

79th Edition

The Agiot

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Village News

By
Dr. Lionel Mann

Paul and Micky paid an early visit to bring the Grove-mobile. Jackie, Mark and Jenny, Derek and Carole have returned from enjoying the rigours of a more northerly winter. Visitors include Paul and Sally, Pat and Gina, the Knights of Lincolnshire, Ricky, Henk, Sylvana and Simon, Sophie, Leen, Johann and Hans. Wolfgang, recovering, has also returned.

The weather stayed more or less friendly at Easter, crockery disintegrated, fireworks exploded in a good display and more than thirty of us sat down in the taverna to eat roast lamb for dinner. Lula, Anna and Kosta danced while Nikos smashed plates.

Nitsa is recovering from a sprained ankle, the result of tripping over a dog.

When Nitsa was Young

To be continued

Next Month



"Traditional Pot Throwing in Corfu Town—Easter Saturday"

By Paul McGovern
The Editor

On a personal note I really enjoyed Easter, it was particularly nice to have old friends Barry and Stella back for the celebrations. I must really have enjoyed it, for I fell asleep at the taverna tables a la Ricky.

Another sad passing; Maria from the petrol station at Karoubatika died at the untimely age of forty-eight.

Our sincere condolences go to friend and Agiot Gordon McCabe and his family for the sad and recent loss of his mother, who he loved dearly.

Heather Skinner

This is a thank you to Heather Skinner for the kindness, generosity of spirit, efficiency and imagination she brought to bear on her Corfu Symposium, held at various venues across Corfu during April (see below for an idea of what went on.)

Heather is passionate about promoting her home of Corfu to the outside world. Where some may talk a lot about what should or not should be done for our island, this Welsh firebrand is a Doer of the first order.

Hats off to her for putting together a truly uplifting, varied and inspired Symposium.

Stop Press

Ocay Losers' Cup

The famous Cup will take place in the latter part of May, on a day yet to be decided, before the summer heat. Reserve your place. Admission to this prestigious event carries a 5 Euro entrance fee. Participants are encouraged not to practise beforehand, as this is unfair to the average competitor. Fans may attend free of this fee, the proceeds go towards the considerable costs of Agiotfest 14.

Agiotfest 14

By
The Minstrel

I am being asked a lot about the plans for this year's great festival, to be held at the New Cactus Hilton, Agios Ioannis on August 30th. Be assured it is all-systems go and that the event will take place on that last Saturday of August.

Much has been happening behind the scenes, as some of you are aware. We beg patience for just a little longer [I feel a song coming on here]. May is scheduled for a lot of build-up work and much will be revealed by June 1st.

At the Ocay Nervous Centre May 5th for seven days is reserved almost entirely for Agiotfest preparation. Tickets are here now and reservations can be made. Please enquire here or ring 6974932408.

Corfu Beer Party



Starting at 1.00p.m. May 1st in Arillas is a party to prelude the extremely successful Corfu Beer Festival, held each October in this charming north-west village. All are welcome. Come along and see for yourself like-minded people trying to make a positive difference to our beautiful island.

CORFU meets UK

CORFU BEER FESTIVAL 2014

On Thursday 1st May we are having a party to promote this years beer festival

Come and enjoy Music Beer and Souvlakis

Live music: The Splinter Band !



1pm until???
CORFU BREWERY ARILLAS

Kids Corner



Agiotfest Sponsors

[OCAY Property Services](#)

Fully licensed under Greek law, OCAY Property Services offers both land and property for sale, mostly in the central region of Corfu. They can also handle the entire design and construction of a home including all licences, taxes, etc.

[Daylong](#)

Daylong have been working in the compression hosiery market for over 50 years and have a wealth of experience in providing the right solution for their customers. They stock one of the widest ranges of products available in the UK including specialist medical products, sports ranges and a full range of fashionable support stockings and tights.

[Mouse House Scaffold Design Ltd](#)

Design of temporary structures in tube and fittings and various proprietary scaffolding systems including temporary roofs, facade shores and difficult access solutions all designs carried out in accordance with all current British and European standards and regulations.

[Spear Travels](#)

If you are looking for a travel agent who will spend the time to come up with the exact holiday that you want, in the right place and at the right budget for you, and knows what they are talking about as well, Spear Travels can provide a huge choice and offer holidays with the smaller tour operators that are often not available on the High Street.

[Green Island](#)

Holiday Accommodation on the Greenest Island of Greece: Corfu. Specialized in the Dutch & the British tourist market

[Vrionis](#)

With us since 2009, every year Bill Vrionis supplies the best of sound and lighting. Visit his excellent shop on town

[British Corner Shop](#)

The largest selection of British food in Greece. Favourite leading brands including Waitrose groceries and Iceland frozen foods. Plus a selection of confectionery, ice cream, soft drinks, beers & wine, dairy produce, household cleaners, personal care, newspapers, magazines and greetings cards.

[Sunrise Cars](#)

Discover the hidden beauties of the island with the hospitality and security of Sunrise Rent a Car. Situated on the main road opposite the customs buildings at the New Port, this company has been operating since 1980 and due to its experience can offer the best services and prices.

[Nikos Pouliasis](#)

A local and much-respected architect and Mekanikos, Mr Pouliasis has been designing houses across Corfu for many years. He is always kind, patient and fair-minded. Also, his rates are consistently competitive!

And:

**Boatman's World
NSK**

**Famous Grouse
Sofia Kasfiki**

**Sergio Grammatikos
Eco-Point**

Sally's Bar

Paul & Jan Scotter

Ken & Jan Harrop

Steve Dell

Steve Young

Jo & Mel Sperling

Lionel Mann

Sue Done

Michael Spiggos

Tavola Calda

Bill & June Williams

Spyros Hytiris

Brenda Pangrakitotis

Nikolas's Taverna, Agni

Vassilis Pandis

In Action gym

Star Bowl

Greg Zoxios

La Tabernita Mexicana

Barry & Stella Knight

David Dickinson

Sarah Young

Heather Skinner

Simon & Lin Baddeley

Bob & Jill Carr

Chas Clifton

Rob Groove

Corfu Symposium

About the Symposium

The theme of the Symposium "Responses to the decline in Mass Tourism - Engaging Stakeholders and Effecting Positive Change" reflects the global decline in mass tourism, a preference for 'unbundling' the package holiday by certain market segments, a growth in niche tourism, and, in certain markets, a growing preference for in All-Inclusive vacations. This symposium will therefore focus on the creation, development and implementation of coherent and appropriate responses to these issues that lead to effective place management, marketing and branding decisions, and which particularly involve the interaction between academics and practitioners.

About the Institute of Place Management

The Institute of Place Management has provided formal accreditation for the 1st Corfu Symposium on Managing and Marketing Places to encourage and support individuals undertaking continuous professional development.

If you would like more information about the IPM and its services please visit :

www.placemanagement.org.

Delegates to the Symposium may take advantage of a free 30 day trial membership:

<http://www.placemanagement.org/eacademy/default.asp?a=register&s=demouser&academyId=159>

About the Symposium Team

Dr Heather Skinner

I moved to Corfu in August 2013 following a 15 year academic career at the University of South Wales (formerly the University of Glamorgan) where I was Reader in Marketing. Since 2011, I have been researching tourism business owners' attitudes to All-Inclusive tourism, presenting my findings in a keynote address at a public meeting hosted by the Chamber of Commerce and the Ionian University in March 2013. This research has expanded to consider wider issues concerning the future of tourism in Corfu, in particular, how Corfu, along with many other mature European destinations, can address the problem of declining numbers of middle-market independent tourists from its key source markets.

Alex Christou

I was born and raised in Corfu Town to a Dutch mother and a Greek father. I studied Chemistry in the Netherlands and worked as a DBA, programmer, web designer and web marketer both in the Netherlands and in Thessaloniki, Greece for 10 years. In 2010 my wife Christina and I moved permanently to Arillas, Corfu, where

we have been living ever since, raising our two young daughters the best way we can, close to nature. We are also actively involved in making Arillas a better place, and we enjoy participating in one of the most active village communities on Corfu. The concept of Green Corfu, started about four years ago with the idea to promote alternative holidays and local Corfiot products.

Pepé Soomers

Born and raised in Holland, I have always had two strands to my career, one as a photographer, writer, and director for theatre and TV, the other in psychology, coaching and therapy. I have occasionally been able to combine both, writing a book on music therapy for physically disabled people, which resulted in a world tour of seminars, workshops and performances, including one at the US White House for the (old) Bush administration. I am part of a global seminar business team, and have attended, accompanied and organised more than 100 seminars over the last 8 years. Since my first visit to Athens in 1983 I have seen most of Greece, losing my heart and finding my home in Arillas on the North West of Corfu.

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Corfu Symposium Continued from Page 4	<i>of Communications Arts, University of Uyo</i>	09:30 – 11:00 Session 3 – Cultural Tourism and Heritage <i>Facilitator – Pepé Soomers</i> <u>Making Music Holidays</u> Vivienne Pittendrigh, Chamber Music Holidays and Festivals
Day 1 – Monday 14 th April	<u>Expats' Perspective on Romania Nation Brand</u> <i>Dochita Zenoveiov, Seed Consultants</i>	<u>Lie of the Land – Representations of Rural England in Contemporary Folk Song</u> <i>Dr Heather Skinner</i>
12:00 Keynote Speakers Mr Spiros Spirou – Governor of the Prefecture of the Ionian Islands	<u>The future of tourism in Corfu: initial research, reporting, and beyond</u> <i>Dr Heather Skinner</i>	11:00 – 11:30 Coffee
Dr Kostas Tsoumanis - head of the National Tourism Organisation (EOT) department of the Ionian islands	16:30 – 17:00 Coffee	11:30 – 13:00 Session 4 – Wine and Gastro Tourism <i>Facilitator – Dr Heather Skinner</i> <u>Corfu Beer</u> Spiros Kaloudis
13:00 Lunch	17:00 – 19:00 Session 2 – New Media Marketing <i>Facilitator – Dr Heather Skinner</i> <u>Corfu Tourist Portal</u> - Nick Sirigos	<u>Oinovation</u> <i>Xenia Tombrou and Niko Kavounis</i>
14:00 – 16:30 Session 1 – City and Country Brands <i>Facilitator – Dr Heather Skinner</i> <u>Managing and Marketing Tourism for the Ionian Islands</u> <i>Dr Kostas Tsoumanis, National Tourism Organisation</i>	<u>Real Corfu</u> - Adrian Ward <u>Green Island</u> - Dick Mulder	13:00 – 14:00 Lunch
<u>The Sustainable City</u> <i>Professor Cathy Parker, Manchester Metropolitan University Business School</i>	<u>Our City Radio</u> – Roger Garth, Joann Alexakis and Angelos Michalakis	14:00 – Coach departs Hotel Fiori for our visit to the Theotoky estate
<u>Umuhia Residents' Perception of the Rebranding Nigeria Campaign</u> <i>Ubadire Agua, Michael Okpara</i> <i>University of Agriculture, and Nsikan-Abasi S. Nkana, Department</i>	20:00 BBQ dinner on the Hotel Fiori terrace	19:00 – Working dinner at the symposium hotel where delegates will be encouraged to discuss their research ideas and potential for collaborative projects. <i>Facilitator – Pepé Soomers</i>
	Day 2 – Tuesday 15 th April	

Holy Trinity Church Summer Fair

The HTC annual summer fair will be held on Saturday June 14th at Holy Trinity Church, 21 Mavili St in the town centre, from 10am – 3pm.

On the day there will be a wide range of stalls including crafts, home produce, plants, jewellery, books and DVDs. We will also be hosting a Silent Auction, which will start on-line on June 1st. There will be fun games for all ages including face painting for the children, tom-

bola and raffles. Refreshments will be served all day, coffee and cakes in the morning and a BBQ lunch, enjoy a break whilst listening to our talented local musicians.

We hope you will help us make the day a great success by coming along to join us. In the meantime if you have any unwanted gifts, books, DVDs, or wine....., all in good condition, we would love to take them off your hands. Items may be left at HTC church Tuesday

– Friday between 10am – 1pm or email rod.drake18@gmail.com to arrange collection.

Looking forward to seeing you on the day.....

Holy Trinity Church

SUMMER FAIR

Sat. 14th June, 10am - 3pm

Silent Auction



Grand Raffle

Fun & Games for all ages

Including Face painting!

Home Produce

Tombola

Plant Stall

Books - Cd's - Dvd's

Bric a brac

REFRESHMENTS ALL DAY

Coffee & Cakes

BBQ Lunch

21 Navili Street,
Behind the Orpheas Cinema
On the opposite side from
the Bella Venezia Hotel
Tel: 26610 31467
website: holytrinitycorfu.com



A Friend now gone

Contributed by
Lucy Steele M.B.E.

Doris (affectionately known as Dorie) Alice DARKE (Nee Ralph) was born on 17 July 1913 in London and passed away peacefully on 23 March 2014 at the grand old age of 100 years and 8 months!

She was a dear friend of mine and I wanted to write a few words in her memory and I hope that those of you who knew her will find them interesting.

Dorie had a brother Stanley and a sister Joan. Their father was

Augustus George RALPH , OBE; CBE; who married May Lamb Colsell. Their father was Deputy Chief of Police in London during the second world war and part of his duties was to accompany the King on various visits here and there. After the war he was sent to Athens, Greece, to head up the civil forces resisting the insurgence of the communists.

Dorie's parents eventually divorced and in time her father (known as George) began a serious relationship with the widow of a professor from the University of Athens. This lady had a large property and olive grove in the southern area of Benitses, known as Limeri, and when George retired they both spent several wonderful years at this idyllic property. She passed away in the 1950's and left it to George in her will. This was contested by the University but, after fighting this for many years in the courts, George was eventually successful and the property became legally his.

Dorie and her then-husband, Grenville Cock, also a high ranking British policeman, came from the UK to Corfu and lived

with George on this wonderful property. Dorie, who doted on her father, ran his household and his life . Grenville felt somewhat overshadowed by his rather gruff and stern father-in-law.

In the early 1970's Dorie, her husband and father moved to their spacious new home at St. Eleni, Kato Korakiana. Sadly, Grenville passed away late 1974/early 1975. He was cremated in the UK and his ashes are in the British Cemetery, Corfu.

In 1976 Dorie married Police Commander Norman John Horatio DARKE after a 'whirlwind' romance!

In 1980 George, at the grand old age of 96 passed away and was buried in the British Cemetery on 21 December 1980. In his absence Dorie and Norman spent the next twenty years happily in their lovely home. Norman, who was born in Portsmouth on 1 August 1915, passed away, at the age of 85, and was buried in the British Cemetery on 14 November 2000, near to his father-in-law.

I will go back to Dorie's brother Stanley and sister Joan. Sadly, in the UK in the 90's whilst Joan was out walking with her husband Ken they were both killed by a reckless driver who mounted the pavement. They had one daughter, Jennifer Baxter, who lives in the UK and has two children David and Sarah. Brother Stanley passed away in 2004; his wife passed away in 2007 and their only child Christopher Ralph lives in Australia with his wife Rosemary, an accountant, and their two sons Nicholas Stanley George (after his Great-grandfather) and Felix Christopher Henry. Nicholas, a video producer for

World Vision, travels the world's problem areas. Felix was accepted into Law earlier this year and practices as an advocate in criminal law, with a view to becoming a barrister. Both sons are very interested in their family history and viewed great-grandfather George as something of a hero marveling at the photographs of him with the late king. Felix treasures his great-grandfather's championship wrestling trophies; earned during his early days as a policeman. George's OBE and CBE are safely secured in the family safe and the remaining treasured heirloom is the portrait of Dorie's father Augustus George.

RALPH, OBE; CBE; personal friend to the King! This has hung in Dorie's home for many years and it was her wish that this portrait go to her nephew Christopher Ralph, and it will. It is presently in my possession and I am attempting to obtain an Export Licence from The National Gallery in Athens but, this being Greece, I am having to deal with a certain amount of 'red tape' before I can send it on its way. Australia will become the final resting place for this portrait of a strong man who led a very interesting; fulfilling and responsible life; his face is so full of character and strength and his eyes are most penetrating. Dorie was very fortunate to have such a charismatic father whom she adored and he, in turn, enjoyed so many years of closeness with Dorie after she joined him in Corfu.

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A Friend now gone
Continued from Page 7

But, luckily, Dorie was not left to fend for herself. She had the most wonderful next-door-neighbours in the form of Maria and her husband Napoleon Kaloudis. Suffice to say that for the past 35 years dear Maria tended to Dorie's every need and, in her declining years, fed her; washed her and watched over her like a loving mother would do for her child. In fact, for the past 15 years Maria spent each and every evening at Dorie's home; sleeping when she could in one of the bedrooms nearby and always on call in case Dorie needed her.

I visited Dorie on a regular basis and I would find her sitting on her bed all neat and tidy. Maria would place my flowers in a vase nearby and we would sit and chat for a short while. Dorie had a sharp mind and asked me often about Mary Lemis (widow of the former Honorary Irish Consul) and Lorraine from the Anglican Church. Mary visited Dorie just

days before she passed away. Her favourite colour was pink and she had the softest pink glow to her flawless cheeks. On the dot of 2pm each day, all year round, Maria produced a home-cooked meal for Dorie who had a very good appetite. I was there one day when Maria took Dorie's meal from the oven and it smelled so good I asked Maria if I could move in and be as well-fed as Dorie!

Each Christmas I would provide a small pre-cooked Christmas pudding and give Maria explicit instructions on how to warm it in the microwave oven; Dorie always looked forward to her Xmas puddings; chocolates and cards. She would also enjoy a home baked cake from her friends at the Anglican Church.

In early March of this year Dorie started to become very frail and it was evident that it was just a matter of time before she would leave us. On Friday, 21 March Lorraine from the Anglican Church, accompanied by Locum Chaplain Peter Jordon, visited Dorie and they prayed with

her. They recited the 23rd Psalm and, I am told, Dorie's last words were: **The Cross. Amen!**

She passed away, pain-free during her last three days, at 8am on Sunday 23 March and was buried in the British Cemetery on Monday, 24 March. She was taken from the mortuary straight to the cemetery, as was her wish. Her coffin was opened for a while; she was dressed in her favourite pink and I placed a single pink rose on her breast. It was her wish to be interred in her father's grave and there she now lies.

Our gentle Dorie, after a wonderfully interesting life, is now gone;. Maria has lost a mother and I have lost a friend but she is always in my heart and often in my prayers and thoughts.

Good night dear Dorie until we meet again. Rest in Peace.

Lucy Steele, M.B.E.
April 2014

Corfu Weather Statistics

	Max	Avg	Min	Read more at:
Temperature:				
Max Temperature	26°C	19°C	13°C	http://www.wunderground.com/history/airport/LGKR/2013/9/1/MonthlyHistory.html?req_city=NA&req_state=NA&req_stat-ename=NA#PFq1VRYHlbugcTGf.99
Mean Temperature	20°C	15°C	11°C	
Min Temperature	17°C	11°C	6°C	
Degree Days:				
Heating Degree Days (base 65)	14	6	0	
Cooling Degree Days (base 65)	4	0	0	
Growing Degree Days (base 50)	18	9	1	
Dew Point:				
Dew Point	17°C	11°C	1°C	
Precipitation:				
Precipitation	20.1 mm	1.2 mm	0.0 mm	
Wind:				
Wind	42 km/h	9 km/h	0 km/h	
Gust Wind	61 km/h	51 km/h	39 km/h	
Sea Level Pressure:				
Sea Level Pressure	1019 hPa	1011 hPa	1004 hPa	

Aunty Lula's Love-bites

Viennese Fingers

Ingredients

200g Butter
50g Icing Sugar (sieved)
200g Plain Flour (sieved)
2 tsp. Vanilla Essence

Filling:

100g Icing Sugar (sieved)
50g Butter
2 drops Vanilla Essence

Chocolate Coating

150g Chocolate (melted over hot water)

Go:

1. Place the butter and icing sugar in a warmed bowl and cream until the mixture is quite soft. Add the flour and vanilla essence and continue to beat until the mixture is fairly soft but smooth.

2. Transfer the mixture to a large piping bag fitted with a star nozzle. Pipe 7.5cm fingers on to a lightly greased baking sheet.

3. Cook at 180°C for 10 - 15 minutes or until they just begin to change colour. Cool on a wire rack.

4. Beat the filling ingredients together until they are smooth and creamy.

5. The chocolate can be put to melt at the same time.

6. When cool, sandwich the fingers together with the cream and then dip the ends of the fingers into the melted chocolate.

7. Leave to dry completely before storing.

Bon appetit!

Contributed to Lula's Love Bites by Nick The Clock

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CTK0mpniqPw>

Video Corner

We had some Irish visitors this Easter

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qHF5fkBA2Nw>

Chuck and Keith

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5mادتiLf7DI>

The circus

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cGxcuv2gI-Q>

drumline

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JHXNaYoguNU>

John Lydon in court

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fJ2Xb4wgCL0>

Did not people express the English language so much better in the 19th Century?

GO TO 4 MINUTES 30 SECONDS ON CLIP

[Davy Crockett]

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LRFaGi2lqrY>

The world of Simon



"Simon Baddeley"

For a glimpse into
Simon's World
Try this link:

<http://democracystreet.blogspot.gr/>

Sporting Memories

By
Dr. Lionel Mann

From 1948 to 1958 I lived, first as a student and later as a teacher, in Wembley with a view of the Stadium, its imposing towers a mere two hundred yards from our front gate. Whenever my very busy schedule afforded the opportunity I took advantage of the entertainment being offered almost on my doorstep, mainly evening speedway at the stadium and a wide variety of functions at the Empire Pool at first, until in 1951 I became organist and choirmaster at the local church. Our vicar was always given complimentary tickets to events at the stadium and he passed them on to me - all except those for the F.A. Cup Finals! I saw many international matches and was among the thousands who admired and applauded the wizardry of Stanley Matthews. When there was nothing on at the stadium I often went with a fanatical Q.P.R. supporter friend and his family to their attraction when the team was at home and at other

times to support Brentford. In those days, before hooligan violence and vandalism polluted football, we often rubbed shoulders with fans of visiting teams.

There was plenty of friendly banter but not a trace of aggression. The presence of women and children kept coarse language away. My friend's wife and two sons, initially aged 7 and 13, always came with us, the boys entering through a separate turnstile charged three-pence each, and we had our afternoon entertainment for one shilling.

In summer academic holidays and Saturdays when I was not required to play for weddings I often went to watch cricket at Lord's or the Oval, both easily reached by train from Wembley. As a Middlesex supporter I went more frequently to the former where Dennis Compton and Bill Edrich were attracting great support with their batting and I also saw Don Bradman giving England fieldsmen a run-around in a Test Match. Too I saw Freddie Trueman and 'Typhoon' Tyson

hurling down their thunderbolts as well as being amused by the antics of Godfrey Evans, the Kent and England wicker-keeper.

Together with the Bedsers the great day at the Oval was the spin bowling of Tony Lock and Jim Laker and I regret that I was away on holiday, able only to enjoy the radio commentary of the B.B.C.'s inimitable John Arlott, when the Surrey 'Spin Twins' skittled out an entire Australian XI in an afternoon for a miserable two-digit score while I was sipping cider in the shade of an orchard behind a Norfolk farmhouse.

At the Wembley church I soon built up a large choir of twelve men and thirty boys. On my visits to the stadium I would often be greeted with, "Hello, sir," by a group of grinning youngsters. Although they were some of the best-paid choristers in the country I know that they never entered through the turnstiles and I wonder if the new stadium is any more boy-proof than the old one.

Ocay Construction making your dreams come true!

By
Les & Chris Woods

As the soon to be owners of the latest property under construction by OCAY services - as mentioned in April's edition of "The Agiot" we thought it would be nice to share our experience from our first contact and close encounter of the Corfu kind!

We were married in August 2011 and Honeymooned on Paxos We knew we wanted to eventually settle down in Greece but the exact location had remained elusive to us up until our time on Paxos, where

it dawned on us that after flying on to Corfu that maybe it was the ideal location, not too hot, compared to other areas of Greece, and most importantly as we planned to live "the good life", seasons and rainfall were important to our dream. Also it was just a 3 hour flight from the UK.

After scouring the internet prior to our impending visit to Corfu in May 2012 we came across OCAY Services.

The reason we opted to contact OCAY above all other companies was the clear, no messing and

simple message that was portrayed, which was that the customer and their needs were priority!

We completed all the usual online forms and agreed to meet for the first time in Dassia, where we were staying at the time.

My wife and I met Lula & Paul and it was obvious straight away that this was going to be more than a business partnership, and as time has gone on we have all become good friends.

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Ocay Construction, making your dreams
come true!

Continued from Page 10



But getting back to our first encounter in Dassia, Lula & Paul had a number of properties to show us which they thought would come close to our “dream property” as indicated by the on-line forms we had filled in prior to our visit.

Of course we were looking for our “Shangri La” on verdant Corfu but it soon became apparent that it was harder to find than we imagined!

We thought we had found paradise in a tumbledown goat herder’s cottage and left Lula & Paul with the search to find the owner and to open negotiations on our behalf.

On our next visit to Corfu in Sept of the same year it was soon obvious that the cottage was beyond repair and actually required to be knocked down and re-built, which basically meant it was never going to be the same.

It was at this time that our friends suggested that maybe what we really needed was a plot of land and to design and build our own bespoke home?

It was obvious that Paul could see what we could not see ourselves, which was “we knew what we did not want but could not find what we really wanted”

So the search for a suitable plot of land was underway!

In Nov 2012, we were contacted by Ocay who had located a plot of land for sale close to the village of Agios Ioannis, it sounded just what we were looking for! So we made plans to return to Corfu in April of 2013.

April 2013 could not come quick enough but it did and we eventually arrived back on the island.

Lula and Paul had come up with several plots of land for my wife and I to check out but it was pretty plain from the outset that the first plot in the valley known to the locals as “Vrisi” was perfect for us and Paul knew it was before we did! We did check out other plots just to make sure we were making the right decision and it confirmed that we were.

Before we could enter in to any legal process we had to obtain our Greek tax numbers to allow us to proceed and open a Greek bank account to fund our purchase and hopefully the build, none of which would have been possible without the guidance of Lula & Paul. There was no way a couple of “newbies” like us with not even a smattering of Greek language skills could have managed the above.

So Lula & Paul began the long process of contacting the owners of the land and negotiated on our behalf and in June of 2013 my wife and I became proud Greek land owners thanks to the services of Ocay.

My wife and I returned to Corfu in July and arrangements were made for us to meet up with Nikos, a Mekanik? (architect) and in no time the design we had in our heads was soon turned in to artists impression’s and architect’s drawings.

Once the drawings were submitted it was just a matter of waiting and waiting until planning permission was finally granted in Feb of 2014, wonderful.

This is where Lula and Paul really came into their own, with several properties already constructed, their skills, experience & contacts proved invaluable.

The land was cleared and the long awaited construction was underway!

And as they say “the rest is history”

Paul keeps both of us updated with regular reports and plenty of photographs as the build progresses.

We are planning to visit the village and the build of our home with our grown up children and our Grandchildren at the end of April early May 2014, (so by the time you are reading this we will have been and gone) to allow our family to hopefully share and enjoy the Corfu experience.

None of the above would have been made possible without Lula and Paul’s extensive business knowledge and experience in making people’s dreams become a reality.

Thank you OCAY.



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Fleshpots Of The North

By
Mark Thompson

This year, here in Greece, we celebrated Pascha (Easter) at the same time as the West and it also coincided with the Jewish festival of Passover. You may have seen, as I did, a short film on the BBC on-line showing the 'rocket celebrations' in Chios where homemade missiles are directed at rival churches, with points awarded for clear hits.

We cannot claim anything so exciting here in Episkepsi, however many people attend the church at midnight to 'see-in' Easter Day, candles are lit, greetings are exchanged and this year some €1,000 worth of fireworks were discharged. Given the current plight of the Greek economy I think this shows a healthy disregard for the German bankers who apparently believe they own, if not control, Greece and an attention to the real priorities of life.

The village has also acquired a canon to repel EMU and Ministry of Finance inspectors and this also let rip. Being well placed up the mountain we are able to see the fireworks from many other places; Roda, Sidari, Kerousades, Acharavi. The fireworks of other village are, without exception, lit early and whilst this might interrupt the priest's invocation of the Risen Lord; we get to see a number of displays at no cost.

As midnight strikes the bells are rung, fireworks ignited, candles lit and we all exchange greetings. Chronia/Xronia polla, which is in regular use for birthdays, hi-days, holidays and in some cases simply surviving 'til Saturday, Kālo Pascha/Pasxa and also Christos/Hristos Anesti (Christ is risen), the

reply to which is Alithos Anesti (He is truly risen/He is risen indeed).

Early in my time here I misheard the responses and believed, in ignorance, that the priest had said *Christos/Hristos arresti* to which the only response I could think of was Habeas Corpus, in other words from the Latin 'release the body'. I thought this might have something to do with the arrest of Jesus by the Roman authorities or conversely after the crucifixion when it as discovered that the body of our Lord was missing from the tomb. I now know better.

Having wrung many hands, exchanged greetings, kissed countless stubbly cheeks and struggled without success to keep alight a Pascal candle in a high wind we repaired home for a glass port of a slice of home-made rich fruit cake. However the traditional and observant Greeks break their Lenten fast with *Mayiritsa* which is, in its simplest form Lamb's liver soup, however but can become a sort of liquid haggis with the addition of spleen, kidneys and other offal and of course every district, if not every family, has their own particular take on this late nite treat. For me the fruit cake suffices.

One traditional greeting/toast at a Greek wedding is *May you live*. As I type this, mid-morning on Easter Sunday, shotguns are being randomly discharged around the village. Whilst in the UK this form of celebration of life itself and the joy of the Risen Lord would be frowned upon if not actually prevented by our friends of the health and safety persuasion. Whereas here these explosions, for me, are an exemplar of the Greek attitude to life and that this proud nation will survive the current,

though passing, economic cruelties.

In Greece the week following Pascha is heavy with 'Renewal Days', thus Renewal Deftera (Monday), Treetee (Tuesday) etc., but interestingly not Friday. We however will be celebrating 'Easter Monday' in the usual and traditional fashion by going to the races at Ermones, as described in an earlier piece. Having enjoyed a compulsory 4-day break after the Grand National the visiting jockeys will, no doubt, be itching to get back into the winner's enclosure. I heard yesterday that some 800+ guests had arrived in a hotel in Acharavi, I guess we can say, for good or ill, that the 'season' has well and truly opened. Roll on the 1st November. To adapt John Ebdon 'if you have been thanking you for reading'.

Now for the answers to a previous quiz: Perhaps unusually for an aristocrat, both then and now, Lord Rosebery was an enthusiastic supporter of football. Such was his dedication to the sport and his involvement in the development of the game in Scotland that, on occasions, between the late 1880s and the late 1940s the Scotland football team wore Rosebery's racing colours as the national shirt.

The traditional dark blue were the colours of Queens Park which represented Scotland in the first international. However Rosebery was such an influential figure in Scottish football at the time, serving as Honorary President of both the Scottish Football Association and Hearts of Edinburgh, that his racing colours of primrose and pink were worn.

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Fleishpots of the North
Continued from Page 12

Most notably when Scotland defeated England 4-1 in 1900 and Rosebery famously said 'I've never seen my colours so well sported since Ladas won the Derby' (in 1894).

For those who might be interested Rosebery's colours will be Scotland's change kit for the UEFA Euro 2016 qualifying matches.

As for part two, the answer is the definite article, that is 'the'. Queen Elizabeth is known as 'The Queen', the head of the Roman Catholic

Church is known as 'The Pope' and the head of the Clan Chisholm is known as 'The Chisholm', or in Scots Gaelic '*An Siosalach*', and is the only Highland Chief who is entitled to that prefix.

Herewith is this months' quiz; firstly what links the following:

The Prince of Wales.

A bald man

A chimpanzee.

Secondly explain the following;

Horses first, the men next and yourself last.

The usual competition rules apply and the prizes are the same. I'm pleased to report that the last person to sample my wine has now been safely discharged from hospital with a clean bill of health, though it was touch and go for a time. Though I blame the eleventy-four lagers, by way of Dutch courage, that he drank before the wine tasting began. The decision of the committee as to prize winners is final and no correspondence can be entered into.

Mark Thompson, in the fleishpots and trying to shield the matches.

Hilary's Ramblings

By
Hilary Paipeti

Judas Trees and Judas Flowers

Every Easter we delight in the spectacle of the island's Judas Trees in full bloom. The blossom appears before the leaves - and those leaves come through much later than most other trees - so that it would not be hard to kid a credulous early visitor that 'in Corfu, some of our trees grow pink leaves.'

The tree is named after Judas Iscariot, who is said to have hung himself on one in remorse at his betrayal of Christ. Legend has it that the pink flowers bloom at Easter because the trees are blushing in shame at their species' role in the Passion.

On Easter Monday I was walking near Giannades with a Dutch lady and she asked me the name in English of Honesty, the pretty purple flower whose characteristic seed cases, dark purple when they first form, later turn into silvery, papery discs. She told me that in Dutch it is called 'Judas Flower' because the papery discs look like

coins - the thirty pieces of silver which Judas took in return for his act.

Wouldn't it be great if money really grew on (Judas) trees?

Here come the Corfu Trailers!
Or coincidence strikes again.

I was sitting in the 19th Hole bar in Vatos chatting to a Dutch friend over an Easter Sunday Evening ouzo when in walked an exhausted-looking stranger, who sat down at a neighbouring table. Since she was Dutch too, we soon fell into conversation, and she volunteered that she was walking the Corfu Trail. She was hugely surprised and pleased when I admitted to being its creator (well, its not the sort of thing you do expect in a country bar, is it?).

She had walked from Pelekas to Giannades and, as there was no accommodation to be had in that village, a local drove her back to Vatos where there was a place to stay. She rather grumbled that this meant she would have to walk the Vatos-Giannades section of the Trail again in the morning, so I offered to run her there, and walk part of the onward Trail with her. I

had to walk the dogs anyway, and it might as well be in company, and in a place we don't hike every day.

Accordingly, I accompanied her for about half the way to Liapades, guiding her to a crucial junction, then I cut off down into the valley to take the road back to Giannades.

Just as I arrived at the point where the Trail crosses the road to climb into the centre of Giannades, two walkers were stepping up the final slope. Booted and heavily ruck-sacked, they answered in the affirmative when I asked them whether they were walking the Trail.

Then I introduced myself: total delighted surprise for the SECOND time in 24 hours. Another pleasant surprise was that this was no faceless Trailer whose order for the Trail Guide ebook I had sent out automatically, but one whom I remembered well as having ordered it at the last minute on Holy Thursday, and with whom I had entered into an email conversation to ensure the publication was delivered in time for departure to Corfu.

We went for a coffee, and I found out that the couple were very keen walkers who run a website (Traildino) which pulls together hiking trails from all over the world and put them into a single informative e-location. The Corfu Trail already appears on this site, and I hope and imagine that as a result of our 'accidental' meeting it will feature more prominently.

If either of us had been just a few seconds earlier or later at that point, if either of us had delayed or hastened or hike, we would never have met. Nor would we have met if the Dutch lady of the morning's Trailing had not walked into 19th Hole Bar the previous evening. In these events, we can see strong evidence of what I call 'God's Amusing Machinations'. Inadequately, we call it 'coincidence'.

We have a real Bookshop!

For I think the first time ever, I have been obliged to make Bill Gates even richer. Against my wishes, but obligatory for a guidebook update job I have been offered, I bought a Microsoft Office programme.

As my computer is a Mac, I can't acquire any old Microsoft; it has to be from the only store which offers Apple support, a store amusingly called 'Public' (formerly Multimedia).

Tech support, which enacted the very complicated loading of the programme (involving a long telephone call to Microsoft; I wonder how they even imagined that I could load the thing myself!) is in the basement. A surprise came: half of the basement has been converted to a bookshop. A proper, real bookshop, not one full of school textbooks.

A bookshop such as I have only seen in Athens.

It is arranged in well-ordered sections, for example: 'History', 'Ancient Greek Language and Philosophy', 'Fiction in Translation', 'Greek Fiction'... AND 'English Language Fiction'. Yes, English books!

The hour that I had to wait for programme-loading was happily spent browsing the shelves, and it was a far cry from the Hellenic Distribution outlets in tourist shops, both in the available selection and the price. I even bought a book, the first time since I was unable to resist the final Harry Potter. It was the nearly 900 page 'I am Pilgrim', highly recommended by a friend, and it cost an affordable

8.99 euros.

The English Language Fiction shelves hold classics of course, but also modern bestsellers, and thrillers including the 'Game of Thrones' series.

For those of you who live here and are interested, 'Public' is at Solari, on the very commercialised section of the main road out of Corfu Town to the north (21, Paleokastritsa Road) near the banks. It has its own (small) parking area, and the staff are very pleasant too.

Nick the Clock's World



CAR TROUBLE:

A blonde pushes her BMW into a service station. She tells the mechanic it died.

After he works on it for a few minutes, it is idling smoothly.

She says, 'What's the story?'

He replies, 'Just crap in the carburettor'

She asks, 'How often do I have to do that?'

SPEEDING TICKET: A police officer stops a blonde for speeding and asks her very nicely if he could see her licence.

She replied in a huff, 'I wish you guys would get your act together. Just yesterday you take away my licence and then today you expect me to show it to you!'

RIVER WALK: There's this blonde out for a walk. She comes to a river and sees another blonde on the opposite bank. 'Yoo-hoo!' she shouts, 'How can I get to the other side?'

The second blonde looks up the river then down the river and shouts back, 'You ARE on the other side.'

AT THE DOCTOR'S OFFICE: A gorgeous young redhead goes into the doctor's surgery and said that her body hurt wherever she touched it.

'Impossible!' says the doctor. 'Show me.'

The redhead took her finger, pushed on her left shoulder and screamed, then she pushed her elbow and screamed even more. She pushed her knee and screamed; likewise she pushed her ankle and screamed. Everywhere she touched made her scream.

The doctor said, 'You're not really a redhead, are you?'

'Well, no' she said, 'I'm actually a blonde.'

'I thought so,' the doctor said. 'Your finger is broken.'

KNITTING: A highway patrolman pulled alongside a speeding car on the freeway. Glancing at the car, he was astounded to see that the blonde behind the wheel was knitting!

Realising that she was oblivious to his flashing lights and siren, the trooper cranked down his window, turned on his bullhorn and yelled, 'PULL OVER!'

'NO!' the blonde yelled back, 'IT'S A SCARF!'

BLONDE ON THE SUN: A Russian, an American, and a Blonde were talking one day. The Russian said, 'We were the first in space!' The American said, 'We were the first on the moon!'

The Blonde said, 'So what? We're going to be the first on the sun!' The Russian and the American looked at each other and shook their heads. 'You can't land on the sun, you idiot! You'll burn up!' said the Russian.

To which the Blonde replied, 'We're not stupid, you know. We're going at night!'

IN A VACUUM: A blonde was playing Trivial Pursuit one night. It was her turn. She rolled

the dice and she landed on Science & Nature. Her question was, 'If you are in a vacuum and someone calls your name, can you hear it?' She thought for a time and then asked, 'Is it on on off?'

FINALLY, THE BLONDE JOKE TO END ALL BLONDE JOKES!:

A girl was visiting her blonde friend, who had acquired two new dogs, and asked her what their names were. The blonde responded by saying that one was named Rolex and one was named Timex. Her friend said, 'Whoever heard of someone naming dogs like that?'

'HELLOOOOOOOO,' answered the blond. 'They're watch dogs!'



"The Editor has suggested to Nick the Clock that it may be his round"

Complimentary Relaxation methods during stressful times

By
Costas Theologou

Coping during these times of stress and crisis can be very difficult. Can using complimentary or alternative relaxation and healing methods be the answer? One such very useful and simple complimentary method is Reiki.

What is Reiki?

Reiki is a natural healing and relaxation method. Basically it is the laying on of hands and channeling of 'life-force energy' through a practitioner to the recipient. The recipient can be a person including oneself, an animal, a plant or even an object or certain situation such as a forthcoming test or exam, a social occasion etc.

Reiki originated in Japan and was brought to the Western world during the early 1900's. Reiki is now practiced all over the world and is widely used in hospitals and clinics in many countries.

How Reiki works.

We face problems when we do not have enough energy to carry out our life functions or when we, as energy systems, are out of balance. To enter the body the life force energy has to have channels or doorways, these are provided by Chakras, the energy centres of the body, with which we can receive the energy and spread it throughout the physical body and Aura, the subtle energy field around the body. If these energy centres are blocked or not working properly then the physical body, mind and spirit cannot function properly either. The effect of receiving a Reiki treatment is that our supply of life energy is increased and our energy

system is brought into balance. In this state of balance and renewed energy we can heal.

A treatment is performed by the practitioner laying the hands on the body and initiating the energy to flow through their hands and into the client's body. This flow of energy may be felt by the client as any type of sensation such as heat, cold or vibration. During a treatment it is essential to cover as many areas of the body as possible even if a problem is located in any one part of the body. The Reiki energy is automatically directed to where it is most necessary for the healing process. A Reiki treatment supports the whole person - physically, emotionally, mentally and spiritually. A full client treatment takes about 60 to 90 minutes. Reiki can be administered very simply in all kinds of settings for example at home, a clinic or hospital, a classroom, almost anywhere. Of course the ideal situation is a quiet place with a relaxed atmosphere.

When we practice Reiki we relax, which allows the brain impulses to slow down to between 7 and 14 cycles per second known as alpha level brain waves. or even between 4 and 7 cycles per second known as theta level brain waves. An average active brain during everyday life operates from 14 up to 21 cycles per second which is known as Beta level. It is very important that the brain slows down because when the brain operates in lower frequencies the body can heal itself more easily and more quickly.

On the physical level Reiki can relax stressed muscles, decrease pain, accelerate the healing time of bones and wounds, burns and bruises and much more and can

assist in the healing process of more severe illnesses. The right and the left hemisphere of the brain become more balanced. The immune system is reinforced.

On a mental and emotional level anxiety and stress is reduced, a sense of well-being and happiness is increased and another level of relaxation is felt. On this level Reiki is ideal for releasing suppressed feelings and emotions from the past. At this degree of deep relaxation a rebalancing of energies can occur and the natural healing ability of the body is enhanced. The person becomes more intuitive, decisions are more easily made. Imagination and visualisation are enhanced.

On a spiritual level Reiki enhances a person's consciousness and spirituality giving the feeling of being enlightened and reborn.

How somebody responds to Reiki depends on their physical, mental, spiritual and emotional state

Reiki is a healing method that is suitable for anyone. Whether it is through treatments or as a Practitioner. It doesn't matter whether you are a complete beginner or whether you practice other complimentary or improvement methods. It is effective when used on its own, but can be combined with any other form of healing methods. What is required is a desire to learn and a willingness to do the practice.

To read more about Reiki and other complimentary methods visit:

www.reikicorfugreece.com

