

# *The* Corfiot

Corfu's English Language Monthly Magazine

March 2009

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No. 219

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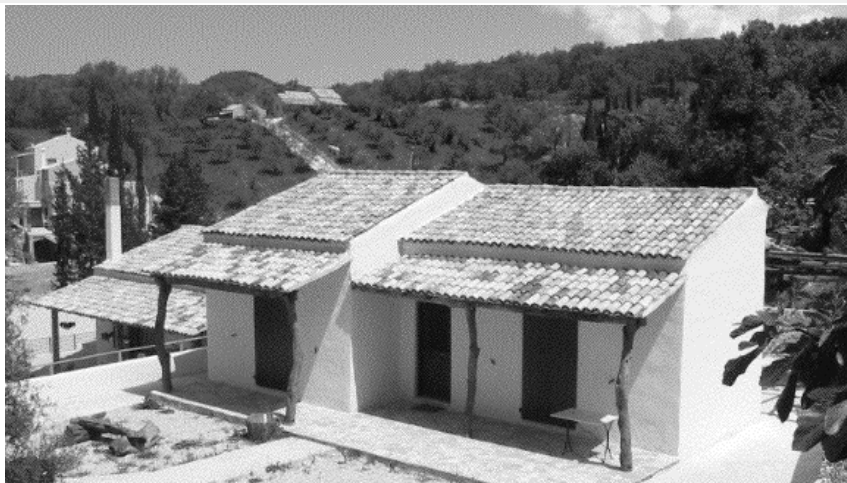
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## ear to the ground

HAS ANYONE NOTICED THAT MAN MADE GLOBAL WARMING HAS GONE AWAY?

Following observations that the polar ice caps are growing, and the sudden realisation that temperatures have dropped in the last decade (thus constituting a 'trend' that would be awkward for the doom-watchers to explain away), MMGW morphed into simple 'Climate Change', presumably so that it could cover cooling as well as warming. I guess the scientists and politicians who have bought in to the scam are hoping that we all have very short memories, and so when they have to announce that the earth is actually cooling, they can pretend they had predicted it all along.

Now even Climate Change has been blown away in the gale of the Credit Crunch (the new CC). The truth is that bunny-hugging and worrying about our 'carbon footprint' is a luxury of affluence, and when people's minds are concentrated on putting food on the table and keeping a roof over their heads, saving polar bears is no longer a priority.

I've never forgotten when David Bellamy told us that carbon dioxide was beneficial, because it keeps oxygen levels down, and if they rise just a fraction, we will all spontaneously combust! Bellamy has been spurned by the 'establishment' (the BBC) for his refusal to toe the PC line about MMGW / Climate Change. He'll be here in May for the Durrell School's 'Garden of the Gods' seminar, so if you join them you'll be able to pick his brains about the other side of the story, the swelling voice of dissent.

Meanwhile, as I write, I'm informed that it's snowing in Loutses and hailing in Afionas. And Britain was having the coldest winter since Global Warming began.

SO THE CREDIT CRUNCH HAS HAD AT LEAST ONE BENEFICIAL EFFECT. Another could be pending - perhaps our throwaway lifestyle may just have to be modified. No longer shall we throw away the duvet because the dog peed on it (as my brother once did), but we'll wash it instead. Maybe we'll be obliged to eat less-packaged food, and re-use more stuff instead of automatically binning it. Perhaps that way we won't cause another environmental disaster like the Tembloni rubbish dump. More on that inside.

BAD NEWS AND GOOD: The Agios Ioannis Music Week - now christened 'AgioFest' is going full steam ahead. That's in September, but coming up in May, as well as the Durrell School seminar mentioned earlier, are three weeks of Greek Dance Workshops. And a British-trained GP has opened a surgery in Corfu Town - we'll be interviewing him next month. Read all about it!

LAWYER/INSURANCE Y OF THE YEAR, DECADE, AND POSSIBLY THE CENTURY - a great story a reader sent in:

This took place in Charlotte North Carolina.

A lawyer purchased a box of very rare and expensive cigars, then insured them against, among other things, fire. Within a month, having smoked his entire stockpile of these great cigars, the

lawyer filed a claim against the insurance company. In his claim, the lawyer stated the cigars were lost 'in a series of small fires.'

The insurance company refused to pay, citing the obvious reason, that the man had consumed the cigars in the normal fashion. The lawyer sued and WON!

Delivering the ruling, the judge agreed with the insurance company that the claim was frivolous. The judge stated nevertheless, that the lawyer held a policy from the company, in which it had warranted that the cigars were insurable and also guaranteed that it would insure them against fire, without defining what is considered to be unacceptable 'fire', and therefore was obligated to pay the claim.

Rather than endure lengthy and costly appeal process, the insurance company accepted the ruling and paid \$15,000 to the lawyer for his loss of the cigars that perished in the 'fires'.

NOW FOR THE BEST PART...

After the lawyer cashed the check, the insurance company had him arrested on 24 counts of ARSON!!! With his own insurance claim and testimony from the previous case being used against him, the lawyer was convicted of intentionally burning his insured property and was sentenced to 24 months in jail and a \$24,000 fine.

This true story won First Place in last year's Criminal Lawyers Award Contest.

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### REGULAR EVENTS

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

Current locum Chaplain is the Revd. Bruce Lyons who, with his wife Eileen, is at Holy Trinity until Greek Easter.

## This month's name days

- 01. Evdokia
- 02. Evthalia
- 07. Evgenios
- 09. Smaragdos
- 12. Theofanis
- 17. Alexios
- 19. Chrysanthos
- 25. Evangelos

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

## A British GP

**has opened a surgery in Corfu Town!**

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**His team comprises himself and a nurse with many years of experience in the NHS.**

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# 'Garden of the Gods'

## DSC Seminar: 24-29 May 2009

 **Richard Pine**

The Durrell School of Corfu (DSC) will host an international seminar entitled 'The Garden of the Gods' at its Library and Study Centre from 24 to 29 May 2009. Renowned botanist and presenter Dr David Bellamy and botanist and former diplomat Hugh Bennison will act as moderators.

The DSC invites submissions on all aspects of botany, horticulture, landscape history and Mediterranean gardens and gardening. The organisers also hope to receive submissions addressing the themes:

- ~ How did civilization change the landscape and vegetation in order to meet their needs
- ~ Origins of wine production
- ~ What did the Greeks contribute to floral gardening
- ~ The modern decorative garden
- ~ Commercial horticulture related to tourism
- ~ Geographical origin of garden plants i.e. edible, medical, decorative
- ~ Cooperation with nature
  - ~ Plant cultivation
- ~ Observance of nature
  - ~ Bird- and insect-watching
  - ~ Reflection on the changing seasons

### RATIONALE

Gerald Durrell moved with his family to the Greek island of Corfu in 1935, where as a young boy he began to collect and keep the local fauna as pets. The family stayed until 1939. This interval was later the basis of three books written about Corfu, the last entitled 'The Garden of the Gods'.

Gerald's childhood mentor in Corfu was the Greek doctor, scientist, poet, and philosopher Theodore Stephanides, and his ideas left a lasting impression on the young naturalist. Together, they

examined Corfu fauna, which Durrell housed in everything from test tubes to bathtubs. Another major influence during these formative years, according to Durrell, was the writing of French naturalist Jean Henri Fabre.

The DSC aims, in this seminar, to study the flora and fauna which so interested the young Durrell and how the garden of Corfu has changed since his childhood.

We aim to draw on expertise in as many areas as possible which link the ancient Greek concept of pleasure gardening. This originated from the Greek farm gardens - which served the functional purpose of growing fruit and which were originated by Alexander the Great, who conquered parts of Western Asia, returning with new varieties of fruits and plants which prompted a renewed interest in horticulture amongst Greek people.

In Greek civilization, gardens were used to beautify temple groves as well as to create recreational spaces. Cimon of Athens is said to have torn down the walls of his garden to transform it into a public space. Open peristyle courts were first designed by the Greeks to fuse homes with the outside world. In Ancient Latium, a garden was part of every farm. According to Cato the Elder, every garden should be close to the house and should have flower beds and ornamental trees. Horace wrote that during his time flower gardens became a national indulgence. Augustus constructed the Porticus Liviae, a public garden in Rome.

Outside Rome, gardens tended to proliferate at centers of wealth.

The works of Homer contain many references to gardens, made during the Homeric Age which preceded the Classical Age. He writes of sacred groves, of palace gardens and of flower and vegetable gardens. Sacred groves and flower/fruit gardens were made amongst the fields outside towns like Athens, Mycenae and Tiryns. The palace gardens within their city walls were 7>

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essentially courtyards but may have contained a few plants grown in pots. The gardens of Classical Greece were of the same three types as in the age of Homer. In late classical times the peristyle form became dominant. This was a paved courtyard, possibly with pot plants, surrounded by a roofed colonnade. It was used for palaces and gymnasia. Today a 'gardener' is any person involved in gardening, arguably the world's oldest occupation.

## MODERATORS

**David Bellamy OBE**, originally trained as a botanist at Durham University, where he later held the post of Senior Lecturer in Botany until 1982; he still holds the post of Honorary Professor for Adult and Continuing Education. The word Botany derives from the Greek βοτάνη, which means 'pasture, grass, fodder', perhaps via the idea of a livestock keeper needing to know which plants are safe for livestock to eat. Botany, the study of plants, began with tribal efforts to identify edible, medicinal and poisonous plants, making it one of the oldest sciences. From this ancient interest in plants, the scope of botany has increased.

David Bellamy, who is an honorary patron of the Durrell School and a frequent visitor to Corfu, will give his usual exuberant walks in Gerald Durrell's footsteps, hi-lighting appreciation and changes in the Garden of the Gods.

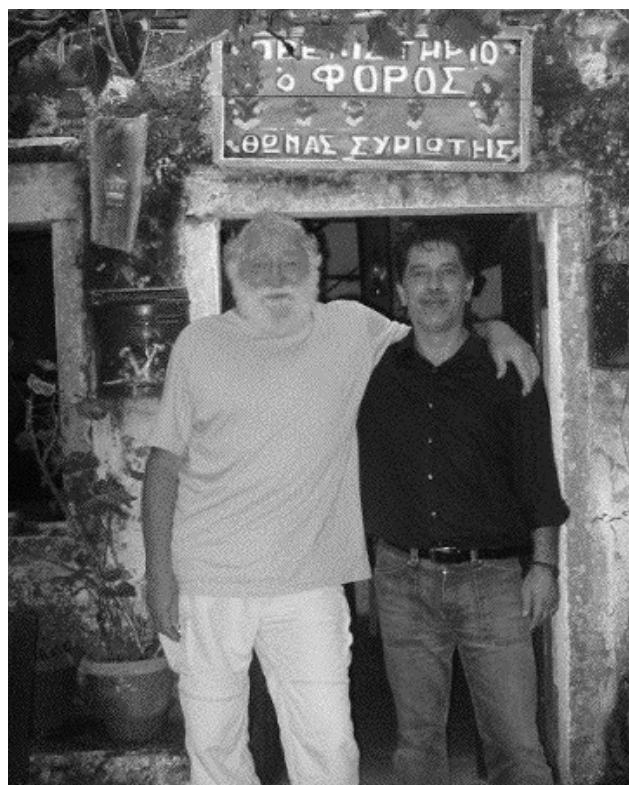
**Hugh Bennison B.Sc., MA, DTA**, is a part-time resident of Corfu, an early pioneer who fell in love with the beauty and flora of the island and bought a house here some thirty years ago. Hugh studied horticulture and then tropical agriculture at Cambridge University. He had a career in international rural development and poverty alleviation. He started in the Kenyan Colonial Agricultural Service; stints in Botswana and Brussels followed; and his final post before retirement was in Thailand where he was the EU diplomat in charge of EU aid to South and South East Asia. Hugh is currently involved in a commercial peony project and travels extensively throughout the world studying and collecting specimens.

## REGISTRATION

The registration fee for the seminar will be 300 euros for participants (to include costs of field classes). Intending participants should consult the DSC website for details of accommodation available in Corfu.

A limited number of scholarships is available: in the first instance, contact the Administrative Director at: [durrells@otenet.gr](mailto:durrells@otenet.gr)

*The photo shows David Bellamy at Foros Taverna in Old Perithia, with proprietor Thomas Syriotis, during a previous seminar*

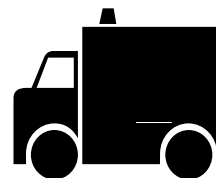


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# PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

## AGIOTFEST 2009

✍️ Phil Mawson

### *Music and Fun in the Sun with the Dylan Project*

Winter draws on - and anything else that can protect one's person from icing up gets commandeered, deposited around the body accordingly, in a continuing attempt to keep out the chill. So it is in a state of total siege from Uncle Jack that I have occasion to compose this article with the latest news from Planet Agios Music week. It may be cold outside (and inside in my central heating-less villa) but our thoughts remain focused on the great excitement that lies ahead in September - the headline act and world renowned troupe of wandering minstrels: 'The Dylan Project', featuring Fairport Convention and former Jethro Tull 'inmates' David Pegg and Gerry Conway, with Steve Gibbons, P. J. Wright and Phil Bond completing the line-up, continue to play to 'full-houses' in the UK and Europe. 'Peggy' and Gerry are well established in Fairport Convention, and are currently in the middle of a sell-out UK tour. Nigh on 40 dates are being played and I had occasion to meet up with them at the first gig of the tour in late January. They opened the tour that evening in the beautifully historic town of Tewkesbury, playing to a packed audience at the Rose's Theatre. This was the setting for one of the last 'Hurrahs' of the great comedian Eric Morecambe. I think he would have been looking down at the fine entertainment provided that night. Fairport have a great following and treat their audience to much more than a musical evening. Peggy in particular has the gift of being a great communicator and has a rapport with his audiences that could only be described as most conclusive - reciprocated in every way and accordingly held in great respect. Truly a friend of the people, he will bring that bonhomie to our festival in September and no doubt add to his ever soaring list of friends and admirers.

After the Tewks gig, we met for a chat about the forthcoming AgiotFest in late summer on Corfu. Peggy is almost certain that he and possibly P.J. (Wright) had been to Agios Ioannis in the 70s, and although much younger then, they appreciated the island's culture and history; they hope to take time out to visit various places of interest during their stay.

As the band name implies, the Dylan Project leans towards many of Bob Dylan's creations, and the audience will instantly recognise most compositions. The musicians augment this style of music with their own compositions, as well as reflections of Jethro Tull and Fairport renditions. They will have the audience - and indeed Agios Ioannis - rocking, believe me.

This year's festival offers a great opportunity for the village to be placed prominently on the cultural map. The efforts of Paul and Lula McGovern along with Lionel Mann should not go unnoticed. They are prepared to invest in what they envisage should be a most wonderful experience for Agios Ioannis - and for Corfu. If successful and well supported from all areas of Corfu, the Ionian and further afield, the Festival will become a LANDMARK (on an island already with huge musical credibility) by adding a 'LISTED FESTIVAL' into the EUROPEAN MUSICFEST CIRCUIT. Who knows where we will go from here - we hope it will be the start of something extraordinary, and that we'll re-live each September here in Agios Ioannis,

enjoying the exciting, continuing musical ethos of the 70s - a decade of festivals that broke the mould of the performance conservatism of before. The proof will be in a well-received Music Festival both in performance and by high-numbered supportive audiences. Save up your euros - it will be money well spent: A 6-day event we should all be proud of, culminating in the Saturday/Final night concert.

With their appearance at AgiotFest, the Dylan Project will be the first 'top notch' rock outfits from the UK to perform in Corfu. 'Peggy' himself appeared with Jethro Tull in Athens beneath the Acropolis a few years back, so we should feel proud that Agios Ioannis is his next Greek port of call.

So as I continue to enthuse over the tasty morsel that awaits a very fortunate number of Folk-Rockers, whilst sitting ever close to my log-fire on this cold February day, it is heartwarming to know that the prospect of some fun in the sun is only a few months away.

Our friends who are collectively working on AgiotFest continue to lay plans for this and subsequent years' festivals. The need to justify certain expenditure is paramount. Top well-known bands do not come cheap, but if we are expected to take AgiotFest seriously, we need head-line acts that can attract the numbers required to determine future festival progress. AgiotFest also offers a unique opportunity for local Greek and ex-pats acts to appear and get the recognition that might otherwise elude them. We are encouraging media input at every level to promote AgiotFest during both the build up and the actual week's events.

Dedicated sponsorship from every direction would be a great boon and as it is my remit to find as much financial support towards making AgiotFest an affordable regular 'happening', all avenues and suggestions are being considered. If anyone has a suggestion/offer please let us know. My contact number, ever at my side, is 6943 050593.

LET'S HAVE FUN IN THE SEPTEMBER SUN - ROCK ON, AGIOTFEST!



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## ANIMAL WELFARE

# A Dog Called Harry

Another sad looking dog had appeared on the streets in Sidari. It was a poodle-type dog with filthy matted fur, and every time it was spotted it looked as though it was struggling to go to the toilet.

CARE's van was off the road, so we earmarked this dog to be the first to be picked up and taken to the vet when transport was found.

Then a man called Dave told us that he had fished an exhausted dog out of a swimming pool - the poor thing was hanging onto the pool edge by its front paws. The dog was lucky to be rescued as Dave only saw it because he was driving his van, which is high. He left the dog in the sunshine to dry off and recover. When he told us, we realised it was the dog we had been concerned about.

We searched, and eventually managed to catch him, and I took him to spend the night in a kennel before visiting the vet.

It didn't look good for the poor little thing, as the smell of rotting flesh was very strong. We surmised that this was why the dog was always trying to go to the loo - if that was the case he would most probably have to be put to sleep. He was also just skin, bone and fur.

The next day we were shocked to find that the dog's problem was the 'other end' - he was continually crouched over because he was in agony from a rope that was completely embedded in his neck!!! The vet operated, only having to give the dog the pre-med before he collapsed, and the rope was removed. It was just a fraction from severing the poor dog's windpipe and has left him with a deep wound around his neck and a hole in his throat.

Harry, as we called him, needs lots of care to get his neck healed enough for the vet to repair the hole in his throat. He needs feeding every few hours because he was unable to eat with the rope still in situ. We gave him a bath as he was stinky and matted.

When the wound has dried up, the vet will repair the hole.

This little dog must have led a terrible life and yet, even when recovering from the operation, he was trying to wag his tail and lick us - his gratitude for being free from pain brings tears to our eyes.

Harry is now in a foster home for the time of his recovery at least, if not for good. So - fingers crossed - this dog has had a very happy ending,

Cheryl Graham

Head of Operations

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## Winter Walks

For information, call 6948 889174 / 6934 396335

SATURDAY, 7 MARCH **Lakones: Alimatades and the 'Bella Vista'**. (3 - 3 1/2 hours \*\*\* long but not tough NEW!). Meet at Lakones, first coffee bar, 9.30 for 10.00 start.

Lunch at Doukades.

SATURDAY, 14 MARCH **Sidari: Two Ridges** (3 hours \*\*\* NEW!). Meet at Kouros Bar next to Markato Supermarket, Sidari Crossroads, 10.00 for 10.30 start. Lunch at Salt and Pepper Taverna, Sidari Crossroads.

SATURDAY, 21 MARCH **Kaminaki - Porta** (3 hours \*\*\*\* NEW!). Meet at Kaminaki Petrol Station Bar, 9.30 for 10.00 start. Lunch TBA.

SATURDAY, 28 MARCH **Liapades and the Marmaro Hills** (3 hours \*\*\*). Meet at Liapades Square, 10.00 for 10.30 start. Lunch at Doukades.

SATURDAY, 4 APRIL **Old Perithia and the Parigori Gorge** (3 hours \*\*\*). Meet at Loutsas, Anapaftiria Junction, 10.00 for car transfer to Old Perithia \*. Lunch at Foros, Old Perithia.

SATURDAY, 11 APRIL **Mount Agios Mattheos** (2 1/2 hours \*\*\* Some new paths). Meet at Agios Mattheos coffee bars, 10.00 for 10.30 start, possibly for car transfer. Lunch at Alonaki Taverna.

### RATINGS

- \* very easy
- \*\* easy with some climbing
- \*\*\* moderate, some steep climbs
- \*\*\*\* difficult with rough terrain
- \*\*\*\*\* only for the fit!

Guiding fee 2 euros, kids under 12 and dogs free

\* Please avoid car sharing to get to the start of this walk - it is a linear walks not circular. Since we will leave cars at the finishing point and drive to the start, we need space in the cars for others on the return.

# Pantokrator Chapel

## on Stavros Mountain Hilary Paipeti

After I published a photograph of a little chapel on the front cover of the December edition (below), some local people commented: NO WAY is that in Corfu!

Indeed it is... it's the Chapel of Pantokrator, on the mountain above Stavros. Like many religious buildings, it occupies a prime spot, situated on a rocky pinnacle high above the great valley of the Messongi River. On the other side, the Pavliana villages and Agios Mattheos spread across the valley flanks.

'Pantokrator' means 'The Almighty' (referring to Christ) and has nothing to do with craters, volcanic or otherwise (I have even read in guide books that our highest mountain is an extinct volcano, hence the name!). Most churches dedicated to the Almighty are located on high spots, as if to be close to the heavens. This one is set in front of a small yard, which is bound by natural rock (and thankfully by a fence in front of the sheer drop) and contains a number of benches for resting. If you have a 4x4, you can drive almost all the way to the chapel, making it an ideal spot for a spring picnic.

Stavros comprises a group of villages rather than being a place in its own right. To get there, you pass through Agii Deka village. A couple of kilometres on, you fork left and start climbing - through the hamlet of Makrata first, then Loukata, Halkidata, Dafnata and - at the end of the road - Komianata. It is at Dafnata, at a wonderful viewpoint where iron benches are set, that you turn off the main road up a concrete track intriguingly signposted 'Vouno - To the Mountain'. The concrete ceases as the way levels out, then as a dirt track, it undulates along the hillside just under the western side of a ridge. If road conditions are bad, you may want to leave your vehicle and walk. As you approach the end, the sea on both sides of the island is in sight, with Lake Korission on the right and, on a clear day, Paxos in distant view. The vast greenhouses near Halikouna reflect the light.

People still cultivate this high place. On the highest part of the ridge, unsheltered from the wind, few olives grow, but little vegetable patches survive. In the survey of 1917, Stavros - with a population of 750 - possessed an impressive 600 goats, the fourth highest number amongst Corfu's village communities, after Vasilatika in the south (1,800), Sokraki (1,200) and Sinies (1,000). The majority of this hardy animal must have grazed on the herbs and grasses of the ridge.

To soak up the real atmosphere of the area, it is best to walk to the chapel along the track, and return by way of a truly spectacular mountain footpath. The Cultural Association of Stavros is active in preserving, marking and even creating footpaths, and you will find signs to guide you back. Follow the route notes here to explore a wild 'Place off the Map'.

**Picnic tip:** Pick up bread at the bakery between Makrata and Loukata - the bread is baked in a wood-fired oven.



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## REPORT

# Down in the Dump at Tembloni

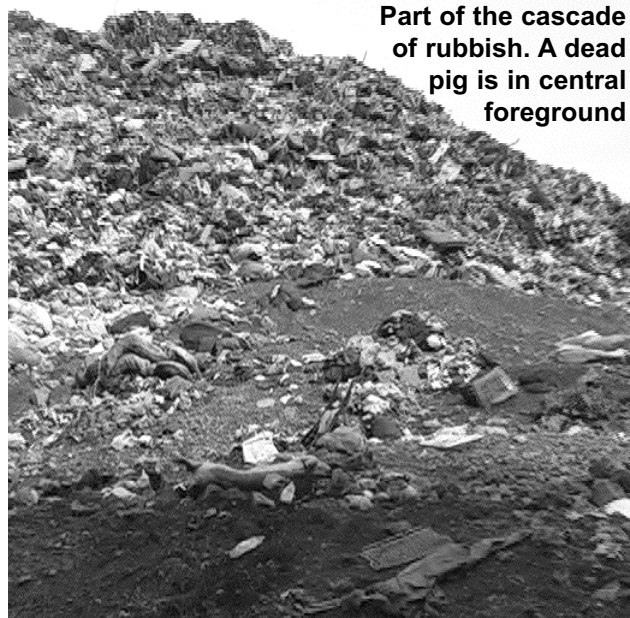
by Hilary Paipeti

The Tembloni dump, which for many years has received all the island's rubbish, was closed for several days during early February when a group of locals picketed the entrance. The group was protesting against bad practices at the site, which in recent months have seen waste piled haphazardly and with no regard for pollution. The protesters claim that the site is full to capacity and have repeatedly asked for improvement in the way rubbish is handled. In 2007, the residents gave the local authorities two years' warning that they would take measures to close the dump if their demands were not met. In February they reached the deadline.

As a result of the blockade, waste accumulated around bins all over the island, since there was nowhere to dispose of it. A new dump at Lefkimmi is not yet functional due to objections by locals, and since early last year has been guarded by riot police. A woman was killed in summer 2008 during a demonstration at the site.

Police eventually arrested 14 protesters, including women and children, but they were later released pending trial at the end of the month. Heavy-handed techniques were not employed as they are at Lefkimmi (where police use batons and tear gas), due to the positioning of hidden cameras linked with a live satellite feed at the site of the picket.

We gained access to the dump interior, earlier on the day when Corfu MP Angela Gerekou paid an inspection visit.



Part of the cascade of rubbish. A dead pig is in central foreground

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## BLACK SLURRY

From the Tembloni road and at a distance, the site appears benign. The section in view has been compacted and landscaped, and vegetation is beginning to sprout. Round the back and out of sight, though, waste forms a tumbling cliff, at least 40 metres high. On it, a cascade of plastic bags leak rotten food; tyres and broken and discarded objects thrust through like poisonous fungi; a dead pig bloats and stinks. The ditches run with black slurry, alive with heavy bubbles of methane. According to the action group, the mountain of rubbish contains untreated hospital waste and crushed asbestos panels.

When dumping began illegally in 1986, a hydrological survey established that the underground water from the area drains towards Gouvia and into the area of the Marina, making the siting illegal. The original dump - locals were told it was temporary and that buried waste would be removed - contravened European Community regulations in its proximity to residences. One couple, having just moved into a dream retirement home, found themselves 210 metres from the edge of the dump. The husband, Loukas Giannakis, later died of leukemia.

Indeed, many local people complain of health problems, especially asthma. They say a huge gaseous cloud hangs over the area each morning.

## TOXIC LEAKS

Worse, much worse, is the fact that when the tip got full, and in the absence of an alternative facility, waste was dumped outside the limits of the protective membrane, and since then toxins have been leaking into the surrounding fields. As well as the noxious conduits within the dump, ditches in the surrounding area are full of black sludge - as documented by BBC reporter Malcolm Brabant recently. Sheep graze in nearby pastures amongst the pools of pollution; their milk goes to make feta cheese, and their meat is sold in butchers' shops.

Anecdotal evidence suggests less visible damage. Over a wide area, locals report of changes in the underground water supply. Boreholes that formerly gave water of drinkable quality now yield a liquid which more resembles cola than H<sub>2</sub>O. Borehole levels are also higher, indicating a rise in the water table. Some speculate that the toxic mix of chemicals - like paint, toxins from degraded plastic and battery acids - are dissolving the underlying rock, causing the rise in water levels. In the vicinity of Tembloni, inexplicable chasms have suddenly appeared as the ground has slumped inwards. The land as far away as Potamos and Skripero may be affected, and checks will have to be made.

In 1990, The Corfiot led with an article about the dump, entitled 'Out of Sight, Out of Mind'. Now, the damage of more than two decades is emerging into plain and public view.

## SOLUTIONS

While the corruption may have gone too far to mend, the Tembloni action group say that they offered the authorities a solution -

a machine which extracts all moisture from the waste and compacts it to a tenth of its original bulk. The material can then be used in backfill construction, or can be easily transported to incineration plants to generate electricity. They say the cost of the machine is around half a million euros. Another suggestion they offered was efficient recycling of bulky materials - for example, building rubble to be recycled as roadbase, and pallets and other wood waste as wood-chip blocks that can be burnt in heating units or used in gardens as mulch.

However, the authorities' solution was to build a concrete wall to enclose the uncompacted mountain of waste. I was told they got a grant of 1.8 million euros for the project... but the protesters tell me that there's no permit and no engineer to supervise. Locals estimate that the wall needs to be 30 metres high to contain the waste, but it's been designed at only seven metres. The foundations are just a metre wide and a metre deep, and no steel reinforcement has been used. How long before it collapses?

In the meantime, the Tembloni residents complain that, while they have to tolerate all the rubbish of Corfu on their doorstep, they themselves lack basic services, like a school, street 16>

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## REPORT

# The Future is Recycling

Do you recycle? Do you place your plastic bottles and tins and aluminium cans in those big blue bins?

Well, don't bother. Your efforts are wasted, since the Tembloni dump doesn't do recycling, and all your carefully separated waste just goes on the tip with all the other rubbish.

But the other side of Tembloni IS Corfu Recycling, a company founded in 2001, whose business is the recycling of ferrous and non-ferrous metals.

'We gather, separate and process over 9,000 tons of metals per year on the island of Corfu alone,' says their website, [www.corfurecycling.com](http://www.corfurecycling.com). 'We work in close cooperation with a network of recycling companies throughout Greece. Our aim is the best possible separation of materials. The range of goods we recycle is almost endless, but includes vehicles, household appliances, PCs and batteries. We have a large network of suppliers who gather all kinds of metal waste from around the island and bring it to us for recycling. But of course you can also bring your own metal waste to our factory for recycling, to get rid of it AND get paid for it!'

Corfu Recycling quickly expanded, with continuous new investment, and now has 14 employees. In 2006 they moved to a privately owned property at Tembloni.

>15 lighting and regular mains water. Though heavily used by large refuse trucks (about one every couple of minutes when the dump is open), their roads are narrow, potholed and dangerous. A returnee from Australia, Sophia Alamonou has expressed her disappointment at the situation in her former village. 'Coming back after 30 years, I am very disappointed by the quality of life that the young people have here - much worse than when I left. At least then, even though we didn't have many material things, we had a green environment and fresh air.'

Excavation is now taking place next to the main dump, on land owned by a local business personality. The action group have discovered that the excavation is intended as an additional waste facility, even though the license is for... a mushroom farm.

I wound up my 1990 article with the message: '...nothing can turn the clock back for this once green and pleasant corner of Corfu.' Inaction from that time on means that this is now a problem that is not going to go away for anyone, not just for the beleaguered residents of Tembloni.

**Stop Press:** As *The Corfiot* went to print, an environmental team from the European Commission was expected on an inspection visit. The visit was instigated by Stavros Dimas, the EU environment czar, prompted by a short film made by Harry Tsoukalas and Corfiot editor Hilary Paipeti about the dump which was posted on YouTube. Segments of the documentary were shown on national TV, and according to some reports even made it to CNN. A report on the inspection visit and its findings next month, as well as news on the fate of the arrested Tembloni residents.

The scrap metal the company produces includes:

### Ferrous scrap

- Heavy Melting Steel (HMS No2) scrap, consisting of pressed car bodies
- Heavy Melting Steel (HMS No2) scrap, consisting of motor parts and other massive steel parts
- Iron sheet scrap
- Steel can bundles

### Non-ferrous metal scrap

- Aluminium
  - TALC (Post consumer aluminum can scrap), consisting of aluminum cans in bales
  - TUTU (Aluminum extrusion dealer grade), consisting of old extrusions (doors, windows etc)
  - TROMA (Aluminum auto or truck wheels), mixed with other solid aluminum parts such as pistons etc
  - TAINT/TABOR (Clean mixed old alloy sheet aluminum), consisting mainly of cooking pots and pans and aluminium sheets

- Bronze
- Copper cable
- Lead plates

### Separated waste for further processing

- Car Batteries, which contain dangerous acids and heavy metals, are properly recycled
- Electrical motors
- PCs - they are fully licensed to gather and recycle old computers
- Television screens
- Electric/electronic appliances - refrigerators, stoves and washing machines, to TVs, radios and any other appliances that contain metals

If you want to dispose of any kind of bulky metal objects, such as old machines rusting in a field or basement (or anything else you have lying around), just give Corfu Recycling a call and they will make arrangements to collect and recycle them. And of course they also recycle smaller metal objects of all kinds.

The result of Corfu Recycling's work is already visible to the trained eye, with fewer corpses of old cars and broken appliances rotting by the side of the road. If only they'd been in operation a decade earlier, the problem that is the Tembloni dump may not have been so acute.

Tel. 26610 91913 / 69478 02232

email: [info@corfurecycling.com](mailto:info@corfurecycling.com)



# Water Plus *by Lionel Mann*

The Headmaster had forfeited Form One's favour. They had entrusted him with the care of their beloved goldfish, Jaws and Moby Dick, during the autumn half-term holiday. He had completely forgotten his charges until the Saturday morning, when he guiltily rushed to the form-room and found the two irrevocably deceased, floating on the surface of the large tank. Having flushed the incriminating evidence down the toilet, he slunk by back streets to the town's pet shop bearing a large jam-jar and returned to the school with replacement denizens for the tank, in which the pair disported themselves with obvious relish.

Do not all goldfish look alike? Apparently not so to six-year-old eyes. Nothing was said, but twelve accusing stares focused upon the Headmaster whenever he had occasion to enter their formroom.

A few days later the Head was demonstrating to his form of eights to elevens that absolutely pure water does not conduct electricity and that conductivity increases with greater impurity. The apparatus was simple: a circular pneumatic trough filled with distilled water and fitted with an electrode at either opposite side; an ammeter inserted into the circuit in order to show flow of current.

When the current was switched on the needle of the ammeter did not so much as flicker, but as small quantities of common

salt were added to the water the instrument showed an increasing flow of electricity. When the reading reached ten amperes the current was switched off and the children each dipped a finger into the water and sucked it to taste salinity.

"What about tap-water, sir? We drink it, don't we?" A perceptive boy.

I poured away the water, refilled from the tap and switched on the current.

The ammeter exploded with a bright flash and every electrical appliance in the school ceased to function. The main fuse had blown!

I hurried over to the main building, raced down to the cellar and replaced the master fuse.

"Can we do that again, please, sir?" An antisocial pupil.

I refused. We had not an unlimited supply of ammeters! At any rate, we concluded that it was something of a miracle that water stuffed so full of additives even flowed from taps in the UK.

Form One's opinion of their headmaster suffered further decline. They had been watching an educational television programme when the power was interrupted. It was not until after a very successful Christmas party that cordial relations were resumed! However, during subsequent holidays Poseidon and Nautilus were taken home by each pupil in turn, and thereby survived into Form Three.

# Dance Workshops with Robyn Roth

## 16 May - 6 June 2009

Dance teacher Robyn Roth has been a resident of the Black Forest for twelve years. Robyn studied Greek Language and Culture in her native Melbourne, Australia. She has been dancing and collecting native dances of Greece, Minor Asia and the Balkan countries for over 30 years. For the last three years Robyn has been giving Dance Workshops on her favourite island, Corfu, in Greek for locals who also attend some of the seminar sessions, and also in English and German. Robyn constructs her workshops to create a relaxed and fun environment, so that everyone learns to love Greek Dancing as much as she does. Workshops take place from 10.00 am to 1 pm on 3 or 5 days per week. Cost: 3 days €105; 5 days €150; 10 days €250.

### Dassia 16 May - 23 May

We will be dancing again this year right next to the beach, under the shade of the olive trees and grapevine covered pergola of the Dassia Beach Hotel.

### Afionas 24 May - 30 May and/or 31 May - 6 June

We will be dancing on the edge of this idyllic village, in the North West, on the terrace of the Hotel Porto Timoni (Photo right). The terrace enjoys a heavenly view of the bay of St. George and the open sea far below. Afionas is a magical place for dancing, swimming, hiking or just allowing yourself to be spoiled by our hosts Kostas and Olga Bardis. Olga's cooking is famous all over the region. For hobby photographers there are many fabulous images to be captured. This part of the island is famous not only for the views but for the sunsets.

Inexpensive accommodation is available in both locations, at the Dassia Beach Hotel, Dassia and the Porto Timoni Hotel, Afionas. Guided walks of 4-5 hours can be booked at a cost of €8 per walk.

Contact: Robyn Roth 0049 (0)7633 500415. Email: [info@go-greek-dancing.de](mailto:info@go-greek-dancing.de)





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## RECIPES

# Local Food to Beat the Crunch!

Up until recent years, locals were used to being frugal. They eked out small quantities of meat or fish with starch, and found lots of ways to turn plain vegetables into tasty dishes. In these tough times, we would do well to follow their example, so here are some traditional Corfu recipes which will not hurt the pocket.

### Bread Riganato

This is real 'poverty' food; it was invented for the times when provisions and money were short, as a quick filler.

*Per person: 1 thick slice village bread, olive oil, salt, oregano*

Place the bread on a plate, pour on oil to taste, sprinkle with salt and oregano, and then pour on hot - but not boiling - water until the bread soaks it all up. You can add red pepper with the salt and oregano if you like it hot and spicy.

### Rimpolido

This means literally 'reboiled'. It was originally poverty food, a method of stretching out leftovers, and was a way of life until prosperity came to Corfu's villages. You can use the remains of a bean soup, a minestrone, or a bourdetto of fish or vegetables; or make it from scratch. No need to be too fussy about quantities or proportions.

*100 gr white beans, 1 wineglass olive oil, 1 onion, 1 small carrot, a little selino or some celery leaves, a few cloves of garlic, tomato purée or paste, some cabbage and seskoulo (optional), salt, pepper, hot paprika (optional)*

*4 thick slices village bread, olive oil, garlic cloves*

Soak the beans overnight and drain. Sauté onions in the oil, then add the cut-up vegetables and sauté until limp. Add the beans, tomato and seasonings and water to cover well. Cook as you would a fassoulada, until the beans are just starting to break up.

Fry the bread in olive oil until nice and golden. When cooled, rub both sides liberally with cut garlic cloves. Put them in the bottom of a deep dish and pour the vegetables over them. Leave overnight and reheat in a slow oven. Serve a slice of bread to each diner, with a portion of the beans and vegetables on top.

### Tsigari

This recipe, a more substantial version of tsigarelli, was given to me by a lady in the village of Horepiskopi in North Corfu.

*A bunch of chard or aramant or both or wild greens, 1/2 wineglass olive oil, 1/2 bunch spring onion, 1/2 bunch parsley and dill or fennel, 2 or 3 cloves garlic, 2-3 medium potatoes, salt and black pepper, heaped teaspoon sweet paprika, 1/2 tablespoon tomato paste, chili pepper (optional)*

Parboil the greens for about five minutes until they are floppy. Heat the oil in a large pan and sauté the sliced spring onion, adding the chopped garlic and herbs when it has softened.

Peel the potatoes and cut into thick chips. Add to the pan and

sauté them for a few minutes with the onion and herbs. Drain the greens and transfer them, together with any water that clings to the leaves, to the pan. Add the seasonings and chili pepper if used, and the tomato paste dissolved in a little of the water from the greens. Cover tightly and cook for 30 minutes. Shake the pan from time to time. Test the potatoes for doneness. If there is copious liquid left in the pan, raise to a high heat to evaporate. There should be just oil and a little tomato sauce left at the end.

### Squid with Potatoes Rokkinisto

In my early days in Corfu, when I used to eat lunch with my ex in-laws, often our meal was nothing more than a cabbage or some wild greens boiled with potatoes - the most primitive of soups. One day, we were told there was a treat for lunch - stewed squid. I spent the morning in a happy state of hungry anticipation, which was justified when, on entering the kitchen, I saw a hugely mounded platter covered with foil. Off came the foil - dah-dah - to reveal a mountain of potatoes cooked in tomato sauce, with a solitary squid resting on its summit (my share was half the tentacle cluster). When I questioned whether a dish comprising 95% potatoes could validly be called 'squid', I was told that the mollusc was there 'to give the potatoes some flavour'. Indeed, squid does impart an aroma disproportionate to its quantity to other ingredients, so - according to how impoverished or otherwise you feel - you can adjust the measures, and still enjoy the taste. But I would recommend you put in more than one...

*1 kilo squid (frozen is fine), 1 wineglass olive oil, several cloves of garlic, 1 kilo potatoes, 2 tablespoons tomato paste, salt and pepper*

Clean the squid and cut into thick slices. Heat the oil in a large casserole and put in the squid. Cook it until all the liquid it produces has evaporated and it has turned a flat white colour. Add the garlic and sauté until it starts to turn golden. Do not allow to burn. Add the tomato paste dissolved in a little water, and the potatoes, peeled and cut into wedges. Add water to come up almost level with the potatoes, season with lots of black pepper, bring to the boil and cook at a fairly brisk pace until the potatoes are done and the squid is tender, about 30-40 minutes. There should be hardly any liquid left at the end, as it will mostly have been absorbed by the potatoes.

### Kolopimpiri

*8 small onions, 1/2 bunch dill, 1/2 bunch mint, 4 small to medium carrots, 8 small potatoes, 2 green peppers, 250 gr seskoulo (chard), 1 wineglass tomato passata, 1 litre water, 250 gr kritharaki pasta, 1 wineglass olive oil, salt and pepper*

Peel and otherwise prepare all the vegetables. Leave half the onions whole and slice the remainder. Slice the green peppers, roughly chop the seskoulo. Leave the carrots and potatoes whole. Put all the ingredients except the pasta, oil and seasonings into the water and bring to the boil. Simmer for five minutes, then add the pasta, the oil and the seasonings. Stir well and simmer for about 20 minutes until the pasta is tender and most of the liquid has been absorbed. Turn off the heat and leave to rest for 10-15 minutes, by which time the pasta will have taken up most of the remaining liquid. The dish should be neither sloppy nor dry. It should still slide off the spoon - and indeed should be eaten with one.

## Hortorizo

This is a variation of Spanakorizo, the well-known dish of Spinach and Rice which is so popular at Lent. Use sweet, tender greens, like young Zegounas and Moscholahano.

*1 kilo wild greens, 1 wineglass olive oil, 2 bunches spring onions, 1 small bunch dill, 225 gr carolina or risotto rice, 500 ml water, salt and pepper, juice of a lemon*

Parboil the greens in lightly salted water for about 10-15 minutes, depending on their size (small, young leaves need less time). Drain well and squeeze dry. Reserve the cooking liquid. Chop roughly.

Slice the spring onions, including some of the green part. Sauté in the oil until they wilt. Add the greens and the dill and cook gently for another five minutes, stirring occasionally. Add the rice, washed and drained, stir to coat with oil, then add the hot water (the reserved liquid made up to the indicated quantity) and seasonings. Simmer, covered, until the rice is cooked and all the water absorbed, about 15-18 minutes. Squeeze lemon juice all over, allow to rest a few minutes and serve.

## Pork and Vegetable Stew

On the Diapontian island of Erikoussa, off the north west corner of Corfu, life was harsh and the islanders were of necessity frugal and almost self-sufficient. During the winter, when storms could cut the island off for weeks at a time, they lived on home-made bread and stews of the vegetables they grew in large quantities, with a little meat added for flavour.

*1 wineglass olive oil, 1/2 kilo boneless pork, 2 large onions, 2 tablespoons tomato paste or a tin of chopped tomatoes, 2 leeks, 2 carrots, 1/2 small cabbage, 6 medium potatoes, bunch of dill or parsley, salt and pepper*

Cut the pork into thick slices. Roughly chop the onions, carrots, cabbage and dill or parsley, slice the leeks and cut the potatoes into wedges.

Heat the oil and sauté the onions and pork until the meat has taken a little colour. Add the rest of the vegetables and mix well, then mix in the tomato paste or chopped tomatoes. Pour on enough hot water to come up level with the ingredients.

Simmer at a lively rate for about an hour until the pork is tender the the liquid mostly absorbed. Raise the heat if necessary at the end to evaporate any excess water. Allow to cool a few minutes before serving. It is also tasty without meat.

# On Death

**Maureen McNamara**

Buddha taught us to meditate on death in order to be prepared for it. Most of us push the subject away, believing it to be morbid and depressing - as though this will stop it happening; we're like the proverbial ostrich. If we have not contemplated this subject, when the time of our death comes, we panic; we don't know what's happening to us or what's to come, when the signs of death begin. Anyone who has experience of people dying will know how some become agitated and fearful, clinging to life, however painful.

If we are going on a journey, we make many plans, yet we are daily nearing the biggest journey of our life without any thought. Logically we all know we have to die. No amount of wealth or influence can stop it happening. Yet we spend all our time and energy making plans for this life, for the near and distant future. We plan our holidays, retirement and so on in great detail, but give no time to our spiritual path, which is the only thing we will take with us to the next life - whatever and wherever you believe that might be.

If we meditate on death, we develop a healthy respect for it, and it motivates us to concentrate on spiritual matters, before it's too late. We all procrastinate and intend to maybe wait until we have more time to devote to these concerns, but often we run out of time, as there are so many worldly things to attend to.

We should realize that nobody can help us when death arrives, neither friends, family or even doctors. It is so much better to approach our death with a happy mind, knowing we have done all we can to progress on our spiritual path. If we have spent our life accumulating wealth, status and friends, we will have become very attached and will be upset at the thought of leaving them, but if we can enjoy our possessions without attachment so much the better when we have to leave them behind.

When we stay in a luxury hotel, we do not develop strong attachment to its contents, as we know we will have to leave. If we regard ourselves as a traveller, bound for future worlds, we will more easily be able to let go of this life and develop the wish to learn more about spirituality.

If we check, each day we think 'I will not die today', especially if we are young and healthy. But since we see everyday on TV how people of all ages lose their lives unexpectedly, we should realise that we really don't have time to procrastinate. When we gain these realisations, we experience a feeling of relief, knowing that there is something that we can do to help ourselves. And rather than this subject causing us distress, it actually fills us with happiness and joy.

## Lotus Flower Centre Healing for Body and Mind

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*Tharpaling Buddhist Centre is now under new direction.  
For information on meditation classes, call Maureen on  
26610 54796 (English) or Jason on 6945 554627*

**MAUREEN MCNAMARA I.T.E.C. Reiki Master**

**Tel. 26610 54796 ~ 6938 644543**

Win a meal for two  
by solving an

## Anagram

Who can make the most words from CLAMBERS? I'm on 86 and counting. You should get one word with the same number of letters which has a similar meaning. There's a prize of a dinner for two (venue to be arranged) for the person who finds most. Another next month.

### RULES:

- ✓ Words must have three letters or more.
- ✓ Each letter can only be used once in a word.
- ✓ No sticking 's' on the end to get a plural or third-person verb.
- ✓ No abbreviations/proper nouns, unless in normal use as such.
- ✓ No foreign words unless in common use in English.

Entries alphabetically, by email only, to corfiotm@otenet.gr

Closing date 28 February - result in April's issue.

*The Editor reserves the right to disallow words.*

Here's the word again:

**clambers**

## Laugh of the Month

*These are reports actually typed by medical secretaries in NHS Greater Glasgow.*

The patient has no previous history of suicides.

Patient has left her white blood cells at another hospital.

Patient's medical history has been remarkably insignificant with only a 40 pound weight gain in the past three days.

She has no rigors or shaking chills, but her husband states she was very hot in bed last night.

Patient has chest pain if she lies on her left side for over a year.

On the second day the knee was better and on the third day it disappeared.

The patient is tearful and crying constantly. She also appears to be depressed.

The patient has been depressed since she began seeing me in 1993.

Discharge status:- Alive, but without my permission.

Healthy appearing decrepit 69-year old male, mentally alert, but forgetful.

Patient had waffles for breakfast and anorexia for lunch.

She is numb from her toes down.

While in ER, she was examined, x-rated and sent home.

The skin was moist and dry.

Occasional, constant, infrequent headaches.

Patient was alert and unresponsive.

Rectal examination revealed a normal size thyroid.

She stated that she had been constipated for most of her life until she got a divorce.

Both breasts are equal and reactive to light and accommodation.

Examination of genitalia reveals that he is circus sized.

The lab test indicated abnormal lover function.

Skin: somewhat pale, but present.

The pelvic exam will be done later on the floor.

Large brown stool ambulating in the hall.

Patient has two teenage children, but no other abnormalities.

When she fainted, her eyes rolled around the room.

The patient was in his usual state of good health until his airplane ran out of fuel and crashed.

Between you and me, we ought to be able to get this lady pregnant.

She slipped on the ice and apparently her legs went in separate directions in early December.

Patient was seen in consultation by Dr. Smith, who felt we should sit on the abdomen and I agree.

The patient was to have a bowel resection. However, he took a job as a stockbroker instead.

By the time he was admitted, his rapid heart had stopped, and he was feeling better.

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## PERSONAL

**HOMOSEXUAL HELP LINE CLUG** (Corfu Lesbians and Gays). Information line: 6934 903726 or email us at [corfulg@yahoo.gr](mailto: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

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

**NEIL'S GARDEN MAINTENANCE** Lawns mown or strimmed, trees pruned, beds weeded, logs cut, rubbish removed. Call 26630 92226 ~ 6977 161036

## WORK

**BRITISH REGISTERED NURSE** with 20 years experience, now living in Kassiope, 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](mailto:maria@soundofmusic.plus.com)

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**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

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**DOUKADES AREA** Spacious studio apartment. Fully furnished including well equipped kitchen, SAT TV internet connection, heating, own entrance & parking. Tel. 6972 097407

## This month we thought we'd let someone else do the talking!

The Mediterranean Garden Society moved its existing web site to Truetype Web Solutions in 2005. As Web Editor I can testify that we have been most satisfied with the service we have been offered regarding both the everyday managing of the site - revisions to existing pages and the creation of new pages - and the more challenging task of modernising and synchronizing the format of the site. The ease of communication with Truetype Web Solutions and their attention to detail made the process as pain-free as possible. We now look forward to expanding and improving the site together.

*The Mediterranean Garden Society*

Thank you for the great work you did designing my website. The speed and professionalism your company showed was quality and unparalleled in my experience of the industry. You should be proud that I had to send my work to you even though I am in the heart of Silicon Valley here in California. I'm looking forward to working with you again in the future.

*Andy Hewitt's Jensens, California*

We have been working with Truetype Web Solutions for five years now. We are completely satisfied with the service they provide. They are very quick to make changes and additions to my website, always friendly and most supportive. The quality of their web design is excellent and they offer very good suggestions. They have been most helpful setting up the system for online payments. We thoroughly recommend them.

*Chamber Music Holidays and Festivals*

Truetype designed our website and have handled it for several years. We are very pleased with the way they always quickly accommodate our (often last minute) updates. They work quickly, efficiently and creatively. It is a pleasure to work with a company who obviously care for the interests of their clients.

*The Ark*

We have used Truetype Web Solutions for six years now and can only express satisfaction with their service. All our requests and updates are dealt with immediately - usually within 24 hrs - and we have reached the top of the search engines with no extra advertising costs.

*The Invisible Kitchen*

My compliments on your work. My website is working well and I have a lot more early reservations than last year.

*Zambeta Apartments, Arillas*

At Truetype Web Solutions our 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.

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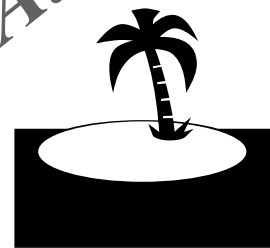
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