

The Corfiot

Corfu's English Language Monthly Magazine

May 2008

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No. 209

A Little Tour in North Corfu

Surviving Summer
Guests

The
Underwater
Island

EasyJet
Yes or No

The Face of
'Made in Corfu'

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ear to the ground

DECIDING EXACTLY WHERE THIS SPRING'S RECOMMENDED TRIP WOULD LEAD, I consulted a map lying in the office. It was not a cheap car-hire giveaway but a Toubis map, laminated and on the surface quite appealing. It even boasted on the rear (I quote) that the 'maps of M. Toubis Editions have become a byword for accuracy... they are frequently revised, always remaining detailed and reliable.' To prove the point, there's a pic of a hand carefully holding a pencil over Kassiope.

What a hoot. I don't know what these guys with pencils were up to when they drew it, but they certainly drew on a lot of imagination. For starters, a chunk of the main road to Roda is missing, the bit that by-passes Horoeopiskopi (either that or the road through Horoeopiskopi isn't shown). This by-pass is at least 15 years old. So much for boasts of frequent revision.

Lefkimmi, however, has its by-pass (puzzlingly, a more recent construction than the Horoeopiskopi one), though the region's also somehow gained a clifftop footpath onwards from the Arkoudillas Monastery, and the road from Potami to Bouka has been completely redirected. Kaliviotis, on the coast of Lefkimmi Bay, is reached along the shore from the east, instead of from Notos in the west. Either that, or the settlement's been relocated.

But the Toubis artists (in the true sense of the word) have reserved their best doodlings for the Municipality of Agios Georgiou. I'm told it's one of the poorest of the island's regions and in general little touched by mass tourism, so perhaps Toubis regards its correct representation as unimportant. Maybe that's why they have crisscrossed it with totally imaginary roads. I can picture the artwork being conjured up in a smart Athens office. 'There's a turn-off just there.' 'Yes, and a road joins that one there.' In chorus: 'SO THEY MUST LINK UP!' Apart from the very peculiar road network behind Saint George Beach, the map shows a 'secondary road' (i.e. not even a dirt one) leading right to Pirate's Cove on Cape Arillas, where the only access is a precipitous, narrow and rocky FOOTPATH. In another stretch of fantasy, Vistonas and Vatonies are allegedly connected by a dirt road. Does anyone ever check? I did a couple of weeks ago, before leading a walking group between the villages, and can divulge that the track UP from Vatonies does NOT connect with the one DOWN from Vistonas, except by way of a scramble through an olive grove. So much for being reliable.

Drivers relying on this map may like to know that they are no longer obliged to access Sokraki up the 25 hairpin bends from Ano Korakiana (of course, the Toubis map is sufficiently accurate to show six bends, so drivers will be in for a shock). Asphalting was recently completed along the former gravel but vehicle-friendly and well signposted road (over 20 years old but missing altogether on this 'detailed' map) from Troumpetta to Sokraki, and a very fine drive it is too.

I could go on... and on... like about the non-existent secondary road over Mount Agios Mattheos, and the road that manages to cross the footbridge between Cape Agia Ekaterini and Almiros. But enough's enough. I hope Toubis sues me for libel, so that we can hold this map up in public with the contempt which it deserves. Because in producing this piece of tripe, Toubis Editions has shown it holds the visiting public in contempt.

By the way, if anyone want to find their way around the North West, they can do no better than to get hold of a copy of Lance Chilton's 'Walks in Northwest Corfu', with a colour map based on groundwork. It's available through www.marengowalks.com

AT LEAST YOU KNOW WHICH MAP NOT TO USE if you want back-up for our little tour of North Corfu, the main feature in this edition. We also look at ways to survive visitors, written by a contributor who just has! Also inside, meet the face of 'Dopio', and learn why Athens should beware...

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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

HOW TO FIND HTC: From San

Rocco Square: Walk down Alexandros Avenue to the first set of lights TURN LEFT up the hill. Look for the Bella Venezia Hotel sign at the end up a bank. Bear right on up the hill past the Orpheas Cinema. The main road bends left; you should see the sea now! Turn immediately left into Zambeli Street. Holy Trinity Church is 100 metres along past the Bella Venezia Hotel.

From the Liston/Spianada: Find the band stand in the middle! Take the street directly opposite (it takes vehicles). The old Ionian Parliament building is at the top of that street and HTC is behind it.

This month's name days

05. Irini
09. Christoforos
10. Simon
11. Methodios
13. Glykeria
20. Lydia
21. Konstantinos, Eleni. Local holiday to celebrate Union of the Ionian Islands with Greece
29. Theodosia

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

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ACHARAVI

EasyJet - Yes!

✍ Sarah Button

As we met some friends at the airport last year, they asked if we'd hang around whilst they found the holiday rep to tell him they wouldn't be on the transfer bus and neither would they be taking up their accommodation. The shocked rep asked why? A 'flight only' was more expensive than a package holiday, so our friends had booked a holiday they wouldn't use. Outrageous.

The big holiday companies have forced accommodation providers rates down so low that some have withdrawn their services. A tour operator has recently pulled out of Arillas because they couldn't squeeze providers' prices down further, and a hotelier in Sidari was expected to accept just 20% of the going rate. Absurd.

But folk are internet savvy now and eminently capable of tailoring their own holidays - there's no need any more for that long trawl through glaringly misleading brochures in a crowded high street travel agency. Many accommodation providers have their own sites with 'virtual tours' and with cheaper international calls and services like Skype it's simple to do it all yourself. You also get the benefit of a personal and friendly service, the provider gets a decent whack for his services and everyone is happy. It's simple; you just cut out the middle man.

This is where easyJet come in, and if it hadn't been for them I wouldn't have had the pleasure of seeing my family the week before Easter, neither would we be seeing some close friends the week after. EasyJet understand that not everyone wants or needs a hotel and those that do can choose accommodation to suit them - on the net.

Cheap flights can only be good for the economy of the island, certainly at a time when Brits are being squeezed by the so called 'credit crunch' and the diminishing value of the pound. Indeed many accommodation providers are dropping their prices by up to 50% to attract customers; all the more need for cheap flights.

My friends and family have been relieved to find sensibly priced flights with easyJet. Sensibly priced if booked well in advance that is: a round trip from here to Newcastle via Gatwick using Flybe and easyJet can be had for 90 euro. Bargain!

The recent easyJet flights to and from Corfu have been full, even with a price tag of over 200 euro, so it's got to be a viable route. We should encourage easyJet to fly here all year round and provide suitable links with the regional airports in the UK. It could be a lifeline for many expats.

We know Corfu needs tourism. Maybe it could use this opportunity to develop an initiative using the UK's tourist boards as a model and carry a database of attractions, accommodation providers, restaurants and museums. For a small annual membership fee it could give them pub-

licity and maybe a simple rating system could be introduced which would provide visitors with information on quality, thus setting a standard. It could also encourage members to buy Corfiot products and patronise traditional tavernas that use local produce. By encouraging a philosophy of independence that provides work and income for Corfiots it would see the profits gained by tourism ploughed into where they should be - the local economy.

Back to the cheap flights: three cheers for good old easyJet! But let's not forget that Corfiots have long campaigned for all year round flights and now we've got them we should support them. It's a case of use it or lose it.

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EasyJet - NO!

✍ Sue Tsiringioti, Castaway Travel - Acharavi

There has been great excitement on Corfu since the announcement that easyJet had taken over GB Airways. There are high expectations that this will lead to a winter flight. My humble opinion is that it probably won't. But at least yet we are lucky, as they started early, on 31st March; maybe we will have a direct flight into November. I am no fan of the easyJet business model and have so far managed to avoid being 'tangoed'. People who plan ahead and book their seats well in advance will, for sure, get seats at ridiculously low prices, but others who book nearer the date of travel will find that they are paying the same as they would have on GB Airways with none of the benefits - like the good legroom, a meal with wine and good luggage allowance AND an allocated seat! I dread to see the bun-fight at Corfu's already over-stretched airport when easyJet boards their flight and everyone elbows their way on board!

It is a known fact that the purchase of GB Airways by easyJet was to secure hard-to-come-by slots at Gatwick. Call me a cynic but it will not surprise me if after this summer, when part of the deal was to honour GB Airways booking already taken, they use these slots to fly to other more profitable destinations. Let's face it, easyJet is in business to make money. They have been approached in the past to fly to Corfu and said it was not viable - if they believed there was money to be made they would have been here long ago.

Corfu has many British home owners here now who will appreciate the flexibility of a daily flight in high season, but many of those are discerning travellers and will not be happy flying with a no-frills airline. They enjoyed the decent times and services offered by an established scheduled carrier. EasyJet have already been described to me as clueless and hopeless, and the same client expressed a wish that they would leave the route to a proper airline soon!

Attention to customer satisfaction seems minimal. For example, if it happens that you don't get your speedy boarding because the system breaks down, don't expect an apology (or refund because it took you and your five fellow passengers 1 ½ hours to check in, while the rest of the flight had already gone through security!). Don't expect that you might get away from Gatwick quickly on landing in the middle of the night if you have luggage, as all easyJet flights, and there are several, use one baggage carousel.

The fall-out from all this is already evident. Have any of you looked for flights to/from your nearest provincial airport? Did you notice how expensive they are and how you previously had three flights to choose from now only one, and that was probably a Thomson flight? XL.com have cancelled many of their flights to Corfu as they are not interested in competing with budget airlines. They are now moving over to mid-haul where there is still money to be made on seat sales. First Choice and TUI/Thomson have merged so in many cases two flights have become one, and again when My Travel and Thomas Cook merged. So in the end, Corfu will become even harder for the independent holidaymaker to reach.

My family needs to be able to fly from Exeter; before, I could do that with XL at around 200 pounds, not dirt cheap but worth every penny. Thomsonfly would now like to relieve me of 380 pounds for the same flight. Gatwick is not an option for my elderly mother, nor are the times of the easyJet flight.

I am saddened to see our options reduced still further and the prices going still higher - at the same time as we fight the damage caused by a strong euro which will make Corfu seem an expensive destination when our visitors finally arrive.

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COMMENT

Athens Beware!

✍ Harry Tsoukalas

Corfu, the green paradise island, its character moulded by many civilizations of the western world. An island where the people follow in the footsteps of the Ancients, in whose time Corfu was one of the great powers of its day.

The mythical Corfiots King Alkinous and Queen Ariti were the ones who, with their renowned hospitality, put an end to the 20-year wanderings of Odysseus and sent him back to his Ithacan homeland.

Like Odysseus, every Greek has a passion to return home. My own homecoming from Xenitia (Diaspora) was fulfilled in 2000 after 17 years in Australia. It has taken me eight years to tell myself 'enough is enough'.

Unification with Greece in 1864, after 50 years of British rule, was the biggest mistake in our history. The Treaty of London which 'arranged the marriage' in 1863 made the following pledges:

- 1) Perpetual neutrality for the Ionian Islands.
- 2) An annual sum of 10,000 pounds sterling to be appropriated from the islands as revenue for the Kingdom of Greece.
- 3) All institutions created under British rule to continue to exist under the protection of the King of the Hellenes.

None of those pledges have been kept. Corfu has not enjoyed the promised 'perpetual neutrality'; indeed, it was illegally bombed and occupied during the Second World War.

Billions of euros are taken every year in taxes and revenues and only a tiny proportion given back for infrastructure.

In 2003, three million visitors landed at Ionian airports, and only 500,000 at ones on the Epiros Mainland. But on a recent visit to the Ioannina Hospital, I saw that we Corfiots are obliged to travel to the Mainland for even minor medical treatment, because the government can't provide Corfu with a decent facility.

Government money is being pumped into the Epiros road system that few people travel, while in Corfu our roads are patch-worked and potholed.

On my TV show 'Return to Tradition', I often mention the lack of infrastructure, and contrast our plight today with the past. Many Corfiots are not aware that during their 50-year rule, the British built a road network of 100 kilometres, the longest in the Balkans at that time. And all with picks and shovels.

The British brought water from springs behind Benitses to Corfu Town. But today, our illegal soakaway sewage system has rendered most of our ground water undrinkable, and we have to buy it bottled - from Epiros.

Before the British came, the Venetians constructed the old city walls and the fortresses, and planted four million olive trees. Today, the fortresses are crumbling; and if it wasn't for a small group of Corfiot environmentalists (including ourselves), the island would be losing its olive groves to illegal drastic cutting at the rate of 8% a year - and environmental disaster waiting to happen. Our stand costs us dearly in lost business - but what price our environment?

Illegal aerial spraying went on for years with Lebaycid, a cancer-causing chemical made by Bayer, in order to 'protect' the olive trees against pests. It seems certain individuals in authority were taking large kickbacks to perpetuate the spraying, and when environmentalists (including ourselves) criticized it, we were ridiculed.

Money from EU programmes has flowed into Corfu for infrastructure, but much has failed to reach its destination, and lines

pockets instead.

In the Odyssey, Homer described Corfu as the ultimate in fertility, but today much once-productive agricultural land has been abandoned, and we buy our fruit and vegetables from as far afield as Brazil and Israel.

Rubbish and discarded appliances lie everywhere, and there is no reward for recycling, nor infrastructure to allow it even if people wanted.

Tourism, the backbone of our economy, has been allowed to deteriorate, with no control over illegal buildings and practices. The giant tour operators have been given a free hand to take over and profit at the expense of our pockets and environment. The low prices they pay to accommodation owners have not left cash for refurbishments, so accommodation becomes downgraded - and the tourists hop off to new, more shiny, destinations.

Corfiot businesspeople, whether in tourism or not, pay heavy taxes but receive little in return. In contrast, Grevena, a prefecture on the Mainland, has as state-of-the-art hospital, and not a single foreign tourist. Why?

Corfu, the golden goose, has provided up to 25% of central government's revenue, but central government takes the golden eggs and doesn't feed the goose. So now the goose is dying, and they'll eat that too.

2,500 years ago, Corfu was a mighty power in the Greek world, with the second strongest navy after the Athenian one. Such was Corfu's power amongst the city-states of the Ancient World that it provoked the Peloponnesian War between Sparta and Athens - perhaps the first 'World War'. In it, Sparta, with its communistic society, was like Russia in the last century, and Athens, with its democratic system and allies, like the USA steering NATO, while Corfu resembled a miniature British Empire with its own agenda. The War left Ancient Greece weak; the Macedonians and then the Romans were able to take over, the latter empire ensuring the legacy of Hellenism which structures our society even today.

At the time of the Greek Revolution against the Turks, Corfu as a free nation played a vital role in Greece's achievement of independence. Then, Corfu had a university and high schools, as well as the British-built infrastructure. Since unification in 1864, these were stripped (in the case of the educational establishments) or allowed to decay (in the case of the infrastructure).

Now we are saying enough is enough. My fellow Corfiots now realize that the only way to change things, for the sake of our children and their children, is through our own hands. We are forming a new Independence Party which will run in the next local elections for the Prefecture and mayoral positions. Then we shall take our case to the European Courts. The Treaty of London, signed by Prussia, Britain, France and the other major powers of the day, has to be put back in place.

And if the government in Athens refuses to bend over backwards for Corfu, then the way will be paved for the establishment of a United States of the Ionian Islands, an independent nation.

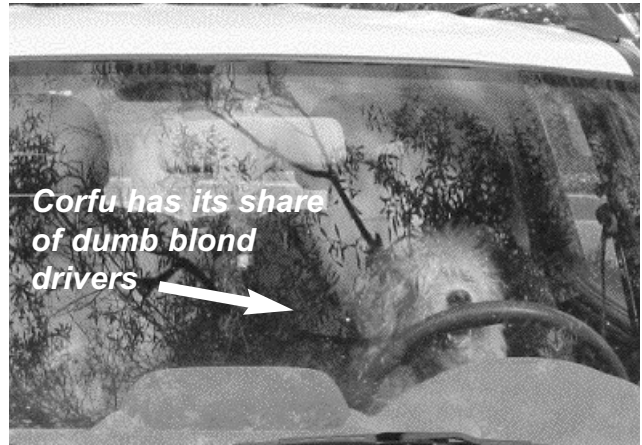
If necessary, we can turn to our old allies, Britain and Russia, a move that is certain to disquiet Athens. 2,500 years ago, Corfu was the cause of the first World War, which destroyed the then-known ancient world. History repeats...

Look what happens when you rearrange the letters of these words:

DORMITORY:	DIRTY ROOM
PRESBYTERIAN:	BEST IN PRAYER
ASTRONOMER:	MOON STARER
DESPERATION:	A ROPE ENDS IT
THE EYES:	THEY SEE
GEORGE BUSH:	HE BUGS GORE
THE MORSE CODE:	HERE COME DOTS
SLOT MACHINES:	CASH LOST IN ME
ANIMOSITY:	IS NO AMITY
ELECTION RESULTS:	LIES - LET'S RECOUNT
SNOOZE ALARMS:	ALAS! NO MORE Z 'S
A DECIMAL POINT:	I'M A DOT IN PLACE
THE EARTHQUAKES:	THAT QUEER SHAKE
ELEVEN PLUS TWO:	TWELVE PLUS ONE

And for the grande finale:
MOTHER-IN-LAW: WOMAN HITLER

Sent in by Lionel Mann



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CHAPLAIN'S CHAT

God, Gossip and Grapevines!

 **Clifford Owen**

It was the late Methodist peer Lord Soper, who once wisely said: 'We Christians would do well to remember that we are, at best, a bunch of barely saved sinners!' Wise words indeed from a man who was as well known at Speakers' Corner in Hyde Park, as he was in the House of Lords.

If anyone asks me what is the besetting sin of the average British Christian, I would have to say 'hypocrisy'. We are good at the smooth words and the kind smile. We are not bad at charitable works and good deeds. We pass the Peace in church, but what are we like in private? Whenever I have a difficult sermon to preach I sometimes check on my wife's face as a sincerity barometer. Frequently I confess faults, because if I didn't, she would probably stand up in the sermon slot and say... well I'm not quite sure what she would say, but I would be for it when I got home! Hypocrisy is in effect putting on an act. It's a Greek word of course meaning 'one who acts'. We can so hone our behaviour that we can pass off as an upstanding, virtuous prig in public, but at home, and more importantly in the secret of our hearts, we can be a 'bit of a b'. I'm edging towards my topic this month which is gossip. We say things to our spouses, or our cell of mutual discontent, things we normally wouldn't want others to hear.

There are many times when it is perfectly justified to talk about other human beings. Barely a day goes past without it. Sometimes it is vital to our jobs. But what is our motive? When I moved to Worcestershire in 1989, the Bishop sent for me after my first six months to see how I was getting on and if I had any problems. After a few routine enquiries he threw in a leading question: 'How are you getting on with x?' I made my reply. The Bishop said, 'Good. X is a difficult character, full of misguided enthusiasm, a power in the land. He has tried to control all the previous Rectors. He always writes to me the most un-Christian things about y, his relation whom he does not like.' (!) The Bishop trusted me, was honest and furnished me with such information as he thought I needed to know to do the job. A few years later, a new Bishop, a very different character, said that I had in my parish: 'The two most angular characters in the Diocese, including x.' (I'm still waiting for the medal!) The point is that it is necessary to talk about people, almost every-day; but what is the motive? Do we talk about them to understand them better, to work with them, to love them, to pray for them? Or do we gossip searching for their downside, so that we can seek out others who might agree with us and so add them to our gang? I am being serious, and I am addressing professing Christians. At the heart of our faith we believe that Christ died to reconcile us to God, while we were still deep in our mess. There are certain things that Christians must forsake, and gossip with wrong motives is one of them. It is not an option.

Years ago in my Midlands Grammar School, I expected to find that all those of us who has crossed that great divide of half a century ago - namely, the 11-plus - would discover a world of academic, peace-loving mortals who thought high thoughts about the world and human destiny. I was I suppose a Christian

humanist in those days. Man was God's marvellous creation. I believed in God, but man was so intelligent and inventive that he would become the Master of the Universe. But I discovered hate and gossip and bullying... all rather depressing really. I remembered the RE teacher addressing the class one day about not bullying a certain individual who was a bit different to the rest of us. Gossip was indeed alive and well in 1954!

The book of Proverbs in the Old Testament has some bits on gossip: 'without wood a fire goes out; without gossip a quarrel dies down.' (26v20) 'A perverse man stirs up dissension, a gossip separates close friends' (16v28), 'a gossip betrays a confidence, but a trustworthy man keeps a secret.' (11v13)

I know some clergy whom I would call 'saints'. If I listen to their conversation I detect a holiness, which hardly ever speaks evil of anyone. I find their lives a challenge to my motives to set a watch upon myself. Do we keep a watch over our conversation, especially among our buddies and at dinner parties? Or are we out to catch the latest morsel of revelation, which we wouldn't dare share with the person being talked about?

One of the reasons I am in favour of a free press and magazines like The Corfiot is that they invite honest debate. The truth comes eventually above the surface. If we write nonsense one month, Hilary can print a letter or disown us the next! People actually trust journals as institutions. They encourage honesty and are accountable.

Sooner or later, the truth comes out. I am challenged every Sunday morning by the opening prayer in the service; 'Almighty God, unto who all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid' ...It's worrying isn't it?



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The Ark - Rehoming dogs

Sissy and her pup stayed in Corfu Borzi and her pups went to Holland....

The Ark, Friends of the Animals in Corfu, is working to find good homes for abandoned or unwanted dogs. Our first aim is to try to find them caring homes on the island, but that is often not possible. The next step, with the support of AAI, a non profit-making organization in Holland, is to find good and caring homes in Holland.

Here are the stories of some doggies whose owners called and asked us to find homes for their animals. It is sad that people easily take on a dog, without considering that it is a lifetime commitment. But it is positive that instead of dumping these dogs somewhere, as many do, these owners at least phoned us.

Sissy, a small white terrier-mix, had several puppies, all different. The owner gave them all away, except one which was thin and skinny. He did not want the puppy or the mother, admitting that he could not take good care of them. So we took mother and pup. With good food and care, both turned rapidly into healthy dogs. The rather nervous mother became the friendliest dog you ever met, and her daughter became a beautiful, still-small pup, with special coloring and funny ears. The pup was rehomed quickly. We knew that Jane was looking for a small dog, under five kilos, so she could take it with her in the cabin when she travelled by plane. When she saw the little pup, she immediately fell for it. You might see her sometime in Corfu Town, walking with Thalullah, or carrying her in a basket.

We found a home for Sissy a few months later. An English couple was looking for a pup, having had dogs all their life in England. They thought that by raising a pup they would have a perfectly trained dog, but when we mentioned that it is, in fact, a lot easier to take a grown-up doggie with good manners, they came to see Sissy. They fell for her, and a few days later, after having a good night's sleep over this dog-life commitment, they came to fetch her. Now rebaptised Daisy, she's joining them on long walks.

These are just two examples of dogs finding 'golden baskets' in Corfu.

Another rather small white terrier-mix, Borzi, had been adopted by a family. They contacted us for help when she had three puppies which they could not afford to keep. One found a home here, but the others, Mora and Moro - now Kos - were finally found new homes in Holland.

The owners promised to sterilize Borzi, but six months later again came a cry of help. This time only for one little female (we named her Caro) had not found a home. The others had been given away... and as we feared two of them appeared later dumped on the road. One, which we named Lina, was in rather bad condition with her nice hair all matted. So this time we had to rehome three pups from Borzi.

Borzi's pups were very attractive - fluffy and not very big. But there was no interest here on the island, so Caro, Lino and Lina went finally to nice loving families in Holland.

They update us regularly about the pups. Caro even joins the couple on all their holidays.

Finally, we were also asked to rehome Borzi, as the owners could not keep her any longer due to housing and time problems. Now renamed Sara, she found a home in the south of Holland with a nice lady who is very fond of her. By the way, she is sterilized now...

Maybe we should organize a 'Borzi family reunion', so the six dogs can meet again, and the six new owners will get to know the rest of the Corfu family.

Another six golden baskets for our Corfiot dogs in Holland.

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For successful rehoming, the Ark is in constant need of helping hands for all kind of activities here in Corfu.

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Louisa van Vuurde

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COVER FEATURE

A Little Tour in North Corfu

 Hilary Paipeti

When you first visit Corfu, it's exciting to drive over the Troumpetta Pass, the main-road pass into North and North West Corfu, to find a whole new world awaits on the other side of that great scarp of rock which looms over North Central Corfu. Indeed, the Pantokrator Massif, its continuation along the Tsoukas Ridge above Skripero, and its long decline into the sea at Angelokastro, defines the geographical character of the region. For over it you are on the dip slope of the escarpment, where most of the mountain rainfall drains to the far plains and sea. Water is the key here; over the millenia, great gorges have been gouged, and floodwaters have carried down eroded debris to form fertile plains at their foot. Water gushes in village springs, cold even at the height of summer. At the island's most northerly point, water collects as a lake, as if loath to leave the island for the sea. This is the landscape we explore on this little tour of North Corfu.

Take the main Paleokastritsa Highway out of Town, and turn right at the Tzavros traffic lights, following signs for Dassia and Kassiopi (if you are staying out of Town, just make your best way to this spot). Heading through linear tourist development, you reach the sea at mile-long Ipsos beach. At the end of the resort, the road starts climbing; at the top of the initial climb, take a sharp left towards Spartillas. The road now begins a series of snaking bends, turning later into full hairpins, and the view over the bay to Corfu Town becomes increasingly vertiginous. Pass through Spartillas (or stop and wander round to admire the architecture of this picturesque village), and you are now above the 'olive line' and in the mountain zone. About two kilometres out of the village, look on the right for a road; it come abruptly after a bend and is not well signposted in advance. The sign indicates Petalia and Lafki, but the first village you come to is Strinilas, the highest settlement in Corfu.

Just before the village, as the road crosses a small alp-like plain, a stand of dark cypress trees all but hides an isolated church, dedicated to the Virgin of the Crossroads. It is worth stopping here and entering the walled and gated churchyard to view the carving above the main doorway, where two dragons romp face to face. Though the doorway is dated 1855, the stone carvings are not structurally integrated with the lintel, and may be much older. The presence of serpent images on a Christian monument, the 'crossroads' reference in the church's name, and its pointlessly isolated location, may be hidden ley line references. Does a ley line run through here? And could it be associated with the Saint Michael - Apollo Axis, the great ley line that bisects Europe and runs through Corfu? (For further reading, see the article 'The Medusa, Snake Symbolism and Ley Lines', in the November issue of The Corfiot Magazine, available as a free download on www.thecorfiotmagazine.com)

Reaching Strinilas, you may wish to stop for a coffee or a snack at Stamatis, the little bar with the wood decking on the left corner as you enter the square. If it is already lunchtime, he may be persuaded to conjure up the best egg and chips in the world. You ask, why should I want to eat English food in a Corfiot village? But in fact, egg and chips is a perfectly valid local dish. When a quick meal was required, local women would visit the store-room for potatoes and olive oil, and the henhouse for an egg or

two. And that's much what Stamatis's mum does; the eggs, potatoes and oil are all their own; and the feta cheese, if you want some of that too, is made from the milk of sheep that graze on the karst plateau above the village.

Through Strinilas and a short distance on, you can fork right to deviate to the Pantokrator summit. Our trip, however, continues through Petalia, then starts a long and very dramatic descent through bare mountain scenery and past Lafki. A kilometre or so further and down through the olive line, turn off right on a road signposted to Perithia (not the gravel track through a quarry which is the first turning after Lafki). You now wind through a number of little valleys, the lower end of great gullies. One, just after the blink-and-you-miss-it settlement of Krinias, is the Parigori Gorge, Corfu's most powerful river when in flood. Remarkably, the Parigori has no outlet into the sea; its water disperses into the plain behind Almiros Beach. Eventually, after Portes and Vasilika, you reach Perithia - not the Byzantine village high in the mountain, but the modern lowland one, with busy shops and coffee bars. But we have a better coffee shop for your refreshment stop. Turn left at Perithia and you are soon on the main road between Kassiopi and Acharavi. Turn left here, and in a minute's drive you'll see the 'Made in Corfu' shop and 'The Art of Olive Wood' beside the road on your left.

The 'Made in Corfu' shop also functions as a kafenion, a traditional coffee shop. Actually, its installations, down to a water filter, are state-of-the-art, but the furnishings were rescued out of

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two old bars which were being refurbished. The shop is one of few in Corfu that serves local ginger beer, once made everywhere, but now only produced by the Heimarios factory in Kalafationes. This is not the fizzy chemical drink of the UK, but the 'fossilized' version which was its ancestor. Ginger beer was brought to Corfu by the British in the early years of the 19th century; of course, it was made from the recipe used at that time - just ginger, lemon juice, sugar and water. While it's changed to an unrecognizable degree in the UK, the recipe did not move on in Corfu. The fizz is a result of fermentation between the lemon juice and the ginger and has nothing to do with carbonization. It is immensely refreshing - and since it contains real ginger and lemon it's good for you too!

You can also snack on local products such as nouboulo (cured and dried pork loin), buy fig pies to take home, and even put in a bid for some lovely old furniture, restored or not.

When you've finished your drink, why not hop next door to the Art of Olive Wood Shop, showcase for Costas Aylonitis' wonderful work in Corfu's favourite wood. Many self-styled olive wood shops sell objects made from other less expensive woods like walnut, and even from soft evergreens. But Costas does not compromise. The larger objects, like the bowls, can take up to five years from cropping the wood to going on show in the shop. Which is why they don't come cheap. Costas says that he feels an energy emanating from the wood he handles. 'Every piece has its own character, and my job is to find that character and bring it to the fore.' This is one very happy man.

Leave this little one-stop-for-everything location by continuing

along the road. A hundred metres further, turn right for Saint Spiridon Beach and Lake Antinioti, a protected Natura 2000 site. The Natura area, which incorporates the wild limestone headland as well as the Lake and its associated reed beds, is currently the source of controversy after plans were announced that a company called Evrosyndesmi AE, supported by the local mayor, Spiros Varelis, would build a giant hotel inside its boundaries, as reported on these pages last month. Campaigners against the plans say they have found a clause in the land deeds which does not allow construction on the site, so this threat against one of Corfu's last accessible unspoiled coastlines is - for now - receding. Starting at the beach, you can walk around the headland on a network of little paths and tracks, to find strands that hardly a soul discovers.

To continue, backtrack to the main road and turn right. A few minutes drive and you are in Acharavi, 'capital' of North Corfu. Here there are plenty of tavernas if you're feeling peckish, and if you only want a snack, Freddo Bar, next to Dimitra Supermarket, does a mean toasted sandwich, with potato crisps and ketchup on the side, for only two euros.

Acharavi is not just the administrative, commercial and entertainment centre of the region, but also the 'hub' of the Blue Routes, a series of blue-waymarked walks which access the town's rural hinterland. If you didn't take the long walk at the Lake, maybe now's the time to blow away the cobwebs. Route 8 starts at the Town Hall, on the inland side of the main road near the roundabout and climbs Konstanti Hill, with lovely views back to Acharavi. Reaching the hamlet of Priftatika, it then

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COVER FEATURE

descends through oak forest back to Acharavi. Route 4 starts just west of the town, near the excavations of a Roman bath house, ascending through the same oak forest, then going higher and descending by way of the Dandolo Tower.

The path through the oak forest may be very ancient indeed. In Roman times, a city called Ivi stood more or less where Acharavi is built today, one of three ancient settlements in North Corfu. When Antony and Cleopatra made their ill-fated attempt to usurp the Roman Empire from Octavian, the three cities were forced to take sides. Ivi chose wrongly, and after Antony's defeat at the Battle of Actium, the city was razed and its citizens slaughtered in punishment. But a few managed to escape by fleeing to the hills, establishing a new settlement at Eriva. Ivi was thereafter known as 'Unlucky Ivi' - in Greek 'Ahari Ivi', which became Acharavi. The oak forest path is in all likelihood the path the survivors used in their flight, since it is the way which leads most directly to the mountains and Eriva.

If you don't want to walk, you can still visit the Dandolo Tower by car. At the roundabout in the centre of Acharavi, take the little road inland, then the first turn right. This leads on the level between oak forest and pasture, then begins to climb. Shortly after the climb begins, you'll spot two blue signs nailed to a tree on the right of the road, pointing to a dirt track on the left side. Take this track and within a couple of hundred metres you come to a small old church. The Tower is behind it amongst the trees, a huge three floor building standing square and roofless. Remains of a drawbridge can be seen.

The Tower was built in the aftermath of the Fourth Crusade in 1204. More interested in plunder than retaking Jerusalem for Christianity, the Crusaders attacked Constantinople. The City fell and the Byzantine Empire was split. Venice got Corfu and Doge Dandolo, who led the crusade, gave one of his nephews a great tract of land in the North. The Tower was constructed as the administrative centre, and as a refuge against attack. It still belongs to a descendent of Dandolo.

Leaving Acharavi, you're heading back now, but even your return journey takes in sites of interest. Continue by following the road out of Acharavi, westward to Roda.

At the crossroads (traffic lights) turn left and follow the road to Platonas, a straggling inland village. Watch carefully on the left for a very small junction, not well marked, which heads up to the village of Nimfes. This is kumquat territory; for some reason, this little citrus thrives in the region, and you'll spot plantations of the low trees everywhere. Just before you reach Nimfes is a kumquat products factory which was set up by the growers' cooperative (marketed as Corfu Delicious), and you are welcome to visit. Among the products you can buy in the factory store is the liqueur made from the fruit or from the blossom. Another product is marmalade, and since the kumquat fruit is very bitter, this has a similar taste to marmalade made with the traditional Seville orange - great on breakfast toast. Kumquats are rich in vitamin C and other vitamins; and since this is the growers' cooperative, the products are genuine, not made from reconstituted kumquat paste like in

some other local factories. Yet another Made in Corfu product that is good for you!

On up the road, you pass the old Church of Evstavromenos with its very interesting octagonal dome; apparently its builder had visited the Middle East and seen similar buildings. Then you are in Nimfes, where the long narrow street eventually emerges into a large square. Nimfes is named for the water dryads, or nymphs, which are said to inhabit its many streams; for Nimfes is one of those dip-slope villages which exist due to the run-off water from the mountains. Water flows here all year round, directed into a powerful spring which gushes through several outlets in a corner of the square. Take a jerry can or plastic bottles and fill up, for this is water as it's meant to taste, redolent with the flavours of the Earth.

On beyond Nimfes, the road meets the main road again; turn left, then within a few hundred metres take the next road left, signposted to Klimatia and Kyprianades. Fork left and soon you are passing through Klimatia, another village of the dip-slope. Climbing higher, you reach Zygos, where in the centre of the village you go right, following signs for Sokraki.

Sokraki is located at a brief break in the wall of rock which forms the scarp of the mountain range, and has amazing views both north and south. Before you pluck up courage for the most hair-raising descent in Corfu, call in at Emily's Bar in the open square at the east end of the village. Here you can get another taste of ginger beer, and if you're peckish, fill up with a few souvlaki grilled on charcoal, accompanied by some of Emily's delicious chips and a salad of just-picked vegetables from her garden. More great local products.

But don't leave your departure until after sundown; you have 25 full-lock hairpin bends to negotiate, and a truly magical view of the centre of the island and Corfu Town to enjoy. The road, built by the British, literally climbs down a cliff, with sometimes one bend built on top of the one below. Sigh with relief as you reach Ano Korakiana at the foot of the road. Now you are on the level and soon back on the main road north and returning through Tzavros to Corfu Town.

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The Face of 'Dopio'

by Harry Tsoukalas

When I moved to Australia in the early 80s, it took only couple of years for me to realize that I was living in a one-use, throw-away society. In the late 80s I established a 'recycled building-materials yard'; it was the first time the word recycle had been used. The business was a thriving, recession-proof one, for in bad times everyone was looking to reuse recycled material. Other yards existed, but they mainly sold good quality architectural salvage like those in England. My yard recycled almost everything found on a building site, even taps and lengths of copper pipe. Later on I got gravel crushers to turn rubble into roadbase for use in roads and backfilling.

All this was inspired by my upbringing at my parent's farm in Arillas. When I was growing up, my mum and dad lived - and still do today - in an environment which sets a perfect example for healthy green living.

Aged 84, my dad Papaspiros was focus of attention in a scene from Rick Stein's show, filmed in Corfu recently. The camera captured him heading at speed up a track, forcing Rick to break into a run. Unfortunately, the instrument was faulty so the scene was not broadcast. Seeing him at work with his vegetables, Rick was heard to comment that my dad is the face of the healthy Mediterranean lifestyle that everyone is talking about.

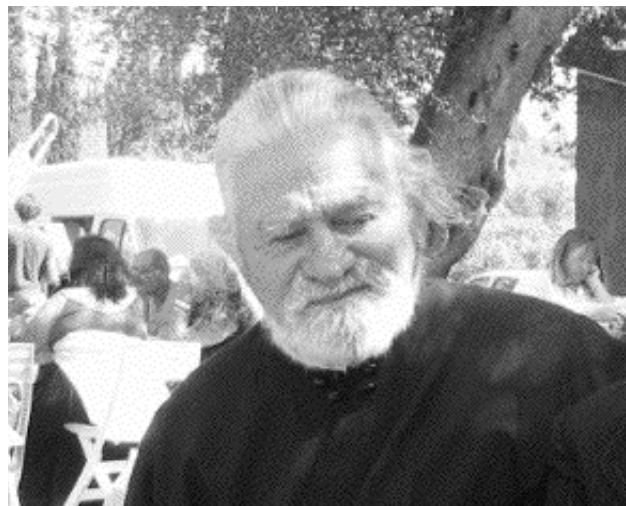
But first let me tell you about the recycle, reclaim and reuse standards of my parents.

My dad will even straighten old nails to use again. He reuses old plastic bottles to make traps for mosquitos, wasps and flies. Empty bottles also make miniature pots for his newly grafted vines, or his favourite fruit trees: pears and citrus. Their water bucket is an empty feta cheese tin, with a piece of curved olive wood braced from edge to edge as a handle. Old tyres make a basket for carrying rubble, or cut in a different way a nice flower pot.

My dad smashes odd chunks of concrete or brick for use in concrete pour as a base for perhaps a fence post or other non-structural installations. An old broken-down van becomes a perfect hen house. My family always had enough cypress trees for construction needs. And any wood that couldn't be reused is stored for winter firewood.

When my parents built a new house in the 1960s, they installed a sterna, a tank to collect and store rainwater. It was used for washing and other chores, but my mum said it was great for cooking pulses. Even back then, we had a solar heating system, giving us plenty of hot water nearly all year round. The open fireplace which burnt wood has steel pipes running through it, and with a storage tank it heated water for built-in radiators throughout the house.

Their house today has plumbing that reuses every last drop of good water. Shower, basin and washing-machine water is piped to storage tanks to be used in the garden. Of course these tanks would be mosquito heaven, but not when my dad's around. He sprinkles old olive oil on the water surface to foil the mosquitos. The female mosquito will not land on the oil to lay eggs, and



any larva is dead in minutes because it can't break through the oil to breathe.

My mum always reused old tins, but now she does the same with plastic containers. Paint them blue or green and there is your perfect pot for flowers or young vegetables.

She used to cut old clothes into strips and weave them into mats, but for her it was a godsend when plastic bags appeared in the supermarket. Today she crochets her mats from these, and when they get wet in the bathroom or outdoors they dry in a minute or two, unlike the ones made of rags. Should we take a lesson from her and open a new factory where all our waste plastic bags become mats? They could also make hats and lots of other items. I asked her to make me a shopping bag out of them, so now when we go to the shops we have a colourful bag made from a hundred of other bags, each according to the supermarket we originally collected it from.



FEATURE

But for me the ultimate in recycling came when chain saws made their first appearance. The thin chain needs oil to keep it running. What is the best oil for this? The dirty stuff from the machine's own little engine. When it's changed, it's stored to be used for lubrication.

We always had cats playing in the yard but not inside. Jitto! in Greek means 'cat get out'. But OXO! means 'dog get out'. And the food scraps? The best go to the cats as they keep the vermin down, the rest to the dogs, and anything else leftover to the chickens. No waste to carry to the wheelie bin.

We don't use any pesticide for the weeds. First the goat will have a go - but it's the chickens which keep a piece of land clean. You never have to mow the grass, because there is none left when they've finished. And they give you eggs as a reward. Plastic bottles are traps to control the dacus fly, so no spraying is required, and chemical fertilizers are not used anywhere, because my dad makes his own compost from all sorts of material, including seaweed.

What always amazed me - and still does - was that my parents never had any fights about who was to do what. My dad has his duties and my mother hers.

And now the food. How they manage to have generations of seeds of all kinds, and chickens or animals who are more Corfiot than I am, is a mystery to me. Wine that sours gives all the vinegar they need. And of course they eat according to the season.

So their food was voted tops by Rick. The Mediterranean diet and plenty of activity makes my dad much fitter than me at

nearly twice the age. He is still as strong as I always remember and, as Rick said, fit as a fiddle. But he will not touch any vegetable and chicken product other than his own, and fish only fresh from the sea. He would be the winner by far in a survival reality show, where the contestants have to find any means to get by. We still go together to deserted beaches or to the off-shore islands, and he's like a kid, feeding himself from the rocks with limpets, sea snails and urchins. Then his fishing is legendary. While I don't even get a bite, he brings in three fish on each of his hooks. So much fish - some we ate, and the rest was salted and eaten during the winter months.

This is his job - but he does not know which weed to pick for wild green salad or boiled greens. That is my mother's job. Now health specialists are saying that the wild green are good for you for many reasons, but mainly for the blood. My mother has all sorts of remedies made from growing things. A plant called krouzia stops bleeding. Ink put on a burn is supposed to prevent the swelling. Vinegar cleans cutlery and takes away bad smells. And there is so much more lore which we need to make a record of, because otherwise it will be lost forever.

So while the Dopio shops marketing 'Made in Corfu' products will sell items from manufacturers all over Corfu, food products endorsed by Papaspiros and Papadia - my mum - will slowly appear, together with a photo of my dad and carrying the brand name 'Papaspiros'. Land that has not been cultivated for decades has been given to us to grow good things, and all my dad's treasure in seeds will become crops more than enough to feed my family and friends. And then you will know: this is why Corfu is good for you.

Wine

Grammenos	White	750 ml	7.50 euro
	Red	750 ml	8.00 euro
Theotokis	White	750 ml	10.00 euro
Goulis	White	750 ml	3.00 euro
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Kakotrygis	White	750 ml	7.50 euro

Ouzo

Lazaris	200 ml
	700 ml



Kumquat

Kumquat Liqueur	500 ml	7.50 euro
	800 ml	9.50 euro
Kumquat Brandy		



Ginger Beer

Heimarios	330 ml plastic bottle	1.50 euro
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Fig Pie		4.00 euro



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ALBERT'S DROP-IN, PYRGI

Drop-In, on the main road above Pyrgi, recently changed hands and is now called 'Albert's Drop-In'. New owner Roger Albert has pared down the main menu - and this is no bad thing, for it often indicates a chef who prefers to prepare everything from scratch. Roger shops daily in the market for fresh, local ingredients, and the menu changes accordingly each day.

We started with the Greek Meze. Reading the menu, most customers will assume that it's meant for one person. I ordered two lots, just to keep the seven of us busy while the main courses were being prepared. What arrived was a platter with four bowls containing hummous, tzatziki, taramosalata and aubergine dip, surrounded by slivers of grilled pitta bread. The quantity of each dip was not much less than you'd get as a single portion in a Greek taverna, making this dish, at 4.50 euros, the best value starter on the island. The taramosalata was the real stuff, creamy and not the cheap commercial bright pink version many tavernas dupe tourists with. The hummous - which you rarely find in Corfu, was great; but we all agreed that the smoky aubergine dip was the best we'd ever tasted.

For main courses, four of our party chose the Cumberland Sausage, a dish from my part of the world and close to my heart. We couldn't, of course, expect it to be like the Cumberland Sausage I grew up with, I commented. Then out popped Roger from the kitchen and told us that he **MAKES THE SAUSAGE HIMSELF!** He also cures the gammon.

My own choice was the pasta with courgettes, wild garlic and chilli. The pasta was al dente, boiled to order, the courgettes and garlic just slightly crispy, and the chilli sufficient to cause me to blow my nose afterwards. Locals may find this sauce, with no lashings of tomato and oil, minimalistic; I thought it was accomplished.

Meal at an end, gravy mopped up by mash, carrots devoured, we were all full, and unable to sample pudding, even though there was Sticky Toffee. A very good reason to go back...

The menu includes traditional English and Mediterranean dishes, prepared to order. A la Carte and fixed price menus are available. Sunday lunch menu includes a choice of traditional English roasts. The restaurant boasts a romantic, panoramic view across the bay to Corfu Town. It's open daily in summer 12.00 - 22.00, except Sunday open for lunch only 12.00 - 17.30, and is located at Ano Pyrgi, Ipsos, on the main road to Barbati, opposite EKO petrol station. For reservations call 26610 97879 / 6938 835585.

THE CAT OF PORTOVECCHIO

by Maria Strani-Potts

Athens 1952, and a six year old girl, Louisa, loses her mother to cancer. Four years later, Louisa moves with her father and his new bride into the seaside village of Portovecchio on the outskirts of Corfu Town. We are only at Chapter 3, and after that not a lot actually happens, except that a venal priest gets his comeuppance. But through the next 200-odd pages, this book enthralls with its depiction of life in Corfu in the 1950s. The characters take on a life of their own; most are women with a burden. Blossom, the new-wed whose husband married to get a free maid and cook; Zoe, whose adored communist husband was executed for all the wrong reasons; Joy, 'the most house-proud lady in Portovecchio', whose husband is an absent sea-captain. They are introduced one by one, and the story follows their interaction through the passage of a year, climaxing in Easter. In each chapter, one of the characters cooks, and the recipe becomes part of the motivation or the plot; for example, Father Antony's Savouro is the reason why Mamee, the cat of the title, always follows him - which has repercussions in the very last paragraph of the book.

The author spares no-one, from Camilla, an interfering English animal lover who wants to 'save the entire Hellenic animal kingdom', to glamorous Joy, who 'drew long, curvy lines above her dark brown eyes where her eyebrows had been before she plucked them out.' The mores and customs of the day are presented with caustic wit, with arranged marriages, a garlic-inpregnated bus, and visiting village relatives who arrive with three live turkeys in tow. Maria Strani-Potts takes you back in time, so that you feel you have yourself experienced the Corfu of that era.

It's like all the best bits of Captain Corelli's Mandolin rolled into one; and if a single book deserves to be read on all Corfu's beaches this summer, *The Cat of Portovecchio* must be the one.

'Gerald Durrell used to be my eyes on Corfu, my only information about one of the legendary places of the world. I think I see it better now.' **Newcastle Herald**

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June Event - Advance Notice

Summer Music Festival

Corfu will host a Summer Music Festival and Academy throughout the month of June. A regular annual event organized by Terra Kerkira, the Festival features themed sections, including brass, instrumental, vocal interpretation and Greek music. This year, it focuses on five themes - woodwind and percussion, symphony music, East meets West, classical experience and Ionian jazz concerts.

The concerts, mostly free, will take place in various indoor and outdoor venues, including the Town Hall Square, Saint Spiridon Square (Plakada Agiou) and the City Theatre. Watch this space for a full programme nearer the date.

Theresa Nicholas

Corfu Sketches

✍ Hilary Paipeti

From her meeting with him in the early 60s until his untimely death, Theresa Nicolas accompanied Christos Vlachopoulos, brother of household-name actress Rena Vlachopoulou, on his artistic forays. In these early days of tourism, Christos peddled his paintings to visitors as souvenirs, and Theresa also admits that her own pictures were, at that time, 'churned... out for tourists.'

But history will judge her as the finer artist by far.

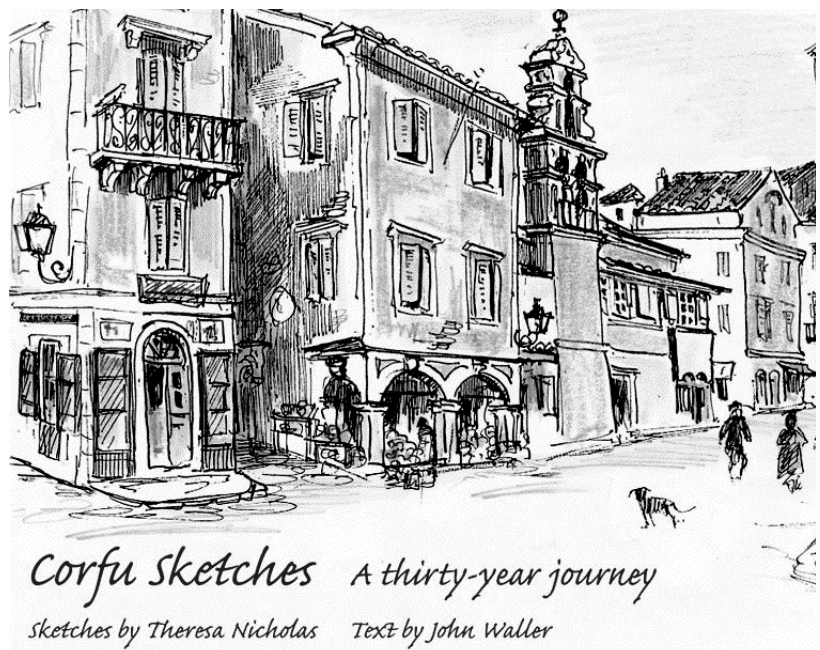
And history will also assign her as a place as recorder of a way of life that no-one at that time realized was already approaching its swansong. Old ouzeries, village women wearing traditional costume as day-to-day attire, shops selling the necessities of life rather than must-have gadgets - all were destined soon to be overcome by a wave of prosperity.

Theresa sketched them, and later reproduced many of the scenes in lino-cuts and in other media. Now, for the first time, her 30-year journey through a Corfu now changed has been captured in a single volume, *Corfu Sketches*, with publisher John Waller explaining the context in words.

The barber now sells Barbour, Fish Street has been boutiquefied (rather than beautified), the brass-maker has shut up shop to take holy orders, and the pie-vendors no longer roam the streets and alleyways. Village women have discarded their headscarves and put their shot-silk skirts into mothballs. Only a single fruit-and-veg stall tenaciously holds out where there were a dozen.

But what *Corfu Sketches* demonstrates is that, behind surface changes, much remains, espe-

cially in the fabric of the buildings in Corfu's Old Town and out in the island's villages. After all, many are hundreds of years old, and even our destructive generation cannot wipe out that much history! Theresa's drawings show us where to look to rediscover what we maybe thought was lost, and what we maybe wouldn't notice. Elaborate chimneys and corbels, arched gateways and church, keystones and carvings - Theresa draws our attention to the tiniest of details as well as the overall picture. Many of the sketches are working drawings, with details of the colours jotted on them, intended to be used more formally later - just as Edward Lear's own Corfu sketches, done in the field, were reworked as studio oils. Like Lear's, Theresa's out-



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door work is light-handed, and details which appear complex at first glance are on closer examination represented by no more than a few squiggles or a brushstroke. Yet this brief impression comes to life. Her use of perspective - where artists often fail, especially where, like here, higgledy-piggeldy houses and tangential rooflines are involved - is masterly.

But Corfu Sketches is not only a collection of Theresa's record of long-gone scenes - it's also a guide book which actively helps you track down what's left. John Waller walked the streets of Corfu Town extensively with Theresa, comparing her sketches with modern views. Putting what he found together, he devised five themed walking routes which, with the help of the sketches in the book, take the walker back in time.

Since Corfu Town was declared a World Heritage Site by Unesco two years ago, little has been done to capitalize on its new standing, nor to assist visitors in accessing the characteristics that helped give it that status. With its walks, Corfu Sketches does both. One, the Tourist Trail, takes visitors from the Esplanade to the Old Port, another through the heart of the oldest part of Town, the Campiello. The third visits the former Jewish quarter on streets rarely trodden, and incorporates a short history of the deportation of Corfu's Jews during the Second World War. The fourth takes visitors through the Old Port and market, and the last to the 'smart end of town', which wasn't in Theresa's early days. While following the walks, John advises: '...stop looking at the shops. Look up: see the faces on the key-stones; admire the ornamented doors; even check out the chimneys... behind the facade, the heart of the town is still the same.' Like this, you will see something of the town that Theresa first knew.

The second part of the book is dedicated to Corfu's 104 villages (that count is disputed; it depends on your definition of a village, and which map you have in your hand!), where 'Theresa's sketches bring out their remarkable architecture.' Since the period when she drew them, the villages have suffered more fundamental change than the town, where there is some degree of aesthetic protection. Insensitive renovation, with hyper-rendering, plastic paints, uPVC door and windows and red roof tiles instead of the ochre Byzantine ones, has destroyed many of the characteristics of the settlements. But, especially in the less-populated villages, much remains recognizable, even if ranks of cars have replaced Theresa's pecking chickens. Take along the book when you visit the villages, and you will see them with a fresh eye.

Chickens feature in the last section of the book, which blends seamlessly from village buildings to people and their living space. Here, women in traditional dress clean barrels ready for the vintage; they light candles in a church; pick olives. Men wear flat caps; ride donkeys with an umbrella in the rain; and (my personal favourite) go hunting with their dog, both riding on a scooter. Goats glare, and loaded donkeys wait patiently, their mood all captured in a few lines. The stout, black-clad woman stands with her bowed legs; you know exactly how she will walk when she turns from her duties; and if this book had Harry Potter magic, you know that Theresa would capture that too.

Most of Theresa's scenes are populated, if not with people at least with some human activity, even if with just a laden washing line. An observer of detail, she also notes body language, in

animals as well as people. You can read pride in the young girls in the Easter procession, and hopeful expectancy in the cats at the Fried Fish Shop; and all wonderfully expressed in the sparseness of lines.

In his introduction, John Waller makes much of Corfu's connection with Edward Lear; a line from his diary and his 'Corfu' lim-erick replace title and subtitle on the first inside page, and Lear is also quoted in the introduction. John describes him as 'the most talented topographical painter of his generation', perhaps with some design. Could he be subtly proposing Theresa as the most talented of hers? If so, I fully concur.

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How to Survive your Summer Guests Sarah Button

They say guests are like fish; they begin to smell after three days. Well, my family don't exactly start to pong half way through the week but there is perhaps a case for clocking them into a re-hab clinic. Maybe I should have considered buying a house in Kavos where they could have misbehaved with impunity. But no, I live in a civilised part of the island where at this time of the year the nightclubs haven't woken to the demands of people like my sister - a self-confessed Saga Lout. So intent is she on making the most of a short holiday she manages to encourage the whole family to misbehave by taking a midnight dip (skinny) then dares my daughter and her own to demand drinks at one of the beach front bars that is obviously closed but where the owner is quietly enjoying an ouzo with his family. Needless to say, they were given short shrift. I was not at the scene but have had a quiet word with my guests about antisocial behaviour.

As I write, my family is happily pushing out the 'Zs'. I'm an early riser and have already cleared up the detritus of a convivial evening of chatting and drinking. I've collected the empty bottles; there were 12 of them. Shoes, towels, cameras, books, empty glasses and enough empty beer cans to fill a dustbin littered the veranda. Someone had let the cat in, and she had spent a blissful night noshing the remains of a pizza and cleaning out a bowl of mayonnaise.

So, how do we survive an invasion of ready-to-party holidaymakers in our quiet lives and equally quiet home?

COST. We are not on holiday, and our budget doesn't stretch to carousing and clubbing and endless meals out. We are simply too poor to party and this leaves us feeling embarrassed which of course can lead to embarrassing our guests. But they are after all getting a pretty good deal; for them it's a relatively cheap holiday, we are providing free accommodation, and if there are only one or two visitors they don't need to hire a car because we do the airport pick-up and drop off. For these reasons we gracefully accept their generosity and let them contribute to the housekeeping and buy coffees at the Liston. Problem solved.

FOOD. This week we have a vegetarian who doesn't eat eggs and a carnivore who hates vegetables, resulting in an endless supply of pasta onto which a variety of toppings can be poured. Stacking the freezer with a range of grub to suit everyone is worth the effort, as is providing a large bowl of fruit and snacks that folk can freely pick at. I also tell my guests that I will not wait on them - if they want anything they

should help themselves to the fridge and larder. Thus they have plenty of options to concoct their own breakfasts; there's nothing crueller than forcing a full English on someone with a hang-over, and if they are tea or coffee addicts I don't have to hover over them with a pot. But beware the midnight snackers! These chaps have been known to empty a fridge in one fell swoop; an attack of the beer munchies could leave you doing a manic shop first thing the following morning.

Not all guests are party animals though. There are those that will rise at dawn, demand brown bread and muesli and then go jogging; they are actually harder work than the boozers.

So, when it comes to catering we find it's a good idea to check out dietary foibles, food freaks and Atkins addicts well in an advance, and hopefully once you know their tastes there will be few problems.

THINGS TO DO. With a house-full it's often difficult to please everyone, and we hate giving people a rigid programme of activities. We will instead offer a range of options and let them decide, but we've found we occasionally end up resorting to bullying tactics to get people to make up their minds.

There's often a lot to cram into a week so a bit of research helps. We know that Corfu Town's museums can be done in a day, but you'll need to haul people out of bed early and you'll

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need to be sure of individual energy levels. But of course not everyone likes museums. My daughter hates them and would rather sit in a café and do some people watching. I have a friend who likes to spend her holidays touring cemeteries and another who likes to photograph public loos.

If you have guests who rent a car and want to visit all the must-do sights that you've seen a thousand times, give them a copy of the AA Essential Corfu Guide and shoo them off. The book lists the 'top ten' of everything, with good instructions of how to get there.

If in doubt, we have never had a guest who's been disappointed with a drive out to fascinating Old Perithia for a stroll around the deserted village followed by lunch at Foros, where incidentally the owner, Thomas, caters for all diets; my vegetarian and carnivore guests were thus finally satiated.

IDIOSYNCRATIC BODY CLOCKS. We just have to put up with the guest that rises at six and the one that won't turn in till three. Apart from turfing the most antisocial out to live in a tent at the bottom of the garden, I can offer no solution. If you can't beat them metaphorically or otherwise, join them. The island is stunning at dawn. Head for Kaiser's Throne near Pelekas and watch the sun rise. In autumn the Ropa Valley, carpeted in mist, looks like a magical inland sea. Later as the sun rises the verdant fields peep through, followed by a reflected orange glow in the trees and hedges.

I have no idea what to do at three in the morning. I would get told off for suggesting a swim in the sea, but I admit to enjoying

the thrill of it, and I'm also aware that this is prime feeding time for sharks so I wouldn't recommend it to the nervous.

On the whole it's good to try something new and if it makes my guests' holiday special I'll go for it.

HEALTH NOTES. I had invested in feather pillows, resulting in my niece suffering a rather nasty bout of asthma. The cat was contributing to her discomfort, prompting a mad drive to Sidari to find a chemist. It was with relief she was able to get an inhaler without the nightmare of finding a doctor to give her a prescription: few visitors are aware that many prescription drugs can be bought over the counter here.

Hay fever sufferers beware; the pollen is different here - my husband can barely breathe during spring in the UK but is unaffected here. In contrast, I never had problems back home but here my eyes stream continuously. Now we advise folk to bring antihistamines to cope with pollen and mosquito bites, and not to forget the midge repellent and sunscreen.

Corfu provides the perfect holiday for just about everyone. Even my eighty-six year old father-in-law loves the place - we can always find things for him to enjoy. We had one guest who liked the island so much they bought a house just a hundred yards from us. My sister likes Corfu a lot too. But I'm just not sure whether I should encourage her to buy a house here - I don't think the locals are ready for her just yet.

MY CORFU

The Underwater Island

by Hilary Paipeti

A few weeks ago, exploring for GreenCorfuNet, I discovered some amazing cliffs, dripping stalactites, below the village of Dafni. It was one of those landscape features that Corfu keeps producing for your delectation - not one of the A-list spectacles like Bella Vista or the view of Mouse Island from Kanoni, but nevertheless another reminder of the delights the island offers to those that go in search of them.

That's above sea level. Recently, I found out that Corfu's beautiful landscape continues - under the waves. Divers discover cliffs, caves and coral reefs; they encounter shoals of fish and the creepy-crawlies of the deep; swim through wrecks from the war. This is the Corfu of Ray and Bev Kiton of San Stefanos Waterfront Dive Centre.

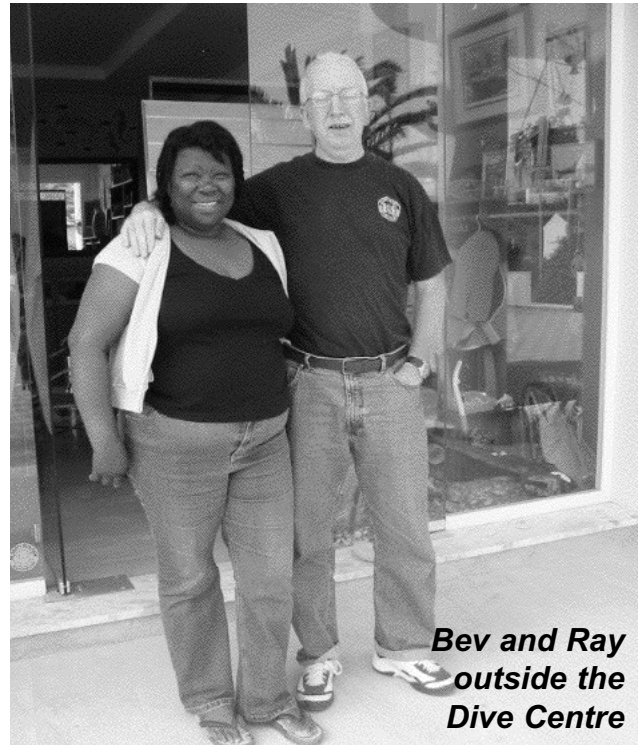
Ray has been diving since 1974. Having moved from hobby diving through to professional standard and on to teaching, he is now an instructor qualified under the auspices of the Professional Association of Diving Instructors (PADI), a world-wide organization. Now Ray and Bev have relocated to Corfu and are setting out on their first full year of business.

'We were running a scuba centre, the Scuba Action Dive Centre, in Leamington Spa,' explains Ray. 'We took groups on dive holidays all over the world, but we'd never heard of Corfu as a dive destination. Then we met a Corfiot, Stamatis, whose English wife, Kate, lived just up the road from the centre. Stamatis told us to come to Corfu. The diving's beautiful, he said. So in July 2000 we came over with a group of 15 divers with their families and friends. We all fell in love with the island that first year, with the diving and the people. A holiday to remember! After that, we came over with groups three times a year. Lots of our divers come back on their own as well.'

What's the diving like?

'It compares very well with diving elsewhere,' answers Ray. 'The visibility is good, equal with the Caribbean, and Corfu's underwater environment has elements similar to the Red Sea.'

Sharmel Sheikh on the Egyptian Red Sea is the prototype for Ray and Bev's dream. This formerly poor fishing village has been transformed by diving into an international tourism destination, attracting high quality clientele. Ray points out that diving tourists, like all those whose vacation involves alternative activities, are by definition interested in their destination as a place, not just as an accidental venue for boozing and snoozing in the sun. Long term, Ray and Bev would like San Stefanos - which before tourism arrived survived on fishing and which still has a thriving harbour - to become the premier destination for diving on Corfu, and like Sharmel Sheikh recognised all over the world for what it offers. Visitors would stay at San Stefanos and dive off its waters, but the resort would



**Bev and Ray
outside the
Dive Centre**

also be a base for excursions elsewhere, like Paleokastritsa, Paxos and Nissaki, among others. Ray is also considering a 'Dive Safari', in which visitors go out on a diving cruise, living on the boat for a number of days, and diving directly off it. They would also like to promote diving for the disabled, which their UK diving centre offered. 'In the water, they're our equals,' says Ray, who is qualified in the field.

Diving off San Stefanos has been enhanced by recent changes in the rules, which apart from a few archaeological sites still off-limits now permit diving freely off Corfu's coasts. The Offshore Islands, north-west of San Stefanos, are to become a Marine Reserve. The Greek government has recognized PADI as an

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organization. 'Maybe the authorities are waking up to the wealth of tourists who are interested in diving,' Ray speculates.

Diving tourists also tend to be environmentally aware tourists, a trait which is encouraged by PADI. The organization has established a pioneering foundation, Project Aware, which aims to raise consciousness of the undersea world, and encourage divers to respect it. In their 'Respect our Wrecks' leaflet, they write: 'Divers are privileged to have access to underwater sites that are part of our cultural heritage or maritime history. To preserve the sites for future generations, it is important to be informed, dive responsibly and treat shipwrecks with honour and respect.' This year's project is 'Saving our Coral Reefs' and aims to raise awareness of the reefs, 60% of which are at significant risk of being lost in the next three decades due mainly to coastal development, sedimentation, destructive fishing practices, pollution and tourism. With Ray, the divers follow the PADI codes regarding the sea environment.

PADI procedures are also in place during training. The PADI way has beginners practicing basic diving skills in a secure environment - in Ray's case, the pool of the Nafsika Hotel. Once these skills have been mastered, divers are allowed in the sea. Diving can start as young as five, and the activity is also enjoyed by people well into their 60s. It requires no special fitness levels and is suitable for the disabled.

If Ray and Bev's dream comes true for San Stefanos, all will benefit.

**The sea off
San Stefanos**



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Ray has a BSc in Behavioural Sciences and a post-graduate Degree in Applied Psychology as well as a Certificate of Education. He has worked in community social work with Dr Barnado's and with youth treatment in the Prison Service. He started diving in 1974 with the Dudley Sub-Aqua Club in the West Midlands, and became a professional instructor with PADI in 1994. During winter he taught at the European Centre for Tourism Studies at the Corfu Palace Hotel, specializing in Environmental Management, Sports and Recreation and Geopolitics.

Bev has a background in nursing and a degree in social work that she never really used as she was running the Scuba Action Dive Centre. For her work in the Centre, she won a Visitor ABCD Award for excellence in customer relations and a Community Support Award. She has also been active in charity work and disabled student education. She intends to establish a small 'Made in Corfu' products shop in the dive centre, as local products are eco-friendly, appropriate for the ethos of their business.

San Stefanos Waterfront Dive Centre is on the beach side of the road through the resort. Phone 26630 51108.

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

SPORTS

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

MEDICAL SERVICES

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

Regional National Health Surgeries

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

Need a reliable weather forecast?

A detailed five-day forecast is at:

www.corfunet.com/weather/index.php

BOOKS

Prospero's Kitchen

Mediterranean Cooking of the Ionian Islands

Diana Farr Louis & June Marinos

The fashion for Mediterranean cooking has inspired a whole library of cookbooks, from Elizabeth David's classics, through Claudia Roden's eastern viewpoint, to the interpretations of celebrity chefs. This book returns the tradition to where it belongs, in the regional recipes.

Here, the focus is on Corfu and the Ionian Islands, a region with a distinct style defined by its geographical location. Greek in conception, local food is distinguished by the richness of ingredients, and by the many cultural influences which have implanted unique ideas and preferences into the cuisine.

Farr Louis and Marinos have tracked down rare recipes from local kitchens, giving also many anecdotal insights into the local way of life. Available in 'Made in Corfu' shops.

Corfu Sunset... Avrio Never Comes

John Waller

In the 1970s, the author and his wife built a house above the then-remote Agios Gordis Bay, and *Greek Walls* tells of these early years. Thirty years on, *Corfu Sunset* takes an often hilarious look at their attempts to renovate the house - under a tight time deadline. Available at 'Made in Corfu' shops.

Delightful episodes and characters emerge from the pages of Corfu Sunset. A highly amusing account of the highs and lows of property ownership abroad with attention to detail that puts most travel authors in the shade.

Evening Standard

SUPERMARKET SNOBS

*Reading the moaning minnies oop
t'north and their illogical bristlings last
month over the merits of the supermarkets
of Acharavi and Sidari, I'm put in mind of
the late Alan Coren's summary of the pur-
pose of Tesco, Sainsbury's, et al: 'They
keep the riff-raff out of Waitrose.'*

**C. Holmes
Gouvía**

PLACES TO VISIT

IN CORFU TOWN

Archaeological Museum A superb and diverse exhibition of Corfu's archaeological heritage. The Gorgon Pediment is not to be missed. *5 Vraila St., near Corfu Palace Hotel. Open 8.30-15.00 except Mondays. Sundays open 9.30-14.30*

Byzantine Art Museum Fabulous Byzantine and post-Byzantine icons and other religious items are displayed in an attractive old church. *Church of Antovouniotissa, just off Arseniou St. Open 8.30-15.00 except Mondays. Sundays open 9.30-14.30*

Solomos Museum A collection of memorabilia and archives of the Greek national Poet, Dionysius Solomos. *Arseniou St. Open 09.30-13.00 weekdays*

Municipal Art Gallery Exhibiting Corfu Artists of the 19th century and other works, including paintings by local 20th century artists. Also separate wing with changing exhibitions of modern art. *Palace of Saint Michael and Saint George, East Wing. Open 09.00-21.00*

Old Fortress Site of the original town, with battlements and bastions to explore, plus the best view of Corfu Town. Contains a lovely Byzantine Art Museum, plus a top quality Museum Copies shop (closes 14.00). *Entrance from the Esplanade Square. Open every day, 08.30-19.00*

New Fortress Built by the Venetians, improved by the British, a stunning work of military engineering. Contains a Museum of Ceramics. *Entrance from Solomos Street. Open every day, 10.00-19.00*

Palace of Saint Michael & Saint George Built in 1823 in neo-classical style as seat of British government, the Palace was later summer home for the Greek royals. The impressive official rooms have been beautifully restored. *Esplanade Square, North End. Open daily 08.30-15.00. Closed Mondays*

Museum of Asian Art World class collection of thousands of art objects from China, Japan, India and other far eastern countries. Beautifully displayed and presented, with simple and astonishingly well written explanations putting the items in a historical and artistic context. *Palace of Saint Michael & Saint George, Esplanade Square. Open daily 08.30-15.00. Closed Mondays*

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

Vidos Island Off Corfu Town, an extensive, traffic-free islet with lots of walks and beaches, plus Serbian Mausoleum and fortresses built by British and Russians. Good restaurant. *Caique service every half-hour from the Old Port until late*

Mon Repos On the outskirts of Corfu Town, on the road running to Kanoni, this restored villa was the birthplace of the Duke of Edinburgh. Standing in extensive grounds, the villa contains a museum of archaeology, with items dug up in the vicinity, plus rooms restored to their former glory. A walking trail takes you around some in situ remains, such as an ancient temple. *Grounds open daily 08.00 - 18.00, Museum open 08.30 - 15.00, closed Mondays*

Patounis Soap Factory A Patounis has been making olive oil soap by the traditional stamped method for over 100 years, and is one of the very few factories left in the world. Visit and see the process, also buy products. *Ioanni Theotoki Street, just off San Rocco Square on the way to the Green Bus Station. Open shop hours. Tel. 26610 39806*

OUT IN THE COUNTRY

Achillion Palace Corfu's most famous building contains a museum displaying memorabilia relating to its previous owners, Empress Sissi of Austria and Kaiser Wilhelm II of Germany, plus lovely gardens. *Gastouri Village. Open daily 08.00 - 19.00*

Folk Museum of Central Corfu Step into a time capsule, into a village house that has been left intact with its original decorations, furniture and fittings, a glimpse into a vanished way of life. *Sinarades Village. Open every day except Sunday 09.30 - 14.30. Tel. 26610 35673 / 44530*

Paleokastritsa Monastery Contains a small museum with icons and other relics, as well as some curiosities. *Paleokastritsa, at the end of the road*

Corfu Shell Museum One of Europe's best museums dedicated to the treasures of the sea. Thousands of exhibits, scientifically labelled. Unusual shells for collectors and exotic souvenirs on sale. *Benitses Harbour Square, north end. Open every day 10.00 - 21.00*

Triklino Vineyard 18 acre estate which combines wine-making with display of agricultural tradition. Video showing olive and wine production. Local products on display. Local wine tasting, traditional snacks and music. Walk through vineyards with panoramic views. *Karoubatika, on Pelekas Road, 6 km from Town. Opens 22 April, from 12.00 daily*

Perithia Agricultural Museum Small museum with olive press, agricultural and other tools, and old furniture. Local products, including fruit and vegetables, on sale. Reconstructed traditional kafenia for drinks and snacks. Also olive wood shop. *On main road between Kassiopi and Acharavi, near Perithia and Saint Spiridon Beach. Look for the 'Made in Corfu' sign. Tel. 26630 98002*

Corfu Donkey Shelter Charity that takes care of old abandoned and abused donkeys. Phone 6947 375992. *Gavrolimni, near Poulades - follow the signs*

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

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

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

Gardiki Cave Occupied by humans around 20,000 BC, this cave lies on the flanks of Agios Mattheos Mountain near Gardiki Fortress. Reached by a short path from the road between Agios Mattheos and Paramonas.

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EMPLOYMENT

NURSERY SCHOOL TEACHER required for Nursery School in Town. Tel. 6947 802055

ENGLISH CLEANER Reliable, experienced, 40 year old lady seeks regular cleaning/ironing work in the North of the Island. All cleaning work considered. References available if required. Please contact: Teresa on 6955 523072 or 26630 95856

ELECTRICIAN English 16th Edition qualified, all work undertaken from new builds to extra sockets. Call for a free estimate. Carl Perrin 6976 333688

PERSONAL

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

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

DOES SOMEONE CLOSE TO YOU HAVE A DRINK PROBLEM?

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

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

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HOME PAGE Can visitors immediately tell who you are and what you offer? Is your site organised in a clear fashion that promotes navigation? Is your Home Page an information destination or just a messy landing page? Does your Home Page give a good first impression that entices users to click through your links?

PERFORMANCE Do your images, videos, and pages load quickly? Does your site utilise clean, unbloated code? Does your site have a 'search' function? If so, is it fast and useful? Have you checked to see how your site looks on different browsers?

CONTENT Is your content written clearly and persuasively? Does it speak to your target market? Does your content effectively describe your products, services, and benefits? Is your content keyword focused to cater to users and search engines alike?

LINKS & NAVIGATION Do all your links work? Are your links clearly marked? Is your navigation menu or framework consistent throughout your site? Does your navigation menu provide access to your entire site?

CRITICAL PAGES Is there a top-level page that describes your products and services? Do you have an 'About Us' page to describe your company? Is the 'Contact Us' page clear, informative, and thorough? Do you have a page where users can ask questions or answer their own? Do you have a 'Testimonials' section?

USABILITY Is your site organised so that information is easy to find? Is your site 'user-friendly'? Is your type scannable, easy to read, and written for the web? Do you utilise bullets, headlines, and other stylistic elements to organise and present content?

SEARCH ENGINE OPTIMISATION Is your site search engine friendly? Have you optimised your site for specific and relevant keywords? Have you acquired a network of high-quality, relevant links?

If the answers to some (or all!) of these questions were negative then it's probably time for a website 'makeover'. If you are still not sure, then Truetype Web Solutions can carry out a full analysis of your website covering all the points above and more - for free! And if you then decide that you need to redesign or upgrade your present site the prices of both our web design and site management services may surprise you.

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HLOMOS (South) Rachel's House (Traditional - in need of restoration) Small village house for renovation for holiday home or permanent residence. Located in a popular village near sea. 22,000 euro

SINARADES (Central) Geranuim Cottage (Traditional - in need of renovation) Well proportioned and sunny house for renovation in very popular village with great facilities. Space for two bedrooms. Small yard and good foot access with parking close. 55,000 euro

SINARADES (Central) Red House (Traditional - restored) Substantial house in very popular village, fully restored and ready to occupy. 2/3 beds, two large sun terraces, yard. Great view. 150,000 euro

AGIOS GORDIS (Central) Agios Gordis House (Modern) Small semi-detached bungalow with incredible sea view. Ten minutes walk to resort/beach. Small garden, parking outside. Ideal holiday home, ready to move in! 100,000 euro

KATO GAROUNA (Central) Almond Cottage (Traditional - restored) One bedroom cottage, beautifully restored and only needing kitchen finishing. Garden with nice view. 80,000 euro

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ARMENADES (North West) Kremona House (Traditional - in need of renovation) Very large old house, can make two bedrooms with very large living space and walled courtyard. Located in quiet rural village five minutes from beach. 65,000 euro

ARMENADES (North West) Cypress Tree Land (Land) Building plot, 4056 sq.m., in Town Planning Zone, can build 800 sq.m. Quiet country location close to picturesque village, five minutes from beach. Flat, easy to build. 160,000 euro

AVLIOTES (North West) Avliotes House (Modern) Two-floor, four-bed house on edge of traditional village. Currently divided but could make large family house, or keep existing arrangement as part-rental. Yard, garden, parking, nice country view. Quiet yet near excellent village facilities, beach walkable. 220,000 euro

BARBATI OFFICE - CALL 6948 180195

DOUKADES (West) Citrus Cottage Plot (Traditional - in need of renovation / land) Small building plot with cottage in Town Planning, very good price for an expensive area. Good access, lovely view, on edge of very popular village and short drive to beach. 45,000 euro

DOUKADES (West) Pine Tree Land (Land) Rural location near popular village, building plot in Town Planning Belt, can build 400 sq.m. Good for development and resale at profitable price. Olives and other trees, good country view. 80,000 euro

KRINI (West) Courtyard House (Traditional - in need of renovation) Large house and two outbuildings built around private courtyard. Reasonable condition - mostly for internal renovation, for up to four bedrooms. Very good value for size and condition, in popular location. Business potential. 75,000 euro

KRINI (West) Krini Sea View Ruin and Plot (Traditional - in need of renovation / land) Building plot with roofed ruin in Town Planning, with great sea view. Good access for a village centre, shop and restaurants close. 120,000 euro

GARDELADES (West) Gardelades New Olive Press (Traditional - in need of renovation) Large old olive press with small private garden and car access. Up to three bedrooms possible. Nice location in picturesque village a short drive from sea. 35,000 euro

GARDELADES (West) Gardelades Arch House (Traditional - in need of renovation) Huge stone house with plans in place for a four bedroom property with separate kitchen and lounge plus storage. Courtyard, verandas, small garden. Great country view in picturesque village a short drive from sea. 105,000 euro

AGIOS MARKOS (North Central) Papadatos House (Traditional - part-renovated) Character mansion-style house plus cottage in heritage village. Part restored with lovely stone and brick features. Lovely garden with extensive sea view. 50 metres to road and parking, very peaceful surroundings. 400,000 euro

PERITHIA OFFICE - CALL 26630 98002

PORTA (North East) Arnos Sea Vista House (Modern) Two bedroom house in large garden with amazing panoramic sea view. In prime North East Coast location. Lots of productive olive trees. Easily rentable if desired. 420,000 euro

PORTA (North East) Headland View Land (Land) Lovely plot, 10,000 sq.m., on edge of mountain village, sea and mountain view. Lots of on-site rock for building traditional house(s). Includes ruined stone bothy. 450,000 euro

SINIES (North East) Megali Rachi Land (Land) Building plot, 4500 sq.m., at heart of North East Coast. Looks down on Rothschild Estate and sea. Sloping, planted with mature olives, direct road access. 195,000 euro

SINIES (North East) Butrint Vista House (Modern) Large house, part awaiting finishing, in imposing location on North East Coast. Up to five bedrooms possible. Great sea view, garden with lots of fruit trees. Lots of potential for lucrative rental or for food business. 420,000 euro

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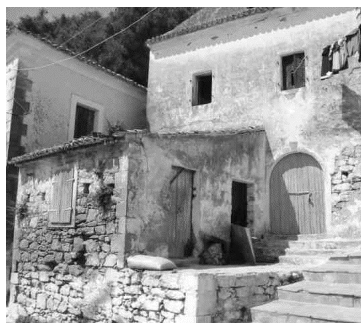


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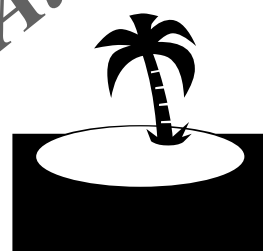
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