



PAXOS MUNICIPALITY



Cultural Village
of Europe
2004

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News Letter

No5



YOUTH CAMP PAXOS 2004

An important part of the Cultural Villages of Europe is the so-called Youth Camp. Each host country takes the responsibility to organize a gathering of young people aged 15-25 in order to give them the opportunity to get to know each other through different activities.

The Youth Camp Paxos 2004 has been realized in the middle of the summer; the week 12-18 July, in Mongonissi, with 41 participants from ten european villages. As the organizing committee, we thought that Mongonissi was the ideal place for such a gathering, as it is a small island in the south of Paxos, connected to it by a narrow bridge. Olive trees are everywhere with a lot of space to camp in their shade, there is a lovely little, sandy beach and a nice restaurant owned by the friendly family of Thodoris Keikidis who did their best to make our staying in Mongonissi as pleasant as possible!

The aims of the Youth Camp Paxos 2004 have been, on one hand the introduction of the young people to the island of Paxos, its' culture and traditions, and on the other hand to create among them bounds that could endure time and distance!

We chose a large range of activities to fulfill our aims. Trekking in the old paths of the island with Ada, Gina and Foni, diving lessons with Ioanna, Petra and Paul, work in an archaeological



excavation with Margarita. We tried our skills to folk greek dances at Ioanna's dancing lessons, we set free our creative imagination in Gina's puppets lab, and we dreamt of other worlds as Aristeides and Giorgos were giving us guided visits to the summer sky with their telescopes and Astronomy lectures! We had a great time at the beach party where every country brought something traditional to eat or drink (of course we had souvlaki for dinner!), and a lot of fun at the improvised evenings where we had some very

inspired presentations indeed! The day trip around the island and to Antipaxos has been the compensation for our hard work throughout the week!

Were the aims fulfilled? The goodbye songs, tears and sad atmosphere of the last day, the waving hands until the boat was lost in the horizon and the promises to meet again, gave me a positive answer.

Till next year in Estonia then!!

Puppets



The Youth Camp is not only about entertainment, but also about creativity. Gina and her puppets laboratory helped us discover the artistic side of ourselves. At last an activity where we could remain seated!

Diving



Paul used to arrive early in the morning to introduce us to the marvels of the deep!



Paths

It was hard to walk the old paths of Paxos allday under the sun in 40oC, but the sites we saw and the secret spots that we discovered were enough to compensate our effort!



Archaeological excavation

The archaeological excavation of Magazia has been reopened especially for the Youth Camp. Our hard work in the dust and dirt has been justified. We found prehistoric stone tools, pieces of a skull and... some chicken bones!!!



Astronomy

The mysteries of the universe were revealed to us by Aris, Giorgos their telescopes. We observed the sun by sun telescopes and we had a guided tour to the summer sky constellations.



Greek dancing

The "Sirtaki" dance we learned during Ioanna's greek dancing lessons has been successfully applied at the parties we had every night!

Parties

At night time we had lots of fun: a beach party where all the countries brought traditional food and drinks for us to taste, men's beauty contest where although Yael was fascinating, Andrea won the girls' preference!

We also had puppets show, the Dutch improvised orchestra and team presentations where the Czech Republic won the first prize with a shadow pantomime.



Boat trip around Paxos

The last day, we had a boat trip to the west coast of Paxos visiting the impressive caves formed by the power of the sea and we swam in the unique blue of Antipaxos. There we said good bye to our German friends. It was the beginning of the end of the Youth Camp 2004 in Paxos...





Martin
is getting ready for the
morning activities !!!



Elsa chef
de cuisine!!



Mirko and Marco are
demonstrating their
incomparable art in opening
wine bottles...!!



Diving has been very
successful
for Mads!



We miss you all !!
Till we meet again...



Gina

Ada

Joanna

Fony