

Dear Friends,

Although it is only 7th October, it suddenly feels like autumn today. Can you believe it, only about 16c, a threatening grey sky and intermittent heavy showers. The olives are ripening and the lawn mowers been out already. Fortunately it should be sunny and calm at the weekend, so we haven't given up on Indian summers just yet! Checking some of our photographs we have happy memories of an excellent season, now almost at an end.



The cottage has found a lot of new friends this summer and been reacquainted with many old ones. New visitors from Denmark, Spain and Belgium as well as Greece and the UK. Our thanks to everyone for making our summer a lot of fun and we hope to see you all again.

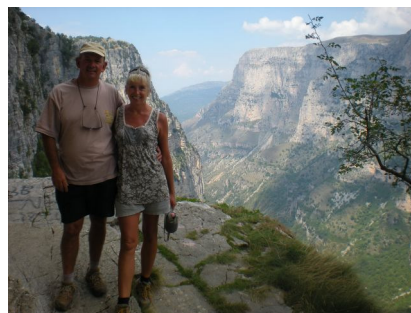
Hopefully we will also catch up with some 'Friends of Randi', next year who could not make it out this year.

We have of course had a lot of fun with Kaliope and set some new records I think. When we took Katy for a sail with her daughter Lola, aged 3 months, and granddad Colin, I thought it must surely be a



record breaker for the youngest crew member! However this was surpassed in August when our visitors from Madrid, Jokim, Piti and baby Nikolas came sailing with us. Nikolas was born in early July only 6 weeks before joining us and sailing to Skiathos and then Katigorgis for lunch and then sailing back again. It was a good breeze and a bit choppy on the way back. Jokim managed to change a nappy down below (in the boat) healing over at about 30o. So the award for the ultimate 'Kaliope challenge' of the season goes to Jokim in the category 'Extreme Nappy Changing'. What with the world cup, it's been a good year for Spain!

During a September break we headed off in the camper van to the Pindus mountains, Zagoraxoria being a national park area with the Vikos Gorge cutting through the middle. A lot of bottled mineral water comes from



Zagora and Vikos but the river beds all looked dry. I reckon they've bottled the lot, although we were told, come the autumnal rains they will be flowing again. We took our little motor bike on the back of the van. It was a lot of fun being able to ride around Yannia at night before returning to our lakeside camp site.

Since our return we have put the finishing touches to the covered terrace on the side of the house, the Randi Upper Taverna or tea pavilion, call it what you like, we



are very happy with it and of course it is always open if you drop by for a cuppa... or something stronger!



To finish with some more sailing stories.... The annual August Full Moon Milina regatta did not happen this year as the guys that arrange it had all gone off to the black sea, sailing of course. An alternative regatta was arranged for late September and we were all geared up to take Kalioppe back around from Platania to Milina. 23 nautical miles, about a 5 hour journey, but an interesting trip and often a good sail. But the weather was a bit 'iffy' so we decided to leave Kalioppe for an extra week or two in Platania and try and hitch a

crewing job on a Sunsail yacht. I know it goes against the grain, but that's what we did. The guys at Sunsail were great and gave us our own brand new Jenneau 36 to race. All we had to do was take along a couple of their guests. Well we met up with two hours to go before the start, we allocated tasks and went out to practice. I think Andy, the sunsail boss must have got a bit nervous when he saw us deftly tacking and jibing, hoisting and altering sails. In the half hour run up to the start he asked us to standby for some more crew to join us. At the start we got away very well but we were now 9 crew in total!! We came a reasonable 5th out of 19 boats with our scratch crew. It was very kind of Andy to lend us the boat, but we hope Kalioppe will be back there next year.

So yesterday with some stormy weather brewing we finally bought Kalioppe round from Platania to Milina for the last few weeks of sailing. Only a few days before I had taken some pictures of a deserted but sunny and warm Platania harbour.



Yesterdays contrast was vivid. I was joined by Ian, a Cornishman, with salt water in his veins. He knows all about Cape Cutters and is even thinking of buying one. Ian's wife Bev was happy to leave it to the boys, she would drive over later to Milina with Kathryn and pick us up. So we set off. We were having a good old chat me and Ian, tales of Cornwall, Brittany, the Isles of Scilly and sailing the channel and stormy seas. 'Do you know' I said 'after 5 seasons, I haven't sailed Kalioppe in the rain yet!'. Flipping heck, and hour later the heavens opened a good 6 hours earlier than forecast. We got a right good proper soaking (as they say in Cornwall). As we came out past Trikeri Island and into the gulf we could not see any land despite me knowing it was out there and in fact all around us. We came charging across the gulf with a fresh following breeze and made our land fall. We could have been out in the English channel in October rather than here. The only difference being under my waterproofs I still had bare feet and the sea water washing around them was like warm bath water!

So we wish you all a happy autumn and a bit of an Indian Summer if you are lucky enough.

If you would like to stay with us at the cottage next year, now is a very good

time to book and secure a good value flight to Greece.



We have 4 weeks booked already so don't delay!!

www.aroundpelion.com/platanias-cottage/

Best wishes

Chris and Kathryn

