

# The Agiot

19th Edition

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## Hopefully From Acorns

By  
The Editors

The village of Agios Ioannis in the district of Triklino nestles in the hills six miles east of Corfu Town. This is a rural location surrounded by hectares of olive and orange groves, truly a paradise. For time immemorial olives have been harvested, sheep and goats herded, grapes grown for wine, smallholdings cultivated for vegetables. For a hundred years Kosta's Taverna at the square has seen to quenching the thirst of locals and satisfying their hunger. Its clientele was enlarged some forty years ago when the village was discovered by the first hippies to arrive on the island. They pitched their tents amongst the olive groves nearby in an area still known as "The Cactus Hilton". Later an ancient mansion by the square became a Youth Hostel; today it is the Hotel Marida. The square with its church, bandstand and war memorial remains the focal point of all village

functions.

In 2004 flautist Elke Hornig and organist Dr. Lionel Mann gave an evening concert in an attractive setting on the patio of Villa Theodora in the old village. Nobody fell into the pool thereby encouraging us to expand the occasion annually into Music Week with the addition of concerts by Russ Bartlett and the Good Old Boys, Big Jim Knight and Richie Henderson. This year sees a further increase in our scope with a visit of the famous Dylan Project, supported by Richie together with his singer Sheila McWhirter, performing as East Of Memphis'.

We are very happy and



privileged to present our featured act this year "The Dylan Project" who will be playing, amongst other things, Bob Dylan's compositions. The band members, led by veteran rocker Steve Gibbons are Dave Pegg, (former bassist with Jethro Tull and, for the last 39 years, "Fairport Convention's" bass player), P.J. Wright, lead guitarist (formerly with The Steve Gibbons Band), Steve's current keyboard wizard Phil Bond and drummer Gerry Conway, (a member of both Fairport and Pentangle).

The festivities will start very early afternoon in the form of 'musical surprises', gradually winding up to an evening of fun and explosion of sound. Several diverse acts will precede the main act, so by early evening drink and food will be available and musicians will be playing. The Corfu Mandolin Orchestra, Russ Bartlett and The Good Old Boys, George Lubrano and others will be on show.

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Hopefully From Acorns  
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The drive and desire for this event is to put Agios Ioannis and thereby Corfu on the map for a brilliant annual festival, which will continue to grow down the years in size and scope. It is hoped this festival will become a Corfu landmark, bringing international acts to our special place on earth. Tourism and trade will be bolstered immeasurably by the success this year, so we would encourage

ALL lovers of Corfu and music to come along for the experience.

**Tickets are available** from the [www.agiotfest.com](http://www.agiotfest.com) site and may be paid for by PAYPAL.

Alternatively, they can be purchased by contacting Ocaj Services on [0030] 26610 58177 or [0030] 6974932408.

Upcoming information is also available at [www.theagiot.net](http://www.theagiot.net)

If you wish to support this event in any way by either advertisement or sponsorship please contact through the above sources or mail [mcgovern@otenet.gr](mailto:mcgovern@otenet.gr)

**There is a limit on crowd capacity so please order your tickets early to avoid possible disappointment.**

## Village News

By Dr. Lionel Mann  
Contributing Editor

This month starts with total paralysis - May Day. Everything comes to a screeching halt. When normal service kicks in, a few days later, we discover that some intrepid early visitors have arrived to brave our "spring", this year differing little from winter.

We have very few guests booked early in the season; the economic disaster has hit worst those with a limited budget. It is generally only the more wealthy who are coming and mainly in the high season, despite the higher prices of accommodation at that time. Moreover there are noticeably fewer visitors from Britain and many more from around Europe: Italy, Holland, Germany, Switzerland, Hungary, Russia.

Panniers of Dutch cyclists are coming and going. Walter and Martin Stuart, Jill and Bob Carr have already arrived; Paul and Sally Grove with their relations will be visiting at the end of this month.

Paul and Sally were staying with the Gileses in Santa Barbara recently and were forced to evacuate because of the wildfires.

An even bigger celebration here in May is on the 21<sup>st</sup>, Saint Constantine's Day. Constantine the Great, Roman Emperor from 306 to 337 A.D., first as a joint ruler but later alone by "removing" his partners, is credited with being the first Christian emperor, and as such has been canonized by the Orthodox Church. Also he moved the empire's capital city from Rome to Constantinople (Byzantium, Istanbul - call it what you will) which naturally is regarded with great approval by Eastern European nations. That he had his wife and eldest son amongst others executed on rather suspect grounds does not seem to trouble anyone!

The day is especially celebrated on Corfu as being the anniversary of the occasion in 1864 when the British occupation forces left and the Ionian Islands were at last reunited with newly-freed mainland

Greece after very many centuries of foreign government. That there are at least eight-thousand British currently resident on the island does not seem to worry anybody. We merely watch quietly while they congratulate themselves for having rid themselves of us!



This financial crisis is forcing companies to make tough decisions.  
there is a risk that we might need to lay off André.....

*"OCAJ workforce strike again!!"*

# C.L.R. (Corfu Light Railway)

## RESTORED RAIL LINK - KEY TO FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF AGIOTFEST?

By  
Phil Mawson

Following a rather tempestuous and on occasion fevered debate at the recently held A.G.M of the Corfu Unified National Transportation Society (Railway Restoration), the chairman Mr. Paul "Navy" McGovern, called the meeting to a close, firing on all cylinders and adopting the Churchillian phrase "...we shall return"..., indicating to the gathering that the resurrection of the C.L.R. rail link from its former principal station and H.Q. in Corfu Port and ultimately on to its Paleokastritsa Bay Terminus shall indeed begin soon in earnest.

**History of the C.L.R.** - Since narrow gauge locomotives last breathed steam and trundled along the metals from Corfu Harbour Station on their way to the western terminus, the section to Gouvia/Kontokali (now incidentally the main national road to northern Corfu) has so much changed along the former trackbed that owed its creation to the foresightedness of its founding principals, Spiros Bruneloupilous and Dimitri Goochalides. This lesser known European Light Railway for instance at Gouvia/Kontokali station (a once proud and distinct open-planned, twin-platformed halt) its eastern seaboard vistas have become a very busy sophisticated tourist centre and popular yacht marina, a far cry from the former fishing village and flourishing fish

market status it once had alongside the holiday and local passenger business, allowing commerce to continue trade side by side. The line then veered westward towards Agios Ioannis and The Ropa Plain.

**Agios Ioannis** - Between Gouvia/Kontokali and Agios Ioannis Central the line progressed in switch-back form in order to negotiate the steep hillside and traverse along the ridge in a gently sloping level if not straight section to Agios Ioannis Central Station. Sadly so little remains in evidence it appears, apart from two stone-arched viaducts situated about three kilometres from Agios Ioannis itself. The Central Station at Agios Ioannis has disappeared completely but the former marshalling yards, once adorned and awash with hundreds of olive and citrus fruit goods wagons is awash instead with a water park and is in fact the car parking area there. Ahh, how times change!

Agios Ioannis Central (C.L.R.) was just a few chains up-track from Agios Ioannis Junction Station, this second village station was the northern terminal extremity of the ill-fated North Central Railway Co. allowing trains to link services from East Corfu town via Alepou, Varipatades and Sinarades High Street Stations. It was an unpopular line even in its heyday and was doomed for closure in late 1896 - just four years after opening. Thankfully, the Corfu Amalga-

mated Rail Transport Society (C.A.R.T.S.) ploughed its resources into the C.L.R., Corfu Harbour - Paleokastritsa Bay Project. (Road traffic lights now stand commanding traffic where former rail signals and junction platform 1 stood outside present "Spider Bar" - itself the actual booking hall and former C.L.R. signal box).

**Note of Interest:** - Varipatades Station is where locally grown and purely organic various varieties of Corfiot Potato were transported throughout the Ionian.

**The Ropa Plain Section:** - Upon leaving Agios Ioannis Central, the line curved sharply west again at Kokkini Halt (now a traffic roundabout) and headed for its next stop at Glyfada Bay Station - an ambiguous name in itself as the resort's station remained nearly 1.5 kilometres from Glyfada on the opposite side of the Pelekas Promontory. As there was no 'road' anyway to the resort initially just a donkey trail ferried passengers to and from the station and Glyfada/Pelekas by donkey and cart, in fact a pleasant journey in fine conditions but quite an ordeal in inclement weather made more uncomfortable by a flatulent donkey forging uphill ahead of a heavily laden cart. Incontinence prevailed in most of these animals fed in the most part on olive-oil-soaked potatoes and greens.

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Corfu Light Railway  
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Onwards to Vatos and Ermones station, a halt only and later to become quite a popular destination as Corfu Golf Club utilised its position well and with some justification, the former Varipatades and Ermones station became re-named as Corfu "Links" Halt.

Eventually, the line then began its second real ascent, this time in the direction of Doukades and Paleokastritsa Bay. Again perhaps a misnomer, as the terminus suggests and indeed leads one to assume the final destination has a seaside location. One would need a more than vivid imagination in fact as the line terminates in Doukades. Doukadesville station had a drab, almost draconian ring to the name and so the Paleokastritsa Bay Station title was officially adopted. In fairness, the line was projected to continue down the valley quite steeply falling into the flat coastal section beneath the monastery. However, as always, even then as is the way today, local disputes and politics played a part. The demands of a most fanatical and partisan Lakones and District Latino male voice choir and stone-hurling Italian Tenors ended the prospect of a magnificently located if not majestic structure that would have been the envy of all Europe. In return for the railway company's requirement of land to build the station and Railway Hotel, the vociferous group insisted on being provided with a free rail-pass for all society members twice weekly and on alternate weekends (summer only) to transport them to and from a theatre in Corfu Town - a

deal that would have commanded a whole train of coaches at a cost to the C.L.R. that would prove most prohibitive and if implemented would surely have bankrupted the C.L.R. as it needed 100% fare-paying passengers to survive. Thus the decision was taken by Bruneloupilous to abandon his quest for a coastal terminus in Paleokastritsa in favour of one in Doukades. As a result even to this day, Doukadians and Lakones people squabble constantly over the issue after a few glasses of ouzo and village wine - thankfully hurling insults and not missiles at each other. Nowadays, however, on occasion Papas Makis has been observed putting discarded Olympiakos F.C. stand tickets into the Holy Bread destined for Doukades villagers Easter consumption!!

And so the line was completed only to be closed in the 1960's when Beechokalis, a distant cousin of Ataturk the Ottoman's bastard nephew, Lionel Mannipolis, brought down his axe to great outrage in Corfu. Except for maybe the Lakones choir who owned a mule and bus company which operated a service from Paleokastritsa to Corfu's urban centre (P.U.S.S.) eventually the Green Bus company took over control.

2009 - Corfu (Railway Walks) Trail. The present day finds this pleasant former rail line in great demand by hikers and bikers alike who navigate its winding path from Corfu Port to Paleokastritsa Bay. All the way the trail is adorned by delightful oasis and watering holes (tavernas and bars line the former rail route) in lieu of little station halts - providing the thirsty traveller with a much

appreciated glass of villages wine, Mythos or Amstel en-route. So next time you wander along this glorious trail, ponder for a while at some lonely spot and imagine what it must have been like to witness steam locomotives scaling the steep gradients towards Paleokastritsa/Doukades and the gentle hiss as pressure valves released steam on the descent back down the Ropa Valley to Agios Ioannis.

**Footnote 1:** The Corfu Unified National Transportation Society unanimously moved to raise funds in the form of sponsorships to restore the former C.L.R. rail link from Corfu Port to Agios Ioannis, via Gouvia/Kontokali at the A.G.M. Unfortunately, because of the now vital road carriageway from Corfu town to Dassia and beyond, the line will once more necessitate a major engineering feat as a 4 kilometre long embankment and suspension bridge will have to be built parallel to the highway with a swing bridge section at Gouvia Marina to allow the passage of yachts in and out their moorings.

Furthermore at Agios Ioannis there is now a busy water park accommodating thousands throughout the summer months and as the AGIOTFEST is forecast to expand greatly in future years from a present 1000 to over 10,000 music lovers in attendance of its annual Folk/Rock/Jazz and Blues festival every September the logistical need of such is that a restored C.L.R. will once again feature prominently in Corfu's commercial development.

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Corfu Light Railway  
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**AGIOTFEST 09** - Information  
and (Rail Society Contact).

Main Booking Office Tel:- 0030  
26610 58177

Administration & Public Rela-  
tions:

Paul "Navy" McGovern, Tel.  
0030 697432408

Philip "Journeyman" Mawson, Tel.  
0030 6943050593

Railway walks/Corfu Trail/  
Agiotfest Media Publicity:

Hilary Paipetis (distant signal  
cousin of Bruneloupilous), Tel.  
0030 6934396335

AGIOTFEST 09 is a happening,  
reviving those Happy Hippie Days  
of 1960's and 1970's.

**Our Headline act this year:-**

### THE DYLAN PROJECT

(Incorporating **Steve Gibbons** for-  
mer Steve Gibbons Band, **P.J.  
Wright** former Steve Gibbons  
Band, **Brendan Day** and **Phil  
Bond** current Fairport Conven-  
tion and ever youthful **DAVE**

**PEGG** former bassist Jethro Tull  
and current (over 35 years) Fair-  
port Convention and the famous  
'**Cropredy Festival**' originator.

**Tickets available now: 20 Euros**  
100 reserved seating positions, plu  
standing room.

**EARLY BIRD DISCOUNTS AP-  
PLY!!**

## Perplexing Pageant

By Paul McGovern  
Editor

This week saw the annual  
advent of a parade so arcane  
and mysterious in its origins  
and intent that even the locals  
were reduced to dumb silence  
when questioned as to "What's  
going on here then?"



Every year certain members  
of the village of Afra descend  
upon us in an enormous file of

supplicants who parade  
through our village square with  
their shrine, candles and ban-  
ners, looking casual.

They then disappear until  
the following year when the rite  
is repeated. It does seem to be  
that numbers are dwindling,  
but none-the-less the pageant  
continues.

It has something to do with  
the church and in fact it has  
something to do with the tenu-  
ous link between the two vil-  
lages. Beyond this the editor  
can dig up no further informa-  
tion.

Isn't it wonderful to have a  
festival or parade with no ap-  
parent meaning whatsoever  
than an excuse to walk carrying

flags?



However, we look forward to  
any of our readers who might  
be able to throw light on this  
dubious subject.

# FOOLING THE PEOPLE

By Dr. Lionel Mann  
Contributing Editor

The story goes that one night, rather less than two-and-a-half thousand years ago, Pericles was tossing and turning in bed, unable to sleep through worry. Some citizens were beginning to enquire uncomfortably closely into his management of the affairs of Athens, and the Ancient Greeks had an endearing habit of requiring that prominent persons who had been detected in unsatisfactory conduct should swallow a nourishing dose of hemlock. (What a pity that such a salutary custom seems to have fallen into disuse these days - how much agony the world would be spared!)

At last the young orphaned Alcibiades, sharing his guardian's bed and favours, could bear with the disruption to his own rest no longer. "Start a war somewhere."

"Shut up and go to sleep." But then Pericles thought, "Hey, that's it! That'll give them something else to think about. The kid's got brains!"

It worked perfectly. There were always the Spartans looking for an opportunity to participate in their favourite pastime and obstreperous colonies in Asia Minor and Italy that needed to be brought to heel. Pericles ensured that his reign in office extended for many more years, but Alcibiades grew up to pursue a rather spectacular chequered career and came to a sticky end.

The Periclean Ploy, when faced with domestic problems go to war somewhere in order to distract the shallow minds of your populace, has since those days been a regular recourse of politicians who have bungled their home affairs. Of course you must try to find a location suitably remote for your bellicose activities so that your own peoples are not un-

duly inconvenienced: Korea, Vietnam, Somalia, the Falklands, the Balkans, Afghanistan or Iraq, possibly Iran or Pakistan for instance. However, if you are so stupid as not to choose a "pushover" you are in real trouble, at home as well as abroad.

Today there is an added bonus to embarking upon such conflict; ease of travel may mean that your chosen enemy can infiltrate your own land, thereby enabling you, Big Brother, to impose severe surveillance and curtailment of civil liberties upon your own bovinely compliant people in order to "protect" them from "terrorists". Xenophobia has always been a politicians' tool to scare the gullible masses into compliance with their devious schemes. In my youth through the thirties and early forties it was "the filthy Hun"; then came "Reds under the beds"; today it is "Imams on the divans." There have been intermittent variations; throughout the ages the Jews have been a target for envy, and social differences have always been exploited to induce internal blind jealousy, "divide and rule". "You can fool all the people ..."

A couple of centuries or so after Pericles the "upper crust" ruling-class Romans, the patricians, when faced with the problem of keeping their underlings, the plebeians, subservient while they themselves pursued lives of lascivious luxury, hit upon the stratagem of "bread and circuses": hand-outs and entertainment, food and chariot races, gladiatorial contests, throwing dissidents to the lions. Today our leaders use minimal "social security" coupled with cheap cinema, television soap-operas, sitcoms, sport and scandal to keep the mindless populace happy while they feather their nests, pursue very dubious policies and attempt to conceal their lack of ability, The Roman

Racket. What's new? "You can fool all the people some of the time ..."

A perennially proclaimed politicians' "policy" is "to improve the standard of education", yet to have a well-educated, intelligent, thinking populace is the last thing that they would want; their own pitiful, pathetic ignorance and inadequacy would be instantly detected. Who believes The Schooling Scam? "You can fool all the people some of the time, but you cannot fool some of the people ..."

Adolf Hitler is credited with advising his lackeys, "When you tell a lie make it a big one; the ignorant hordes are more likely to believe that." Unfortunately at present the only qualifications required for becoming a politician are a loud mouth, a plausible manner and the ability to tell lies without blushing, a crippling weakness of "democracy". Why is it that so many failed lawyers, trained in twisting truth, turn to politics?

From 1939 to 1945 we were led to believe that all the broadcasts in the English language emanating from Germany were deceitful and that the bulletins from Allied sources were impeccably truthful. Of course it later transpired that it was "six of one and a half-dozen of the other". In the avowed interest of "maintaining morale" or "deceiving the enemy" both we and our foes were often fed a tissue of lies by leaders, usually in an attempt to hide their monumental blunders. The Press and radio were pressed into being willing or unwilling accomplices. Today television and the internet have become additional tools in hoodwinking the populace, The Hitler Hoax.

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Fooling The People  
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There is absolutely no depth to which embattled politicians will not descend. Big Business too has joined them in corrupting and exploiting the impressionable young and the poorly-educated unthinking masses; consider the

deluge of beguiling advertising that descends daily upon the world together with the current economic chaos. However there may just be hope. "You can fool all the people some of the time, but you cannot fool some of the people all the time." How many, though, is "some of the people"? Is it enough to combat perpetual

pernicious perverted political perfidy? Today the combination of The Pericles Ploy, The Roman Racket, The Schooling Scam and The Hitler Hoax is working as well as ever!

## News From the North

By Uncle Bulgaria  
Contributing Editor

Back again another month gone, we have actually got tourists up here, not many and they are all skint, but it is a start. Kassiopi still looks like a dustbin with on-going roadworks, to be expected with that particular council. Sidari, is a bit better but very scruffy and overpriced. Rodha is just scruffy, but the the booze prices are reasonable.

Acharavi, well we still have roads under repair from the sewer pipe laying, but at least the main centre is okay, but again lets just

say , the town centre has lots n lots of atmosphere. The council have just opened a museum near the old ruin excavation, well done and the brochures are in several languages, again well done.

Whilst it is not my way to give praise or advertise any particular bars or restaurants, I would like to mention the new "OSCARS" bar in Rodha, these guys (Greek) use to have the Tropicana at Rodha crossroads and made it very successful indeed. Forced to close down due to the expiration of the lease, they opened Oscars in the main Village. I have rarely seen a

Greek bar/Restaurant opened with such tasteful decor and still with reasonable prices for the food and drink. So, another well done with best wishes for success.

This letter is getting sickeningly mushi. I shall have to watch it.

The cookery book I am writing with all recipes over 100 years old, is coming along in leaps and bounds, but the sunshine is here so it will probably go on the back burner until winter. Unless of course I have a sudden urge !!!!!

Well, the weather is a bit iffy, so I guess it is back to the old grind stone and another couple of pages of the book. Have a good season all and earn a few quid.

I am and always will be, Obnoxious Al.

## Aunty Lula's Love-bites

### Lemon Cheesecake

#### Ingredients

100g Digestive Biscuits  
50g Margarine  
Juice and Rind (grated) of 1 Lemon  
200g Fresh Cream  
100g Cream Cheese  
25g Caster Sugar  
Fruit for Decoration

#### Go:

Crush the biscuits in a liquidizer. Melt the margarine and add the biscuits, combine together then press the biscuit mixture into a 20cm round flan dish.

Whisk the cream until thick. Add the sugar, cheese, lemon juice and rind and whisk together until all ingredients are combined.

Pour on to the biscuit base and chill until set.

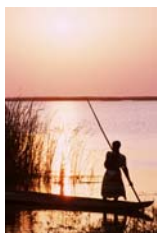
Decorate with fruit, such as orange or mandarin segments or any other fruit of your choice.

*Bon appetite!*

Scherzando sallies

(Skairtsándö)

**When it comes to age we're all in the same boat, only some of us have been aboard a little longer.**



**Leo Probst**

*I'm not 40, I'm 18 with 22 years experience.*  
*Unknown*

Boys will be boys and so will a lot of middle aged men!



??  
An orang-utan in the zoo has two books - the Bible and Darwin's Origin of Species. He's trying to figure out if he's his brother's keeper or his keeper's brother?  
??



Samuel Stannard

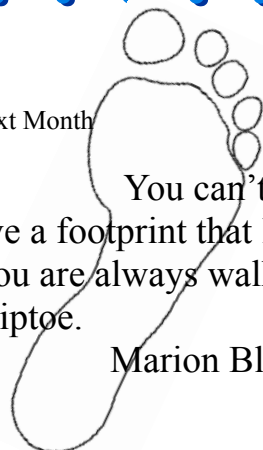
*Don't let ageing get you down.*  
*It's too hard to get back up.*



Thought for next Month

You can't leave a footprint that lasts if you are always walking on tiptoe.

Marion Blakey





## PROPERTY PAGES



### Land in Pelekas

Delightful land not far from the historic village of Pelekas with sea views and very secluded. Four thousand square metres of olive grove for sale, priced € 120,000 or alternatively, the site can be divided into two and each two-thousand square metres plot thereby would cost €65,000.

Guide Price: € 120,000



### Villa Felice

This magnificent 4 bedroomed villa is four hundred and fifty square metres and stands atop a hill on the outskirts of Almiros on the north coast of Corfu, within a mile or so of the lively small town of Acharavi. Featuring ensuite bathrooms and under floor heating, viewing is encouraged to see all the benefits of this property.

Guide Price € 2,000,000



### Land near Messaria

This plot of land measures approx. 970 square metres and is situated near the picturesque old village of Messaria in the north of the island of Corfu, on the route to Sidari. A building of about 124 square metres would be allowable on this piece of land. Utilities are within immediate reach and a topography is available.

Guide Price € 50,000



### Agios Douli

This is a detached village cottage, 85 square metres in size, set in 1000 square metres of garden. Situated in the traditional village of Agios Douli, North Corfu, on the way towards Roda. This cottage consists of 2 bedrooms, a bathroom, kitchen and a large lounge.

Guide Price € 120.000



### Agios Ioannis - Panorama

This superb two stremmas is situated in the heart of Agios Ioannis, and yet is secluded with unbroken views over the valley below. There is permission to build up to two dwelling houses on this site but one house only may be the solution. Utilities are close at hand, as are schools, shops and easy access to Corfu town.

Guide Price: € 70.000



### Hlomos

This is a two-bedroom village terrace cottage, with 75 square metres of living space. Newly modernised and renovated with some wonderful new features which include a featured working fireplace and a good quality spiral staircase leading to a top floor with amazing views.

Guide Price: € 120.000