

Dear Friends,

Watching too much TV news can get you down, we all know that I guess. At least Greece has gradually moved out of the headlines and the focus is on other southern European countries. So far we haven't seen a riot, demonstration or been effected by strikes or volcanic clouds for that matter. Of course we've seen plenty on the tv, so my advice, if you get the chance, turn off the telly (world cup excepted for some) and take a holiday. I would suggest Greece as the perfect location, particularly Pelion, specifically Randi and if it is available the cottage (but truly anywhere hereabouts will do).

Today is the 5th anniversary of us setting off from the UK to live here. We always said we'd give it 5 years and then see how things are going, whether to stay on or try some other adventure. By a twist of irony we have a friend in Volos, Christos. He studied graphic design in Hull and together with his sister, brother in law Yanni and other friends, they feel a very strong urge to pack up here and go and live in the land of their dreams, in the city of their dreams that is Hull. If I was writing this on 1st April no one would believe me, but it is all true I promise. When ever we go to Christos' design studio in Volos his screen saver is of the Humber bridge, thankfully at night and to be honest attractive with it's illuminations. We always joke about Hull.

But 2 days ago we met for a drink on Kastri beach to say farewell, he left yesterday for a new life in England. He came down with his sister, Yanni and their kids and we were the only people there from 7pm to 9pm. We swam played with the kids and over a few beers had a really weird conversation about the relative merits of where we were sitting, beautiful, peaceful, unspoilt and pretty much as close as you could get to a definition of paradise and those of Hull, the city of dreams. We will certainly stay in touch and I dare say when he opens his graphic design and printing studio he will do well, we've promised to visit (someday) but somehow I cannot believe he will not be back before 5 years.

The other funny thing is, despite his really excellent and fluent English he can't quite get the correct pronunciation of the 'uh' in Hull. Sometimes it comes out 'oh' as in 'hole', and sometimes 'eh' as in 'hell'. So if you bump into Christos somewhere in the Uk and ask him to define paradise (and where he lives) he would probably say, Hell - Hole.... but mean Hull.



Back in our paradise we had an evening sunset sail yesterday evening. We sailed out around Prasouda Island, then back to Horto and Milina. I know sailing is not everyone's cup of tea, but this little voyage with gentle breezes and a visit by dolphins was quite perfect.



So in signing off, my final Greece promotion is to suggest that due to a decline in visitors this year, now is the time to be optimistic. We have some dates left. The Euro / £ is improving and I see Monarch and other package holiday companies offering last minute flights cheaply to Volos, Skiathos as well as Thessaloniki. Give us a call for a last minute bargain break, or just enjoy some pictures of a mid summer sunset cruise,

This could be Heaven, or you could be in Hull!

(with big apologies and best wishes to our good friend Christos!)

Chris and Kathryn