AUGUST 2010

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34th Edition

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By The Minstrel

Put it in your diaries and please don't forget. AU-GUST 27TH AND 28TH in Agios Ioannis, Corfu. The musicians are here for one thing; to entertain you.

From near and far and wide they will play for about seven hours Friday and the same again on the Saturday.

The New Cactus Hilton will reverberate with rock and reggae, and be lulled by gentle ballads.



"Newcomers"

Over 40 musicians will be on stage, to make this a unique experience; last year our biggest complaint was

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that nobody had heard of it until it was done and dusted. The lucky few who tried 09 are still talking about the smooth Dylan Project, Omega 5 with the amazing Paul Stenton on lead guitar, evergreen Good Old Boys and sultry newcomer Jemma Bartlett, plus the classy East Of Memphis.



"Jemma Bartlett"

This year we have kept our promise and extended the show to two full nights; I have to pinch myself to think that English legend Joe Brown will be stepping off a plane, coming to our village and playing to his first Corfu audience, backed by his brilliant band. And supporting him will be one of the brightest new talents on the British festival scene: the superb 4Square from Manchester. They played Cropredy last year and were seen by 20,000 people; their



"4Square"

cd sold there made record sales. Omega 5 are back on demand with their charismatic lead singer Steve Dell compering both evenings.



"The Good Old Boys"

The Good Old Boys have set up a new band for this year and will be introducing new talent on both nights from Greece, Germany and England, Laura Zakian is a fine songstress and will open the Saturday night with her own unique style of jazz/swing.

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"Laura Zakian"

As if that was not enough Friday is headed by the famous reggae band from Thessaloniki; One Drop Forward. They are great lovers of Corfu and deserve our best reception. Let's give it to them! Appearing with them are another exciting prospect; Kuriri from Serbia. They are not well-known here but that could be about to change dramatically; last year they won battle of the Rock bands in Belgrade.

Simple food and drink are on sale at reasonable prices, t-shirts, memorabilia and a really glittering raffle, proceeds as last year will go to the needier members of our community, including our furry friends.

CHILDREN WELCOME ENQUIRE FOR COACHES AMPLE CAR PARKING TOILETS FOR UNSEATED AREA -BRING A BLANKET



"One Drop Forward"



The raffle prizes have all been kindly offered by our growing band of sponsors, see Page 11 for prizes. See below for a provisional programme for the two evenings.

Sponsors are coming on board in increasing numbers. We thank them all for their foresight and 'faith in the cause'.

Our band of brothers and sisters have done our best to make this the start of something very special in the island we love. Now it's up to you!



(Times may vary slightly)

A BIG THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS:

Aqualand Asian Spa Boilieu Bistro British Corner Shop Corfiot Corfu Beer Corfu Club Corfu Palace Hotel Daylong **Energy Radio** Erikoussa Hotel **Evenos** Ghandi Restaurant Gouvia Marina Marida Hotel Novatech **Ocay Services** Profi Segway Scooters Spear Travels Studio 1 True-type Web Solutions By Dr. Lionel Mann **Contributing Editor**

All the excitement pertaining to the Agiotfest will be dealt with elsewhere, so this will refer to more mundane matters.

July passed without any great occasions, not even an authorised public holiday, although those protesting against the government's austerity measures took an unauthorised day or two off. This month, however, sees a Saint Spiridon festival on the 11th, a Corfiot holiday, and the observance of The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary on the 15th, a Greek national holiday and the nameday of all Marys as well as an excuse for general whoopee. What a great place to live!



Visitors in July included Jelena, Nevena and Vladimir Jovanovic, Denis and Linda Oxlee, Ian Ramage and family, Catherine Penney and her friends, Neil Squires, Alan Raynor with their families, Barry North and his friends, Paul and Sally Grove with Ella.

We are pleased to see Hilary walking around again, her injured ankle almost healed, but Valva is

still in the Clinic, her condition giving rise for great concern.

Alfie is in great voice, complaining at being tethered, while Andy is making friends with every child in sight, especially any who will throw something for him to retrieve.

Stefan Curry has visited Argentina with his school team playing Constantinos (formerly rugby. Kostaki - but now call him that at your peril!) will celebrate his 21st birthday on the 7th, but he has already had more doorkeys than we can count.

Land Of The Lev

By Paul McGovern Editor

Chapter 5: Souvli

We leave Edessa for far-off Souvli, which we have picked out as a reachable target for the day. It's a comfortable 300 miles at most.

Breakfast at the Electra again, then we are off east along the fine Egnatia motorway. Glorious sunshine interrupted by a mild shower in the afternoon. Deep into Thrace Lula is explaining to me about the large Moslem communities that are existing here around Xanthi and Komitini. When the Turks withdrew after the Independence struggle the new Greek state allowed some settlers to stay on, practising

to me to see gaggles of women road- our destination lays elsewhere. side wearing burkahs and a smattering of minarets in the hills.



It was around here that I thought we had car trouble. We had stopped and the ignition was off, yet there was a loud whine coming from under the bonnet. Oh! What a relief to soon discover it was an industrial whine from a nearby factory. We press on and

their own religion. It was a surprise flirt with the Turkish border, but

We veer into Souvli, an ancient town on the old silk route. It is a shabby and depressing place, despite the sumptuous window dressings in many a silk shop. There is a fine silk museum too.

We stay at dirty dump Egnatia Hotel- there is little choice- 15 Euros and a telly on the blink. This border town has a depressed and neglected atmosphere- not dissimilar to Dartford. A drink in a café, indifferent pizzas and service at the nearby Piazza, where the staff are far more interested in the TV soap than any customers.

News From the North

By Uncle Bulgaria **Contributing Editor**

So back to the saga of my burglary, couple of days later my mate down in Acharavi was turned over as well in the same way, except they came through a bathroom window. This was particularly annoying. In my house they actually missed a small laptop, which had a fault and been given to me by this friend. As my laptops wee nicked, I repaired the one given me and used it to change all my passwords ect, then as it was now in working order and I had bought a new computer, I gave it back to my mate complete with case and everything. Of course, what did they nick from my mates house? That bloody computer.

Well the police were not inter- tourists are here on cheap deals ested so we got together and offered they are not spending any dough. I 1000 euros reward for information. We plastered the area with posters. Sure enough we were given some information as to location of some stolen foods and the whereabouts of the Albanian who stole them. Of course this is a different burglar to the one who did us. Well we passed this info to the police and so far some weeks later, No Action!!!!!

book is selling, if you have not al- ble t scratch and pick. Oh well I'll ready checked it out go to learn to be ambidextrous. www.lillylongman.com and see the site, we have tried to make it interesting and therer a couple of free am and always will be recipes.

Not many places doing business at the moment, although some

see the Agiotfest is soon to be held in Agios Ioannis I am sure it will be a success as Omega5 is playing and they really do get things going. Good Luck to the organisers anywav!!

I am having great fun at the moment learning to play the Banjo, only problem I am developing calluses on the tips of my left hand On a lighter note the cookery fingers, with no feeling its impossi-

On that happy note goodbye, I

Obnoxious Al

Property Feature -Afra



Price: 185,000 euros

A beautiful British built L-shaped bungalow is for sale in Afra, just 5 miles from town. Set in a quiet country lane the house area covers 120 square metres and sits on land of approximately 1000 square metres. Planning permission for a pool is held.

Air conditioning and heating is featured in every bedroom and the lounge area and is economical to heat and cool. Full insulation is included in the floor. roof, ceilings and walls. Integrated appliances are featured in the kitchen and fitted wardrobes in the master bedroom.

Outside is a storage building of approximately 30 square metres, ideal for a workshop or even a studio conversion.

This property has been built to the highest of standards and needs to be viewed.

Will Accept Offers



Corfu Weather **Statistics**

JULY WEATHER STATISTICS

Month's Rainfall: 5.1 mm with 5.1 mm falling on $3^{rd.}$. Year's Rainfall to 31st May.: 467.1 mm. Maximum Rain per Minute: 4.7 mm at 10.38 on 3rd. Maximum Temperature: 37C at 14.59 on 23rd. Minimum Temperature: 15.6C at 08.09 on 28th. Maximum Windspeed: 48.1kmh at 19.02 on 17th. Maximum Gust Speed: 96.2kmh at 13.17on 27th.

Aunty Lula's Love-bites

BAKLAVA

Ingredients:

1/2 kg Walnuts, finely chopped. 2 cups Sugar 1 tsp ground Cinnamon 1¹/₄ cups Butter, melted ¹/₂ kg frozen Phyllo Dough, thawed 1 cup Water ¹/₄ cup Honey ¹/₂ tsp Lemon Peel, finely shredded 2 tbsp Lemon Juice 2 sticks Cinnamon.

GO:

1.The Filling: In a large mixingbowl stir together the Walnuts, 1/2 cup Sugar and the Ground Cinna-

Spam Filter?

By Dr. Lionel Mann **Contributing Editor**

In the days of rigid food rationing during the '39-'45 bout of lunacy that convulsed the world a canned meat product shipped from America helped to alleviate the meat shortage in the U.K. The provenance of Spam was somewhat doubtful, but anything resembling meat was eagerly welcomed. At least nobody ever died from eating it - as far as we know!

These days another form of Spam, generally filth and rubbish, of equally doubtful provenance and chiefly from the same source, is polluting the internet. A device called a "spam filter" has been introduced in an attempt to avoid waste of time in sorting genuine communications

mon. Set aside.

2. The Lavers: Brush the bottom of oven at 160C for 35 to 45 minutes 35x25x2,5cm baking pan with until golden. а some of the melted Butter. Unfold the Dough, keeping it covered with plastic wrap and removing sheets as needed. Layer about one-quarter of the sheets (about 5) in the pan, generously brushing each sheet with the melted Butter as you layer, allowing the Dough to extend up the sides of the pan. Sprinkle about 1¹/₂ cups of Filling on to the Dough. Repeat twice layering the Dough and Filling, topping off with another layer of Dough, brushing all the while each layer of Dough with Butter. Drizzle any remaining Butter over the top layer. Trim the edges of Dough to fit the pan. With a sharp knife cut through all

from unwanted junk. However, that gimmick is proving a snare and delusion, unable to distinguish reliably between what is valid or inva-Here at OCAY we dispensed lid with a spam filter many months ago; too many important messages were being diverted. Too, we are often exasperated when our replies to others' communications are misdirected and a telephone call is needed in order to encourage the recipient to explore his/her junk box. Why bother with a filter? It takes only very few seconds to highlight and delete unwanted e-mails while one can be sure of receiving all of importance if no filtering device is employed. Offers of pornography, doubtful pharmaceuticals, crooked financial transactions or gambling are easily recognised.

the layers to make sixty square, triangle or diamond pieces. Bake in Slightly cool in pan on a wire rack.

3. The Syrup: While the Layers are baking, in a medium saucepan stir together the remaining $1\frac{1}{2}$ cups Sugar, Water, Honey, Lemon Peel, Lemon Juice, Stick Cinnamon. Bring to boil, then reduce heat and simmer uncovered for twenty minutes. Remove the Cinnamon and pour the Syrup over the slightlycooled baklava in the pan. Allow to cool completely. The Baklava may be served on a grape-leaf-lined platter.

Bon appétit.

No machine is, nor ever will be, a substitute for human intelligence. No machine can ever be more effective than the mind that designed it. Needing daily to deal with the vagaries, the ineptitude, the inconsistencies of "Windows", one suspects that its designers were very proficient salesmen but otherwise not particularly gifted. It is only very persuasive advertising rather than operating efficiency that has established the system's supremacy.

About twenty years ago I heard an eminent scientist in the course of delivering a B.B.C. Reith Lecture declare, "The human brain has the capacity of about twelve-hundred desktop computers."

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Spam Filter? Continued from Page 5

..... Naturally he went on to observe that few of us ever realised anything like our full mental capability. We are very lazy. Since then computers have advanced considerably, but they are still very clumsy compared with human ability. Daily I am reduced to fury by the refusal of my computer to comply with my wishes and to go its own sweet muddled way. For many years I used a word processor that was far more cooperative. I refuse to be controlled by a mere machine. By the age of six I was writing letters, chiefly to relatives and friends thanking for Christmas and birthday presents; at school my teachers instilled a firm grasp of English spelling, grammar, syntax; later a course (at the Army's expense!) in shorthand and typing at Tooting Technical College cemented knowledge of communication procedure, document presentation. I do not require a mere machine to dictate to me. It must do as I tell it, though it is frequently very unwilling, badly instructed or constructed.

Surely the main purpose of the internet should be to facilitate communication, to simplify rather than to complicate, yet Microsoft is regularly "updating", adding quirky gimmickry, increasing complexity. Of course that increases its exploitation, extortion, attempted monopolisation, but it does nothing to simplify operations, to assist transmission of ideas. It has been heartening to see the European Union supporting the users' case against monopoly.

To place total confidence in any machine is very unwise. What is much worse is the increasing reli-

ance upon "information technology" inducing a very dangerous predisposition to accepting as "truth" any material propagated by electronic means. Many years ago Wilbur Smith warned against, "Television - that mind-bending electronic substitute for thought; that deadly device for packaging and distributing opinion." Today's flood of propaganda disseminated by predatory exploiting financiers, corrupt power-hungry politicians, bullying domineering bureaucrats, ignorant hare-brained "activists", usually through a mercenary mendacious media and electronic communication, would have been the envy of Herr Doktor Josef Goebbels of evil repute.

Watching and reading blatantly sensationalist, distorted, biased, even lying, "news" programmes, seeing and hearing the grammatical solecisms committed by authors and presenters, I am reminded of my earliest days of teaching in the fifties, when I could recommend the B.B.C. Third Programme and such newspapers as the Times, Telegraph and Guardian to my pupils as prime examples of English language as well as guides to current affairs. By the eighties those days had long gone. Today CNN, BBC and Euronews announcers, amongst many others, cheerfully split infinitives and would not recognise a misplaced preposition if it bit them on the ankle, while their "news" is never beyond suspicion.

The "Windows" language service is equally suspect. The Englishspeaking world desperately needs a vernacular equivalent of L'Académie Française to protect our language from the abuse which it is undergoing as a result of a pitifully inadequate public education system. Certainly every language will

develop as time passes, but that development should be subject to vigilance by highly-qualified mentors. English has become greatly debased in recent years, largely through a very corrupt internet and media together with poor education.

Every potentially-beneficial invention or discovery is eventually debased by exploitation at the hands of unscrupulous moguls. Way back the wheel quickly became a vital part of Assyrian and Egyptian war-chariots and more recently forms an essential part of poisonspewing contraptions polluting our precious atmosphere. Information technology has suffered similar abuse.

In a lighter vein, some weeks ago, in order to test the efficiency of the Google translation service I submitted to it an e-mail that I had received from a prospective French visitor. When the sender's request for "un tableau de la piscine" became "a pool table" other persons in the office wondered at my unrestrained hilarity until I had recovered enough to explain the cause. No, no mechanical device will ever replace a well-educated human mind. Machines can be useful servants if always kept in their subservient place and regarded with suspicion, but they will ever be very bad masters.

Working on the allotment

By Simon Baddeley



Starting on а shed on our plot on the Victoria Jubilee Allotments from Simon

Baddeley on Vimeo.I got three planks, stored in the garage roof, left over from building an extra room in our Handsworth home twenty years ago, put them on the rack of Lin's car and took them out to the allotments using a spirit level to make a level rectangle that I must fill with earth and stones and detritus, tamping it well down to get a surface for flags. After that we'll look out for a shed. Oscar came to the plot with me, sat as usual in the blue plastic cycle box while I was on the road. He wandered around staying close, lay in the sun and watched, until another terrier on the park side started nosing around the fence.

Oscar Oscar from Simon Baddeley on Vimeo.

There's hardly a moment when I'm not thinking of the recession and since asymmetric war occurs everywhere involving all, Wikileaks helps even an intelligence deficit. Julian Assange on the failures of journalism "Too few Western journalists have died". This observation reminds me of a comment by my stepfather on war correspondents during the 1940s - several of whom he knew as friends in later years. He told me that ordinary soldiers often thought they were crazy. For their

selves less exposed than real soldiers, would - compensating for their noncombatant status - take undemanded risks in pursuit of a story.

I continued digging, working faster than before after Jill's advice; not worrying about picking out stones and weeds, just turning the soil with the fork. Later I can go over the ground and pick out roots and larger stones and other detritus that got mixed with the soil when the developer levelled the ground of the original allotments and pushed all the topsoil into an enormous mound near the backs of the houses on Holly Road, only respreading the resulting mélange in the early months of this year. Bits and pieces of plastic, glass, polythene, rusty iron, a chunk of lead, pieces of wood, ground up parts of sheds, greenhouses, fences and other things that were once on the old private plots of the Victoria Ju- The Allotment by Colin Crouch bilee Allotments.

There are whole bricks, old and new, chunks of gravel and tarmac, and innumerable smooth rounded stones and pebbles that were once under the surface of the twenty mile wide tropical prehistoric river estuary that someone on Uplands Allotments, up the road, told me flowed through this area millions of year ago.

The weeds on our plot include affected all of fat hen, purple toadflax, redshanks E a s t e r n and groundsel, dock, nettles and a Europe, sprinkling of couch grass. Fat hen - cipitating chenopodium album - like the Greece's other plants is a wild flower with so year Civil War many different names in English (ο Εμφύλιος). alone - white goosefoot, lamb's quarters, nickel greens, pigweed or dungweed. In Hindi it's Bathua and

part, war journalists believing them can be used among other things to flavour paratha or make raita; cropped as food in India, and once regularly used as a vegetable here like the steamed horta (χόρτα β ραστά) we enjoy in Greece. Toadflax - linaria purpurea - provides pollen for bees; a laxative for people. Redshanks is one of the first weeds to appear on new topsoil. It can be used against diarrhoea and infections, its fresh leaves with their characteristic dark spot in the centre can staunch bleeding while its shoots and young leaves can be cooked as a vegetable. Groundsel -Old-man-in-the-spring, ragwort, grimsel, grinsel, grundsel, simson, birdseed, chickenweed, old-man-ofthe-spring, squaw weed, Grundy swallow, ground glutton, common butterweed - is poisonous to many mammals, including humans but has also been described by herbalists as having many virtues.

> Present reading: Just finished and David Ward. Just started Ashes and Diamonds by Jerzy Andrzejewski. Though Katzanzaki's The Fratricides comes to mind I know of no Greek novel - and would be fascinated to find one - that so captures the mingling of personal and political at the moment a country was poised between retreating Na-

zism and the adversity that prefour



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Holiday Howlers

Further, unbelievable comments from a Thomas Cook holiday questionnaire:-

"On my holiday to Goa in India, I was disgusted to find that almost

A tourist at a top African game lodge overlooking a waterhole, who

spotted a visibly aroused elephant, complained that the sight of this

A guest at a Novotel in Australia complained that the soup was too

thick and strong. He was inadvertently slurping the gravy at the time.

"It took us nine hours to fly home from Jamaica to England but it only

"The brochure stated: 'No hairdressers at the accommodation.' We're

"I compared the size of our one-bedroom apartment to our friends' three-bedroom apartment and ours was significantly smaller."

"It is your duty as our operator to advise us of noisy or unruly guests

"There are too many Spanish people. The receptionist speaks Spanish.

"My fiancéé and I booked a twin-bedded room but we were placed in a double-bedded room. We now hold you responsible for the fact that I find myself pregnant. This would not have happened if you had put us

There are more but I can't bear to see such evidence of how stupid some people can be without realising it!

every restaurant served curry. I don't like spicy foods at all."

rampant beast ruined his honeymoon by making him feel

took the Americans three hours to get home."

trainee hairdressers-will we be OK staying there?

"We had to queue outside with no air conditioning."

The food is Spanish. Too many foreigners."

SCHERZANDO SAYS

"inadequate."

before we travel."

And finally:-

The holidays are here and so, hopefully are the holiday makers?

Commonyms 1

What do each group have in common?

1. Ball - A Fish - A Cold

- 2. A Ball A Salad A Coin
- 3. A Cork A Ouestion A Balloon
- 4. A Bottle A Baseball Player A Mushroom
- 5. A Bell Mouth A Shoe

6. A Tug of War - The Nightly News - A Boat

7. Seventeen - Time - People

8. A Basketball Court - A Highway - A Bowling Alley

9. Fog - A Jack - A Body Builder 10. A Hockey Game - A Restaurant - A Bank

Quizzical Questions

2	9				6	1		
	4		3	2		6		
7	3			8		9		
6			8		7			4
5		9				3		7
1			9		3			6
		7		3			2	1
		2		4	5		6	
		8	1				5	3

Senior Posters!

Π

Π

Π

Π

Π

Sudoku Session - August Once again, there will be a small

prize for the correct answers emailed/ phoned/ delivered to the

Ocay office. (Lucky dip of all correct ones)

Remember you need to put the numbers 1-9 in each little 3 x 3 square as

well as each row and column.

List answers from the 6 shaded squares left to right starting from the

top with a comma between each to avoid confusion please.

Answers for July

Sudoku - 7,2,1,5,9,5 were

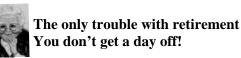
the shaded squares.

Linkwords

1) Plain 2) Slain

3) Stain 4) Staid

5) Stand 6) Stank



in the room that we had booked."

Young at Heart

I Always Cook with Wine. Sometimes I even add it to the food.



I'm Speeding Because I Have to Get There Before I Forget Where I'm Going.

I Don't Exercise! It Makes My Coffee Spill. cise

Don't Worry About Your Health. It'll Go Away.

Slightly Older in other Places.



Eat Right and Exer-





Die Anyway.

VILLA THEODORA CONCERT

RIA GEORGIADIS (Flute) Dr. LIONEL MANN (Organ)

Saturday 23rd October 8 p.m.

Admission 20 Euros including Indian food and a complimentary drink.

PROGRAMME

Sonata in C major Georg Phillip Telemann Introduction and Allegro ... Georg Friedrich Händel Sonata in G major Carl Philip Emanuel Bach Fantasia and Fugue in C minor...Johann Seb. Bach Andante in C major ... Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart # # # # # # # Morceau de Concours Gabriel Fauré Der Nebel Steigt Gabriel Fauré Der Nebel Steigt Carl Nielsen Prelude, Fugue and Variation Cásar Franck Danse d'un Faun Lionel Mann Fantasie in E flat Camille Saint-Saëns Fantasie Mélancolique ... Matthieu André Reichert # # # # # # #

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AGIOTFEST 2010 - RAFFLE PRIZES

- 1st: One week's stay at Villa Theodora, Ag. Ioannis, during May 2011 (sleeps up to seven persons)
- 2nd: Week-end for two at Hotel Erikoussa on Erikoussa island
- 3rd: De-humidifier, supplied by Novatech
- 4th: Three-course meal, for two, at Hotel Telesillas, Kondokali
- 5th: Interior table and two chairs supplied by Evenos Wood Craft, Alykes
- 6th: Einhell rechargeable hand drill supplied by Profi Technical Supermarket, Alykes
- 7th: Dinner for two, at Bistro Restaurant, Kondokali
- 8th Free day, for two persons, at Aqualand Water Park
- 9th: 24hour Internet card for Compass Internet Café, from Hotel Telesillas, Kondokali

