



ΣΥΝΔΕΣΜΟΣ ΤΩΝ ΑΠΑΝΤΑΧΟΥ ΚΑΡΥΑΤΩΝ

KARYES Lakonia

BULLETIN OF
THE ASSOCIATION OF KARYATES WORLDWIDE
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WHAT IS WRONG WITH MAIN SQUARE'S PLANE TREE?

There is great concern about plane tree in the main square and residents and visitors of Karyes are informed and worry about its state. An autopsy done by a special force of Sparta municipality, found both oxygen deficiency and the appearance of a crack in the trunk.

According to a document of the department of Energy, Planning and Green of Sparta's Local Economic Development Department, which was sent to our Association, the usual Greek practice of banking up with soil the "neck" of trees and "crown" of roots, is considered internationally **incorrect and dangerous** to the health of the trees for the following reasons:

- Firstly, due to moisture which develops in the neck, there is the danger of rot and fungal penetration that leads to the weakening and possibly the death of trees. Unfortunately the signs appear several years after the damage, when it's **too late to face the damage**.
- Secondly, the living roots require a small amount of air into the soil, which is prevented by the **confirmed lack of the oxygen** at the tree's roots.

Therefore, the level from which the tree emerges from the ground should not be differentiated and if this has to be so, for safety reasons, the filling of the space between the trunk and the wall, must be done with uncompressed aggregates such as gravel, cobbles, pebbles, etc. The planting of ornamental plants should also be avoided for the same reasons.

Finally, we note that the trees and plantings on squares and other public spaces are **public property** and their damage constitutes an infringement of Articles 381 and 382 of the Greek Criminal Code. Furthermore, because of the deadly disease of **Metachromatic Ulcer of Planes**, which unfortunately has migrated and appeared in our country in recent years and which is transmitted exclusively through tree injuries from contaminated tools, each task must be undertaken with caution and with tools and materials that are confirmed not carrying the disease.

On the basis of the above and because the damage is already evident, the opinion of the Association is that any action should be taken earliest possible and in consultation with the competent services of the Sparta Municipality.

THE PUBLICATION OF KARYES TOURISTIC MAP

At the initiative of our Association and the collaboration of the Karyes Cultural Association and the "Karyatis" Sports Club, the project of publishing a detailed Karyes' touristic map, double sided and foldable, is completed.

The touristic development of recent years forced the creation of a map, so the visitors of our beautiful place have a comprehensive guide of the hiking and cycling routes.

The number of copies during the first printing phase is 10,000 pieces and it is distributed FREE.



GLOBAL THRILLS FOR THE CARYATIDS STATUES IN THE AMFIPOLIS GRAVE KARYES IN THE NEWS AS THE HOME OF THE CARYATIDS

Karyes appeared in the news after the great archaeological excavation at Amfipolis, Serres. The discovered tomb is decorated among others and with two oversized Caryatids Statues that dominate the entrance of one of the halls of the tomb.

It is fortunate for our village, the existence of the **Monument that represents the Caryatids of the Erechtheion Dome on the Acropolis of Athens**. The trustees of the Karyates Association had predicted 50 years ago the need to build that monument, in order to serve both as the link between the glorious past and the present of Karyes and as an ornament and attraction for visitors.

Nowadays, all patriots in Greece and abroad, can be proud of their ancestry as the home of the Caryatids. The Caryatids Monument is built on land owned by the Karyates Association and it is in our hands to make its existence known throughout Greece and attracts visitors.

The Association's Board has already decided to the repair of the Monument (roof and restoration of marble) and the embellishment of the surrounding area. Furthermore, an informational sign was placed on the site explaining both the history of the Caryatids and that of the Monument. Finally, through the Karyes web site, that [information](#) is also provided also electronically.

As already reported in previous bulletin, the restoration of the statues will proceed in cooperation with Athens Technological Institute and soon the work is expected to start.

THE CONTINUOUS UPGRADING OF KARYES WEB SITE www.karyes.gr

Although we have mentioned it many times, we think it's worth it. Even though the effort is purely voluntary the result is obvious: our village web site is perhaps one of the best web sites of minor local communities in Greece.

Under the management of Margie Konstantopoulou (daughter of Kaiti Kardaras) the web site is constantly updated, extended and enriched with information about the village, its history, its association, the local events etc.

It is worth visiting and being advertised!

REQUEST

Those who want to receive this news bulletin via e-mail or send their news to be published, please contact us at:

info@karyes.gr

THE MAINTENANCE OF KARYES' INFRASTRUCTURE: A CONTINUOUS STRUGGLE

PART A

The winter sheet of our Bulletin begins with a survey of Karyes' infrastructure.

Many of our fellow compatriots, residents and expatriates, often wonder about the state of Public buildings, our churches, etc. It's really a treasure for our village, but at the same time it is a great responsibility for the bodies of the village, the existence of so many public spaces and buildings, which almost all have been donated by compatriots who emigrated, but did not forget their love for their place of origin. This survey will continue on the following bulletins because our view is that we should all know the problems that exist and all help with ideas and suggestions for development.

THE STATE OF THE CHURCHES



Our village is fortunate to have within its boundaries 12 churches, a rare fact for a village in the Greek mainland that are functional and operate to

the given religious feasts of the saint to who they have been devoted. However, they have a significant maintenance cost.

Already, the **central church of our village, Agios Andreas - St. Andrew**, presented lately a visible damage to its roof and several roof tiles are missing.



Moreover, the **Church of Agioi Anargiroi** at the entrance of Karyes shows significant damage to its Sanctuary. According to our compatriot and engineer Mr. Vasilios Voukidis, the problem arose because of the force of the root of an oak tree.



Finally, we should mention that a portion of the plaster of the **Church of Agios Ioannis** (St. John) has dropped at its sides. It should be noted that the Karyates Association proceeded with its own costs to the external illumination of the church in 2013.

For all the above, the priest of Karyes, **father Efstratios**, appeals to whoever compatriots from Greece and abroad **want to help and wish to contribute to the restoration** of these damages to communicate directly with him.

THE DAMAGES ARE OBVIOUS AT THE DIROS RIVER STONE BRIDGE



The beautiful stone bridge on the provincial road presents a serious damage on its right side, as someone enters the bridge coming from Pinigoura. As we were told both by **Theodoros Mentis, chairman of Sports Club "KARYATIS"**, and **Ioannis Mentis, chairman of the Karyes Cultural Club**, who in recent years have dealt with the situation, the problem arises firstly from the existence of an ivy and secondly from the existence of Acacia trees that had planted 20 years ago in order to create shade along the road. Their roots system causes problems in both the bridge and the road. Last year, the ivy was uprooted and watered with drug and since then it has been monitored in order not to grow back. This winter, it also is planned to proceed with the uprooting of Acacia tree.



THE WAREHOUSE OF THE FORMER AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVE

As mentioned in our previous bulletin, the Board the Sports Club "O KARYATIS" with quick actions and with the financial assistance of our compatriots from the U.S. and Canada succeeded in the acquisition of the agricultural cooperatives building in Pinigoura. The agricultural cooperative is in liquidation and now the building belongs to the active Sports Club of Karyes.



THE BUILDING OF CREAMERY

On the right side at the entrance of our village, just after the road turn of the Church Agioi Taxiarches, there is the building that used to serve as the creamery of Karyes.

The building, constructed in the early 1970s, sponsored by Panagiotis M. Kerchoulas from St. Joseph Michigan, worked as a creamery for 20 years. Unfortunately, due to new health regulations, the building ceased to operate since the 90ies. Since then, the building remains empty and neglected.

Recently, there was a proposal of becoming the office of the "Non-Profit Kerchoulas Company". As it is an impressive two-storey building with large spaces both internally and externally, we hope that this project will proceed.



THE FORMER POST OFFICE BUILDING

For two years, after the abolition of the Post Office and Postbank branch in Karyes, the building, which housed the above offices and property of the Community, remained in disuse.

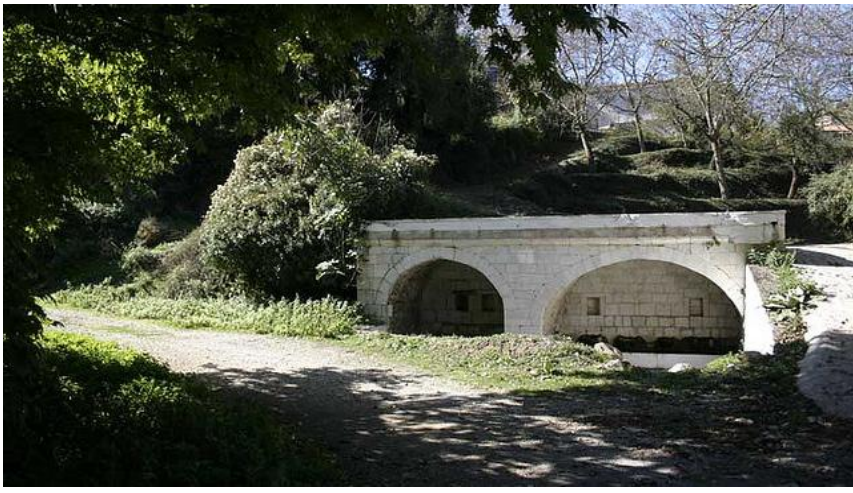
However, an appropriate action was taken and the use of the building will be delivered by the Sparta Municipality to the Karyes Cultural Club, in order to create a Gym.

The president of the Cultural Club Mr. Ioannis Mentis told us that they are on track and consultation with our compatriots in Athens for the free supply of slightly used fitness equipment.

The Board members of our Association wish to all our compatriots



MERRY CHRISTMAS and A HAPPY NEW YEAR



THE SAKALIS WATER SOURCE

A real grief emerges by the sight of the spring of Sakalis to compatriots and those visitors who can identify it, due to lack of route signs. Although the surrounding space is relatively clean, it is obvious that the site needs serious intervention, both in the spring itself as in its precinct.

Firstly, at the right side of the spring, a concrete wall has been constructed which covered partly the stone built side. In addition, the road in front is raised as it used to serve as a part of the Karyes-Varvitsa provincial road. The spring itself must also be cleaned and any marble damage must be repaired.

A few months ago, it was announced by the previous local authority a plan to use the water source for irrigation purposes using a pump to transport the water to Vergatsoula district. Eventually, the project did not proceed and by some people was considered as non profitable.

What is important now is that decisions should be taken. The S.A.K. already in 2013, filed a detailed study that proposes:

- The degradation of soil in front of the spring and the transfer of the overlying soil to the adjacent watercourse in order to increase the amount of space in front of the spring. This may require building also a retaining wall from concrete.
- The demolishing of the concrete wall which has covered the right of the spring.
- The paving of the area, placing a couple of benches and possibly the construction of stands for any events.
- The placement of signs from Rachi Square and from the Karyes-Varvitsa road and the placement of an informational sign at the spring.
- The lighting both of the spring and of its surrounding space.



THE ATHLETIC AND CULTURAL CLUB'S BUILDING IN VERGATSOULA (SKOURIS' HOUSE)

The late benefactor G. Th. Skiouris left, in his will, his house to the **Karyes Community** with the **term** to give a room to the Sports Club "O Karyatis", a second room to the Karyes Cultural Club and a third to expose his personal belongings.

Since then and according to Theodoros Mentis, the Sports Club's chairman, the Club renovated entirely the building by allocating a large amount for this reason.

However, there are a lot of things remaining to be done: Construction of exterior stairs, of a shelter-roof on the balcony, plumbing fixtures in the bathroom, systems of water supply, drainage system, fence railings, exterior lighting for the children's playground and a complete heating system. We should also note that the Sports Club covered the entire cost of painting all the frames of the building.

Currently the rooms are used as follows:

- The S. C. "O Karyatis" has an office, where there are its archives, the archives of the SKOURIS FOUNDATION and the archives the KARYES DANCING GROUP.
- The Karyes Cultural Club has an office for its purposes.
- The traditional uniforms of KARYES DANCING GROUP are being kept in a third room.
- On the ground floor of the house, all the uniforms and the special equipment of KARYES FIRE UNIT have been stored in specially built cabinets, neat and ready for use, when the need arises.



THE CHILDREN PLAYGROUNDS

Our village maintains two playgrounds, one is at the lower section of the village, at the courtyard grove of Agia Paraskevi and the Elementary school, and the other is in the courtyard of the SKIOURIS' building in the upper section of the village.

Recently new swings and slides have been delivered and the facilities are generally of a good condition.

In the next issue:

**Sports Center, Infirmary, Library
Municipal Parking, squares,
Grove of Agios Ioannis - Community Clock**

OFFER OF THE KARYATES ASSOCIATION TO ITS MEMBERS

The Board of our association wanted to thank all active members having renewed their annual subscription, decided to donate to each member of a printed panoramic photo of Karyes.

THE MUSSES STATUES

These statues are two of the statues that decorated the Omonoia Square in Athens during the interwar period. The mayor of Athens, by then Konstantinos Kotzias, placed there eight statues of the nine Mousas, while the ninth wasn't placed for aesthetic and decorative reasons. Finally, in early 50ies and after many complains by Athenians, the square was reformed and the statues were removed from this site. Two of the statues ended in Karyes, four are in the city of Karditsa, two on the island of Amorgos and the ninth was destroyed.



These two statues are a donation of the Municipality of Athens to the Karyes community, as reciprocation for the statues of Caryatids on the Erechthion Temple in Acropolis. They were transferred with the initiative of the compatriot Epaminondas Kastanas and they are placed on the main road entering the village.

On the occasion of the maintenance of the statues at the Caryatids Monument, our Association asked the opinion of the expert restorers of the Athens Technological Institute and intends to create a specific recovery plan both for the damage they have suffered and for their lighting.



KARYES LOCAL COMMUNITY NEWS

On Sunday, November 2, 2014, on the ground floor of the Community Building, an open meeting of Karyes' inhabitants took place in order to inform and prioritize projects and interventions under the program of the National Strategic Reference Framework.

Our Association sent an intervention text stating its views and positions which was read by the member of the Board Mr. Diantzikis.

At the next bulletins, there will be a more extensive and specific information for these projects in order to inform all.



CELEBRATION OF ST. DEMETRIOS 10.26.2014 AND NATIONAL DAY 10.28.2014

Taking advantage of the four-day holiday, many our compatriots from Athens and visitors from other parts of Greece flooded our village. Guesthouses showed sufficient occupancy, many houses opened and travelers from neighboring villages came to Karyes. Furthermore at Arachovitika Kalivia Hotel, the ATRAPOS club from Patra organized hiking routes around the village. On the day of St. Demetrios feast, many people filled the church in Vergatsoula (from where the photo) and at the national day of the "OCHI" anniversary, a fest celebration took place in school followed by wreath laying by teachers and students at the Iroon Memorial in the main square.



SUCCESSFUL WAS THE ORGANIZATION OF RALLY SPRINT "MOLON LAVE"

With the participation of 39 crews and many spectators, finished at Karyes the spectacular Rally Sprint "Molon Lave", organized by the Automobile Club of Sparta, in a fantastic journey through the mountain of Parnonas. The race was held on 18th and 19th of October 2014. The event's schedule included Saturday, October 18th, the technical inspection at Ford-Georgakopoulos on the 4th kilometer of Sparta-Gythio nat. road and the formal start at Sparta's Central Square.

On Sunday, October 19th at 10:30 am, the race started at Varvitsa as starting point of the special stages and finished in Karyes, where, at the central square, the prizes awarded to the winners. Ioannis and Evangelos Akratos with Mitsubishi EVO finished first in all categories. The race was also attended by the chairman of the Greek Federation of Motor Sport, Mr. Dimitrios Michelakakis.

It was an event in which the Karyes Cultural Club was strongly involved and which has brought hundreds of visitors to Karyes.

Congratulations to organizers and winners!



OUR VIVID AND ACTIVE WORLDWIDE BROTHERHOODS

It's really rare for a village of Greece, the existence of six associations and brotherhoods of compatriots worldwide.

As every year, this summer the members of our associations in North America, particularly those unable to visit Greece, met and celebrated the feasts of our village.



In Toronto, Ontario, Canada the local association, which this year celebrates its 60 years of presence, celebrated cheerfully the feast of Karyes in its proprietary «KARYES VILLAGE» with the participation of lots of people, from which these photos were taken.

The same had happened earlier in Charlotte, North Carolina, US. The brotherhood there, which is the first created abroad, organized its own feast in its proprietary «KARYES PARK» in GASTONIA.

The Karyates Association states that awaits news and photos from the worldwide Associations and Clubs in order to publish them in its news bulletins.

BULLETIN OF THE ASSOCIATION OF KARYATES WORLDWIDE
QUARTERLY PUBLICATION
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