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Corfu's English Language Monthly Magazine

October 2009

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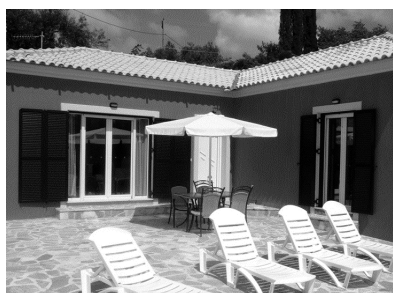
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Walk Corfu Town with John Waller

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

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

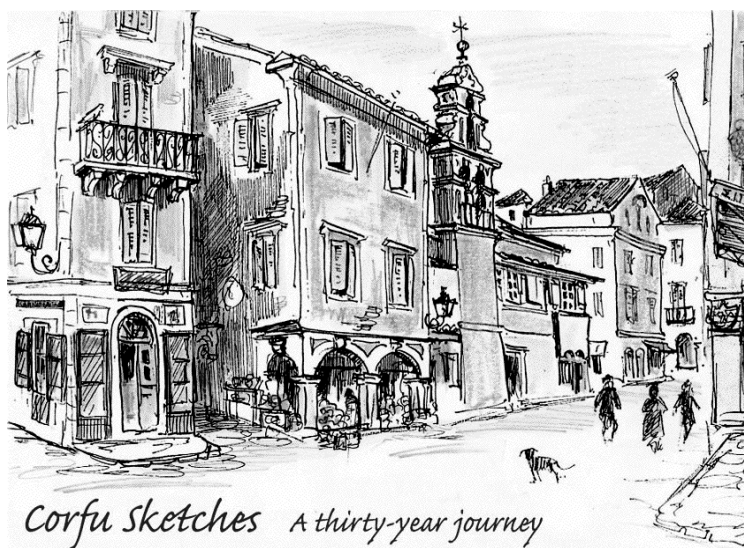
Walk 1: Along the Tourist Trail

Walk 2: To the Jewish Quarter

Walk 3: To the Old Port and the Market

Walk 4: To Campiello, the Old Town

You'll see Corfu Town with different eyes!



Corfu sketches A thirty-year journey

Sketches by Theresa Nicolas Text by John Waller

ear to the ground

HOW MANY FOLK OUT THERE ARE AWARE THAT A SUBSTANTIAL POPULATION OF HARES INHABIT THE ROPA VALLEY AND ITS FRINGES? I didn't until recently, when I was out with the dogs on a particularly early morning walk - and did a double take when a hare ran across the track in front of me (unfortunately, the pooches - who will chase and murder chickens if I let them - did not cotton on that it was edible quickly enough). I later asked in one of the local bars, and confirmed that the beast I saw was by no means a one-off.

It turns out that there are also pheasants in the hills above Giannades, released and now breeding in the wild. Indeed, anyone walking regularly on the island, must have noticed an increase in the local wildlife. Up until a few years ago, I never saw a hedgehog; now (sadly) roadkills are a common sight. Tortoises, too, are more frequently spotted than previously, as well as raptors - which are especially noticeable in the North West. In early summer, clouds of butterflies accompany our strolls along rural lanes, bursting from hedgerows as we pass. As soon as the summer's heat diminishes, tits with their distinctive 'dit-chou' call provide an early morning alarm call.

Could the suddenly burgeoning wildlife possibly have something to do with the cessation a few years ago of aerial spraying?

ACCORDING TO THE BRITISH PRESS, THE UK IS 'TURNING TO NOSTALGIC NOSH TO HELP ... COPE WITH THE RECESSION.' It seems that sales of Wagon Wheels, Findus Crispy Pancakes and Angel Delight are 'fuelling an edible nostalgia boom worth more than several hundred million pounds' as consumers attempt to revisit the comfort and security of childhood.

They're welcome to them. For the Corfiots, childhood comfort food never went away. Tyropitta (individual filo-wrapped cheese pies) have been the snack of choice for generations, and generally food is not subject to fashion. That's why - once the 'tourist' tavernas close - there's not much choice when you eat out in winter. That's why, sometime in the next week or two, the first chilly evening will prompt cooks of all generations to rustle up autumn's first pot of fassoulada, the lovely thick bean soup which is Greece's unofficial national dish. Fassoulada saved the Greeks from starvation during the war, and it can certainly beat the recession. No Wagon Wheels, please.

TALKING OF FOOD, A GREEK RESTAURANT HAS JUST OPENED ON CEBU, which my computer dictionary/encyclopedia tells me is 'an island in southern central Philippines, population 610,000.' (You learn something new every day...) Among the most popular dishes is 'the famous Pastisado, a dish from the island of Corfu, which is Greek Osso Bucco braised in tomato sauce served over spaghetti.' WHAT??? It's great that our favourite Sunday lunch dish is travelling the world, but someone should inform them that Pastitsada's never made with beef on the bone (and is best made with cockerel). So either the restaurant's got it wrong, or the writer doesn't know what Osso Bucco is...

I HAVE HEARD RUMOURS THAT, DUE TO THE RECESSION, I HAVE 'GONE BACK TO ENGLAND'. Well, I've just pinched myself, and I am assured that I'm looking out onto a nice rural Corfiot scene, so it can't be true.

However, the recession will have a knock-on effect this winter. A number of advertisers and other debtors are exploiting 'the recession' as an excuse not to pay me for services already rendered. Their debts unfortunately mean that finances will not stretch to producing all the winter issues (unless the debtors suddenly regain a conscience, or the housing market turns around, or my latest book becomes an overnight internet bestseller - take your pick). So look out for the next Corfiot, a bumper Christmas edition, in mid-November. After that, depending on income, there will be either an issue mid-February for March, or mid-March for April.

And please - no talk that *The Corfiot* has closed down. Just like my own rumoured runner back to England, it's just not true.

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SUNDAY SERVICES

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

Mondays 19.00 Craft Group (1st & 3rd of month)
Tuesdays 10.00 Library & Coffee Morning
Wednesdays 10.00 Coffee & Kids
Wednesdays 12.30 Lunch Box - pot-luck lunch and chat
Wednesdays 19.00 Scrabble Club (last Wed. in the month)
Thursdays 10.30 Bible Study, the Old Testament (new series)
Fridays 10.00-12.00 Informal Prayer Meeting

A second Bible Study group meets on Monday evenings at 17.30 in the back of Takis Taverna, Kontokali, repeating the study of Thursday. If you would like to join, call Anne on 6942 844376 or Rhona on 6975 914373.

HELP THE

CORFU DONKEY SANCTUARY

- ~ Make a cash donation
- ~ Sponsor an individual donkey
- ~ Donate equipment
- ~ Volunteer to help with care or DIY

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This month's name days

03. Dionysios 06. Thomas
07. Sergios 08. Pelagia
18. Loukas 20. Artemios, Gerasimos
21. Sokratis, Christodoulos
23. Iakovos 26. Dimitrios

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

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Thursday, Friday 10.00 - 13.00**

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Craft Fair

The annual Craft Fair will take place
on the last weekend in November

Friday, 27 November 16.00-21.00
Saturday, 28 November 10.00-21.00
Sunday, 29 November 10.00-17.00

The new venue is the Viros Community Centre, near the local school
Come along for a huge selection of unusual Christmas gifts!

Book Sale

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

ACHARAVI

Donkey Auction raises 3,276 euros

The Art Auction which was held at the Nefeli Hotel on 13 September, raised 3,276 euros in aid of Corfu Donkey Rescue. The money will go towards the construction of stables at the new CDR Sanctuary near Doukades.

CDR founder and manager Judy Quinn recently won a court decision which allows her to remain on the old premises until the new area is ready. In their decision, the judges also clarified that accusations brought against Judy of selling the donkeys for meat in Italy are unfounded.

The CDR team thanks everyone for their support at the auction, 'whether you donated, bid or, as in some cases, did both! Without your help and generosity, CDR would not be able to consider moving to its new home. But now it looks as though sufficient shelters to house at least 12 donkeys can be erected, and at least some of the residents will be in their new home before Christmas!'

The artists who donated were: Warren Curry, Val Morrow, Stephi Clash (who donated children's art lessons as well as a painting), Frankie Cranfield, Delia Delderfield, Sally Boyd, Caroline Philp, Rita Alamanos, Georgia, Jean Walsh, Gioia Maestro, Nikos, Heidi Kaeding, Bev Kinnell, Emma Fifield, Diane Marshall, John Pritchatt, Gordon Pritchatt, Claire Louise Butler, Uschis Niemann, Brigitte Martin.

Authors Kim Green, Deborah Lawrenson, Maria Strani-Potts, Jim Potts and Viv Oldaker also made donations and three photographers, Graham Smith, Brian Thearle and Emma A, contributed their work.

Other donations came from: Asian Spa & Ayurvedic Retreat, Gouvía - spa treatment; Valerie Osborne-Androutsopoulou (Casa Lucia) - antique candelabra; Graham Biggs - tennis coaching; Jeanette Ballard - fitness instruction; Andrea Leikermoser - jewellery.

Corfu Donkey Rescue would also like to thank the owners and management of the Hotel Nefeli who so generously allowed their hotel to be used as an ideal venue to host the auction and exhibit the paintings prior to the event. Also to the Acharavi Folkloric Museum who lent their display of historic photographs depicting donkeys at work.

A special 'thank you' is due to Dagmar Lohrenz, the manageress at the Hotel Nefeli, and a long-time supporter of the CDR. She worked for several months helping to set up the event, doing everything from assisting in the website, liaising with artists, designing posters, storing the lots and organising the pre-auction display.

CV Travel has been voted the Favourite Villa Rental Company by Conde Nast Traveller in the World Top 100 Readers' Travel Awards for 2009. The company achieved an overall score of 87.62% and was the only villa company to achieve a score of over 80% for all seven of the voting criteria, while achieving the highest marks for their range of villas (87.69), service/staff (89.23) and facilities/equipment (92.54).

CV Travel was founded as Corfu Villas in 1972 by Patricia Cookson. It is generally credited with bringing high-end visitors to the island, also with the high-class development of the North East Coast, which has attracted such clients as Princess Diana, Princes William and Harry, Princess Margaret, the Duke and Duchess of Kent, the Duchess of Cornwall, Earl Spencer, Joanna Lumley, Harold Pinter and Lady Antonia Fraser, David Cameron, and (famously) George Osbourne and Peter Mandelson.

It is the second time that CV Travel has won top award for Favourite Villa Company, as voted by some of the world's most discerning travellers, last picking it up in 2007, and as runner up in 2008.

MD Debbie Marshall confirms it is an endorsement of the company's commitment to service and longevity. 'CV Travel's name has become synonymous with some of the world's best villas,' she commented, 'whether they are selected for their individual setting, their décor, their historic interest, stunning view, wonderful facilities or exceptional location - although usually it is a combination of many of these that make CV Travel's properties so sought after.'

'CV Travel's staff are exceptionally knowledgeable and experienced, and maintain the company's long-standing ethos of individual and personal service and attention to detail. It is these old fashioned values in a modern world that have helped us to win this top accolade for the second time.'

The Reverend John Robertson Gulland will take up the position of permanent Chaplain in charge of Corfu's Holy Trinity Church on 16 October. The Reverend, who is licensed by the Bishop of Sodor and Man as diocesan warden of readers, will be accompanied by his wife Mary.

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WALKS

OCT/NOV PROGRAMME

SATURDAY, 3 OCTOBER

Lefkimmi: Riverbank, Salt Pans & Olive Groves

(2 1/2 hours **) Meet at The River Taverna, Potami, Lefkimmi, 10.00 for 10.30 start.

SHORT WALK Lefkimmi: Riverbank and

Marshes (1 1/2 hours *)

Lunch at The River Taverna.

SATURDAY, 10 OCTOBER

Porta: The High Tracks and the Oak Forest (1

1/2 - 2 hours **) Meet at the Old Schoolhouse Taverna, Porta, 10.00 for 10.30 start.

SHORT WALK Porta: The Oak Forest and Santa (1 1/4 - 1 1/2 hours *)

Lunch at the Old Schoolhouse Taverna.

SATURDAY, 17 OCTOBER

Agios Onouphrios: Circuit of Lake Gavrolimni

(2 1/2 - 3 hours ***). Meet at Kart Cross near Temploni, 10.00, for onward car journey.

SHORT WALK Fundana: A Mansion and a Monastery (1 hour *)

Lunch at Doukades.

SATURDAY, 24 OCTOBER

Kaminaki: Katavolos Hills (2 hours ***). Meet at Kaminaki Petrol Station Kafenion, 10.00 for 10.30.

SHORT WALK Kaminaki: The Coastal Path (1 hour **)

Lunch at Thomas Restaurant, Dassia.

SATURDAY, 31 OCTOBER

Kouramades: The Olive Valley (2 1/2 -

3 hours *** NEW!). Meet at the Kastellani side of Kouramades, Blue Bus Terminal, 10.00 for 10.30 start.

SHORT WALK Kouramades: Two Picturesque Villages (1 - 1 1/2 hours *)

Lunch at Posidonio Taverna, Agios Gordis.

SATURDAY, 7 NOVEMBER

Kanakades: The Olive Hills (2 1/2 hours *** NEW!). Meet in Kanakades Square, 10.00 for 10.30 start.

SHORT WALK Marmaro: Plain and Riverbank (1 1/4 hours *)

Lunch at Doukades.

SATURDAY, 14 NOVEMBER

Pantokrator: The 'Karst Plateau' (2 hours ***). Meet in Strinilas Square, 10.00 for onward car journey.

SHORT WALK Pantokrator: Along the High Track (1 1/2 hours *).

Lunch at Stamatis, Strinilas.

SATURDAY, 21 NOVEMBER Agii Deka:

Old Path to the Summit (2 1/2 hours ***). Meet in Agii Deka Village car park, 10.15.

SHORT WALK Benitses: The Waterworks (1 hour **)

Lunch at Paxinos, Benitses.

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Look Who's... Walking!

Last seen on stage at Agiotfest, three musicians from the Dylan Project and their wives joined Hilary on a walk in the hinterland of Agios Ioannis on the last day of their stay. Left: Phil (keyboards). Far right: PJ (lead guitar). Second right: Brendan (drums). Foreground: 'Corfu Trail' dogs Bruni (left) and Lulu.



For information about the Winter Walks Programme (left) please call Hilary on 6934 396335. For information on the parallel programme of short walks, please call Maureen on 6938 644543 to find out time and place of meeting, which may not be the same as for the longer walk. Guiding fee 2 euros. Lunch optional.

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ANIMAL WELFARE

News from The Ark

World Animal Day, 4 October

Every year on the 4th of October, World Animal Day is celebrated. Of course, every day should be animal day, but this day focuses specially on all animals. We wanted to organise something like last year's rather successful event, but due to the general elections falling on the same day we have had to cancel it. However, we will draw attention to World Animal Day - children who are animal friends will be handing out pamphlets in Corfu Town on Saturday 3rd, with collecting box.

Busy Summer

It's a never-ending story - so many abandoned dogs and pups, cats and kittens. Specifically aiming at Greek owners, we have been promoting neutering of dogs for very little cost. Many people do not want their dog neutered, saying it's 'unnatural', but we argue that dumping the resulting puppies in a bin, abandoned them in an olive grove, or poisoning them is also not natural. It seems that there is still a long way to go, but we hope eventually the population of unwanted dogs and cats will decrease. Stichting AAI, the Dutch animal welfare group, is supporting this neutering project.

So for the time being we will have to cope with lots of dogs looking for caring homes - for the lifetime of the animal, not just for the holiday or until their child is bored with the new puppy.

If you would like to become the owner of a lovely dog or cat, please contact us. We are sure that, amongst the local strays, you will find a loyal friend who will give you years of joy.

Now winter is coming and the tourists are gone, the animals need extra care. Please consider fostering a dog or puppy until a new family is found. It is rewarding when your effort results in the dog you helped finding a caring new family. Call Louisa on 6979 798202.

Argi, the dog from Argirades

In February an injured dog was reported, lying since the evening before in the mud at the side of the road. Spiridoula, a very active Ark volunteer, managed to get the big boy in her car, watched by a large audience, none of whom gave a helping hand.

At the vet, it appeared that a front leg was broken and even more seriously also a back leg. After the operation the dog had to remain completely still - not easy to handle. Argi managed to move and consequently had to be operated on again. This time, for six weeks, he was tied up at his waist as well at his neck, and also wore a collar. Can you imagine how difficult this all was for dog and those nursing him? But he was such a patient boy, always grateful. We needed two people to change his nappy; luckily

his pooh was always firm! Because of the two broken legs he was unable to walk. The wound on the back leg, pin inside, had to stay open for a long time, to avoid infection from within.

After weeks of struggling, the moment came when he was allowed to stand with care. Then he recuperated with gradual exercises, including some controlled swimming in the sea, which he did not liked at all!

Several people were at first sight interested in this big black labrador mix. But as soon as they heard his history, they changed their mind. Then Michiel arrived from Holland, and when Argi met him and sat next to him, it was clear that Michiel had found his dream dog and Argi a boss for life. Although Michiel originally wanted a dog to jog with him, he said it wasn't that important. So now Argi's in Amsterdam, where accompanies his boss nearly everywhere, even at his work in a restaurant, where Argi sleeps under a table. Michiel has a special bike with a fair-sized basket where his Argi is comfortable! After all that difficult time, he's a happy dog - and so is his boss with his mongrel mix from Corfu.

Louisa van Vuurde

AN APPEAL

Marj PANDI is an ardent animal lover. She works long hours housing, caring for and finding homes for so many of Corfu's stray and abandoned animals.

Marj is being sued in court on 7 December 2009 on the charge of breeding and selling dogs without a license.

Marj has always advocated the sterilization of animals and would be the very last person to breed and sell them!

As responsible animal lovers we, the residents of Corfu, do not countenance this outrageous charge and wish for Marj to have the best legal defence possible. Unfortunately, a good, experienced defence lawyer will command very high legal fees and Marj cannot meet these fees without some financial help from the local animal-loving community.

Can anyone please contribute? Any financial assistance, no matter how small, will be greatly appreciated. It has always been my experience that we, the caring animal lovers of Corfu, never fail to support a worthy cause and this IS a very worthy cause.

Donations can be made to the ARK shop in town, to myself and to any other representative of The ARK Animal Welfare Charity.

We can also show our support by being in the courthouse on 7 December; let's all stand strong behind Marj!

Lucy Steele, M.B.E. - Former British Vice Consul, Corfu

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Hay fever is the reaction to pollens and it is quite common. It affects 2 in 10 people in the United Kingdom. Hay fever is also called seasonal allergic rhinitis because symptoms tend to occur at the same time, or in the same season, each year. Symptoms return for a season each year, but it eventually goes away or improves in many cases.

Hay fever tends to run in families. You are also more likely to develop hay fever if you already have asthma or eczema. Also, if you have hay fever, you are more likely to develop eczema or asthma.

CAUSES Hay fever is the reaction to pollens. Pollen is the name given to the fine powder that is produced by plants, trees or flowers to fertilize other plants, trees or flowers of the same species. Grass pollen is the most common cause and tends to affect people every year in the grass pollen season from late spring to early summer.

However, the term is often used when allergies are caused by other pollens such as tree pollens. Tree pollens tend to affect people from March to May (early to late spring) each year. Other people may be allergic to weed pollens (including nettles and docks). Weeds tend to pollinate from early spring to early autumn.

SYMPTOMS Symptoms are a result of a person's immune system reacting to the pollen. The symptoms of hay fever can vary from person to person. Some people only have mild symptoms that tend to come and go, while others can be severely affected with symptoms that are present every day during the pollen season.

Most common symptoms include a runny and itchy nose, a blocked nose, sneezing, itchy and watery red eyes, and an itchy throat. Other less common are loss of smell, headaches, sweats and asthma symptoms with wheezing and breathlessness. Some people have asthma symptoms only during the hay fever season. Rarely, the symptoms can be so bad in some people that they can affect sleep and their ability to work.

DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT Your doctor can usually diagnose hay fever from the typical symptoms that can occur during the hay fever season. They may also ask if there is a history in your family of hay fever, asthma or eczema. In rare cases when the diagnosis is in doubt, your doctor may suggest blood tests to confirm your pollen allergy.

There are several treatment options but the first step is to avoid pollen. While for obvious reasons it is almost impossible to avoid pollen totally, symptoms tend to be less severe if you reduce your exposure. The pollen count is often given with TV, radio, internet, or newspaper weather forecasts. A high pollen count is above 50. In order to reduce your exposure, it is better to stay indoors as much as possible, keep windows and doors shut, and avoid cutting grass and camping. Sometimes it can be helpful if you shower and wash your hair after being outdoors, especially after going to the countryside. Also it helps to keep car windows closed, and you should consider buying a pollen filter for the air vents in your car.

The most commonly used treatment options for hay fever are: antihistamine nose sprays, antihistamine tablets, steroid nose sprays, and eye drops.

If you are taking hay fever medication regularly and your hay fever is well controlled on your current treatment, you should continue this treatment until the end of the pollen season.

Sometimes if symptoms are severe, a short course of steroid tablets is prescribed. A short course is quite safe, but you should not take steroid tablets for long periods to treat hay fever as serious side-effects may develop. Finally, if symptoms are severe and not helped by other treatments immunotherapy (desensitisation) is used. It is done using a series of injections of the allergen (in this case pollen) in increasing quantities. The idea is that your immune system will become 'desensitised' to the pollen. This means that the allergic response that your body mounts when it is exposed to the pollen in the future is reduced, so your symptoms are improving.

Hay fever is very common in Corfu. If your symptoms cause problems to your daily activity, you should consult your doctor and find a combination of treatment that can help you.

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AgiotFest Revisited

More, please, says *Spiros Hytiris*



It just happened. Almost no-one being aware of the event except for the local English-speaking population. A wonderful evening at the family-friendly plateia of Agios Ioannis, where you had the once-in-a-lifetime chance to see quite a few legendary figures from mainly seventies folk-rock and blues bands.

The Good Old Boys, aka Frank Bloomfield and Russ Bartlett, opened the festival with a short set of soft, American-friendly acoustic balladry, the pedal steel guitar playing a prominent role in the duo's sound. Sweet renditions of Bread and Eagles tunes warmed up the atmosphere, 'Make It With You' being the nicest moment of the set to these ears.

Omega 5 followed with a mixture of sixties and seventies rock. A mean lead guitarist stole hearts with stunning crystal-clear solos, notably Hotel California's all-time-classic second part. A harsh-voiced long blond-haired vocalist added a heavier, old metal aesthetics element. A wide range of selections made it interesting trying to guess what sort of a song the next number would be (The Floyd's 'Another Brick in the Wall', Thin Lizzy's 'Whiskey in the Jar', Lynyrd Skynyrd's 'Sweet Home Alabama', Free's 'All Right Now', Gary Moore's 'Parisian Walkways', Cutting Crew's 'Died In Your Arms Tonight' and Rod Stewart's 'I Don't Wanna Talk About It').

Both the Good Old Boys and Omega 5 took to the stage taking turns twice, the former reappearing as a full band - with a surprisingly mature-voiced 19-year-old Jemma Bartlett added, whose rendition of Roberta Flack's 'The First Time Ever I Saw Your Face' will linger for quite a while in my ears. More covers by the band included the classic 'Superstition' and one Duffy's number. Omega 5 came up with more 70's and 80's stuff, namely Dire Strait's 'Money For Nothing', Deep Purple's 'Smoke on the Water', Lynyrd Skynyrd's 'Free Bird', Hendrix's 'Purple Haze', Steppenwolf's 'Born to Be Wild' and Guns'n'Roses' 'Sweet Child Of Mine' before concluding with a frenetic 'Johnny B. Good'. Well played, with a lot of electric and acoustic guitar work - but how about some original stuff, guys?

East of Memphis, the Scottish duo of Richie Henderson and Sheila McWhirter brought quality trad folk to the stage, cover-

ing standard folk numbers as well as modern pop ones, like Seal's 'Crazy'. It seemed like the whole place was vibrating colourfully while everyone sang along to "We're never gonna survive unless we get a little crazy", but it was Simon Dupree's psychedelic pop gem 'Kites' from 1967 that brought the duo's performance to its highest point, perfectly sung by Sheila's powerful but tender voice, accompanied by Richie's guitar. Other covers included compositions by The Everly Brothers, Ann Peebles, Simon & Garfunkel, Sandy Wright, Sonny & Cher, the Beatles and a modern rock surprise, the Killers' 'Human'.

OK, what about the headliners then? Well, here comes history itself. Steve Gibbons (yes, the same Steve Gibbons of the S.G. Band), Dave Pegg (when I met him at the band's reception I couldn't believe I was talking to the bassist whose band Jethro Tull along with the whole British prog thing made my teenage years a happy period to remember, and his other band Fairport Convention made me start investigating the roots of British folk when I first heard the tremendous Liege & Lief LP of folk covers), P.J. Wright, Steve Gibbons' guitarist (you should definitely check out his excellent collaboration with Dave Pegg titled 'Galileo's Apology') and an astounding Phil Bond on keyboards. This bunch of old mates is responsible for what is known as the Dylan Project, who cover Dylan better than Dylan himself now that the latter's voice has become hoarser than the old bluesmen and folk singers of his roots. I wouldn't really have to recite all the great numbers we heard on their well-focused, brilliantly worked out set, but one thing is for certain; Unless it's Dylan's poetry and word puns and tricks as well as a great band to perform, you wouldn't get middle-aged or even older people sing along and dance to lyrics like "everybody must get stoned" so happily at the square of Agios Ioannis in Corfu.

I hope - and I believe this is everybody's wish - that this year's Agiotfest is only the beginning. We need more, please. Or in Jethro Tull's own words we have "reasons for waiting and dreaming of dreams".

Colour photos on page 14

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Out of the Past and into the Future: The Ivi Spa brings Eternal Youth back to Acharavi

by Hilary Paipeti

In Roman times, a city called Ivi stood more or less where Acharavi is built today, one of three ancient settlements in North Corfu. When Antony and Cleopatra made their ill-fated attempt to usurp the Roman Empire from Octavian, the three cities were forced to take sides. Ivi chose wrongly, and after Antony's defeat at the Battle of Actium, the city was razed and its citizens slaughtered in punishment. But a few managed to escape by fleeing to the hills, establishing a new settlement at Eriva. Ivi was thereafter known as 'Unlucky Ivi' - in Greek 'Ahari Ivi', which became Acharavi.

Octavian's destruction of the city left few remains. At Almiros, an extensive graveyard, dating from even before the time of Ivi, has been excavated, while on the Roda side of the resort, a bath-house, uncovered many years ago, is now the only visible evidence that Acharavi was once a thriving community. The importance of the site is underlined by the white-washed church of Agios Stefanos, which stands nearby and which archaeologists believe is constructed on top of an ancient temple; the early Christians built their churches on older pagan sites not just because the act helped to institutionalise the new religion, but also because even more ancient wisdom, already half-remembered by the time the temple was built, had selected these holy sites for the presence of beneficial earth forces. Beside the existing church, one of the largest olive trees on the island may well be contemporary with the temple.

Few passing visitors - or indeed locals - are aware of the significance of this neighbourhood: the Sacred Tree symbolizing the plenty of the land, with its oil for anointing in the temple and in the bath-house; the temple to feed the soul; and the bath-house to cleanse the body. Since for the ancients the body WAS a 'temple', religious sites and bath-houses were often contiguous. For these reasons, this was surely one of the prime locations in the city of Ivi; indeed, it would have been the 'fount of life' which the name Ivi embodies (In English Hebe, the Greek goddess of Eternal Youth; Juventas in Latin).

Now Ivi has returned as a fount of life, with the opening of a new spa at the St. George's Bay Country Club at the Almiros end of Acharavi. In accordance with the name and nature of the nearby archaeological site, it is named the 'Ivi Spa', recalling the city's noble past, before its nemesis.

A statue of Ivi stands beside the entrance, and the interior is full of references to the Spa's long-gone predecessor, like Roman mosaic floor-tiles and columns. The pool melds state-of-the-art technology with the ambience of a

classical villa. The half-Olympic-size pool has a retracting roof for all-year-round use. One side comprises a wall of windows which catch the winter sunshine, whilst the two other walls look out through flower-draped forum arches over rolling countryside... but hang on! Shouldn't we be looking at Almiros over there? A double take and you discern that the walls are painted in a trompe l'oeil effect, so realistic that you feel you could pluck the hibiscus and smell the roses. The old stones and flat Roman bricks that edge the base of the arches also turn out to be faux. The artist is a graduate of the Tirana School of Fine Art, and I bet Michelangelo would have hired him if he'd been around in Renaissance Italy!

Along with the pool, the ground floor comprises a resting room looking out over the hotel's gardens (real this time!), and saunas and showers of various kinds. You can lie in comfort on heated tile couches, or at the other extreme can you can tip buckets of arctic water over your head.

The upper level contains rooms for specific treatments and therapies: various types of massage, manicures, pedicures and others - see the panel on the right. The Ivi Spa is open throughout winter every day except Monday, and the seasonally-reduced fee gives you free use of the pool and lower floor facilities (saunas etc). Therapies requiring specialist staff are extra.

The Spa is the largest and best equipped on the island and is run with an environmentally friendly geothermic system. The seawater pool, at a constant 28 degrees, is supplied from an underground source, and chemicals are kept to a minimum.

Plans for next winter involve opening the adjacent hotel for weekends; the rooms are heated and the reception area has a



lounge for communal activities. Acharavi centre, within walking distance, has all-year-round services, including tavernas, and a weekend package can include Sunday Lunch at the Invisible Kitchen, just a few minutes drive away. For lovers of the Great Outdoors, a number of waymarked trails form a walking network centred on the town and taking you deep into its hinterland.

Over the aeons and sometimes against the odds, Acharavi has succeeded in reinventing itself time and time again. The Ivi Spa represents both another transition and a return to a glorious past. Nowadays, far from being 'unlucky', Acharavi is the town of eternal youth.



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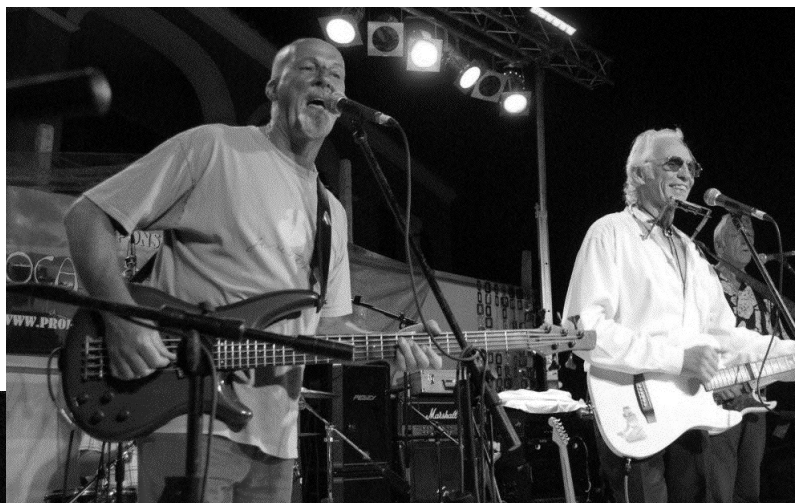
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Ivi Spa

AGIOTFEST



Above left: Steve Gibbons, Dylan Project lead vocal.

Above right: Dave Pegg (left) and Steve.

Left: Omega 5

Photos by Spiros Hytiris

Good enough to eat!

I was in need of some olive oil, and as I happened to be passing through Moraitika, I stopped off at the Nyssos outlet to buy some direct from the makers. Entering the shop, with food on my mind, I spotted what I thought was a new gourmet product. A table was piled high with lusciously-coloured jellies and creamy-looking cakes, all about the size and shape of a large block of halvvas. They all looked very appetizing!

Good thing I didn't have a surreptitious nibble though - coz all of it was... soap!

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Coconut... for vitality.

Olive Grains and Almond... for cellulite.

Strawberry... to scavenge free radicals and for rejuvenation.

I asked for some Kumquat, and Mrs Stamatelou sliced a piece off the block and wrapped it in cellophane for me. It turned out to be a great latherer with a delicate orangey scent.

Feel free to try Coffee and Kahlua - then you might, you never know, be good enough to eat!!!



When the Swallows leave

🌿 *Anthemis*

When the swallows leave you know that summer is officially over. The event usually takes place towards the end of the first week in September, and one is given plenty of notice of their impending departure: a lot more noisy chirping and chirruping than usual, while they gather on the nearby telephone wires, where more arrive every day. Suddenly on a moment, there is complete silence and then a lead bird takes off, followed by a vast black triangle of all the swallows of the neighbourhood. It is a very dramatic and moving sight if you are lucky enough to be on the spot when this happens.

I have 18 nests in the eaves of the terrace roof and a fine mess the birds make all summer, so that if we choose to eat outside we have to be careful where we place our table and chairs. Now we can wash down the walls and probably repaint them, and even dispose of the more tattered nests. But beware: if you remove them all, the birds will NEVER return.

After a few brief thunderstorms, the garden has greened up. But ten centimetres down the earth is still as dry as midsummer and one must contain one's impatience for any serious new planting until after the really heavy rains of late autumn. Meanwhile, there is still a lot of colour about, like the oleanders blooming their heads off in every variation of red, pink, white, yellow and peach, the last two particularly beautiful. Plumbago is also going strong, billowing over banks and paths, white and pale blue and a very beautiful darker blue. They do particularly well in sea air and if they are looking a bit straggly and underflowed, just given them a clip over which along with the cooler weather will give them a new spurt of life.

My cannas are at their best at this time. They need a lot of water and regular dead-heading, and have to be cut down to the ground if no more buds are coming along. Otherwise, they can look dreadfully shabby. I only have a lovely pale yellow and a rose pink variety, and as they need a lot of grooming they are only placed in a few spots where they can be easily seen, tended to and admired, such as outside my study and bedroom windows.

Many Salvias are at their best at this time of year, and before you groan 'Ugh!' at the thought of those bright red rows of municipal park plantings, let me tell you that it is a genus of no less than 900 species of the Labiatae family and closely related to other scented herbs such as rosemary, lavender, mint, marjoram and many more. Over 500 species of Salvia are found in the Americas and the rest are spread all over the temperate and sub-tropical areas of the world except for Australia. The genus is very diverse, from dwarf shrubs suitable for the rock garden to large herbaceous perennials over two metres high. The common sage - *Salvia officinalis* - has long been used to heal ulcers and other skin problems. I was lucky enough in my early days here to have a local village woman as a Home Help, and she taught me a lot about the uses of the local wild plants - weeds to most people. Anyway, I am mad about Salvias and have some spectacular species just coming into flower. The grandest of all, in my opinion, is *Salvia guaranitica* which originates from South America, but I was lucky enough to be given a cutting from an English garden. It will reach over two metres in good soil, par-

tially shaded and well watered. The dark green leafy stems support numerous branching spikes of intense royal blue flowers. Fabulous! Another South American treasure is *Salvia madrensis* - a Mexican native although, mine were acquired from an Athenian garden. This is another monster of well over two metres, with stout ribbed stems and large dark green leaves. The yellow flowers appear on whorls along long spikes from October onwards.

A smaller autumn treasure is *Salvia rutilans* with spikes of soft red flowers, sometimes known as the Pineapple sage as the leaves when crushed smell strongly of the fruit and make a pleasant tisane sweetened with honey. After these giants, I have a tiny pet autumn flowering one - *Liriope muscari*, an evergreen grassy-like clump with mauve spikes resembling grape hyacinth and which turn into shiny blue caviar-like seed heads: a very good edger or one for a difficult corner.

The roses have suffered hideously in the recent intense heat but apart from cutting out obviously dead branches, it is better to leave well alone until the serious autumn rains. Then I have plans for some serious emigrations.

I had my first persimmon the other day - absolutely delicious, but even without the fruit, the autumn leaf colouring is spectacular. They can be found as two-metre-high plants at the Ropa Valley nursery. They do, however, need regular watering for their first few years.

I hope you are making great compost heaps from all your prunings, or preparing for bonfires when the weather permits. Anyone with a sizeable garden should acquire a motorised shredder. All prunings and weeds are devoured by this monster for instant piling around the beds and around shrubs. At least 20 cms deep is not too much and you'll be amazed at the moisture and heat it generates. It soon rots down and you can keep piling the stuff on. Common annual weeds stand no chance under this blanket. This treasure can be found at Tsiringakis on the right-hand side of the port road, more or less opposite the new customs house. Its front courtyard is full of serious machinery and the after-sales service is excellent.

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Historic Concert at Ionian Academy

✍ Peter Anthony Wheeler

I am pleased to announce that a concert by the international Israeli soprano Idit Arad will take place at the Ionian Academy (next to the Cavalieri Hotel) on 25th October 2009. This historic venue will be the setting for an evening of Spanish songs by de Falla, Granados and Rodrigo, along with operatic arias by Verdi, Bizet and Boito. Of special interest will be the rarely performed 'Cuatro Canciones Sefardies' of Rodrigo, which employ Ladino, a rare Sephardic Jewish dialect, once the lingua franca of, amongst others, the many Jews living in pre-war Thessaloniki.

Idit Arad studied at the Federico Davia Opera Centre and under the legendary Vera Rozsa in London. Vera Rozsa has mythic status in the world of opera and her former pupils include Dame Kiri Te Kanawa, Anne Sofie von Otter, Sarah Walker and Karita Mattila.

After many appearances in opera and recital, and a successful CD 'Alma Espanola' which focuses on the Spanish repertoire, in 2007 Mme Arad was Antigone in 'The Burial At Thebes', an adaptation of Sophocles' 'Antigone'; it had the rare distinction of being written and directed by two Nobel Prize winning poets: Seamus Heaney and Derek Walcott.

The concert on 25th October will be a chance for the audience to hear a repertoire that is rarely performed on Corfu, along with many favourite arias in a wonderful setting. Pianist for the evening will be the well known local accompanist Marilena Eloul.

As producer of the concert, I look forward to seeing you all there for what promises to be a memorable evening.

Ticket prices are from €12-15. For further details please call on 6996 009133 or email pwcfuster@gmail.com



Nicola Taramanidou

After a long and courageous fight against cancer, our Nicola died in Ioannina Hospital on 18 September. Nicola, a Manchester lass and keen supporter of United, was cheerful to the last, and most of us did not know how serious was her case although she had been going for treatment at fortnightly intervals for many months. She taught at a local frontisterio and was dearly loved by all her pupils; they are shattered at their loss. We all shall miss her deeply. Agios Ioannis is not the same without Nicola's happy presence.

Lionel Mann

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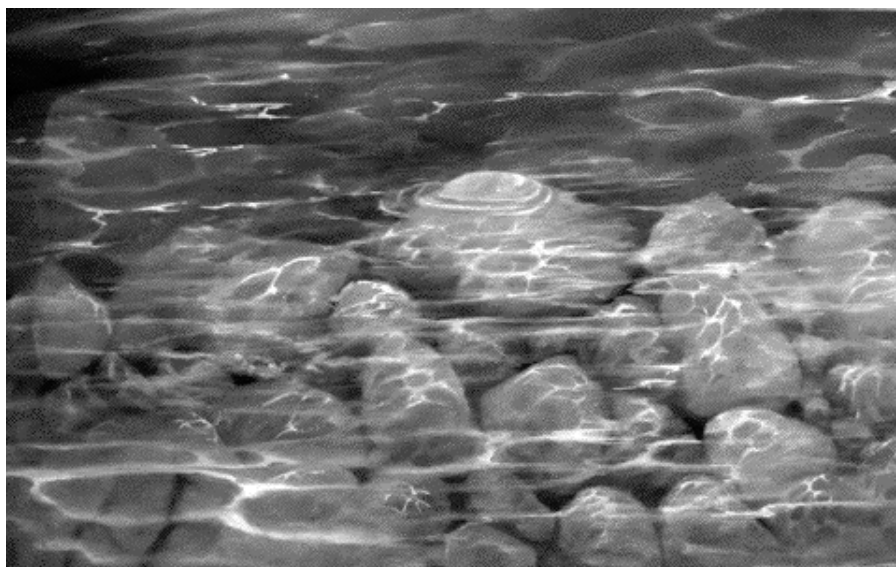
at Le Feuille d'Or
Sofokleous Dousmani 3, Corfu Town
22 October - 19 November

Born in England in 1957 into a multi-talented artistic family, Caroline was often described as 'the child who had been born with a paintbrush in her mouth'. Brought up in an environment steeped in all aspects of art and theatre, it was not surprising that on finishing school she went on to do a foundation year in Fine Art. After the foundation year she decided to specialise in Theatre Design at Wimbledon School of Art, which gave her free reign to explore and develop her many different talents.

The long summer breaks from College gave her an opportunity to return to Corfu, where she had spent many happy holidays as a child, to work; and in 1979 she decided to move permanently to the island.

1984 saw her first solo exhibition in Corfu, followed by several group exhibitions. By 1990, as the demands of her young family lessened, she started to work as a commercial muralist. Her first commission was the 'Venetian Well' restaurant, which she has reworked and developed several times over the following years. There are numerous examples of Caroline's work in Corfu, the Ionian islands and Athens.

By the mid 1990's her work attracted international attention and commissions followed in England and the Caribbean. Most people associate murals with painting on walls but Caroline took trompe l'oeil to a new level, with her first commission to paint the floor of the Hotel Janos's swimming pool at Lefkada Marina. The theme was pebbles and sand and it was so realistic that, once it was filled with water, the management received a complaint from a guest about 'how dangerous it was to put rocks in a swimming pool.' He took some convincing that it was a painting!



The success of the commercial work took its toll on her primary love of developing her painting and she has been under pressure for several years, from both clients and friends, to hold another exhibition.

The exhibition at Le Feuille d'Or will include both new and past works, landscapes, portraits, still lifes and several paintings from private collections. Also featured will be her new project, where she deals with the challenges of paintings depicting pebbles under water. With their fascinating interplay of light and shade, her paintings are known for the dramatic feelings they invoke.

When asked once where she gets her inspiration from she replied simply: 'I need to paint.' She refers to the quote by Gerhardt Richter: 'What strengthens me is that painting is not a strange hobby. It is a fundamental human activity - despite all the errors, paintings can in principle manifest our best most human and humane qualities.'

Suzie Card Clarke

An exhibition of works by Suzie Card Clarke took place at the Art Cafe Gallery from 16 September to 30 September. The exhibition, entitled 'Germination' was Suzie's first and featured some of her poetry as well as works in oil, watercolour and collage. Reproductions of her painting in medium format and as greetings cards were also on display.

As well as paintings of old people and local scenes, Suzie's work featured conceptual art which employed Chinese and Sanskrit letters.



A Home from Home

✍ **Lionel Mann**

Having spent most of my working life in employment that provided accommodation, and upon retirement therefore needing to find a home, I moved into a comfortable apartment in a quiet little country town. Within six weeks it had been burgled, and amongst other things I lost all recordings of fifty years' music-making with various choirs and orchestras, though I cannot imagine what value they held for the thieves.

In due course, the local council suggested that I should move into 'Sheltered Accommodation for the Elderly', and found a suitable location in a nearby city. The new first floor apartment, one of thirty, was very well appointed, having all the 'essential' fittings: electronic locking of both main door and apartment door; alarm cords in every room; instant telephone communication to and from security with regular checks. Additionally I was warned, "You ought not to go out at night; you'll be mugged." Land of Hope and Glory? Great (or Lesser) Britain at the end of the twentieth century. For the past sixty years I have witnessed the country declining into barbarism.

My fellow pensioners were a mixed bunch, but I found plenty of congenial company and the staff were attentive yet not intrusive. However, after a few months the relative seclusion became oppressive; I went to a nearby travel agent, "Anywhere around the Med?"

"There's a tour leaving for Corfu next week."

I had never before visited the island. To those who know the place, perhaps a fortnight package-tour to Ipsos in September might sound somewhat unattractive, but doubtless because of my age I was allocated to a room in a pleasant villa at the back of the village, almost into Agios Markos, well away from the glaring lights, the screaming music and the incessant din. My first sun-drenched week was spent exploring the island; I liked what I saw. The second equally glorious week was occupied in finding somewhere to live. In those days my bank had a branch here and they put me in touch with an estate agent who found me a little place in his home village, Agios Ioannis.

One month back in the U.K. was plenty long enough to make arrangements for permanent departure. I have never returned.

Any British national who comes to settle here must of course first comply with immigration formalities, but those are not unreasonable, aided by membership of the European Union. It is understandable that the authorities should insist that any immigrant will become neither a financial nor a health burden. He/she also needs to wear away the suspicion with which the locals view Brits, because the Corfiots have long suffered a plague of drunken louts, loafers, spongers and tricksters. My pension and state of health amply satisfied requirements and it was not long before my neighbours had accepted me, become friends.

I learnt enough Greek for very basic communication and to go shopping at the local supermarket, although that was hardly nec-

essary as I discovered that almost everyone that I met spoke also English or German. However, in my first three years I had Greek lessons from three different local teachers. None prepared their lessons and all taught different 'Greek', so that when I went to the supermarket, having first consulted a dictionary, it was somewhat disconcerting, not to say discouraging, to be told, "We don't call it that, it's xxx here." I have reached the conclusion that there is no completely standard form of Greek; it is just left to each individual to make up his/her own language and to hope that others will understand, especially if it is shouted loudly enough. Both my supposedly reputable dictionaries show numerous discrepancies when one compares the Greek-English and English-Greek sections. I now know just enough for everyday needs.

At first I went walking daily, even occasionally the ten kilometres to Pelekas and back. I seldom met anyone else on these jaunts and mentioned it to the fourteen-year-old daughter of my Greek neighbours.

"Oh, no. We don't walk; we just eat and grow fat," was her reply.

Later I took to cycling, my route generally restricted to the comparatively flat Ropa Valley and to Ermones Beach, walking the very steep last hundred metres. Eventually age supervened and even the gentle gradients of those routes became too steep. Now I simply stroll short distances, and use the bus services when necessary. Quite often friends of all nationalities, passing in a car and seeing me trudging to the bus stop, will give me a lift to Town. I share my weekly shopping expedition with my business friends, whose Landrover offers sufficient space for all our purchases.

In Agios Ioannis there is a considerable sprinkling of English, Dutch and Germans, and I was soon approached to teach English to their children, which extended to other subjects when I observed the inadequacies of the local system. This led to becoming involved with a Greek-English family who were launching a villa-rental concern. When I was visiting their home to teach their sons, it became obvious that they were never going to meet the tourist season deadline in renovating an ancient ruin into a modern villa with patio and pool. One of my earliest visits to their place had been for a Guy Fawkes celebration (the Greeks think us mad!) where the bonfire was on the site of the villa's proposed pool. I enjoy carpentry and offered to help, but I never anticipated giving 256 little fillets for glazing windows and doors six coats of paint, a primer, two undercoats, three gloss, and then fitting the glass. We finished all the work with five minutes to spare before the first visitors arrived, but it was a hectic scramble!

One thing led to another. The business has grown and I have graduated pleasantly through garden-watering, odd-job man, patio-sweeping, pool-cleaning, to becoming office manager, peering for hours at a computer screen, but also meeting every year an exciting mix of visitors staying at our steadily increasing number of villas.

I also spent a couple of years as organist at the Anglican Church in Town, where I installed a large electronic organ, until I was made redundant by a new chaplain who fancied himself as the Elvis of Corfu. I removed the organ to my apartment, but the

Catholic Cathedral caught me on the rebound; for four years I played there until the Archbishop, with whom I enjoyed a very good working relationship, retired. With my eightieth birthday approaching, I called a halt to early rising to catch a bus into Town and needing to wait until five hours later for the return to the village, although Mass lasted little more than an hour. However, it is fatal to spend ones retirement in idleness - a sure way to an early grave - and I am very lucky to have my tourism interest as well as need of daily music practice for occasional performances.

One evening about eight years ago I was having my dinner out on my veranda when a stray cat approached and politely asked for a share. It was the beginning of a 'family' that at present numbers ten, although none of the earliest members has survived. It would be a very foolhardy rat, mouse or snake that came anywhere near my place, but unfortunately a cat's life-span here is usually no more than three or four years; there are very many hazards. Local dogs are very respectful though, after a number of scratched noses.

Over the years, through membership of a UK book club, I have built up a considerable library and therefore spend much leisure time reading. EuroNews is my chief TV viewing, perhaps as much as thirty minutes daily, but there are one or two Greek programmes that show international documentaries that sometimes catch my attention. The local taverna is conveniently only twenty metres from my apartment; I visit to sample their delicious ethnic cooking when I want a break from preparing a meal.

Many UK expatriates who have settled here still spend a great deal of their time at cosy clubs of their own nationality. They do not know what they are missing; I have found it very rewarding to become a member of the local community, to join in their celebrations, to share in their mourning, to be welcomed to family events. I have seen others come for a few months, even a year or two, but then leave because there is not a supermarket in the next street, a bingo hall round the corner, a burger bar next door or a disco down the road. Corfu is not Little Britain and nobody, least of all the Corfiots, wants it ever to sink that low. This island has its own ancient culture, its own unique way of life, and its inhabitants firmly resist attempts to vandalise their heritage in the way that the UK has suffered.

Corfu is an ideal place for retirement, provided that one's health and finances are both sound. With the collapse of the pound, my UK state pension has lost one-third of its original value, and I am exceptionally fortunate in having a means of augmenting it. The generally warm climate suits old bones, and though we have plenty of rain in the winter it usually comes in short very sharp bursts, not in days of monotonous drizzle. Thunderstorms are really spectacular! Twice in my fifteen years here we have had snow; it started at nine in the evening and by eleven every child in the village, and most of the adults too, were out snow-balling. By ten the next morning all had

gone, except on the highest hills. Even in the depth of winter the sun has real power, although an icy wind often blows from the snow-covered mainland mountains.

Additionally, there is virtually no crime. I cannot remember when I last removed the key from my door. Even the oldest and youngest wander around in complete safety at any hour of day or night - as long as they watch out for the Corfiots who are training for Formula One!

There are those who complain or leave because they reckon that health care in Corfu does not equate to the UK's National Health Service. I have seen persons here caught with medical emergencies who have recovered as the result of first-rate treatment, while the current record of the NHS is nothing to boast about.

Persons with young children would be advised not to settle. UK education is certainly in a parlous state, but in Corfu it is even worse. It is essential to augment the mornings-only state system by costly afternoon and/or evening study at one or more of the plethora of private schools that exist for that purpose, but these do not adequately fill the gap. One of my former pupils has recently left to pursue a course of science at a British university. The unfortunate is now encountering considerable difficulty, has been called back during holidays to fill gaps in his experience. In his Corfu school he had never set foot in a laboratory, never handled chemicals or scientific instruments such as I did from the age of eleven and my pupils from the age of eight. All is learnt from a textbook; there is a single series of books for each subject used countrywide, very narrow and inadequate. "If it isn't in the book it didn't happen," a ten-year-old questioning the absence of reference to the early Viking settlements in America was told by his teacher. Much ignorance exists here.

Anybody still of working age would need to be very industrious, to possess a required skill and to have good economic backing in order to settle here. Most ambitious Corfiot youngsters seek their future elsewhere. There are persons too indolent or incompetent to hold a job in the UK who come here claiming an expertise and thinking to spend their lives boozing and doing a minimum of work. Very few survive for long. The Corfiots are not fools!

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INFORMATION

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

EMERGENCY TELEPHONES

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

CONSULATES

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

CHURCHES

Anglican (Holy Trinity Church): 21
Mavili St. Tel. & Fax: 26610 31467.
email: holytrin@otenet.gr
Website: www.holytrinitycorfu.net
Sundays 10.30 Holy Communion &
Children's Sunday School. 1st, 3rd &
5th Sundays at 7pm: Songs of Praise
Roman Catholic Cathedral of St
James: Town Hall Square. Sunday
Mass at 8.30, 10.00 & 19.00
Evangelical Church of Greece: 3
Iakovou Polila St. Tel.: 26610 37304.
Sunday Morning Service 11.00.
Evening Service 7.30. email: EV-CH-
OF-CO@ker.forthnet.gr

SPORTS

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

MEDICAL SERVICES

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

Regional National Health Surgeries

Agios Mattheos 26610 75110
Gastouri 26610 56153
Giannades 26610 51210
Kastellani 26610 54333
Kato Garouna 26610 53000
Strongili 26610 75200
Agros 26630 71201
Ano Korakiana 26630 22123
Velonades 26630 71343
Gimari 26630 91395
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Need a reliable weather forecast?

A detailed five-day forecast is at:

www.corfunet.com/weather/index.php

IN CORFU TOWN

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM Diverse exhibition of Corfu's
archaeological heritage, including Gorgon Pediment. 1, Vraila St., near
Corfu Palace Hotel. Open 8.30-15.00 except Mondays
BYZANTINE ART MUSEUM Fabulous Byzantine and post-Byzantine
icons. Church of Antovouniotissa, just off Arseniou St. Open 8.30-15.00
except Mondays
MUNICIPAL ART GALLERY Corfu Artists of the 19th & 20th centu-
ry. Also changing exhibitions of modern art. Palace of Saint Michael and
Saint George, East Wing. Open 09.00-21.00
OLD FORTRESS Site of the original town, with battlements and bas-
tions and the best view of Corfu Town. **BYZANTINE ART MUSEUM**
and **MUSEUM COPIES SHOP** (closes 14.00). Entrance from the
Esplanade Square. Open every day, 08.30-19.00
NEW FORTRESS Built by the Venetians and British, a stunning work
of military engineering. **MUSEUM OF CERAMICS**. Entrance from
Solomos Street. Open every day, 10.00-19.00
PALACE OF SAINT MICHAEL & SAINT GEORGE Built in 1823
as seat of British government, with impressive official rooms. Contains
MUSEUM OF ASIAN ART, a world class collection of art objects
from far eastern countries, beautifully displayed and presented in con-
text. Esplanade Square, North End. Open 08.30-15.00. Closed Mondays
BRITISH CEMETERY Lovely garden containing graves from the
British Protectorate to the present. Interesting plants and trees, and fine
cemetery architecture. Entry is free - please leave a generous contribu-
tion to its upkeep. Kolokotroni Street. Open all day
VIDOS ISLAND Off Corfu Town, an extensive, traffic-free islet with
lots of walks and beaches, plus Serbian Mausoleum and fortresses. Good
restaurant. Caique service every half-hour from the Old Port until late
MON REPOS Birthplace of the Duke of Edinburgh. **MUSEUM OF**
ARCHAEOLOGY, REGENCY DESIGN AND BOTANY. Extensive
park with paths and ancient temples. Grounds open daily 08.00 - 18.00,
Museum open 08.30 - 15.00, closed Mondays
PATOUNIS SOAP FACTORY Traditional olive oil soap factory, over
100 years old. 9, Ioanni Theotoki Street, San Rocco Square. Open shop
hours. Tel. 26610 39806

IN THE COUNTRY

ACHILLION PALACE Corfu's most famous building displays memo-
rabilia of its previous owners, Empress Sissi of Austria and Kaiser
Wilhelm II of Germany, plus lovely gardens. Gastouri Village. Open
daily 08.00 - 19.00
FOLK MUSEUM OF CENTRAL CORFU A village house left intact
with its original decorations, furniture and fittings. Sinarades Village.
Open every day except Sunday 09.30 - 14.30. Tel. 26610 35673 / 44530
MUSEUM OF TRADITIONAL GREEK COSTUMES AND
CORFIOT FOLK MUSIC 40 years in the making, a unique collection
of traditional costumes from all over Greece, plus recordings of tradi-
tional songs. Pelekas, opposite the 'Graffiti Wall'. Open 10.00 to
13.30 or by advance notice.
PALEOKASTRITSA MONASTERY A small museum with icons and
other relics, as well as some curiosities. Paleokastritsa, end of the road
CORFU SHELL MUSEUM One of Europe's best museums dedicated
to the treasures of the sea. Thousands of exhibits, scientifically labelled.
Benitses Harbour Square, north end. Open every day 10.00 - 20.00
TRIKLINO VINEYARD Agricultural tradition and local products.
Video showing olive and wine production. Wine tasting, traditional
snacks and music. Walk through vineyards with panoramic views.
Karoubatika, on Pelekas Road, 6 km from Town. From 12.00 daily
CORFU DONKEY RESCUE Charity that takes care of old abandoned
and abused donkeys. Phone 6947 375992. Gavrolimni, near Poulades -
follow the signs
KASSIOPI CASTLE Ruins of a medieval castle stand on the headland
above the harbour of Kassiopi. Access is indicated from near the
Harbour Square. Currently under reconstruction.
ANGELOKASTRO Dramatic ruins of a Byzantine castle, capping a
rocky peak. Currently being reconstructed. Near Krini
GARDIKI FORTRESS Extensive ruins of a Byzantine fort, located
near the village of Agios Mattheos in the south. Reach it by taking the
road to Lake Korission.
GARDIKI CAVE Occupied by humans around 20,000 BC, near
Gardiki Fortress. Reached by a short path from the road between Agios
Mattheos and Paramonas.

Five Crucial Components of Web Design

There are five crucial components of web design that you must focus on in order to make a site valuable to its visitors and successful for you.

- SEO (Search Engine Optimisation) - Getting free - as opposed to pay per click - traffic to your site.
- Usability - Ease of navigation around the site in order to find the information you need as quickly as possible.
- Aesthetics - Visual appeal.
- Content - Valid, up-to-date, relevant information.
- Graphics - Images that relay relevant visual information to the visitor.

SEO SEO is the art of designing a site in a way that gives the site an advantage in obtaining free and abundant traffic. The number one aspect of SEO is selecting keywords relevant to your site. The keywords you select should be based on high usage, low competition and relevancy to your topic; this requires detailed research. Once you select your keywords you can then begin the development of your site. Keep in mind keywords are a critical aspect of the design and that the keywords you choose should be applied within the design in strategic fashion to benefit the flow of traffic to your site.

Truetype Web Solutions has an outstanding local reputation for SEO and most of our sites are at the top of the search engines for their chosen keywords.

Usability Your website must be easy to navigate and designed in a way that makes it easy to find information. Visitors will not stay long if it takes more than one or two clicks to get the information they want. One of the goals of your site design should be to keep usability as easy as possible. Provide both simple, intuitive and consistent site navigation, and logical, simple to follow content.

Truetype Web Solutions always design with the visitor in mind and ease of navigation is a major priority.

Aesthetics A website should look clean and uncomplicated. Pleasing aesthetics are achieved when the colours of a site complement each other and any graphics you use blend harmoniously with the overall theme and layout. Many web designers view a web page as an opportunity to blast a visitor with lots of information in the hope that this will convince them to take action. Usually it just results in a quick exit due to the overwhelming visual effect and complicated look.

Truetype Web Solutions' design mantra is "Less is More" and it's with this in mind that we continue to produce clean and attractive web pages.

Content An important feature of any website is the quality of the text content. Visitors come to a site expecting to find answers to their questions, solutions to their problems or for entertainment value. The content offered on your site should be well-written and without grammatical or spelling errors. It also has to be relevant to the theme of your site, with valid, up-to-date information for your visitors.

Truetype Web Solutions takes great pride in turning out well written site content in a number of languages. As native speakers we have a definite edge over some of our competitors.

Graphics The necessary companions to any well-designed site are the images and illustrations that grace its pages. These images should support your branding and communicate the message you are trying to convey. Before you incorporate graphic elements into your site, take some time to look around the web. Notice what looks good and how they are laid out. Adopt these layouts as models for your site.

Truetype Web Solutions can call on the services of a professional graphic designer, as well as providing high class photography and video to enhance your site.

Truetype Web Solutions' speciality is designing and optimising cheap, but highly efficient and visible websites. Our websites enjoy high rankings on the search engines and we are proud of our close personal relationship with all our clients. We also offer a FREE and objective analysis of your existing website, pointing out any defects and suggesting ways in which it could be improved. If you have any queries regarding your site or our services, please don't hesitate to get in touch with us. You can also visit our website where you will find a wealth of information about website design, search engines and the Internet, as well as a portfolio of some of our latest work.

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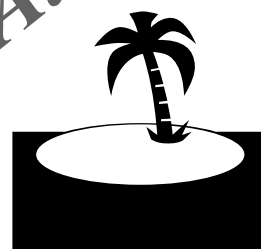
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