

# *The* Corfiot

Corfu's English Language Monthly Magazine

October 2007

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No. 202

## Last of the Summer Sun A Trip to North West Corfu

### Walking with Greeks

Dolphin Surfing in Jordan

Real Estate Listings

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## **The Corfiot**

The English Language Monthly Magazine

ISSN 1107-3640

**Proprietor & Publisher**

### **Pedestrian Publications**

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**Printed by** TYPOEKDOTIKI

POTAMOS

Tel. 26610 37755

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# ear to the ground

AS FIRES DEVASTATED GREECE DURING AUGUST, we were lucky here in Corfu. I am particularly grateful because I could easily have been a victim of a huge fire in September 2000, which started only three kilometres from my house. Fortunately (for me) the wind blew it in the other direction, and my horror was limited to watching the entire valley below my village turning into something resembling the pits of hell.

Despite forcing the evacuation of 11 villages, this fire was a damp squib compared to this year's blazes. Like most of the nation, I followed events from afar on TV. The privately-owned Athens-based station ANT1 ran round-the-clock coverage - without any advertising - as a public service, and it was gripping but extremely harrowing. Desperate residents, mostly elderly, were calling the emergency number displayed on the screen, begging for help. 'Send aeroplanes, send firemen! We're surrounded! My neighbour's house is burning! The fire's in my garden!' In a tragically large number of cases, no emergency services were available, and the only help the ANT1 anchors could offer was to advise those threatened to evacuate to a football pitch or a similar open, unvegetated space.

ANT1 also got journalists on the ground (the team was working double shifts throughout the crisis) in the fire-ravaged zones, reporting back from mobile phones. One, Fotini Nassou, found herself sharing the fate of the citizens of the village she had been assigned to, cut off by a ring of flames and with no way to escape. Remarkably under the circumstances, she coolly continued to send in live telephone feeds, until evacuated along with the villagers in a helicopter.

The emergency services did the best they could; there were just not enough of them and they were overwhelmed. In this column in last month's issue, writing as the fires were at their peak, I proposed a cross-border EU-wide fire-fighting force, under which emergency services of neighbouring countries could assist without going through the protocol of bureaucratic processes, and also suggested that National Service recruits could be given fire-fighting training, with call-up in emergency of all demobbed soldiers until the age of 45. In the wake of the disaster, very similar proposals were made by official advisers.

Most of all, everyone agrees that forests need more protection, though whether verbal consensus will translate to action is a different matter. In the meantime, you can add your own small voice to the movement by signing an on-line petition. Go to <http://www.PetitionOnline.com/grfires/>

By the way, we are proud to note that this petition was started by a Corfiot, Nicolas Lemis.

WITH ALL THE RECENT DISASTERS REPORTED IN THE NEWS - hurricanes and typhoons, floods and earthquakes, forest fires and conflicts - you may quickly become convinced that the world is coming to an end, such are the number of events, natural and unnatural.

But are there really more disasters than ever before? Gloom-and-doom-mongers, and climate change gurus, would tell you so. But I mostly blame two factors - technology and travel.

In the old days, when newspapers were produced with hot lead and TV news with huge cameras on wheeled tripods, capturing unexpected events on the other side of the world was hardly viable. But now technology allows instant images to be beamed from handy cameras (and even mobile phones) from anywhere in the world, taking dramatic pictures into every living room. Even 20 years ago, Fotini Nassou and her colleagues would not have been on the spot to report with such immediacy.

As for travel, global mobility means that today we are familiar

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with exotic locations, and as a result can relate better to disasters in the places they occur.

Take the example of the Asian Tsunami (and this is not to diminish in any way the suffering it caused). 40 years ago, the disaster would probably have been reported in a single paragraph on the foreign pages of a newspaper. There would have been no cameras on the ground to film it, no tourists from our own country involved to feel empathy with. In today's world, technology and travel give us the words and extraordinary images that we hear and view.

Just as I was writing the above, I heard on the radio that young people largely see TV news as 'irrelevant to their lives' and only watch it if something dramatic happens. As a result, to capture their audience, TV channels need to broadcast increasingly sensational images. And those images encourage us to believe that such events are the norm, and not - as they are and always have been - the exception. Our world of technology and travel has altered our perception. For which, whatever else it's to blame for, climate change is not responsible.

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Sundays 10.30 Holy Communion  
19.00 (1st, 3rd & 5th of month) Songs of Praise  
(Sunday School & Youth Group run same time as Services except Family Service)

### REGULAR EVENTS

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

## 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.

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## REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY 2007

**This year Remembrance Sunday falls on  
November 11th.**

**There will be a wreath laying ceremony as usual  
at the British Cemetery. Those wishing to partici-  
pate are requested to be present by 11.45 at the  
latest.**

**Civil and military decorations may be worn on  
this occasion.**

**Following the ceremony, those present at the  
Cemetery are invited to the Holy Trinity Church  
for light refreshments.**

# Book Sale

Organised by and for the Council of Thinali Parents' Association. Held outside the Dimitra Supermarket in Acharavi between 9.30 & 12.30 every Saturday (weather permitting) throughout the summer season. All our books and hand-made cards are 1.50 euros, and proceeds are used to enrich the lives of children attending Acharavi Primary School. Most of the books are donated by local residents, and local hotels and apartments are also encouraged to recycle and donate books left by holidaymakers.

## ACHARAVI



## PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

# Walking with Greeks

by Hilary Paipeti

I must confess that when Apostolos Petroulias from the DDikeoma Institute approached me with the proposal that I help with a programme of walks for Corfiots, my first reaction was a mental double-take: Huh? Corfiots?? Walking???

Which was rather unfair, for on our regular winter walks, which take place every Saturday from late September to early May, plenty of locals enthusiastically join the 'hard core' of foreign residents; indeed, on a few walks, almost half the group has been comprised of Corfiots, thoroughly enjoying themselves.

I am a firm believer in the concept that a walk should have a geographical destination, or aim. When I was a kid, my parents' favourite Sunday walk was called 'The Pepperpot (actually a Jubilee Tower) and Arnside Tower', so our little legs had TWO locations to aim for. A destination can be a mountaintop, a viewpoint, a sight like a traditional village, monastery or just a beautiful location, or even a very special footpath, for example one through a forest or alongside a river.

We are very lucky in Corfu to have uncounted locations that can serve as the aim of a walk. Over a hundred villages, some dating from the early years of the Eastern Roman Empire; monasteries, many of which sit on mountain summits, doubling the value of the destination; fantastic viewpoints where you would love to drag people who claim that Corfu is 'spoiled'; plus some real surprises tucked away in the olive groves and forests; and even some 'mystical' sites. Even in a programme of thirty walks, and restricted to three of Corfu's municipal regions, it was never hard to find a point of interest to aim for, one that could transform the walk into an experience that goes beyond mere physical activity. I hoped that the participants would learn something about Corfu, as well as discovering that walking could be a pleasure and not always a chore.

So we began, with walks of an hour or two on two weekday evenings, and joining the 'foreign' group on Saturday mornings to make best use of my time at the busiest period of the year. Walk number three, on the first Saturday of the programme, was a tough one - a long ascent from Nimfes to the hilltop Holy Trinity Monastery, and a scary zig-zag descent down an almost vertical slope, ending in a scramble down a cliff. Though my foreign regulars knew what to expect, I deliberately withheld information about the existence of the cliff from the less experienced walkers, on the basis that, once we got there, the thought of having to climb the path again might prevent rebellion! But I was happy to see that no-one chickened out, and once we got down onto the track that would return us to Nimfes, many of the newbies strode out, leaving some of the regulars well behind.

As the walks continued, we soon got to know who would be in the lead, and whom we would have to wait for. But fast or slow, everyone walked as if they'd been hiking for years.



*Setting out - The first walk, from Fundana*



*Apostolos and George find an alternative mode of transport*

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## PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

We walked to Angelokastro, explored the Marmaro Hills, circled the Theotoki Estate, climbed Mount Saint George at Vatos, pottered in the valleys between Agios Ioannis and Evropouli, cuddled donkeys at the Rescue Shelter near Poulades, reached Corfu's northernmost point on Cape Agia Ekaterini, trod in the footsteps of Empress Sissi on an ascent of Mount Agia Kyriaki, and discovered possible ley lines in the Ropa Valley and near Strinilas.

The best experiences? Hearing spontaneous applause from the group as they breasted the forested ridge above the little chapel of Saint Simeon near Doukades, to suddenly see half of Corfu laid out below them. Being able to explain about ley lines in the snug warmth of a Strinilas taverna with a glass of tsipouro in hand, instead of in the open air at the 'Dragon Church', for an impending storm curtailed the walk that day. Tasting the lovely food which the locals contributed to the pot-luck picnic on the Aloni at Krini, following our visit to Angelokastro. And watching a big group of mostly youngish Greeks discover that there's more to walking than... just walking.

*The October programme is on the right. Walks are open to all. Walkers pay 2 euros if not on the programme.*



*Donkeys greet the walkers  
at the Poulades Sanctuary*

### • Programme of Walks

- SATURDAY, 6 OCTOBER **The Dragon Church** \*\* (1 1/2 hours) Meet at 10.30, Strinilas Square. Lunch at Stamatis Taverna, Strinilas
- SATURDAY, 13 OCTOBER **Kefalovrisso and the Ropa Valley** \*\*\* (3 hours) Meet at 10.30, Kefalovrisso 'Roundabout'. Followed by visit to the Triklino Winery including meze lunch and wine-tasting
- TUESDAY, 16 OCTOBER **Liapades - Iliodoros** \*\*
- THURSDAY, 18 OCTOBER **Felekas Valley** \*
- SATURDAY, 20 OCTOBER **Portes - Almiros** \*\*\* (2 hours) Meet at 'Made in Corfu' shop, near Perithia, from 10.00, for onward car trip. Lunch at Odysseus Restaurant, Acharavi
- TUESDAY, 23 OCTOBER **Agios Gordis - Aerostato** \*\*\*
- THURSDAY, 25 OCTOBER **Kiprianades Waterfalls** \*\*
- SATURDAY, 27 OCTOBER **Paleokastritsa - Lakones** \*\*\* (2 hours) Meet at Paleokastritsa, last junction before beach, 10.30. Lunch at Doukades.
- TUESDAY, 30 OCTOBER **Lower Roman Path - Dandalo Tower** \*\*\* (Acharavi)
- THURSDAY, 1 NOVEMBER **Lakones - Arakli** \*\*\*
- SATURDAY, 3 NOVEMBER **Plakoto - Vatos - Myrtiotissa - Plakoto** \*\*\*\* (3 hours) Meet at Plakoto, just after Pelekas, 10.30. Lunch at Costas Taverna, Ai Yanni.
- TUESDAY, 6 NOVEMBER **Upper Roman Path** \*\*\* (Agios Panteleimon - Lafki)
- THURSDAY, 8 NOVEMBER **Makrades and the Old Path** \*\*\*
- SATURDAY, 10 NOVEMBER **Old Perithia and the Parigori Gorge** \*\*\*\* Meet at the Anapaftiria junction at the top of Loutsas for onward car transfer. Lunch at Foros, Old Perithia
- For starting times and places of the Tuesday and Thursday walks, please contact 6948 889174.
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- \*\*\* Moderate, with ascents
- \*\*\*\* Difficult. Quite long with hills and rough terrain

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## PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

### Good times at the Corfu Wine Festival

Wine pressing, roasting lamb, grilled souvlaki and sausage, serenades, live bouzouki music and Greek dancing - it was all on the menu at the Corfu Wine Festival, which took place on Saturday 22 and Sunday 23 October at the 'Made in Corfu' shop on the main Kassiopei - Acharavi road near Saint Spiridon (Perithia).



*Yiannis and Harry look after the grills*

On both nights, a large group of Corfiots and foreign residents joined in the fun, with Sunday evening being particularly lively. Each visitor received a ceramic carafe and as much wine as they wanted for five euros, while food and other drinks were paid for as consumed.

Papaspiros Tsoukalas, a retired priest, supervised the winemaking, which introduced a new machine which crushes the grapes in no time and extracts the stalks automatically.

Same time, same place... next year.



*The Corfu Troubadors hit a high note*



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## Volante Strings orchestra returns to Corfu

For the third year running Volante Strings orchestra will return to Corfu, showing signs of addiction to the island! The week's visit (19th-26th October) will include three concerts at different venues.

This year the music will include pieces by Mozart (Eine Kleine Nachtmusik), a new piece written especially for them called 'Worcester Brawls' (the orchestra comes from Worcestershire), a little Elgar and Vivaldi, and some music for soloists. Clarinettist Richard Percy returns this year with a new arrangement of a sonata by baroque composer Corelli; Dorothy Longfils (soprano) will sing works by British composer Finzi, while Janet Cullingford (violinist) will play the lovely melody 'Meditation' from Thais by Massenet.

Also this year the Chandris concert will include chamber music for flute and strings, with Corfu-based flautist Elke Hornig.

The dates of the concerts are between 21st - 25th October and include the Catholic Cathedral (date t.b.c), the Chandris Hotel, Dassia, on Thursday, 25 October at 8.30, and the home of the Hunstones at Spanopoulos in the Ropa Valley, on Tuesday, 23 October at 8.30, to include light supper and wine.

All queries about tickets please telephone Clifford Owen on 26610 31467 or email Vlassis at [Stevens@ker.fortnet.gr](mailto:Stevens@ker.fortnet.gr)

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# What do I say... on the Wedding Day?

by Clifford Owen

Marriage has been very much in my mind this last summer with a record seven wedding blessings, plus two renewals of vows. Most of them have happened at Holy Trinity Church in Corfu Town, though on 1st September Tom and Lucy Hunt had their blessing at Rou village, high up on the slopes of Pantocrator, turned virtually into a movie set for the occasion. So summer 2007 holds many wedding memories: speeches on the boat off Lazaretto island, a bride stepping ashore to Greek music at Agni Beach, a Scottish bag-pipe player leading us in front of the Ionian Parliament Building, the parents of an American couple lighting 'unity candles' for their offspring, photos in front of St. Michael and St. George palace, a Scottish Canadian groom playing himself a piece of jazz on our church organ immediately after I 'tied the knot'. Every wedding has been different, unique to the couple. Over the years I have tried on behalf of the church, to treat each couple as special. It's their day. I never cease to be amazed by the amount of planning and effort that goes into these special occasions. Money never seems to be a problem; though someone somewhere must be paying!

Whatever the statistics may say, marriage is still popular and there is no doubt that the majority of couples want something of a religious ceremony to mark the occasion. Of growing importance is the renewal of vows. I had a request from a couple some weeks ago to have a service of renewal, ten years after they had got married in a Register Office. The request was naturally granted, and so one Wednesday lunchtime (the day of 'lunchbox' in HTC) the couple came. I thought they simply wanted a quiet ceremony, but having suggested it and with their permission, they had lunch first and then the lunchbox attendees became witnesses. The mom ('Bride') appeared in a beautiful white wedding dress. It was obviously for her, the wedding in church she had never had, even though it was ten years downstream of the civil ceremony.

People often challenge me with: 'Why do you put such effort into these occasions for people whom you might never see again and may not even be regular worshippers?' To answer that I need a bit of space! First of all, the Church of England does not require of candidates for a wedding blessing, that they be regular believing Christians. What it does require, is that they accept the Christian doctrine of marriage as the Church of England understands it. (Marriage is the union of one man with one woman; to the exclusion of all others on either side, for the rest of their lives.) It expects the clergyman to do some preparation, which is difficult in the Corfu situation. Obviously, I want to fan the flame of what faith they have and encourage them to pursue it, which leads

me on to the content of what I say on the wedding day. I normally limit myself to around eight minutes and three points. I'd rather have them wishing I had said more, rather than less! But here are five of my 'regular wedding bullets'.

Marriage was invented by God. Look at the Genesis account of creation in the Old Testament, and you will see that after the creation of Adam, it was felt he needed a 'helpmeet'. None of the animals were much use, so God took one of Adam's ribs, clothed it with flesh, and called it 'woman', because she was taken out of man. Marriage is the putting back together of two things that were originally a unity. The mathematics of marriage are  $1=2$  then  $1+1=1$ .

Romance and Realism. Never let go of the dream, but accept the reality. Marriage brings two people together who are far from perfect. We are fallen creatures in need of God's grace. Most marry for happiness, the demands of the commitment of

• *I never cease  
• to be amazed  
• by the amount  
• of planning  
• and effort that  
• goes into these  
• special  
• occasions.  
• Money never  
• seems to be a  
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## CHAPLAIN'S CHAT

love. We have real hopes and dreams. Occasionally we will hit highs, and most certainly will have many lows. Never let the lows erase the dream. Some couples adopt what I call the 'Eastenders approach': 'Don't expect too much from marriage mate... you won't be disappointed'. There is a balance to maintained.

Meeting the minimum emotional needs. Despite 2 there are certain minimum requirements of love expression in a marriage below which one ought not to fall. I am not thinking only of sex, but of all of the forms of expression, which say: 'I know you are there, still love you. We are in this together for ever' ...and so on. Each couple must work this out, but giving each other time is important. Some of us are workaholics!

Forgiveness. All marriages must have a means of practical forgiveness, of saying sorry. If not, we slip into the blame game of 'his fault, her fault'. It takes two to tango. Bill Clinton said recently (referring to Hillary's Presidential desires of course) that in any long marriage, it is impossible to draw up a score sheet of who was right and who was wrong.

Don't leave God out of the equation. God invented marriage. He intended it to be for the joy of mankind. Through marriage, He puts the two of us into a cockpit (cf a two-seater aircraft) which requires us to stick with it, stay put and work it out together. But we need the means of grace. We need to hear the basics of the Gospel, we need to attempt to get into worship somewhere... not simply to swell the church congregation or put a bit of extra money in the plate. (please!) but our marriages need the Lord... not just at the beginning in a lovely ceremony but all the way through.

It is also a great privilege and honour for me to conduct wedding ceremonies. They are enjoyable, but more than that I have a sense that every wedding is like putting another brick into the fabric wall of society. Every couple is the base for children to come. Marriage and home is where the future generation is shaped. The devil would destroy marriage and I am against him.

• *I have a sense*  
• *that every*  
• *wedding is like*  
• *putting another*  
• *brick into*  
• *the fabric wall*  
• *of society.*  
•

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## ANIMAL WELFARE

### Helping the Ark, Corfu's animal welfare charity

TOURISTS OFTEN REPORT TO THE ARK, by phone or email, their horror and upset at some of the treatment of animals that they see during holidays in Corfu and in other parts of Greece. The attitude in northern countries towards animals is quite different from what they find here, and most tourists are very disappointed by the indifference of the local authorities.

This year the Greek Tourist Organization has produced a new online form (in several languages) that allows tourists to complain about any aspect of their visit to Greece. The form also includes a section to complain about the maltreatment of animals.

If lots of people make the effort to send in the form it can't be claimed that 'nothing is wrong'.

You can find all information and the form on our website [www.corfuanimalwelfare.com](http://www.corfuanimalwelfare.com)

Please fill in the form and send it to the addresses mentioned on the Corfu Animal Welfare website. We have also included the Ministry of Agriculture, as they are responsible for animal welfare.

#### THE ARK ANIMAL WELFARE CHRISTMAS CARDS 2007

The Ark has again received a new consignment of delightful Christmas cards. There is another new design for this year: Santa Claus with a lovely puppy; this in addition to the four other charming designs on sale in previous years. Each pack contains ten cards and cost 4.50 euros per pack. They will be on sale at various locations: at Holy Trinity Church and in the Ark Animal Welfare shop, from Lucy Steele (former British Vice Consul) and from various bars in the Kontokali, Ipsos, and Pyrgi areas.

4 October 2007 is WORLD ANIMAL DAY and anyone purchasing the Ark cards between Monday 1 October and Friday 12 October will be entitled to a free packet of pet food/biscuits.

All proceeds from the sale of these cards will go towards helping stray and abandoned animals in Corfu. We look forward to your continual help and assistance.

**TEMPORARY FOSTER URGENTLY NEEDED.** If you have a (little) space and are willing to care for a limited time (even a week can make the difference between dying on the street and finding a lovely home). Please help us do something for the abandoned animals of Corfu, mostly dogs. The local authorities do not have facilities, so the dogs depend on you.

Please contact us, if you can give help.  
26610 32111 (only Greek)  
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When you get back a glass of wine or beer and some savouries await you, and you'll feel completely relaxed!

All proceeds will go to Corfu Donkey Rescue; a shelter for abandoned, abused and retired donkeys.

#### PROGRAMME:

July until October

Monday to Friday

5.30 pm: coffee/tea, cake and tour of the shelter

6.00 pm to 7.00 pm: Walk with the donkeys

7.00 pm to 7.45 pm: Wine/beer and savouries

Price: 15 euro pp, children under twelve free

There is a maximum of 10 people per walk.

To book call Judy Quinn on 0030 6947 375992. Or email [judyquin@otenet.gr](mailto:judyquin@otenet.gr)

Of course you are very welcome to come along to the shelter at any time, just for a visit!



Greek National TV (NET) prepares to film the donkeys for a day-time magazine show

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# A successful local adoption

After my lovely Ira died, on 27 December 2005, it was not the time to look for another dog. Any owner who has lost a beloved animal (and since their lifespan is tragically much shorter than ours, it happens to all of us one day) feels that the lost one is irreplaceable.

But a few months down the line, you begin to wish for another dog again. In my case, a couple of busy-body people patronizingly tried to push me in the direction of certain puppies; I knew, however, that the right puppy would find me in its own time.

Accordingly, along on one of our Saturday walks came a neighbour, Cheryl, carrying a little fluffy bundle, Bobby. He was one of three pups which, like so many, had been thrown away in a plastic bag to die. Found by an Ark member, they had gone for fostering with a family from the Isle of Man, recently relocated to Afra, close to Cheryl's house. There were two females left, and Cheryl suggested I might go and have a look.

Curiosity got the better of me a few days later as I drove past. Three dogs, a golden retriever-type, a tiny white fluffball and a rather raucous blonde puppy, came charging. Then, as I beat their affections off, out of the kennel crawled a salt-and-pepper bundle with a little white nose; she came to my feet and looked up at me pleadingly. I picked her up and she gave me a kiss. Lulu had found me.

The retriever, Honey, was adopted by another neighbour, Maureen, and the fluffball, Darcy, stayed with her foster mum, Dawn. Raucous Harriet went to Germany.

Lulu, like the huge majority of local mongrels, is a delight. Gentle, clever, (mostly) obedient, loyal and full of fun, she encapsulates the characteristics of the 'breed'. Yet we send them off to Holland and Germany, because no homes can be found here.



Lulu (left) and Bobby shortly after Lulu's adoption

Lulu, Bobby, Honey and Darcy are proof that adoption locally is successful for both the owner and the dog. So come along - if you crave a dog, adopt a Corfiot mutt! Having lived with Ira and now Lulu, I would have nothing else.

*Hilary Paipeti*

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October 1st sees the launch of *The Corfiot Magazine* on line. The internet version will be identical with the print one and will comprise a pdf file which will be transferred by email following payment of two euros through the user-friendly and totally secure PayPal system. The current issue and the previous two month's issues (three in total) will be available for sale at any one time. On publication of a new issue, the oldest one will be archived and will then be available as a free pdf download.

[www.thecorfiotmagazine.com](http://www.thecorfiotmagazine.com)



# Last of the Summer Sun

## A Trip to North West Corfu

by Hilary Paipeti

Where can you find the island's most beautiful sunsets? The real 'best view in Europe'? Resorts on long-sandy beaches, that recall the tranquility of thirty years past? In North West Corfu, of course!

Having avoided the North West for 18 years due to horrid memories of getting stuck on muddy cart tracks (and that was in the resorts, not out in the wilds!), I revisited the area in 2001, in the company of our sometimes contributor Harry, who grew up there. Since then, it has become my favourite part of the island - and there's still lots more for me to explore!

I find the best approach is through the Ropa Valley, where the formerly patchwork road has recently been widened and resurfaced. It is also virtually traffic-free and without the strip development that is creeping out along the alternative route, the Paleokastritsa highway. Past Liapades, you reach the Paleokastritsa road. Here turn left downhill and half a kilometre or so on fork right for Lakones. A windy road takes you sharply up, with increasingly vertiginous views. You may have to wait for some time at the village traffic light, which aims to prevent jams in the narrow street. After the village, you reach the famous 'Bella Vista', now much more than the eponymous restaurant. (This establishment carries a sign reminding you of the famous people, like the Kaiser and the Greek Royals, who've eaten here, among them a Mrs Satzartaki. Mrs Who? Answer: the wife of a former politically-appointed President of the Republic.) The Bella Vista view is advertised as the 'best in Europe'; you can judge for yourself in a few minutes.

Having duly admired, drive on past Makrades (beware old people jumping in front of your car - they are not flagging an emergency lift to the hospital, but trying to sell you dodgy wine), then after a few hairpin bends, take a left signposted to Prinilas. This little road is the 'back door' to North West Corfu.

And what a doorway! You round a bend and breast a small rise and, all of a sudden, the whole of North Corfu is spread at your feet. Seemingly directly below, the great arc of Saint George Bay is backed by chalky ridges and, in the distance, framed by the Offshore Islands. To the right, you can see as far as Cape Ekaterini, Corfu's northernmost tip. Ridge after ridge provide the stitchwork of a vast patchwork quilt of olive groves and plains. It's both a geography lesson and a spectacle where you'd like to drag all those ignoramuses who insist that Corfu's 'spoilt'.

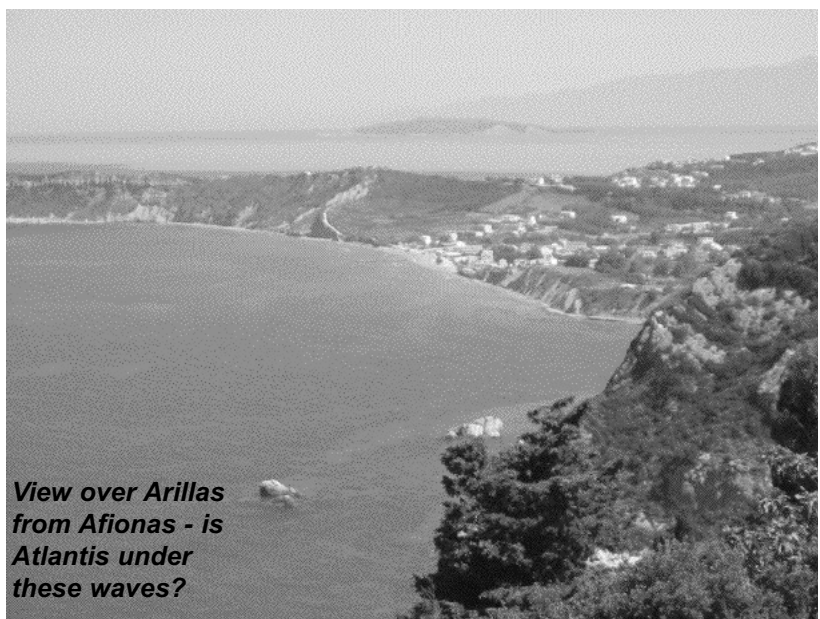
A breathtaking descent to Prinilas and Pagi, and your way down is gentler as you approach Saint George. In keeping with its low-key development - the resort does not even spread all the way along the seafront - there is no road

all the way along the beach due to two streams that no one has bothered to build a road bridge over. As a result, the way dives inland at two points, and if you take a wrong turning it is easy to end up 1) at a cul-de-sac on the sand or 2) in Kavadades, because in North West Corfu all roads lead to Kavadades.

Eventually, should you find your way through the labyrinth to the northern end of the beach, you climb up to Afiones.

Afiones is both one of Corfu's prettiest and best kept villages, and perhaps its oldest. Just beyond the village, remains of a Bronze Age settlement were excavated in the years before World War 2. The finds prompted the German archaeologists to apply to the Greek government for permission - yes, it's true - to drain the seabed; they believed that an even more ancient city lay beneath the waves (their plans were scuppered by the War). The Offshore Islands and the sculpted shoreline are proof that the coast here is receding, and local legend has it that the drowned city is the fabled home of Alkinous, where Odysseus finished his travels (accordingly, the nearest island - uninhabited - is called Gravia, a corruption of *καράβι*, which means 'ship'. It is one of the candidates for the Phaecean ship which took Odysseus home to Ithaca and which Poseidon subsequently turned to stone as punishment). Another speculation is that the city is 'Lost Atlantis', which was engulfed by the sea.

Whatever you believe - and until they drain the seabed we'll never know for sure - Afionas is a delight. Park at the side of the road (not in the inviting space at the end of the road, which is where the bus turns around) and wander along the alleys. The rough stone walls enclosing small yards are pristinely white-washed, and many of the old doors and windows are painted bright Hellenic blue. In spring, the gardens are a riot of colour, with geraniums, roses and bougainvillea in abundance. > 19



**View over Arillas from Afionas - is Atlantis under these waves?**

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# PETRA

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## Building the future in traditional style

## We bought a house in North West Corfu

My family and I were on holiday in Arillas, in North West Corfu, in August 2005. This is a resort that we had been visiting two or three times a year for the previous three years. The main reason for returning is that the resort is extremely family-friendly with no crowds of teenagers or youths, with a very safe sandy beach, the friendliest people we have met on our travels and an excellent selection of bars and tavernas. We have travelled extensively throughout Europe and Greece and had found this resort to be one that we love to return to.

One day the weather was not particularly good so we decided to have a trip in the hire car. We were driving through St. George, the neighbouring resort, and noticed an interesting-looking gift shop displaying hand-woven rugs and lace. Adjacent to the shop at the time was the local office for Luvcorfu. We have never had any intention of buying a house abroad, but out of curiosity we had a look in the window there to see what the property prices were like. And advertised in the window was a prototype development called Katikia which was to be located in Arillas. The prices seemed quite reasonable so we popped into the office to get some further details. It transpired that the advertisement had only just been placed in the window. We expressed our interest and a meeting was arranged for later in the week with Harry Tsoukalas, the developer.

We met Harry at the office and were pleased to find that he spoke very good English. We talked about the project in some detail and were shown some typical floor plans and some very basic artist's impressions of how the houses would look. Three houses were originally planned, to be built in traditional style using as much reclaimed and original material as possible. The internal size of the property would be in the region of 65 square metres which would accommodate two bedrooms, a bathroom and a good size open-plan living room with dining and kitchen area. We were then taken down to view the plot of land and were extremely happy when we discovered that this was located about half a kilometre outside the Arillas village boundary, in a quiet and peaceful setting.

We confirmed our interest in buying a property, and arranged to meet with Harry later in the week to discuss in more detail the specification and what we would be getting for our money. At this point it is worth pointing out that buying a house in Corfu is totally different to what you would expect in the UK. There are no formal specification documents, there are no proper architects or engineers drawings and the contract is very much a brief bespoke document which really just sets out the payment schedules. You have to rely on a lot of trust and to be able to visualize the end product. There do not appear to be any formal 'building regulations' as in the UK but the 'Civil Engineer' inspects the build at all critical points, for the foundations, ground floor, concrete ring beams and so on.

**Rule number 1** - Do not expect the level of documentation or drawings that you would get in the UK.

We met again with Harry to agree a written specification of our requirements, to finalize the basic price and to lay out exactly what would be included. The final ground plan of the house was also agreed and the position it would occupy on the plot of land. We agreed to lodge a deposit of 10,000 euro for the development when we returned to the UK that would be fully refundable if we had second thoughts or if the 'building permits' were not granted for the project.

**Rule number 2** - Obtain written evidence of what has been agreed and get the documents signed and witnessed.



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We were given the name of a lawyer in Corfu Town who had carried out a lot of work in conjunction with Luvcorfu. This initially gave us cause for concern, as there was an established relationship, but having met the lawyer we had trust in him to act in our interests and arranged power of attorney in order that he could deal with the notary, land issues, arranging bank accounts and authorizing payments on our behalf. You will also need to engage the lawyer to obtain tax reference numbers and to deal with the 'pink slip' required from the bank to prove that any money for the building work came in from abroad rather than being earned locally.

**Rule number 3** - *Employ the services of an English speaking lawyer that you trust and obtain a written copy of all of the costs involved including legal fees, land registry, local taxes, agents fees, land costs and the construction costs. Agree a payment schedule that suits everybody.*

The realization of the 'building permits' took a lot longer than Harry originally anticipated and were not issued until March/April 2006. No work had commenced before this other than the plot of land being cleared and levelled. Harry is extremely keen on maintaining the island's natural features and any olive trees affected by the building works were kept wherever possible, or transplanted within the site boundary where this was not possible. This was quite a worrying time for us as we were getting little feedback and had begun to wonder whether we had thrown away our 10,000 euro. The main reason for the lack of feedback is that there really was nothing happening. Once the permits were granted we were issued with more detailed drawings of the floor plans, elevation drawings and a site layout (topographic survey).

**Rule number 4** - *The pace at which things happen in Corfu is a lot slower than in the UK - do not worry!*

Building work commenced in earnest and when we visited Arillas in May 2007 the basic layout of the three houses on the plot of land were visible and the main retaining walls between the houses were in the process of being built. It was starting to get exciting, and we spent much of our holiday visiting other houses with Harry to inspect the different finishes that are available in order to make an informed decision on what we wanted. We also spent a number of pleasurable days with Harry on his boat where he took us to some of the other islands. He gave us some very good lessons on the Corfiot way of life and shared his belief in maintaining the history and heritage of the island. We returned to Corfu twice again in 2006 and were pleased with the progress of the building work. We noticed that this does slow down during the peak summer months as a lot of the tradesmen own bars and tavernas and operate these in the peak periods, returning to the building work when tourists leave the island. During these visits we visited the kitchen showroom, plumbers and so on in order to make our final selections.

**Rule number 5** - *Try to take photographs, keep brochures, of the tiles, kitchens and bathroom fittings so you can remember them at a later date.*

In the late summer of 2006 Harry's brother Perry and his wife Joanne returned to Corfu from the UK with their children to live permanently. Perry took over the day-to-day running of the Katikia project, with Joanne working at the local office of Luvcorfu. From their arrival the speed of the building work, feedback and information flow improved as Joanne visited the site weekly and emailed us photographs of progress and completed works. This enabled us to make late changes to the specification, and we were able to have a more informed decision on how we wanted things.

**Rule number 6** - *Keep a detailed record of the original agreement and update this with any variations to the scope of work and any extra costs to the basic price agreed. The last thing you want is an argument about the final cost at a later date.*

We arranged to spend our first Christmas in Corfu in 2006 and were informed that the house would be completed by then. Unfortunately, a spell of particularly bad weather in November and December prevented this, but we had made a contingency plan to stay in a friend's house. The first time we actually stayed in our new house was February 2007. At that point there were still a few minor details to be finished and resolved but generally everything was complete. The standard of workmanship, level of finishes and attention to detail surpassed our expectations. The house was built in a very much traditional style on the outside, using Byzantine roof tiles, olive wood posts, timber windows and shutters - but this has been married very well with a modern interior comprising all of the modern fixtures and fittings. The house is even pre-wired for satellite TV and broadband!

**Rule number 7** - *Do not be afraid to prepare and issue 'snagging' lists or defects or a list of uncompleted or unsatisfactory items. If you do not raise issues they will not be addressed.*

Overall, we have been extremely pleased with our decision to buy a house in Corfu. There were times during this process where we considered cutting our losses and pulling out, but having seen things through we now have a lovely home in a place that we love, so all of the trials, tribulations and worries have been worth the effort. This is an accurate record of our experience; you read articles in the papers about people who have nightmare experiences, so maybe we have been very lucky.

The experience has also enabled us to forge firm friendships with everybody involved in this project and we would particularly like to thank Harry, Perry, Joanne, Angela and everybody else involved for providing us with the realisation of a dream.

Another interesting element of this project is that quite a few of the local people of Arillas have been involved in the construction work. They are busy running bars and tavernas in the summer, but rely on construction work through the winter months to keep them busy. It is good to know that part of the building cost of the project goes back to the local community.

**Rule number 8** - *At the end of the day when everything is satisfactorily complete you can sit on your terrace, sipping an ouzo and enjoying the fact that you are in your own home, on your own terrace in your own paradise. Enjoy!*

**Steven & Karen Reid, Arillas, Corfu - 7th September 2007**



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*Above: The Gastouri shop*

*Below: A corner of the ground floor*



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## FRONT PAGE FEATURE

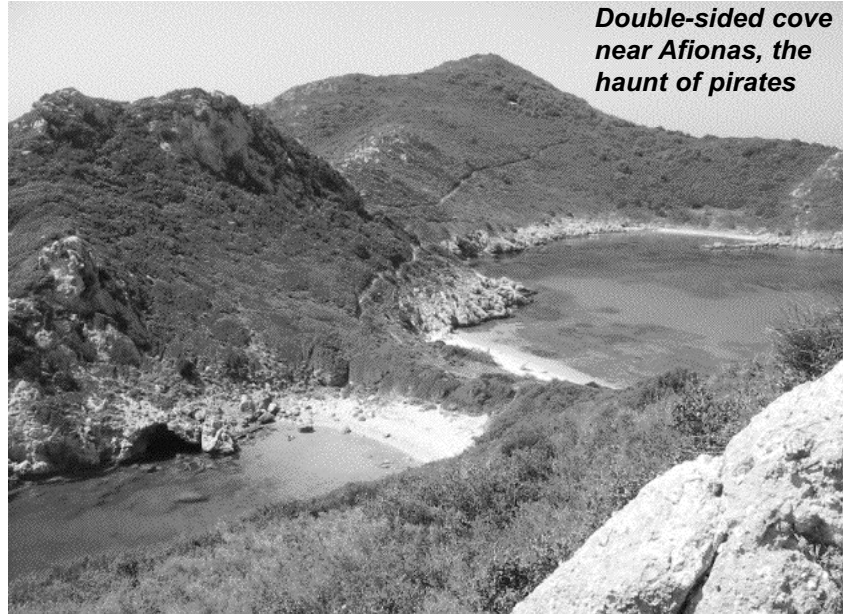
14 > The alleys direct you to an open meadow high above the sea, with a bench to rest on as you take in the vista.

At this point, if you feel the need for some more vigorous exercise, I recommend a stroll to the Pirate's Cove. To get there, head to your left (with the village at your back) and cross the scrub on a clear path. On the other side, you'll come to Panorama Restaurant, which has a huge clifftop terrace with a glorious view of Saint George Bay. Just out of its gate, on the right, a path takes you down to the cove. It's 20-30 minutes walk, and VERY steep in places; but the cove - or rather coves - is one of the most picturesque sights on the island. It comprises a double-sided beach, which just prevents the end section of the headland from tumbling away to become an island. The bay to the north is deep-cut, and it was here that 'pirate' ships (probably manned by opportunist locals) would lurk until they spotted a passing vessel. The path continues beyond the beaches to the lookout point, where a small shrine is built in to the rock.

Leave Afionas, and the road heads towards Arillas. The quickest way down to the resort is to turn left immediately after the Petra office (big sign - stop if you're interested in buying a house!). Observant viewers of Rick Stein's recent food programme, Mediterranean Escapes, may recognize this road in one of the driving sequences - and

indeed there are spectacular views down to Arillas as you make the steep descent. Turn left at the bottom, and soon the first buildings of Arillas border the road.

Arillas is another low-key resort which retains the atmosphere of an earlier touristic incarnation. Nothing is in-your-face commercialized or pushy. The road hugs the beach for a few hundred metres, then you leave the sea again beside a 1970s style three-floor hotel.



*Double-sided cove  
near Afionas, the  
haunt of pirates*

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## TRAVEL FEATURE

If it's lunchtime, you can do no better than to stop at Amourada Restaurant, or Brouklis Taverna, both of which are on this road leading inland. A feature of many of the restaurants in the North West is the use of locally-grown (indeed, family-grown) ingredients. Because tourism came late to the region, agriculture has not died out as in other parts, and often the taverna owner is also a farmer or fisherman. Diners reap the benefits in the form of lovely vegetable dishes (try Brouklis' Pumpkin Pie!) and the freshest seafood.

All roads lead to Kavadades, the hub of the North West's road network. Continue inland, and soon you reach it. In reality, it is more a scattering of smaller settlements, with a church and a blink-and-you-miss-it square. At the square and just below it, ignore signs for Magoulades and Sidari, and head through Armenades to reach Rachtades.

Afonas is a happy, bright village; Rachtades is full of melancholy. The village square, shaded by an old elm tree, is neglected, and the village shop has closed down for good. It's a fitting mood for a village whose origins came through conflict.

Sometime long ago, two clans of refugees from Armenia settled in what is now Armenades. The clans fell out with one another, with the result that the one called (by this time) Armenis left to found a separate settlement, Rachtades, on a nearby ridge (ridge is 'rachi' in Greek). The legacy of this event is the absurd and contrary fact that virtually everyone in Rachtades shares the surname of Armenis, whilst Armenades is almost entirely populated by people called Chandrinos!

Have a little stroll around Rachtades, which has some picturesque corners and nice views; rest under the 'Tree of Idleness' - because there's not much else to do here other than relax.

A contrast again is your next stop - Corfu's tourism capital, Sidari. Head back through Rachtades the way you came, and just as the houses finish (before the junction you turned up to get there) take a sharp left. This almost unused road takes you down through the lower part of the village and down through forest to the flat lands of the Tyflopotos valley, the so-called 'blind river' which reaches the sea at Sidari.

There's plenty of parking space in and around the resort. Early evening, the main drag, closely bordered by shops and eating and drinking establishments, is humming with visitors browsing and choosing where to spend their evening. Ignore the 'Wet T-shirt and Y-front Night' notices and the young Brits trying to get you into a bar, and observe the street happenings: artists, itinerant sellers of nuts and balloons, henna tattoo and hairbeading specialists all come out to add to the bustle.

But scratch beneath the surface, and Sidari's roots are revealed. Along the 'strip', glass

doors and modern furniture disguise the origin of the buildings. Take Premier Bar. Inside, an old wall has its stones exposed, and many of the beams above the bar are clearly ancient. Before tourism came along, the building, and the Astoria Hotel behind it, was a wood workshop; in the 1950s, they supplied much of the timber installations which rebuilt Kefallonia in the aftermath of the great earthquake. The sea behind meant the products of the business could be transported easily, in the days before there were proper roads.

And Vasilis and Sally will supply you with a nice pre-dinner ouzo.

There is only one location to end a day in North West Corfu, and that is Sunset Beach near Peroulades. You need about ten minutes to get to Peroulades, so time it to get there before the sunset. Panorama Restaurant sits right on the edge of the cliff, with the beach far below; the sea stretches to a far horizon. You can sit at the bar listening to the mood music as the sun drops, or enjoy a meal from a menu with some unusual dishes, like dried fish salad and courgette balls with garlic mayonnaise. Out of the more common choices, the stuffed tomatoes and peppers and the mousaka are among the best I've tried.

Here is the edge of the world. Beyond the Offshore Islands floating in the water, open ocean; next stop, Italy. Facing the evening, North West Corfu holds on to the light, and the sun leaves it last.

And if you fall for the North West, so will you.

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# From Dolphin Surfing to Ship Wreck on the Red Sea

by Sarah Button

*Sarah and Pete Button conclude their sailing odyssey around the Eastern Mediterranean with a trip inland to Jordan. They also visit the ancient city of Petra.*

We were amongst 58 sailing boats from all around the world participating in an organised rally that took us from Turkey to Egypt, and then came to an end in Israel. This was the last leg of the trip, and we departed from Port Said on passage for Herzliya in Israel, making it a total of 140 nautical miles.

It was a sailor's dream; the cruising chute flew all day, the sea was a rich deep blue, passive and friendly. We luxuriated in the cockpit of 'Shecat', a 35' catamaran, along with friends Sheila and Patrick. We were in a jovial mood; de-mob happy.

Suddenly dolphins joined the fun, it seemed as though they knew we were in a celebratory mood. This was bliss. We watched entranced as the creatures surfed our bow-wave and swam between the hulls. It was so good that Sheila relented, and the 'No Booze Whist Sailing' rule was lifted as we cracked open a bottle of bubbly.

Come sundown, the radio started to buzz, busy with info from the Israeli Navy and UN War ships. The Navy kept us on standby for a good three hours so we all missed out on some much needed shut eye. At dawn and close to Tel Aviv a couple of patrol boats checked us out, but as we approached Herzliya we saw three fast inflatables hurtling straight for us - what was going on? Just when we feared we were going to be shot, at we heard singing; the boats were full of school children who'd come out to welcome us. It made a wonderful and moving welcome to our last port.

Tied up in the marina, crews were ready for a final party and no-one needed any provocation to open their booze lockers. Then we staggered off to shop in the very American 'Mall', where there was a very American supermarket and BACON! At last a greasy buttie.

It was the last day, the rally was officially over and it was time to give our thanks to organisers, group leaders and friends. Plaques were handed out, signed cards presented and hands shaken. Then we put on our posh clothes for the last time for our final formal dinner.

The next day 15 of us boarded a bus for an excursion to Jordan. We had organised the trip ourselves and it was great to be part of a small group at last.

We stopped for coffee at Armageddon - seriously! The cafe was surrounded by intimidating heavily armoured tanks, but it's a pretty place, fertile and gently hilly, rather like Herefordshire. The roadside was lined with hedges and orchards lay beyond.

Our guide, who sounded as though he was in the last throws of emphysema, coughed continuously and kept pointing out places

of little interest like hotels and factories. Then he said; 'On your left is a goal where they put people who blow up buses'. Great!

The Jordanian border resembled Gibraltar in its ability to wind people up by creating unnecessary queues which kept us waiting for hours. In the arrivals hall, a huge photograph of two men in suits looking jovial lighting a cigarette for one another had pride of place. Apart from the lack of a caption you'd assume it was a cigarette advert. I asked one of the guards who the men were. It was King Hussein of Jordan and Yitzhak Rabin being nice to each other at last. King Hussein was later to die of lung cancer.

We were fed through one set of passport checks into another, our bags were scanned and searched. We were questioned. On the Jordanian side I asked them not to stamp my passport because it would give away the fact that I'd been to Israel and as a result some other countries may refuse me entry.

They took our fingerprints, our photographs, our luggage and then our passports and told us to wait outside.

15 of us stood in the searing heat; we had no bus, no luggage, no passports and we didn't like it.

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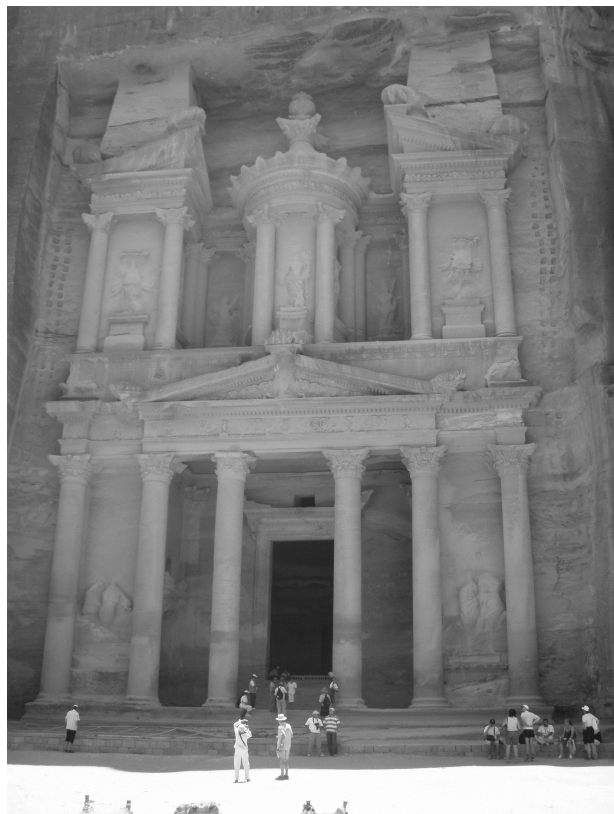
Our passports were returned; stamped.

Our first stop was at Jerash and the huge Roman arch dedicated to a visit made by the emperor Hadrian. Boy, did that guy get around! This was another tourist processing plant; we were sucked in one end past shops selling vulgar and shoddy souvenirs, through a restaurant where we ate processed tourist food, eventually to be spat out later with a lighter wallet. But this site was quite spectacular. In a huge Roman amphitheatre, a retired Jordanian desert soldier serenaded us with a rendition of 'Scotland the Brave' on his bagpipes. Apparently there are lots of Scots in the Jordanian army, courtesy of Lawrence of Arabia.

On our way to our hotel we stopped in the capital. Amman sits on seven hills like Rome and Sheffield. It's a mass of white buildings that look like Lego bricks casually sprinkled on a sandy landscape, no parks or green spaces: a desert town.

I have never been lost for words but I was when we arrived at Petra. All I could do to express myself was to cry. I had always wanted to see this place; a city carved out of stone and shrouded in mystery. Even today we don't know all we'd like to know about this bizarrely beautiful place. Our decent into Petra down a dusty track was on horseback, our mounts dopey and amiable. We plodded into a geologist's dream of rock compositions: a narrow gorge some two hundred feet high of red and yellow layered rock, whipped up by nature, layered and spread like cake mixture in great dollops on red soil before being baked for millions of years.

Two thousand years ago the Nabataeans, influenced by some Greeks with wild imaginations, carved the city into the rock.



*The Treasury at Petra*

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## TRAVEL FEATURE

It's a city of grand designs and beautiful works of art, where homes were burrowed neatly into the cliffs for an ancient civilisation of civilized cave men. The highlight is 'The Treasury', an enormous edifice some 40 meters high and 30 wide. No-one really knows what it was built for - maybe it was to store money, maybe it was a tomb, maybe it was a party venue, maybe we'll never know.

Outside, camels sat in the shade, their eyes closed, their mouths twitching to dislodge stubborn flies. Lost for superlatives, we walked on in silence, passed the ancient dugouts, ghosts of their inhabitants watching us closely, then we met our camels and donkeys; beasts to take us out of the gorge. I had a floppy eared donkey with attitude and nothing to drive it with; for some reason tourists are not to be trusted with reins as the animals are led, but mine wasn't going to be led by anyone and kept breaking into an uncomfortable trot. Eventually a handsome young man took control of my beast. I got chatting to him; a Bedouin who lived nearby, he had four children. Many men in his village, he said, had four wives and up to twenty-five children!

Later we learned that Petra came second in the 'New Wonders of the World'. It certainly got our vote.

The bus journey the following day to Aqaba along the desert highway was spectacular. There was the odd olive grove fenced in to protect it from itinerant camels. We passed a young persons' re-hab centre and 'The National Poultry Company' with its acres of white smelly chickens. There were scatterings of Bedouin tents, roadside stalls selling melons and apricots. The odd dead goat and two relaxed donkeys stood in the fast lane of the dual carriageway blissfully unaware of speeding trucks, buses and bikes. A family of camels - mum, dad and two babies - stared with arrogant superiority and we sped by. If a baby camel dies its mother suffers uncontrollable grief so the Bedouin skin the dead baby, stuff the pelt with straw and tie it to the mother camel, and she will then get over her grief.

Aqaba on the Red Sea is a nondescript place with McDonalds and Burger King, hotels and tourist paraphernalia. It is clean, smart and dull.

Here we were to take a trip in a glass bottomed boat. We stepped off the bus into 45 degrees of heat. It was like walking into a fan oven. The wind was blowing nearly thirty knots, the sea was whipped up and on the end of a long jetty sat our boat lurching ominously on the rough sea. We all looked at the tiny boat with some trepidation, but most of us climbed aboard anyway. Once aboard someone demanded to see the life jackets - we found three and they were so tatty a drunken tramp wouldn't have worn one. The boat pitched and a couple of waves splashed over us. Our guide thought this was too much. 'Go back, I don't like this,' he shouted to the helmsman who was grinning, clearly unperturbed.

Then the engine packed up and the boat drifted aimlessly towards the rocks, eventually grounding. We all leaped out and swam ashore. Bloody Hell! We'd sailed 1300 miles without a hitch only to get wrecked on a tourist boat!

Apart from mild shock we all saw the funny side. Our guide was so embarrassed he couldn't talk.

Fifteen sailors sat on the bus in wet underwear, their clothes draped on the back of seats.

The Wadi Rum gave us more mind-blowing rock formations. Looking like giant fossilised camel dung, they towered a thousand feet high, eagles soaring above.

We were treated to a 4X4 trip. 'Treat' is the wrong word, 'subjected', is more appropriate. The vehicles, ready for the scrap yard, had dodgy transmissions and very bald tires. Our driver was barely fifteen and a budding boy racer, we sat in the back bouncing and rattling around in a blur of dust.

The visitor shop offered stunning jewellery made by Bedouin women - irresistible. A stunningly beautiful shop assistant served us and despite being covered in black her outfit was sexy, clingy and lacy. She was wearing a 'F\*\*\* Me' bhurka!

Before returning to Tel Aviv and our flight back to England we visited the ancient Christian church at Mount Nebus. Here Moses first saw the Holy Land. The view overlooking the Dead Sea with Israel beyond is splendid indeed and the place had a special energy which most of could feel, but it was spoilt by the sound of gun fire in the distance.

The experience summed up our visit to the Middle East. It's a mind-boggling mix of serene beauty, cultural, architectural and ethnic diversity - all mixed with a little fear and apprehension; the ingredients that surely broaden the mind of every traveller.

*Next month Pete Button shares his impressions of Israel and tells of his visit to Jerusalem.*

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# LETTERS

## CHAPLAIN MISSED THE POINT

My good friend, Clifford Owen [Corfu's Anglican Chaplain], seems to have completely missed the main point of my August letter [Praising Pope Benedict for bringing back the Latin Mass]. I was not complaining of clerical domination of organists. That has never worried me. Even as a twelve-year-old novice I had complete choice of music, guided at that time by the comprehensive lists of service music selected by my predecessor, the Music Master of the Grammar School that I attended. It was years before I attempted even slight alterations. Later at my professional appointments I was fortunate in working most of the time with erudite, cultured clergy who 'paid due heed' to my advice and left the selection of music to me. One Vicar in appointing me grinned, "Why hire a dog and then bark yourself. You can read the Lectionary as well as I can and probably know the hymnbook better than I do." Even later at a Cathedral, where the Dean found himself caught between a very experienced organist-choirmaster and a distinctly plebeian Archbishop, we formed a good working relationship until I found more agreeable pastures with N.Z.B.C. I had always wanted to be a cathedral organist but the realization of my ambitions in the latter half of the twentieth-century did not match my expectations. The introduction of banal new liturgies with texts of little literary value was decidedly uninspiring!

No, I was merely rejoicing that at last a leader of the Church realised that, like it or not, its public worship is the face that it presents to the world. An uncommitted or enquiring visitor is either attracted or repelled by what he/she sees. Too often visitors are confronted by an ill-conceived, ill-prepared, ill-presented unedifying farrago such as would be laughed off the stage at a village hall. To see and hear the officiant bellowing slightly off-key, the 'organist' ineptly fumbling, and a few others 'participating' by anything from incoherent mumbling to unmelodic screeching is hardly attractive. In New Zealand, where we broadcast or telecast services monthly, the N.Z.B.C. technicians referred to the church services that they presented as 'God Commercials', somewhat irreverently, rather amusingly, but very aptly. Naturally, we always spared no effort to ensure that our presentation was of the very highest standard, whether or not it was broadcast. That applied at all my appointments.

Yes, it is a performance, but a performance to a very good purpose. I always regarded my job as 'beating the drum', attracting the crowds so that the boss could do his stuff. I learnt my trade in a very good environment. After having been a chorister for six years in what I now recognize as rather mediocre, not too well-attended, somewhat 'pratty' churches, I was catapulted at twelve hours notice into the heady, perfectionist (and incense-laden!) atmosphere of an Anglo-Catholic church with an outstanding local reputation not only for its music but also for its overall elegant presentation of the liturgy. "We try to do everything well, not only to the glory of God, but also because it makes the people feel comfortable," the parish priest explained when interviewing me. He had been astounded by my youth but, "Well, Mr. Doe recommended you, so I suppose you can do it!" Only three weeks passed before he stopped attending choir practices and left me to my own devices. He had his own business, training the acolytes, to see to. The meticulous care with which everything done by the twenty-four boys was rehearsed came to me as an astonishing revelation. Practising not only music but also the spoken parts of the liturgy was but part of our work; every movement, sitting, standing, turning, processing,

even holding books was regulated with military precision. Good choral singing calls for a high level of discipline and this was the epitome of excellence, reflected in the standing-room-only congregations at every choral service. Those boys had been very well trained, knew it, were fiercely proud of it and made sure that I did not 'let the side down'. It was a wonderful experience that served me well in the future, serving as a model for my later choirs. Sometimes choirmen complained, but it did them no good. They never quit and on one occasion took me round to the local pub to stand me a drink and apologise. "We never thought we could sing like that!"

It is certainly calls for intense effort, but can anybody think of a better cause in which to exert oneself? My boy choristers, whether at parish church or cathedral, rehearsed three times weekly; altos Monday and Wednesday after school for an hour, trebles Tuesday and Thursday similarly, and all boys with the men for a couple of hours on Friday evening. Additionally the choir had a half-hour 'sing-in' before every service on Sundays and Holy Days. The boys were very well paid by chorister standards, though they could have earned more on paper-rounds. I too was well rewarded financially by grateful Churchwardens.

My music lists were always prepared down to the last hymn anything from four to seven months in advance to allow for order, delivery and rehearsal of new music. The publishers of the parish magazine needed them two months in advance. Everything came as 'grist to the mill'. In my first parish I played piano for the local Boy Scouts' annual 'Gang Show' and learnt the technique of building an effective programme by studying Ralph Reader's style. I am going into so much detail in order to show how much should be done to be attractive, but how many are prepared to make the effort? In these days of many nine-to-five office-hours priests, with an idle populace that is generally inclined to leave everything to an undefined 'them', any improvement appears to be unlikely.

My father, himself an organist until war-work took him away, did his best to dissuade me from my declared aim of becoming a professional church musician. "You don't want to do that. You'll be completely at the mercy of ignorant clergy and even more ignorant congregations." In the event he was proved wrong. Even the 'bishop-or-bust' type did not interfere with my selection of music for choral services. He introduced an extra sparsely-attended Parish Communion before Choral Matins. Eight of the sixteen boy choristers attended in rotation; the choirmen

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refused. We sang Merbecke and hymns chosen by the Vicar to keep him happy. I left because he had made it clear that he resented that "this church is known as the place where Lionel Mann is organist", and it is dangerous to work with a boss who harbours petty jealousy.

Clifford admits that the Church's music is a very important area and yet the clergy have very little training in it. At the Royal College of Music we organists attended every Friday a lecture by Dr. Edgar Cook, organist of Southwark Cathedral, with an international reputation for his knowledge of church music and liturgy, at which we had theoretical and practical instruction in all aspects of Roman and Anglican music for worship. Imagine the ordeal of having at sight to accompany the singing of Gregorian chant by forty young organ students! If Clifford's church has a leaking roof he calls in a qualified builder; if the lights fail he calls in an electrician; if he has a leaking pipe he summons a plumber, etc., etc. How much more highly qualified than he or most clergy is anyone who has pursued such a course of musical study. It is no wonder that there are very few oases of excellence in the Anglican desert if that Church's leaders ignore experts.

As regards 'bringing the Church into the 20th or 21st century', it has been around for most of the twenty centuries and managed to survive despite an awful lot of ecclesiastical bumbling. Making a virtue out of necessity in order to augment its shrinking numbers of laity and clergy, the Anglican church has embraced 'ecumenism', dragging in members of weird and wonderful non-apostolic sects, and resorted to 'priestesses', thereby adding insuperable barriers to eventual reconciliation and reunion with the mainstream Catholic and Orthodox Churches. Any nation or organisation that rejects its heritage, scorns its traditions, and vandalises noble institutions is running into trouble. For sixty years I have seen Britain descending into barbarism. Not long ago in these pages Clifford bravely inveighed against the prevalent 'Yob Culture', yet some branches of the Anglican Church have embraced it. One of the lessons of its history is that when the Church has tried to be 'with it' it has failed miserably. Has nobody been absolutely repelled by the revolting spectacle of a fifty-year-old cleric strumming a few chords on a guitar and trying to ape a spotty-faced fifteen-year-old? The dwindling congregations in most English-speaking lands and many Catholic countries reveal the futility of 'bringing up to date'. It was the recent attempt by the Pope to remedy previous errors that I was applauding. Bravo Benedict XVI!

The 18th century is known as 'The Age of Enlightenment', the 19th century as 'the Age of Construction'. Without doubt the 20th century will be dubbed 'The Age of Destruction' by future generations. Now, however, if we are blessed by such far-sighted, inspiring leaders as the Pope (and the damaging proclivities of the USA and its lackeys are resisted) the 21st century may well become 'The Age of Reconstruction'. Bravo, bravo Benedict XVI!

(Incidentally the Pope's brother, Georg Ratzinger, was for thirty years from 1964 Director of the internationally famous die Regensburger Domspatzen, the Regensburg Cathedral Sparrows, by far the oldest boys' choir in the world, established in 976 A.D. What an intelligent, talented, cultured family are the Ratzingers!)

*Dr Lionel Mann, Agios Ioannis*

## ENTHUSIASM AND PASSION FROM RICK STEIN

Spending August in England, I was fortunate to catch two of Rick Stein's Mediterranean Escape TV programmes. The first I saw while with friends in Norfolk, who had been following the series. They insisted I watched Rick Stein's visit to Turkey, a colourful expedition taking the TV audience through culinary experiences that wonderfully whetted the appetite.

And then, in Kent, on Friday the 24th August, caught completely by chance as my daughter and I were preparing to go out, there it was! BBC2's Rick Stein's visit to Corfu! We delayed our outing and watched the programme, entranced. Images of the approach to Corfu's Capital, over the water in early morning, captivating in its beauty as the Venetian buildings were gradually enhanced by early morning light turning from deep purple to exotic blue and Rick's infectious excitement at visiting Corfu again after - I think he many, many years. And that was just the beginning. Rick's happy journey up into the Corfiot hills [The Tsoukalas Family Farm and Foros Taverna in Old Perithia], watching vegetables being harvested and prepared, sampling with obvious delight all the dishes set before him. Then his conversation with the chef at that brilliant restaurant where Mike and I have often indulged in excellent lunches [Rouvas]. (And there was a glimpse of Hilary enjoying her own lunch, as Rick talked and ate with exuberant enthusiasm.) We were transported to the south of the island, where the owner's son at the River Taverna at Lefkimmi explained that the tourists thereabouts do not appreciate Corfiot cuisine. Rick was shocked at this revelation, as well he might be while sampling the delights of their varied dishes. We were transported to Karidis Tavernas at Boukari, where that gorgeous seafood restaurant perches prettily at the very edge of the water, another favourite watering place of ours. Rick even absorbed Sidari's status as a British tourist resort, recognising that it fulfilled a need - even if he did not linger!

The magnificent views and the joy of seeing familiar places and tavernas made the whole programme very special. It is a deserving tribute to all that is great about Corfu.

But this email is not intended as a commentary. I just needed to record the enthusiasm and passion of a famous chef for the often simple dishes created magnificently by folk with a passion of their own. Made in Corfu, the island we all love.

*Gilly Beckett*

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# PLACES TO VISIT - THINGS TO DO

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## 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 the 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. A walking trail takes you around some in situ remains, such as an ancient temple. *Grounds open daily 09.00 - 21.00*

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## 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. Open from 12.00*

**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 kafenion 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. Donkey walks every weekday evening - 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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**Roman Catholic** Cathedral of St James: Town Hall Square. Sunday Mass at 10.30 & 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](http://www.corfunet.com/weather/index.php)

## BOOKS

# Prospero's Kitchen : Corfu Sunset

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.

• **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.

• **Review**

• *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.*

• *Tom Teodorczuk, Evening Standard*

**Cut out and keep this information page**

**In order to free up space for more articles, we are removing the information page until May next year, when it will appear again for the benefit of visitors**

# CLASSIFIED

## FOR SALE

**SUZUKI SAMURAI JEEP** 4x4. Year 2000, 80K VGC. Red/silver. Summer/winter tops, radio/CD. Any trial or inspection welcome. €5995. Tel. 26610 76756 / 6972 189011

**WIDESCREEN TV** Bush 28 inch. No sound on Greek channels. 2 scart sockets, 12 months old, immaculate condition. 100 euro. Tel. 6947 133536

**SOFA BED** VGC. 50 euro 6947 133536

**STONE ARCHWAY** from old mansion, with squared-off stones. Prestige construction item. 5000 euros. Tel. 6948 889181

**OLD OLIVE PRESS STONE CRUSHING WHEELS** (3 pieces). 2500 euros. Tel. 6948 889181

**VERANDA DOORS** in excellent condition, including shutters. 180 per pair - save 400 euros on new! Tel. 6848 889181

**OLIVE TREES** Mature trees for sale, small and large. We deliver. Tel. 6948 889181

## EDUCATION

**ENGLISH FOR ENGLISH-SPEAKING CHILDREN:** Private lessons to help bilingual children improve writing & reading skills. Preparation for Cambridge First Certificate, Proficiency & IELTS / Michigan ECCE & ECPE. Help with UK university applications & preparation. Offered by native English speaking teacher with 15 years experience, qualified to MA level. Call Laurence on 26610 22897 / 6949 959608

**PIANO LESSONS** for all ages. Experienced teacher from UK. Fully portable state-of-the-art 88-key digital piano. Lessons can be delivered in your home. Excellent rates. Call James on 6932 872516 between 10.00 and 2.00

**PRIVATE TUTORING** Two qualified teachers from UK available. KS1, KS2 and KS3 experience. All national curriculum subjects considered (literacy, numeracy etc). Also Greek for beginners. References available. Call Kelly on 6934 285681

## OFFERS

**BOOKBINDING** Books of any age or condition restored to recovered in cloth or leather. Victoria Drew 26610 41570 or 6934 052734

**MAN & VAN** for hire deliveries, removals, rubbish removal and odd jobs. Tel. Sidari 6977 161036 (2P)

**CURTAINS** made to measure. Planning and design to completion. 26630 63162 (1P)

**VIDEO AND SOUND** Promote your business in the best possible way through professional DVDs or video on the web. Transfers to and from all types of format, Cranes also available. Up to 5 cameras to cover your special events. Editing of all types of format. Turn your amateur video into a TV-rated one. Contact us for very competitive prices that will shock. Tel. 6948 180199

**DEMOLITION AND EXCAVATION WORK** No job too big or small. Difficult access specialists. We recycle 70% of waste. Free quotes. 7 days a week service. Tel. 6949 982724

**SCISSOR LIFE HIRE** Wheeled and tracked machines. Up to 5 m height. Unique to Corfu. Also cherry picker up to 17 m reach. Tel. 6947 269112

**HOLIDAY HOME SERVICES**

Changeovers, preparation, cleaning and key-holding. North Coast and inland. Absolute reliability - references available. Tel. 6943 559778 email corfuhhs@fsmail.net (2P)

**ARE YOU COMPUTER LITERATURE?**

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

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

## PERSONAL

**ANY FELLOW AMERICANS OUT THERE?** I am looking for other Americans on the island who would like to meet up and get together. Send email to elisacostas@hotmail.com or phone 6979 762442

**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.

## RENTALS

**AGRAPHI** Newly renovated large village house, 4 bedrooms, huge reception areas. Sun terrace with great view. CH. Parking outside. 1000 euro pm. Call 6948 889174

**DANILIA** Newly renovated one-bedroom ground floor unit with big veranda, parking. 350 euro pm. Tel. 6948 889174

**KOURAMADES** Lovely one-bedroom apartment, first floor with use of garden. Fully furnished and equipped with 2 TVs, washing machine, microwave, stereo etc. Edge-of-village, near shops and buses. Quiet, nice country outlook. 350 euro pm. Tel. 6948 889174

**HOUSE TO LET** all year from 1 October. Spectacular view, lovely garden, traditional architecture (stone and wood). 2 bedrooms & open-plan kitchen/lounge. Ideal for artistically-minded. Tel. 26610 53284

**SERIOUS LADY** looking for long term rental. 3 rooms with view up to 15 kilometres from Corfu Town. Tel. 26610 56195  
**HOUSE SITTING POSITION** sought by professional English couple (animal lovers, non-smokers), Sidari area. Available immediately, good references. Tel. 6934 529932

*Small ads (for sale and offers categories) are only accepted if paid for in advance. Copy BY EMAIL ONLY. You can leave your payment (5 euro up to 50 words) at the 'Made in Corfu' shop in Gastouri, the Petra office near Arillas, and the Luvcorfu Properties offices at Barbati and Saint Spiridon. Phone 6948 889174 for information.*

**These are two of four delightful puppies**, born 25 May, looking for good homes. Mother is Lulu, very gentle and enormously clever small-to-medium rough collie type. Probable father is pure-bred English Setter. All have been handled since birth and are very affectionate. Now going on short walks and having some simple training. Only going to homes that want a pet, not tied-up guard. Current mum will take them back for holidays.



**26610 52833**  
**6848 889174**

# How To Drive Traffic Away From Your Website

This month we take a look at some of the reasons why your website visitors may be leaving your website before they've had a chance to hear what you have to say. Or to put it another way, if you want to drive traffic AWAY faster than you attract it, here are some of the things you should do.

**GIVE WEB VISITORS TOO MANY OPTIONS AND CHOICES** Studies have concluded the more choice you give people, the less likely they are to make a decision. Some choice is good, but too much choice creates confusion. A well designed website explains, directs and guides visitors to the things that are of real benefit both to them and to your company. Your website is a place to focus attention on your core marketing message, not a place to provide a shopping list of everything you are able to do and every product or service you may be able to offer.

**GIVE WEB VISITORS TOO MUCH INFORMATION TO PROCESS** Good website design is about more than technology and aesthetics; it's about deciding what information needs to be presented and what information needs to be left out. Too much information is like too much choice, it confuses rather than clarifies. Focus on delivering meaningful content or risk having your visitors hit the exit button.

**GIVE WEB VISITORS TOO MUCH NON-RELEVANT CONTENT** The only thing worse than overloading your website with more information than visitors can absorb, is confusing them with useless and non-relevant content. Non-relevant content is content that doesn't advance your major purpose: to deliver your marketing message in an informative, engaging, entertaining and memorable manner. If it isn't relevant, dump it.

**GIVE WEB VISITORS TOO MANY RED FLAGS** Website visitors are constantly looking for red flags that tell them that the site they are visiting should be skipped as soon as possible. If you want to make sure visitors won't deal with you, failing to provide any contact information - no contact names, no phone numbers, no mailing address - is a sure sign that you won't look after any problems that arise from a website transaction. Your website must be designed to build trust and foster a relationship, not scare people away.

**GIVE WEB VISITORS TOO MANY STUMBLING BLOCKS** Do you make people go through the order processing system before they can find out how much something costs? Or do you demand potential customers read a ridiculous amount of small print legalese that only a lawyer could understand? If you want to drive traffic away from your site make sure you build in as many stumbling blocks as possible.

**GIVE WEB VISITORS INCOMPREHENSIBLE PAGE LAYOUTS** Good design, proper page layout, consistent navigation and well organized information helps visitors find what they're looking for and provides a pleasant, efficient and rewarding experience. Focused content, coherent organization, articulate presentation and a memorable, rewarding experience will attract rather than chase traffic away.

**CONCLUSION** If your website is driving away visitors – and therefore potential customers – maybe it's time you spoke to Truetype Web Solutions. Our speciality is designing and optimising cheap, but highly efficient websites. Our websites are consistently in the Google's top ten results for their chosen keyword or phrase. We are proud of our close personal relationship with all our clients and we are always happy to update your web pages to reflect any changes in your business. In addition we offer a free analysis of your current website, pointing out any defects and suggesting ways in which it could be improved. For details of this offer, or if you have any queries regarding your site or our services, please don't hesitate to get in touch with us. We can be contacted at the addresses below. By visiting our corporate website at [www.true-type2000.com](http://www.true-type2000.com) you will find a portfolio of some of our latest work.

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## Gastouri Office, Village Road, Gastouri

Tel. 26610 52833 / 6948 889174 / 6948 180198

**AGII DEKA** (Central) Achillion View House (Traditional - in need of restoration) Very characterful almost-detached village house on three floors. Fantastic sea view. Renovation required for two bedroom holiday home. 35,000 euro

**AGIOS MATTHEOS** (South) The Sanctuary (Traditional - restored) Old house, recently renovated in excellent taste. Two bedrooms in main house, plus separate studio annexe for guests. Two patios for outside dining. Getaway-from-it-all location yet close to all village facilities. 59,900 euro

**AGIOS MATTHEOS** (South) Courtyard Cottage (Traditional - restored) Old terraced house, for sale fully renovated by the Petra team in traditional style. Excellent value for money in popular 'real' village. 65,000 euro

**KASTELLANI MESSIS** (Central) Georgia House (Traditional - restored) Roofless old house currently being rebuilt and renovated in traditional style. Nice space, good-sized garden. 85,000 euro

**KOURAMADES** (Central) Galano House (Traditional - restored) Cozy but spacious quality-renovated one-bedroom house, fully furnished and equipped - take key and move in! Edge-of-village, quiet, rural view, parking outside, small garden. Budget price! 94,000 euro

**DAFNATA** (Central South) Olive Press Guest House (Traditional - restored) Good business proposition - old olive press converted as small B & B (2-4 units), on course of Corfu Trail. Can extend for owner accommodation. Two courtyards, garden, parking close. Beautiful country view. Bargain price. 130,000 euro

**KATO PAVLIANA** (Central South) Pavliana House (Modern) A lot of house for the money - very spacious two-bedroom home on edge of traditional village, a few minutes from beach and good facilities. Undeveloped basement for guests or work. Garden, garage. Only needs new kitchen and TLC. 160,000 euro

**AGIOS IOANNIS** (Central) Yiannis Houses (Modern) Four three bedroom family houses under construction in immensely popular village. Quiet rural location yet near all the excellent facilities, including schools and Aqualand. Top quality construction and competitive price. From 180,000 euro

**VARIPATADES** (Central) The Trivoli Estate (Traditional - restored) Vast and prestigious estate, with historic mansion being renovated and extended to provide luxury accommodation. Very quiet and private location within easy reach of Corfu Town and West Coast beaches. 2,500,000 euro

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## Barbati Office, Main Road, Barbati

Tel. 26630 91403 / 6948 180195 / 6948 889181

**SKRIPERO** (North Central) Americanos House (Traditional - in need of restoration) Sound old house requiring mainly internal work. Possible to make two bedrooms. Yard with ready BBQ! Great outlook, close car access. Possible DIY project. 45,000 euro

**AFRA** (Central) The Doll's House (Traditional - restored) Three bedroom house, immaculate and ready to occupy - immense bargain for size and location. Very relaxing and cosy cottage atmosphere. Covered yard, quiet edge-of-village location, parking and shop close. 85,000 euro

**SKRIPERO** (North Central) Koukoula House (Traditional - restored) Old house and attached barn, currently being renovated in traditional style. Interesting space, walled courtyard, road access. Convenient and ideal for holidays or permanent residence! 90,000 euro

**SPARTILLAS** (North Central) Ekklesia House (Traditional - Partially restored) Village house for upgrading - can be occupied quickly, possible DIY project. Up to four bedrooms possible in two or three independent units, for large family or part-rental. Parking close, sea view. 95,000 euro

**SPARTILLAS** (North Central) The Old Terrace (Traditional - in need of restoration) Eye-catching, picturesque derelict house, in commanding position with great sea view. With very large plot in Town Planning - could be developed for B&B rental or resale. Only one owner.

**GIANNADES** (Central) Vale View House (Traditional - restored) Very pretty fully renovated house in edge-of-village setting, with car access, country views from two balconies, small yard. Two bedrooms, separate lounge and kitchen. 110,000 euro

**GARDELADES** (West) Flower House (Traditional - restored) Pretty old house, renovated in traditional style. Up to three bedrooms, large roof patio. Road access, parking very close. Quiet location near best beaches and amenities - perfect bolt hole. 150,000 euro

**SOKRAKI** (North Central) Yannos Stone Arch House (Traditional - part restored) Large old house, ready to occupy, on edge of 'walkers' village' on Corfu Trail. Nice garden, views, parking very close. Upper floor needs some modernization. Generous and adaptable space offers holiday rental potential. 150,000 euro

**SPARTILLAS** (North Central) Judi Apartment (Modern) Style magazine territory - an exceptional apartment with staggering sea view. Two bedrooms, veranda. Shared pool with sundeck, off-road parking. For sale fully furnished. Mediterranean living at its stunning best! 160,000 euro

**KATO KORAKIANA** (North Central) Petalo House (Traditional - restored) Old house, renovated to maintain its charm, and immaculate. 2/3 bedrooms, lots of living space including huge patio. Yard, garden and parking. Very tranquil and private location, yet very easy access to beaches and main roads. 230,000 euro

**AGIOS MARKOS** (North Central) Villa Jackson (Modern) Versatile villa for large family home or two apartments - room for guests or potential for rental. Secluded but convenient for shops and beach. Well maintained. Garden, beautiful sea view. A dream house! 270,000 euro

**SPARTILLAS** (North Central) Judi Penthouse (Modern) Style magazine territory - an exceptional penthouse with staggering sea view. Two bedrooms, huge veranda. Shared pool with sundeck, off-road parking. For sale fully furnished. Mediterranean living at its stunning best! 350,000 euro

# luyc♥rfu properties

We Listen...

Arillas Office, Afionas Road, near Arillas

Tel. 26630 51362 / 6948 180197 / 6949 982724

**AGRAFI** (North) Stavros House (Traditional - in need of restoration) Old house for renovation, but in very good condition - could mostly DIY. Plenty of space for up to 3 bedrooms. Sunny garden, outhouse, streetside parking outside, great mountain and sea views. Minutes' drive to beach and close to Acharavi. And all this at a bargain price! 55,000 euro

**KAVADADES** (North West) Mesorachi House (Traditional - in need of restoration) Old house in reasonable condition, for mainly internal work to provide two bedrooms. Large garden, open and quiet location, lovely country view, parking. Short access to island's best beaches. 80,000 euro

**VELONADES** (North West) Velonades Manor House (Traditional - in need of restoration) Character mansion house for renovation, part of larger complex in quiet country location. Vast space for conversion, could make B&B, home for extended family, or provide rental / resale income. 90,000 euro

**PEROULADES** (North West) Kyra Skeleton (Partially built) Unfinished concrete structure for completion to make a spacious family home. Open country location near traditional village and close to beach. Good road access. 110,000 euro

**PEROULADES** (North West) Sunset Houses (Modern) Three of five houses available in high-quality small development, close to traditional village and short walk to renowned beach, with Sidari a few minutes drive. Two bedrooms. Large landscaped garden with BBQ and room for pool. From 150,000 euro

**AGRAFI** (North) Almond Blossom House (Traditional - restored) Delightful village house with fertile garden, wide country view and plenty of space and light. Fully renovated using traditional materials and modern techniques. Three bedrooms, two bathrooms, spacious living area. Direct road access. 160,000 euro

**AGIOS IOANNIS** (North West) The 'Good Life' Orchard House (Modern) Residential 'Good Life' opportunity or imaginative business enterprise - orchard with 170 trees, many varieties, plus ready-to-occupy bungalow and workshop. Short walk to low-key beach in Corfu's lovely north. 350,000 euro

**AGIOS IOANNIS** (North West) Villa Oceanus (Modern) Fabulous seafront villa in totally secluded location. Four bedrooms, large living areas indoors and out. Wonderful sea and sunset views, pool. Immaculate and tasteful. Mediterranean Dream come true! 1,300,000 euro

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## Perithia Office, Acharavi - Kassiopi Road, New Perithia

Tel. 26630 98002 / 6948 180196 / 6949 982726

**PELEKITO** (North) Pelekito Cottage (Traditional - Partially built/restored) Pretty cottage in delightful quiet hamlet near the sea, only requiring modernization - could be occupied. Two bedrooms possible. Many traditional features. 75,000 euro

**AGIOS PANTELEIMONAS** (North) Sandie's House (Traditional - restored) Two bedroom village house in quiet hamlet, sensitively renovated and ready to occupy. Two large patios with outstanding sea views. Parking, bus service, tavernas close. Near popular Acharavi resort and beach. 143,500 euro

**AGNOS** (North) Spring Meadow Houses (Modern) Four luxury houses for sale individually as quality holiday homes. Good rental potential. Unique in Corfu: heated pool with Internet control. From 145,000 euro

**LOUTSES** (North) Yellow House (Traditional - restored) A spacious old house with three bedrooms, fully restored and ready to move in. Lovely peaceful mountain location yet 10 minutes from beach. 175,000 euro

**COYEVINAS** (North East) Coyevinas Beachfront House (Traditional - in need of restoration) A 'Jewel in the Crown' of sought-after North East Coast - everyone's 'must have' house, right on the sea. Needs renovation in character. Comes with large plot of land, can build 550 sq.m. additional housing. Prospect for development in Corfu's top region, or for prestigious home. 1,400,000 euro

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## NEW DEVELOPMENTS

**Varee Houses** (Arillas) SEA VIEW! 120,000 euro

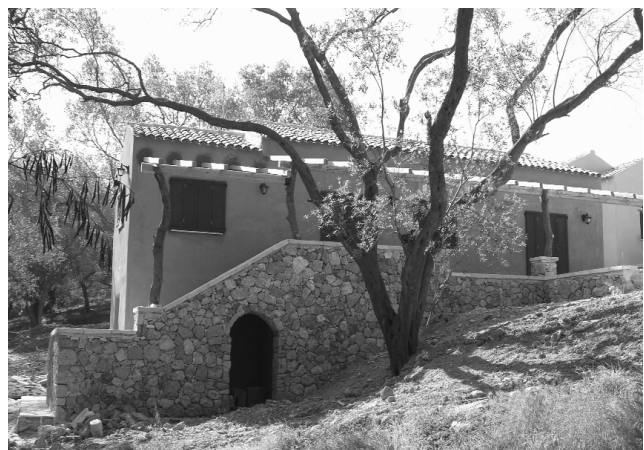
**Parikia Houses** (Karousades) SEA VIEW! 125,000 euro

**Olive Press Houses** (Aspiotades) From 120,000 euro

**Analypsis Houses** (near Korakiana) From 150,000 euro

Brand new houses, to be constructed in village style, using traditional materials. Lovely rural locations with great views. Fitted kitchens with appliances included. Stage payments available. Examples, like the one pictured here, can be viewed.

**More locations coming up soon!!!**



For further information and many more property listings, have a look at:  
[www.corfurealestate.com](http://www.corfurealestate.com) email: [corfiotm@otenet.gr](mailto:corfiotm@otenet.gr)

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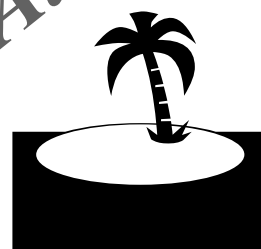
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