

The Agiot

29th Edition

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Agios Ioannis Music Festival

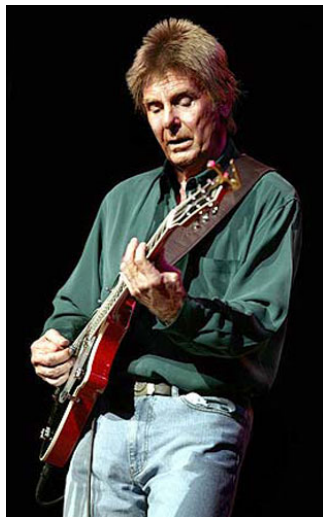
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Joe Brown In Corfu

By Paul McGovern
Editor



We are more than pleased to announce that legendary Joe Brown and his Bruvvers will top the bill on Saturday, 28th August at this year's Agiotfest.

Joe has just finished a strenuous winter tour which culminated in packing them in at the London Palladium on February 7th. Our scout Jackie was there, to report a

superb performance on the night.

This booking has followed weeks of discussions and planning, laying the ground for what we hope will be two night's of splendid entertainment on AUGUST 27TH and August 28th. Joe Brown will top the bill on the Saturday night here in Agios Ioannis.

The biggest criticism we received last year was that people 'did not know' of Agiotfest 09 until it was all over; with apologies for not hiding our light under a bushel this time around, there will be no such reason not to attend.

Again the festival will be held in the old village of Agios Ioannis. Each night will have a seated audience capacity of 1000 people, restricted in numbers to allow for good access and

parking.

We are also pleased to announce that topping the bill on the Friday night will be One Drop Forward, considered to be one of the best reggae bands in Greece. This eleven-piece group hails from Thessaloniki. Mostly unknown - at present - to British fans - they have a very large following in Greece, and are well-known to the Corfiots. We envisage a truly international festival down the years and it gives us a lot of pleasure to welcome a top Greek act to Agiotfest 10.



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Joe Brown In Corfu
Continued from Page 1



"4Square"

From Manchester we welcome 4Square, a young folk/rock group who are making serious waves on the British festival scene. At Cropredy in Oxfordshire last year they broke the festival record (no pun intended) for their CD sales. We think Dan Day and his young friends are going to make a big impact.

New York- born Laura Zakian stirs a jazz breeze at Agiotfest 10. Laura's magnetism and fine, subtle swing renditions, backed by fault-

less keyboards, bass and drums will add a touch of class.

Omega 5 are back owing to popular demand, and on the back of their big impact in 09. Get ready to rock!

One of the great pleasures last year was the impact and emergence of new talent, making a definite impression on a great audience. Jemma Bartlett was one such talent to emerge, Paul Stenton from Omega 5 another. They will be back again. For Agiotfest 10 we are hoping to launch a new surprise or two.

Tickets go on sale by Paypal at www.agiotfest.co.uk this Friday 5th March. They remain at 20 Euros per night or 35 Euros for the two nights. There will be a special pool-side package for those wishing to 'take 5' during either evening. Details to be announced in the April Agiot and on the official website.

Ample food and refreshment will be served, as last year at sensi-

ble prices. Memorabilia will include Cds, t-shirts etc.

We are already taking bookings from abroad, so please do not leave your accommodation requirements to the last moment. We can arrange simple rooms up to luxury villas for those wishing to stay in Agios for the party. Contact through www.corfuvillas.org

We hope new fans will swell the numbers this time around, adding to a popular quote from 09 that it was 'ONE OF THE GREAT NIGHTS'.



"Laura Zakian"

Village News

By Dr. Lionel Mann
Contributing Editor

The Croquet Tournament announced last month did not take place owing to bad weather; the balls would have floated over the hoops. The Carnivals in Town were rather damp affairs, but the weather cleared enough on Clean Monday for some intrepid souls to venture out for kite-flying - if they remembered also to take the string.

Having delightedly explored New Zealand all the way from Dunedin to Whangarei., including Mount Cook and sulphurous Taupo, Peter James Cook McGovern has recently been enjoying the islanders' hospitality on Vanuatu while developing a taste for coconut milk and kava. Some years

have passed since the natives were cannibals so we hope to see him home in due course, though he will not be allowed to wear his grass skirt here. By now he's back in Australia at Brisbane.

Some of us attended the Durrell School in Town to hear a fascinating lecture by Simon Baddeley on the subject of the succession of British High Commissioners who governed the Ionian Islands from 1815 to 1864. It was very interesting to note how some of the "improvements" forced upon the populace during those years have survived to this day. Mercifully others have not!

The 25th of this month is Independence Day, a great national holiday with bands, parades and general jollification. It commemorates the

day in 1821 when the first effective revolt broke out against the Turks who had occupied Greece, apart from the Ionian Islands, for nearly four centuries. For the following hundred years, with aid from Britain, France and Russia, the interlopers were gradually either killed or expelled. "Ethnic cleansing" had not then gone out of fashion. Other unfortunate Balkan nations have suffered from being too dilatory.

Then, on the 29th, Palm Sunday marks the beginning of "Great Week" with its processions and other liturgical observances, leading up to Great Saturday's pot-throwing, fireworks and all the Easter celebrations. The island is gearing for the great influx of visitors who come to witness and to participate in the unique celebrations. Anything that does not move is painted white; persons are seriously cautioned against standing around.

Corfu Light Railway - Further Tunnel Problems

By
Earnest Porter

A small piece recently made the inside covers of the Athens News; it went largely unnoticed amidst the current furore over the Greek Economy. The piece in question concerned worrying reports that some of the tunnelling work previously, reported by the Agiot, has been ill-measured. There are rumours that over-enthusiastic Sub-Continental workers have gone beyond their

briefs and not paid enough attention to the drawings of the tunnel layouts. This has resulted in passages being bored from the Massif to as far away as the eastern coast in places.

Evidence of this oversight first emerged last weekend, when dirty water [not the local rock band] was detected seeping into a stretch of tunnel. Further examination revealed the source of this effluence was a large hotel on the coast. For legal reasons we are not at liberty to divulge the name of this Nisaki hotel nor the resort of Nisaki, only to say that the owners of the unknown hotel are furious, and seeking immediate compensation.

Legal spokesman for the C.L.R., Sir Paddy Ington,[speaking to the Agiot from his London chambers] strenuously denied the accusations, saying that members of the Greek Tourist Board were guilty of tunnel vision at best and were derailing

other more sensitive negotiations at worse.

Our mole inside the C.L.R. informs us that the real culprits behind this latest controversy are, in point of fact, the German architects for the project, Scheisser Fabrik. A smuggled photocopy of their master-race drawing [again for reasons of legality we are not allowed to show it] is notable for it not being drawn to scale.

Also, and rather worryingly, a large numbers of dead moles have been seen floating out to sea.



"Evidence"



"More Evidence"

Property Feature



Orange Tree Cottage

The asking price for this little gem is 79,000 Euros. Situated in Temploni, 500 metres behind the plateia of this small village with a

quaint taverna thereon. Orange Tree House comprises one bedroom, one living room, a small kitchen and a shower room. An air-conditioning unit, wood burner, sky satellite, phone and ADSL internet are all included.

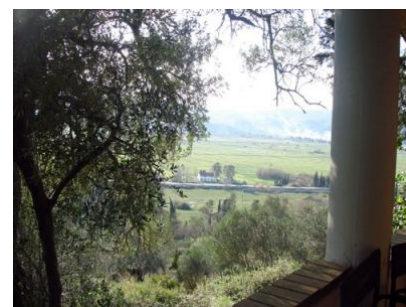
There is a tiled pergola at the bottom of the totally secluded garden with beautiful views over the valley. The size of the villa is 50sm and the land area 260sm.

This sweet villa is in excellent condition and well-worth a look. It is ideal for a couple with no children.

The owner is moving abroad

and has reduced the price to a very attractive proposition.

Furniture may be left here, subject to discussions with the owner.



"Great Views"

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED.

High Finance

By
Simon Baddeley

Linda and I were trying to understand how a loan to government gets hidden as a currency exchange. The last two or three years have been an opportunity to try to make sense of those 'financial instruments' that have been used to erode faith in credit, a concept derived from credo - I believe. I now understand the way sub-prime house loans were sold on in inviting packages to people, institutions and whole countries that ought to have known better. The case of the Hellenic Republic, now in the news, seems to have entailed venture capitalists offering to pay in dollars for Greek airport tax, national lottery receipts and other assets, that would be repaid in Euros - a currency exchange, not a loan.

We played at duping each other
"But the euros will be repaid in the future, so it must be a loan!"

"No we don't want that money yet as we're confident we'll get a far better return on the investment we've agreed to make in those assets in a few years."

"Er, but we were in debt and now we aren't, so how come you haven't given me a loan?"

"Is it a loan if I buy the right at some future date to apply for planning permission to build a house at the end of your garden? Come off it. You're selling me a valuable opportunity. If it was a loan where's the interest you'd be paying me?"

"Er."

"We're investing in Greek futures. Paying in dollars. Not only that we'll be taking our profits in Euros. That's how confident we are in the future of the Eurozone. It's a

patriotic speculation in which we're proud to be involved."

"Er. Right. But won't the accountants in Brussels insist we've received a loan to pay off our debts?"

"They never did. Why should they now?"

"Whatever you say, I think it's a loan."

"Look. In the UK they've been doing this for years. The public argument shouldn't be about loans and debts, unless it's to play up the efficiency of the private sector over the public. Since Mrs Thatcher a large majority of voters have come to believe - or convinced enough not to argue against - that business is better at running things than government. What was part true, part untrue depending on purpose and context is now an article of faith. Do you agree?"

"Until government bailed out the banks."

"Yes well. Let's go back twenty years. Grab the political agenda that claims private is good, public is bad. This lets government realise vast profits by shifting public goods like hospitals, railways, roads, schools, electricity and water supply systems to the private sector. Business takes over what, for government, has been a political liability. Sovereign risk? Troublesome unions? Vote losing taxes? Floods? Acts of God? Let the private sector take that off your hands. We apply more efficient management and we profit financially, and you, if you've done the political job of selling the argument to the voters, will profit politically. In the UK it's called the Public Private Finance Initiative. No even better, a public-private partner-

ship - a catchy title that shows that government is still there able to regulate the unacceptable face of capitalism. Oh, and while you're about privatising those assets, announce the issue of shares at a tempting discount to the public, so that instead of belonging to government, all those private hospitals, railways and schools genuinely belong to the public and ... I can't do this any more. It's four-o'clock, let's go to Carnival"

Corfu Weather Statistics:

February Weather Statistics:

Month's Rainfall: 199mm with 36.3mm falling on 14th

Year's Rainfall: 285.5mm.

Maximum rain per minute: 3.1mm on 6th at 10.51

Maximum Temperature: 19.3C on 20th at 14.30

Minimum Temperature: 1.7C on 3rd at 07.45

Maximum Windspeed: 46.3kmh on 27th at 14.44

Maximum Gust Speed: 92.5kmh on 19th at 22.38

Land of The Lev

To be continued next month.

News From the North

By Uncle Bulgaria
Contributing Editor

I suppose we are lucky to be living here in Corfu. I have just returned from a flying visit to Blighty, What a disaster the place is. Shops closed down right left and centre, Pubs shut and up for sale. Cut price "everything for 99pence" food shops booming. All very sad.

However here up in the North of Corfu it is not exactly party time, but at least we do not have to contend with snow and ice. So we have a few drops of rain now and again in the winter, and a bit nippy at night, lets count our blessings!!!!

I see many Brits have actually returned to Britland from Corfu this year, I will never understand the dick's that come here for a holiday, like it here and then return to live here without preparing the ground and checking out employment prospects before they come. Then of course slag of the locals

and want to establish Little Britain Ghettos, so it is like home. Yah Boo, and all that, shame on you people.

I am sure that many of you out there have suffered with the rise in road tax, mine went up from just over 400 euros to just under 600 euros, Ouch, the interesting thing is, that I cannot find a single Local who admits to voting for this government. Mind you we all bought it on our selves, after years practising the National sport of dodge the taxman the country is in the doody. Tough measures called for, Well fine!!! but leave me out of it, I dont want to pay more road tax! What about all the Brits here running around in illegal English plated cars without tax and insurance or MOTs. I say come back Vassili (And those of you old hands will know who I mean) and snatch a few of them off the road like the old days.

On a good note, The cookery

book I have spent a year of my life working on. (Lilly Longmans 100 year old Recipes) is now out in the market place and can be bought on Amazon or through the Agiot. I do not expect to earn lots of dough, but it honours an old woman (dead now of course) who spent a life time in upstairs downstairs type service.

Dont know whats happening about the railway from North of the Island to the South a bit out of touch due to a chemical imbalance of the body bought about by an excessive imbibation of Absolute Vodka, so more on that another time. Finally I was given some really good advice the other day. I asked a friend what I could do with 365 used condoms, he said "melt them down and make a tyre out of them, then call it a Good year".

That's it, I am and always will be, Obnoxious Al.

Aunty Lula's Love-bites

Pork and Apple Pudding

(by special request)

Ingredients

For the filling:

700g Lean Pork cut into small pieces.
1 or 2 tbs Chopped Sage
1 Large Cooking Apple, peeled and sliced.
1 Oxo Chicken Cube crushed
2 tbs Chicken Stock
2 tbs Flour
Salt and Pepper to taste.

For the pastry:

250g Flour
½ tsp Soda

1 tsp Cream of Tartar
A pinch of salt
40g Lard
90g Shredded Suet.
80ml Water
80ml Milk

GO:

Sift the Flour with the Salt, Soda and Cream of Tartar
Thoroughly mix the Lard
Add the Shredded Suet
Mix the dough with the Water and Milk.

Use ¾ of the pastry to line a greased 1litre Pudding Basin
Mix all the filling ingredients.

Put the filling into the lined Basin.
Use the remainder of the Pastry to close the pudding, using water to ensure that the edges are fully sealed.

Cover with pleated grease-proof paper and pleated foil to allow for expansion.

Wrap string tightly around the covering to hold it firmly in place.

Steam the pudding for 4 hours (much less in a Pressure Cooker).

Bon Appétit

Seismos

By Dr. Lionel Mann
Contributing Editor

One evening I was sitting on the verandah of a friend's villa overlooking the Ropa Valley when everything started rocking. The wine sloshed in our glasses and cutlery tinkled on the table. This continued for perhaps twenty seconds and the four of us looked at each other in amazement. There was nothing to be done; we were in probably the safest place on the island, upon a thick base of concrete under a very sturdy wooden roof supported by thick timbers. Naturally such an event became quite a talking point.

I was reminded vividly of an event in my infancy in Norfolk. We were seated at breakfast when everything lurched. The clock and ornaments slid gently along the mantelpiece and then back again! As far as I can remember our only reaction was astonishment.

Later I spent some years in New Zealand where such occurrences are almost everyday events. In school children are taught to the extent of reflexes what action to take when the first person to notice the onset of a disturbance yells "Quake!" Instantly every child falls face-down to the floor under a desk with hands over the back of the neck, or stands in a doorway or similar recess.

I had been there less than a week when some new friends took me to visit people in the Hutt Valley, a suburb of Wellington. We were having tea when there was a subterranean rumble and everything on the table shook. My hostess quickly seized the milk-jug.

"Is there an underground railway out here?" I remembered how, in Lyons cafeteria on the bridge in Wembley High Street over the

L.M.S. main line, an express train roaring beneath would set everything trembling.

Everyone laughed. "No. That was just an earth tremor. You'll get used to it. We're always having them. That was only a little one. They're usually bigger than that."

My home in Wellington was of wooden construction on a reinforced concrete base, its double walls braced internally with wires. Those wires sang when the house heaved to seismic shock and I soon became accustomed to such events. Building regulations in New Zealand are very strictly enforced and all modern constructions are very safe.

Later I spent some years in Napier, devastated in 1931 by an earthquake that had killed nearly 300. A service was being held in the old wooden cathedral when it collapsed and caught fire. A doctor had performed the terrible task of crawling through the wreckage and administering lethal injections to persons inextricably trapped before the fire reached them. His mother had been one. The harbour rose to become later the airport!

Now every building in that beautiful city is "earthquake-proof". In the magnificent new cathedral the choir practice room is at the top of the tower, three floors up. How they managed to take a grand piano up there I cannot imagine. Napier has more than its fair share of tremors and the tower swayed (alarmingly until I became used to it) every time. We merely sat and hoped that the architects and engineers had done their sums correctly. They have!

After a particularly violent wobble a chorister raised his hand.

"Have you any seasick pills, please, sir?"

One morning I was rehearsing in the nave with the boy choristers. We were giving a concert of secular music that evening so I was playing a grand piano at the foot of the chancel steps while the choristers were standing along the steps above me.

"Quake!" One of the boys noticed the first rumblings.

To be under a reinforced concrete arched roof more than twenty metres above is not an ideal place under such circumstances; I dived into the nearest low arch over a side aisle - and thought that the cathedral had fallen on me with a rapid succession of shocks! When the rumbling ceased fourteen giggling boys removed themselves from the scrum.

"Brave teacher, sheltering under his pupils." The Head Boy grinned broadly as I dusted myself off and felt for broken bones.

There were never interruptions during services, however, unless I had been playing the massive organ so loudly that nobody noticed any less violent shocks!

MUSIC NOTE

There are now about 300 Chopin days to Christmas - especially in Poland.

SCHERZANDO SAYS

The New Year is now well underway hopefully?
Or do I mean underway well? How's your year going?!



Money is like a sixth sense without which you cannot make a complete use of the other five.

W.Somerset Maugham

Anyone who lives within his means suffers from a lack of imagination.

Lionel Stander (Playboy 1967)

Money isn't everything: usually it isn't even enough.



Anon.

Money Moans!

There are several ways in which to apportion the family income, all of them unsatisfactory.

Robert Benchley

I don't want money. It is only people who pay their bills who want that, and I never pay mine.

Oscar Wilde

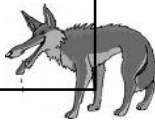


Weather Wit!

And here is the weather forecast. Tomorrow will be muggy. Followed by Toogy, Weggy, Thurgy and Frigy.

It was so cold, the wolves were eating the sheep just for the wool.

Anon



Anon **A - It's raining cats and dogs**

B - I know - I've just stepped into a poodle.

Anon



Here are five 5-letter names of animals. Take one letter from each name in turn to spell out another 5-letter name of another animal.

- ZEBRA
- TAPIR
- SHEEP
- HORSE
- PANDA

CAN ANYONE SOLVE THIS REBUS?

IF **B** MT PUT:

IF **B** .PUTTING:

Weight Watch!

Each year it grows harder to make ends meet - the ends I refer to are hands and feet.

Richard Armour
(US poet & author)

Exercise daily. Eat wisely.
Die anyway.

Anon
How comforting!

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

Sudoku Session

Well, you haven't said if you fancy a competition or not? So I am putting another one in this month anyway! Remember you need to put the numbers 1-9 in each little 3 x 3 square as well as each row and column.

Quizzical Questions



When we lose twenty pounds... we may be losing the twenty best pounds we have! We may be losing the pounds that contain our genius, our humanity, our love and honesty. ~Woody Allen

Inside some of us is a thin person struggling to get out, but they can usually be sedated with a few pieces of chocolate cake.

The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal 2009

I am delighted and very pleased, once again, to inform everyone that the total amount collected for the 2009 Poppy Appeal came to €2,133.96 (converted to £1,875.75)

I would like to extend (on behalf of myself and The Royal British Legion) my sincere thanks and appreciation to each and every person who gave so generously to this very worthy cause.

In the present worrying 'economical' climate, this magnificent collection gives an encouraging indication of the loyalty and appreciation held by the local ex-pat community (and all other contributors) towards The Royal British Legion.

I have been dealing with the annual Poppy Appeal for 27 years and I always feel a great sense of pride when I calculate the final amount collected.

Well done, all of you!

**Lucy STEELE, M.B.E.
Former British Vice Consul
Corfu**