



**PAXOS
MUNICIPALITY**



**Culturale Village
of Europe
2004**

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No 1



THE CULTURAL VILLAGES ORGANIZATION

When in 1996 the Danish village Tommerup declared itself "Cultural Village of Europe 1996", nobody would have been able at that time to estimate the evolution this initiative would have!

In the year 1999 the Dutch village Wijk aan Zee, after three years of preparation, declared its' unification with ten more European villages that considered this initiative to be important, and who wanted to declare that Europe is not only consisted of big cities, but also of small villages!

Motivated by their faith that life in small villages is of great importance for the future and welfare of Europe, the eleven villages signed their Charter in December 9th 1999, which has been presented to the EEC in Brussels in June 8th 2000, and has been validated by the European Parliament.

The purpose of this pan-european movement is to show that small villages have their own cultural identity, and that pluralism can make easier the finding of solutions to common problems such as improvement of agricultural development, tourism, transport, communication, education and economy in general.

The eleven Cultural villages who started this movement were the following: Aldeborough (G. Britain), Mellionec (France), Pergine Valdarno (Italy), Strobeck (Germany), Wijk aan Zee (Holland), Killingi Nomme (Estonia), Paxoi (Greece), Porrúa (Spain), Palkonya (Hungary), Bystre (Czech Republic), and Tommerup (Denmark).

GREEK VILLAGES SIGN THE CHARTER OF THE VILLAGES

In the opening ceremony of "Cultural Villages 2000" in central Brittany of France, the representatives from Paxos handed to the organizing committee the signatures of fifteen Greek villages who signed The Charter of the Villages.

The Greek little villages are the following:

Aghios Efstratios, Agnanta, Acrites, Amorgos, Valtetsi, Varico, Gravia, Dervenochoria, Dodoni, Elatia of Zante, Erineo, Zervochoria, Ithaca, Comboti, Kythnos.



THE PRESIDENT OF GREECE PATRON OF CULTURAL VILLAGES FOR 2004

To Mr Stefanopoulos President of Greece
Wijk aan Zee, 20th of May 2003



Dear Mister President,
We all feel very honored that you are coming to visit Paxos. Paxos is not only a part of Greece, it is also a member of the covenant of Cultural Villages of Europe. For us your visit to Paxos is a visit to the

Cultural Villages as well.

Since 1999 we have a network of villages all over Europe. And we have the experience that these connections are very inspiring. This year we put together the history of our movement in a book 'Vital Villages'.

For a long time we have had to accept that we are only small and almost without value. Science and Culture became affairs of specialists in the big centers. But slowly we are starting to believe that the village could have more significance for the solutions of problems in society than seemed to be. We try to convince other villages that they do matter, we try to convince authorities and public opinion that villages need the space to do things in their own way. If you like our efforts, we would like to ask you to be the patron of our organization. It would have a special significance for us if the task of the patronage will be fulfilled by the president of a nation whom we owe the word democracy.

Bert Kisjes, Ambassador of the Cultural Villages



Athens 27th May 2003

Mister Kisjes

I really appreciate the idea of the creation of the organization of the Cultural Villages of Europe, the island of Paxos included and also all the cultural

events of the organization.

I 'm very gland to accept your proposal.

The president of Greek Republic

Kostantinos Stefanopoulos

RECEIVING THE FLAG OF THE CULTURAL VILLAGES



This year's mission of our Municipality in the Cultural Villages of Europe and specifically in Aldeburgh, England had two aims. The first one was the successful presentation of our programme, which included traditional dances and live music. The second aim was receiving the flag of the Cultural Villages by the Mayor of Paxos and taking over for 2004. The receiving of the flag took place after the formal dinner in the presence of all the delegates, who wished every success. The flag was handed over by the Mayor, Ms Bromage, who gave our Municipality a memorial tablet with representations of their village. The atmosphere was friendly among the fellow-villagers of Europe and ended in a great night.

Centre Hall of the village.

The women of the village had prepared a delicious buffet dinner. Their traditional songs and dancing joined with ours and we had the sense that we were a large party and we met again after a long time.

Saturday, 20th September: the day of the presentations. From the morning one by one the delegates were assembled out of the "Snape Maltings Concert Hall". After such a long time the meeting of the people created a stir and joy, followed by the excitement for the acquaintance with new friends. The usual calm English atmosphere became even more vivid and warm.

10.30 a.m.: the presentations start. Each village has a representative programme, which fills the public with enthusiasm. The last presentation is from the delegates of Paxos. Our band played lively music and our children were excellent in presenting traditional dances, chassapiko, zeibekiko, chassaposserviko and Greek syrtaki, which roused our European friend's enthusiasm, who sang the Greek song "The children of Piraeus" and hardly didn't they stand up to dance.

We met again the same night at the farewell I party, which was organized for all the delegates. We sang and danced dances from all over the world. As we were whirling about, we felt that the friendship and the love were becoming a chain which joined us despite our differences.

At the same place the English people gave the flag of the Cultural Villages to our Mayor, giving him also the responsibility for the organizing of the presentations for 2004, when the heart of the institution of the Cultural Villages will beat in Paxos. The night ended in the same enthusiasm, in which it started, and at the time of the farewell we renewed our promise to meet again next year on Paxos.

On our return we were of a melancholic disposition, as it always happens. The memories of everything we lived in this short while, filled with many experiences, kept us company.

Now the organization of the presentations for 2004 is in our hands. The Cultural Year for Paxos has already started and we altogether have to prove to everyone, showing the best of ourselves, that besides the things that separate people, there are also things that join them. Let's try altogether to send the message that culture and friendship are more powerful than money, wars and all kinds of interests. And if we really want, we can make them guide our lives.

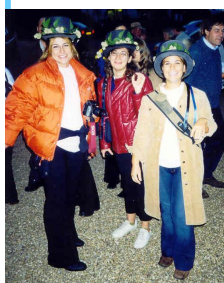
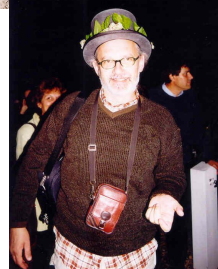
THE DELEGATES OF PAXOS IN ENGLAND

18th September 2003: The delegates of Paxos begin the long trip to Aldeburgh and Friston in England, which organized the Cultural Villages of Europe in 2003.

Corfu - Athens - England: our route by plane. We go by bus from Heathrow airport to Friston. No one from the Greek team is tired. Our high spirits and enthusiasm are endless and infect all with our songs, our raillery and our jokes. Even the English chauffer seems to enjoy it

Friday, 19th September 2003, in the afternoon: we arrive at Friston. The inhabitants, our hosts, welcome us with joy, and we head towards the traditional cottages with them, where they are going to offer us hospitality during our stay there.

They were really hospitable and they offered us a warm reception with the welcome party that they prepared for us the same night in the Cultural



The youth camp of the cultural villages of Europe 2003 took place last July, in the little village of Aldeborough in England. Young people of 10 European countries participated in it.

Summer Youth Camp 2003

The musical school that hosted us was situated in Leiston Abbey

A place of both exceptional natural beauty and historical interest. Around the archaeological site of the Abbey, hidden in the nature, are situated buildings of local architecture hosting dormitories, restaurants, kitchens, audiovisual studios, classrooms and places for athletic activities.

The large barn with the thatched roof was transformed in a computer laboratory with dozens of computers and of whatever audiovisual equipment, modern technology can provide.

All this permitted us to realize the theme of Youth Camp 2003 which was: "A digital portrait of us".

The young people of Europe had brought videos and sound from their own countries, combined them all together and also with clues that they collected on the spot.

The result of this collective effort was full of originality and creative imagination and presented at the official reception given the last day of the Camp.

The group from Paxos composed by the high school students Kostas Zenempisis, Fotis Gunaris, Christos Kolobos, and Stelios Anemogiannis accompanied by their teacher Anda Michalopulu, created a really beautiful video-clip, advertising our island. And in their participation in the medieval Italian game was not very successful, they compensated us by winning the football tournament!

Youth Camp is an exceptional organization bringing together young people from all over Europe for both leisure and creative cooperation.

In Summer 2004 Paxos has the honor and privilege to organize the Youth Camp 2004 with participations from 14 European countries!

We are looking forward to seeing them!!!



WELCOME FOR 2004

On the threshold of the New year 2004 the festive atmosphere became even livelier with the rain, which came as a new year's present. A symbolic present, since our topic in the cultural taking over by Paxos is "water through the centuries". Water is a present of life, as the supplies are not enough; it is an invaluable possession of our culture and economy.

That is why the Present of Hellenic Democracy, evaluating the importance of the institution, accepted to set it under his auspices. This island, which this year will host the cultures of all the others, shows a will for life, an anxiety about the future of its youth, care for its best economical development, zeal for maintaining its cultural heritage, as well as for the necessity to coexist with friends, fellow-villagers of Europe, who have the same sensitivities, the same anxieties, the same speculation on issues and similar dreams. Through our smallness, we are trying to survive, maintaining our identity. This is our motto and we are trying to make it known to everyone.

Paxos emerged from the sea and lives in the arms of water obtaining livelihood benefits from it Sea water: an element of affluence and wealth fresh water: an element that characterizes wealth for those who have it in abundance but poverty and ingenuity for those who lack it. The inhabitants of Paxos have experienced lack of water and they have known perfectly well how to manage it for centuries, so well that their cleanness as well as the 95% coverage of the island in greenery have become typical and proverbial, to the extent that they set the example for everyone on our planet to follow as the war for water is now not far.

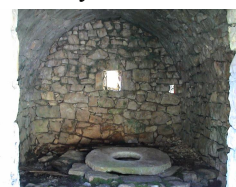
The element of water is life itself for Paxos. This element raised

generations, the one after the other, it opened up the roads of communication, making the locals risky, it became a cultural bridge, it brought money in difficult years and several times it cost human lives. The inventiveness and contrivances for its collection, apart from the practical results for living, can be translated as ingenuity, art and architecture, whose manifestations are visible until today.

Through the institution of the Cultural Villages of Europe, the inhabitants and friends of Paxos are called to present their place to the members of the institution and to everyone who is interested. The volunteers work hard, but with enthusiasm and love for the great effort.

This year is going to be clear like the water of the rain; it is going to be cool like the water of the sea.

Spyros Ch. Bogdanos





Christmas and New year's Eve apart from being holidays are really holy days! Their atmosphere warms peoples' souls, brings them closer to each other -even if it is just for a while- and fills their hearts with hope that the coming year will bring love, peace, welfare, health and happiness to everyone, no matter who they are.

This year our island, Paxos, has one more reason to celebrate, since it has the honor to be the Cultural Village of the year 2004! Representatives from twelve European villages will meet here to send all over the world a message of unification, hope and peace. This kind of events, especially nowadays that everything is counted by its' economic and not moral value, declare that in the souls of the inhabitants of small villages still remains sensibility for everything that is still simple and pure!



It is touching that the youth of Paxos participated to the preparation of "Paxos Cultural Village of Europe 2004", with all their hearts and in many ways.

The students of Paxos High School painted huge Christmas trees ornated by all cultural villages' flags. Those trees decorated many central points of the island.

Another group of elder youths took care of the lighting decoration. They created a big "PAXOS 2004" and placed it to the small island of Saint Nicholas opposite Gaïos, the capital of Paxos.

The whole island has been decorated with thousands of little lamps which made the spirit of the days shine warm and special. And at midnight of New Year's Eve beautiful fireworks lightened the rainy sky, and everybody welcomed the year 2004, wishing for our island to remain -even if it is so small- a place of great cultural value that has the capacity to unify peoples' hearts!

**We are
looking forward
to seeing you all
soon**



SPONCOR : PAXOS 2004



HOSPITALITY PROGRAMME 2004

APRIL:	16,17,18,19	OPENING, Mayors meeting.	
MAY:	21,22,23,24	WIJK AAN ZEE HOLLAND	MELLIONNE C FRANCE
JUNE:	04,05,06,07	BYSTRE CZECH REPUBLIC	PERGINE VALDARNO ITALY
JUNE:	18,19,20,21	ALDEBURGH ENGLAND	PALKONYA HUNGARY
JULY:	10-20	YOUTH CAMP	
SEPTEMBER:	10,11,12,13	STROEBECK GERMANY	LEYKARA CYPRUS
SEPTEMBER:	24,25,26,27	PORRUA SPAIN	KILINGI- NOMME ES- TONIA
OCTOBER:	08,09,10,11	TOMMERUP DENMARK	KIRCHHEIM AUSTRIA
NOVEMBER:	05,06,07,08	MAYORS MEETING—End of the events	