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112th Edition

The Agiot

*Bob Giles*

Corfu Strait

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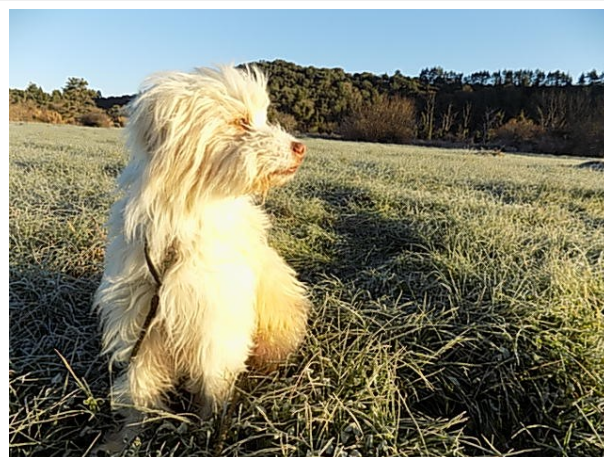
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Saturday Walks

Saturday, 4 February. AGII DEKA: The Water Walk (2 1/2 hours ***). Meet at the Bakery Coffee Bar, Agii Deka village, 10.00 for 10.30 start. Lunch at Aretis Place, Agii Deka Village. NOTE: This is a new version of this popular walk, with different possibilities, depending on conditions.

Saturday, 11 February. STRINILAS: Routes to the High Track (2 1/2 hours ***). Meet at Stamatis Taverna, Strinilas, 10.00 for 10.30 start. Lunch at Stamatis, Strinilas. NOTE: We'll go in the reverse direction this time, for a different perspective on those fabulous views.

Saturday, 18 February. VATOS: The Best Beach in the World – or what's left of it (2 1/2 hours ***). Meet at 19th Hole Bar, by the petrol station near the Golf entrance, Vatos, 10.00 for 10.30 start. Lunch at Ferma (Nikoletta's) or Tristrato Pub. NOTE: Lovely mountain terrain, seafront and great views.



'Brunni strikes a regal pose in rime-frosted fields near Ermones'

Saturday, 25 February. PORTA: High Tracks, the Kassiopi Hinterland and the Oak Forest. (3 1/4 hours ***). Meet at the Old Schoolhouse by the big church, top end of Porta Village, 10.15 for 10.30 start. Lunch to be arranged. NOTE: Only one serious but shortish ascent, long gentle descent with rough rocks underfoot; fabulous views.

Village News

By Paul Mc Govern
The Editor

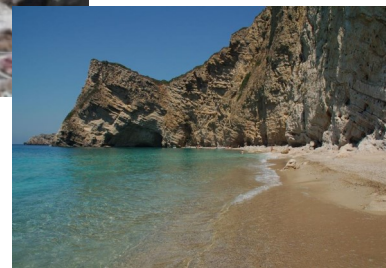
Christmas dies, at least for now, and we are into a New Year.

On the very first day it is always special for us in the heart of Agios, because it coincides with Kostas' birthday. This year he passed his 89th year. The family gathered at Villa Sofia and savoured the moments.



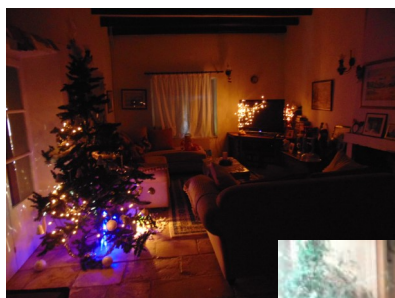
The clan gathers
<

*Winter beach by
Dick Mulder*
>

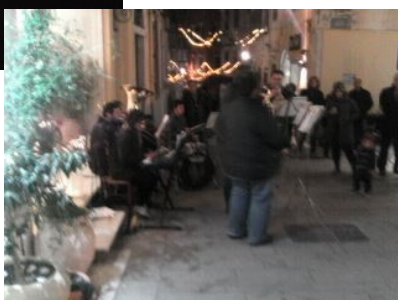


He was pleased to tell me that Lennart, Ricky and Nick had all rung him on his day. He sat there, as ever he does and as ever we want him to, at the head of our family table. I noticed that he struggles with gripping things of late, in those once so powerful hands and, he loses his hearing a tiny bit more each time we dine together. But he never complains and chimes in from time to time with his stories of old, making everyone laugh. He drinks less of late, at least in front of his wife. As well as that redoubtable lady, there now sits another star in our midst, squirming at her high-chair. She is a tiny bit grumpy on her Great Grandfather's birthday -but never that much.

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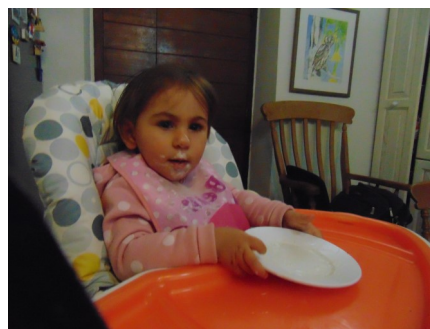
Magic in the street
>



Village News
Continued from page 2

It's Resolutions time. Well, I'll give it a shot, probably with mixed success. It's also Corfu maybe at its best; one day when Danae was down baby-sitting us she was enjoying muchly opening and closing all the kitchen cupboards and proceeding to taking everything out. 'Put it back, put it back,' chimes her Nana. And she does. She is sixteen months now and likes being chased, watching cartoons from a lap, and is particularly fond of Philadelphia cheese. She's not so good on shapes yet-takes after me-so I have to persist with her little shapes toys with her. It is very warm in our kitchen this evening on a cold eve out. Kostas my son is on his laptop next to me and Nitsa is down for a gossip with Lula. I love these 'nothing times'.

A smidgeon of gossip envelopes our local Priest. Rumour abounds that an anonymous donor has donated a six-figure sum to his church!! Who is this philanthropist? Two of our village residents waylaid him and tried to get him to spill the beans. Our sturdy Priest is made of sterner Spiritual stuff. He refused to give up his benefactor and for good measure closed his church for three consecutive Sundays while he performed various and mysterious labours within his locked temple!



*More cheese
please*
<

Kassopitra is a small Monastery on the Kanoni peninsula. This is where we held a commemorative service for Elina's Grand-father Kostas, who died three years past. This was the first time he was remembered at this peaceful spot and the first time I'd visited here-one of so many secret hideaways in Corfu.



*A bell for
Kostas*
<

Kassopitra
>



*Musem at
Kassopitra*
<



*Priest keeps his
garden neat*
>



*Epiphany for
Giorgo and
Antigoni*
<

*Facelift at Henk's
apartment*
>



Frederic
<

Continued on Page 4

Village News
Continued from page 3

This was not such a good month in other ways. Both Lionel and Bubbles, two of Lionel's cats, disappeared without trace or evidence. The day after Kassopitra I developed Bubonic Plague and slunk under the sheets for the day. It wasn't Bubonic Plague after all, but we all know what men are like!



Agios white
<



Brook Meadow
>



Proof of ice
<



Theodora
>

Having survived the Black Death further onslaughts ensued, outside temperatures plummeted, evidenced by the Weather report in this month's newsletter. Agios hardly ever gets snow, unlike other parts of Corfu. Twice only in 26 years have I witnessed the white. But, here it was alright. The valley below was particularly cold, making a nice change for the inhabitants from last month's flash-flood.

We visited a couple of these inhabitants-Les and Chris-one grey afternoon, with Danae. This was her first social visit to an English home. She behaved

impeccably apart from a small breakage and was very intrigued by two stools and Christine's crayons.



Sleeping Angels



Spiros and Sofia



Visiting in the valley
<

Sadness: Lovely friend of Agios Ioannis Christina Ramage passed away in Scotland. Everybody loved Christine. This was a big shock to many. Here is a typical tribute to her, this one coming from Patricia McMahon Guy;

'Christine took me and my sister to Agios many moons ago. I was only 17 at the time and Christine was 34, she took me under her wing and called herself auntie Christine. Her and I shared a room for our Two week stay and we laughed non-stop. That was one of the best holidays I ever had and that was all thanks to Christine, she really was a pal to everyone and one in a million. I will never forget her and hope she has as many laughs in the next life. xx'



Christina Ramage



The Ramage Family

Village News
Continued from page 4

In the midst of death is life and two little boys were born to friends. Agiots Gina and Pat are ecstatic with Jack, as are parents Chloe and Oli-as you can tell from the photos. And Yvonne sends a photo of her husband Mel, with newly-arrived Thomas, weighing in at 9lb 2oz.

Mum and Dad with Jack

>



Proud Nana with Jack

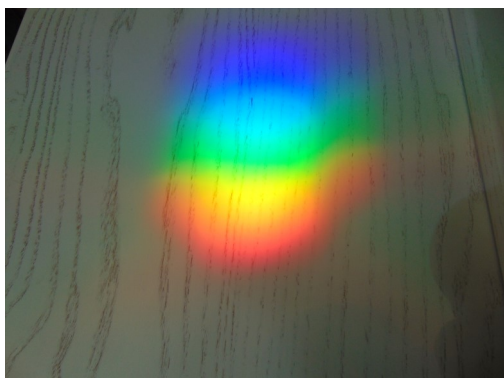
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Mel and Thomas

<

Letters to the Editor



Rainbow on a cupboard

<

Martin Stuart from Edinburgh:

Hello Paul

Nice to hear from you, typed in the Agiot and normal service was resumed. Loved your coverage of the Christmas events, a very honest almost conversational version of events as if sitting talking to you over a glass. Pretty normal here let the kids do the partying, had a nice family Christmas with me Tracey and the kids, Walters dinner and wine were delivered to him as he had moms house to himself while my aged one of 93 was partying at my sisters house all day. Speak to you soon looking forward to spring, see you all in April.

xx

Martin

Ed: Thanks Martin. I am glad to report that normal service seems to have returned to our Readers. At least, I have heard nothing untoward since the beginning of January.

Tony Clarke from Yorkshire sends this interesting piece;

The Meadow is coming on very well and I took lessons from the You Tube on how to Scythe. The Warcs Committee bought me one of the new Austrian Scythes, which are a much better design than the old British Models. Much Lighter and sharper.

So on Mowing day I taught a number of members how to do it.

There are no happier men/women than those who mow the meadows of England. TRUE
The Society thrives and we held our 20th Anniversary party in July with members Singing, Playing musical instruments, saying poems etc. Though I am still Chair, I have a very good Vice Chair in my friend John, We go back more than 50 years I think him and I. John is taking centre stage at the Christmas Quiz shortly while I have been allocated the scoring and the stand up bingo. and we send you all our Love and Best Wishes and hope that you enjoy the Yuletide festivities

Love From

Tony and Beryl xx

Continued on Page 6

Letters to The Editor—Continued from Page 5

James Lally writes from Denmark;

Dear Paul,
Thank you for sending me the Agiot newsletter, I have been enjoying them greatly. I was concerned about references to Lionel, has something happened to him? Way back in the 1950's, Lionel was my music teacher and perhaps the finest and most respected teacher at Latymer Foundation. His teaching confirmed my wish to become an organist and for the last 26 years of my working life, I was a full time organist in Denmark, I owe him a great debt of gratitude. It has been my intention to come to Corfu and visit Lionel and have been planning to do so in 2017. I do hope it is not too late.
With best wishes
James Lally

Ed: Alas James, as reported thoroughly in several editions, Lionel passed away in April. I am sorry you never got the chance to visit him here.

Henk from Holland says [with regards the weather];

Hello Paul,

Yes... I am checking the weather regular
- 4but no snow ...or may-be at Pantokrator.
Or is it worse?

We had our day of snow and should get some more snow at the end of the week.

A cold winter is not bad for bookings:-)
They really look forwards to hot weather in Greece.

Tomorrow a visit to the big vacation fair in Holland.
Will see Bertus. Some of the companies and see how Greece is doing.

All best,
Henk

Ed: Oh yes Henk, worse. Check out the weather page.

Chris and Jenny Bowerman wrote in;

Hi Paul.

We had three mortgages, car house and several years of successful saving through him then it all went base over apex due to his involvement with the likes of Mosak Fonseca.

124 people for 5.25 Million, he has declared bankruptcy and now done the two years of his four year sentence he was given, I really hope I do not bump into him, unless I am driving a wagon and he is on a bike. And that is a very large wagon,

Proceeds of crime proceedings have allegedly recovered about 14% from his business partners.

regards
Chris and Jenny

Ed: Yoiks Chris and Jenny, everybody's worst nightmare, which scuppered your dream to move here. I think you are handling it very well, given the scale!



'Uncle and niece reading Letters'

The Way We Were



'His world'

<

*'Spiros
Stolakis'*

>



When I first came here all those years ago, though it seems like only yesterday, I formed the habit of visiting a little taverna most Monday mornings in the Jewish quarter, owned by a certain Spiros Stolakis, who was fond of making bacon sandwiches. A real character is Spiros, who coined his own epitaph; 'Spiros like the old man of the sea, And Old Father Time, Spiros will entertain all of you Time after Time.'

I bumped into him in town in January. He is retired now, still lives in the town, and still maintains an interest in what is now called the Pergola taverna.

Synchronicity strikes again, we had only been talking of him that very morning over tea.

He led me to the Pergola and said he would like 'a zing of whisky', during which he recounted his visit to England in 1985; he delivered a vine to his friends Bill and Barbara in Herts, where the vine grows still. He made further visits to Southend, Margate, and Durham: Unsurprisingly the Durham experiment failed.

Cheers to Spiros. Perhaps you know him?



A lady of Corfu



Courtesy Dick Mulder

>

Christina's last visit to Agios

<



Watch the world go by

<

AGIOTFEST 17

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MOST POPULAR OF FESTIVALS. SEE IT UNRAVEL
DURING THE SPRING MONTHS.'



'Bands in England vie for Agiotfest spot'

Classical Musical Fests

Contributed by Vivienne

This year is different, starting with Piers Lane's concert in April and the June and September Festivals all have piano quartets, trios and also the Jazz concert which was so popular last year.

The first is a concert on 7th April by a friend of mine the famous pianist Piers Lane who is based in London. We were talking about when he came to Corfu for a concert some years ago and really loved it and longed to return so I organised a very special holiday for a week and he will play this all Chopin concert. Which he plays in the Wigmore Hall a couple of weeks later – leaflet attached.

I then contacted Lambis Vassiliadis at the University about booking the Ionian Academy with the Steinway which is really the only suitable piano for a top world class pianist. He was delighted to hear about Piers Lane coming but told me it is not playable. We discussed this with Dr Pappas and the Dean of the University as the Academy is part of the University as is the piano. They are most enthusiastic and grateful that I agreed to look for sponsors to repair this beautiful instrument. This is for the complete overhaul of the Steinway piano to include major repairs in the action and much more, at present it cannot even be tuned!

The total cost to make this Steinway playable will be €2,000 which is very reasonable as it will take to the end of March to finish. We are lucky to have such an experienced and highly trained piano technician in Corfu. This way the concert can take place also future concerts with top level pianists. Work started last week and the first payment of €500 done and the next almost

ready, people who I have contacted so far have been most helpful but I am only half way down the list.

I wondered if you or anyone you know would like to be involved in this major project getting the Steinway back and even better than it was before. I am writing to various friends who are interested in classical music and hoping people will realize how important this is.

Sponsors for every €100 for the piano restoration will receive a ticket in the reserved VIP left side front row seats at the concert on 7th April with wine served at interval and or after the concert to chat to Piers.

An invitation to the Meet Piers Lane special party at Cassa Lucia on 3rd April from 18.30.

Sponsors would have their name on the sponsors list on the official information about the piano repair and on the concert programme. I am organising all this and the concert promotion and ticket sales. I can guarantee the reserved seats – so sorry Ticket Box was useless about this for Mario's concert, I was not involved with the organisation of that except to give leaflets and posters to friends and sell the so called reserved seats. I am planning to use CorfuLand for promotion and tickets sales – or do you have a better idea?

We have two Festivals in June and September and I can send programmes and details. We plan for other concerts with Mario Frangoulis with programmes of classical music and Opera arias which he loves but gets few opportunities. These would be in aid of a special fund for the Hospital. Leonidas Kavakos has sent a message to say he would like to play a concert for Divertimenti in Corfu, waiting for details!

Divertimenti in Corfu

Proudly present Piers Lane



Photo: Clive Barda

*Under the Auspice of
the Municipality of Corfu*

Patrons

Kostas Nikolouzos - Mayor of Corfu

Chrysanthos Sarlis - Co founder

*The Ionian Academy
Friday 7th April at 21.00*

An all Chopin Programme

Impromptu No.1 in A flat major Op. 29

Fantasie in F minor Op. 49

Etude in E major, Op. 10 No. 3

Ballade No. 3 in Ab major Op.47

Scherzo No. 4 in E major, Op. 54

Interval

Polonaise Op. 44

Mazurka in A minor, Op.17 No.4

2 Nocturnes, Op. 62

Barcarolle in F-sharp major, Op. 60

Ticket sales contact cmhf@otenet.gr

VIP reserved seats with wine at interval €25

Regular tickets €15. Students €10

Tickets will be on sale online, in Corfu Town at the door,

“With his reputation for playing with ‘conviction, commitment, poeticism and music-serving virtuosity’, he elicits a miraculous range of colours and atmospheres from the piano.”(The Times, London)

London based Australian pianist Piers Lane AO stands out as an engaging and highly versatile performer, at home equally in solo, chamber and concerto repertoire.

In great demand as soloist and collaborative artist, recent highlights include a performance of Busoni’s mighty piano concerto at Carnegie Hall, performing with the London Philharmonic Orchestra and Andrew Manze a return to the Seoul Spring Festival of Chamber Music and several sold-out solo recitals at Wigmore Hall.

Five times soloist at the BBC Proms in London’s Royal Albert Hall, Piers Lane’s concerto repertoire exceeds one hundred works. Highlights this year include recordings in New York of concertos by Ries, the Ireland Concerto under Sir Andrew Davis, Rachmaninoff 3rd Concerto with the Sydney Symphony, in London, Brahms 2nd Concerto and three Wigmore Hall recitals where he will play the Corfu programme on the 15th of April. Piers Lane is Artistic Director of the Sydney International Piano Competition and of the Australian Festival of Chamber Music.

“Technical bravura, poetic reflection and heart-warming lyricism are just some of the many qualities present in Piers Lane’s all Chopin programme, a feast of pianism comprising such exquisite miniatures as the two Op 62 Nocturnes and the spectacular Barcarolle in F sharp major, among the composer’s final and finest compositions”.

**Piers Lane is the guest of
Casa Lucia and the Corfu Palace Hotel**

If you advertise here it will cost nothing. We have a modest but growing circulation. It is our pleasure for our friends to advertise their wares without charge.

Corfu Golden Paste

A MESSAGE FROM KATRINA GICA.

If you have heard about the benefits of using Turmeric, have discovered that the best way to take it is Golden Paste, yet you haven't got around to making any yet. Then this is for you.

One jar 200g of Fresh - Homemade - Organic- Golden Paste is €6. –

€5 for 54 Frozen Golden Turmeric Bombs - T-Bombs.

For Orders please message me, call 26610 58090 or 6948 547 663.

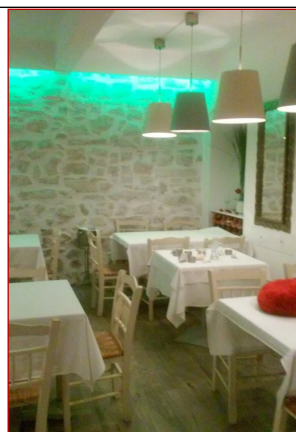
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Traditional Olive Soap

Throughout modern history soap has been a necessity in developed societies, as the primary means of hygiene and cleanliness. It also found application in medicine and pharmacology for its healing and antiseptic properties. Though things have changed, traditional soap still has the benefit of having passed the test of time: It has offered its services for many successive generations, improving the quality of life while being environmentally friendly throughout production and use. Furthermore pure soap is considered the most thorough skin cleanser since it unblocks the skin's pores by effectively removing dirt, oily substances and dead cells.

The "PATOUNIS Soap Works" with a history of over 150 years, still make handcrafted soap by traditional methods from locally produced olive products. The Corfu plant built in 1891, preserved with its functioning tools and equipment, constitutes a living memory of a splendid old local tradition.

The following soaps are made here:

- **Olive Oil Soap** is made totally of pure virgin olive oil. It has limited lathering capacity but is distinguished for its mild action on sensitive skin.
- **The Green Olive Soap** is made of olive pomace oil which contains the olive chlorophyll, is acclaimed for its disinfecting properties and wide range of applications (also good for hair and scalp, provided you use it with soft water).
- **Olive-Palm Soap** is made of 80% pure virgin olive oil and 20% edible palm kernel oil thus a mild soap with rich smooth lather.

The above soaps are made using only the basic raw material of traditional soap manufacture, i.e. naturally occurring oils, soda, sea salt and water.

Gooners Gags

The Banister of Life.... According to ole 'What's her Name'

As You Slide Down the Banister



1..Transvestite: A guy who likes to eat, drink and be Mary.

2..The difference between the Pope and the boss, the Pope only expects you to kiss his ring.



3..My mind works like lightning, one brilliant flash and it is gone.

4..The only time the world beats a path to your door is if you're in the bathroom.



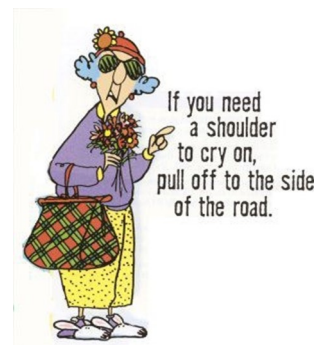
5..I hate sex in the movies. Tried it once. The seat folded up, the drink spilled and all that ice, well, it really chilled the mood.

6..It used to be only death and taxes. Now, of course, there's shipping and handling, too.



7..A husband is someone who, after taking the trash out, gives the impression that he just cleaned the whole house.

8..My next house will have no kitchen - just vending machines and a large trash can.



9.. Definition of a teenager? God's punishment...for enjoying sex.

10..And, as you slide down that Banister of Life, you really should pray that all the splinters are pointed the other way...

Gooners Gags - Continued from Page 12

Inauguration day

<https://youtu.be/gneBUA39mnl>

Learn Chinese in 5 minutes (You MUST read them aloud)

English	Chinese
That's not right	Sum Ting Wong
Are you harboring a fugitive?	Hu Yu Hai Ding
See me ASAP	Kum Hia Nao
Stupid Man	Dum Fuk
Small Horse	Tai Ni Po Ni
Did you go to the beach?	Wai Yu So Tan
I bumped into a coffee table	Ai Bang Mai Fu Kin Ni
I think you need a face lift	Chin Tu Fat
It's very dark in here	Wai So Dim
I thought you were on a diet	Wai Yu Mun Ching
This is a tow away zone	No Pah King
Our meeting is scheduled for next week	Wai Yu Kum Nao
Staying out of sight	Lei Ying Lo
He's cleaning his automobile	Wa Shing Ka
Your body odor is offensive	Yu Stin Ki Pu
Great	Fa Kin Su Pa

fb.com/internationaltt



A man asked an American Indian what was his wife's name.

He replied, "She is called Five Horses".

The man said, "That's an unusual name for your wife. What does it mean?"



The Old Indian answered, "It old Indian Name. It mean....."

NAG, NAG, NAG, NAG, NAG!



A stunning fact no one realised!



India was the First to Start Selling Fruits & Vegetables ONLINE. 🤔

Clean Monday

Author: Konstantinos Menzel

“Kathari Deftera,” Greek for Clean Monday, is considered to be one of the most important feasts all over Greece, each year commencing the 40-day period of the [Great Lent](#) for the Eastern Greek Orthodox Church, which is called “Sarakosti.” The feast begins on the first day of the 7th week before the Orthodox [Easter](#) Sunday.

Liturgically though, Clean Monday and thus Lent itself begins on the preceding Sunday night, at a special service, in which all present will bow down before one another and ask for forgiveness. In this way, the faithful begin the Great Lent with a clean conscience, forgiveness and renewed Christian love. The day of Clean Monday is sometimes called “Ash Monday,” by analogy to “Ash Wednesday,” the day during which Lent for the Western Christianity begins.

Clean Monday also puts an end to the preceding Carnival celebrations, inviting all Orthodox Christians to leave behind the sinful attitudes associated with [Carnival festivities](#) and non-fasting foods, which were largely consumed during the three weeks of the Carnival.

As a result, the feast, which is a public holiday in Greece and Cyprus, is celebrated with outdoor excursions, the consumption of shellfish and other fasting foods, as well as the widespread custom of building and flying kites.

Culinary Delights of Clean Monday

Eating meat, eggs and dairy products is traditionally forbidden to Orthodox Christians throughout Lent, with fish being eaten only on major feast days. The consumption of shellfish and mollusks though, is permitted in [Greek Orthodox Churches](#), thus creating the tradition of eating elaborate dishes based on seafood, like cuttlefish, octopus and different shellfish, like shrimp and mussels. A traditional dip made of the salted and cured roe from carp or cod, mixed with olive oil, lemon juice and bread crumbs, called “taramosalata,” is also part of the products consumed on Clean Monday.

[Taramosalata](#) is ideal for spreading on the “lagana,” a special kind of unleavened flatbread, baked only on that day. The history behind this bread dates from the Old Testament and to the help offered by God to the Israeli people while guiding them from Egypt to their promise land. Since then, Israelis have baked the [lagana](#) throughout the Easter period, hence introducing the tradition to the Orthodox Church.

Accompanying these delights are also black-eyed beans or just common baked beans, grape-leaf wrapped rice balls called “dolma” and of course some Greek wine or [tsipouro](#).

As for dessert, an alteration to the familiar Arab “halva” is served, which is made of tahini, a sesame paste, and sugar, often combined by nuts or chocolate and baked in a square or cylindrical shape.

Traditions of Clean Monday

Clean Monday, however, is not only associated with eating fasting products, but features also many traditions being held all over Greece. Traditionally, as Clean Monday is considered to mark the beginning of the spring season, kite flying is also part of the tradition. Young people and adults organize excursions to open areas, so as to fill the skies with their kites. Many traditional workshops are involved in making kites for over 70 years now. Although the wooden kites have been replaced by plastic ones, the kite-making handcraft still has its own secrets. A light wooden frame on a paper body, cords on the balances and a single cord on the tail make up for the perfect kite, ready to carry children and grown-ups off their feet.

Apart from kite flying, many areas in Greece maintain their own regional customs. In Thebes, an old custom dating from 1830, called the “Vlach Wedding,” – in reference to the matchmaking of the time – is revived each year, with all participants joining the festivities with satirical songs and lots of dancing.

Meanwhile, in the village Mesta on the Greek island of [Chios](#), according to another Clean Monday custom, which bears its roots from the period of [Ottoman Greece](#), the village is invaded by an Ottoman military officer along with his troops, who after gathering all residents to the central square, makes them pay a fine for the charges brought against them. The collected money is then given as tribute to the cultural association of the village.

The feast of Clean Monday and all associated traditions and celebrations are in the hearts of the Greek people, as they provide an opportunity for leisure and escaping from the daily routine, while coming in contact with nature and the country’s cultural heritage.

- See more at: <http://greece.greekreporter.com/2014/03/02/clean-monday-everything-you-need-to-know/#sthash.itZhCNTH.dpuf>



Bespoke Constructions

Here is the first rumbling of a new Ocay villa in the valley below.

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A dodecagonal Villa



Carapace



Early shuttering



Researching spiral stairs



Serene valley location



Small earthwork rampart



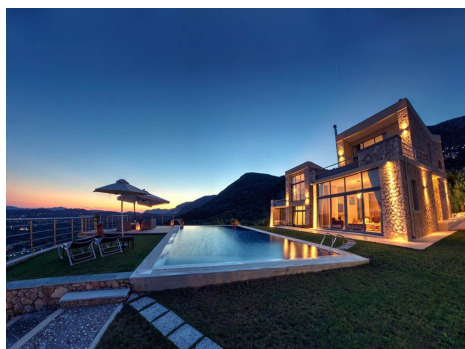
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Agia Triada

Hilary's Ramblings

Contributed by Hilary Paipeti

Not Warming to Charlie the Ladybird

YOU REMEMBER THE SONG whose chorus went 'Twice six, twice seven, twice twenty and eleven; but he is too young to be taken from his mummy'? Prince Charles is only ten years off that age, and let's hope he reaches equivalent dodderation before the Queen departs. Receipt of one of Charlie-boy's 'spider' handwritten notes is the dread of Whitehall officials, as he continues to interfere in the everyday running of the country, an undertaking that the Queen recognises is Not Her Business.

His latest jolly jape has been to co-author a book on the subject of Global Warming, published by the children's imprint Ladybird but patronizingly aimed at adults, who nowadays obviously cannot be trusted to comprehend proper tomes. He also wants TV weather forecasts to propagandize their daily reports ('A ten-foot fall of snow over the Scottish Highlands has been caused by a polar ice melt off Spitzbergen. More arctic weather is expected as a result of the continued thaw in the Siberian tundra' etc etc.).

This, of course, is the man who would take a helicopter to the supermarket, were he ever to visit one instead of sending one of his nearly one hundred minions.

More people that ever are cottoning on that Global Warming is just a scam, aimed at 1) making money for people like Charlie and his mates (i.e. already rich landowners and businessmen) 2) scaring us so we'll submit to coughing up higher taxes and utility bills (so putting even more cash in the pockets of the above wealthy and privileged).

Here's what I wrote as far back as January 2001 (from The Corfiot Magazine):

Now the New Millennium's finally here, we can perhaps start hoping for the Dawn of the Age of Aquarius, long promised in the song and by astrologers. As we enter it, though, the main conversation (apart from what's happening on the Soap Operas) is Global Warming or, as they call it here, The Greenhouse. It rains, you blame Global Warming; a drought, and it's the fault of The Greenhouse; a tornado rips up olive trees in the District of Meliteion, and guess what the locals say did it.

Thousands of years ago, more 'primitive' cultures, living at the edge of survival, blamed a higher power for natural phenomena. If a tornado wiped out their crops, they made an offering to placate the god of the tornado. If it didn't rain when

they wanted, they sacrificed to the rain god. They often blamed natural disasters on their own errors and misdemeanors - a punishment for their neglect of the gods, or for the presence of someone in their society who had vexed the higher power. Thus was pagan religion born, and it was only after the Age of Enlightenment and through the development of physics as a science that Man recognized the physical - rather than metaphysical - causes of natural phenomena.

So that's why today we (most of us) blame Global Warming and not God.

But it seems that deep in the human psyche there exists a guilt that tells us that our misfortunes are our own fault. Just as the primitives blamed their own bad actions for the wrath of the weather gods, so we in present times are driven by the same deep-seated need for self-castigation.

Global Warming fits the bill! The floods and fires and famines are all our own fault, a punishment for our materialistic outlook, which has caused it to happen! What a satisfying target for self-reproach!

The hysterical predictions which surround Global Warming have about as much logic as the animalist beliefs of our distant ancestors. A few years ago, following a cold spell or two, there were dire warnings of a coming Ice Age. The truth is that we are coming out of the LAST Ice Age, which was at its peak only 25,000 years ago. It's natural, therefore, that the ice on the polar caps should steadily recede and the world get warmer. Maybe in another 25,000 years, people living on Arctic tundra will say in wonder to each other (just as we do today about the Lake District) 'once upon a time all our fertile fields were ice-bound!'

What we have to accept, going at last into the New Millennium [written in its first month, remember], is that change is constant. 2000 years ago, the North African desert was the bread-basket of the Roman Empire. 200 years ago the Thames froze regularly. According to the old folk, Corfu used to have more rain than it does now, and I remember summers in the last decade being severely hotter than they are nowadays.

In their self-recriminatory way, alarmists blackly caution that normal climatic change is being accelerated by Global Warming. Meanwhile, another batch of scaremongering scientists predict that an atmosphere warming quickly will cause more evaporation, heavier cloud cover and a cooler surface in consequence - provoking a new Ice Age! Don't panic!!!

Evidently, quite a few of them are doing so.

Hilary's Ramblings
Continued from Page 16

A Huntin' We Will Go

IT MUST BE THE CLEAR, FREEZING EARLY MORNINGS that have seen the hunters out in force this midwinter. Cold dry conditions mean the scent is keen. You can imagine the chaps getting ready for their foray into the wilds of the Ropa Valley's fringes:

'Check: Wool vest and long-johns. Check: Heavy-weight khaki shirt and cargo pants, mud-coloured pullover. Check: Camouflage jacket, ditto forage cap. Check: Green wellies. Gun. Bullets. Pointer, Spaniel. OK, ready to go, blending in nicely with nature so the birds don't spot me. Ooops! Forgotten something! The Hi-Viz jacket to slip on over all the other garments!'

In my very first Book of Corfu Walks, I advised winter hikers to 'wear brightly coloured clothing so the hunters

can see you', as at that time they were better known for taking trigger-happy pot-shots at each other than for actually downing songbirds. These days, hikers can spot the hunters a mile off, even through half a dozen hedge-rows and a copse or two, due to the incandescent character of their elf-n-safety-inspired plumage.

I guess even more birds are getting away.

Greek Austerity, 2008-2017

2008: Come and join us at our villa for the summer holidays. We've got a yacht.

2011: Come and stay at our bungalow for the weekend. We've got a car.

2014: Come over to our apartment on Sunday. We've got central heating.

2017: Come up to the village for the evening. We've got a log fire.

Aunty Lula's Love-bites

Mushroom and Cashew Paella

Ingredients:

- 1 small onion, chopped
- 1 garlic clove, crushed
- 1 green pepper, chopped
- 100g button mushrooms, sliced
- 225g long-grain rice
- 100g cashew nuts
- 500-600ml carrot or vegetable stock
- Freshly ground black pepper
- Pinch of turmeric
- 50g frozen peas

3. Add the cashew nuts, frozen peas, stock and seasoning.

4. Stir and bring to the boil, simmering for about 20 minutes until the rice is cooked and most of the water has been absorbed.

5. Let it rest for 5 minutes before serving.

Καλη Ορεξη!

Go:

1. Heat the oil and sauté the vegetables (except the frozen peas) gently for about 5 minutes until soft.

2. Add the rice and turmeric and fry for a further 3 minutes, whilst stirring.

Nick The Clock's World

(The Comic With A conscience)



Tidal lagoons

<https://www.goodenergy.co.uk/blog/2017/01/12/tidal-lagoons-in-britain/>

Maximum wage

<http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/jeremy-corbyn-right-whos-afraid-9595280>

Organic Goa

<http://wakingtimesmedia.com/indian-state-go-a-pay-farmers-go-100-organic/>

Microwaves

<http://simplecapacity.com/2017/01/they-say-microwaves-are-bad-for-you-but-this-is-what-they-dont-tell-you/>

Pharmacy Piracy

<http://wakingtimesmedia.com/13-corporations-big-pharma-history-crimes-products/>

Treating cancer

<https://www.4storiestoday.com/single-post/2016/08/25/Treating-Cancer-With-THC-Oil-Is-The-Key-and-Not-CBD>

The control Matrix

<http://www.wakingtimes.com/2016/12/20/control-matrix-scrambles-keep-slaves-plantation/>

Cancer is not a disease

<http://simplecapacity.com/2017/01/a-secret-has-been-uncovered-cancer-is-not-a-disease-but-business/>

Wake up

<http://simplecapacity.com/2016/12/the-lie-we-live-video/>

Women's 'Arse Size'

New study reveals interesting findings

There is a new study about women and how they feel about their arse's and the results are fairly interesting

~ 30% of women think their arse is too fat

~ 10% of women think their arse is too skinny

The remaining 60% say they don't care, they love him, he's a good man and they wouldn't trade him for the world!

The Irish Wag
Find us on

Paddy says to Mick, "I found this pen, is it yours?" Mick replies, "don't know, give it here." He then tries it and says, "yes it is." Paddy asks, "how do you know?" Mick replies, "that's my handwriting."

Continued on Page 19

Nick The Clock's World - Continued from Page 18

DRINKING WATER AT THE CORRECT TIME MAXIMIZES ITS EFFECTIVENESS ON THE HUMAN BODY

- 2 glasses of water after waking up helps activate internal organs.
- 1 glass before a meal helps digestion.
- 1 glass before a shower prevents high blood pressure.
- 1 glass before bed helps prevent strokes and heart attacks.

PLEASE SHARE

© BRIGHTSIDE



DEFINING THE NUMPTIES - A GUIDE TO THE NEW LANGUAGE OF THE DECADE THAT DARE NOT SPEAK ITS NAME.

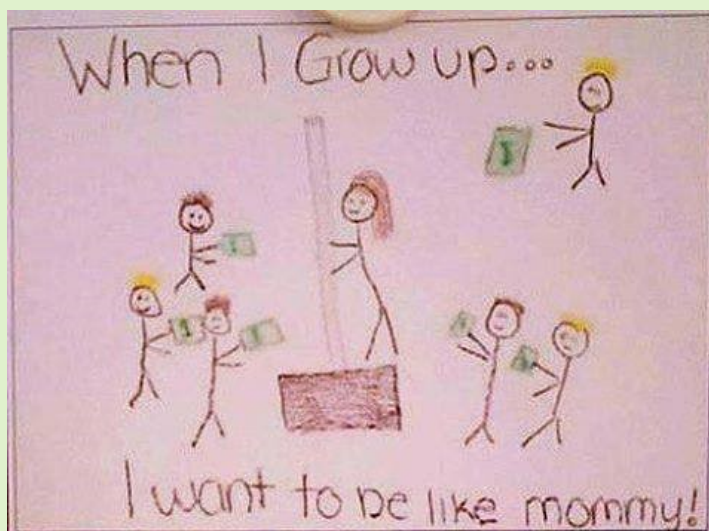
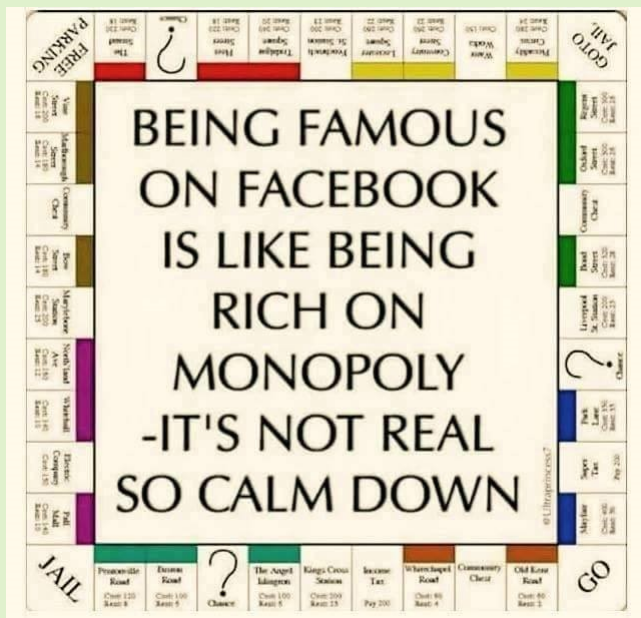
+

OLD	NEW
Spiv	Entrepreneur
Talking bollocks	Thinking outside the box
Dickensian	Modernising
Unemployed	Scrounger
Public sector worker	Scrounger
European	Foreign scrounger
Bigotry	Mainstream political thought
Scientific consensus	Politically-motivated climate change myth
Green belt	Development opportunity
Endangered species	Vermin
Right wing	Moderate
Moderate	Communist
Left wing	Evil, baby-eating communist
Local opinion	Nimbyism
Safety regulations	Red tape
Environmental protection	Red tape
Employment law	Red tape
Greedy bastard	Wealth creator
The global banking crisis	The mess left behind by the last Labour government.



Continued on Page 20

Nick The Clock's World - Continued from Page 18



(Here's the reply the teacher received the following day)

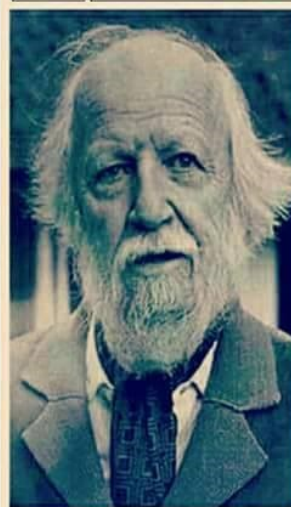
Dear Mrs. Jones,
I wish to clarify that I am not now, nor have I ever been, an exotic dancer.
I work at Home Depot and I told my daughter how hectic it was last week before the blizzard hit. I told her we sold out every single shovel we had, and then I found one more in the back room, and that several people were fighting over who would get it. Her picture doesn't show me dancing around a pole. It's supposed to depict me selling the last snow shovel we had at Home Depot.
From now on I will remember to check her homework more.

The reasons for this ever-declining NHS performance are well known. Rising demand, flat-line funding, cuts in social care, inadequate investment in staff and community services, waste and lack of coordination in a marketised, fragmented service. Thus Tory manifesto pledges look absurd, particularly this one: "We will offer you the safest and most compassionate care in the world."

UK health spending is just over 8 percent of GDP. France, Sweden, Denmark and Belgium spend 10-11 percent. There is no "right" amount to spend on the NHS, but the delusion that we can have the safest, most compassionate service in the world for so little must stop. Most NHS staff will bust a gut to deliver compassionate care, but with so many staff shortages, so little community care investment and so many waits for urgent treatment, the service is far from safe in 2017. The junior doctors were right. If we keep stretching the NHS, it will surely snap.

M.D.

Now here's a man who understands women.....



William Golding
British Novelist, Playwright & Poet
1911 --1993

I think women are foolish to pretend they are equal to men. They are far superior and always have been. Whatever you give a woman, she will make greater. If you give her sperm, she will give you a baby. If you give her a house, she will give you a home. If you give her groceries, she will give you a meal. If you give her a smile, she will give you her heart. She multiplies and enlarges what is given to her. So, if you give her any crap, be ready to receive a ton of shit!

True!

That's All Folks!

The World of Simon

The amazing thing about being old (me? 74) is that instead of having to study history, I am history. I so enjoy explaining red post boxes to my grandson; also the process of writing letters, putting them in an envelope and adding a stamp. "The same letter you put in the box comes through someone's door a day or two later anywhere in the world" "No!" We have an old black bakelite phone and Oliver enjoys playing with this, and having a go at dialing a number on it as I've converted it so it can still be used. It's also fun explaining steam engines. Youtube is brilliant for this - with loads of clips showing puff-puff trains like Thomas the Tank, and how steam trains work. I also like inventing silly fantasy stories, like how vampires live behind doors off the canal towpath on which we often walk. "It's OK you can bang the door as the vampires can't come out in the daylight and I am wearing garlic round my neck". The other day Oliver who is now at school said "We're making up stories aren't we grandpa?" "You bet!" "Let's make up some

more". So it goes. I have told him that if football comes on the TV for more than 20 seconds Grandpa will have a brainstorm and disappear. Other lies. Out at Chinese restaurants his uncle (our son Richard) and I, can get him to eat one of our favourite dishes - fried pig's intestines - by saying they are chicken bits, ditto squid and other interesting dishes. What I enjoy is the way Ollie knows we're telling porkies. I am preparing him for post-truth, and the challenge of learning to establish truth scientifically. For example, by using different biscuits to dunk in grandpa's tea.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YPhT3KyQKic>

Video Corner

Stubborn kinda guy

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DI24jV1AxwE>

Corfu: A local celebrity

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Richard_Pine

I know we shouldn't but....

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4Pl6qedpavw>

Benny

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V-LGgOuzhgc>

Corfu Al

<https://plus.google.com/u/0/+corfual/posts/AF3xMqAEan7?cfem=1>

Richard Pine

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Richard_Pine

Frozen Greece John Lanasis

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rpU9rKbPLlc>

What's in a canal

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=74MNLCJ6m3g>

Land Lubbers

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dk8ebkao2rs>

Price rises in Pharma monsterland

<http://www.bbc.com/news/health-38769625>

Worsely

<http://www.gutenberg.org/files/5199/5199-h/5199-h.htm>

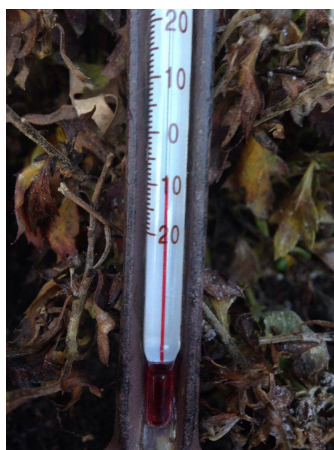
<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3415431/British-ex-Army-officer-bidding-man-trek-Antarctica-dies-organ-failure-collapsing-just-THIRTY-MILES-finish-line.html>

Corfu Weather Statistics - JANUARY 2017

Les Woods reports from Brook Meadow, in depths of our valley;
HERE IS AN EXAMPLE FROM EARLY JANUARY AT 8.00 A.M.

-6, stream frozen over in places!

Daytime temps 32oC in direct sunlight!



Les Jan 9

the



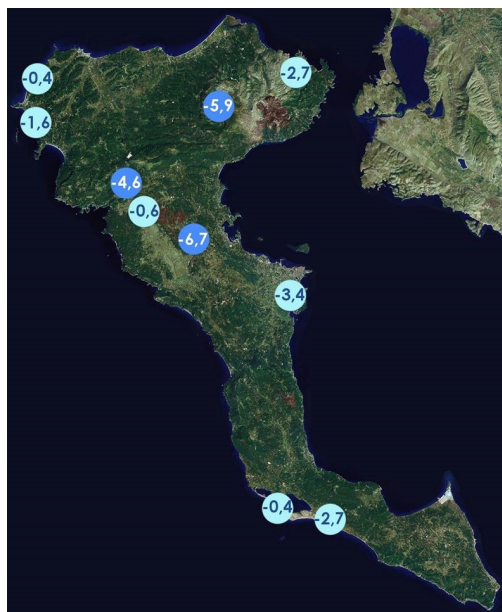
A few hours later

	Max	Avg	Min
Temperature			
Max Temperature	16°C	12 °C	4 °C
Mean Temperature	11 °C	8 °C	1°C
Min Temperature	8 °C	3 °C	-4°C
Heating Degree Days (base 65)	32	20	14
Cooling Degree Days (base 65)	0	0	0
Growing Degree Days (base 50)	2	0	0
Dew Point	11°C	4°C	-11°C
Precipitation	16.0 mm	2.6 mm	0.0 mm
Wind			
Wind	48 km/h	9 km/h	0 km/h
Gust Wind	66 km/h	50 km/h	32 km/h
Sea Level Pressure	997 hPa	1029 hPa	1017 hPa

Read more at:

[http://
www.wunderground.com/
history/airport/
LGKR/2013/9/1/
MonthlyHistory.html?
req_city=NA&req_state=NA
&req_statename=NA#PFq1V
RYHlbugcTGf.99](http://www.wunderground.com/history/airport/LGKR/2013/9/1/MonthlyHistory.html?req_city=NA&req_state=NA&req_statename=NA#PFq1VRYHlbugcTGf.99)

N.B. Although this graph shows the lowest temperature at -4 degrees, the map of January 9th below clearly contradicts those conservative readings.



January 9



*Micicle Chairs
<*

*Paul Fennell sends
this from North Cor-
fu
>*



Corfu Light Railway



'Even under the recent arctic conditions the CLR continued to trial locomotives'

STEAM VS DIESEL

There are a lot of myths and legends about locomotive power and the comparisons between steam and diesel locomotives, which have led to a lot of misconceptions and arguments. Many of these arguments are based on romantic ideas of the beauty of steam and the perceived characterlessness of diesel locomotives. However, in the end, Corfu Light Railway Co. only want to purchase power which will haul the loads in the most efficient way. Diesels replaced steam locomotives because that's what they did - they are more efficient because they cost less money to run. This article, written by CLR supporter Dr B Ching tries to explain the power questions that show how diesels are more efficient but less romantic than steam locomotives.

Comparing Performance of Diesel Electric to Steam.

A 4-8-4 loco #1111 is essentially a 3000 hp single unit locomotive. Let us compare its performance with that of an SD40-2. (or a two unit 3000 hp F7, it makes no difference as long as the total weight is the same). Our 4-8-4 weighs about 400,000 lbs total engine, not counting the tender. It has about 250,000 lbs of its weight on its drivers. Our SD40 also weighs 400,000 lbs. All of its weight is on its drivers. The steamer is a constant pull machine below 25 mph and a constant HP machine above that speed. The SD is a constant HP machine throughout its range of about 8 mph to max speed. What consequences does this have on

train performance?

Assume we hook each loco to an identical train. This train has 50 cars and weighs 2500 tons and we are rolling on level track.. Since both locos are essentially 3000 HP units they will perform identically at speeds above 25 mph. Using the Davis formula for train rolling resistance we find that this train will develop 21,000 pounds of rolling resistance at 53 mph. Multiplying these figures and dividing by the constant 550 ft-lb per HP gives us 3000 HP. This train will need 3000 HP of pull at 53 mph. So both locos will do this. Their performance is identical.

Next, we roll the trains onto a 0.75% grade. Now in addition to the rolling resistance of the train we also have grade resistance. The grade resistance of this train will be 37,000 lbs. Since our locos can only pull 21,000 lbs at 53 mph, our speed will drop. HP is speed times pull. Since both of our locos are constant HP machines in this speed range this means their pull will go up as they slow down. As the speed drops the rolling resistance also drops. At some speed, the sum of the lowering rolling resistance and the grade drag will equal the increasing pull of the locos. This occurs at approximately 23 mph. The grade drag will be 37,000 lbs and the rolling resistance will be 13,000 lbs for a total of 50,000 lbs. The product of 50,000 x 23 mph = 3000 hp. Both locos will still perform identically.

Now let us roll onto a steeper grade, say 0.8% grade. On this grade the train has 40,000 lbs of grade drag. Its rolling resistance depends on its speed as usual. But at 25 mph it has 13,000 lbs of rolling resistance and $13,000 + 40,000 = 53,000$ lbs. Our steam engine only has 50,000 lbs of pull. The train is going to slow down until the rolling resistance equals 10,000 lbs. ($10000 + 40000 = 50000$). This will occur at 5 mph. Our steam loco will chug over this hill with this train at a mere five mph. If you multiply the pull times the speed you find that the steam engine is only developing 666 hp! The DE on the other hand continues to develop its full 3000 hp at any speed. This means that as the DEs speed drops its pull continues to go up. At 21 mph the rolling resistance is about 12,000 lbs.

Continued on Page 24

Corfu Light Railway
Continued from Page 23

The grade resistance is still 40,000 lbs. The total is 52,000 lbs and the DE can deliver this pull at that speed. 52,000 lbs times the speed is 3000 hp. (If you got lost in the math remember I am simplifying this and rounding off. The actual math is 52,000 lbs x 1.4666 ft per sec per mph x 21 mph / 550 ft-lb per sec per hp and that yields 2912 HP needed).

The SD will march this train over this grade at a whopping 21 mph! The steamer barely did it at 5 mph! What's more, if we roll onto a grade of 1.0% the grade resistance of our train is 50,000 lbs. This is all the steamer can muster, there is none left over for rolling resistance. The steamer is stalled. On a 1% grade our SD40 is still tromping along at 18 mph. In fact it will continue to pull this train on a grade as steep as 1.3% at a speed of 14 mph. At this speed the pull is 80,000 lbs. If the DE has a 20% factor of adhesion, the same used for the steamer, then it will slip if we try to pull more than 80,000 lbs (20% of 400,000 lbs = 80,000). So 14 mph is the slowest we can go at full throttle with the SD40. But the DE delivers its tractive effort in a much smoother continuous manner than the pulsing pull of the steam engine. Because of this it may achieve adhesion factors of around 25%. Using this figure we can load

the unit down until it is pulling 100,000 lbs. For our fictional train above this works out to a grade of 1.8% and 11 mph.

From this discussion you can see that the DE beats the steam loco hands down. It is no contest at low speeds. The steamer is limited by its fixed drawbar pull. The drawbar pull is fixed because it is a function of boiler pressure, piston diameter and ratio of stroke to driver diameter. Increasing any of those values will allow our steam engine to generate more thrust. But we can not use it. The steamer is limited to 50,000 lbs pull by its 20% adhesion factor and its 250,000 lbs on drivers. Changing the weight on drivers creates an entirely different steam engine.

Prepared by Dr B. Ching (CLR Consultant)



Dr Ching Chi Bun

<



Villa Theodora

Agios Ioannis

Nature

'A beautiful collection of stunning photos provided by our friend Giannis Gasteratos.'



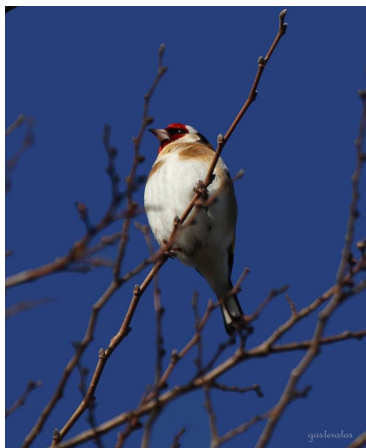
1 Iris unguicularis.
Algerian Iris.



2 Σπίνος.
Common Chaffinch.



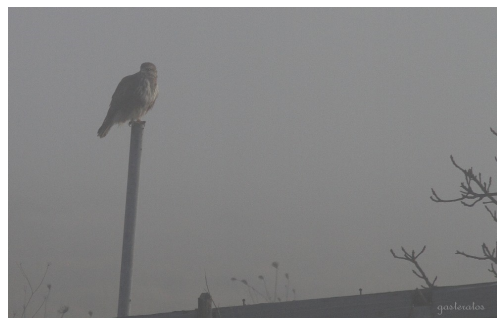
3 Φαλαρίδα.
Eurasian Coot.



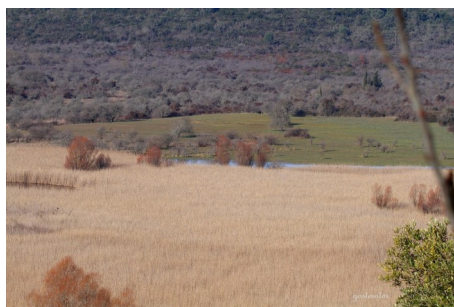
4 Καρδερίνα.
European Goldfinch.



5 Ομίχλη στο Λιβάδι του Ρόπα.
Ropa Valley in the mist.



6 · Γερακίνα στην ομίχλη.
Common Buzzard in the mist.



7 Γαϊδαράνα.
Lake Gaidarana.



8 Ασημόγλαρος της Μεσογείου.
Yellow-legged Gull.



9 Οι ημιάγριοι Βουβόκυκνοι στον Όρμο
των Γουβιών.
The feral Mute Swans of Gouvia Bay.

Nature - Continued from Page 3



10 Χρυσοβασιλίσκος.
Goldcrest.



11 Γαλοπούλα παρενοχλεί
Σταχτοκουρούνα.
Turkey mobbing Hooded Crow.



12 Ψαραετός.
Osprey.



13 Λιμνοθάλασσα Χαλικιόπουλου.
Chalikiopoulou Lagoon.



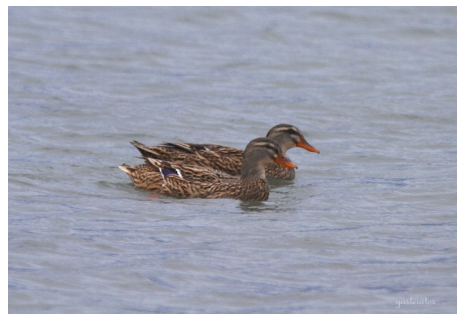
14 Φοινικόπτερο, άγριοι Βουβόκυκνοι,
Σφουριχτάρια Κιρκίρια και Κορμοράνοι.
Greater Flamingo, wild Mute Swans, Eur-
asian Wigeons, Eurasian Teals and Great
Cormorants.



15 Από Αλυκές Ποταμού προς
Κοντόκαλι.
Kontokali viewed from Alikes
Potamou



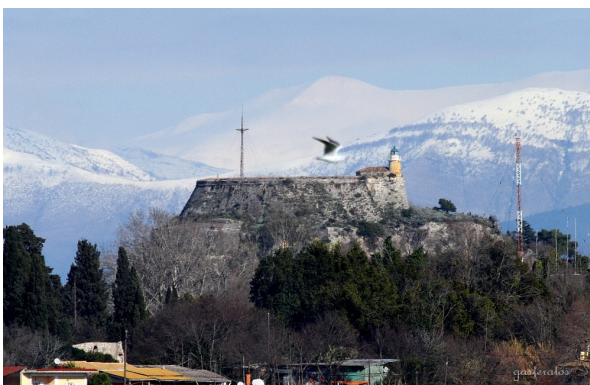
16 Πρασινοκέφαλη ♂.
Mallard



17 Πρασινοκέφαλες ♀.
Mallards ♀.



18 Λιβάδι Ρόπα.
Ropa Valley.



19 Παλιό Φρούριο./Old Fortress.



20 Τραυματισμένος Μαυροσκούφης με Νορβηγικό
δακτυλίδι./Injured Eurasian Blackcap with Norwe-
gian ring.

Conversations with Dr McGoo

BY LANCE MAGNUSSON

Dr Magoo Thinks Pink (is Odious)

Imagine my surprise and horror when I returned from my November holiday at Villa Dorothea (across the Plateia) to find the house opposite my own painted bright candy pink! During my vacation, I had not noticed any work going on, as I had settled myself well beside the pool cover and within gratifying distance of all those non-solid trees and shrubs which are such a feature of local gardens and which have assured my future stature as one of the great thinkers of our time (please feel free to apply for a copy of my dissertation on this subject, which I can offer to you and all your friends at the knock-down price of 75 euros - you'll learn a lot!). I had also not visited the Plateia for a few days as I had been making good inroads into a stash of excellent Russian vodka which I discovered in the very back of an obscure locked and bolted cupboard in a ditto storeroom (now both without working locks and bolts). Anyone would think the owners, who offered me this accommodation as a prize in some raffle, had hidden these supplies. How inhospitable!

Along with the vodka, I came across a bottle of wine, labelled 'Chateau Lasomethingorother'. I didn't like this as much as the vodka, as it was extremely dry and heavy, not how I like my wine at all; I much prefer Tesco's own-brand, light, soft and sweet. However, not one to waste a gratis drink, I rendered it potable by diluting it with some fizzy lemonade, enough to turn it pinkish.

Pink! THAT's what I was talking about before you sidetracked me by blabbing about vodka and other booze! Pink!

Having now viewed that odious colour on the walls of the house opposite mine, I am observing how it seems all-pervasive as a tincture on all sorts of objects. For example, my friend Mora Mone has quite a wardrobe in shades of pink, from her portable phone, down to her Wellington boots (named of course after that town in New Zealand where they rear sheep. Such boots come in useful for those farmers! Though theirs are probably a nice sensible black or green). Anyone would think Mora's a girl of nine, rather than the woman of middle years that she is.

Speaking of pink, you remember I told you about Zanna Dollas's sunlamp business? The single-use sunlamps made in China out of plastic? I seem to recall her telling me the other day that the new range, coming into stock next month, will be pink! She says they're more decorative, especially when they melt down into blobs while you wait for them to warm up. Zanna says small girls will want to collect the pink blobs, and they'll pester their mums for more pink sunlamps,

thereby increasing her sales. What a clever marketing trick! Even if ghastly pink is involved.

But the next step is even cleverer! Once she's established that collections are in the process of being set up by tasteless little females, Zanna intends to offer a range of accessories with which the girls can embellish their pink plastic blobs. Competition is expected to be fierce amongst the kiddies to acquire the biggest cache of accessories, which of course will be only on offer through Zanna's emporium. By the way, she intends to trademark the melted plastic blobs - formerly sunlamps - by the name of 'Blarbies'.

Personally, I'm glad I don't have any diminutive female relatives clamouring for objects coloured pink! It's fair to say - speaking purely for myself, you understand - that pink should be banned. No consumer product should be offered in anything other than the beige and grey, and the wide range of shades in between. None of those nasty offensive tones. After all, consider my wardrobe - nothing gaudy, just those two classic, nicely coordinating tints. I heard someone make a comment recently regarding 'fifty shades of grime and sludge', but I am sure they were not referring to my own attire.

What? You say I shouldn't complain about my neighbour's choice of wall colour, because strawberry pink was a favourite of the Venetians when they built their mansions in Corfu? And Corfu's most famous house is called the Strawberry Pink Villa? It's in a book? I can't believe what I've just heard! What business is it of a guidebook to give people wrong ideas about exterior decoration? That's the job of specialist style magazines, like 'Vague', and 'Nuts and Bolts'. As for the Venetians, I've always said that the only good thing to come out of Venice was the Cornetto. No wonder they had to copy Corfu Town's architecture when they built their own city - I once saw some photographs, you know, and I noticed a very distinct similarity in the buildings depicted. Except it rains more there; that's why the streets permanently flood all over Venice, whereas ours remain properly dry. It's cultural appropriation of construction style, I say, and Corfu really should sue those thieving Venetians for copying. And sue them for encouraging the use of pink paint while they're at it.

And that reminds me, next time you come over, would you call in at the shop on the way here and buy me a Cornetto. Just one... But not the strawberry flavour, if you please!

An Extract from The Pulse



We celebrated the faithful and special life and ultimate promotion (!) of Pat Caridis last month. Here are the words her son, Piero, shared at her service.

In this short text I shall try to provide some details of my mother's life and will then say a few things about what it felt to be in her presence and to have been brought up by her.

My mother was born in England in 1922 and was the only child of Robert Cecil Cumberbatch and Nora Skender. Her father came to Greece during the First World War where he met her mother and they married soon after. The (1922 - 2017) family lived in Greece and my mother was sent to England to boarding school. The outbreak of the Second WW prevented her from going to university and instead she joined her parents, as the family was evacuated by the Royal Navy from Athens to Alexandria where they remained throughout the war. She worked as a young cypherer in the Intelligence Corps at British Army Headquarters.

Following the end of the war she returned to Greece and worked for UNRRA, the UN Relief and Rehabilitation Association. She drove a truck in the Peloponnese distributing much-needed supplies to villages that had suffered as a result of the German occupation and the ensuing civil war. After that she travelled to London where she spent two years at the Royal Institute of International Affairs. Whilst in London she enjoyed the theatre and cultural activities but the difficult conditions prevailing at the time, combined with the grey skies of England convinced her that she ought to return to Greece. She came back to Athens where she joined the British Council.

In 1950 whilst on holiday in Corfu, she met, amongst other long-standing friends one of which is present with us today, Pericles Caridis, a young lawyer, with whom she fell in love immediately and to whom she got married within the space of a few months. She moved to Corfu and spent a blissful few years on the island during which she gave birth to her first son. After the birth of her second son, Christopher, the couple decided that Corfu did not provide the opportunities that were needed so they moved to Athens for several years. In 1964, the family moved back to Corfu where they have lived ever since. My mother was charmed by the island and she developed a deep interest in its history, its nature and its folklore. She got to know the island in depth, took photographs, read and collected rare old books on Corfu and on Greece as well as works of art. During the 1970s she became involved in the local British community and was appointed Vice-Consul and subsequently Consul. She performed her duties admirably and upon retirement was awarded the MBE for her services, a distinction she was justifiably proud of. In this she followed a family tradition as on her father's side the family included a number of members of the consular corps in the Middle East, principally in the Ottoman Empire and the Levant. My mother was a devout Christian and for many years was an active member of the Church council committee in Corfu. She attended meetings in Corfu and abroad and served the committee until finally her age did not allow her to continue doing so.

She was also a long-standing member of the Reading Club of Corfu (the Anagnostiki Etaireia) and attended many meetings and lectures, especially those in which the subject was related in some way to the island. In her private life she enjoyed reading, travelling, looking after her garden and receiving the younger members of the family that came to Corfu on holiday. Last summer she was happy to hold in her arms her great-grandson, Philip Elliot, who was born in May 2016 in Scotland. Her grand-children always made a point of being in Corfu on the 19th August which was her birthday, in order to join her for the barbecue party she held in a close family circle. She was always an exemplary partner and companion to her husband and they shared very many common interests. During the years she was in the consulate in Corfu they worked together as a couple and joined forces when necessary to help the British nationals who turned to the consulate for assistance.

Let me end on a personal note.

My mother was throughout my life a port of refuge whenever I encountered the storms one inevitably has to face during one's life. She always showed patience, understanding and support and never expected anything in return or offered any criticism. You knew what she approved of and what she had reservations about, without her uttering a word. Her attitude is an example to us all that had the privilege of knowing her closely. She offered warmth and real, practical support to all her grand-children and followed their activities. They in turn understood the depth of her feelings towards them and the care she bestowed upon them.

She will be remembered by us all in the family and she will act as an example of acting with integrity, restraint, elegance and quiet resolve.

May she rest in peace.