

The Corfiot

Corfu's English Language Monthly Magazine

March 2009

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No. 228

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to star
at AgiotFest 10

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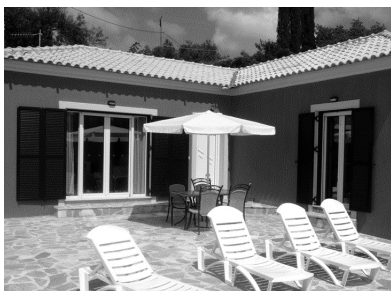
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Walk Corfu Town with John Waller

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

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

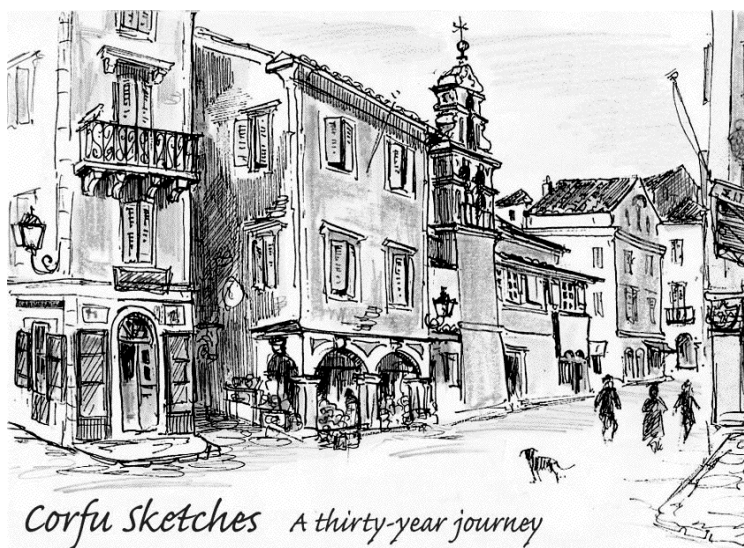
Walk 1: Along the Tourist Trail

Walk 2: To the Jewish Quarter

Walk 3: To the Old Port and the Market

Walk 4: To Campiello, the Old Town

You'll see Corfu Town with different eyes!



Corfu Sketches A thirty-year journey

Sketches by Theresa Nicolas Text by John Waller

ear to the ground

CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE HAS BEGUN! I'm not talking about the nationwide strikes provoked by threats of government cuts, but by opposition in Corfu to the hike in the annual road tax. The price hike, levied on 'older' cars, seems to have less to do with forcing people to hand in their 'old technology' car for a new, environmentally-friendly model (my own car, about seven years old now, has about the smallest carbon footprint on the planet, but nevertheless has attracted a rise of 50% in its road tax) than giving a boost to car sales, with all the nice VAT that's payable on them.

Unfortunately, it's one of those taxes which penalises the poor - those people who cannot afford a new car every two or three years, which even with stage payments over five or six years still would cost two or three hundred a month. And anyway, if my car's running just fine, why should I change it?

So local solicitor and wannabe politician George Kaloudis implemented a scheme (which he tested out himself first), whereby car-owners pay only one euro against road tax, by submitting an official complaint about the state of the roads. My own statement, stamped by the tax office, states my view that a euro is all Corfu's roads are worth, as poor surfaces and potholes cause frequent damage to my tyres and suspension.

Only a few people this year took part, as the scheme was not well promoted (I only found out on 30 December, otherwise I would have informed you all here!), but next year we should all join the protest. Mr Kaloudis promises that he will cover any costs should the government take us to court - but if next year we all refuse to pay we will make a forceful point about the lack of spending on our island's infrastructure.

Watch this space!

THIS MONTH'S 'AMAZING COINCIDENCE' STORY concerns the new vicar of the Parish of Slyne-with-Hest north of Lancaster, a lady called Pauline Bicknell. Slyne's parish has recently been incorporated with the Parish of Halton, and my brother happens to live across the road from the main church of the latter village (with my old family home a minute's walk distant).

Skip back a few decades to around the time of my birth. One day, on account of both of them owning young boxer dogs, my mum met, in Lancaster Market, a lady called Maimie, with whom she struck up a very close friendship. Maimie's daughter Sylvia was about 20 and a teacher, and was duly made Godmother to my brother, born a year after me.

Maimie and Sylvia later moved from the area, but we continued to visit them, first in the New Forest and later in Hemel Hempstead, where Sylvia married a guy named Howard.

Tragically, Sylvia died of cancer in her late thirties, and Maimie went soon after, closing a chapter in our lives. Or so we thought...

At a recent party in my brother's house (remember - it's opposite the church), I was approached by a guy who greeted me with the words: 'The last time I saw you, you were about seven and wearing a kilt, at my first wedding!' It was Howard, widower (in Hemel Hempstead) of my brother's godmother - and now married to my brother's local vicar! His wife's appointment to Slyne-with-Hest had meant nothing to him, until he discovered that her remit included a village called Halton, prompting him to recall the ancient connection with our family.

CORFU'S RAINFALL DURING 2009 totalled a whopping 1439 mm (57 inches approx.), according to local weather statistics.

With steady rain continuing to fall after the New Year, the climate appears to be returning to its famous '40 days' of rainfall (more like 100 this winter!). Corfu's annual average is 1085 mm, with most rain falling in November (180.5 mm average) and little from May to the end of August.

To put this figure into perspective, compare it with precipitation in Lancaster, in England's notoriously rainy North West, where the annual average is 1060 mm (42 inches approx.). Less than Corfu!!! In the period between 1966 and 1998, Lancaster's highest annual rainfall was 1400 mm in 1981. During this time, rainfall topped 1200 mm only five times.

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SUNDAY SERVICES

Sundays 10.30 Holy Communion
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REGULAR EVENTS

Mondays 19.00 Craft Group (1st & 3rd of month)
Tuesdays 10.00 Library & Coffee Morning
Wednesdays 10.00 Coffee & Kids
Wednesdays 12.30 Lunch Box - pot-luck lunch and chat
Wednesdays 19.00 Scrabble Club (last Wed. in the month)
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.

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.

HELP THE CORFU DONKEY SANCTUARY

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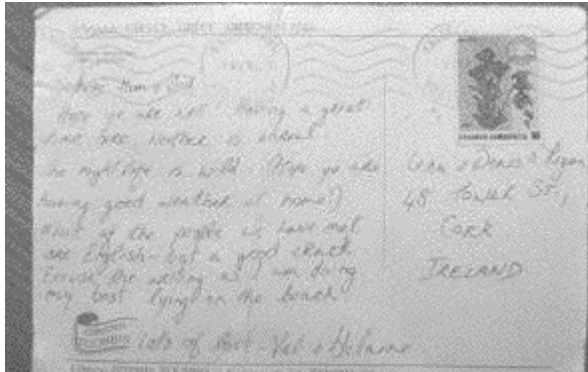
Organised by and for the Council of Thinali Parents' Association. Held on Acharavi High Street opposite Ilo Ilo between 10.00 & 1.00 every Saturday (weather permitting). All our books and handmade cards are 1.50 euros, and proceeds are used to enrich the lives of children attending Acharavi Primary School.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

Mystery of the Missing Postcards

A postcard from Corfu, sent on 24 July 1992, was among three cards which arrived at an address in Cork, Eire, around twenty years after they had been sent from various locations in Europe. The Corfu card, postmarked from Kastellani, was sent by then teenage sisters, Val and Helaine, and finally arrived through their parents' letterbox on 4 December last year.

Val (32) and Helaine (35) have married and had children since popping the card in the post to their parents. On holiday in Corfu, the sisters wrote to tell their parents they had met plenty of people who were 'a good crack', and also that the 'weather is unreal', 'the nightlife is wild', and they were 'lying on the beach in the sun'. The card, still in remarkably good condition, took 17 years, four months and 11 days to reach its destination.

'I couldn't believe it when I saw it; I thought, what in the name of God is this?' said the girls' father, 77-year-old Denis O'Regan, describing his reaction to arrival of the card.



Adding even more mystery, two more postcards arrived at the O'Regan house during the same week, one posted by the sisters from Greece in 1991 and another posted to Helaine from a friend in Tenerife in 1989. The differing postage dates and points of origin suggest that they have been held up in Eire rather than close to the place they were sent from. And you think the post here is slow...

Pakistan team to compete at Ionian Cricket Festival

A team from Pakistan will compete in this summer's International Cricket Festival, which will take place in Corfu and the Ionian Islands over the months of May, June, September and October. Cricket was first played on the island in 1823, when a match put the British Garrison head to head with the Royal Navy, at a time when Corfu was under British rule. There are currently 21 cricket teams in Greece, 13 of them based in Corfu.

This year's Festival was announced by the President of the Hellenic Cricket Federation, Nikitas Iosif, during the London World Travel Market last November. 'The aim of this festival is the celebration of the spirit and the diversity of cricket bringing together cricketers across continents, countries and communities in a historical and magical place,' said Mr Iosif at a publicity function for the press, held in the historic Long Room of the Lord's Cricket Ground.

Mr Iosif told press members that the format of the Festival's games will be Twenty 20; the Pakistan team currently holds the World T20 Championship title. Several players of South Asian origin play in Greek teams.

'Our Federation, founded in 1996, has supported, promoted and developed the sport and there is now a lively and active domestic championship within the country. Our national team competes regularly in Europe and is amongst the best teams, achieving first place on six occasions,' said Mr Iosif. Greece's most recent victory was last September when the team won the ICC European Championship.

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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

For Corfu, for business, for fun

Corfu Enterprise Exhibition on Sunday 23 May 2010

Just over a year ago the Corfu Club (www.thecorfuclub.com) was launched. Designed to connect people from across the island and around the world with an interest in, passion for, commitment to, investment within or business on Corfu, the organization has fast become the leading on-line socializing and business networking organization; and a platform for promoting the island overseas via international media.

The aim is to unite people through social events, interest groups, workshops and enterprise initiatives and to collectively demonstrate to the outside world that there is so much more to Corfu than its reputation for cheap package holidays in spoilt resorts. To demonstrate that through reinvestment and changes in attitude more and more businesses are offering a better quality experience; and that the island still offers stunning landscapes and plenty of interesting things to do.

Established with private investment and with the support of an ever-growing number of private sponsors providing funds and media publicity, the Corfu Club has now commenced a twice-annual programme of Enterprise Exhibitions dedicated to promoting Corfu-based businesses.

The next Corfu Enterprise Exhibition will take place on Sunday, 23 May 2010 at Verde Blu AKTI - restaurant and gardens in Barbati. It will start at 11.00 a.m. and finish at 9.00 p.m., and will be followed by a beach party. This beach-front location is very attractive, offering al-fresco dining, a restaurant menu and beach bar, as well as free car parking. In addition to the exhibitors' stalls there will be face-painting and other games and activities for children, so families are more than welcome.

The name of the event speaks for itself. It is all about raising the awareness of the diverse range of micro, medium and large enterprises that exist on the island. The power of people to come together and make a difference by exchanging views and finding ways to cooperate with one another; as well as attracting new customers. If you own a business it is an opportunity to showcase your products and services, not just to the general public, but to other businesses as well. If you are a resident or visitor to Corfu with an interest in the future of the island, it is a time to step out and show your support.

The aim is to grow the Corfu Enterprise Exhibitions every year and attract more and more visitors. The Corfu Club and its team of volunteers will be managing the event, so if you are interested in participating, please email info@thecorfuclub.com or call Ashling (central / south) on (0030) 6973 250350 or Guy (north) on (0030) 6943 559778 or Emma (whole island for Greek speaking) on (0030) 6943 534654.

Full details at www.thecorfuclub.com.

Important note – the sooner you book, the sooner your business (and its website address if you have one) will be included in the exhibitors list that will be publicized on the Corfu Club website free of charge and circulated to the media with all press releases starting 1 March.

FAQ ABOUT THE CORFU CLUB:

How can I socially interact with the Corfu Club?

Join as a member. It is free of charge. Once you have joined you will have your own private profile, access to its features and the ability to join interest groups.

How can I promote my Corfu-based business?

By participating in the Corfu Enterprise Exhibitions.

How can I advertise my Corfu-based business within the Corfu Club?

By advertising your business in the Directory on the Corfu Club homepage. Please note certain categories that promote Corfu culture are free of charge - authors, artists and museums. Alternatively you could become a sponsor. Please contact one of our representatives for further information.

How can I promote an event that I am organizing or publicize something of interest?

Contact a member of the team and we shall advise you of what details we need and in what format to list or feature them on www.thecorfuclub.com. In addition, we may be able to send a newsletter to members and those subscribed / proposed to the newsletter system (currently almost 3,000 - Feb 2010).

For any other questions please contact one of the above representatives.

SPRING WALKS

SATURDAY, 7 MARCH Agii Deka: Ascent and Circuit (10-11 kms, 3 - 3 1/2 hours **** NEW!). Meet at Agii Deka Village, Cemetery (Lower) Car Park, 10.00, immediate start. Short walk: TBA.

Lunch at Max Restaurant, Vrioni.

SATURDAY, 14 MARCH Kaminaki: Hills and Coast (10-11 kms, 3 hours **** NEW!). Meet at Kaminaki Petrol Station Kafenion, 10.00, start 10.30.

Short walk: Ipsos Beach and Hinterland (1 1/2 hours).

Lunch TBA.

SATURDAY, 21 MARCH Giannades: Mount Tsamourou and the Theotoki Valley (9-10 kms, 2 1/2 - 3 hours *** NEW!). Meet at Giannades Square, 10.00, start 10.30.

Short walk: Agios Ioannis Heath (1 hour).

Lunch at Kostas Taverna, Agios Ioannis.

SATURDAY, 28 MARCH Agios Stefanos (North West): The 'Silent Valley' and the 'Great Beach' (12-13 kms, 3 - 3 1/2 hours **** NEW!). Meet at junction car park near Thomas Bay Hotel, Agios Stefanos, 10.00, immediate start.

Short walk: Agios Stefanos Beach (1 hour).

Lunch at the Night Owl, Afionas.

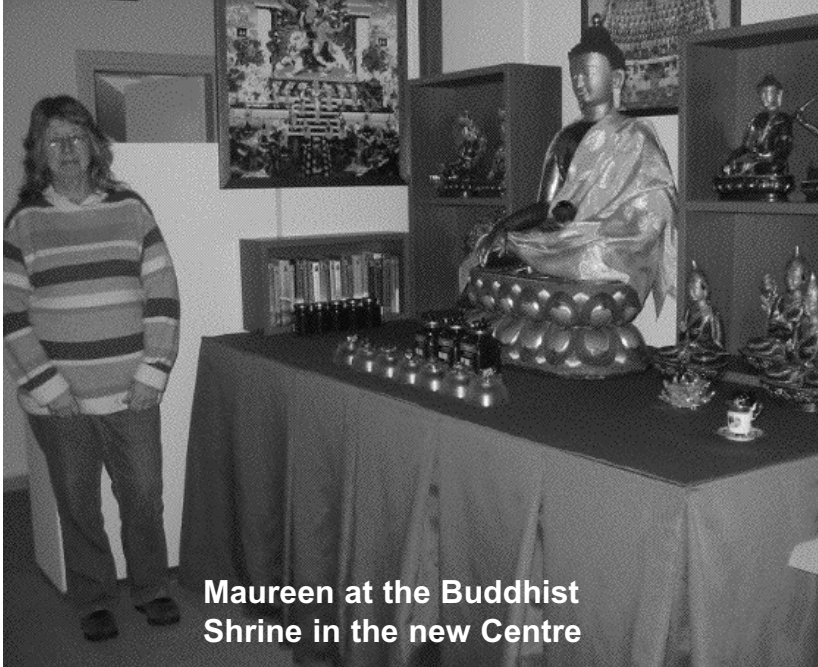
SATURDAY, 4 APRIL Agios Mattheos: Mountain, 'Balconies' & Oak Forest (8-9 kms, 2 1/2 hours ****). Meet at Agios Mattheos, north end coffee bar, 10.00, start 10.30.

Short walk: Halikounas Beach.

Lunch at Alonaki Taverna, Alonaki.

New Buddhist Centre opens in Town

The Tharpaling Buddhist Centre has just opened in new premises in Corfu Town.



Maureen at the Buddhist Shrine in the new Centre

Under new direction, the Centre is located at 87, Markora Street, the parallel road between San Rocco Square and the Market. To reach it from San Rocco Square, take the side-road past the Police Station and turn left at the top. The Centre is on the fourth city block on the right. Phone Maureen on 6938 644543 if lost.

Meditation classes take place in Greek on Mondays at 5pm with Jason and in English at 4pm on Wednesdays with Maureen. Both teachers are fully qualified to teach meditation and Dharma.

In addition, the Centre is open on Wednesdays from 10.30 onwards, with a warm welcome for everyone, whatever their beliefs, for a chat and problem-solving. At the same time, a selection of new and used kitchen and household wares are on sale in aid of the Centre. For an out-of-hours meeting, call 6938 644543.

The Centre's Grand Opening will take place on Wednesday, 24 March at 18.30. Refreshments will be provided, and everyone is welcome.

Following the New Kadampa Tradition

The New Kadampa Tradition is a Mahayana Buddhist tradition founded by Venerable Geshe Kelsang Gyatso. It is a worldwide association of Buddhist centers that help people from all walks of life find lasting happiness through understanding and practising the teachings of Buddha.

Kadampa Buddhists are encouraged to take all Buddha's teachings as personal advice and to put these teachings into practice in their daily lives so they can solve their problems and experience real freedom and peace.

With over 1000 Kadampa Buddhist Centers around the world, there are thousands of people now practising Kadampa Buddhism under the guidance of Geshe Kelsang Gyatso.

The worldwide Kadampa community is like a global spiritual family, offering support and encouragement to those wishing to engage in spiritual practice.

For more details about Kadampa Buddhism visit kadampa.org

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Jet2.com, the biggest low-fare airline in the North of England, has announced the launch of two brand new services direct from Corfu to East Midlands and Leeds Airports. The introduction of the services comes due to exceptional demand, and increases the number of Jet2.com routes from Corfu to the UK to three, with a route from Corfu to Newcastle also running. Seats are on sale now for summer 2010 for all three routes, with fares starting from €56.40*. Extra special low fares from just €29.49* are also available for a limited period for the first flight in the year leaving from Corfu - book now and take advantage of these great low fares!

Flights to all three UK destinations will operate once a week on Mondays throughout the summer season. Flights to East Midlands and Newcastle begin operating on 24 May 2010 and to Leeds on 21 June, running through to the end of September.

Speaking about the new routes, Philip Meeson, boss of Jet2.com, commented: 'We are delighted to increase the number of routes between Corfu and the UK for 2010. These routes are very popular with visitors from the UK looking for a holiday in the sun on this beautiful island. However, they will also be very convenient for people living in Corfu to visit friends or family in the UK at a low cost and with a fast and efficient, award-winning service.'

'With flights starting from only €56.49 one way including taxes, there really is no excuse not to make the journey, visit friends and family and experience some of the best scenery, shopping, nightlife and business in the UK.'

For more information visit www.jet2.com

* Fares are one way including taxes

New Bands for AgiotFest

Two well-known bands, one from Manchester and a second from Thessalonika, have been booked for this year's Agios Ioannis Music Festival (AgiotFest 10), which will take place over two days, 27 and 28 August.

4 Square is a folk group comprising four surprisingly young members whose talents and stage presence belie their years. They performed to huge acclaim at last year's Cropredy Festival (established and still run by Fairport Convention stalwart Dave Pegg, who played bass guitar for AgiotFest 09 headliners, the Dylan Project), where their CD was top seller.

The Cropredy website describes the group: 'Since their humble beginnings in a freezing cold farmhouse near Rochdale, Manchester-based quartet - 4 Square - have gelled and matured into the funkiest, most energetic young band on the folk scene today. Peggy was so impressed by Jim, Dan, Nicola and James that he booked them immediately. Check out their new album, 20:20 Manchester.'

Regarded as one of the hottest bands amongst young Greeks, Thessalonika-based group One Drop Forward will headline on the first of the Festival's two nights. The band's sound is Reggae, enhanced by a Big Brass sound, which the Corfiots - with their Philharmonic tradition - will certainly enjoy, along with local foreigners and visitors.

Due to popular demand following their AgiotFest 09 performance, Sidari-based heavy-rock band Omega 5 will also take the stage, and it is also expected that several local Greek bands will participate.

Negotiations with Joe Brown as headline act were concluded just before The Corfiot went to press. More about the 50s and 60s rock legend on page 13.

Tickets for this year's events continue to be extra value for money, with the price for each night fixed at last year's level of €20.00. Music fans who wish to attend both nights pay a reduced fee of €35.00. The audience will be treated to more than six hours of music on each of the nights. In addition, refreshments, CDs and memorabilia will be on sale, and there will be raffles and much more going on in parallel with the performances.

The Festival management's aim is to make the AgiotFest the largest rock music event in southern Europe within five years.

To keep up with the latest information on Agiotfest 10 go to: www.agiotfest.co.uk.

For accommodation please contact us through email: mcgovern@otenet.gr or go to:

www.corfuvillas.org, www.villatheodora.com **Paul McGovern**

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CHAPLAIN'S CHAT

Women's World Day of Prayer

(International and Interdenominational)

'Let everything that has breath praise the Lord'

✠ Revd. John Gulland

On Friday 5 March over three million people worldwide will be praying and worshipping together during an annual day of prayer, using a Service prepared by Christian women in Cameroon. This will be supported by churches in Corfu. However, this major Service will take place in Corfu town on Sunday 7 March, at 18.30, in the Greek Evangelical church, 3 Iakovou Polila Street.

Emma Wilcock, President of the National Committee of the Women's World Day of Prayer Movement, says: 'This is always an exciting day as a great wave of prayer sweeps the world, beginning when the first Service is held in the Queen Salote Girls' School in Tonga and continuing around the world until the final Service takes place, some 35 hours later, in neighbouring Western Samoa. By then the day will have been celebrated in over 170 countries and over 5,000 Services will have been held in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.'

The Republic of Cameroon is said to be 'Africa in miniature'. It is a country of great cultural diversity, with more than 240 eth-

nic groups and languages. The constitution promotes equality between men and women but traditional rights and attitudes discriminate against women in many areas of life. However, giant steps have been taken towards assuring women's rights and women are involved in the struggle for peace, justice and integrity.

Cameroon faces many challenges as its people seek to move forward into a modern age without losing their distinctive characteristics. But at all times, in all circumstances, Cameroonians are able to praise God with joy and exuberance, and the Service reflects this.

Although organized and led by women, this is essentially a Day of Prayer for everybody as we demonstrate our solidarity with our sisters and brothers in other countries; All are welcome to attend. Further information and resources can be found on the WWDP website at www.wwdp-natcomm.org.

If you are concerned for peace, justice and integrity in today's world I commend this Service to you.

Easter Events

This year's Greek Orthodox Easter falls on Sunday, 4 April, together with Catholic Easter. A number of religious and cultural events take place in Corfu Town's churches and at city venues, but a diary was not available at the time of publication. Here is a list of the regular celebrations:

THURSDAY, 25 MARCH Independence Day Procession in Corfu Town, 11.00. Salt Cod and Skordalia for lunch.

SUNDAY, 28 MARCH Palm Sunday Procession of Saint Spiridon around Corfu Old Town, 11.00.

FRIDAY, 2 APRIL Good Friday Religious Processions ('Funeral of Christ') in Corfu Town, from 16.00 to late evening. Also candlelight processions in many villages, evening.

SATURDAY, 3 APRIL Easter Saturday Procession of Saint Spiridon around the Espanade. 9.00. 'Pot-throwing' Ceremony, 11.00. 'First Resurrection' Celebrations, with marching bands and majorettes, 11.05. Midnight Mass, Esplanade Square, 23.30. Fireworks display, Esplanade Square, 24.00. Also candlelight processions and Midnight Mass in many villages from about 22.00. Followed by 'chilhourdi' (Easter Soup) at home or in a local taverna to break the Lenten Fast.

SUNDAY, 4 APRIL Easter Sunday Religious Parades in the centre of Town, 7.00 - 10.00. Lamb lunch with red eggs. Easter Service at Holy Trinity Church, 10.30.

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A Trip to the UK

 Hilary Paipeti

Amid dire and gloomy predictions - 'you won't recognise the place'; 'be careful, be very careful' - I girded my loins, bit the bullet, and, mid-January, headed for England.

The first evening, whilst staying with friends in Twickenham, gained me my first experience of 'multi-cultural Britain': a meal out in Southall, an Asian enclave. Giftis is a glass-fronted, strip-lit hybrid; I'm not sure whether it is a restaurant trying to be a canteen, or the other way round. You sit at bare, plastic-topped tables, surrounded by lots of happily noisy Asian families accompanied by hordes of unfrowned-upon kids (rather like a Greek taverna really; I felt quite at home), and get quickly served with easily the best Pakistani food I've ever tasted. We were the only white faces there, which did not feel in the least uncomfortable. No one stared.

Not a single burkha was on show either, though many (but by no means all) the women wore headscarves. At the next table, two scarved young women with kids (making a mess, but no-one cared) were chatting in London accents about the plot-lines of last-night's soaps and not about the imposition of Sharia Law. Perfectly normal.

The next day, I discovered that the trains now run on time!!! Twickenham to Lancaster required three trains - change at Reading and Wolverhampton - each operated by a different company. South West Trains, Crosscountry Rail and Virgin managed what British Rail never could: no delays, and timetables which meshed with one another, so that the longest wait was 20 minutes at Wolverhampton for the Birmingham New Street to Carlisle service. A second train trip to Liverpool and back (two services - Virgin and Northern Rail - change at Wigan) was more of the same, with even shorter waits. So much for complaints about de-nationalisation.

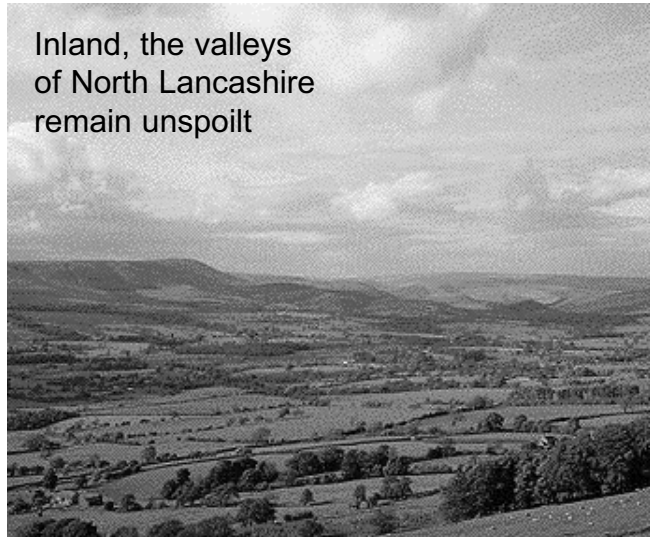
I admit, I did hit a hiatus in the freezing weather which had disrupted the transport network earlier in the month, but the services were much better than I remember from my student days. And the trains were clean.

Liverpool was the destination for a task I was rather dreading - getting a new passport. I had been led to believe that the Passport Office would be staffed with jobsworths who would try every trick to deny me a fast-track service, but the reverse was the case. Armed with birth certificate, old passport, Greek rental agreement, invoice blocks and copies of The Corfiot (which could all be cross-checked to prove I was who I said), I arrived for my interview, to find everyone immensely good-humoured and helpful, including the security guard, who assisted when the photograph machine kept rejecting my face as 'unacceptable'. I must say that in the final picture I rather resemble Myra Hindley, but my Greek studio portraits - which look much more like me - would not have been allowed as you have to show your ears.

Within 15 minutes, I received a slip telling me to return in four hours to pick up the new passport, time which I killed with a most agreeable potter around the centre of Liverpool, a city which I had never visited as it wasn't a place that offered anything very much when I left England.

These days, the must-see location is the Albert Docks, converted into a number of museums, shops and eateries. The museums are free (the Tate requests a voluntary donation), but I only had time for the well-presented Maritime Museum. 15>

Inland, the valleys of North Lancashire remain unspoilt




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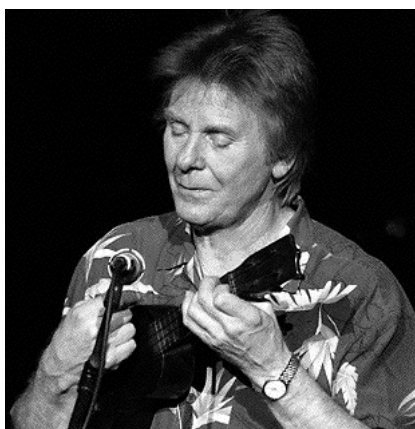
Joe Brown at AgiotFest

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 1950s, a UK recording star in the early 1960s, made six films, presented specialist radio series for BBC Radio 2, appeared on the West End stage alongside Dame Anna Neagle 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.

At the Mojo magazine's awards in London on 11 June 2009, Brown was presented with the lifetime award for outstanding contribution to music after 51 years' recording.

Brown was appointed Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE) in the 2009 Birthday Honours.

Brown plays acoustic guitar, electric guitar, ukulele, mandolin and fiddle. He will be accompanied at AgiotFest by his backing band, the Bruvvers.





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>12 As we 'know', the UK is being paralysed by Political Correctness, but the only encounter I had with 'PC' was at the said museum, where two newish sections provided an object lesson in propaganda. The message of the 'Museum of International Slavery' was laid on as thick as Jordan's make-up: 'Feel guilty because your ancestors condoned slavery and thus ruined Africa'. We won't go here into the equally cruel slave-trade perpetrated by the Africans themselves, and by neighbouring Muslims, and I personally refuse to feel bad about the actions of - say - the Ku Klux Klan; but despite the PC it was an interesting and educational half-hour.

The second new exhibit was a basement museum promoting the work of Customs and Excise. I say 'promoting' because the pontifical and overtly stated message was 'pay your taxes or you won't have the NHS, and your streets won't be safe'. Nevertheless, with its many interactive exhibits, it was diverting - and would be entertaining for kids - as long as they learn in parallel that high taxes don't guarantee a good free health service, nor ensure safe streets.

Though I would have liked to wander more (particularly in the direction of the Beatles Museum), a freezing gale off the Mersey forced me into a pub - a real English establishment with a blazing coal fire and no themes. Actually, that last comment is wrong: it felt rather like stepping into the set of *Last of the Summer Wine*, for at the next table, four elderly cronies were nursing beer and no doubt plotting mayhem. With lots of concern about my frozen mien, they invited me to join them, but I declined due to the imminent arrival of a Cumberland Sausage with whole-grain mustard, so we chatted instead across the hearth. So much for warnings about avoiding folk in what was described to me as the 'criminal capital of the North'!

Talking of Cumberland Sausage, eating out is vastly improved, too. As well as the spectacular Asian meal in Southall, we lunched at the Highwayman at Burrow in the Lune Valley. This old pub, modernised in just the pared-down country-antique style I like, is one of a small chain of five owned by Sleb Chef Nigel Haworth, whose Lancashire Hotpot was picked as the winning main course on BBC's most recent series of *Great British Menu*, in which he had to feed troops returning from Afghanistan. And what a great dish it is!

Haworth's work was highlighted recently in an article in the *Telegraph* by Fiona Duncan:

...rural Lancashire, more than anywhere I have visited in Britain, comes to comparison with rural France: in its sincere and deep-rooted devotion to local produce and regional dishes. Frankly, it's astounding. Everywhere in the British countryside plays the "local produce" card these days, but Lancashire means it, with upwards of a dozen inns and restaurants dotted about the moors and valleys whose food favourably compares with that of the French auberge of your dreams, and whose chefs work hand in glove with the remarkable number of family producers found in the Forest of Bowland, the Ribble valley and on the coast around Morecambe Bay.

More ethnic cooking was enjoyed at another lunch in a Chinese in Lancaster town centre, with a moreish 'as much as you can eat' buffet; and two evenings out at our all-time-favourite restaurant - the Etna on New Street. Before I left for Corfu, I worked in the Etna whenever I was free - but that did not manage to put me off the food. More than three decades down the line, the Sicilian proprietor Dominic Agliolo and his brother Rosario are still churning out the best pizza in the universe (and I sincerely

mean that). My brother and I don't even look at the menu - it's stuffed mushrooms for us, followed by an extra hot Mafioso (pizza with flaked tuna, chopped egg and chili pepper). The Agliolo brothers haven't changed a bit, and the tablecloths and even the crockery are the same. Who needs makeovers, anyway?

Not forgetting a truly delicious steak and kidney pudding (with vegetables so al dente they'd barely touched boiling water - so much for overcooked veg of British cookery) at another unmessed-around pub, the Fleece Inn at Dolphinholme (is this the nicest village name EVER?), on the fringes of the Bowland Forest.

'Nouveau nostalgia' was also on show in the Lancaster street market, which I remember as comprising stalls with plastic junk and dodgy cabbages. Nowadays it's also promoting local produce, with some sensational artisan cheeses and fish products on sale, as well as takeaway hog-roast and a stall selling Kalamata olives and stuffed vine leaves!

And where were the veiled women and bearded men that - if you read the *Mail* - are supposed to be prominent on every English high street? The only obvious foreigners were two guys touting falafel.

I didn't see any hoodies either, nor especially noticed CCTV cameras. Nor were the pavements awash with vomit; indeed, my home area, and especially the rural Lune Valley looked neat and fairly prosperous. I suppose the trick is to steer clear of the crowded south-east. But then again, my evening in Twickenham, at the heart of the south-east, was also most pleasant.

In Corfu, we can conjure up vast tracts of countryside that disprove the negative perception that the island is 'spoiled'. The view that England is an overcrowded, crime-ridden, spied-upon country has much the same credence if you go out and look at it with unprejudiced eyes. The best day out was a still-frost-hoared afternoon on the 'Roof of England', that divine stretch of North Yorkshire, cut by Upper Ribblesdale and Doedale and defined by the Three Peaks of Ingleborough, Wharfedale and Pen-y-ghent. With the pothole of Gaping Ghyll as our destination and the remnants of earlier snow underfoot, we set out from Clapham, a stone-built village where the only obvious change is the presence of wind-chimes outside a few of the cottage, indicating an influx of 'New Agers'. Setting off through the semi-landscaped grounds of Ingleborough Hall, you soon pass the showcase Ingleborough Cave, then climb up narrow Trow Gill, which funnels you onto the open moors. On this clearest of days, the view stretched infinitely, with no evidence of our current century. Only stocky sheep and ice-glazed grasses and a high blue sky to the ends of the earth.

In two and a half hours of walking, we met four lots of folk (one of whom, incredibly, was one of my brother's trainees) and one guy on a bike. In fact, it was rather like a walk in Corfu.

Still... it's great to be back.

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The Never-Ending Story

look after it for the next 15 years - better to go to Jumbo and buy a toy with a battery...

Dogs, cats, pups, kittens all over...

Sometimes it is like a never-ending story... so many unwanted animals. Abandoned, not allowed by landlords, chasing chickens - just name it. The Ark tries to help but possibilities are limited when everyone wants an 'instant solution'. Therefore we are searching for people who can foster an animal for a limited time, to give us time to find the solution. So if you can help, please contact us on info@corfuanimalwelfare.com or phone 26610 32111 or 6979 798202.

The solution for some wicked people is to dump animals in a garden, or like recently - just in front of a garden gate - to leave a box, with a lid of chickenwire professionally closed with 10 pieces of wire. The contents: nine little puppies! I noticed them because they were crying, but they could have been there for days if I had not passed by.

The puppies were not as young as they appeared at first sight; they are offspring of small breeds. So if anyone is interested in a nice puppy about three months old, either to keep the dog for the next 15 or more years (at least its lifetime, if not poisoned or injured on the road), or to foster for a couple of months, please give us a ring.

Luckily we have also had some very positive experiences, here on the island, with rehoming dogs and cats. It seems that slowly awareness is growing that an animal needs special care, and one should think about this life-long commitment before deciding to get a companion beast.

Just some examples of locals who are the proud new bosses of a 'Corfu breed': Two fluffy puppies found lovely homes in Makrades and in Kanalia. Coco, who lives in Kanalia, is really spoiled by her bosses, who phone us regularly about her. Soon Coco will even go with them on a trip to the USA; she will travel with them in the cabin as she weighs less than five kilos.

Another dog, Venzou, found her new home in Petriti. The owners had received as a present a pedigree puppy which died, and they heard about us and came to choose from our 'Corfu breeds'. They took a small dog about two years old, very nice-natured so they didn't have the trouble of training a puppy. The little dog settled in very well and is treated as part of the family. We saw her recently in Christian's dog hairsalon in Alepou, where she had just had a trim.

Another happy ending was for Flox, a poodle/terrier just one year old. He had been bought from a pet shop by a Greek student; she loved the little puppy and pampered it as being 'so cute'. All vaccinations were done. But puppies get bigger and then on top of that the student had to go to Thessaloniki for her studies. The dog was a problem. We took Flox, who was not easy with other dogs, and about four months later we found a couple who fell in love with him. Now he is the only dog in the house, and behaves perfectly. So if you see a happy white fluffy doggie in Potamos with his boss, it might be Flox! By the way, we told the girl to tell to all her fellow students not to buy a pet if they cannot

Leishmaniasis

March is a good month to let your dog(s) tested for leishmaniasis. This illness is widespread on the island, and in other southern countries. The tiny little black fly that spreads the disease lives when the nights are 15 degrees or warmer (from about April to October in Corfu). When an infected sandfly bites a dog, it might develop the illness. Sometimes signs as long nails appear, or hairless spots, wounds which do not heal, or empty skin around the eyes. Without treatment the dog will eventually die, but if treated in time often it will live an happy and even long life. The treatment with Zylaphur, 2xpd will not cure but suppress the illness; there are also some other medicines which sometimes can cure it, like injections or a syrup. BUT you must test your dog for it; the test shows the situation regarding possible leishmaniasis infection of three or four months before. So by testing now you cover all the 'dangerous months'. Two other diseases are becoming more more common on the island - ehrlichiosis from ticks, and heartworm from infected mosquitoes. We will come back to those in the next edition of The Corfiot.



*Venzou
with her
new family
in Petriti*

The ARK Annual General Meeting

Wednesday, 10 March 19.00 - 19.30 at Holy Trinity Church, Corfu Town.

We hope to see a lot of Ark members as well as people who wish to become members. There will be some displays of the work we have achieved. Election of the board will take place. Please have a look at our website www.corfuanimalwelfare.com.

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FOOD

Fast Food for Lent

Preceding the earliest possible Easter for the Orthodox Church, this year's 40 days of Lent are wintry in character, foodwise. The fresh spring vegetables will not be at their peak, so those who wish to follow the Lenten Fast will have to look to pulses and frozen goods to get them through.

Today, few locals who are not directly involved in church processes (that is, priests and their immediate families) hold to the fast for the entire 40-day period; instead, the fast is limited to Wednesdays and Fridays. On these days (or throughout the fast if you are really pious) no meat, fish or dairy is allowed.

However, 'bloodless' seafood - shellfish, prawns, molluscs like squid, cuttlefish and octopus, as well as lobster - is permitted. Also, taramosalata (made from the eggs or fish) is allowed. Here are a few dishes from my personal recipe collection, which are suitable for Lent.

Boboli

During the years of wartime starvation decades of poverty, dishes like this kept the country people alive. Nick Handrinos, proprietor of the Night Owl Taverna in Afionas, learnt it from his mother and taught it to his American wife Linda.

250 gr small white dried beans, 250 gr whole wheat kernels ('stari' in Greek), 100 gr frozen sweetcorn

To serve: Salt and black pepper, olive oil, lemon wedges, finely chopped onion, chopped parsley

Soak the beans and wheat overnight. Drain and place in fresh water. Bring to the boil and simmer until both are cooked (the wheat needs to be absolutely soft), about an hour and a half. Meanwhile, prepare the onion, parsley and lemon wedges, placing them in small bowls. When the beans and wheat are ready, add the sweetcorn, bring back to the boil and cook a few minutes more. Drain and serve in shallow bowls (it's not a soup). Each person seasons and garnishes the dish at the table to his taste. Serves 4-6.

Spring Casserole

I have not given any exact measurements for this favourite dish of spring vegetables, since it really depends on what's available. In winter, you can make it with just potatoes and frozen peas, along with ordinary onions. Lent this year is too early for fresh local artichokes, so you'll have to use frozen bottoms. The crucial flavourings are dill, lemon juice, garlic and black pepper. Once you have understood the principles, you can vary it to your heart's content. Some cooks fry the vegetables at the start, but the way I recommend makes a lighter dish. Allow one large potato and two artichoke bottoms per person, though you might find people want more!

Potatoes, artichokes, peas, spring onions, several cloves of garlic, dill, salt and freshly ground black pepper, 1 wineglass olive oil, juice of one or more lemons

Peel the potatoes and cut into lengthwise wedges. Defrost the artichokes; slice and roughly chop the onion and herbs. Leave the garlic cloves whole or cut in half if large.

Put all the vegetables in a large casserole, season (be liberal with the pepper) and add water just to come up to the level of the vegetables. Bring to the boil and keep at a lively simmer until

the potatoes and artichokes are tender and the liquid reduced.

Beat the olive oil with the lemon juice until emulsified and thick. Pour this mixture onto the vegetables, shaking and rotating the pan while it bubbles for a few seconds. Take off the heat and allow to rest for a few minutes before serving.

Leeks Bourdetto

The term 'bourdetto' normally describes a stew of fish and hot pepper, which can be very fiery. The word derives from 'brodetto', which is used all around the coast of the Adriatic Sea for a fish stew or broth. But the bourdetto-style of cooking need not be confined to fish. Here's one with leeks..

1 kilo leeks, 1 wineglass olive oil, 1 heaped teaspoon sweet paprika, 1 level teaspoon hot paprika or cayenne, salt

Clean the leeks and cut them into sections about five centimetres long. Put them in a casserole with the oil, two wineglasses of water and the seasonings. Bring to the boil, stir and cook at a lively simmer for 30-40 minutes, until the leeks are soft but not broken, and the sauce reduced so that it comprises almost only oil.

Prawn Bourdetto

Made with prawns, Bourdetto, becomes a luxury appetizer - and one which is allowed during the Lenten Fast!

1 kilo king prawns, 1/2 teacup olive oil, salt and black pepper, 1 teaspoon hot paprika, cayenne pepper (optional)

Peel and wash the prawns. Put a teacup of water in a casserole and add the oil and seasonings. Bring to the boil and throw in the prawns. Simmer for 18 minutes. Serves 6.

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'Greening' your Dwelling

On the occasions I visit the UK, my first trip to the loo always provokes a panic attack: 'Help! What do I do with the paper? There's no basket!' Then I realise that it all goes down the pan.

Depending on how long I've been away, on my return it takes a few days of concentration before I'm back to putting paper in the basket automatically. And it's then that I understand how very repellant to foreigners is our local system. Normal to us, repugnant to them.

I've heard various explanations for the inability of flush systems to handle paper waste. One is the small diameter of the pipes. Another is that the paper, mixed with cleaning chemicals, turns into a sort of 'papier mache' which prevents the 'soakaway' facility from functioning (incidentally, not many people are aware that soakaways - the most common method of sewage disposal out of towns - is illegal in Greece).

So wouldn't it be great, for a number of reasons, to be able to chuck paper down the can...

Well, now it is. No more warning villa guests of the horrors of the local toilet systems, which have put some people off holidays in Corfu. No more daily chore of carting bags of used loo roll to the skip. No more worry about your soakaway filling up and needing expensive and smelly pumping out. No more blockages waiting to happen.

The new 'biodigester' sewage treatment system (illustrated right) is being pioneered by a British-Corfu collaboration called Ionian Green Technologies, run by long-time resident Sarah Wood out of an office near Sidari (official address Peroulades). The biodigesters come in a range of sizes according to the number of people using them (from individual properties to large hotels), are simple to install, and are ideal for areas with a high water table (where soakaways may not work at all). Toilet contents go in one side and water suitable for gardening comes out at the other end, so not only is underground water no longer being tainted, but precious water resources are also being saved. An elegant solution in many ways.

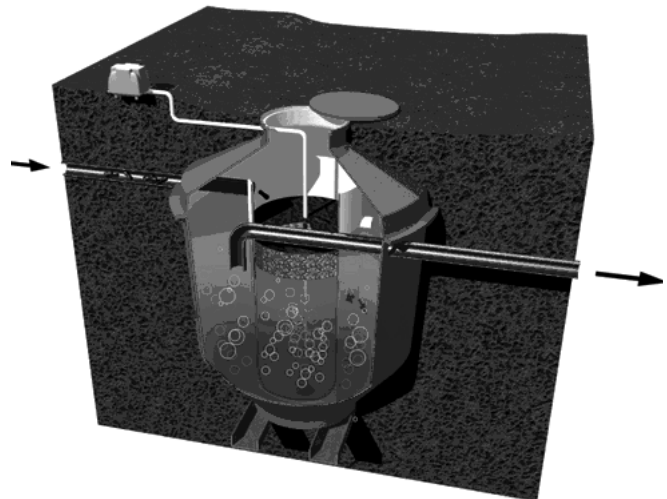
Ionian Green Technologies also offers natural oxygen purification systems for swimming pools, which means pool water that's fit to drink. No more chlorine, with the resulting carcinogenic emissions, and no more of the red eyes, allergies and asthma that are all aggravated by chlorine use.

Following a change in the law, the company also installs photovoltaic systems. The law now allows households to generate up to 10 KW of electricity, using photovoltaics on roofs and terraces, which they can then sell to the DEH for up to 700 euros per KW per year. You still have to pay for electricity used, but since the DEH pays more per KW than it sells you, you actually get to make a profit (once the initial outlay is recovered)!

Though a limited number of local businesses are already selling the systems, Ionian Green Technologies substantially undercuts prices due to dealing directly with manufacturers, with whom they have developed exclusive contracts for the whole Ionian area. They are currently looking into biofuels, LEDs and water filters. More 'green' news in future editions!

To contact Sarah at Ionian Green Technologies, phone 26630 64833 or 6973 214778.

Hilary Paipeti



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FEATURE

Learning with Laughter

✍ *Lionel Mann*

I cannot remember that any of my tutors ever told me that a child always remembers better a lesson that has caused him/her amusement, but I discovered that very early in my teaching career. Even earlier, though, as a teenage church choirmaster I found that an amusing incident during practice served to relax momentarily and helpfully the tension of intense concentration before we resumed our serious work. Some fuddy-duddies complained at times of our 'lack of respect for our surroundings', but we simply disregarded them.

Laughter has always been a very useful tool in my teaching. I have generally been fortunate in occupying a classroom distant from others and therefore causing no distraction to other classes. However, in Latymer Foundation School my room was

perforce the School Hall since the piano was there. In that old building two classes shared the hall, separated only by a thin screen that folded to allow access to the entire space for Assembly. Fortunately my colleague who taught in the other half shared my belief in the power of laughter and merriment from next door was as frequent as from my half!

My two most dramatic performances, though, were completely unintentional, unrehearsed and quite spectacular!

At my first teaching appointment, at a Secondary Modern School in a very tough industrial area, where we had random searches of pupils for knuckle-dusters and bicycle chains (this in 1952!), in my first week I had needed to knock down a big lout, larger than I, who came at me with his fists. That class, Form 4D, was made up of fifteen-year-olds who were merely waiting to leave school to sign on the dole, and in the meantime were trying to cause as much trouble as they could.

A couple of weeks after my violent suppression of the school bully I was called upon to take 4D, in the absence of their form-master, for the last period of Friday afternoon. "Just keep them quiet, read to them," I was advised.

Against such an eventuality I always carried around Commander Campbell's 'My Mystery Ships', an account of First World War actions of Q-ships, disguised decrepit merchant vessels stuffed with unsinkable material and concealed guns, intended to lure to the surface U-boats unwilling to waste a torpedo on such old 'wrecks'. Reading an account of such an action, I had reached the climax of the story: the 'panic crew' had taken to the boats and were hastily rowing away; the U-boat had surfaced and was cruising around to a convenient angle for sinking its prey by gunfire; down came the shutters and the gun crews of

the Q-ship opened fire.

"The first shot hit the conning tower," I should have read, but I had been reading for nearly a half hour and my tongue let me down. "The first shot hit the conning tower." I stopped in horror. There was a stunned silence of about three seconds and then everyone, myself included, collapsed in laughter that lasted for minutes.

"I mean, the first shot hit the conning tower." I resumed, causing renewed merriment. My reading finished with the sinking of the U-boat just as the bell rang for the end of school.

Every boy, including my former assailant, bade me a cheerful "Goodbye, sir," as they left, and thereafter when they came into

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my music lesson they joined heartily in the singing. I never tried to go beyond their limited capabilities, but plantation songs, Negro Spirituals, sea shanties and the like received enthusiastic performance. I enjoyed teaching them as much as they seemed to enjoy my lessons. There was no more trouble.

"I don't know what this school is coming to. First you knock down one of my boys and then you teach them filthy language!" That comment by Form 4D's mentor the following Monday morning caused the staff-room to rock with merriment.

A similar incident led to my complete acceptance soon after I moved to an independent primary school in the London 'stockbroker belt'. My class of ten-year-olds was scanning a passage of English literature, each in turn picking out a verb, the 'motive force, the engine'. If any boy selected a word that was not a verb I would ask, "Have you ever ussed?", "Have you ever theired?" or whatever arose.

One of the less bright members of the class offered with a puzzled frown, "We?"

"Have you ever weed?"

For perhaps two seconds there was absolute incredulity and then I had thirty little horrors in hysterics, a couple writhing on the floor in helpless merriment. I too was seated at my desk with tears of mirth rolling down my cheeks.

The headmaster looked through the glass panel of the door, shrugged and walked away. The master of the next class looked through the doorway between our rooms, grinned and closed the door again. It was minutes before we recovered.

"We, Simon, is a pronoun, referring in this room to a horde of horrible little boys called Form 4." More hilarity.

Of course everyone in the staff room wanted to know what had caused the eruption that had been heard throughout the school.

"Mr. Mann, we sometimes have to ask the boys personal questions in order to complete their records, but we do not go that far. Are you sure that the Head approves?" The comment from one of the Kindergarten teachers caused further amusement.

An account circulated amongst the pupils, becoming a school legend, and when repeating that particular lesson in the future I needed to warn, "And anyone who offers a certain personal pronoun will be dicing with death." It always got a laugh.

• 'WEHRMACHT' MEANS • 'DEFENCE FORCE'

• I think that the the November/December issue's article entitled
• 'Gallant Greece' was my first exposure to Lionel Mann. I
• enjoyed his hyperbolic and the somewhat rumbustious, knock-
• about style that is so much in contrast with most of the other
• writing in the paper.
• Whilst face to face I might raise certain technical arguments, I
• do agree with the general tenor of the article; though it does
• seem that a healthy dose of anti-American sentiment is still,
• unfortunately, de rigueur in some circles. I must mention the fact
• that my wife nearly choked on her prasopitta at the image of
• Italian soldiers having their 'pants licked off'!
• There is, however, one issue that is I believe worthy of attention.
• The word 'wehrmacht' in German means 'defence force' and this
• word was used to describe the unified armed forces of Germany
• between 1939 and 1945. The Wehrmacht initially comprised
• three elements: Heer (the Army), Kriegsmarine (the Navy) and
• the Luftwaffe (the air force) and later the Waffen-SS became the
• fourth component though as an autonomous and parallel force.
• Thus it is a tautology to refer, as Lionel does, to 'the Wehrmacht
• and the Air Force' having been defeated. I know it's only a small
• point, but I'm sure that you strive for accuracy in all things and
• would want to be advised. Keep up the good work!

Mark Thompson

• Lionel Mann writes: During the '39 - '45 conflagration and after-
• wards in H.Q. B.A.O.R., even in our War Crimes section, cor-
• rectly or incorrectly, Werhmacht was used to refer to the army
• (including the S.S.), Luftwaffe the airforce, Kriegsmarine the
• navy. I was merely using the generally accepted term, although
• Mark's comment is absolutely correct. However, I doubt
• whether many British readers would have known the meaning of
• 'Heer'. Mark's erudition was quite a surprise!

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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.

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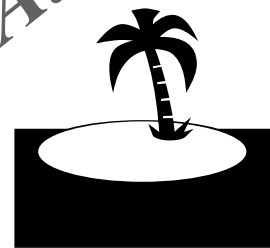
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