

Two Old Girls Do Rhodes Pt 2

In this concluding piece we follow our u3a member and her friend as they come to the end of their Greek Odyssey.

April 22nd

Panic stations here! They have started digging up the road in front of our hotel! No vehicles allowed. How are we supposed to get to the airport in 4 days' time? Shirley has spoken to Reception in no uncertain terms and we have been advised that the road will be open again in time for the pick-up on departure day. I hope so or there will be a letter in the post to the travel company when we get back, if we ever get back. This is supposed to be a holiday and we should not have to worry about things like this.

The one good thing today is that we found a M&S in the town centre. We could not believe our luck and took the opportunity to stock up on knickers and chocolate chip cookies both of which are, let us be honest, far superior to other brands.

April 23rd

Got ready for our red alert from the government by mobile phone but it never came. However I understand it never came for most people in England either. I was worried at the time that when mine went off it might be confused with a rape alarm and cause all manner of difficulties as I would find it very hard to explain in Greek what Rishi Sunak was trying to achieve with this one.

I am afraid that the Germans are trying their usual trick of staking out the poolside sunbeds by 7am in the morning.

April 24th

Great excitement here over the Greek entry to the Eurovision Song Contest. It is called 'What They Say' and it is being played in all the bars and restaurants and is considered a runaway winner.

[Editor's Note: this song went out in the eliminating round and never made it to the final. 'What They Say'. Presumably the judges said they didn't like it very much.]

We tried to pay with drachmas in a shop only to be told they were not accepting them any more. 'Since when?' I asked. Another shock. Since we are no longer in the EU why should we have to use Euros? Doesn't make sense does it?

April 25th

Went on a circular tour of the town by bus. It was very short so we decided after the first trip to stay on and do it again as with my eyesight I didn't see much the first time round. Passing the harbour I was certain the Colossus had been reinstated thanks to Shirley's timely letter but it was unfortunately just a trick of the light brought on by my vivid imagination Shirley says.

Visited the village of Lindos in the afternoon where there is supposed to be an ancient acropolis but I never saw that either.

Have been reading up on the Greek myths. Now I know why Argos in the High Street is

called Argos and why nobody ever calls their daughter Medea or their son Oedipus although they are both charming names in their own way.

April 26th

Miraculously the road has been opened after Shirley complained to Reception, and we got to the Airport. It seems that if you are in a wheelchair you can get on the plane first. Or pregnant. As I did not qualify on either of these counts I had to wait my turn even though I said I was having trouble seeing the plane on the runway because of my eyesight. Shirley thought she might qualify for a wheelchair because of the walking poles but that didn't happen either.

For the first hour of the flight we saw nothing of Cabin Crew. I began to wonder if we were flying on auto-pilot but on going to the back of the plane to use the loo I discovered all four cabin staff and the co-pilot sitting on the floor eating crisps. Much relieved to see the pilot was not with them. Presumably s/he was at the front having his/her lunch and flying the plane at the same time. This is what economy class is now all about it seems. Shirley will of course be writing to the airline about this.

Shirley suggests White Water Rafting in Canada for next year's excursion. I thought we could just stay here in the UK and see how many M&S stores we could visit in one week only using our Freedom passes. Exciting, productive and thrifty. The best ideas are usually the simplest ones.