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150th Edition

The Agiot



Friends

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Letters to the Editor

Dear Gentle Readers,

Here we are, back again, after a six-month gap. Ouch! How did that happen??!!

It's been a funny old year.

Agios Ioannis and the greater Corfu has, as is universal, been in several modes of lockdown; we enter an age of masks, tests and permits. Luckily, this little backwater seems largely unaffected; the time that land forgot.

Life goes on, without all that *expense*.

Now we await Christmas to be told over the News Machine, no doubt, where we can go with whom and how many, at what time and with what paperwork to support our movements. 'Poppycock', as I'm sure Dickens would have said, bemoaning the blight on Christmas.

Having announced the other day that the Agiot was being dusted down and pulled out for a Christmas airing, I was humbled and touched by the messages that came in, a small segment of which I publish here. I have mailed everybody who took this trouble.



Thank you so much, especially for your patience and loyalty.

So, on with the show. I hope it comes out alright but I must admit to feeling a bit rusty. Sorry. Also, Jan's keypad has seized up. She wants me to invest in a new one!

The next Agiot will appear the 1st of February. After a lot of dithering I've settled on six editions for 2021. Let's see how that goes.

Natassa Katehi from Corfu:

Thank you for letting us know.
Keep well and get well prepared for next year!!!!!!

Lin and Frank Bloomfield from South Wales:

Keep well and safe Paul, both of you!
Fond regards,
Lin and Frank. Xx

Marilyn Thomson from Bonnie Scotland;

Dear Paul.
This is great news; we need positivity and welcome news that is not Covid related. Looking forward to it and Lula's home cooking recipes too. A Christmas read is much needed. Keep the jokes coming too.
Lots of love,
Marilyn, avid reader xxx



Letters to the Editor - Continued from Page 2

Jim Potts,

Very good to know and to hear from you.

Hoping all is well. We managed to spend 2 months in Kato Korakiana and up in Zagori during the summer.

The infection rate was very low then. Who was the poor British women who died in Corfu hospital?

Greece has handled things better than the UK.

Best wishes and good luck to all of you. Wish we were there.

Jim

Barry Allsworth from Kent;

Hi Paul

Always enjoyed the Newsletter so will be a Christmas bonus.

Hope you are all well.

All OK here although I did have a heart attack in June but 2 stents later up and 'running' again.

Keep taking the tablets.

Barry, Chris & Sue

Stephen Mills, also from Kent;

Hi Paul

Great to hear from you we were beginning to get worried.

Best to you and yours

Stephen

Melanie Daly,

Hi Paul

Apologies I unsubscribed in error.

Best wishes

Melanie

Syd Monro, Corfu

Ahhhh lovely to know your OK though - look forward to it and stay safe and well!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Syd xxxx

Vickie De Rouville from Brantford, Ontario

Looking forward to it Paul. Hello to everyone. During this Covid time lots of things have just been put on hold. Stay safe. Stay well.

John Christie from Peterborough;

Best news i have heard for quite a while. looking forward with reading and catching up with news from my favourite Greek village and Island.

Hope everyone is ok.

Contributor **Tracey** mails;

A great Agiot but I'm sorry to hear about Nitsa and her flock having to go.

I will send you bits for my page. Hope you are well my lovely friend. xxx





Letters to the Editor - Continued from Page 3

Russ and Fern Pedley, from North Island, New Zealand.

Hi Janet,

Thank you for your email and a special thanks for the many newsletters my wife and I have received over years gone by.

We visited Corfu mid-2000 and had a wonderful holiday meeting some of your local friendly people.

We have very fond memories of that time and did think that one day we would return and really enjoyed reading the newsletters.

While we have been to the UK on a number of occasions since our visit to Corfu we have not had or likely to have been able to arrange a re visit.

Sadly health issues now make it very unlikely that we will leave our country for any future overseas holidays .

In view of this it would probably seem appropriate for future newsletters to cease being sent to us but in informing you of that we wish you all the very best for the future.

Thank you

Russell & Fern Pedley

Mike and Pat Butcher from Herne Bay;

Hi Paul

Nice to hear from you and look forward to getting the next Agiot.

Today is the US Presidential Election. Many years ago, an old Bulgarian bubba woman made many predictions about the future. She foretold that in 2020 a great plague would sweep around the world with millions falling victim and many deaths. She also said that the 45th US President would not see the end of his Presidency!!!!!! Scary or what.

Did you know an anagram of Mother in Law is - Hitler Woman.

We start National Lockdown Mark 2 on Wednesday. Panic buying in force with toilet rolls and cat food selling fast. The British put their bottoms and pets at the top of the agenda whereas in the US they panic buy guns and ammo (Walmart Supermarkets have withdrawn all guns and bullets from sale pending the possible violent reactions to the election). Whatever happened to the "American Dream"?

Wishing you and the family good fortune and here's to hoping 2021 is a good deal better than 2020.

Take care and keep safe

Pat & Mike Butcher

A J Lykavgis from Corfu

I got stopped and checked yesterday in town by police NOT in uniform (to check my SMS etc.) whilst I was out walking. I had a takeaway coffee with me so I had my mask below my mouth to drink. They stopped me showed me their badges and asked why I wasn't wearing my mask. I said I was drinking coffee and they said that wasn't allowed I still had to wear my mask.

They asked to see my gov text which I showed them and then asked why I had put down a

number 6 since that was for physical exercise. I explained I've been in my small apartment all day and have just come out for a walk.

They said what I was doing wasn't exercising and that I should have put a number 2 on the text since I had purchased a coffee. But then if I had got stopped, they would have asked why I was out walking when I had a supermarket text.

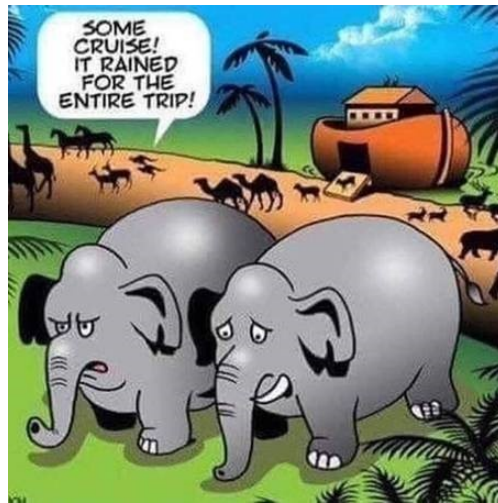
Anyway, the point is it's not just uniformed police you need to keep an eye out for.

Stay safe 🙏

A J Lykavgis



Gooners Gags



> 'Enter new password'
~ 'chicken'
> 'Password must contain a capital'
~ 'chickenkiev'



My grandad always said, "as one door closes, another one opens". Lovely man, terrible cabinet maker.

I'm giving up drinking till Christmas.
Sorry bad punctuation.
I'm giving up. Drinking till Christmas

The Seven Dwarves have been told that from Monday, they can meet in groups of six. One of them isn't Happy.



Gooners Gags - Continued from Page 5

The King of Spain has been quarantined on his private jet.



That means the reign in Spain stays mainly on the plane...

I nearly didn't post this in case people thought it was a fence sieve



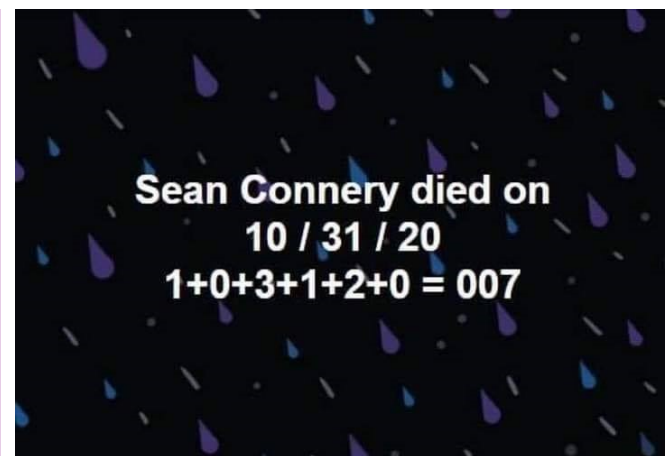
A man went to Harley Street in London, having seen an advert for a Gynaecologist's Assistant. Knowing that nowadays, job advertisers aren't able to discriminate against the applicant's gender, he was very interested, so he went in and asked the secretary for details.

She retrieved the file and read to him: "This job entails preparing ladies for the Gynecologist. You will be responsible for helping them out of their underwear, laying them down and carefully washing their private areas, applying shaving foam to the necessary parts and finally, you'll be required to rub in soothing oils, in preparation for the Gynecologist's examination."

Then she told him "The annual salary is £65,000 and if you're interested, you'll have to go to Aberdeen".

"My goodness!", exclaimed the man, "Is that where the job is?"

She answered, "No, that's where the end of the queue is..."



A woman walked into the kitchen to find her husband stalking around with a fly swatter. "What are you doing?" she asked.

"Hunting flies," he replied.

"Oh, killed any?" she said.

"Yep, 3 males, 2 females," came the answer.

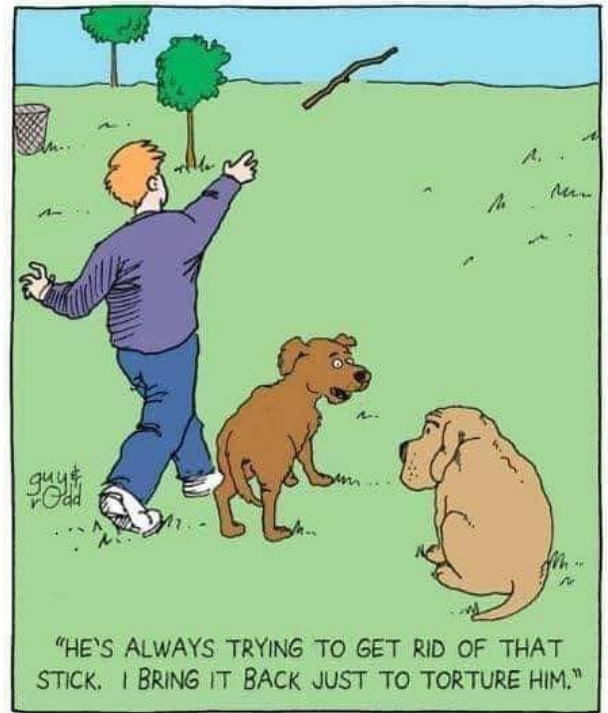
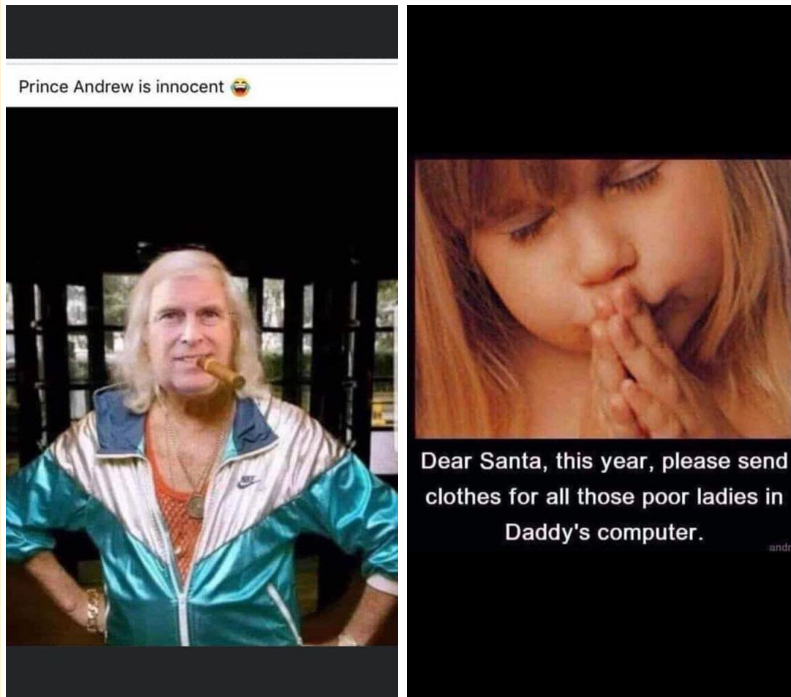
Intrigued, the wife asked, "How can you tell them apart?"

Husband: "3 were on a beer can, 2 were on the phone."

Thank you, student loans, for helping me get through college.

I don't think I can ever repay you.

Did you hear about the Irish terrorist who tried to blow up a bus...? He burnt his mouth on the exhaust pipe.

**Gooners Gags** - Continued from Page 6*This Is A Short Test of Your Honesty*

This test only has one question, but it's a very important one.

By giving an honest answer, you will discover where you stand morally.

The test features an unlikely, completely fictional situation in which you will have to make a decision.

Remember that your answer needs to be honest, yet spontaneous.

Please scroll down slowly and give due consideration to each line.

THE SITUATION

You are in Florida, Miami to be specific. There is chaos all around you, caused by a hurricane with severe flooding.

This is a flood of biblical proportions. You are a photo-journalist working for a major newspaper and you're caught in the middle of this epic disaster.

The situation is nearly hopeless. You're trying to shoot career-making photos. There are houses and people swirling around you, some disappearing under the water. Nature is unleashing all of its destructive fury.

THE TEST

Suddenly you see a man in the water. He is fighting for his life, trying not to be taken down with the debris. You move closer. Somehow the man looks familiar. You suddenly realize who it is. It's the President, Donald Trump!

At the same time you notice that the raging waters are about to take him under forever. You have two options, you can save the life of Mr. Trump, or you can shoot a dramatic Pulitzer Prize-winning photo, documenting the death of one of the world's most powerful politicians.....

THE QUESTION

Here's the question, and please give an honest answer:.....

Would you select high contrast color film?
or would you go with the classic simplicity of black and white?

**Gooners Gags** - Continued from Page 7**America!**

A DC 'airport ticket agent' offers some examples of why the U.S. is in so much trouble!

I love this as the ticket agent actually names names!!!!

I had a New Hampshire Congresswoman (Carol Shear-Porter) ask for an aisle seat so that her hair wouldn't get messed up by being near the window. (On an airplane!)

I got a call from a Kansas Congressman's (Moore) staffer (Howard Bauleke), who wanted to go to Cape Town. I started to explain the length of the flight and the passport information, and then he interrupted me with, "I'm not trying to make you look stupid, but Cape Town is in Massachusetts."

Without trying to make him look stupid, I calmly explained, "Cape Cod is in Massachusetts, Cape Town is in South Africa." His response - 'click.'

A senior Vermont Congressman (Bernie Sanders) called, furious about a Florida package we did. I asked what was wrong with the vacation in Orlando. He said he was expecting an ocean-view room. I tried to explain that's not possible, since Orlando is in the middle of the state. He replied, "Don't lie to me! I looked on the map, and Florida is a very THIN state!!" (OMG)

I got a call from a lawmaker's wife (Landra Reid) who asked, "Is it possible to see England from Canada?"

I said, "No!"

She said, "But they look so close on the map." (OMG, again!)

An aide for a cabinet member (Janet Napolitano) once called and asked if he could rent a car in Dallas. I pulled up the reservation and noticed he had only a 1-hour layover in Dallas. When I asked him why he wanted to rent a car, he said, "I heard Dallas was a big airport, and we will need a car to drive between gates to save time." (Aghhhh)

An Illinois Congresswoman (Jan Schakowsky) called last week. She needed to know how it was possible that her flight from Detroit left at 8:30 a.m., and got to Chicago at 8:33 a.m.? I explained that Michigan was an hour ahead of Illinois, but she couldn't understand the concept of time zones. Finally, I told her the plane went fast, and she bought that.

A New York lawmaker, (Jerrold Nadler) called and asked, "Do airlines put your physical description on your bag so they know whose luggage belongs to whom?"

"No."

He replied, "Well, when I checked in with the airline, they put a tag on my luggage that said (FAT), and I'm overweight. I think that's very rude!"

After putting him on hold for a minute, while I looked into it. (I was dying laughing). I came back and explained the city code for Fresno, Ca is (FAT - Fresno Air Terminal), and the airline was just putting a destination tag on his luggage.

A Senator John Kerry aide (Lindsay Ross) called to inquire about a trip package to Hawaii. After going over all the cost info, she asked, "Would it be cheaper to fly to California and then take the train to Hawaii?"

I just got off the phone with a freshman Congressman, Bobby Bright from Ala. who asked, "How do I know which plane to get on?"

I asked him what exactly he meant, to which he replied, "I was told my flight number is 823, but none of these planes have numbers on them."

Senator Dianne Feinstein called and said, "I need to fly to Pepsi-Cola, Florida. Do I have to get on one of those little computer planes?"

I asked if she meant fly to Pensacola and fly on a commuter plane.

She said, "Yeah, whatever, smarty!"

Mary Landrieu, La. Senator, called and had a question about the documents she needed in order to fly to China. After a lengthy discussion about passports, I reminded her that she needed a visa. "Oh, no I don't. I've been to China many times and never had to have one of those."

I double checked and sure enough, her stay required a visa. When I told her this she said, "Look, I've been to China four times and every time they have accepted my American Express!"

A New Jersey Congressman (John Adler) called to make reservations, "I want to go from Chicago to Rhino, New York." I was at a loss for words. Finally, I said, "Are you sure that's the name of the town?"

"Yes, what flights do you have?" replied the man.

After some searching, I came back with, "I'm sorry, sir, I've looked up every airport code in the country and can't find a rhino anywhere."

The man retorted, "Oh, don't be silly! Everyone knows where it is. Check your map!"

So, I scoured a map of the state of New York and finally offered, "You don't mean Buffalo, do you?"

The reply? "Whatever! I knew it was a big animal."



Gooners Gags - Continued from Page 8



Tesco, Lidl and Aldi are giving away a free turkey to any customer that can run faster than their security.

Irish animal rights protesters broke into a Turkey farm outside Dublin last night, they escaped with 5,000 Turkeys.

A spokesman for the gang said, "We will be releasing the birds back into the wild, just as soon as they have been defrosted."





The Truth About Covid?

By Tab Headlack, in the UK

Can you imagine a scenario in which grave warnings begin to appear in the media warning us that insects are growing larger, and that if we do not change our ways, in 20 years they will be big enough to prey on us? The reason, we are told, is that by entering their habitat we are shedding our DNA, which is being picked up by the insects, incorporated into theirs and causing them to increase in size. Since their main habitat is the outdoors, especially the countryside, we are being confined to urban regions, and encouraged by the government to stay indoors, for the sake of our children's future.

Scare stories abound throughout the media, and everyone is terrified.

A large number of independent scientists, leaders in the field of entomology and some of them Nobel winners, tell us the scenario is wildly exaggerated. There is no verifiable evidence that insects are getting larger, except in a very limited species mostly in the tropics; the doomsayers are cherry-picking the evidence to scare us into keeping out of the countryside, for reasons we do not (yet) know.

These experts are dismissed as being on the 'fringe' of science.

Project Humanicide by Insects accelerates, and the whole population exists in terror of encountering a cockroach. They spend gigantic amounts of money on chemicals to rid their houses and gardens of bugs, to the extent that many of them fall ill and even die with poisoning.

The economy closes down as people fear to meet up and maybe catch a flea. The population begs the government to institute aerial spraying.

In the end, having destroyed the social and economic fabric of the nation, and poisoned the air and ground, the doomsayers admit that it was all a mistake, their data having been erroneously interpreted, and insects pose little danger, except for the usual bites and stings, and the transmission of some diseases that are not endemic in Europe anyway.

But it's too late. Irreversible damage has been done.

I am sure you'd hoot with mirth if I told you this silly tale. Giant insects? Preying on us? But substitute 'covid' for 'insects' and you'll suddenly catch on that this doom scenario has already taken place.

Here's the Truth About Covid. All of this is verifiable, from many and expert sources. I've not made any out-of-the-air speculations, just collated what anyone can find out there on the web, as long as you don't rely on the Guardian and the BBC for your news. Heavens! Even the Mail, during November, published up to five articles a day questioning the validity of the covid panic (panicdemic), many by eminent authorities!

1) The number of 'cases' or 'infections' is rising because more and more people are being tested. If no-one was tested there would be no cases. No general testing was undertaken during the spring phase of the epidemic, with the result that graphs show the 'second wave' looking worse than the 'first'.

2) 'Cases' do not equate to illness. The great majority of people who 'test positive' have absolutely nothing wrong with them, and are not, and will not get, sick.

3) The test that is widely used is not fit for purpose. The inventor of the process told the authorities that it was NOT to be used as a diagnostic tool as it is not accurate. Indeed, the authorities admit that the said test shows up a large percentage (some sources say up to 90%) of false positives, and probably false negatives, rendering it worse than useless. Some question whether the test is even specific to covid.

4) An estimated 96% of covid deaths are aged over 70 and/or already have a serious illness and/or are obese. Even those in this demographic group who catch it are much more likely to recover than die.

5) The average age of deaths with covid is 82.4 years. The average age of non-covid deaths, all causes, is 81.5 years.



The Truth About Covid? - Continued from Page 10

6) It's becoming increasingly clear that covid death figures have, from the start, been 'massaged'. Anyone who tests 'positive' for covid (see 3 above) who dies of ANY cause during the subsequent 28 days is deemed to have died 'from' covid. Even if they've been shot, stabbed or hit by a lorry. There is evidence that people being admitted to hospital for any reason (could be a heart attack) are being tested, and if they are found to be positive for covid are registered as dying OF it, and not of a heart attack WITH covid on board. One lady was admitted to hospital in the last stages of childbirth, and she was very nearly tagged as a covid case. In mid-November, a man in Croatia, who died after falling from a ladder, was registered as dying of covid because he had a lung disease that might have been caused by it.

7) In November, covid was the 24th leading cause of death in the UK. Cancer, heart attacks and Alzheimer's are the top three. It is likely that more people are dying of accidents in the home (see 6) than from covid (but no-one is forcing people to stay in bed to avoid the risk of a fatal domestic mishap).

8) With regard to 6, though we have entered the season for respiratory diseases such as pneumonia and flu, practically no-one is registered as dying from those illnesses, nor are hospitals getting cases, leading many people to speculate that ALL respiratory diseases are being classed as 'covid' to push up the figures.

9) Though the authorities say that almost everyone is still vulnerable as there is no 'herd immunity' because covid is a 'novel' disease that we have no defences against, experts have pointed out that since covid is just one of a larger family of coronaviruses, which include normal flu and several common cold bugs, up to 40% of us are already resistant to it because of previous contact with a similar virus. While we have not come into contact with the exact same bug, our immune systems recognise it as a bad guy. 'Herd Immunity' at this stage is pretty much achieved.

10) Over 40,000 medical experts, many of them the best professors in the world, have signed a document called the Great Barrington Declaration, which offers an alternative to the current panic reaction: Basically, shield the vulnerable and let everyone else get on with their lives. They stand accused by the 'official' covid

authorities of being 'fringe' medics who want to 'let the virus rip' (which it won't - see 9).

11) The drivers of the 'panidemic' over-reaction, SAGE (which has not a single coronavirus expert as a member), are disregarding on-the-ground evidence, and instead are using 'modelling', based on dodgy figures, to make forecasts; the resulting 'models' are not based on real science, but on patchy and unverified data, including information obtained from Wikipedia, that most reliable of sources (NOT). We all know about GiGo (Garbage in, Garbage out). Clinical epidemiologists who are examining all the data, not just the stats, say that much of the 'models' used by SAGE are reliant on outdated information, or numbers pulled out of their context, projection upon projection diverging further and further from the truth. For example, warnings of 4000 deaths a day by November were projected on the basis of a daily death toll of 1000 in October. The actual October deaths averaged fewer than 200. Thus, the projection for November was more than four times too high. I am sure SAGE members are not as stupid as this makes them look, which means they have probably engaged in fraudulent conduct.

12) I had absolutely no idea until a few months ago, when comparative figures started to appear, that I had lived through a real and much worse epidemic - the Hong Kong Flu of 1968-69. 80,000 souls dead OF flu. Not only did the country not shut down, not only were we not all sent home from school for the duration, but we were not told to take any precautions whatsoever - we children weren't even aware it was happening. I pity today's youngsters, frightened (in some cases literally) to death. What is being done to them is criminal.

13) The NHS is now the National Covid Service. Many other debilitating and killer illnesses are not being treated, in order to keep beds available for largely non-existent covid patients. The vast new 'Nightingale Hospitals' lie almost unused; they could be used solely for covid, whilst other illnesses are treated in normal hospitals, lie. Many of these untreated people will die of a disease, like cancer or heart problems, that could have been successfully dealt with if caught in time. Some experts say that this death toll will greatly exceed the numbers that die due to covid. Actually, their deaths will have been due to covid. This is a criminal assault on human rights.

Continued on Page 12



The Truth About Covid? - Continued from Page 11

14) Wards have been no busier than normal for the time of year; indeed, some nurses say they had very little to do during the first lockdown; many spent their time choreographing dance routines for youtube et. al. At the start of the autumn lockdown, the whole country of Cornwall (pop. 500,000+) had just two covid patients.

15) Masks don't work, and there is conflicting evidence that they even reduce the viral load. A large-scale 2015 study on dentists found that even clinical standard masks did not prevent them from picking up respiratory viruses. But though the dentists carried at any one time a higher viral load than non-dentists, they mostly remained without symptoms because their immune system had got used to dealing with viral attacks, suggesting that it's best to acquire a minor dose of the illness. A very recent gold-standard Danish study says they don't protect the wearer. Additionally, it is almost certain that constant wearing of masks will, somewhere down the line, lead to a mass outbreak of fibrosis of the lungs due to the inhalation of minute fibres.

16) You watch that big blob bouncing on your TV screen masquerading as the virus. In fact, the virus is 1000th (one thousandth) the diameter of a single hair. To think that it won't go through even the closest weave mask is tantamount to believing that putting up a chain-link fence around your garden will protect you from mozzies. Science writer Michael Crichton writes in his novel, *Prey*, that 'nanoparticles [are] small enough to pass right through a membrane', in this context a plastic bag. Coincidentally, nanoparticles are approximately the same size as the virus.

17) On 19 March, covid was downgraded from its status as a dangerous infectious disease. So why did the UK (and I believe Greece) go into lockdown on 23 March? Why do harsh measures (getting worse) continue months later, when it's known not to be any more dangerous than flu?

I could go on, but I am sure you get the picture (though feel free to disagree with me). The authorities at every level have grossly exaggerated the scenario in order to scare us into various measures and behaviours. Which, like good little sheeple, we have meekly accepted, showing acceptance of increasingly

dictatorial measures by our deferential donning of face nappies. The burning question is - WHY?

~~~~~

I have avoided, in these scary times, reading conspiracy theory sites, as I can predict what David Icke (for example) is going to say. However, even mainstream commentators (though not ones in the MSM - yet) are talking of the 'Great Reset'.

We are used to seeing history and society as moving slowly forward, with just incremental changes taking place. We are rarely around long enough to witness the consequent changes in our world, as they happen tip-toe by tip-toe. But change has also happened suddenly many times over the years. Look at what occurred in China and Russia when communism was imposed. I don't suppose the Romanovs saw that coming: privilege to squalid death in two years.

It can't happen to us small people, you may say. But the past shows it can.

1066 was a 'great reset' year for England. The largely civilised, and peaceful by then, England of the Anglo-Saxons, with their superior art and exceptional poetry, as well as their relative freedom under Common Law, were subjugated by the brutal and philistine Normans, and placed under a form of 'lockdown', unable, for example, to hunt in the forests they had previously called their own, and forced into serfdom for their new overlords. It was 300 years later, when the Black Death killed a third of the population and the remaining workforce became more valued by the overlords, that they started to break away from serfdom. Britain grew great from sheep and later from textiles and other types of manufacturing.

The 19th century brought another Great Reset, when the Industrial Revolution swept through the land. Country folk moved to the cities, partly driven by the Enclosures, and partly by the (false) promise of a better life. Factory workers were placed in poorly built back-to-backs (or, worse, in 'courts') which huddled around their particular dark satanic mill, often paying rent to their employer and buying goods at their local store, also owned by the boss, who therefore succeeded in gathering back a large proportion of the salaries he had paid out.

*Continued on Page 13*



*The Truth About Covid? - Continued from Page 12*

The Scots got their 'Great Reset' with the Clearances, the Irish with the Potato Famine, the Greeks with the Civil War. In all cases, it was the 'little people' that suffered.

Now it's on us again.

~~~~~

When our rulers (not the people we think) wish to change elements in society but know that the population will resist the change, they use a process called 'Problem - Solution - Reaction' to get them to the place they want to go. First, a problem is created, or an existing problem is exaggerated, as with covid. Egged on by a supine and exploited media, fear levels amongst the population intensify, and the scared people demand that the government 'do something'. The government then provides the solution, this being what they wanted in the first place but which the population, before the problem arose, found unacceptable. Look back to the start of the year, and consider: Would you have welcomed the measures that have been imposed on us, without the fear factor?

~~~~~

So, what where are they taking us? We hear about the 'New Normal', and the 'Great Reset'. What will it look like?

Some elements of this larger game plan are already evident, if you know where to look:

\* Basic Universal Income so everyone is reliant on the State and must do its bidding. Furlough is clearly its precursor.

\* Induced terror of possibly germ-infected money is forcing on us a cashless society, with all payments made eventually with a State-issued basic income on a plastic card or chip. They can check exactly what you are purchasing, and if they don't like it, the polizei will come calling. Supermarket loyalty cards are a foretaste. Saving will be strongly discouraged; spending all income becomes socially responsible behaviour. Banks are even now being phased out. Negative interest is coming, so that it will not be worth saving.

\* Microchipping, probably introduced covertly as part of the covid vaccination in the form of nanoparticles. Smartphones and Alexa/Siri style devices have already got people used to surveillance. The vaccine

will not be compulsory, but many activities will not be permitted without it (e.g. having a job, travelling. See the recent story about having proof of vaccination to enter a soccer stadium.).

\* A new world religion, combining elements of Christianity and Islam (guess which of the two will get the most input). Mask-wearing may be part of the softening-up process here. An accelerating number of 'terror' attacks will cause us to beg for a melding of the two faiths. Of course, the State will be the One True God.

\* Increasing efforts to coax the population into drug use. Already, many places have legalised drugs, de facto or de jure. This will continue until we have a 'Virgin Drugs' (for Branson is a big 'pusher' of legalisation) on every street corner. Children will be groomed through drug-laden sweets (just as teenage girls have been lured into drinking via alcopops). The drugs will be utilised to keep us pacified, as with the narcotic Soma in Brave New World.

\* The 'plebs' forced into tiny homes (sorry, 'units') in the 'human settlement zones. Almost daily, stories appear in the MSM about 'tiny homes', getting us familiar with the idea. Look how workers live in Hong Kong. The elite and their well-rewarded politico puppet flunkys (like Boris Johnson; by the way, his real name is Al Kemal) will still have their nice spaces, though.

\* An end to personal vehicles and travel. Under lockdown, driving is discouraged. Electric cars, which will be phased in ten years earlier than planned, will make driving too expensive for many. The aviation industry is under threat, resulting ultimately in no more foreign holidays. The reduction in CO2 levels due to lower levels of transport is being touted already as a 'good thing' (people aren't aware that if they halve from present levels, all plant life will die). Saint Greta of Thunberg is wetting herself with delight.

\* Entertainment centred on the home: Netflix increasingly popular (no cinemas), streamed spectatorless sport, increasingly sophisticated gadgets and more powerful internet connections (all of which our Universal Income will have to pay for). Out-of-home activities discouraged and possibly banned: Sports without fans. Restaurants replaced by deliveries. With the closure of stadiums and food outlets, this is happening.

\* The destruction of 'our amazing' NHS, already undergoing decades of creeping tip-toe 'outsourcing' (aka privatisation).

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Continued on Page 14



The Truth About Covid? - Continued from Page 13

Many other strands in our society may be a subtle and covert preparation for coming changes. The movie *The Hunger Games* might constitute the best example - 'a post-apocalyptic nation called Panem in which a super-rich, super-pampered, super-callous 'elite' lived in high-tech luxury while the rest of the population daily battled to survive in abject poverty locked away behind prison fences in intensively-populated 'people zones'.' (Waking Times. Agenda 21: The Plan for a Global Fascist Dictatorship). Kim Kardashian and her siblings, along with other slebs, increasingly resemble the Panem elite in their ridiculous outfits and make-up, while husband Kanye West's alleged 'fashion' shows could have come straight from *The Hunger Games* grunge costume design team. Popular culture is often exploited in this way to groom people and diminish their expectations. Young people are the ones mostly targeted and susceptible (it's their future, after all); the aforementioned movie was very much aimed at them.

All the above is Agenda 21 at work (now often called Agenda 21/30, maybe because they are behind schedule). Its existence is not a conspiracy theory - it is an official United Nations programme that is not widely publicised but is mainstream if you know where to look (just use google). It is based on a new system that 'encompasses two related themes of 'sustainable development' and 'biodiversity'. Sustainable development - as in don't use more than can be replaced - sounds sensible enough at first until you realize what this and biodiversity really mean in the context.' (Waking Times. Agenda 21: The Plan for a Global Fascist Dictatorship)

This is Waking Times' summary of what Agenda 21 / Sustainable Development / Biodiversity is seeking to impose:

- * An end to national sovereignty;
 - State planning and management of all land resources, ecosystems, deserts, forests, mountains, oceans and fresh water; agriculture; rural development; biotechnology; and ensuring 'equity' (equal slavery);
- * The State to 'define the role' of business and financial resources;
- * Abolition of private property (it's not 'sustainable');
- * 'Restructuring' of the family unit;
- * Children raised by the State;

- * People told what their job will be;
- * Major restrictions on movement;
- * Creation of 'human settlement zones';
- * Mass resettlement as people are forced to vacate land where they currently live;
- * Dumbing down education (achieved);
- * Mass global depopulation in pursuit of all the above.

Much of this is already being introduced. If you think, for example, that no-one is going to agree to give up house ownership, just think of the fact that young people are much less likely than their parents to get on the property ladder. This will apply increasingly down a couple of generations, until home ownership is phased out (except for the elite and their puppets, of course). The 'transgender agenda' and destruction of marriage are both helping to restructure the family unit. Children placed in 'care' (often arbitrarily and against their parents' wishes) are indeed being raised by the State. People already are being subtly funnelled into jobs (they tried it on me 40 years ago). All points on this list will be accelerated in the wake of covid.

And the last? Refuse the vaccine.

~~~~~

So now you know. I just hope I am wrong.

~~~~~

For more information, please read [greatesthoax.pdf](#) (I did not start this until I'd finished writing the above).

This article appeared in the Daily Mail just as I completed this piece. Author Ross Clark has been verified as an honest and diligent investigative journalist.

<https://www.mailonsunday.co.uk/news/article-8971669/What-DONT-tell-Covid-facts-twisted-strike-fear-hearts.html>

(This is a fast-moving and fast-changing situation. The above facts, sourced from the UK, were accurate at the time of submission to The Agiot. They may be negated or superseded by future data. Submission date: 21 November 2020)





Bespoke Property

For us at Oca Building the year was dominated by the need to complete two building projects; a refurbishment, we prefer the term major improvement, of an old town house in Garitsa, and a new villa overlooking the sea at Barbati.

Both proved to be interesting challenges, made far more so than normal by the interruption caused by Governmental restrictions imposed during the course of the epidemic.

But we got there. At Barbati, we are pleased with our efforts, though it was quite an exhausting challenge.

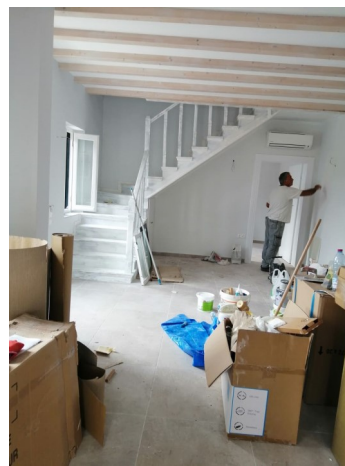
The owners managed to get over from the U.K and get some quality usage out of their new villa, which many of their family members visited during the summer.

The Garitsa owners have also had experience of their investment. They may find themselves trapped in Corfu for a while, given the unpredictable situation. If you have to be locked down where better than this island?

Here are some photos of both incomplete properties taken at intervals during the long summer.



August painting



Decorating



Facade

Garitsa



Ground floor open plan



Lunch break

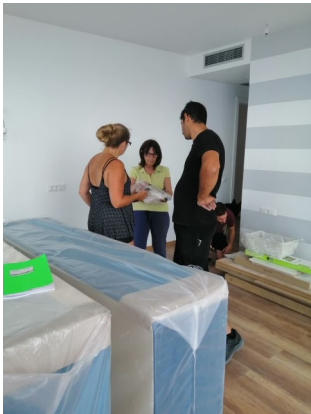


The three buildings comprising Garitsa House



Bespoke Property - Continued from Page 15

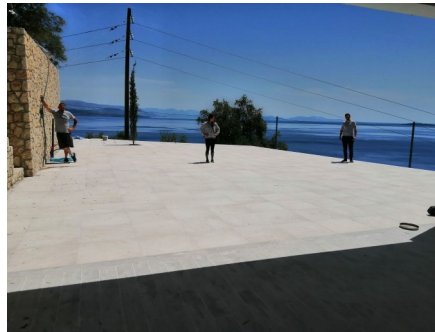
Barbati under construction



Fitters and plumbers



Introduction of pool table



Is it big enough?



Kitchen assembly



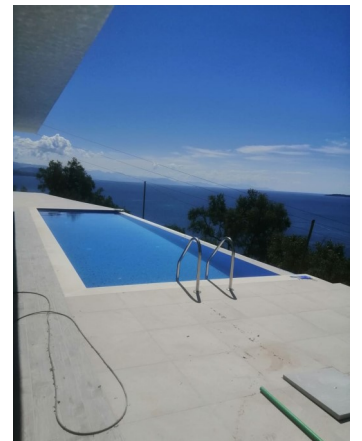
Pots are here



Roadway



To provide shade



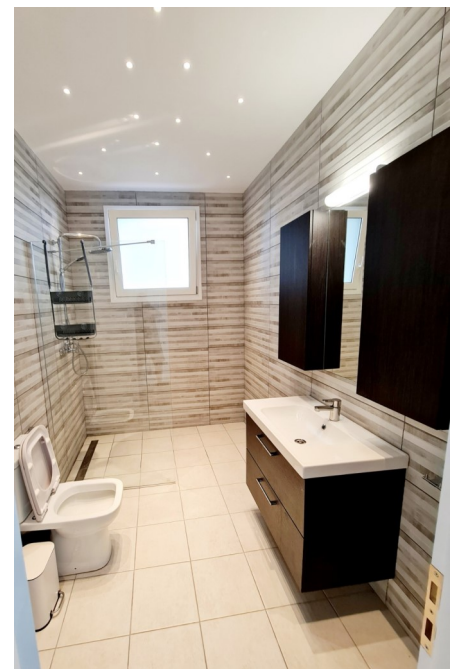
Waiting for bathers

Barbati finished

Now the beautiful Villa in Barbati, known as Villa Annie, is ready to receive its first summer rentals in 2021.



Alternative seating area



Beautiful shower rooms



Bespoke Property/Barbati finished - Continued from Page 16



Ample dining with vistas



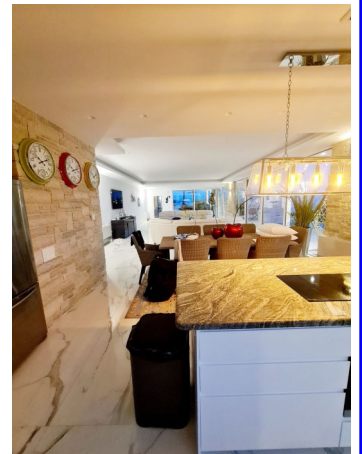
Another seating area



Away to Corfu town



Comfort



Fabulous space



Grand



Music and TV area



Infinity pool



Twin bedroom

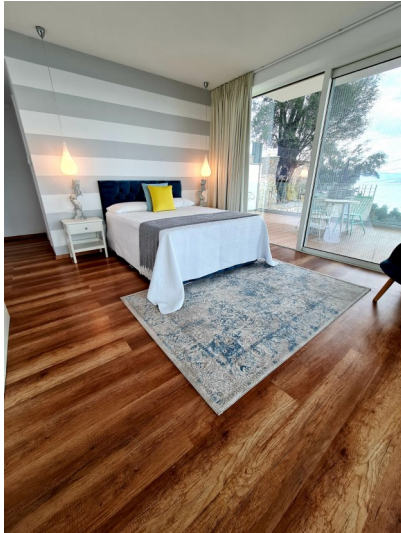


Panoramic sea views

Continued on Page 18



Bespoke Property/Barbati finished - Continued from Page 17



Simple luxury

Arguably, this is *the* place to stay on the Barbati coast.

View full details at:

<https://travel.ocaycorfu.com/properties/villa-annie/>

We are now excited for 2021 with the prospect of two further builds. One is in our very own village of Agios Ioannis, the other in Ano Korakiana.



New build possibility

Here is the concept for the Ano Korakiana build. More on Agios Ioannis next month.



Durrell Guidebook Reissued

First published in 1998, 'In the Footsteps of the Durrells in Corfu' was reviewed in the London Sunday Times as 'Travel Book of the Week'. It was reprinted in 1999 and quickly sold out. During the subsequent two decades, innumerable Durrell fans have requested a new edition, particularly after the recent series brought the Durrell family to the attention of a new generation. Now, author Hilary Whitton Paipeti has published a much-expanded issue of the book in electronic format, and it is available for purchase via the Internet at www.corfudurrellfootsteps.com

The Durrells in Corfu

Lawrence Durrell and Gerald Durrell lived in Corfu from 1935 to 1939. Although Lawrence was only 23 at the time of his arrival, and Gerald just 10, their short time in Corfu would shape their future lives, Lawrence as a critically acclaimed novelist, and Gerald as a highly popular writer and pioneering naturalist. The books they authored about Corfu - Lawrence's 'Prospero's Cell' and Gerald's Corfu Trilogy - put Corfu firmly on the map, just as overseas tourism was starting to develop. Later, now established in their careers, the Durrell brothers returned to Corfu for extended holidays and for filming projects, helping to raise the island's profile afresh.

In the Footsteps of the Durrells

Enduring interest in the Durrells means that many people now visit Corfu in the hope of following in the footsteps of the family and their friends. Other people simply seek to read additional information about their time on the island as an aid to enjoying their books. It is for both groups of people - those seeking an actual experience, and those happy with a vicarious one - that this book has been written.

Corfu through the eyes of the Durrells

But this book is equally a guide to the island of Corfu. Taking the Durrell brothers and their companions as a starting point, it propels the reader on an excursion through the island's town and countryside, and across the range of its history and culture, often in a quirky and anecdotal manner. You will find out where the Durrells lived, which locations they visited, and whom they spent time with. For a hands-on experience, there are walks in and around Durrell-related localities, and recipes to try - and you read more about other characters mentioned (or not) in the books. In the second half, a number of articles of interest to Durrell enthusiasts have been gathered together for the first time, from sources exclusive to the author. To obtain a taste of the contents, you may download from the website a FREE BONUS, which showcases a selection of articles from the book.

Durrell ebook

This publication is only available as an ebook. No print copies exist, but may be ordered under exceptional circumstances, within Corfu exclusively. Due to file size limitations, photographs appear on a dedicated page within this website, and are cross-referenced in the text.

www.corfudurrellfootsteps.com





The Way Things Were and Are

PART OF THE LEGEND LEAVES



With his friend Lennart in the Plateia

Another Agios Ioannis Chapter came to an end on the 30th May.

Sadly, Ricky Collier passed away at 3.45.A.M. on the 30th May, in the Middlesex Hospital. He was 65.

Elizabeth Kovacs telephoned the unwelcome news a little later the same day. She was so pleased that she had been able to visit him the evening before, though she found him more negative than usual and complaining of a sore throat.

Ricky's death was not a surprise, as he'd been due to be moved to a hospice in Ealing, when a bed was made available for him.

He'd been admitted to hospital on April 26th with a suspected heart attack. During examination they discovered he had a cancerous tumour on his throat.

Still later, he was diagnosed with Korsakoff syndrome, a chronic memory disorder. The decision was made not to operate on the tumour. The prognosis was not good.

Visitations were restricted but quite a few of us managed to ring him at the hospital, which was saying goodbye without saying goodbye.

Ricky was one of the Plateia's great characters and,

was loved by many and for sure will be missed. He had been a frequent inhabitant here since the 70's. Now, he has faded away but will live forever in the memories of the friends he left behind.

Commiserations go to his sister Georgie, so far away in Glasgow.

Here are some snaps of Ricky with friends in happier days.

Thank you to Sanna and Lennart for sending them in.

R.I.P.



A younger Ricky impressing Swedish girls

His funeral was attended by close friends and Agiots.

His testament is best served below, tributes from people who loved him.



His favourite place

Continued on Page 21



The Way Things Were and Are - Continued from Page 20

Ricky came to the village in the seventies. Since then he has been coming nearly every year. In over forty years coming to my taverna he never upset me and was very generous. He was well-liked by the villagers in Agios Ioannis and used to spend time with some of them. Many times, he used to come to me, as if I was his father, call me Papa. I loved him as if he was my child. At times he'd come to me for advice and always listened to what I'd say. Often, he would drink more than he should and would start to argue with himself.

I'd say, 'What's wrong, Ricky?' to which his answer would always be, 'Sorry, Kosta, sorry. Don't worry.'

My recurring memory of him is him turning the corner into the plateia, on his way back from his regular trips to Myrtiosita beach, looking very red under the sun, bag on back.'

God rest his soul in peace. We will always remember him.

Kostas [Halikia]
[translated from Greek by his daughters].



With Sanna in Branno

TRIBUTES TO RICKY COLLIER

Edited by Paul Grove

In these strange Covid times saying goodbye to a loved one is even more difficult than usual and it was suggested that I collect together tributes and memories from Ricky's friends. Under normal circumstances these people would have been here today to celebrate his life and say their farewells. However, they have shared their memories and their feelings for him.



Snappy dresser

Iain Mackenzie

We've all known Ricky Collier for a very long time, some of us more than 40 years, and it's hard to consider that we won't see him again, or hear (how to put it?) his, distinctive voice and accent giving us either dog's abuse or some words of weird wisdom, usually in the same sentence. He was a one-off.

He first showed up at his spiritual home, Agios Ioannis, on a Thomson's Wanderer ticket in 1975. For those who do not know, this was a kind of holiday package for wannabe hippy "travellers", with less cred even than an Interrail ticket - he eventually lived this down, but it took some years...

Despite all his efforts, he became Kosta's favourite rascal, and stayed his favourite 'bad boy' for first years, then decades, and became a fixture and well-known, even globally renowned, character associated with the village. He was the inspiration for and inventor of the phrase "Agios Ioannis Degenerates" but thank God his plan to get everybody tattooed with the initials came to nothing!

He outgrew his "Thompson's Wandering" and did some proper and impressive travelling throughout Asia and the Pacific in the 80s and 90s, with adventures and incidents which Interpol and customs authorities must never know about. And all the while he made and maintained deep and lasting friendships wherever he went and wherever he stayed - the reactions to the news of his death were postmarked from all around the world wide web. For all his nonsense, what marked Ricky out was his empathy, sensitivity and great kindness - he may have tried to hide these attributes, as unbecoming of a hard-drinking, harsh-voiced Glaswegian "poet" (as he described himself, God help us), but he couldn't fool us all the time...

Perhaps the deepest hurt and loss is felt by those who have known him from our days sat around Table Alpha in front of the door to Kosta's, wondering just what the hell he was going to do next, or hearing another "poem" from him, or just hoping to get through another evening in his company with liver and reputation intact.

In his own words - "OK, enough of this shit! Dying Fly!!!"

Continued on Page 22



The Way Things Were and Are - Continued from Page 21

Ian Ramage

I would just like to say how saddened I was to hear of Ricky's death and how disappointed I can't be there in person owing to the COVID 19 situation. Ricky and I go back more than 40 years and although he was small in stature he was physically strong with a determined nature and a never give up attitude. One incident when we were in Corfu can sum up Ricky perfectly. Ricky and I and one other guy were paid to load 4000 bricks up to the top of scaffolding on a house being built. It was extremely hard work in the Greek summer sun and after about an hour the other guy disappeared and was found sleeping under a tree. That left just me and Ricky to finish the job and although the sun was beating down and the work extremely hard Ricky refused to give up and we both grafted till the job was done. To this day I do not know where he found the strength from to complete the job. I had a high regard for Ricky as he was one of the best guys you could wish to meet and enjoyed many days and nights in his company in the village in Corfu.

So long old Pal, rest peacefully.

Alex Porteous

It was a big loss to lose Ricky. When I met him with his mate Gerry, I thought "who is this guy with a big long beard". We hit it off though and that was 43 years ago. I never saw Ricky a lot but when I did, we always had a good laugh. Goodbye my old son.



With Sanna in Corfu

Jackie Rawlinson

I first met Ricky in the village square 13 years ago after I bought a property there. When I used to go to the village Taverna there was always myself and Ricky on our own early parts of the year, I had many chats and many laughs with Ricky, and he behaved in my company. He always showed respect towards me and he was a great friend to hang out with. I often took him out with me when I visited friends or went on a drive to other villages, and he directed me to many others. He liked me dropping him into town to go for his 'posh' shave at his favourite barbers, I loved hearing his stories of 'old times' in the village and of his many friends. He adored his friends and always had good words to say, he loved you all and the Square was his 'home and the Greek families were his family too. Goodbye Ricki my friend, you are loved by so many, and will stay in our hearts forever. The village will not be the same with you not there, but I am sure we all will be talking about you for many years to come.

Lynne Cahill

When I needed someone to help me get back to travelling after becoming single, Ricky was the person who came with me, to Sweden and Corfu. Travelling with Ricky was an interesting experience. He knew the location of the smoking areas in every airport and we nearly missed one flight (drinking in the bar, of course). My abiding memory is of drinking cans of beer outside Stansted airport at around 5.00 am one freezing morning in November. We'd stayed up through the night after he'd cooked dinner and we'd talked - he was one of very few people I talked completely openly with. He brought along a few cans for me to "catch up", having had to drive, which we had to down quickly before going through security.

Mark & Jenny Farrow

Picking up Ricky from Corfu airport was always an interesting experience as you were never quite sure which Ricky would arrive although we usually had a pretty good idea, he'd usually partaken of a few early morning refreshments at Gatwick Wetherspoons and kept his liquid levels topped up on the flight. We always had a little ritual of stopping off at the kiosk in Alepou to stock up with his favourite local cigarettes and then on to the plateia for a reunion with his old pal Kosta and the rest of the Chalikias family.

Continued on Page 23



The Way Things Were and Are - Continued from Page 22

We would usually take Ricky out for at least one excursion in Corfu which involved picking him up at the Plateia at about 11am by which time he'd had his breakfast. Off we went usually up the North East coast stopping off for refreshments at various "posh" tavernas where Ricky would practice his pigeon Greek on the bemused waiters, Ricky invariably ordered the most expensive fish on the menu and upon its arrival he would proceed to push it around his plate and eat hardly any of it. In one taverna he requested chopsticks to eat his fish, the unphased waitress not having any chopsticks brought 2 paint brushes which an equally unphased Ricky used to eat his meal.

Ricky always provided interesting if unpredictable company and we spent some wonderful hot Summer evenings at the top table at the taverna listening to some of our favourite music and talking about nothing in particular but just enjoying each other's brands of nonsense, we will miss him terribly and will forever treasure our memories of a lovely unique man.

Ray Buchan

It was great knowing you we had some surreal and fun moments from Scotland to Greece. You left some happy memories.

Rest in Peace Ricky.

Kiria Niki & Chris

Goodbye Ricky with our deepest condolences and never to be forgotten.

Walter & Martin Stuart & family

Our deep-felt condolences for our amazing friend Ricky you will be missed.

Anna, Nickos and Alexandra

To lose a good friend is like losing a part of yourself.

For my family and me was a part of our family. I looked forward to the talks in the mornings before others came to the Taverna. He was lovely sensitive and caring for everything.

He was funny. I always remember the dying fly that he used to do when people left the village at the end of their stay.

I will miss the long talks we had during the winters on the phone, I loved those. I am really sorry that I didn't fully understand how depressed he was in the last part of his life perhaps he knew that the cancer was there.

One thing is real. Ricky mou, you are going to be missed. I think you knew that were a part of our hearts, a part of the village.

Goodbye my friend...Anna xx



Dancing man

Paul McGovern

One of my enduring memories was a day I picked Ricky up at the airport, to take him back to the village. The rendezvous was at Saroco square, the taverna on the corner. It was eight thirty in the morning. I cannot remember why he went there first, instead of waiting at the airport.

As I approached along Alexandros Avenue, I spotted him leaning on a lamppost next to the taverna, bags at his feet. Parked up and, went to meet him. He now slithered down the pole into a neat pile by his bags. Tricky flight, I imagined.

We grabbed two seats at the adjacent taverna and ordered two coffees with Metaxas. After a while of blathering and drinking he suddenly rose, disappeared into the bushes thereabouts and began to retch quite violently. After a while he resurfaced and sat down again, quite red faced.

What's wrong me says. 'Ah, replies he, coffee always has that effect on me!!'

Nick The Watch.

Everybody will miss you, but the village will never forget you, Rey.
Rest in Peace.



The Way Things Were and Are - Continued from Page 23



With Connie in London

Conny, Germany

I met you in Corfu in 1994. We were in a group of more than 20 people from all over the world, sitting in front of Costa's taverna and we had so much fun. A year later, in 1995, we took the picture that became your Facebook profile picture.

Ricky, you were there for me when I was low. The sentence that you wrote on the board back then is still there to lift me up and give me strength:

"Conny - your leaving on your own, baby, no one gets out without panic."

When I visited you in London a couple of years ago - and, yes, we did do some sightseeing and did not spend our time exclusively in pubs. Nobody believes it, but yes, that's true, really! - you invited me into your life and we shared profound discussions as well as having a lot of fun goofing around.

I'm thinking of you and all those beautiful memories I was honored to share with you. Tears are streaking down my face as I mourn for a friend who was truly good, who was always there for others. Who laughed with me and comforted me, who gave me strength and who I could give strength to.

I'm grieving for a friend to whom the wellbeing of the people around him truly mattered.

I'm grieving for a friend who was always up for joke and whom I laughed so, so much with.

I'm grieving for my dear friend Ricky, who had to leave way too soon.

I miss you. In love, Conny.

Paul Grove

Whilst I was preparing this, I came across a job reference that I wrote for Ricky back in 2015 when he was applying for a new job.

"I have known Richard Collier for more than 40 years. We are not related but have been friends for all of this time and have met regularly, both in the UK and in a village in Corfu, where I have a home and where Richard has spent time when he has not been working in the UK. I found Richard to be completely honest, reliable and a loyal friend, who has always been very supportive, particularly in difficult times."

This reference sums up Sally and my feelings for Ricky. There were of course some crazy and occasionally uncomfortable times but, in the end, Ricky would be there for you if you asked for help. It saddened us that he had such a difficult time in the last 18 months, and that the pressures of his job as a social worker were just too much. However, he told us that he really enjoyed his visit to Sweden last year and that this lifted his spirits.



A last visit to Branno

Continued on Page 25



The Way Things Were and Are - Continued from Page 24

His friends there **Sanna and Lennart** sent this message:

“Goodbye Ricky, our dear friend for many, many years.

We travelled the world together, had so many good times, shared so many memories.

Now you suddenly left us and our lives will never be the same again...

Goodbye dear friend, rest in peace. There will always be a place in our hearts for you.”

The message was signed “Your friends in Sweden” but it is a message so many of the people Ricky came in contact with on his travels could have sent.

Now **Robert Bennet** will read a message from Roz

Roz Davies

"On hearing the sad news, I was reminded of a friend who stayed with Ricky and I for many happy months in East London. He too is gone, and Rick chose this poem for a condolence card, because it resonated with him: This poem for Ricky is:

The Road Not Taken

BY ROBERT FROST

Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,
And sorry I could not travel both
And be one traveller, long I stood
And looked down one as far as I could
To where it bent in the undergrowth;

Then took the other, as just as fair,
And having perhaps the better claim,
Because it was grassy and wanted wear;
Though as for that the passing there
Had worn them really about the same,

And both that morning equally lay
In leaves no step had trodden black.
Oh, I kept the first for another day!
Yet knowing how way leads on to way,
I doubted if I should ever come back.

I shall be telling this with a sigh
Somewhere ages and ages hence:
Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—
I took the one less travelled by,
And that has made all the difference.

Beach Rats

A Summer Diary by Lili Gabbiano

DAY 15
JUNE 14

Miky plays and cracks the paper of the cookies.
I open my eyes big. Cooookies!!!

I am in the state of water and white bread.
'No problem, I can be on white bread for a long time,'
I said yesterday very believable.

But now, the routine comes in:
Cookies on the beach.
With that empty stomach that I have, my spoiled brain takes
Bites on me really unfair.
And these are my favourite cookies.
Almond cookies, smelling so much like marzipan.
Miky cracks the bag and smiles cheekily.
'Let me smell, let me smell, I say.

He gives me the bag and I lye it next to me in the sand.
I stick my nose in and breathe. My eyes are closed.

OHHHHHHH!

I breathe in the smell of marzipan and out the satisfaction.

'Give me back the cookies!' Miky demands.

'How many do you want, I can pass them to you?' I reply, hoping that the cookie bag can remain right there, next to my nose.
But no, Miky takes the bag from me and the cookies are gone,
The smell too.

'I am going to bring you after for a Sprite.' Miky's invitation.
Oh yessss! They said I could have a Sprite. No problem.

Cleaning the stomach for a checking tomorrow and testing the spoiled body today, teasing it with delicious luxury.





Village and Island Reflections



I have forgotten how to write these pieces. Please forgive me, Gentle Reader.

It is not since May, when I last reported on our crazy little world and all that transpires within.

That is a bad habit to get into; it is one of those bad habits the easier to maintain as the restless clock marches on.

Sea of dreams

So, here we are, approaching another Christmas Agios.

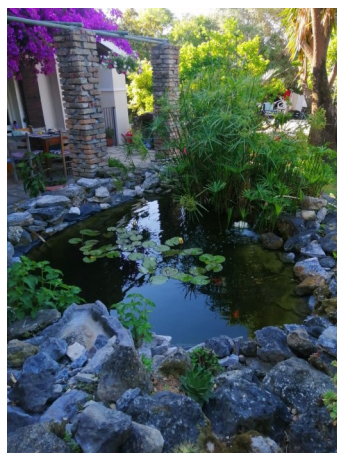
Looking back over the last six months, a lot has gone down.

Apart from Ricky's untimely demise, we have also lost Nikos Grammenos [he of the limp and spotless, though old, white car]. Also, a big shock for those who knew him, Gino, formerly of the Fest Camp, Agios Ioannis. He died from a heart attack. He was just 32.

Shaunac Herfield, who once lived by the lake, also passed.

Our sympathy has been extended to the families of these likeable souls.

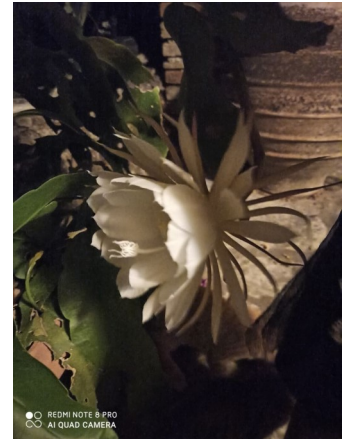
As it must have been for you too, things hereabouts have been weird, surreal, as the Western world seems ever to plunge further down the rabbit hole of conspiracy, confusion and helplessness. What are us poor individuals supposed to do except hum and whistle?



Lake Inferior in summer

What I am saying is, methinks the rest of the globe-with exceptions-is as mad, after all, as I believe *this* place truly is. I include myself, by the way.

I've just rifled through my daily journal. There is way too much to put here. You would nod off in the attempt to get through it.



After many years Moon flower blooms

The most amazing thing that happened was the village Panygeri, which arrived in June, unannounced for obvious reasons, on schedule. To my knowledge, it was the only one in Corfu which escaped the Prohibition. Paul Fennell did not believe me when I told him a few days after.

'That's illegal,' he said. I asked Peter, who is part of the organising local Syllogos [Cultural Society]. 'Grey area Dad,' he explained. There you have it!

Here are the pictures to prove the evenings were no dream on my part.



Yes, there was a Panygeri



Social distancing' Agios style



Village and Island Reflections - Continued from Page 26

One positive thing about the longer effects of lockdown; the Village War seems to have fizzled a bit-for the moment. [Shhh]. It peaked in June and had cousin against cousin, family squabbles bubbling away, court decisions awaited, uncertainty over the legal ownership of the pergola, which has always been part of the taverna but now is possibly *not*- well, legally, if not by justice.



***New kid on the block;
Bobby***

Kostas and Ai moved into the apartment at Lydia's.



Time to relax



So quiet early July

The heat increased as the summer wore on. There was very little rain at all. But flights did not arrive until late July, which is when our taverna opened. And during this month Kostas Snr. had a nasty fall at George's-former home of Nitsa's chickens. Although not badly hurt, physically, he has bits and pieces awry internally, which they discovered in hospital [Not too surprising. He is ninety- two!] Also, the whole controversial affair about the pergola was gradually eked out to him by the family. This upset him greatly.



Sad days

Released from hospital, he has stayed ever since indoors in his flat above the taverna. I'm pleased to report that his condition has improved markedly over the weeks, with a small setback last week, when he had a serious nosebleed. He was hospitalised for a few days, after they cauterised a small, burst blood vessel. I should add for your peace of mind, that he looks much better than in the photo above, which was taken at the height of his anxiety. He is now back home and recovering. We cannot visit properly because of the Covid frenzy; three of our lot have been down with it, all seem on the mend.



Kostas off to hospital

We worked hard throughout, despite the lockdown, dodging police cars on the way-clutching our self-penned, Micky Mouse permits, when restrictions were brought in.

There was a lot of building work to do and we are grateful for that. It definitely keeps me out of the tavernas. Oops, I forgot, they are not open anyways, at present.

At one point we foolishly held out slim hopes that Agiotfest would still happen but, then along came this Government announcement in August; -

‘All events throughout Greece in which participants are standing are prohibited, including concerts and other performances.’

That was that. Better luck next year.



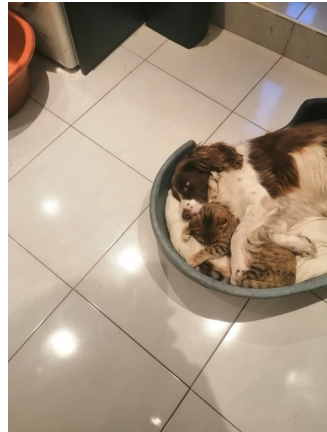
Village and Island Reflections - Continued from Page 27



Catatonic
by Indre John

A few of these are the descendants of Lionel's Pride. They queue up outside our cottage every day. Sometimes I think I am at Longleat. Sadly, Makis, the nice black dog a few doors away, died.

Cats are taking over the village centre [or Willage centre, as the Germans keep insisting].



Cousins

Cherished meetings with friends permeated the calendar when restrictions were not in force. We got to have a lovely farewell meal with our Geordie pals, before they left their long Barbati holiday to return to the U.K.



Rainy day August Villa Sofia



There's life in the old dog yet

The last month has seen us retreat into our November shell-which we do every year. It is a time for catching up on the whirlwind of summer. This year it is conveniently dove-tailing with a much bigger retreat, imposed by legislation.

Shortly, we move into Villa Theodora, but I'll report on that in the next edition-February.

For now, all is left is to wish our many beautiful friends a Happy Christmas and New Year and, thank them just for being on this planet at the same time as us.

**MERRY
CHRISTMAS**

Continued on Page 29



Courtesy Dick Mulder the other lake

Into August, more heat, some lovely summer times with the family, beautiful friends arriving at Villa Theodora, work, sun, work, drink, sleep.

Then, great news. Ai is pregnant! Another Grandchild is on the way, a girl. More expense!!

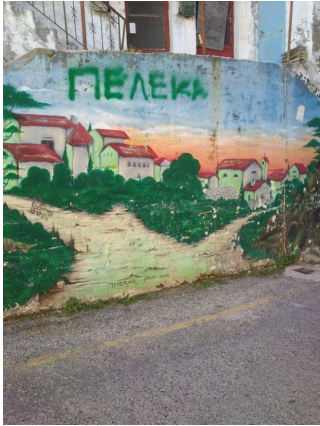
I hit a slump late August into September; nothing in particular, just a combination of stuff.

That definitely didn't help in turning my attention to the Agiot again. But it did push me into a ten-mile walk one day; that hurt. Correction, it still does.



Village and Island Reflections - Continued from Page 27

More Reflections



Courtesy of Kim Jaqué



A streetcar named Desire



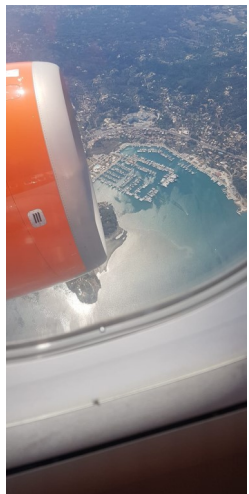
Andy Warhol is alive and kicking in Agios



Best retreat this side of the Pecos



Not too stressful for Chris



Courtesy of Magdalena Wiczorkows



Three generations Take 5

<



Heart attack club Kasiopi



Mr Julies and wife, local residents



Sofia formerly of Agios



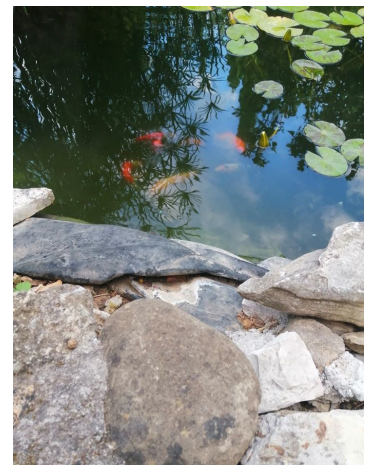
Mel's inventions



Mel's new pond



Crafted by Steve Oumaison



Where the fishes play



Hilary's Ramblings

Contributed by Hilary Paipeti

Clever Doggies!

ONE DAY, A GOOD WHILE AGO NOW, my father was walking alongside the river which ran past our family home. The river was in spate - quite normal for a waterway which is fed from the Howgill Fells and the Forest of Bowland - with rushing coffee-coloured waters carrying all manner of debris.

Suddenly, dad was confronted by a small dog, a dachshund, which yipped at him, then turned away and ran a few steps, then looked back at him and yipped again. After a few of these actions, the rather dim human realised that the dog wanted him to follow. The little creature led him to the edge of the floodwaters and stared at a particular spot in the water, like a pointer identifying game. My dad looked too, and spotted a little nose just above the surface, precariously holding onto a small branch. Dad stepped into the water and pulled out a second dachshund, the mate of the rescuer.



He's in there somewhere

Dachshunds have not got the best press for being bright, but this was extraordinary behaviour by any standards. Many pre-school children wouldn't have managed it. First, the dog understood that its mate was in deadly danger, and cared enough to help. Second, it had to work out that the only possible way of saving it was to

find a human, even a stranger. Third, IT HAD TO FIND A MEANS OF MAKING THAT HUMAN UNDERSTAND WHAT IT WANTED. Plus, it had to remember where its mate had fallen in. And it handled this whole process.

MY DOG NUMBER THREE'S MAJOR TALENT (apart from being a terrific guard) is his ability to understand words. The latest addition to his vocabulary is part of the 'Throw Game'. Bramble keeps all his 'toys' (mostly objects fossicked from obscure corners of the garden, dumped there long ago) together in one place near the kitchen door. Whenever I pass the spot, I'm met with the pooch, an expectant look on his face. It's Throw Game time! But what to throw? One of my old boots? A broken hairbrush? An unidentified object made of leather? Or one of several large yellowing bones, that could have been discarded after a BBQ a few decades ago, or for all I know may have originated in an ancient burial site? I can't decide, so I ask him: 'What do you want me to throw? Show me!' His response is to take a quick look at all the 'toys', and then to place one of his paws on whichever object he fancies chasing this time (never the same one twice in a row). Paw on ... Look up eagerly. I throw, he runs. Good Gaaame!

And here are some folk who believe that animals cannot reason. Sucks to that!



Continued on Page 31



Hilary's Ramblings - Continued from Page 30

Turn up for the books!

Greece has been included in Lonely Planet's annual 'bucket list' ranking of the top spots to travel to. Nothing to write home about so far. But it's the category it won that is rather unexpected - FOOD! Greece was named Best Food Destination thanks to 'organic produce markets and island seafood', says the guide. The country's come a long way from the days when a piece of rope soaked in olive oil posed as meat stew, and the only starters to be had were taramasalata and tsatiki!

Unwelcome Fellow Walkers

ONE EVENING THIS PAST SUMMER, I put on my trainers and took the dogs on their normal walk, about 50 minutes of fast stomping. Immediately after the walk, I went to my usual place for an Internet connection. Some 15 minutes later, eyes on the screen, I felt a gentle nudge on my left foot, little toe area. It was as if a puppy had tapped my foot for attention. I looked down ... oops! No puppy, nor any other animal that could have nudged. Suspicious, I took off my shoe and shook it. Imagine my horror when a tarantula fell out!!! Well, maybe not a genuine tarantula, but this guy was about three inches across, with thick hairy legs. It had lived through (how?) 50 minutes of being walked on, in a very small space.

Spider survived only seconds of freedom from my shoe.

The only thing that could possibly be worse was if it had been one of those awful five-inch millipedes. Maybe I wouldn't have survived that.

Lessons learned: * Keep footwear indoors. * Shake before putting on. * Always wear socks.

Scramblings... A Potato Too Far

Did you know that you can scramble potatoes?

Well, not LITERALLY. I'm talking about a local dish that is related to Chakchouka, the Middle Eastern plate of summer vegetables with eggs 'poached' in the tomato sauce. Strapatsada (for so the Corfu version is called) can be cooked like Chakchouka; alternatively, instead of poaching them, you can beat the eggs and run them through the sauce until they thicken into a loose scramble. Some folk can't

resist cooking chunks of potato in the sauce to make a heftier dish.

This is nice, especially in winter, made with tinned tomatoes and a hint of chilli.

My in-laws would have added the potato, if Strapatsada had been part of their culinary (I use that word advisedly) repertoire.

Potatoes went into EVERYTHING. Even pasta. I spent many years assuming that Corfu's great celebratory dish Pastitsada contained potatoes, but I have never found a single other cook who thinks it should. It must have been a family foible*.

I have written previously about the day we were promised squid for lunch. A massive platter arrived at table, all wrapped up in foil. We gazed at it droolingly. But when the foil was whipped off, it turned out to be a mound of potatoes, topped by a single small squid, which five of us had to share. It was the potatoes, you see, that were important.

I should not mock, since this was a family that had been, at one time and for many decades, completely self-sufficient in its food supply. Potatoes were the staple filler, just as they once were for the Irish, just as rice still is for many in the Far East. The rest of the ingredients were built around the presence of the tattie.

We'd get skordalia (a garlic and mashed potato sauce) served on boiled potatoes, actually nicer than it sounds. Boiled cauliflower or cabbage or wild greens with boiled potatoes (boiled together, soup-like, with no meat, nor any other ingredients). Pasta and rice and roast potatoes as side dishes on New Year's Day. A cold 'salad' of ordinary potatoes mixed with sweet ones, drizzled with olive oil. The only dishes that did not come with supplementary potatoes were pulses like lentils and chick peas and fassoulada (bean soup). Funnily enough, these days I often add a couple of potatoes to the latter; I don't know how the potato-obsessed family missed that one.

The potatoes were not, of course, bought in. My in-laws had a patch of land on the 'Chessboard Fields' between Vrioni and Perama, which for ever and ever had been the 'potato patch', planted year after year with a couple of crops of seed potatoes from the previous season, and never anything else. (Pun warning!) A recipe for disaster.

Continued on Page 32



Hilary's Ramblings - Continued from Page 31

One year out of the half dozen I spent sporadically helping out on the land, the entire harvest was riddled with tiny weevils that tunneled through the tubers. By the time you'd pared the trails away, there'd be nothing but a thumb-sized tattie left. Having learned about crop rotation at school and later on an ecology course, I mildly suggested to my F-in-Law that the reason for the damage might possibly be his practice of severe monoculture, to be met with fury. How DARE I suggest that his FARMING METHODS were at FAULT. This was where his FAMILY had ALWAYS grown potatoes, and where they ALWAYS WOULD, NOW and in the FUTURE. These were the BEST potatoes in the ENTIRE WORLD.

Sick of spending hours paring down tubers for little result, I went to the market and bought a bagful of someone else's.

It was war. This definitely was A Potato Too Far.

* FAMILY FOIBLE: Actually, the potatoes were the best bit. They were cooked along with the beef and spicy tomato sauce, and soaked up the latter until they oozed with the concentrated essence of the dish. I would defo order it if it ever were an option in a local taverna.



Kagianas with basil



Tracey's Tips



♥♥ Christmas or Christougena will be upon us soon. A time of happiness and celebration. A time to spend with loved ones, indulge and dress up and sparkle in new outfits, hair styles and makeup



Continued on Page 33

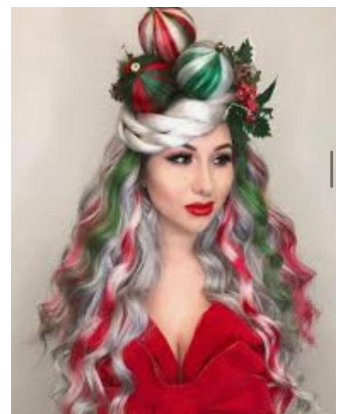


Tracey's Tips - Continued from Page 32

♥♥ There are so many dresses to choose from for the perfect occasion. From the elegant, beautiful ball room gowns, to the more traditional and fun outfits ♥♥



Perfect matching nails and makeup is always a must to complete your festive look ♥♥



Continued on Page 34



Tracey's Tips - Continued from Page 33

♥♥ Christmas is a great excuse to eat and drink as much as you want. Here a few healthy snacks and ideas to decorate your table and delight the children ♥♥



♥♥ So have a wonderful Christmas all, and see you in the New Year ♥♥



and this is me



Video Plus Corner

Greek Prime Minister's address

https://enimerosi.com/details_en.php?id=45001&fbclid=IwAR2RFoSiiU8EwFnSiEjEu3fGQQO6tjvCJoY1cN_rw27LNS8sSjNCUFudSRY

Sensible Virologist

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bfN2JWifLCY>

Beware Bill Gates

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ie6lRKAdvuY>

'Bill Gates is continuing the work of Monsanto', Vandana Shiva tells FRANCE 24

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MNM833K22LM>

Low flying

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tz1hhx8yxyU>

There is something in the mountains

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4C9WvBL2tDA>

Time for the sheep to rebel

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ua6meLIYjdY>

Dave Allen Children;

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



[ED. comment]:

If you have not already done so, you need to take a peek Into the world of Effrosyni, a romantic Greek world where anything is possible in the stars and in the sand.

Mum took this photo in the late 70s. My sister and I are photographed at the old port in Corfu town. We were about to depart on the ferry to Igoumenitsa to head back to Athens (Oh, how upsetting that always was!) Happy times, when Granny and Granddad were still around and always made our stay in Moraitika a paradise to enjoy. Here's an old post about those old summers in Moraitika: A LIFETIME OF CORFU SUMMERS: <http://effrosyniwrites.com/.../13/a-lifetime-of-corfu-summars/>

[#Moraitika](#) [#Corfu](#) [#Corfumemories](#) [#Greeksummers](#)





Corfu Weather Statistics - November 2020

Summary

	Max	Avg	Min
Temperature (°F)			
Max Temperature	77	70.1	55
Avg Temperature	65.46	59.91	54.11
Min Temperature	59	51.63	43
Dew Point (°F)	63	51.64	32
Precipitation (inches)	0.00	0.00	0.00
Wind	24	2.64	0
Gust Wind	38	0.13	0
Sea Level Pressure	30.29	30.14	29.79

Read more at:

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



*Photo from
Kiprianades place near
to Sidari*

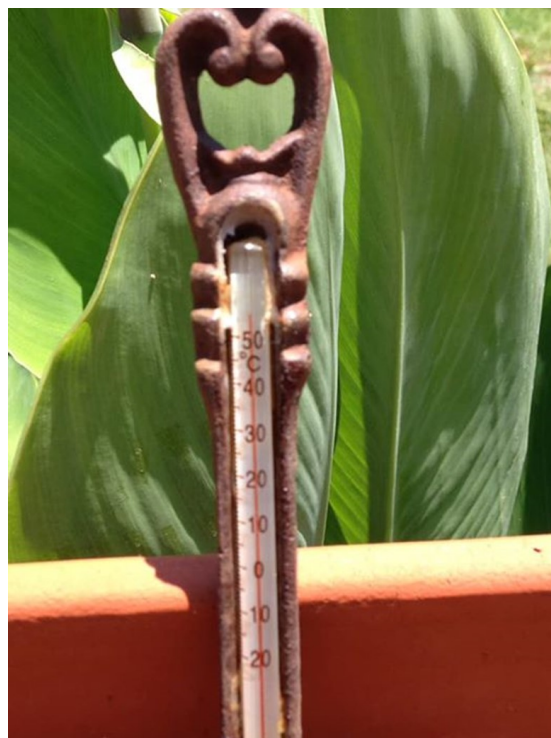


Les's Log

Phew! 55oC in
direct sunshine!

Had these temps for
last week now!

35oC in the shade!



No need to self-isolate, no
one is going out in this heat!
Thermometer off-scale!

[ED. Comment]. Les is
now, officially, unofficial
Weather Man for Agios
Ioannis.

He can sometimes be seen
wandering the groves of
Agios Ioannis, clutching
seaweed, a hammer and a
bag 'o nails in hand. Do not
be alarmed!



The World of Simon

One of my favourite Saturday places is the baked spud stand at the doors into Birmingham Rag Market. They bake Marfona potatoes, slightly cream coloured with lots of flavour to which I add butter, salt and pepper. Next stop the indoor food market to enjoy half a dozen Dublin Bay oysters - a dab of tabasco on three.



Baked potato with butter, salt and pepper on a winter afternoon at Birmingham Rag Mart <https://www.ragmarket.com/about/>

[Ed. Comment]; - as one can see Simon is equally happy dining in warmer climes and, in company!]



Six fine oysters from Pearce's in the Birmingham indoor food market <https://www.facebook.com/Pearces-Shellfish-Stall.../>



<https://www.facebook.com/groups/313197395758514/>

Comment By [Heather Skinner](#)

"Mass tourism, with its resulting over tourism and anti tourist sentiments, has proved to be unsustainable due to its effects on the natural and built environment, and on the socio-cultural aspects of destinations. The natural environment is benefitting from the current crisis not least through a sharp decrease in pollution, the built environment is not suffering the same strains on infrastructure, but the economic impact on places that rely on tourism will be very hard felt by many who live and work in tourist destinations, especially SMTEs."

[Mass tourism has proved to be unsustainable due to its many negative effects on destinations.](#)





Aunty Lula's Love-bites

Light Christmas Pudding

150g Soft Light Brown Sugar

75g Breadcrumbs

200g Flour, Sifted

1 tsp Baking Soda

1 tsp Cream of Tartar

1 pinch Salt

1 tsp of Cinnamon

½ tsp of Ginger

Grated rind and juice of 1 Orange

Grated rind and juice of 1 Lemon

1 medium cooking Apple, peeled, cored and chopped small

150g pitted Dates, halved (preferably bought in a resealable airtight packet, for moisture)

150g Glace Cherries, halved

100g Chopped Walnuts

2 Eggs, beaten with 1 tsp of Vanilla

4 tbsp of Black Treacle or Molasses

100g of Sunflower Oil

Milk (if needed)

Go:

1. Grease a 1 litre pudding basin or 2 x ½ litre pudding basins.
2. In a bowl stir together bread-crumbs, flour, baking soda, cream of tartar, sugar, cinnamon, and ginger, grated rind of orange and lemon and salt.
3. In another bowl stir together the apple, dates, glace cherries, walnuts, eggs, treacle, oil and juice.
4. Carefully fold the flour mixture into the fruits mixture and stir well. At this stage add a touch of milk to gain right consistency. The mixture should not be too dry or too runny.

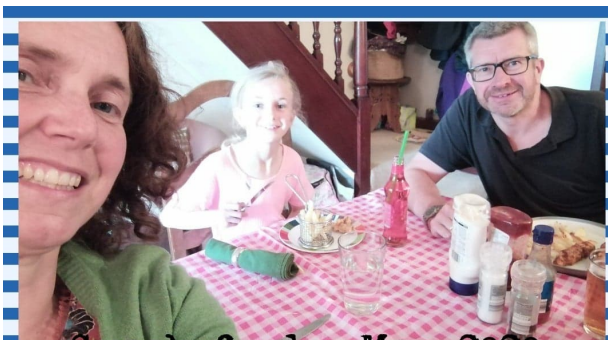
5. Spoon into the basin(s). Tie double pleated foil on to the top of the basin(s). Place in boiling water and boil for 2 - 2½ hours.



Bon Appetit!!

While the Agiot has been asleep it is good to see the Agios cooking tradition being kept in England.

Our dear young friend Emily Tickle-is she after my job[?]- is seen here, cooking for her Mum and Dad. They seem to be enjoying it!



Greek food - May 2020



From Heklen Tickle:

Evening, as part of Emily's food week at tickle school, Emily has made souvlaki and chips. Completed with a checked table cloth! Hope you're all OK. Xx

Of course. We have had brekky outside today at villa theodora North, its beautiful out. Hope you are all well.

Helen [Tickle]



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frmczniaka@gmail.com

Making the sun our best friend

The sun is the source of life, beneficial to our health and our mood. It's a natural antidepressant, it helps our metabolism and gives us the 90% of vitamin D that our organism needs. But is it really so innocent?

The UV radiation that penetrates our skin can give us a nice suntan but also contribute to its aging and increase the chances of skin cancer. That's why sunscreens must always be with us.

The use of sunscreen is highly recommended for people with light skin and freckles or red hair and people with pigmented skin lesions.

These products protect us in two ways: firstly they adsorb most part of the dangerous UV rays and secondly they reflect them. We must apply a generous quantity evenly on dry and clean skin, in every part of our body at least 15-20 minutes before the exposure to sunlight. We have to repeat during the exposure and after swimming.

It is also very important to not forget the appropriate light-colored clothes, hats and sunglasses!

The UV rays in combination with the saltwater or the swimming pool's chemicals can damage our hair and lips as well. In the pharmacy we can find products to protect them from UV damage, but remember:

- * we should use hair sunscreen that matches our hair type
- * wear a hat during sun exposure or a swim cap in the pool
- * before swimming we should wash our hair with fresh water to minimize the effects of the salt or the pool's chemicals
- * comb our hair with a comb with sparse teeth to avoid breaking the hair
- * if our hair is dry and dehydrated, before applying the sunscreen we can use a moisturizing cream
- * our lips only produce a small quantity of melanin, so the sun can easily cause burning, chapping and dryness. To protect them it is necessary to use a lip balm with SPF all year long.

A sunscreen with 15 SPF is also necessary during the winter, since UV rays can reach our skin through the clouds as well.

The SPF (Sun Protection Factor) number that we see on every product is a measure of protection of the human skin. The SPF index is the comparative ration between:

-the time it takes for UVB rays to cause erythema (redness or sunburn of the skin) on clean skin (without sunscreen)

-the time required for UVB rays to cause erythema on skin protected by the specific sunscreen.

For example, if it takes 20 minutes for erythema to be caused on unprotected skin, then a sunscreen with a SPF of 15 could prevent redness for 15 times longer that time, for about 5 hours. This period of time however, is theoretical as sun damage can occur even without redness. That's why dermatologists recommend renewing the sunscreen every 2 hours or so.

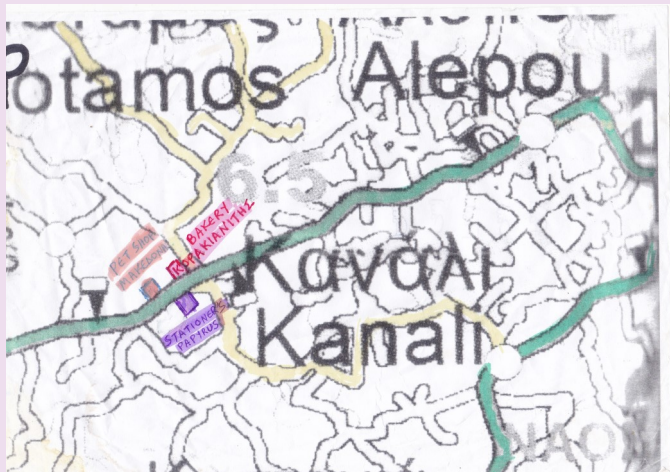
With all that in mind we should choose our sunscreen wisely, according to the needs of our skin, so that we can be safe while enjoying the nice weather in Greece and make the sun our best friend!



Papyrus - Stationer's & Bookshop

For those of you who may not have noticed there is a friendly Stationer's on the main road at Alepou, on the Kanalia junction.

So much easier and more convenient than having the hassle of parking in town.



Location of Papyrus Stationer's on main road to Pelekas from Town

Owners Manthos and Joanna are both very courteous and obliging.

Car park outside.

Here is a map. - Give it a try!



Why go to town?

Dimitris Analitis (Local Artist)



*Spiros
by Dimitri
Analti
<*

Check him out at:

<https://www.facebook.com/dimitris.analitis>



HOLY TRINITY CORFU 21 L.Mavili Street, Corfu 49100



[Ed.] This is a great chance to get small gifts, foods and Christmas cards on-line.

A simple form and pay on collection.

[HTC Christmas Catalogue](#)



Roadhouse

Award session 75-watt 2x12 combo. The clean sounds from this UK built combo are on equal with the Roland jazz chorus and Fender's twin,

loads of tone tweaking knobs, send returns, full reverb tank, monitor out extension out, HI low inputs the list of functional Tone options are brilliant. Fitted with original celestion g12 65s. 300 Euros has Providence of a very famous ex owner.

Contact Paul Fennell at:

<https://www.facebook.com/roadhousemusicsupply/>



If you have a pool or want to get one, we are what you are looking for! Pool chemicals, spare parts for all brands and all the stuff needed for a pool, you can find in our shops!

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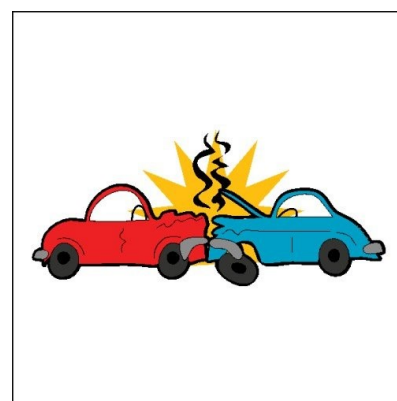
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Tel: 2661032023/ 2661024140

Drop in for advice and quote without obligation.



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. Or email gicas@otenet.gr.

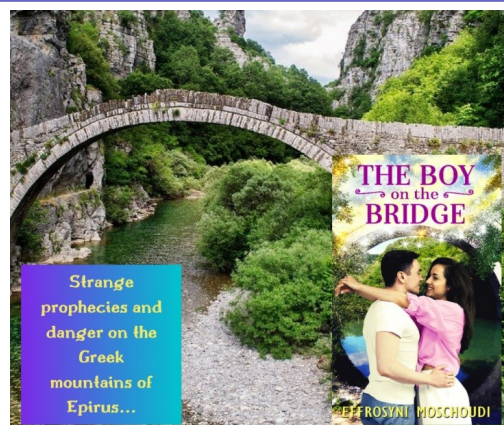
Ed: Try this one for Golden Paste, it is a good way to absorb this healthy supplement and tasty too.
Have it with baked beans on toast, duly peppered and a mug of tea!



Effrosyni Writes

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A teenage boy offering prophecies... and a series of unexplained events.

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https://www.amazon.co.uk/Books-Effrosyni-Moschoudi/s?i=stripbooks&rh=p_27%3AEffrosyni+Moschoudi



Pine Leaves

ED: This may be the last time we shall hear from friend Richard for a while.

It is sad. We wish him all the very best for his future.

Kathimerini stirs Erimitis controversy

Hilary Paipeti writes: Regular readers of The Agiot's 'Pine Leaves' will be aware that its author Richard Pine writes a monthly column for Athens-based newspaper Kathimerini. Last month, his submission was rejected by the newspaper's editorial team, on the basis that it delved into politics when it should have stuck to environmental and cultural themes.

The article had as its subject the controversial plan for a large 'luxury all-inclusive' development on the Erimitis Headland near Kassiopi, one of the last remaining areas of virgin coastline in Corfu's north east. The plan is opposed by the great majority of Corfiots, including a large number of senior figures in local government. However, ministers in Athens are ignoring local sentiment and are heavily in favour of the project.

A second article, this time in the form of an open letter to the Prime Minister, was also rejected, leading to Mr Pine's withdrawal from Kathimerini.

Here is his letter of withdrawal:

As a recipient of my regular "Eye of the Xenos" column in the English edition of Kathimerini, you will be aware that I have been contributing to Kathimerini since January 2018.

I was initially invited to do so by the Editor, who had read my "Letter from Greece" in The Irish Times and my book Greece Through Irish Eyes and believed that I could write a similar column for Kathimerini.

I was honored to be invited in this way and since then I have gladly contributed a series of "Xenos" observations on literature, history, the migrant/refugee crisis and on culture generally

However, when I offered a column relating to the development of a luxury tourist resort in Corfu (where I live) which, in my own opinion and in the view of the vast majority of Corfiots, would be detrimental to the environment of the headland of Erimitis ("the Hermit") in the north-east of the island, the column was rejected on the grounds that it was critical of the prime minister, Kyriakos Mitsotakis, and of two specific government ministers.

I was told that this was unacceptable as it took "a deeply political position" and that outside (i.e. non-Greek) contributors should write on "academic, historical, cultural" topics, not on "internal politics."

I wrote this in advance of the visit to Erimitis by Mr Mitsotakis, at which he formally endorsed the development project and in the course of which he suggested that the attraction of foreign investment in Greece, and the development of projects such as that planned for Erimitis, were of greater importance than the preservation of pristine environments.

In the light of these comments I rewrote the column, in the form of an "open letter" to Mr Mitsotakis, but this was again rejected by Kathimerini.

As a permanent, full-time resident of Corfu (paying property tax), and as Director of the Durrell Library/School of Corfu, with close ties to institutions such as the Society of Corfiot Studies and the Ionian University, I feel entitled to express opinions on issues which affect the well-being – including the cultural well-being – of the island, regardless of what passport I may hold.

I cannot regard my previous columns, over the past 30 months, as devoid of political content: writing about Greek-Turkish relations (especially in relation to the refugee crisis), Greece's position in the Balkans (and the Macedonian issue in particular) and on Greek cultural, literary and political history (for example, my most recent column on the issue of Greece's borders) has inevitably involved reference to "internal politics."



Pine Leaves - Continued from Page 42

Having written all my life extensively on the relationship of culture to politics, I cannot accept that the two can be of necessity separated.

As this view is not shared by the editorship of Kathimerini I have to say, with deepest regret, that I will no longer contribute "Eye of the Xenos" to this fine newspaper.

I will, of course, continue to submit my "Letter from Greece" to the foreign pages of The Irish Times and I hope you continue to find something of value in them.

Sincerely,

Richard Pine

Hilary writes: Mr Pine, who has been a regular contributor to the Irish Times for more than 40 years on cultural and political matters, received this reply from Editor-in-Chief Tom Ellis:

In my answer to you a few weeks ago, I had noted that what we are trying to do at Kathimerini English Edition is to enrich the publication with pieces about history, society, culture, medicine, Greek-Turkish relations, the Balkans, etc., not internal politics. That is for the Greek Kathimerini and your piece specifically dealt about a domestic political issue.

I further noted that if you wanted to make the general point that a local development project you care about a lot might not be right for the environment, that would be perfectly fine. But instead you took a deeply political position, with specifics about named government members, etc.

I cannot think of a more open Greek newspaper and one that publishes opposing views than Kathimerini.

But as I had mentioned, outside contributors to the English edition - which is read by foreign readers - write about issues from an academic, historical, diplomatic angle. They do not write about Greek domestic party politics and personalities.

Tom Ellis

Editor-in-chief Kathimerini English Edition

Hilary writes: Please note Ellis' laughable second last paragraph, above.

In additional correspondence with Hilary, Mr Pine maintained that '[my] column went against the very strong current trend in all media to support "progress"

through "foreign investment", apparently regardless of the context. Correspondence today between myself and the Managing Editor of Kathimerini (Alexis Papachelas) only confirms this belief.'

Here is Richard Pine's rejected 'open letter' to the Prime Minister:

Dear Prime Minister

On Saturday 11 July you, as head of government, officially inaugurated the "Erimitis" development here in Corfu.

In your speech at Erimitis you made two statements which suggest that you do not fully appreciate the gravity of your decision to support this project. You recognised Erimitis as part of "a very important tourism investment strategy" and you specifically linked it with the development of Elleniko, at the old Athens airport. And you applauded the "intervention" of two government ministers in overcoming what you call "hassles and delays" in the planning process. You even made a joke by saying that the nickname of the land, "Hermit", would be negated by making the site "full of life".

To put in the same frame of reference a disused airport, today almost entirely under cracked concrete, and a pristine area of forest, wetland and posidonia, is to confuse the urban with the rural, the built with the unbuilt, the hard with the soft. The two projects are so dissimilar as to make comparison untenable, except in financial terms

In your speech you diminished local opposition by suggesting that if the project does not go ahead, "absolutely nothing" would happen, "no new jobs would be created" and that the environment would possibly be endangered.

It seems that you, or your advisers and ministers have reckoned on the basis of a costbenefit analysis that the cost to Greece, and Corfu in particular, of losing the virginity of Erimitis as an environmental, cultural and social treasure is outweighed by the benefit to the state of the €25m sale price and the commercial consequences.

Yet the developers of Erimitis specifically state that the residents of their hotel and villas will be "affluent visitors with all-inclusive packages" - suggesting that very little income will find its way into Corfu's tourism marketplace.

Continued on Page 44



Pine Leaves - Continued from Page 43

No-one can disagree with the need to attract foreign investment into Greece. No-one can deny the urgency of creating jobs. You say that the Erimitis project is "good for the place, good for Corfu, good for the country". Noble rhetorical flourishes that ended your speech. But these imperatives must be based on responsible judgement of a politician like yourself to find not what is "good", but the best project for the best place at the best time. You are aware of the very strong local opposition to the project at Erimitis – presented to you by public officials during your visit to Corfu – but you may not have considered that this is not the best project for the place nor the best time to be pursuing it. An alternative – to create a national park, protected generically by the "NATURA 2000" concept of the EU – would surely make an equally strong appeal to your government which is also committed to protecting the environment.

No-one denies that bureaucratic obstacles to projects should be overcome. But there is a major difference between the bureaucratic corridors of the planning system and the courts where those decisions may be challenged and their probity tested. There is a strong possibility that two members of your government exceeded their powers and acted unconstitutionally in over-riding the powers of the local authority – the municipality of North Corfu – in facilitating the planning application for this project.

No-one deplores, more than a xenos like me, the time-wasting journeys from office to office for anything as simple as buying a second-hand car or making a tiny extension to one's house. But for a project of the magnitude of Erimitis – and I refer not only to the amount of concrete involved but the inestimable loss of an ecological treasure – there should be safeguards which respect local circumstances and local opinion.

To suggest that the legitimate legal challenge to the sale of Erimitis by TAIPED to NCH Holdings and the power of the local authority to adjudicate on a planning application are obstructive of progress is to condone the interference in proper procedure by improper executive action.

Selling state assets like the national electricity grid or the state railway company or the telecommunications system does not deprive the citizens of electricity or trains or the internet: in fact, it may raise their quality and increase access to them. Selling Erimitis effectively replaced it with a completely different asset, neither owned nor controlled by the state.

Another cost-benefit analysis comes into play here: where the cost to democracy of denying elected representatives the right to carry out their due functions (which could lead to loss of votes at the next election) is outweighed, it seems, by the benefit of public approval for a decision by a national leader in a matter of expediency

It can be argued that over-riding the authority and the wishes of the people of Corfu was undemocratic. As the undisputed leader of a democratically elected government, can you not reflect on the dilemma for good governance that you are creating by sanctioning this project which denies and defeats democracy in the name of progress?

How can you answer the Mayor of North Corfu who calls this project "morally unacceptable and socially non-negotiable"? Is there a commercial imperative which supersedes morality and the social good?

Two final points: Firstly, the developers whose plans you support have stated publicly that they will build a hotel of 90 bedrooms, plus a number of individual villas. But your government has granted permission for a hotel of 180 bedrooms. Is there not a discrepancy here? Is the project even more threatening to the environment than we had been led to believe? Secondly, the developers have said that, as a gesture towards the traditional Corfiot way of life, a derelict windmill will be restored. But windmills are not in fact a feature of the traditional Corfiot landscape. Are the developers not grasping at some pointless placebo for Corfu which is entirely misconceived – like the project itself? And are you not, Mr Prime Minister, silently applauding that misconception?

Mr Prime Minister, you have shown yourself to be a resolute leader in the face of the dangers posed by the Covid-19 virus. We all admire you for your leadership in this matter, which has won Greece a place of high esteem in world opinion. I am sure you have the necessary political, cultural and ethical strength to seek the rescinding of this sale, and the preservation of one of Greece's, and the world's, sites of beauty and tranquillity.

~~~~~  
Hilary Paipeti was editor of The Corfiot, the island's monthly news and culture magazine from 1990 to 2010. She was sole publisher from 1998 to 2010.



# Nature



Chilling  
<



Courtesy of Christy Kallinikou



*Limenitis reducta*

Courtesy of Katerina Kyriaki  
<



Corfu, home of the Gods



Courtesy Tricia Giles



Pallas's Glass Lizard by Mel Sperling



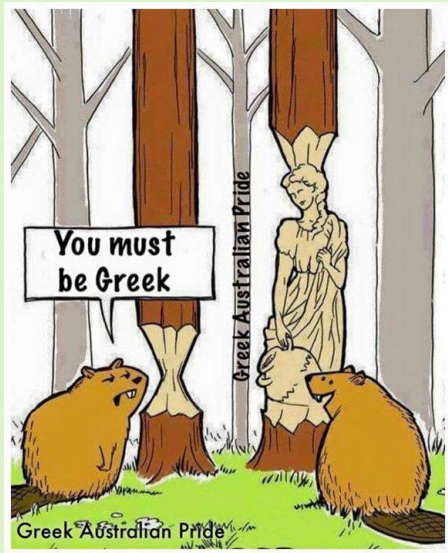
# Nick The Clock's World

The Comic With A Conscience



'Nick's Niche'

**Corfu Breaking News**  
 Kurt Kowalski and 3 donkeys were arrested last night for not social distancing while urinating in the Rothschild's rose garden. They were released early today on condition that all 4 wear facemasks for the next 14 days. More details when available.



**CLOSE DOWN THE NATIONAL MEDIA FOR 30 DAYS.**  
**WATCH 80% OF THE WORLD'S PROBLEMS GO AWAY.**



Last night I had a dream that I weighed less than a thousandth of a gram.  
 I was like, Omg.

Farting in a packed elevator...  
 Is wrong on so many levels.

Why do cows have hooves instead of feet?  
 Because they lactose.





Nick The Clock's World - Continued from Page 46



THE FACT THAT THERE'S A HIGHWAY TO HELL AND ONLY A STAIRWAY TO HEAVEN SAYS A LOT ABOUT ANTICIPATED TRAFFIC NUMBERS.

It's been a funny sort of day first i found a hat full of money. Then i got chased by a man with a guitar.




A state trooper had a perfect spot to watch for speeders, but wasn't getting any. Then he discovered the problem. A 12 year old boy was standing up the road with a hand printed sign which read. 'Radar Trap Ahead' The officer also found the boy's friend down the road with a sign that read 'TIPS' and a bucket full of money. (And we used to sell lemonade)

DANGER YOU ARE BEING CONDITIONED TO VIEW YOUR FREEDOM AS SELFISH



Nick The Clock's World - Continued from Page 47

 **Forrest Maready**  
@forrestmaready

The lockdowns are not a mistake. They are accomplishing exactly what was hoped for.

Fear. Panic. The destruction of nations.

Global control.



My pet rodent doesn't have a name.  
He's anonymouse...



**I will be posting telepathically today. So if you think of something funny, that was me.**

I took the shell off of my racing snail, thinking it would make him faster. But no, it only made him more sluggish

Where does a dog go when it loses it's tail and needs a new one?  
A retail store.

**Due to my isolation, I finished 3 books yesterday. And believe me, that's a lot of colouring.**

***That's' All Folks !***





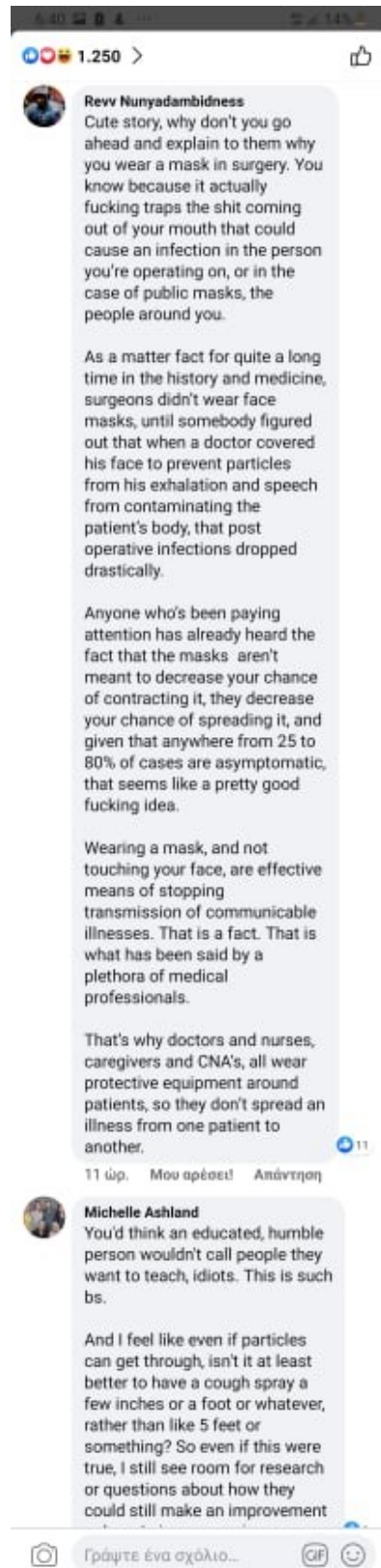
# Opinion by Daniel Blom

GREEK STATISTICS ARE IN NO WAY JUSTIFYING THE LATEST FREEDOM RESTRICTIONS.

Even with massive testing of foreign visitors, all numbers got lower.

ON JULY 26 ONLY 631 ACTIVE CASES EXISTED IN ALL OF GREECE. These are cases that have not yet shown negative results after a retest.

Between July 1-26 the number of new positive test results was 784. Apparently 153 of those had already retested negative on the 26th. The question is how many of the remaining 631 cases were visitors that have already returned to their homeland? Will they ever be reported as recovered, or will they continue to show as active cases in Greece forever?



**Doc Graham**  
Yesterday at 7:36 PM · 🌐

**MASKS!** Folks, let a surgeon of 30 years (a.k.a. me) teach you about MASKS. COVID 19 virus particle size averages 125 nanometers (0.125microns); the range is 0.06 microns to .14 microns; one needs an electron microscope to see a COVID 19 virus particle. The hoarded N 95 mask filters down to 0.3 microns. So, N95 masks block few, if any, virions (virus particles). This is a simple fact, so you just cannot argue against it. Other surgical masks, home-made masks and kerchiefs do the following: 1) they allow free passage both ways (in and out) of COVID 19 virions. 2) they become a warm, damp or moist reservoir of COVID 19 particles in asymptomatic "carriers" (estimated to be 85% of all people tested). For surgeons, years of training, intimidation, and humiliation teach us to touch NOTHING but our surgical field. Lay people constantly touch, re-arrange, and manipulate their "masks", wonderfully inoculating thousands of virus particles onto their bare or (even worse, gloved) hands. So, these absurd masks ENCOURAGE the fomite transmission ("infected" articles-to-hand-to face transmission of the virus). So, go ahead and allow idiots to delude and mislead you to the false sense of security--and danger--of masks!

| Month | Days | Tests performed | Tests per day | Testing % increase | Tested positive | positive % of tested | Average IC Cases | Deaths attributed | Deaths % of tested | Deaths % of new cases |
|-------|------|-----------------|---------------|--------------------|-----------------|----------------------|------------------|-------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| March | 31   | 16732           | 540           | -                  | 1307            | 7.81%                | 46               | 85                | 0.5080%            | 6.5034%               |
| April | 30   | 58438           | 1948          | 361                | 1277            | 2.19%                | 64               | 87                | 0.1489%            | 6.8128%               |
| May   | 31   | 105,348         | 3398          | 174                | 324             | 0.31%                | 24.5             | 35                | 0.0332%            | 10.8025%              |
| June  | 30   | 132,257         | 4409          | 130                | 491             | 0.37%                | 10.5             | 17                | 0.0129%            | 3.4623%               |
| July  | 31   | 217,080         | 7003          | 159                | 1068            | 0.49%                | 9                | 14                | 0.0064%            | 1.3109%               |

Source: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/COVID-19\\_pandemic\\_in\\_Greece](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/COVID-19_pandemic_in_Greece)