

The Corfiot

Corfu's English Language Monthly Magazine

September 2008

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No. 213

In the Deep South

Halcyon Days
in the Ionian

Information

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ear to the ground

READING THE PARANOID BLABBERINGS OF BLOGGERS IN THE TELEGRAPH'S ONLINE COMMENT PAGE is a great way of catching up with all the latest global conspiracy theories. Remember, though, the paranoid's double negative answer: Just because I'm paranoid doesn't mean they're not out to get me... and recent events in Lefkimmi give some credence to the rants. Just because they're fruitcakes doesn't mean what they're warning us of won't happen.

Regular readers will remember that, since the start of the year, increasingly virulent protests have been directed at the construction of a new rubbish dump between Lefkimmi and Kavos in the deep south of the island. Demands are for the dump to function with full recycling facilities so that the area and its water supply will not be damaged.

However, not only has the Greek State ignored the democratic rights of the local populace to have a say about their own surroundings, but they sent in the dreaded MAT - armed riot police - against women and children. One woman died during the protests when a motor bike went out of control, allegedly after its young rider was walloped by a MAT officer as he drove past. The boy has been accused of causing the woman's death - and to rub salt in the wound was also paralysed in the incident. Last week, they arrested a prominent priest on accusations of inciting terrorism. Does this sound like a police state to you as well?

This takes us back to the blogs. One of the more widespread themes relates to the Treaty of Lisbon, aka the European Union Constitution. Apparently (I've not read it) the Constitution makes it a criminal offence to criticise the EU. It also provides for the formation of an armed European police force which will over-ride any national force to (I am loosely quoting the bloggers here) enforce the totalitarian socialist-fascist state that is coming soon. This explains (say the bloggers) why the UK police have been emasculated and crime has been allowed to run rampant - so they will be welcomed as vital peacekeepers!

Which brings us back to the Lefkimmi dump protests. Heavily armed riot police against villagers (who I assume have a constitutional right to protest)? Is this the first rumble of the coming storm? Are they practising on Lefkimmi?

For surely the cost of the months' long MAT deployment could have paid for a full recycling facility many times over.

DRIVING BACK FROM LEFKIMMI LATE ONE NIGHT RECENTLY, we were the third car to stop at the scene of an accident. A young local couple on a motor bike had clipped a car at high speed, and both had slid nearly 50 metres down the road. A guy was already directing traffic very efficiently, but apart from calling the police and ambulance no-one appeared to know how to help the injured. Luckily, we did; and a life may have been saved

with just some basic, non-medical measures.

And no thanks to the local 'services'. The police, who arrived fairly fast, were ineffectual, and our civilian traffic-director had to continue his job while they just stood around. The ambulance took an hour and five minutes from Corfu Town to Perivoli - a drive I can manage in 45 minutes, in daytime, in a small car, without undue hurry and with no lights and sirens (Once informed by phone, the young man's brother took *only 20 minutes* to arrive from Town). Worse, none of the three state doctors at the Lefkimmi clinic (five minutes away) would come out to administer first aid, despite being asked to by the police, and refusing even the entreaties of the brother.

The Greek State is able send the MAT to Lefkimmi quickly when it suits, but it can't send an ambulance there in good time.

The young couple, by the way, are recovering in hospital and will be fine. See inside for a cut-out-and-keep guide to how you can help in the case of a road accident.

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE, WE FOLLOW PETE AND SARAH BUTTON as they continue their sailing trip through the Ionian in search of traces of the Greek gods. I head out towards Lefkimmi, not in pursuit of the MAT but to re-explore one of my favourite areas of Corfu. We also meet a couple who recently settled in another glorious part of our island. We've not been able to get an interview yet with Deborah Lawrenson - author of *Songs of Blue and Gold*, the new novel set in Corfu - as promised in last month's issue, but that's something we can still look forward to in next month's issue!



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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

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 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.

Revd. Dr. Clifford Owen will be finishing his time in Corfu on October 31st

This month's name days

01. Athina, Angelis, Antigoni, Aspasia, Afroditi, Kleopatra, Margarita, Marianthi, Simeon

14. Stavros

Important fiesta day. Festival at the village of Stavros

15. Nikitas

17. Agapi, Elpida, Sofia

18. Ariadni

20. Evstathios

23. Polixeni

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.

The Winter Walking Season begins on Saturday, 27 September with a stroll in Mon Repos Park, and visit to the Museum if desired. Meet at 11am at the Park gate. Dogs allowed.

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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). 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.

NEWS

Protests continue in Lefkimmi *Priest arrested*

Running battles continued in Lefkimmi throughout the evening of Saturday, 9 August between riot police and locals protesting against the construction of a rubbish dump in the area.

According to the locals, the dump is illegal under EU law as it is too close to homes and adjacent to a river.

The fights broke out after the locals informed the police in writing that they intended to reopen access to their land, and the police prevented them. Clashes ensued, during which the police released tear gas and the locals set a police vehicle alight. Later, the locals marched on the Lefkimmi police station, where they threw molotov cocktails.

The next day at dawn, the police arrested two Lefkimmiots, one of them a local priest Orthodox priest, who was charged with 'inciting terrorism.' The court case against him was postponed until January.

Rare painting found in Corfu's Asian Museum

An original painting by Toshusai Sharaku, a Japanese master of ukiyo-e woodblock printing from the Edo period (1603–1867), has been discovered in the collection of Corfu's Museum of Asian Art. The painting depicts known actors - Matsumoto Koshiro IV and Matsumoto Yonesaburo - performing in a kabuki play, Kanadehon Chushingura. International experts have examined and authenticated the work, and believe it be based on a May 1795 production of the play.

Sharaku created a series of paintings featuring actors for about 10 months toward the end of his career but was believed to have stopped making ukiyo-e prints at the beginning of 1795. The painting in the collection, which is fan-shaped with a foldable edge of 17.4 cm (6.9 in), disproves that assumption.

'Sharaku's prints usually give the impression he was trying to show the uniqueness of his style by emphasizing the actors' facial expressions, but in this picture we can see a more restrained approach,' said Professor Tadashi Kobayashi, who helped authenticate the work. 'This will be an important work for helping us to reevaluate the essence of his style and who he really was.'

The Museum contains a world class collection of thousands of art objects from China, Japan, India and other far eastern countries. They are beautifully displayed and presented, with simple and astonishingly well written explanations putting the items in a historical and artistic context. It is housed in the Palace of Saint Michael & Saint George, Esplanade Square and is open daily 08.30-15.00, closed Mondays

Pool 'burns' damages pending

Eight Britons whose holidays were 'ruined' by chemical burns received from a hotel pool in Corfu have been told that they could receive thousands of pounds in compensation.

Tour operator Thomas Cook admitted liability and is negotiating damages with holidaymakers, who suffered 'excruciating' skin complaints after swimming at the Roda Beach Hotel in the north of the island.

Glen Thurlow, 42, from Hertfordshire, said he and his six-year-old son, Mark, were forced to go to bed with blisters just hours after arriving at the resort.

'We had received a note saying there were problems with the pool,' he said, 'but we were assured it was safe to swim.'

'My boy and I jumped in but within hours were left in the most excruciating pain. I lost three or four layers of skin in some parts. It really was quite terrifying. After receiving treatment we were told our skin had suffered a reaction with the chemicals. The holiday was ruined for my son, my wife and me.'

Another 40 holidaymakers who suffered less serious injuries were also reported to be pursuing claims.

Jenny Brooks, the solicitor who represented the Thurlows, said: 'We are still unsure how this pool was allowed to be contaminated.'



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The most unusual museum in Corfu?

The Church of Agios Prokopios near Kavos seems a strange location for a museum that appears to be dedicated to war. But if you examine the background to the collection, it actually celebrates not destruction but the preservation of life and the courage of the people of Lefkimmi.

The museum comprises a collection of objects and documents which relate to an incident in WW2 when a B-17 Flying Fortress bomber crash-landed at Alikes near Lefkimmi. At the time, the German army was in occupation, but by the time soldiers arrived, locals had already hidden the nine American crewmen (and stripped quite a few useful parts off the plane). The Lefkimmiots, despite immense danger to themselves, took care of the young Americans, none of whom was hurt, by hiding them in their houses and feeding them with a portion of their meagre rations. At times, there was an American in the attic and a German in the room below!

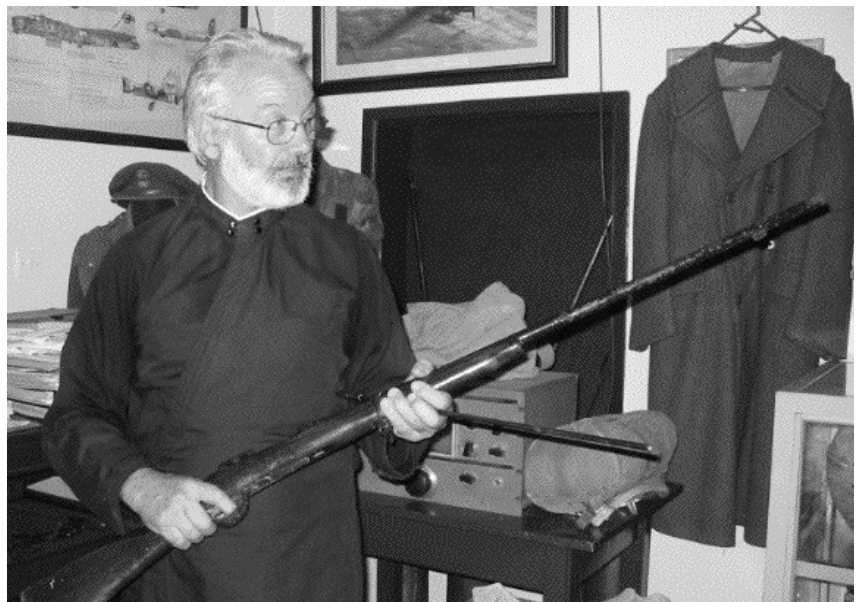
After six weeks, they transported them to Kontokali from where - in another act of courage - some fishermen rowed them across to Albania where they linked up with Resistance forces.

Papaspiros Monastiriotis, priest at Agios Prokopios, has collected parts of the B-17 and has them on display in a church out-building, along with uniforms and other mementoes, including books, letters and photographs. Many of the crew returned regularly after the war to thank the heroes who risked all for the sake of their freedom.

The museum is not open regular hours due to Papaspiros' work commitments, but if you are in the Lefkimmi area to try and visit.

Top: The monument where the plane went down near Alikes

Bottom: Papaspiros holds a rifle made by Lefkimmi craftsmen using the drive-shaft of a German army vehicle



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EVENTS

Agios Ioannis Music Week

Concerts at Villa Theodora in Agios Ioannis this year will be:

Tuesday, 2 September CLASSICAL Elke Hornig (Flutes) & Dr. Lionel Mann (Organ)

Thursday, 4 September POP CONCERT Richie Henderson (Popmaster)

Saturday, 6 September PARTY NIGHT Russ Bartlett and the Good Old Boys

All concerts start at 8 pm. Admission is 15 euros and includes a hot meal served in the concert interval. Admission also includes a complimentary drink and a cash bar will also be available.

ELKE HORNIG studied flute with Hans-Jurgen Pincus at Hamburg Conservatory from 1976 to 1980. She has played as soloist and as a member with orchestras and chamber ensembles, performing music ranging from early Baroque up to contemporary. Elke lives part of the year in Corfu and, also a very accomplished artist, has regularly exhibited both here and in Germany.

A church chorister and playing the pianoforte from the age of six, later the viola and oboe, LIONEL MANN envisaged becoming an orchestral musician or conductor until he was pitched at the tender age of twelve and at three hours' notice into becoming organist and choirmaster of a church choir of twenty-four boys. They were locally famous, determined to remain so, and therefore made sure that he quickly learned his job. He was completely hooked! Following some very unmilitary military service, he studied from 1948 to 1952 at the Royal College of Music with Dr. Harold Darke (organ), Dr. William Lloyd Webber (theory, composition), Dr. Thornton Lofthouse (harpsichord, continuo), Dr. Edgar Cooke (choir-training, liturgy). After holding church and cathedral appointments, Lionel became a concert organist in 1970 and, also having scholastic appointments, has performed for radio and television with orchestras and choral societies in Britain and New Zealand. Dr. Mann 'retired' to Corfu in 1994 and has since been quite busy making music, teaching and helping with tourism.

The electronic organ used in this performance is the smaller of Dr. Mann's two Ahlborn instruments. Its twenty-five registers reproduce with good fidelity the tone of a typical mid-eighteenth-century German instrument; it has slightly larger specification than had J.S. Bach's organ at Weimar.

RICHIE HENDERSON has been a working musician for thirty years, not really specializing but a general jack-of-all-trades, working mostly in his native Scotland although he's travelled extensively, performing in Scandinavia, Europe and South America. He has worked with such household names as K.D. Lang, James Taylor, Richard Thompson, Runrig, The Proclaimers and Nancy Griffiths. He has released one album through his band, The Liberties, signed to Chrysalis Records, and made many television and radio appear-

ances. He mostly performs interpretations of other people's songs, by songwriters such as Randy Newman, Elvis Costello, Neil Finn, Ron Sexsmith and Cole Porter - something for everybody! Presently he is performing at Jools Holland's Jamhouse venue in Edinburgh. Although he plays mainly acoustic guitar and vocals, he doesn't consider himself a folk musician as such, just a bit of a troubadour... and a very good one at that.

RUSS BARTLETT AND THE GOOD OLD BOYS are a pop group well known around Corfu. They have been slaying them locally for years. Come and be slain!
Lionel Mann

Divertimenti in Corfu, the annual Chamber Music Festival, will take place from 19 September to 3 October. It is the Festival's 21st year on the island. See www.chambermusicholidays.com or call 26610 90820 for the full programme

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NOTICE BOARD

Harvest Festival and Gift

Day will be held in Holy Trinity Church at 10.30 on Sunday, 5 October. The guest preacher will be Mrs. Jackie Dallos from Lefkada. Jackie is now a Reader (Preacher) in training in the Diocese in Europe.

The 'Volante Strings' Orchestra from Worcestershire are returning to Corfu 24-31 October. This will be their third annual visit to the island. They will play in Holy Trinity Church for the morning service on 26 October, at a house concert in the afternoon at Casa Lucia, and a third concert will be arranged. Their particular style of music has won appreciation over the last two years. They will certainly be bringing a little more Elgar to Corfu!

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Tradition, Reason and Experience

 **Clifford Owen**

Our ministry at Holy Trinity Corfu is two-handed: on the one hand we try to be pastorally available for some of the 250,000 British visitors who come annually to Corfu; on the other hand we try and build up the local indigenous church among the estimated 10,000 British ex-pats who are believed to inhabit the island for a significant part of the year. So in a sense, we are 'ministering to England via the back door'.

One of the advantages of living in an Orthodox country like Greece is that for three years out of four we get to celebrate Easter twice. This year was no exception, with Western Easter and Greek Easter being separated by a full five weeks. Of the two, Western Easter was hardly noticed; but Orthodox Easter, as the high point of the Greek religious and social calendar, cannot be escaped - especially in Corfu, where with its nationally famous firework display at midnight on Easter Eve, a whole people are joined together into a mega socio-religious festival. The fireworks are timed to begin at that moment when the Greek priest intones the words: Christos Anesti, Christ is Risen. Even on my post office waiting slip from two weeks before the event it says: Christos Anesti. As far as the ex-pat congregation is concerned, it challenges us to ask the basic Christian questions all over again:

What do we mean when we say that we believe in the Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead?

Some three years ago I was walking one August evening in another Greek Orthodox Procession in the outskirts of Corfu town. It was behind a sacred icon. Crowds lined the route, both at the roadside and on balconies. There was a hushed respect for the procession, hardly a hint of agnostic cynicism. Periodically, the women would run forward and cast red ribbons over the icon, presumably as an act of hopeful prayer. The Roman Catholic Archbishop leaned across to me in the procession and said: 'This is mainly folk religion, the big problem is how can we move these people on to a deeper believing?' Greece is nominally 90%+ Orthodox and the Orthodox faith is a felt force in society. It cannot be simply dismissed as insignificant, even if our Catholic Archbishop feels it falls far short of the best goal.

18 years ago I was on a planning committee in the Diocese of Worcester to consider our strategy for the 1990s' Decade of Evangelism. The Decade of the 90s, leading to the third Christian millennium, was envisaged as a period of opportunity for

significant Christian growth in England. It was hoped that by the year 2000, the church would have turned the corner into a new era, and regained its confidence and significance. Actually church membership fell during the Decade and the latest figures from the Christian Research Organisation confirm a continuing slow haemorrhage, even predicting the demise of some smaller denominations by the year 2050. Those of us at the coal face cannot escape the reality that purely in terms of statistics we are involved in a faith battle in which the tide is slowly pushing us backwards. The challenge of eliciting faith in an ever growing sceptical and confused population, forces us back the very basic questions. How can and how likely can people find a Christian faith in these days?

I put before you three quite familiar and unoriginal sources as a shorthand answer: Tradition, Reason, and Christian Experience.

Tradition carries the sense of what the church teaches, and what it has taught down the ages. It's a vehicle. There is a core message with a package that needs unwrapping. But the core content has a continuity down the centuries. Even as early as the Corinthian Epistles, St. Paul could say in connection with the claims of the Resurrection of Jesus (1 Cor. 15 v3f: 'I received what I passed on to you'). By the time of Paul, the message had taken shape and form, and even though his Damascus road experience was profound and life changing, yet he himself stood in the river of tradition. Paul was later to work out in the Epistle to the Romans the re-interpretation of that 'new' Christian tradition in relation to what had gone before in Israel.

I once found myself sitting next to a nun on the train from Reading to Worcester, whom I discovered was from Stanbrook Abbey near Malvern. The conversation naturally turned to religious things, and we considered the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. I remarked that it was an interesting thought though it was not binding upon Anglicans as a dogma, because it did not appear in the pages of scripture! 'Ah', she replied, 'but it's in the tradition!'

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CHAPLAIN'S CHAT

Tradition may be a transporting vehicle. But reason and examination inevitably come into the equation. Sooner or later all religious claims come under scrutiny. In a University environment that process goes on with a certain inevitability. But the scepticism which surrounds any religious claims these days to be part of the truth, spreads out far wider than universities. Most of English society is shot through with it. The other week I heard someone describe modern England as having a climate of cultural atheism. In *The Times* last month, Melanie McDonagh, entitled her column: We don't do God - too embarrassing. She was discussing Pope Benedict's recent visit to the United States and comparing their religious scene with ours.

It does seem as though a new tradition of non-believing has captured our culture and defined our young minds. The days are long gone, when people in England at least, simply believed because the church taught it. The church as an institution may still be trusted up to a point... but is it credible in its core themes?

Sooner or later we have to return to the evidence of Christian experience. It is suggested that one of the attractions of the so called New Age movement was that the way in was not primarily via the intellect but through experience: does it work? Is there a feel good factor in this? When I was an undergraduate some 40 years ago, it represented my passing through that agnostic critical phase of life, in which my rurally rooted Anglicanism was scrutinised and challenged. I was definitely on the search for religious reality. I gained equal help from Great St. Mary's (The University Church) on one hand and the Christian Union on the other. I had no dramatic conversion. My coming to certainty of God's existence was rather like C.S Lewis on his bus going up Headington Hill in Oxford. God was God. He was there... and that was enough for the moment. It was also in my undergraduate days that I came into contact with the Pentecostals. They have provided a fascinating group to encounter, not only in the Cambridge of the early 60s, but all through the years of parochial ministry. We also have them in Corfu! But it is the encounter element in religion which may still be the decisive factor. The Holy Spirit gives an inward witness to the reality of the Risen Lord. He is the Spirit of truth who leads into all truth (John 15 v 26). Paul on the Damascus road is recorded as encountering and recognising: 'Who are you Lord?' (Acts 17).

Paul Avis, General Secretary of the Council for Christian Unity of the General Synod, in an earlier book *Ecumenical Theology and the Elusiveness of Doctrine* (1986) wrote: 'Theology is faith seeking understanding of a reality that is given... it consists in the first hand experience or encounter with divine reality that is granted to certain elect, mystical or prophetic souls. This... we rightfully call revelatory.'

It is the divine encounter, which does not have to be dramatic, and normally will not be, which carries with it that quiet certainty of the Living God. But whilst it conveys a certainty, it also cannot in its turn escape scrutiny. Theology seeks to interpret and understand what individuals and groups term their religious experience. More than that, there is a need to let that experience be checked backwards with the received tradition. Religious experience comes as 'new' to individuals but thousands have been there before them.

And so we have these three: tradition, reason and experience, but the greatest of them all ought to be experience/encounter, for mankind needs the Living God. 'I have come', said Jesus, 'that men might have life and have it in all its fullness.' In tradition, reason and experience/encounter we have the three strands of a single rope, which occupies most of the working life of us, who are engaged in trying to communicate the truth of Christ to our contemporaries. All three may be found in one guise or another in the Holy Scriptures, which Anglicans still take as seminal to their own understanding of authority. All three are found in the life of the church; though individual churches may major on of them more than the other two. At the risk of being simplistic: Pentecostals and Charismatics tend to elevate experience, Catholic churches may tend to elevate tradition. Without doubt we Anglicans have a huge respect for the human grey matter, coupled to a respect for tradition. But each needs the other.

In Greece the Orthodox Church has an influence in shaping a society and a country which is easy to under-estimate. It will be interesting to see how a land of powerful tradition can have its inherited faith strengthened and enlivened by a newer and younger generation who will inevitably live critically with it. It is part of the exercise mentioned by our Catholic Archbishop in that June procession behind the icon. On the other hand, the challenge of re-evangelising England may seem at times like a

vertical cliff face. We cannot short-cut the long patient haul of enabling those who seek, to find the living God. I recently came across this piece from Thomas a Kempis 1380-1471 *Imitation* Book 2:1: It sums up the importance of encounter... and it is entirely reasonable, and yet traditional.

'Christ will come to you and show you his comfort if you will prepare for him a worthy house in your heart. All his loveliness and his glory he keeps for the house of the soul, and there it is that he takes his pleasure. Many are the times he comes to the man who lives the inward life, and to him he grants sweet conversation, glad comfort, great peace, and amazing friendship.'

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In the Lap of the Gods PART 2

Halcyon Days

 Sarah Button

In the second part of their sailing cruise of the Ionian sea, Sarah and Pete Button, having invited some mythological characters to join them on Tighmara their 40' sailing sloop, continue to explore how the gods of Olympus influenced the lives of the Ancient Greeks.

The original Levkas canal was cut by the Corinthians around the 7th century BC, providing a sheltered passage into the 'Inland Sea'. This is an area of the Ionian Sea which is surrounded by Levkas to the north, the mainland to the east and Cephalonia and Zakynthos to the south. The new cut was made at the turn of the last century.

As you enter the canal from the north, the remains of a fort built in the middle ages and named Santa Maura after the small chapel within its walls comes into view. It is an impressive ruin once occupied by warring Turks and Venetians. Today it is surrounded by disused salt marshes that provide a haven for water birds: egrets, herons and of course halcyons or kingfishers; the birds created by the gods. Mythology tells us of Alcyone; she was blessed with an ability to forecast the weather and, sensing a storm, warned her fisherman husband Ceyx not to set sail. But he was convinced she had misread the signs and kissing her 'goodbye' left the shore, his boat full of nets. Sure enough, a storm rolled in and Ceyx's boat was wrecked by huge waves. A fraught Alcyone watched from the cliffs, only to see the body of her beloved husband washed up on the rocks below. Unable to live without him, she threw herself into the foaming mass, but the gods took pity on the couple and turned them both into halcyons. Kingfishers mate for life and if one of them dies, the other will follow. This is the myth that gave us 'halcyon days',

We do not possess Halcyon's gift for predicting the wind, but we made the most of a gentle northerly and the gift of moonlight for a perfect night sail; a romantic light cast a shadow on the decks as we sat on the bow watching the phosphorescence. A pod of dolphins joined us but we could only see the outline of their graceful bodies marked out by a moving line of tiny sparkling lights. We could even hear them talking to each other in short 'squeaks' as they enjoyed the thrill of a free ride on our bow; but the treat was far from over. July is the perfect time for meteor showers – more sparkly lights. Artemis - the goddess of moonlit nights and the hunt, the queen of the forests - was favouring us.

Sailing south-easterly and leaving Meganisi to

starboard, we headed for the channel between the isle of Kalamo and Mitika on the mainland. Out of nowhere, a blast of strong wind hurtled down the plain beneath Mt. Burnisto. Our sails were not set for this direction and Tighmara heeled dramatically to starboard, then stalled, sending our paper chart fluttering across the waves like a dove escaping from a cage; we had been using this to navigate because we didn't want to spoil a beautiful night continuously nipping down into the saloon to study our computerised chart. As Pete frantically sorted the sails to get Tighmara back on an even keel I went below to check our position on the electronic chart. Nothing. It refused to tell us where we were. I re-started the computer, but Pete was shouting at me; during a gust a stray rope had wrapped itself round the GPS aerial, ripping the cable out. Fortunately, the howling wind had now abated, and the sea was calm; we were able to take stock. With the aid of our pilot book – which is no more than a collection of tiny charts of marinas and harbours - and the very large scale chart we dug out from the depths of our chart table, we were back on course. Arriving at a harbour in the dark can be a tricky business but with a benevolent moon casting a pale light on the sea we picked our way into Port Kastos and tied up on the harbour wall. Before hitting our bunks we offered Artemis a large shot of Metaxa in thanks for a safe passage.

Odysseus would have done much of his sailing at night; he didn't have a heavy diesel engine to help him churn up the miles and, although he had a crew of men working hard on the oars, he would have had to make the best of favourable winds. And that meant sailing at night, often relying on the gods to help him. When on his travels Odysseus upset Poseidon - the god of the

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TRAVEL FEATURE

sea - Aeolus, the master of the winds, gave the hero a bag made of fine ox-hide. Inside, held in check, were the strong winds. The only one left free was the gentle wind, Zephyrus, left out of the bag to help him get back to Ithaca. While Odysseus was asleep a suspicious crew member opened the bag hoping to find wine or some treasure. The strong winds took the opportunity to escape, causing a storm that wrecked Odysseus's boat; he found himself washed back up on the shores of Aeolus.

Since then, whenever there is strong violent wind, people say Aeolus' bag has been opened.

We called upon Zephyrus to take us to Port Loene on Kalomo the following day. Here stands an old village, deserted since the water supply failed following the catastrophic earth quake of 1953. The inhabitants fled, seeking new lives in Australia or Canada. The little church is still in use though, and every few days a couple of ladies come to clean, leave flowers and offer a few prayers.

From a distance we could see that many boats had beaten us to the anchorage just below the village. Was there space for us? Alarmingly, as we approached we could hear the sounds of up to fifteen boats hauling in their anchors. The air was ringing with the sound of rattling chain - they were all leaving at once! As we neared, one of the boats motored up to us; the crew looked frightened and flustered.

'Wasps! Swarms of them! We've all been stung. Get away as quickly as you can!'

As we listened, we suddenly saw the beasties heading towards us like Tomahawk missiles intent on destruction. We turned about and followed the terrified flotilla out to the safety of the open sea. I consulted my books on Greek mythology. Yup! it was probably Hera, goddess of women and the family, who once sent a cloud of biting insects to torment a herd of oxen on board a ship belonging to Heracles. We didn't have any cattle below decks and Pete and I don't possess bovine features. It seems the gods often unwittingly punish those associated with their enemies. I wondered who that was.

We returned to Cephalonia because we liked it so much. It's not unlike Corfu scenically and has a less dense population. It cannot boast the Byzantine art and Venetian architecture Corfu possesses as most was destroyed in the '53 quake. Pretty and very trendy Fiscardo to the north survived, however - saved, they say, because it is built on a bed of soft clay.

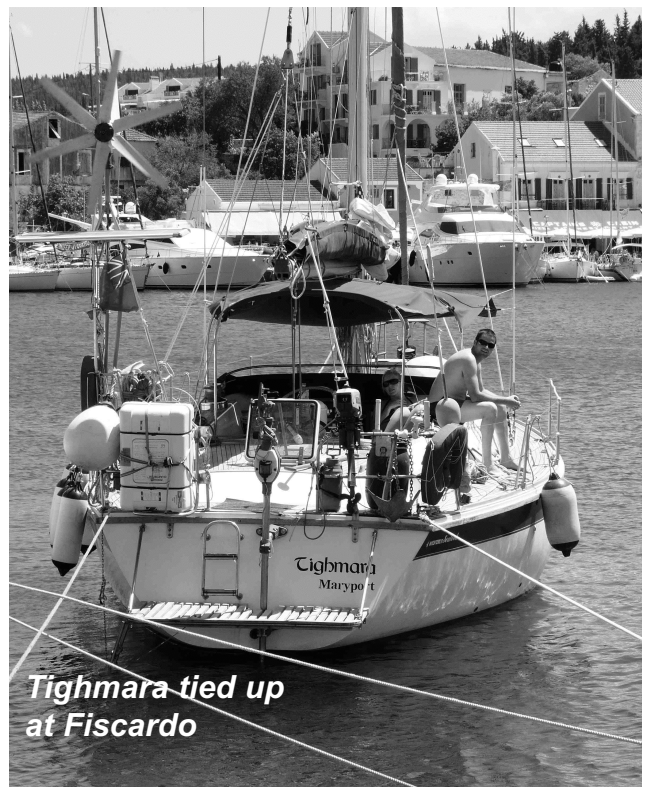
Once more we docked in Sami. Here, we hired a car and headed for the top of Mt. Enos, the highest peak in the Ionian islands. Driving past a deserted and rather sinister communications point with its rusting satellite dishes, I stopped to take a picture of the menacing looking front gates on which a sign said, 'No Photographs'. This gloomy place is no doubt a relic of the Cold War. We followed the un-made road on through the National Park. The park was created to protect the rare pine trees that grow only here. Enjoying the view from the summit, we consulted our map; it showed another road down from the summit, but I wasn't keen - it looked too wiggly for me. Pete, however, has a stern reliance on maps - even Greek ones - and chose to trust it. There was no sign to tell us our chosen route was not advisable. I spent the next two and a half hours with my heart in my mouth as we navigated the narrowest unmade track of continuous hair-pin bends, the precipitous drop making my blood curdle. Then I couldn't take it anymore and got out of the car and walked,

leaving Pete to drive alone whilst I struggled with my vertigo and my anger with him. Artemis didn't have much truck for men. She may have created romantic nights, but she didn't married and stayed a virgin so she could spend her time in her favourite place - the forest. Where was she, the patron goddess of that tribe of strong women, the Amazon's? I could have done with some courage! Maybe my presence in her hunting ground was upsetting her that day. I got back in the car and remained silent till we reached the valley below.

In a lush valley at the bottom of the mountain, the islanders produce the famous 'Robola' wines. I must say I do approve of wine tasting but I couldn't find Dionysus, god of wine and partying, anywhere. The vaulted room which housed the reception area was adorned with paintings of maidens carrying baskets dripping with freshly picked grapes, but the winery is part of an historic Greek orthodox monastery, and I guess that my favourite Greek god may have felt out of place there.

Our day trip ended at the semi-underground Lake Melissani. Myth has it that this is a favourite hangout for Pan. God of shepherds and herds, he is also a highly sexual fellow, and here at the lake he loves to chase the nymphs and play erotic games. It's a gorgeous site overshadowed by overhanging trees that filter the sunlight, creating mottled splashes of gold onto the deep blue water below. The lake may not appeal to him so much these days however as it is overflowing with tourists. I checked out the souvenir shop; I could have a fridge magnet with 'A present from Cephalonia', printed on it, or a tea towel bearing a grinning donkey, or a mug displaying a cheerful but badly painted windmill, but sadly the only reference to Pan was a tiny effigy of him, no more than two inches high; someone had callously removed the part of his anatomy he is so famous for. Poor Pan.

Continued on page 26



MADE IN CORFU

'Made in Corfu' Antiques on sale at Gastouri

Corfu's first 'village antique' shop has been established in Gastouri, central Corfu, near the Achillion Palace. Up to now, shops selling antiques have concentrated on the upper end of the market, with aristocratic furniture from mansions. In contrast, the Gastouri shop is an outlet for the sort of furniture found in village homes, much of which has in the past few decades been thrown on the dump and replaced by modern items. Most of the articles are made from local cypress wood.

The Gastouri shop also sells a range of 'Made in Corfu' products, including local ceramics and olive wood.

The premises also house an office of Luvcorfu Properties and Petra Traditional Constructions, with a portfolio of available properties.



'Dopio' at Perithia

Part of the same chain is the 'Dopio' (Made in Corfu) Shop at Perithia, on the main road between Kassiopi and Acharavi and next door to the Art of Olive Wood Shop. The shop functions as a bar and snack bar as well as selling local products such as wine and soap, olive oil, kumquat products, ceramics and souvenirs. In addition, there is a small selection of antique furniture.

You can also order 'Made in Corfu' products for delivery at your accommodation. Orders over 20 euros delivered free (see right). And the premises function as an office of Luvcorfu Properties and Petra Traditional Constructions. Other Luvcorfu offices are at Barbati and Tzavros (near Gouvía), by the traffic lights.

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Heimarios	330 ml	1.50 euro
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MY CORFU

We live on Paradise Plateau! Hilary Paipeti

In some ways, Eddie and Julie Eagles are typical over-50s recently relocated to Corfu. But in other ways this couple from Stoke-on-Trent differ from most ex-pat retirees, in that they have chosen to settle in a remote village and to embrace the local way of life. When they awake in the morning, all they hear is birdsong and not the chat of other ex-pats!

It seems that Corfu cast its spell and captivated them from the start. 'We came on a family holiday in the early 1990s and liked it so much we returned that September alone,' reminisced Julie. 'It was the first holiday we had been on that we genuinely did not want to go home. There's a feeling of peace and tranquility here that we have not felt anywhere else in the world.'

During the next 18 years they returned no fewer than 24 times, and finally took the plunge in 2004. 'We saw a house, a total renovation project, that we liked in Klimatia, on Paradise Plateau,' continued Julie. 'But eighteen months down the line it fell through, due to the paperwork not being clear. This might have put some people off, but when we set our mind to something we are not easily dissuaded! So when we came back on holiday we went house-hunting again, and saw a little one, again in Klimatia and just around the corner from the one we lost. It did not have the extent of land that the other property had, but on the other hand it did not need so much renovation. We looked at new builds and a farmhouse in the middle of an olive grove, but were drawn back to the one in Klimatia. Finally, in October 2005 it was ours, and we moved over here in February 2006.'

'Paradise Plateau', so characterised in the July issue of The Corfiot, is a high plateau which slopes in a north-westerly aspect from the ridge of Tsouka, the great wall of rock which looms over the rolling olive groves of North Central Corfu. The wall forms a south-facing escarpment whose gentler dip slope carries rainwater to the north in a series of deep-scored valleys. Paradise Plateau is on the dip slope and is bounded by the ridge to the south, the Spartillas - Episkepsi - Acharavi road to the east, and the Troupetta - Agii Douli - Roda road to the west. It has the sparsest road network on the island (though there are lots of unmade and unmarked tracks) and, driving through the mostly well-tended olive groves, the countryside shows hardly a sign of human intervention apart from half a dozen traditional villages.

It's what attracted Eddie and Julie initially. 'We loved the small picturesque unspoiled village with its quaint mixture of houses. In general, the area is so beautiful with all the olive and cypress trees and wild flowers, and the wonderful view of the lush green hills.'

But Klimatia provided more than they



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expected. 'The villagers are wonderful and have made us feel at home from our first visit. They helped us to unpack our van, which we travelled over with no less than four times. The village reminds us of our childhood when doors were left unlocked and neighbors have the time to enquire about your health and family and chat over a coffee. Whenever we holidayed on Corfu we always felt our children were safe, and now, when our grandchildren come to visit us in the village, even more so!'

Eddie and Julie are truly leading a 'good life'. They have a separate plot of land on which they grow vegetables - with advice from the neighbours, emphasises Julie - and they derive great satisfaction from working on the land, as well as enjoying the amazing taste of the products. Next year they'd like to get some chickens and would eventually like their own goat.

Their future plans also involve developing 'green' tourism, as part of the GreenCorfuNet project. 'We are helping to set up a network of green walking routes with places of interest along the way to showcase the real Corfu and attract more visitors over a longer period of time. Our house, which we've renovated as a B & B, will be part of this. Our German friend Anna, whom we met walking, has a very old house further up in the village with a sea view from the front balcony, which when fully renovated as a traditional Greek home will also be available for leasing. At the back there's a tiered garden with olive trees, which leads directly onto old walking tracks, with a beautiful view of the mountains and sea from the front balcony.'

Eddie and Julie got involved with GreenCorfuNet after they responded to an announcement in The Corfiot and took part in the government-funded walking programme. Now the renovation's finished, they also enjoy the regular Saturday walks, and the lunches afterwards of course. Earlier in the year they acquired a puppy, Patch, who by September will be ready to join in.

'Life's much better than in England,' says Julie. 'We are healthier and happier and don't feel pressured. We don't miss the hustle and bustle of England or the grey skies, in fact it's quite alarming when we return, to see the pace of life we used to lead!'

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EXCURSION

A Trip to the Deep South

 Hilary Paipeti

Many people would like to cut off the south of Corfu from the rest of the island and set it adrift. They're the ones who believe that the south is covered with Kavos, and that there's no hiding from gangs of tattooed and drunken youngsters, from John Smith's beer, English Breakfast, foam parties, sex on the beach and extremely loud music.

There are others who think that the south is 'very flat' and therefore scenically uninteresting.

They are all wrong.

Uncovered, Kavos is just four bar-bordered streets which form a small ghetto. 500 metres away and you wouldn't know it was there. Around the southern tip of the island lies what is perhaps Corfu's best undiscovered beach, Arkoudillas, backed by immensely high cliffs. So much for being flat. The Corfu Trail, the island-long footpath, takes a great sweep through the region, passing abandoned monasteries, delving through some of the island's most ancient olive groves and forests, climbing dizzying cliff paths and reaching spectacular viewpoints. So much for the boring scenery.

Admittedly, once you've crossed the Messongi Bridge, the geographical start of the 'South', the main road, passing often through semi-commercial areas and low dry-grass hills that resemble slag-heaps, does not offer one of Corfu's more interesting drives. The road has undergone much infrastructural upgrading in the last 15 or so years, so that now it bypasses the picturesque village centres of Marathias, Perivoli and Lefkimmi, and only the bustling main street of Argyrades remains a traffic blackspot. The upside is that it's much quicker to go south these days.

The much prettier alternative route takes longer but guides you along a stretch of coastline that remains unspoiled by anything megabetonic. At the big road junction at the southern end of

Moraitika, just where a short section of central reservation runs out, go straight on instead of bearing right along the main road. Take great care here as you must give way to traffic coming from the south, from your right. Continue along the straight stretch and over the river bridge (not obvious so look out for it). After that, you've got a choice.

Hlomos Deviation: Go straight on, and a steep and twisting climb takes you to Hlomos. If you've got a small-engine hire car and the road is wet you will not make it.

Hlomos gets everyone's vote as one of the prettiest of Corfu's villages, with its houses wrapped around the eastern slopes of a conical mount (Kavalovouni, 330 metres at the summit). Though there is little to impede its spread, the settlement is highly concentrated, with a maze of tipsily zigzag streets which rise and plunge, seemingly at random. In the centre, the houses are built up against each other, and residents have confronted their need for expansion by building upwards (like the Romans and the Town Corfiots), so that many houses have either a third floor or at least a usable attic. Full of splashes of colour, the village's location blesses it with the best view of any of Corfu's settlements. Many houses have a vista which takes in the whole southern portion of the island, with the sea on both sides visible. Houses on its northern fringes overlook the channel between Corfu and mainland Greece, and in the north-west corner, the view stretches up to Corfu Town with its background of the Pantokrator Massif.

A twisting road leads steeply down to the coast road on the eastern shore, where you rejoin the main route - but be warned that it is VERY narrow at one point through the houses. Be also warned that some maps show a passable road from Hlomos to Kouspades, the next village south. This way only exists as a footpath so don't try it!

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EXCURSION

Main Route: Just after the bridge, turn left and head through Messongi village. Keep going straight and gradually development diminishes and you find yourself beside the sea, on a charming road which winds and undulates from cove to pebble cove (the Hlomos Alternative rejoins the way along this stretch). Rustic fish tavernas abound, but if you're peckish try to hold out until Boukari. Here, Karidis Fish Taverna was a select location for filming of Rick Stein's Mediterranean Escape. Even if it's not lunch time, stop for a mid-morning ouzo accompanied by marinated raw anchovies, a speciality of the taverna and one of Rick's Corfu favourites. You might even be lucky enough to see Spiros the proprietor preparing a batch.

At Boukari, head straight on, not inland towards Kouspades. Last time I tried it, this way was not asphalted, but except after heavy rain it is perfectly passable. A few kilometres further, you encounter Petriti, the last real working fishing port in the south. Here, nets are piled on the quayside, and the largest traditional fishing caiques you've ever seen are being prepared for another night's deep-sea fishing.

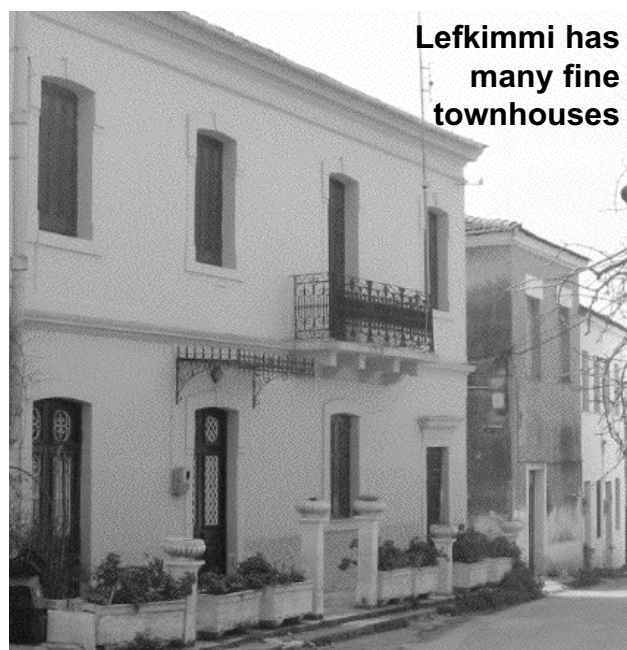
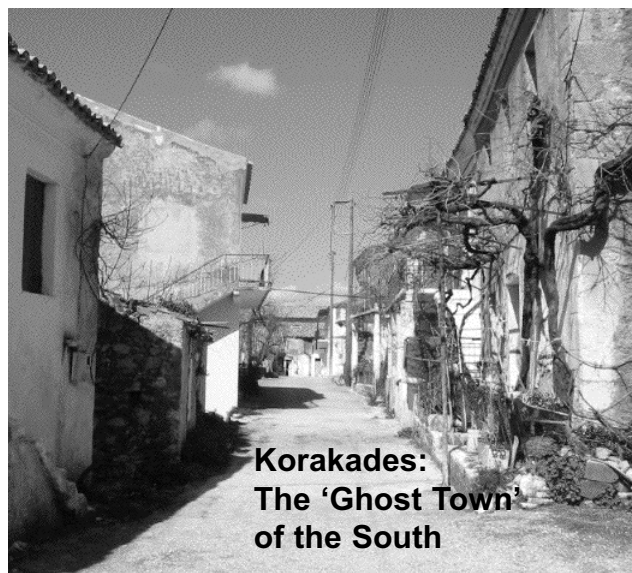
The settlement of Petriti is a 'New Town' built on a grid system. Some decades ago, the government relocated the population of the inland village of Korakades here, as the land under the traditional settlement was subsiding. A short diversion into Korakades is a trip to a ghost village (though some houses have lately been reoccupied). It is the Old Perithia of the South, though much different in character. A road climbs steeply to the village from the middle of the grid of new homes - not easy to find, so ask the way.

Continuing your trip, an unbridged river outlet forces you to head inland at Petriti Harbour. At the rear of the grid of new homes, the road makes a right angle turn left and another to the right. Soon after this, look for a road on the left - it's signposted to Agios Nikolaos and Notos. Following this way and ignoring a sign to Roumanades, you should hit the coast again at Notos. This section of coast road, only recently opened up to traffic, resembles the Corfu of bygone years, and long stretches of unspoiled coast are punctuated only by the odd fish taverna and cottage.

The coast road finally runs out at Kaliviotes, a little harbour with yet another fish taverna (The harbour is on the front cover). Turn inland, and you are soon in Perivoli, in the old centre of the village and not flashing by on the huge new by-pass. Turn left here and you soon join the main road south - this approach to Lefkimmi is the only drab section of the route.

You turn left off the highway at the traffic lights into Lefkimmi. Once into the town proper, you have to negotiate a complex one-way system, made even more confusing by occasionally relapsing into two-way again. To get through the town, follow the signs to Kavos, though you don't have to go there.

Lefkimmi actually comprises five villages which have gradually merged to create today's town. Vestigial remains of its origins are the old 'village centres' which you encounter on your passage, each bustling with coffee bars and shops, and with a church looming over it all.



The most popular of these 'centres' is at Potami, where the road crosses the Lefkimmi River. Here the river is canalised and runs between paved quaysides, which a number of bars and restaurants use as a setting for their tables and chairs. Wild ducks and shoals of fish compete for your attention, and you might even see a guy drive past taking his pet goose for her daily swim at Bouka Beach.

The riverbank is home to The River Taverna, another Rick Stein favourite. Spiros and Loula live in the restaurant; the kitchen is their home's and the premises their lounge as well as indoor eating venue for customers. You get what Loula's cooked that day, a choice of half a dozen dishes which they eat themselves if left over. Her vegetables stuffed with rice, herbs and mushrooms are outstanding and we love the squashy green beans too.

Past the taverna, the road runs alongside the riverbank to reach the sea at Bouka Beach. This is the locals' beach, and the beach bar is subsidised so that prices are cheap. The water is very shallow and warm, and apart from the bar there is no development whatsoever, just a backing of trees.

But you might like to continue to Arkoudillas, my candidate for best beach in the world. Unfortunately, to get there you have to drive through tacky Kavos, though in daytime it's calm. Just after Kavos, a dirt but well-made road is signposted to the 'Church of the Virgin Arkoudillas'. About a kilometre on, take a right and bounce down to the beach. Who would think that you'd find such a paradise in South Corfu! Now you know the secret, too.

OTHER PLACES TO VISIT IN SOUTH CORFU

Lake Korission

A Natura 2000 protected site, the lake is a bird-watcher's haven. At the end of the track, over the footbridge you reach the unspoiled dunes. Follow the yellow Corfu Trail signs through dense forest at first, then out onto the sandy section, dotted with juniper trees.

Alikes Salt Pans

Established by the Venetians, the pans were in use until about 20 years ago. The original Venetian storehouses have been restored. Lots of birds here too in the shallow water of the pans. You can walk across and around the pans on low causeways.

Arkoudillas Forest and Monastery

Don't turn right to Arkoudillas Beach, carry straight on instead. Stop the car where the road narrows and walk the last bit along the cliff tops through dense forest. The fortified monastery buildings are at the end of the track. Scandalously, they have been allowed to collapse and all that remains intact is the stone arch with the crest of the Quartano family. You can make a circuit back to the car by following the footpath onwards from the Monastery (marked with Corfu Trail signs), winding downhill through the forest then sharply up to the beach track. Turn right here and right again and you should finally reach your car.

'Flying Fortress' Museum

Bizarrely housed in the outbuildings of an old church, this contains mementoes from the crash-landing of a B-17 bomber during World War 2. Read more on page 7.



GO GREEK DANCING

BACK BY POPULAR REQUEST!

Have you always wanted to learn Corfiot or other Greek dances, or improve your knowledge of them? Or do you just enjoy dancing? You are cordially invited to come along and participate in our Dance Workshops. Robyn has a special way of creating a relaxed and friendly learning environment, in the hope that participants will come to love the Greek dances as much as she does!

Robyn Roth (B.A., Dip.Ed.), with over 30 years Greek dancing experience, returns to Corfu after her successful June Seminar in Dassia to give Greek Dance Workshops, this time in magical Afionas. The sessions will take place on the terrace of the Porto Timoni Cafe with its fabulous view of Saint George Bay from Monday 15 to Friday 26 September, daily between 10.00 and 13.00. Robyn is offering 10, five or three day courses at a cost of 200 euro, 100 euro and 75 euro respectively.

Contact Robyn on 0049 7633 500415 or 0049 177 8666012 (mobile), Rola Hahn on 26630 51566 or Maria Tsoukis on 26630 51640. Or email info@go-greek-dancing.de



Easy Ways with Chicken

They say that the prime qualification for work as a chalet girl is knowledge of 20 ways to saute a chicken. One technique, 20 dishes. Greek cooking is rather like that. In days gone by, few women could read, and in any case there were no books to help out if they could, so recipes were passed from mother to daughter. Of course, there's a limit to the amount of information a person can keep in their head, so most information was transmitted as recipe techniques which could be adapted with slightly different combinations of ingredients. As in the case of the chalet girls, chicken provides a good base for adaptable pan-cooking.

Pan-Cooked Chicken

with garlic, rosemary and lemon

Olive oil, 1 roasting chicken, 4 cloves garlic, 1 sprig rosemary, salt, freshly ground black pepper, 1 glass dry white wine or retsina, 2 tablespoons lemon juice, a few strips of lemon zest

Cut the chicken into pieces (breasts, thighs, drumsticks, wings - or buy ready pieces from the butcher). Wash and dry them.

Pour enough oil in the pan to just cover the bottom of a large pan which will hold the chicken pieces in a single layer (if you heat the pan first you will use less oil). Lightly brown the chicken pieces on all sides, then add the garlic (peeled and halved if large), the rosemary and seasonings. Turn the chicken a few times then add the wine. Let it bubble a couple of minutes, scraping up any sticky juices from the bottom of the pan with a wooden spoon, then cover and reduce the heat to medium low. Cook until the chicken is done and tender, testing one of the thighs with a fork. It should take about 35-45 minutes. During cooking, add a little water if the wine has dried up and turn the chicken pieces a few times.

Remove the chicken to a heated serving dish. Pour the lemon juice into the pan and allow to bubble for a few seconds. Pour the sauce over the chicken, garnish with the zest and serve.

This is the simplest manifestation of the pan-cooking technique: Brown the chicken, then braise with a small amount of liquid over a low heat and serve with the liquid as a sauce, reduced if necessary. Once you've perfected the method, you can start to experiment with the ingredients and flavourings.

Pan-Cooked Chicken

with peppers and tomatoes

Substitute half an onion, thinly sliced, for the garlic. Add the onion and two green peppers, seeded and sliced, to the pan just as the chicken pieces are going brown. Instead of the wine, use a glass of tomato passata. Add a clove or two of finely chopped garlic towards the end of cooking. Raise the heat at the end if the sauce looks too runny.

Pan-Cooked Chicken

with dried mushrooms

Use 25 gr dried wild boletus mushrooms (available in AB Supermarket). To prepare, soak them in 150 ml lukewarm water for 20 minutes. Remove the mushrooms, reserving the liquid. Strain the liquid through kitchen paper in a fine sieve and set aside. Rinse the mushrooms a few times and chop roughly. Set aside.

Use the basic technique, adding the mushrooms and their liquid after the wine has bubbled. Omit the garlic, rosemary and lemon juice. You can add a couple of tablespoons of tomato passata for extra colour and flavour.

Pan-Cooked Chicken

with chick peas

To the basic recipe, add a tin of chick peas, drained of their liquid and rinsed, when the chicken is cooked, allowing the chick peas to heat through for a few minutes with the chicken and lemon juice.

Pan-Cooked Chicken

with chick peas and tomato

Omit the wine and lemon juice and use a glass of tomato passata instead, adding it when you would have put in the wine. Add the chick peas as above.

Pan-Cooked Chicken

with fresh tomatoes

Use 1/2 kilo ripe tomatoes, peeled, seeded and grated. Add them to the pan after the wine. Omit the garlic and lemon, and add a couple of bay leaves instead of the rosemary.

Pan-Cooked Chicken

with artichokes

Snap off the outer leaves of the artichokes until you reveal a cone of pale leaves. Cut off the top inch or so and all but an inch of the stem. Pare any dark green from the cone and the stem. Halve or quarter the artichokes depending on size and remove any hairy choke. Place in water with a squeeze of lemon juice until required.

To the basic recipe, add the artichokes when the chicken has been cooking about 10 minutes. Use dill as flavouring instead of rosemary. You can also add a cupful of defrosted frozen peas five minutes before the end of cooking.

Pan-Cooked Chicken

with carrots and peas

Use butter with a tablespoon of oil added, just enough together to cover the bottom of the pan. To the basic recipe, add four medium carrots, peeled and sliced on the bias, at the start of cooking. Add a cupful of defrosted frozen peas five minutes before the end. Omit the lemon juice and use parsley instead of rosemary.

Sausage and Bacon

Corfu Charcuterie (Corfu Sausages Industry) was established 32 years ago by two young men with experience of the charcuterie industry, whose aim was to preserve the traditional pork products of Corfu, just as they were once made in the northern mountain villages. The first facility was at Tzavros, but increasing production led to the transfer of the business to a state-of-the-art factory on the main Paleokastritsa road at Sgombou. From the very first, the brand gained the trust of local consumers, who were impressed by the authentic Corfiot flavours, made with pure ingredients and produced and packed under carefully controlled conditions. The traditional local products include *nouboulo*, whole pork loin marinated in red wine and dried, unique to Corfu but no longer made commercially, and all but forgotten as a recipe. Corfu Charcuterie 'rescued' this delicacy from extinction. Other island products are Corfiot smoked salami, *pastourmas* (highly seasoned cured meat), and Corfiot pork sausages.

In addition to the local products, the factory has expanded its range to include charcuterie from all over Greece and Europe. These include Hungarian-style mortadella, brawn, English gammon and sausages, smoked turkey, beer salami, frankfurter and cocktail sausages, sausages from Trikala and Mykonos, Prosciutto, hamburger, smoked bacon for Carbonara, and all types and cuts of ham and bacon. The products come in various packagings, whole or sliced, to cater for businesses or any size of family.

Corfu charcuterie is available at supermarkets and the Duty Free shop, but you can also buy the products direct from the factory - it's the building with the round windows between a petrol station and a ceramics workshop, on the Paleokastritsa road just after Casa Lucia at Sgombou.

TO MAKE A CORFU CHARCUTERIE MEZZE, arrange on a platter in concentric circles a variety of the products, thinly sliced: *nouboulo*, Corfiot smoked salami, air-dried salami and *pastourmas* (smoked salami and *pastourmas* are available ready sliced). In the centre of the circle place a heap of local black olives. Serve with good solid village bread, and butter for those who wish for it.

ALBERT'S RESTAURANT, PYRGI

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

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

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

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

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

The menu includes traditional English and Mediterranean dishes, prepared to order. A la Carte and fixed price menus are available. Sunday lunch menu includes a choice of traditional English roasts. The restaurant boasts a romantic, panoramic view across the bay to Corfu Town. It's open Friday and Saturday 18.00 - 22.00, Sunday 12.00 - 22.00, and is located at Ano Pyrgi, Ipsos, on the main road to Barbati, opposite EKO petrol station. For reservations call 26610 97879 / 6938 835585.

Olives and kumquats ...now for the skin

They're more 'Made of Corfu' than strictly 'Made in Corfu', but what's important is that profits from their sale go into a local pocket, and do not add to the vast wealth of the multinational pharmaceutical industry. We're talking about the new range of skin care products which have just been (quietly) launched by the company which brought you Corfu's first branded olive oil, Nyssos.



The range is made with Corfiot olives from the Stamatelos family's groves, and contains both fruit oil and leaf extract. The products are perfumed with kumquat extract, giving them a delicate flowery aroma which is a far cry from the sickly smell of many other cosmetics. They are made in a large Greek cosmetic factory on the mainland as there is no such facility on Corfu, and of course contain other necessary ingredients as well as the olive and kumquat products.

At present, the products include hand cream (pictured), shampoo, conditioner, liquid soap, sun cream, body lotion and body scrub, but the Stamatelos family plan to extend the range in the future. The cosmetics are not on general sale as yet, but are available from the Nyssos Shop on the main road in Moraitika.

SINGLE-HANDED SAVIOUR

Dr the Reverend Clifford Owen's 'Chaplain's Chat' salute to his predecessors (Corfiot, August) was an absolute gem.

There was a gleeful glint of the knuckle duster beneath the careful velvet prose and I look forward to increasingly kamikaze abandon as his October departure date nears and he clears his own Checkpoint Charlie to finally outdistance the smackmouth slings and arrows that will inevitably follow.

May I add a footling note to your own footnote about the heroic John Forte's single-handed saving of our cricket tradition.

In my book, John Forte is an unsung National Treasure and we owe him an even deeper debt for his dogged single-minded per-

severance in squelching the appalling L. Ron Hubbard's plans to establish his 'Church of Scientology' here in Corfu.

This vicious cult poses as a religion but is in reality a hugely profitable global racket that survives by intimidating members and critics. The Colonels fell for it; John did not.

Had it not been for Forte's fortitude, Chaplain's Chat could well be sermonising from the Book of Dianetics, verses 18-30.

His booklet 'The Commodore and the Colonels' is available in full on the Internet. The man lives on and, as you say, 'still lives in Paleokastritsa' where, on each excursion, I raise a ^5 as I cruise past those gates and growl a prayer of thanks.

Chris Holmes
Gouvia

IN CASE OF ACCIDENT

Cut out this guide and keep in your car

You are first at the scene of a road accident and people are injured. What do you do? Even if you have no medical knowledge, there are a few steps you can take that may save lives.

✓ Ring the emergency services. The number for the police is 100. Ask them to call an ambulance. Inform them if the condition of the victims is serious. Tell them the location of the accident. You can also call the ambulance yourself on 166. The emergence number for the fire service is 199 if you think there is a risk of fire e.g. from leaking fuel.

✓ Keep the victims calm and still. If conscious, talk to them. Ask their name, where they live, what they do etc. Reassure them. Tell them the ambulance is on the way and they will be OK. Try to keep them conscious if possible.

✓ Whether conscious or not, make sure the victim is in a position where the airway will remain unobstructed i.e. not on their back where they may swallow their tongue and choke.

✓ Do not move the victim, except to place in a position where their breathing is assured. ONLY move them if there is a serious risk to their safety e.g. in a car which may slip down a slope or if there is immanent danger of fire. If bones are broken, moving a victim can cause worse injury. Leave it to the ambulance men.

✓ Keep the victim warm. At some stage they will go into shock. This is when the body starts shutting down to protect itself against loss of blood. When this happens, the blood leaves the extremities and skin, and the victim starts to get cold, with deep shivers. Shock can kill, even when there is no life-threatening injury. Ideally, keep a blanket (or a space blanket) in your car for such emergencies.

✓ Get someone responsible to direct traffic and prevent people from stopping. Spectators do not help, and may be a hazard to the victim and others.

✓ Make sure that no-one lights a cigarette. There may be fuel spillage, and the fumes may cause fire.

✓ If you have taken up these responsibilities, wait for the ambulance before leaving.

In the Lap of the Gods (continued from page 13)

At Levkas, on our way back to Corfu at the end of our cruise, I e-mailed Olympus – the camera people not the mountain - and asked them if they had received the broken camera I had posted courtesy of Hermes - the messenger of the gods and the one whose winged head now graces signs outside Greek post offices. Initially they emailed back to say they had not got it; could I let them have proof of delivery? I raised my eyes to the heavens and mailed back a rant, reminding them that Hermes was renowned for trickery and theft. A couple of hours later they told me the camera had been and gone. It had been fixed and was once more in the hands of Hermes and in the Lap of the Gods.

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An Introduction to Buddhism

 **Maureen McNamara**

Buddha means 'Awakened-One', someone who has awakened from the sleep of ignorance and sees things as they really are. A Buddha is a person who is completely free from all faults and mental obstructions. Many people have become Buddhas in the past and many will become Buddhas in the future. There is not anything that a Buddha does not know. Because he has awakened from the sleep of ignorance and removed all obstructions from his mind, he knows everything of the past, present and future, directly and simultaneously. His great compassion is completely impartial, embracing all living beings without exception by bestowing blessings on their minds.

When Buddha became enlightened he was requested to teach. These teachings are called 'Dharma'. In the Hinayana teachings Buddha explains how to attain liberation from suffering for oneself alone and in the Mahayana teachings he explains how to attain full enlightenment or Buddhahood for the sake of others. Both traditions flourished in Asia and are now reaching out and flourishing in the West.

'Dharma' means 'protection'. By practising Buddhas' teaching we protect ourselves from suffering and problems. All the problems we experience during daily life originate in ignorance and the method for eliminating ignorance is to practise Dharma. It is

the supreme method for improving the quality of our human life. The quality of life does not depend upon external development or material progress, but upon the inner development of peace and happiness. For example many Buddhists live in poor countries but are able to find pure, lasting happiness by practising what Buddha taught.

If we integrate these teachings into our daily life we shall be able to solve all our inner problems and attain a truly peaceful mind. Without inner peace, outer peace is impossible. If we first establish peace within our minds by training in spiritual paths, outer peace will come naturally, but if we do not, world peace will never be achieved no matter how many people campaign for it.

Buddha gave eighty four thousand teachings. All these teachings and the inner realisations of them constitute Buddhism.

Although Buddhism is ancient and first appeared in the East, these practices are timeless and universally applicable. Today many people are discovering that Buddhism has answers to questions and solutions to problems that cannot be found elsewhere

INFORMATION

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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

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BOOKS

CORFU SKETCHES - A THIRTY-YEAR JOURNEY

BY THERESA NICHOLAS AND JOHN WALLER

This gorgeous book features sketches of local scenes drawn by Theresa Nicholas, with commentary by its publisher, John Waller. Theresa Nicholas has been called the 'Observer of Corfu' in recognition of her talent for capturing the essence of Old Corfu. Having sketched local scenes since the early 60s, her work serves as a record 'of a way of life that no-one at that time realized was already approaching its swansong.'

The book is not just for the coffee table (though it deserves pride of place there too); it's also a guide book which actively helps you track down what's left of the Old Corfu that Theresa first knew. The first section contains five themed walking routes around Corfu Town - a World Heritage Site - which, with the help of the sketches in the book, take the walker back in time. In the second section, which focuses on the villages, the book helps the visitor observe their remarkable architecture with a fresh eye. This is a trip that all Corfu lovers can - and should - take.

Corfu Sketches - a thirty-year journey is published by Yiannis Books (www.yiannisbooks.com), Twickenham, UK. ISBN 978-0-9547887-4-2. 128 pages, RRP 29 euros.



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PERSONAL

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

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

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

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10 Mistakes On Your Website That Could Put Off Potential Customers

Part of our business consists of carrying out total redesigns of existing websites. Many of our clients have websites that were designed initially by themselves, a friend, family member, or using a template package that they bought for a few euros online. It's a cliché, but you get what you pay for. Just having a website is one of those areas where something is definitely not better than nothing. In fact, it can be detrimental to your business. A company that neglects its website may be committing commercial suicide. A website is the gateway to a company's brand, products and services. A useless website suggests a useless company and a rival is only a mouse-click away.

To help you decide whether you need to give your website some attention, here is a checklist of ten of the most common web design mistakes that are off-putting to potential customers.

1. It takes more than 4 seconds for everything on a page to load.
2. Your website uses a 'splash page' (an initial page from which visitors then have to 'click to enter site') or Flash animation.
3. Visitors have difficulty reading the text on your site because it is too small, or the font is in a style or colour that is hard to read.
4. The website hasn't been tested to see if it works in different browsers.
5. Not all of the links work.
6. The information is out of date.
7. Logos, images or photographs are bad scans or low resolution, making them out of focus or blurry.
8. Visitors cannot quickly and easily find the information they are looking for – often because the navigation is not intuitive.
9. The site's content is not engaging, relevant and well-written.
10. The site is simply unattractive and doesn't accurately represent the quality of product or service you offer.

If your website fails on any of these points then it's probably time to consider some therapy. We can redesign your existing site and produce a website that is going to attract potential clients and deliver results.

At Truetype Web Solutions our speciality is designing and optimising cheap, but highly efficient and visible websites. Our websites enjoy high rankings on the search engines and we are proud of our close personal relationship with all our clients. We offer a free analysis of your 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. 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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luyc♥rfu properties

New This Month...

GASTOURI OFFICE - CALL 6948 180198

KOURAMADES (Central) The Byre (Traditional - in need of renovation) Half of an old olive press for conversion to one-bedroom cottage near square of lovely village. Good-sized yard with road access. 55,000 euro

KOURAMADES (Central) The Well Olive Press (Traditional - in need of renovation) Huge ruined olive press with intact single-wheel press. Large garden with access for small car. On the edge of one of Corfu's prettiest villages. 75,000 euro

SINARADES (Central) Spitaki Cottage (Traditional - renovated) Tiny, immaculate one-bedroom house in popular village near sea. For sale fully furnished and equipped. 78,000 euro

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

ARILLAS OFFICE - CALL 6948 889174

KAVADADES (North West) Mulberry Cottage (Traditional - in need of renovation) Sweet little one-bedroom stone cottage, edge-of-village in generous garden with lovely country view. Walking distance to shops etc, beach five minutes. Ticks many boxes - lots of potential! 35,000 euro

GAVRADES (North West) Gavrades House (Traditional - renovated) Spacious two-bedroom house, immaculately restored. Large lounge with wood stove, separate kitchen with appliances. Secluded garden with parking, nice country view, 10 minutes to beaches. 155,000 euro

RACHTADES (North West) Ridge House (Modern) Spacious nearly-new three-bedroom family house with panoramic country view. Lovely quiet location 10 minutes from beaches. Very well constructed with fine detail. Room for pool. Basement for conversion to workshop or granny flat. 280,000 euro

DAFNI (North West) Villa Kouramila (Modern) Charming country villa offering huge rural tranquility and state-of-the-art installations. Three bedrooms plus guest suite. Set in park-like gardens with lovely pool. Mountain and distant sea view. Med living at its best! 550,000 euro

TZAVROS OFFICE - CALL 6947 269112

SPILIA (Corfu Town) Shop premises in central location, near new city marina. 100,000 euro

SAN ROCCO (Corfu Town) Ground floor two bedroom apartment with garden, in town centre. Only needs rearrangement. 165,000 euro

BARBATI OFFICE - CALL 6948 180195

SPARTILLAS (North Central) Candy House (Traditional - in need of renovation) Very large old property comprising two adjoining houses - four or more bedrooms possible. Sea view, big veranda, small yard, close road access. Excellent structural condition - and at a bargain price, now reduced to 38,000 euro

GIANNADES (Central) Bruni House (Traditional - restored) Amazingly designed one-bedroom house with huge roof terrace and wow-factor country view. Style-magazine interior by up-and-coming Italian artist/designer. Must be seen! Reduced to 94,500 euro

BARBATI (North East) Bay View Land (Building Plot) Exceptional plot, 1,500 sq.m. in Town Planning, at the unspoilt end of Barbati. Can build 400 sq.m. Beautiful sea view. Resort facilities and beach a few minutes walk. 130,000 euro

BARBATI (North East) Barbati Bay View Apartments (Modern) Exceptional low-key apartment development at the unspoilt end of Barbati. Fantastic sea view from spacious verandas. Shared pool. Resort facilities and beach a few minutes walk. For a modern, easily maintained holiday home by the sea, you can't get better than this! 130,000 euro & 260,000 euro

PERITHIA OFFICE - CALL 26630 98002

KAROUSADES (North) Parikia Plots (Land) The cheapest building plots on the island - with sea view, and only four available! On the edge of a lively traditional village five minutes from Sidari. Close to famous fish tavernas on quiet beach with yacht harbour. 25,000 euro each

ACHARAVI (North) Beach Plots (Land) For the first time, affordable almost beachfront building plots in one of Corfu's most popular resorts! Can build 100 sq.m. on each 400 sq.m. plot. 100 metres from beach and its facilities! 45,000 euro each

KOULOURA (North East Coast) Nikos Villa Apartments (Modern) A foothold on the North East Coast at an affordable price! Three spacious apartments being sold separately. Secluded location, fantastic sea view, shared pool in landscaped grounds. 150,000 euro & 280,000 euro

AGIOS PANTELEIMONAS (North) Olive Grove House (Traditional - in need of restoration) Just what everyone's looking for but can't find - lovely old stone farmhouse in an olive grove. Rural location near a hamlet and not far from Acharavi. Also has development potential. 150,000 euro

ACHARAVI (North) Villa Laoura (Modern) Very spacious five bedroom villa 200 metres from the beach in large garden. Quality construction, clean and tidy, needs only decorative upgrading. For sale fully furnished, as seen. 340,000 euro

KALAMAKI (North) Shore Houses (Modern) Two semi-detached maisonette-style houses right on the coast with footpath 100 metres to the beach! Ready to occupy. For sale separately as homes, or together as lucrative buy-to-let on Corfu's prestigious Kassiopli coastline. 370,000 euro each

KALAMAKI (North) Seafront land, 5,500 sq.m., direct onto lovely sandy beach! Good access. 550,000 euro

SAINT SPIRIDON (North) Villa Felice (Modern) Perhaps one of the grandest villas currently for sale, with four bedrooms and vast living area. Wrap-around sea view, can walk to quiet beach, good tavernas. Futuristic installations, beautiful aesthetics! A very fine property of international standard. 2,000,000 euro

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For further information and many more property listings, have a look at:

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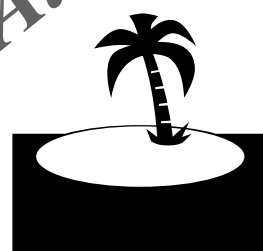
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