half-way through - takes place in the not-so-distant future. Giant corporations run the place, and consumerism is religion; the populace is obligated to spend, payment being through a chip called a 'soul' inserted in the forefinger. Advertising is all-pervasive, and the corporations even take turns to beam their logo onto the face of the moon. Population quotas are in force. All the dirty work is done by slave-clones tailored for each task; they are 'dumbed down' - both through their DNA and by drugged food - to prevent them questioning their lot.

Sounds like good sci-fi? Sure, but aren't we already nearly there? Take a look at the world around you, and wonder...

INDEED, WE ARE FAST CONVERGING WITH THAT FICTIONAL WORLD. Did you read about the slave-like conditions endured by workers at the massive factory complex in China which makes Apple products? It sounds as if they used the slave-clone scenario in Cloud Atlas as a template! Corporations, pushing must-have but don't-need products at the expense of others, are far from benign. Look at what's happening in the USA.

And you can read about it inside - the stuff you DON'T get told about in the media - in an article sent in by a concerned American. He tells us that already in the US - through lobbying and funding for political campaigns - corporations completely call the tune. In the UK, worrying news broke recently about the new minister in charge of DEFRA (Department for Food and Rural Affairs), who happens to be a former lobbyist for Monsanto (the major GM foods company). Guess what she's pushing for? GM crops to be grown in the UK, against the wishes of the majority of the populace.

This corrupt movement of people between political and corporate arenas is known as the 'Revolving Door'. Politicians such as Dick Cheney and Donald Rumsfeld - among many others - are past masters at it. 'Vested interest' politicians are also working much closer to home, right here in Corfu; journalists are being muzzled by large payouts from the 'interest groups'. Payed not to publish.

BUT ALL IS NOT LOST. THE GOOD NEWS FOR CORFU IS THAT A GRASS-ROOTS MOVEMENT IS GROWING, one which might have the ability to retrieve influence from those persons who do not have our interests at heart, but only their own pockets. Whether at a local level or worldwide, they are just a

few, and we are many. We, the many, can now look to the 'People Power' movement - announced in last month's Corfiot - which has already gained major success. Read about what they intend to do inside.

AS REGARDS THE 'DUMBING DOWN' OF THE POPULACE (which the Cloud Atlas clones demonstrate in the most exaggerated form), we are also already halfway there. Aspartame (the zilch-calorie sweetener which is made from known neurotoxins) has sneaked into foods, even ones we think are healthy, like juices. In the US, the majority of water supplies are fluoridated; fluoride is another brain-scrambler, and is known to keep people acquiescent. Concern is also growing about the increasing use of anti-depressants, which are also keeping people compliant.

We have written about some of these matters (and other worrying trends) in past issues. If you haven't read them, go to www.thecorfiotmagazine.com to find the articles on line (free-to-read after three months). This month, we feature a new problem - Chemtrails. Find out what they may be - and what they might be doing - inside. But, as in every issue, there's good news as well...

THE MOST APT COMMENT ABOUT THE ENGLAND SOCCER TEAM'S DISMAL DISPLAY in the World Cup against Algeria was: 'How embarrassing that our team could only draw against such a poor side. I'm ashamed to be Algerian!'

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Joe Brown heads eclectic line-up at Corfu summer music festival

✍️ Paul McGovern

Corfu's summer music festival, Agiotfest, is held each summer in the village of Agios Ioannis in central Corfu - just 15 minutes drive from Corfu Town. This year's entertainment takes place over two days - Friday 27 and Saturday 28 August, with six hours of music on each night. The seated audience will be restricted to 1,000 people, to allow for easy access and parking.

Tickets are available online via Paypal and remain at 20 euros per night or 35 euros for both nights. See www.agiotfest.co.uk. There will be a special poolside package for those wishing to 'take five' during either evening.

Ample food and refreshment will be served, as last year at sensible prices. CDs and memorabilia will be on sale, and there will be raffles and much more going on in parallel with the performances. We can also arrange accommodation ranging from simple rooms to luxury villas. The festival management's aim is to make Agiotfest the largest rock music event in southern Europe within five years and they hope that this year's eclectic bill will attract a large and enthusiastic audience.

JOE BROWN has worked as a rock and roll singer and guitarist for more than five decades. He was a stage and television performer in the late '50s, a recording star in the early '60s, made six films, presented a radio series for the BBC, appeared on the West End stage and has written an autobiography. In recent years he has again concentrated on recording and performing music, playing two tours of around 100 shows every year and releasing an album almost every year. Brown was first spotted in 1958 and went on to have Top 10 hits in the early '60s and was voted 'Top UK Vocal Personality' in 1962. He plays acoustic and electric guitar, ukulele, mandolin and fiddle. In 2009, Brown was presented with a MOJO lifetime award for his outstanding contribution to music and in the same year was awarded an MBE.

ONE DROP FORWARD was formed in 1991 by a group of friends from Thessaloniki and they have taken their brand of brass-backed reggae all over Greece and further afield. They have regularly appeared at anti-war, anti-racism and anti-capitalism concerts as well as at reggae festivals alongside stars such as Max Romeo.

4SQUARE is a Manchester-based quartet play who sing a melodic blend of tunes and songs, both traditional and self-penned. Since their humble beginnings in a freezing cold farmhouse near Rochdale in the Winter of 2006, the band's music has gelled and matured into the funkiest, most energetic and powerful music you'll hear on the British folk music scene today. They play with technical prowess that defies their age, as well as fiery energy, and always a touch of fun.

LAURA ZAKIAN is a true jazz vocalist who employs her voice as a musical instrument, improvising and moulding the melodic line to lend each lyric the best possible effect. She

studied in New York with Nancy Marano from the Manhattan School of Music, and then performed with some of the leading jazz musicians in Rome, appearing at the Umbria Jazz Festival. Laura is now gaining prominence in the UK with the release of three CDs, 'Nobody Else But Me' nominated as CD of the Week in the Observer newspaper and 'Just One Of Those Things' as heard on Michael Parkinson's BBC Radio Two show. Re-working neglected standards to jazz interpretations of contemporary tunes, Laura's highly accessible set boasts an eclectic and ingenious repertoire. Her third album 'About Love' is probably her finest and most assured work to date.

KURIRI's first few gigs were in their hometown Pirot, in south-eastern Serbia, before moving on to play in central Serbia and Belgrade. In 2009 the audience voted them the best band at the Serbian GBOB Final (Global Battle of the Bands). Their performances are energetic and stimulating and bursting with positive vibrations. The sound is a mixture of alternative and post-rock, and the English lyrics are about love and all the things that really matter in life. In December 2009 the band published their demo CD 'Xenon Project' which is free to download and which has had excellent reviews by both listeners and musical critics. At the moment, they are recording a video for the song 'Fade Away' and are touring the Balkans including gigs in Greece, Bulgaria, Macedonia, Romania and Bosnia.

>7

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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.

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This month's name days

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

Name-day ritual dictates that you visit the home of the celebrating person, who will be holding an 'at home' - no invitation required. Take along a simple gift (alcohol, flowers, cake) and you will be offered a drink, nuts, cake, and possibly some nibbles.

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

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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

OMEGA 5 was formed six years ago on Corfu. The band operates out of the north of the island. Lead guitarist Paul Stenton has worked with many big names including sessions at Abbey Road. Barry Packman has been playing since the early 1970s and has worked with Fairport Convention, 10cc, War and Big Jim Sullivan. Steve Dell is the ex-singer with 1980s rock band Tiger Tail. On drums Nigel Howard-Smith (ex-Changing Faces Band) worked for years in bands around Sussex, while on bass, Steve Henshaw from north-east England has been playing since the 1970s with bands all over the UK.

SONIA GRAMMATIKOS plays the classical guitar and piano, and sings ballads. She has performed in several piano bar restaurants in Corfu and Athens. As she says, in a rather humorous manner, she made the mistake not to allow herself any further musical studies when the time was right. She is the mother of two children, ten and seven years old.

JEMMA BARTLETT is the 20-year-old daughter of Russ Bartlett (The Good Old Boys). She almost stole the show last year, singing alongside her father; she is back this year by popular demand to wow the boys.

The Musicians' Musician What his peers say about Joe Brown

I first saw Joe at Crayford Town Hall in 1962. He was there before any of us. Great player - much respect. Keith Richards 2007

For me, Joe has always been a guitar player first. I must say he appears to me at his happiest as a musician, playing the guitar, mandolin, banjo, harmonica and fiddle and composing songs. It is a pleasure to know him mostly on that level, though I would add that he is also not bad with an old joke or two or three. George Harrison 1986

With his latest recordings, Joe Brown makes his love for all roots-based music as apparent today as it was when I saw him opening for Del Shannon at Newcastle City Hall at the beginning of the 60s. A multi-instrumentalist and always one of the best guitar players around, he is the genuine article - a bona fide British rocker and born entertainer whose roots go back beyond the UK skiffle boom to music hall, early folk music and the Mississippi Delta. Mark Knopfler 2006

Despite all the accolades I still believe Joe is vastly underrated. Within his chosen field Mr Brown is simply the best. David Oxtoby (Artist) 2006

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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

An Exhibition with a Difference *Seven Artists work with Paverpol*

Art Café, Corfu Town

(In the gardens of the Palace of St Michael & St. George)
Friday 16 July at 19.00
Continuing from Saturday 17 - Saturday 31 July
10.00 - 19.00 daily

Cotton, wire and foil seem an unlikely starting point for an art exhibition, but combine this with seven inventive artists and a remarkable product called Paverpol, and you have an exhibition which is a must-see event.

Paverpol is a fabric hardener, but much more. When combined with any natural product, it can produce amazing sculptures suitable for indoor or outdoor use. The only limit is the artist's imagination - and the imagination demonstrated by the seven exhibiting artists indeed is truly amazing.

The exhibition will include a life-size family, an imposing dragon, mermaids, birds, lamps, and a two metre olive tree. Over 40 pieces will be on display to delight and fire the imagination.

Paverpol was invented in Holland over 10 years ago and has since spread worldwide. It has a Global Safety Hallmark and is harmless to people, plants and animals, making it ideal for children as well as adults and to enjoy. The well-known Cofiot artist Carla Bellou was so enchanted by the potential of the product 18 months ago, that she obtained the distribution rights for Greece; she is now setting up a network of suppliers and workshops here in Corfu and on the Greek mainland.

In addition to the sculptures a complete range of Paverpol products will be on display and enquiries about forthcoming workshops are welcome.

With the following artists exhibiting, the exhibition will have a truly international flavour.

SYLVIE BALLEWEG was born in Germany, but has lived abroad for many years. She studied art in Holland. Two years ago, she moved to Corfu, and prefers experimenting with mixed media in natural and industrial materials.

CARLA BELLOU is a well known local Corfiot artist and specialist bespoke framer. Originally from the Netherlands, she has lived in Corfu for over 30 years.

LON KORPERSHOEK-KROOS used to live in The Hague where from the early 90's has specialized in doll-making. She has exhibited in Holland, Germany and Belgium, Denmark and Curacao. She settled in Corfu in 2007.

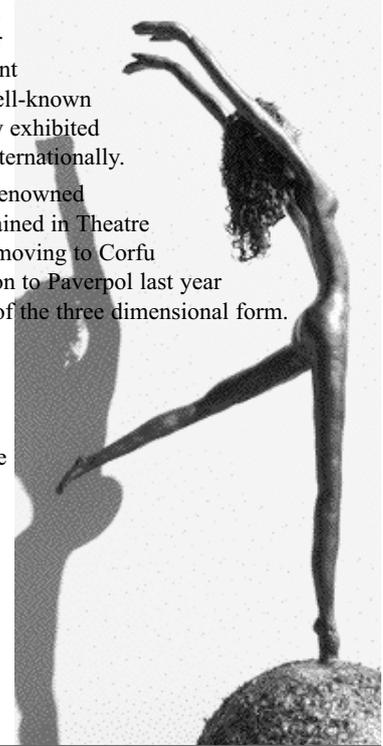
ANNA JONES is originally from the UK. She sailed into Corfu 5 years ago with her husband and immediately fell in love with the island. She normally works with stained glass and fabrics and has enjoyed combining all three of these mediums in this Exhibition.

MIRJAM MULDER trained in Fine Arts in her native Netherlands. She moved to Corfu two years ago and now practices the art of painting and making statues with Paverpol. She also holds workshops in the studio of her house in Agios Ioannis.

EIRINI PENNA was born and raised on Corfu. After completing school she went on to study Fine Art. A well-known artist, she has been widely exhibited both here on Corfu and internationally.

CAROLINE PHILP is a renowned muralist and artist who trained in Theatre Design in the UK before moving to Corfu in the 70s. Her introduction to Paverpol last year has reawakened her love of the three dimensional form.

All the artists will attend on the opening night and will be available during the following two weeks to help with any enquiries.



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A Tale of Two Kittens

...and a lost dog

Tourists often contact us about the animals they see here on the island: cats with eye diseases, dogs tied up on a short rope with no shade, horses without water, and so on. And of course about the dogs and cats which obviously have been abandoned. But sometimes there is a lucky ending to such stories.

One was the tale of two kittens, found when their mother was run over by a car on the main road near Gouvia. Jan and Paula, two Dutch tourists who visit Corfu at least once a year and also help us with taking care of animals, saw it happen and could not leave the two orphans behind. They brought them to my place, where they had been helping me with all kind of work. So two little kittens were cleaned and fed and sheltered. The very next day, a lady called Marilyn phoned, asking whether I happened to have a small kitten - her family has three big dogs, and they want their year-old baby to grow up with both dogs and cats. So Marilyn provided the happy ending, and her little girl, Zoi, is delighted. Even the dogs are getting used to the invaders.

Another good ending was for Rocky, reported to us as wandering around a village in the south. Our informant was afraid the villagers, worried about their chickens, might shoot the dog. She mentioned he was wearing a collar with some numbers on it. We caught the dog - and found that the numbers were a mobile phone. This meant that dog and owner were reunited the same day. The story shows the importance of putting some sort of identification on your dog. Without it, the ending would have been very different.

Greece will pay for stranded tourists

The Greek government has pledged to cover extra costs incurred by tourists stranded in the country by local strikes or the ash cloud.

The announcement came from the Greek tourism and culture minister Pavlos Geroulanos as a response to strikes and riots which followed deep spending cuts. The minister said that the state would pick up the tab for any extra room and board costs, even if visitors were stuck due to volcanic activity.

Greece only avoided bankruptcy by using the first part of a 110 million euro EU bail-out. In order to obtain the money, the government has had to make violent public spending cuts, enraging civil servants whose pay and pensions have been cut. As a consequence, strikes have caused public transport facilities such as airports to grind to a halt (though not in Corfu).

Nationwide, one in every five jobs depends on tourism, and the chaos caused by the unrest has impacted on visitor numbers. However, Geroulanos said that, after initial cancellations, tourism was starting to pick up.

✍️ *Louisa van Vuurde*

Summer is truly here, so you have to take care to give your animals plenty of fresh water and a place to get in the shade. Also, take care to protect them from fleas and ticks, from the mosquitoes which can transmit heartworm - and of course from sandflies that spread leishmaniosis. Please take precautions so that your animals do not get sick. Have a nice healthy animal summer!

Ark Music Evening

Sylva Estate, Kanoni, 12 July, 19.30

After last year's successful and pleasant event, The Ark is holding another Music Evening, with all proceeds going to help animals on Corfu. The event will take place in the beautiful Sylva Estate in Kanoni, next to the Corfu Holiday Palace (former Hilton Hotel). Entrance is via the 'Riding School' gate, a few hundred metres down from the hotel. Several groups of musicians will voluntarily contribute to this marvelous summer evening. The musical performances will alternate with intervals for drinks, and 'finger food' will be served. Entrance costs 15 euros, including drinks and food.

Additionally will there be lottery with two big prizes - a flatscreen TV and a laptop. For more details see the 'Latest News' section on our website www.corfuanimalwelfare.com. Hope to see you all there - tickets are on sale at the entrance.

Corfu flight searches up 37%

Cheapflights UK: Greece is the new holiday chic

Internet searches for flights to Corfu have risen by 37%, according to Cheapflight UK, the UK's leading website for flight price search and comparison. Comparing searches to the destination from the first two weeks of May as against the first two weeks of June, the site confirms that travel to Corfu - and Greece in general - is increasingly popular.

'Though it may be suffering an economic crisis, Greece is clearly taking steps to ensure that tourism will not suffer the impact,' says Nadine Hallak, Travel Expert for Cheapflights.co.uk

The strengthened pound against the euro is also helping by allowing visitors to get more for their money once there.

Cheapflights UK identifies the six most popular Greek destinations based on search: Corfu 37%; Crete 26%; Kos 38%; Kefalonia 42%; Rhodes 39%; Zakynthos 43%. Greece in general is up 32%, while Athens is also much more popular.

Last year's global recession meant that Greece and other Eurozone countries experienced a drop in search during the same period last year. However, with prices from as low as £86 return to destinations like Rhodes and Corfu, and £79 return for Zante, the area appears to be witnessing a bit of a 'tourism revival' for summer 2010.

Taking the Past into the Future at Strongili

✍ Hilary Paipeti

First from the hearth and home, then from the neighbourhood, village, region and Motherland, Greeks go out into the world with a great sense of where they come from. In contrast to populations in most of North West Europe, people - except in the big cities - tend to stay put; and even those who migrate preserve ties with 'home', the village of their origins.

If you sail over to the Diapontian Islands in high summer, you will come across New Yorkers whose families left a couple of generations ago, who still travel back to their 'Patriko Spiti' (family home). And it's the same in villages all over Greece. Perhaps only the young in the cities, now used to sophisticated travel arrangements, are losing the connection.

It's a characteristic that imbues folk with a fierce pride in their locality, to the extent that many contribute on a voluntary basis to their community. One person may run the local philharmonic band, another might assist in cleaning up the village square after the local fiesta, and others might offer their skill for some public building work.

Nowhere at the moment is this characteristic more pronounced than in Strongili, in the central south of the island. 18 kilometres from Corfu Town, the village lies in the vast valley of the Messongi River, cut off from the sea by a long spur of the Agii Deki mountain range diminishing southwards. The location of the settlement, between the mountains and the fertile valley floor, has defined its nature. It's far from being a 'show village'; more a down-to-earth place where people just get on with things.

In the past, those things they got on with were the production of olive oil, wine, vegetables and animal fodder. According to a survey conducted in 1917 by the then French wartime administration, Strongili had a population of 500, who cultivated 20,000 olive trees, producing 140,000 kilos of oil. They also grew corn, wheat and barley, as well as (that year) 140,000 kilos of potatoes. Vineyards covered 200 acres (the local wine is still excellent), and the farmers possessed 50 cows, 100 sheep, 150 goats and 10 pigs.

But the village was already reduced from its heyday in the 15th and 16th centuries, when it was a 'kefalohorio', a major village in the region. Records suggest it was founded in the 12th century, and historical evidence that the nearby monastery and church of Agios Ioannis Prodromos was built in the 13th century seems to support this. The name of the village can be traced back to a Byzantine surname, Strongilos, probably that of a contemporary feudal lord.

Throughout the centuries, the villagers never lived a totally subsistence lifestyle, but exploited their agricultural wealth for trade with the mainland and Albania. The mountain range which backs the village is high but narrow, and the sea is close by to facilitate export of their produce. Today, a spectacularly twisty road leads over the hills to reach the coast road at the gate of the Marbella Hotel at Agios Ioannis Peristeron; in past times, the traders' donkey track would have followed more or less the same course.

Today, connections with Agios Ioannis Peristeron are still strong; from the 1970s onwards, many of the villagers abandoned their agricultural existence, and went to work in the developing tourism industry, both in Agios Ioannis and a few kilometres south at Moraitika (some of Corfu's earliest out-of-town hotels were constructed in this area during the 70s).

While tourism has in its turn declined (some of the region's largest hotels have not even opened their doors this season), Strongili's population still stands at a healthy 600, enough to support a good village shop (run by a Canadian lady called Patricia), two coffee bars (one very traditional; the other so trendy it would now look out of place in Corfu Town) and a very well regarded taverna with genuine home-made Corfiot food (the owner's wife cooks fresh every day in her household kitchen, and she'll make special dishes on advance order if you'd like to try something different and really authentic).

With work in tourism on the decrease, times are hard in Strongili. But that's not hampering the locals' pride in their community. The Strongili Cultural Association is still as active as ever; members organise trips to the Mainland and abroad, and

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fiestas and theatrical events, as well as running a traditional dance troupe for youngsters.

Now, in the face of adversity, the Association is intensifying its activities, with a tram of volunteers dedicated to upgrading the village. Already, a gully on the edge of the settlement has been cleared of undergrowth to create a delightful glade, shaded by an ancient plane tree. Here, the village's past and its future meld. The community's main well was in this glade, the place where the village women would come not just for vital water supplies, but also for exchange of information, news and gossip. This well dates from the foundation of the village, and may well have been the decisive factor in its siting. Now the historic well has been restored, with the help of a local builder Spiros Balasinos (pictured below at work on the well). Due to the downturn, Spiros can find little work in the building trade, but instead of sitting at home and brooding, he is devoting his time and skills free of charge to the community. In addition to the well, a small theatre has been constructed by volunteers along the side of the glade, the location having been donated by a local man, Panayiotis Bogdos. Special help with money and materials was given by the President of Public Works of the local council (Dimos Meliteion) Dina Athanasopoulou-Draganidou.



Plans are ongoing. Strongili's most famous scion was the Greek National Poet Gerasimos Markoras (a street near Corfu Town's market is named after him), and his family mansion still stands in the upper part of the village. On 1 August, the Cultural Association will host a presentation based around his life and works. It will be held at the new theatre, but will also involve a visit to his home, where some of his former possessions will be on display. Readings and analysis of his poetry will also take place.

12>



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FEATURE

>12 At the event, the Cultural Association will announce future actions to upgrade the village, ones which perhaps will contribute towards creating a new tourism product to replace the unfortunately missing one. The actions include the establishment of a Museum of Agriculture, featuring tools and implements from the past century. At the time of writing, negotiations were in progress to purchase the village's old school-house for the purpose.

This building is located in the upper section of the village, the original old settlement. Here, most of the houses, bombed by the Germans during World War II, are in ruins. In an early example of what today the Yanks term 'collateral damage' (i.e. murder of uninvolved civilians), 28 locals were killed, and a memorial to the dead stands in the village square. As the next phase of development plans, the Association hopes to clear debris from the remains and spruce them up the, allowing visitors to explore this little ghost neighbourhood with its tragic history.



The village's future development extends beyond the boundaries of the settlement. Its location between mountain and valley makes it ideal for rural tourism, such as agri-tourism and walking holidays. Already, the Corfu Trail, the island's long-distance walking route, passes through the village centre on its way northwards to Stavros. The mountain range behind Strongili boasts a wonderful network of footpaths, some excitingly precipitous. A scheme is afoot to clear the old footpath which leads from the village to the Church of Pantokrator (pictured above), a chapel spectacularly set on a plummeting rock, thus linking it with the hillside's footpath network - already waymarked by the neighbouring community of Stavros. As a contrast, a web of unsurfaced agricultural tracks winds across the valley floor to Vouniatades and Agios Mattheos on the other side, offering undemanding hikes.

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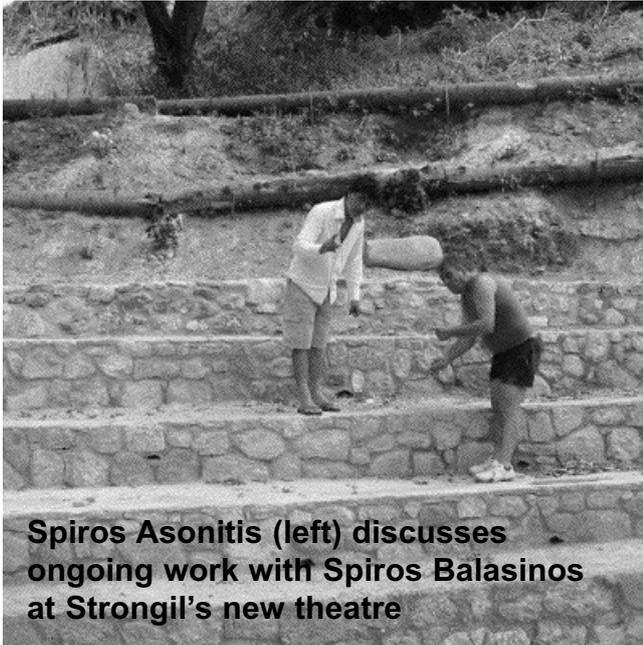
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Take a walk yourself around the village, instead of passing it by. It's pragmatic rather than picturesque, a place to live in rather than a pretty showpiece. Not confined by any geographical feature, the settlement sprawls, and many of the houses sit in gardens where (pragmatically) the locals grow vegetables amongst roses and decorative shrubs. For them, it's only another stage in the long ebb and flow of their history, and - thanks to the value they typically place in their community - one which might have a glowing future.

Thanks to Spiros Asonitis, Yiannis Bogdos and Patricia Webster in the preparation of this article.



Spiros Asonitis (left) discusses ongoing work with Spiros Balasinou at Strongil's new theatre

TO WALK AROUND STRONGILI, start at Patricia's shop, opposite Taverna Spiros. Set off along the road towards Agii Deka and Corfu Town (northwards). Immediately, turn right along a lane, which takes you to a crossroads at the village square. Turn left and follow the lane (past lots of garden plots) until you meet the main road. Here turn right and almost immediately leave the road again on the first lane to the right (not the one painted with white lines). Soon you pass the glade with the well and theatre, a lovely shady spot to rest (if it's midday, take a small picnic from Patricia's shop to consume there). Continue past the glade and take the first lane right. Now you are in the upper part of the village with its older houses, some converted, others in ruins. A large derelict building on the right is the old schoolhouse, hopefully the future museum premises. A church on the left dates from the 17th century. Take the first descending lane, now paved, which leads down to the village square again. Spare time to look at the memorial to the WW2 dead. At the crossroads at the bottom corner of the square turn left. Follow this lane towards another little neighbourhood of the village. Coming up to a rather attractive old roofless building, turn right along a concrete path with shallow steps. Soon you reach the road, where you turn right to get back to your starting point. If it's evening, time the walk so you can eat at Taverna Spiros afterwards.

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People Power has Solutions! Harry Tsoukalas

With local government elections coming up in November, an exciting grass-roots movement is growing in Corfu as a protest against the present corrupt, anti-democratic political system.

The idea of a party representing true democracy is striking a forgotten nerve amongst the Corfiots, who are getting behind 'People Power' in large numbers. 2500 years after true democracy was established in Athens, the group is showing how the majority of the citizens, instead of just the small self-serving ruling elite, can have their way. They believe that a big change for Corfu can be achieved, and that the island can return to its former glory as the best place to live in the south of Europe.

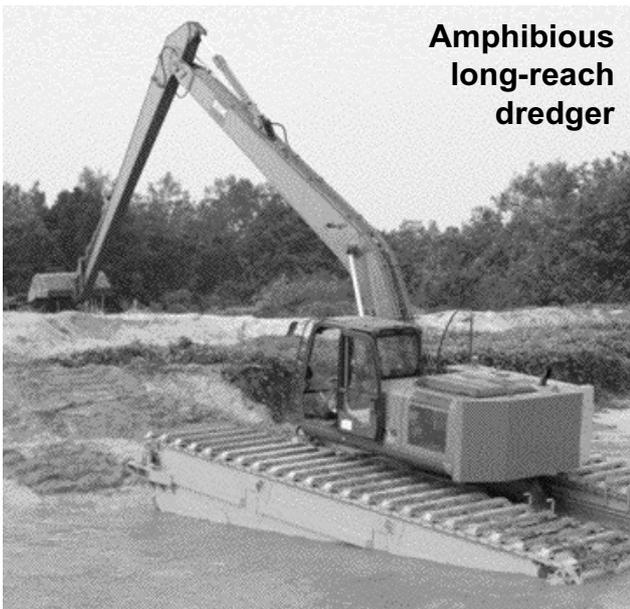
Under People Power, all decisions will be taken by referenda, a system made possible by the introduction of the ecard, so that most of the voting takes place through the internet.

With referenda, the people - and not the self-serving elite - will decide what they want for their island. For example, to build or not to build a new main highway from the north to the south. To introduce new fast boats to connect with the Mainland and the rest of the Ionians. To develop a new airline for the Ionian Islands which can connect them with all the major cities of Europe and - why not? - the Middle East.

As candidate for the post of vice-Mayor on behalf of the new group, Alexandros Kapodistrias said that the time has come for Corfu to become a better place than Monaco.

It is fitting that Kapodistrias is heading the efforts of People Power, since he is a direct descendant of Ioannis Kapodistrias, first President of modern Greece and author of Switzerland's constitution. Switzerland is the only country in Europe where the decision-making process is decided by referenda.

'The island has many riches,' he said, 'but previous governments did not care, or care more for their own interests rather than the island itself.'



**Amphibious
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He pointed out that we can solve the rubbish problem - for example - with cutting-edge but tried-and-tested technology. 'With correct waste management, we can have the island spotlessly clean, at the same time making an income and saving huge amounts of money. We don't have to invent the wheel. We just have to find what the best methods are and introduce them, and we already have people on the island who know what these methods are and are willing to help us. And the same with our land management and olive groves. The island is a paradise. How many abandoned fruit trees produce their fruit year after year without fertilisers and chemicals? This proves we don't need chemicals in our lives. The previous governments destroyed the eco-system by spraying the trees with Lebaycid, which did not produce any results other than huge profits for the politicians and their cronies.'

Andreas Rigas, spokesperson for People Power, explained that there is no main north to south highway because the contractor has to be a non-Greek one; local road builders cannot take on such a major project. But the local mayors do not want a big foreign contractor moving in, because they will not pay them a bribe like the locals contractors. On a project like this, costing hundreds of millions of euros, the bribes would be massive. So



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POLITICAL FEATURE

local authorities are blocking construction by saying that compensation for land appropriation would be too expensive. However, there are solutions.

On the subject of waste management, People Power collaborators point out that technology exists that will negate the need for a single bag of rubbish to go to a landfill site. Any waste not reused and recycled can go for biofuel to generate most of the island's electricity - practically for free! New systems mean it's non-polluting.

Since many valuable items end up on the tip, Sunday markets will allow locals to sell their unwanted goods, enormously reducing the quantity of rubbish, as well as giving people an additional income. Not only household goods, but also basic materials can be recycled, for example rubble, wood and steel. At collection points, rubble can be turned into road-base, costing about ten euros a ton instead of the 50 euros it costs to import from the Mainland. Timber and tree cuttings can be used as mulch and also for fuel for the electricity-generating factory powered by rubbish which cannot be recycled and reused.

People Power also intends to push for proper agricultural management, a potentially important but under-exploited source of income for the island. They intend to introduce a central body which will take on cultivation of a quarter of Corfu's olive groves, reducing the height of the trees in an aesthetically sound manner and using organic methods to grow, harvest and process the olives. People Power has already negotiated with the Church to take on cultivation of its vast and un-exploited holdings. Waste from the olive pressing can also go for electric-generating biofuel.

People Power will also encourage fruit and vegetable cultivation by establishing three markets, one in the north, one in the south and one in Corfu Town, for the use of local producers first, and after by importers. At present, the market in Town is dominated by three large importers at the expense of local farmers.

Regarding Corfu's ferry connections with the Mainland, at present the small ferries that are in use cannot travel if the wind exceeds Force 5, meaning that Corfu is often cut off. Corfu is a category 3 port, allowing small ferries, while Zakynthos and Kefallonia are category 2, which allows only big closed-type ferries. These can travel faster, in up to Force 9 conditions. People Power is asking: Don't we want the same for Corfu?

The group has discovered a Catamaran, owned by Fjord Lines, which is the fastest in the world and can do the trip from Corfu to Igoumenitsa in 30 minutes and not the two hours the 'slipper'-type ferries need. This Cat broke the record across the Atlantic from England to the USA, even though it had to stop for two hours to assist with a rescue.

Another problem - another solution: Corfu's small harbours all have problems with sand clogging the site, like at Agios Stefanos, where even the boats which service the off-shore islands could not get in or out. The local authorities paid 120,000 euros for a huge dredger to come in and only half

clear it. At Astrakeri harbour near Roda, many boats are stuck in the port, including sailing boats belonging to foreigners. Here, the authorities had a budget of 60,000 to dredge it, but the sum was not enough to pay the contractor.

People Power's solution is to purchase a long-reach amphibious excavator, at a second-hand cost of around 70,000 euros. Instead of hiring an expensive contractor on a one-off basis every time a port needs dredging, the machine can keep all the ports clean, and also make money by being on hire to other locations.

The sand collected in the dredging can be washed using a plant which costs only 20,000 euros, and this sand can go to the construction industry for rendering - at a cost of around 10 euros a ton and not the 52 euros per ton we are currently paying for imported sand. Seaweed separated at the same time can go for mulch or biofuel. Together with recycling of rubble for road-base and other projects, importation of building materials from the Mainland can be greatly reduced.

Fjord Lines Catamaran - Fastest



The local election on 7 November is in itself a referendum, in which people will vote on whether they want true democracy or just more of the same. The term will be three and a half years, and if People Power succeed, they will hold a referendum after a year and a half to see if voters want them to continue or not. If not, People Power will step aside for the second party to take over. This is because People Power is not running just to gain seats, but to make the changes that are necessary.

Foreigners resident on Corfu have the right to vote, and to stand as a candidate, in these elections. Registration is at the local KEP (Citizen's Advice Bureau) by 31 August. People Power need YOUR vote, and - if they succeed - YOUR expertise to help with solutions.

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'The US is no longer great' 'An American'

Because there are so few of us in the US who share my mindset, sometimes, distressed with the situation, I feel as though I am alone, crying out in the wilderness. I must admit, however, that there are more of us than there used to be. Some people, as I said before, are awakening to the cold, stark realities of our plight. Much of this 'awakening' is the result of a number of national economic factors, which cannot be ignored.

Far fewer realize just how far we, as a nation, have gone down the road to perdition with respect to our international and foreign policies. Most do not even realize that we are on a road to perdition or that such road even exists. Not only are we well down that road, we have built it, ourselves.

So much is wrong in this nation, which I dearly love, that I barely know where to begin to explicate the depth and width of our problems.

First, I do believe that we owe an allegiance to our own country, whichever one that might be. But, that allegiance should not be so blind, that we are willing to destroy our own nation or the nations of others because of it.

In the US, we are taught, from the earliest schooling on, that the US is the greatest nation in the world. When you are very little, that sort of sentiment evokes a type of national pride, which, through constant reinforcement by our social institutions, sets the stage for a very geocentric view of the world. As one matures, one learns to view the claims of being 'the greatest nation in the world' as mere 'puffery', which one would expect in a magazine commercial or a TV ad. A good education, which teaches critical thinking skills, along with living in or, at least, visiting another country, ought to dispel any notions of superiority.

I received a wonderful education. I also lived in Germany for two years. These factors helped me gain an accurate understanding of my own country and its place in the world. I also had parents who, above all else, taught me to NEVER accept anything that I read or hear as fact, to research everything for myself, to think for myself, and to draw my own conclusions. I was also taught at home to hold fast to my principles and to what I know to be true, no matter the cost. I was very lucky. Most children did not have parents of that mindset, even when I was growing up. Today's children are even more at a disadvantage. Apart from other things, our educational system has fallen into disrepair over the past 40 or so years. (That is primarily the result of the efforts of the far rightwing conservative Republicans, who would like to privatize everything, including our school systems, so that companies can make a profit, even from educating our own citizens. To them, it is all about money.)

Our educational system, which was established in the early years of our nation, was set up around the agrarian economy which existed at that time. Children needed to be out of school and helping in the fields with planting and harvesting during the spring and autumn, most particularly, but also on weekends. The 1700s have come and gone, yet we are still left with this agrarian-based scholastic system, which educates our children only nine months out of the year (actually, eight, if you take into

account Christmas and spring/Easter vacations). By the time the students have returned from their summer vacations, they have forgotten much of what they had learned the previous semester, so some of the new semester is spent revisiting what was taught during the previous semester. It was not until I lived in Germany that I learned that other nations do not have this antiquated educational system. It really is an anachronism that serves little purpose in the modern world, and it keeps the US well behind other nations. Any attempts to change this system however, have been met with vehement disapproval and rejection.

Beyond this sad situation, absolute patriotism is treated as something inviolate. Few exceptions are socially permitted for expressing discontent with our nation's policies and the workings of our government. Although it is true that constitutionally we have free speech, a person who questions the paths the US might be following will most assuredly be frowned upon and verbally attacked by other individuals as being 'unpatriotic' - a word that has come to equate, no less, with treason. Most people fail to understand that free speech provides for - and welcomes - dissenting opinions, and that name-calling does not lead to full discourse in a free society.

This absolute allegiance to the actions of our government, under the guise of 'patriotism', is further perpetuated by the churches - especially the rightwing Christian fundamentalist ones. They insist that the Bible commands each Christian to obey ALL of the commands of the government and to support its actions. They take so many passages out of context, in order to make them say what they want them to say. These churches are nothing but shells for the corporate power brokers and ruling elite in this country, who need a 'managerial group' to keep their flock in line. It has become wholesale prostitution of these churches for the benefit of the wealthy and those in political office.

Through brainwashing from childhood on by the schools and the churches, a person's mindset is already in place by the time he/she ventures out into the world. Few dare to violate the social restrictions and dictates of school AND the church. I was so completely different. I was ALWAYS in trouble for questioning everything. I am not easily fooled. I am thankful to my parents every day for that. They left me with a legacy of thought that is priceless.

Once a person does venture out into the world, that person finds - especially today - that it is difficult to make a living wage, even with a college degree. The population is kept in such a state of worry about how they are going to pay their bills, that they have little time or energy left to 'buck the system'. When you are kept at subsistence living and you do not know if you are going to have a job next week, you are too frightened for your own welfare to ask questions, much less to demand answers. Most people do not understand the relationship between all of these factors: the drain of jobs from the US (particularly since the 80's); the rise of corporate privilege; the establishment of the ruling elite class; America's global policies and the decline of her reputation; terror attacks; the soaring numbers of bankruptcies; and the disappearance of the middle

class, while those at the top get richer and richer. People do not seem to be able to take a step back and see the larger picture. Again, no critical thinking skills.

Then there's the issue of our 'surveillance society'. It has been discovered over the past several years that our phone calls, emails, bank records, and heaven only knows what else have been subjected to government spying and eavesdropping - the very things for which we used to decry the old Soviet Union. We have surveillance cameras at nearly every intersection. Then, there are the nefarious activities of the CIA and the NSA, which spy on our own citizens as well as foreign citizens, and which keep secret prisons in various countries. It is all so shameful. It does not speak of 'freedom'. The US does not see itself as the 'Master Race', but rather as the 'Master Nation', even though it will deny that to the death. But actions really do speak louder than words.

There is also a huge link between the US support for everything Israel - to the exclusion of the good of any other nation in the region - with the Christian fundamentalist churches. It is like a sick fever, a rabid dog on this issue. Never mind fairness or humanitarian concerns of everyone. The Bible says we must protect Israel at all cost, so we do - even to the destruction of our own reputation and integrity, not to mention to the terrible and inhumane treatment of others. The Christian fundamentalists are looking for the return of their savior (or, trying to hurry it along) and, in doing so, they are going to help bring about another world war and, perhaps, the destruction of the entire world. Everything in this country is so black and white, so radical.

Add to that the utter corruption of our elected officials. Our political campaigns are much too long. Once one President (or Congressman, etc.) is elected, his/her campaign for re-election begins immediately. It takes a lot of money - obscene amounts - to conduct a political campaign that, for all intents and purposes, lasts four years. That money predominantly comes from corporate lobbyists, who 'pay to play'. That is, they give millions of dollars in campaign contributions to various candidates, who then pass laws favorable to their companies once they are elected. Many corporate tax breaks are given this way. This is the reason so many corporations were able to move to other countries, taking American jobs with them, with impunity, beginning largely in the 80's - and with TAX INCENTIVES to do so, paid for by the American taxpayer. That is insanity. What person in their right mind pays to have their own nation's economic/industrial system dismantled? The answer: the ruling elite, who are beholden to the corporations, who gave them campaign contributions. Truly, the only democratic power the average American possesses any longer is the power to elect the next congressman, etc., who will then work for the corporations - not for the American people. People have begun to wake up to this. And that does give me some faint glimmer of hope.

That brings us to the issue of people who

come into our country illegally. I understand that they are just trying to find a nation in which to earn some money - but we do not have jobs for our own people. Our TRUE unemployment rate is almost 20%. Many of our own citizens have given up looking for work after trying for a year or more, because there are no jobs. Some jobs that remain are given to illegals, who are paid (once again, by the antagonists, the corporations and businesses) at wages that are FAR below minimum wage. The illegals can't complain because they are here illegally in the first place, and the businesses are reaping huge profits on the backs of a new slave class, which they are creating. It is all so unseemly. On top of that, illegals do not pay income tax because they are paid in cash, 'off the books' (because they cannot legally hold a job here and they cannot get a legitimate social security card number). And, they are able to readily utilize our medical, educational, and social systems free of charge (because they have no reported income), while those of us who were born here, but do not have the money to pay the high premiums required for health insurance (which in my case would be about \$1,000 per month) have to go without medical care. That is the reason most people in the US are so angry about the millions and millions of illegals who have come into this country every year. These people are NOT immigrants. The US welcomes legal immigrants from everywhere. These people are usurpers, who, in essence, move into another person's house, use up their goods, and refuse to leave, while the owners of the house go hungry.

As the child of an immigrant, I resent others just sneaking into this country without permission, especially during such hard economic times, and using services that our own citizens cannot get. My grandparents and mother came here from Germany in 1927. They had to wait their turn to come and, once here, they had to study long and hard, in order to learn about this government and the way it is SUPPOSED TO run. It was very difficult for them at almost age 60 to learn a new language, but they did it, because it was required, just as it is now. They took deep pride in their new country and cherished their citizenship 18>

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



>17 because they had to wait so long and work so hard to get it. This is not an issue of national pride. It is an issue of fairness - to immigrants who came legally and to our own citizens.

But, like all other issues in this country, this issue has become a political football, being tossed this way and that, based on whether or not a politician thinks his position can win him re-election. Many have already discovered that, if they support illegals but not their own constituents, they will not be re-elected. How I wish issues could be decided on the matter of fairness and legality, as opposed to expediency for the political candidate. After all, this is supposed to be a nation of laws, and not of men.

When people talk about the US strengthening its borders, in an effort to determine who is coming in and who is going out of this country, it is seldom pointed out that ALL countries have such laws and regulations. Canada's and Mexico's laws are much more restrictive than those of the US. And, they are enforced. When my own parents went to both countries several years ago, everything they had was searched, their IDs had to be presented, and they had to buy insurance, just to enter for a VERY brief visit.

Some have tried to make the illegal entrant issue into a racial case. For some, that is true. But, for most of Americans, it is not. We have watched while our tax base has eroded, our factories have closed, our jobs have been shipped overseas, and more and more families have lost their homes and all of their belongings in bankruptcy because they cannot pay for medical treatment necessary to keep them or their family members alive. They have lost not only their jobs, but their retirement and their savings and investments, as well any hope for the future. This has happened to even the very old, who have no chance of starting life all over again. Even for those with retirement benefits still intact, they have been reduced. Those who do not have retirement funds have very little help. Social security payments to those who are retired are extremely low. My monthly retirement income will be only \$230 per month. That isn't even enough to pay for a health insurance premium for one week. I am very fortunate that my family had an estate, which I can count on.

In this country, you are pretty much on your own. There is little, if any, help for you unless you are a corporation, a member of the ruling elite, or an illegal. The situation has become dire. Meanwhile the salaries of corporate CEO's has risen beyond all sanity to millions and millions of dollars per year, plus other perks, while the average worker in that same company earns a very bare living. The middle class is becoming a faint memory. Very basic necessities are becoming unaffordable, and that includes medicine. Just one prescription that my father took was \$1,200 per month. Many, many medicines are similarly priced. As a result, people often go without necessary medication. Many die.)

In order to pay for the excesses of the politicians and the corporate giants, the government is proposing that the minimum retirement age be raised to 70 (How would that fly in Greece or anywhere in Europe?). With the degree of age discrimination in this country, and with the extent of unemployment, it is unlikely that anyone close to that age will be hired anywhere by anyone to do anything, other than perhaps flip hamburgers and act as door-greeters at Wal-Mart. Those jobs will not support an individual, much less pay for medical care, especially for someone over the age of 40 or 50. Youth is the name of the game in this country.

There is so much wrong in this country, and most of it had its genesis in corruption. I do not see a way out - not out of our national problems and not out of our international affairs. Our dalliances and misadventures abroad, combined with our corruption at home, I'm afraid, have sealed our fate.

I am reminded of a quote I once read: 'When America ceases to be good, she will cease to be great'. America long ago ceased to be good.

What made England Great!

During the Yalta Summit, Joe Stalin, wanting to impress the other leaders, ordered one of his matelots to throw himself from the highest mast on the ship. 'Yeahah!' Splat. 'There,' quoth Ioseph, 'Russian courage.' Not to be outdone, Eisenhower ordered five US marines to save their country's honour, and so, forming a human pyramid, they did a triple somersault and, for the Free World, splattered themselves over the deck.

Winston called over a stoker, 'My boy, I want you to get up there and show these gentlemen just what it means to be an Englishman.'

'Yer mean, yer wan me ter climb up into the rigging ,and frow meself over everbody's head and kill meself?' the stoker demand.

'Yes, for England.' Winnie assured him.

'You can stuff YOURSELF and these bl***y gentlemen.' came the reply.

With a smile, Winnie turned to his two fellow leaders and told them, 'Gentlemen, telling your prime minister to get stuffed is what made England great. THAT is true courage!'

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Hidden in Plain Sight: Chemtrails Hilary Paipeti

On Easter Saturday, on the following Wednesday and on 10 June, did anyone turn their eyes skywards - and notice strange phenomena? Few people look up without a reason: perhaps for a quick check on the state of the weather, or on hearing some aircraft noise. But hiding our the skies, in plain sight, are manifestations that are worrying an increasing number of people throughout the US and Western Europe. They are called chemtrails.



This photograph was taken at 07.45 on 10 June in the Ropa Valley. It shows only three of the parallel trails made by aeroplanes - there were six, and another plane was making a seventh in between two of the already visible ones. At 11.45 on the same morning, these seven trails were still defined in the sky, though each had spread out to form a sort of linear film of cloud. Clouds move along. These didn't.

Conspiracy theory debunkers dismiss concerns about the trails, saying they are just ordinary condensation trails (contrails) from commercial jets. Contrails are formed at freezingly high altitudes when planes leave water vapour and ice crystals in their wake. But if the trails like we saw on 10 June, and on other days, are normal contrails, why do they not dissipate within seconds, as normal contrails do? Instead, these trails remain for hours, gradually spreading into plumes of cloud.

If they are caused by commercial airliners, why are these planes following parallel tracks across the sky, instead of sticking to a single flight corridor as planes normally do? If they are commercial planes on scheduled flights, or regular charter ones, why do they not fly over on a regular basis?

On the Wednesday after Easter, on the way to Town, I looked up at the streaky sky and saw one of the trails dividing, as a plane peeled away abruptly from the straight line it had been taking. A second trail continued straight, demonstrating that there were two planes making the first part of the trail. Commercial jets do not indulge in formation flying.

What exactly is the purpose behind these 'persistent lines of chemical-infused aerosol spray dispersals from typically unmarked planes' (to quote from one website)? There's lots of

speculation, and even admissions coming from governments.

'The reasons ... vary widely as well between military weapons testing, chemical population control, or measures to mitigate global warming,' writes the debunking Wikipedia entry. Some accounts suggest multiple purposes behind the spraying, depending on the materials used, which are mainly barium and aluminium, but which - according to some commentators - also may contain bacteria and active human pathogens. Some speculate a mind-control element designed to make the population compliant, with people reporting people mental confusion and depression following sprayings. Others hypothesize that they are part of a binary weapon system, requiring a second substance to bring out the virulent phase of the pathogen. And others that the spraying is simply a device to disrupt enemy radar signals.

But why, you ask, would our governments wish to spray their populations with materials which may cause harm? To get to the bottom of this question, you must first rid yourself of the belief that the authorities (or the people behind them) in any way are benevolent towards you or me. They've already demonstrated that they're not. In 2002, after pressure from LibDem MP Norman Baker, the British government admitted that the entire population of the UK was subjected to experimental aerial spraying between 1940 and 1979, with tests which 'involved releasing potentially dangerous chemicals and micro-organisms over vast swaths of the population without the public being told.' The materials included e.coli, Bacillus Globggi (which mimics Anthrax) and Zinc Cadmium Sulphide, a cause of lung cancer. This admission was published in the Observer newspaper on Sunday, 21 April 2002 and can be read on-line (the link is at the foot of the page). Asked whether tests are still being carried out, a Porton Down spokesperson said: 'It is not our policy to discuss ongoing research,' thus implying that similar tests ARE ongoing! The German government has also as good as admitted that spraying is being enacted, as has the USA.

After all, as stated by Henry Kissinger, we are just 'useless eaters', and therefore are candidates for elimination (if you don't believe me, this is well documented).

Whatever the reason for the spraying, the fact that the authorities clearly are not being straight with us is cause for concern. It's never a good sign when governments lie. But even if spraying is taking place for what they perceive to be our own good (for example, to protect us from - non-existent - Global Warming), we are still guinea-pigs in a vast programme whose consequences no-one can guess.

Chemtrail spraying is thought to be associated with a distressing disorder known as Morgellons Disease. Most sufferers live in heavily sprayed areas in the US, but the syndrome has been observed in the UK as well. Its chronic symptoms include unbearable itching which feels like bugs crawling under the skin, lesions which don't heal, tiny vari-coloured fibres coming through the skin, mental confusion and deteriorating eyesight. For a long time, the medical profession refused to recognise the disease, saying that sufferers were causing the symptoms themselves. However, in 2008, the Centre for Disease Control and Prevention launched a study into the condition.

www.guardian.co.uk/archive/article/0,4273,4398507,00

INFORMATION

POST OFFICE Alexandras Avenue.

Open 07.30 - 20.00. Stamps for Europe 70 lepta

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

EMERGENCY TELEPHONES

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

CONSULATES

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

CHURCHES

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

SPORTS

Walking Information	6948 889174
Mountainbike Hire	26610 93344
Golf Course	26610 94220

MEDICAL SERVICES

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

PLACES TO VISIT

Regional National Health Surgeries

Agios Mattheos	26610 75110
Gastouri	26610 56153
Giannades	26610 51210
Kastellani	26610 54333
Kato Garouna	26610 53000
Strongili	26610 75200
Agros	26630 71201
Ano Korakiana	26630 22123
Velonades	26630 71343
Gimari	26630 91395
Doukades	26630 41555
Karoussades	26630 31377
Kassiopi	26630 81238
Makrades	26630 41368
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
MUNICIPAL ART GALLERY Corfu Artists of the 19th & 20th century. 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 bastions and the best view of Corfu Town. **BYZANTINE ART MUSEUM** and **MUSEUM COPIES SHOP** (closes 14.00). Entrance from the Esplanade Square. Open every day, 08.30-19.00
NEW FORTRESS Built by the Venetians and British, a stunning work of military engineering. **MUSEUM OF CERAMICS**. Entrance from Solomos Street. Open every day, 10.00-19.00
PALACE OF SAINT MICHAEL & SAINT GEORGE Built in 1823 as seat of British government, with impressive official rooms. Contains **MUSEUM OF ASIAN ART**, a world class collection of art objects from far eastern countries, beautifully displayed and presented in context. Esplanade Square, North End. Open 08.30-15.00. Closed Mondays
BRITISH CEMETERY Lovely garden containing graves from the British Protectorate to the present. Interesting plants and trees, and fine cemetery architecture. Entry is free - please leave a generous contribution 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 memorabilia of its previous owners, Empress Sissi of Austria and Kaiser Wilhelm II of Germany, plus lovely gardens. Gastouri Village. Open daily 08.00 - 19.00
FOLK MUSEUM OF CENTRAL CORFU A village house left intact with its original decorations, furniture and fittings. Sinarades Village. Open every day except Sunday 09.30 - 14.30. Tel. 26610 35673 / 44530
MUSEUM OF TRADITIONAL GREEK COSTUMES AND CORFIOT FOLK MUSIC 40 years in the making, a unique collection of traditional costumes from all over Greece, plus recordings of traditional songs. Pelekas, opposite the 'Grafitti Wall'. Open 10.00 to 13.30 or by advance notice.
PALEOKASTRITSA MONASTERY A small museum with icons and other relics, as well as some curiosities. Paleokastritsa, end of the road
CORFU SHELL MUSEUM One of Europe's best museums dedicated to the treasures of the sea. Thousands of exhibits, scientifically labelled. Benitses Harbour Square, north end. Open every day 10.00 - 20.00
TRIKLINO VINEYARD Agricultural tradition and local products. Video showing olive and wine production. Wine tasting, traditional snacks and music. Walk through vineyards with panoramic views. Karoubatika, on Pelekas Road, 6 km from Town. From 12.00 daily
CORFU DONKEY 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 Kassiopi. Access is indicated from near the Harbour Square. Currently under reconstruction.
ANGELOKASTRO Dramatic ruins of a Byzantine castle, capping a rocky peak. Currently being reconstructed. Near Krini
GARDIKI FORTRESS Extensive ruins of a Byzantine fort, located near the village of Agios Mattheos in the south. Reach it by taking the road to Lake Korission.
GARDIKI CAVE Occupied by humans around 20,000 BC, near Gardiki Fortress. Reached by a short path from the road between Agios Mattheos and Paramonas.

Website Checklist

Does your present website meet these ten criteria?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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