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Dear friends of the foundation,

We are sure you all have heard about the recent shocking events in Turkey and the resulting political situation.



We can assure you that Dalyan is still a safe place, peaceful and friendly as ever.



Due to the falling numbers of foreign and local tourists it is even calmer than it used to be.



This means that you can enjoy space at the beaches and in the restaurants. As far as we know, some tour operators, pensions and hotels make special offers in these days, too.

Newsletter

“Here’s your captain speaking”

My Diary

Issue 17

August 2016

Hello Dear Friends of the Foundation,

In the previous issue of our Newsletter I finished my diary in April. Since then our Beach Hut at Iztuzu is up and running, manned by a team of dedicated volunteers and our new Manager, Muhammet Tutar. All together, we represent 5 countries - Turkey, Italy, Holland, Switzerland and the UK.

MAY:

Weather getting warmer, spring flowers and green grass and gorse decorate the high slopes above Dalyan Beach. In my garden, wisteria, jasmín, lilies, roses. Whitsun brings tourist, mostly families with children.

JUNE:

Weather getting warmer days longer, more tourists arriving!

Our Beach Hut welcomes visitors from many countries. The car-park at the Iztuzu end of the beach has been extended and the tourist boat fleet is now mostly operational. I've enjoyed a boat trip to Ekincik with friends on Kaptan Khan's boat 'Tequila' and sea turtle nesting is well underway on the beach.

We of the Kaptan June Sea Turtle Conservation Foundation redouble our efforts to inform visitors of the dangers facing sea turtles from boat propellers and sight-seeing trips held locally in order to coerce sea turtles with food and feed them. Our volunteers take brochures and leaflets to hotels and pensions for distribution to guests.

At the end of June, I fly to Berlin for a week seeing friends and discuss the possibility of publishing my books in German. Berlin is a green city with many tree-lined streets. Grunewald, a large area of forest and lakes, is part of the city. Canals abound with resultant green banks - even industrial areas are often landscaped. Tourist boat trips provide an 8 hour peaceful voyage via the canals. Culture is well-served with many theatres, museums, cinemas, exhibitions etc. My own passion for opera provided 2 evenings at the iconic Deutsche Opera with Mozart's 'Seraglio' and Richard Strauss' 'Elektra' - a feast for eyes and ears! The friend who escorted me and I enjoyed champagne between acts.

JULY:

Time flies, very hot weather continues, still managing 3 to 4 day a week at our Beach Hut HQ at Iztuzu. Some swimming in the sea or in a friends pool - cold showers in between! Boat trips feature - delightful - plus BBQ's and swimming.

Many birthdays this month (not mine, mine is in December) but friends celebrate in my garden - cakes, candles and my 4 dogs looking for tit-bits. Garden looking lovely with bougainvillea, roses and geraniums. A cold drink in the evening as I sit on the terrace - the sky glows with the sun's last rays. A welcome breeze wafts orange blossom scent my way and I reflect "how lucky I am ...".

August will see my in Italy (Umbria) for a week staying with dear friends, but more of that in my next newsletter.

Be safe and well

Kaptan June



June in Berlin enjoying a sushi



A Stamp for June



Few people can say, they were immortalized for their merits with a stamp. One of June's admirers applied to the Turkish Post and a special edition was printed.

This is her comment: 'I have been honoured with my own personal postage stamp. through my long life I have enjoyed many high-lights but this is one I could not have anticipated. Thanks everyone, especially Dalyan PTT.'

The Situation at Iztuzu Beach

During the season there were again differences about the use of the beach. Different operators claimed the right for the service of the restaurants at the beach. At one time, the beach was even cleared by the Jandarma.



Now it is all settled, Iztuzu is operated by Mugla University, with good service and decent prices.



Dear Friends, no doubt you would be very pleased that The Kaptan June Sea Turtle Foundation has supplied and fitted a propeller guards to six Dalyan boats and one to Göcek. It has been not easy to persuade a number of Kaptans to install propeller guards. They are saving turtles from injury and we are anticipating that more and more caring Kaptans will follow this trend. Just to remind our Kaptan June Sea Turtle Conservation Foundation

gives free charge and fits them to the boats without payment, too. Many thanks to Abidin Kurt who gave his time and good-will to this positive event.

Boats equipped with a propeller guard can be recognized by signs on their boats saying 'Kaplumbaga Dostu Teknesi-Turtle friendly boat'. Stan Allett, a valued volunteer from the UK, shows the propeller guard now mounted suitably demonstrating its protective qualities around a propeller. This is now on show at the beach hut and enables visitors to see exactly how the guard works. The turtles can look forward to a safer future on our waterways. Many thanks to Stan for his ingenuity in constructing this model.



Turtles Rule!

Dalyan's sea turtles have long been praised by the local populace for having brought fame and fortune to this once-modest farming village. The large turtle statue gracing the roundabout in Dalyan's centre bears witness to their popularity, and dozens of shops and the weekly market sell souvenirs featuring sea turtles.

Lately, another endorsement features an even bigger statue of Caretta Caretta complete with babies apparently ambling seawards - artistic licence wins over biological fact! Also, they're heading for the river rather than the ocean, but not to worry! This fantasy creation draws crowds of admirers to the otherwise quiet sobriety of Kings Park Dalyan boat traffic roars by - a din of combustion engines, voices, laughter and arabesque music, butTURTLES RULE !



A Shock for June

As some of you might know, in the early 90'ties June had a bear as a pet. Yes, a bear! In time the animal got too big and clumsy and playing started to be really dangerous. So, she was forced to give it away. After several enquiries a zoo in Switzerland was chosen for as a refuge for the bear. Turkish Airlines was helpful with the transport and since then the bear lives in Switzerland in the zoo of Bois du Petit-Château. From a friend she heard that a bear in this zoo had to be euthanized and she was very sad, thinking about her beloved pet. Fortunately, she learnt later that the this was Leila, the mate of her bear, who still lives, but is now single.



June held a volunteers meeting

at her home in Dalyan. She welcomed both returning and new Volunteers. The Kaptan had a big surprise when one of the volunteers, talented artist Gino Napoliello presented her with a portrait he had recently painted. For once Kaptan June was lost for words, she was so overwhelmed. Her good friend Jose, from her sailing days, was also in attendance.



A party of children from Calis Kids Club visited Iztuzu Beach and Kaptan June's Hut.

They listened very keenly to what Kaptan June had to tell them and enjoyed looking around the museum and shop at the hut. Previous to their visit, the children had been involved in a beach clean-up at their local beach in Calis, Fethiye and the topic of rubbish was very important to them. From some of the rubbish they cleared at Calis the children had created a mobile which they presented to Kaptan June to be hung in the hut. They had also made a batik wall hanging which they gave to Kaptan June.



Who are we?

In this part we introduce to you people that are active in our Foundation. This time, we will tell you about Rita Meier, one of our volunteers



Kaptan June, or simply "June" as friends use to call her, asked me if I would like to write a few lines for the News Letter and I agreed, of course.

About me: My name is Rita Meier
Borne and raised in Switzerland
I am 69 years old

I moved to Dalyan 8 years ago

My first visit to Dalyan was in 1986. Ever since, this place has engraved itself in my mind and in my soul like a first true love. I would go on vacation to Dalyan when ever I could. It was during this period when I met June and learnt about the turtles of Dalyan and started to help her with this important challenge.

While diving or snorkelling, have you ever had the chance to see a sea turtle in its element, the deep blue sea? It would be an unforgettable adventure. The animal glides through the waves with the elegance of a bird.

Unfortunately these wonderful creatures often become abused as they are tourist attractions. More and more turtles are getting seriously injured by boat Propellers, fishermen nets, fishhooks etc.

The sad result you can see when you visit the Turtle Rescue Centre at Iztuzu beach.



A proverb says prevention is better than cure.

Kaptan June's Foundation makes it possible, with your contribution, dear reader, to equip boats with the necessary propeller guards. Please help us to save the beautiful species, thank you.

Dalyan, a jewel, an untouched dreamy fisherman's village surrounded by cotton fields, orange- and lemon groves.

I have partially witnessed it with my own eyes exactly the way June experienced Dalyan and described it in her books. In those days any tourist was an exotic happening and was welcomed with open arms and hospitality. For many years Dalyan remained unknown until real estate agents discovered it and made a big business of selling land to foreigners.

Nowadays that dreamy, tiny village turned into a world famous holiday destination. People from different countries come here on vacation. Progress and development can't be stopped and I wish a happy and care free vacation for everyone.



The consequences of tourism however are beyond measurement.

Tons of debris and waste that are mindlessly thrown out, hundreds of boats that cruise the river. It's a burden upon the river, the reed delta and the living area of the turtles and fish. Large plots of green are sacrificed to the real estate boom. Humans expand their living space, nature must give way. All of this makes me sad and often I wonder: "wouldn't less be more?"

Isn't the meaning of life to give all that lives a chance to live, whether they are animals, plants, rivers or humans?

This is why I care for cats and dogs in Dalyan, that have been turned into strays by some of the locals that lack sense of responsibility. They simply throw them out in the street.

These animals have no supporting lobby, some of them suffer from maltreatment and abuse, have been chased away and are doomed to find nourishment in waste bins. Consequently, many fall ill and only a few survive.

Dear reader, next time when you come to Dalyan, please keep in mind to buy some biscuits or give a donation for the stray animals. With your support you will help them to survive and you will make this planet to a better place.

Thank you all for your kindness!

"Be grateful for all you have and for all you won't need."

From that perspective we wish you a wonderful time and maybe we will meet at your next visit here in Dalyan. Inshallah!



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find us on
Facebook

On TWITTER:



On **YouTube**

YouTube and the Web:

Just search in YouTube and Internet for "Kaptan June" and you will find many videos concerning June's and the Foundation's work



Portrait by Barbara Trottnow



Life at 'The Hut' and more...

New Agreement with a Tour Operator

Zebra Safaris, based in Fethiye, now bring their guests to the Beach Hut as part of their regular visits to Iztuzu Beach.

This is proving to be a popular stop for those enjoying trips with this colourful tour company who specialise in making their excursions different and entertaining.

We look forward to their visits!



Some members of the Thomas Cook Team

spent an afternoon in Dalyan meeting Captain June and listening to her amazing stories about her fight to ensure Iztuzu Beach and the Loggerhead Turtles stay protected. June's '56 model Volkswagen Beetle got nearly more attention than the information in our centre in the "Hut". They took the chance to visit the Turtle Rehabilitation centre, too where turtles recover from the horrendous injuries caused by many things including boats and worst of all human interaction! Followed by a little relaxation on the beautiful Iztuzu Beach. Fun for all of us!



Kaptan June spent a wonderful and interesting time with

Colinda, Mark, Dahnee, Jana and Cas at the hut. They were so eager to learn which Captain's boats are propeller-guarded, so June gave them the list of the environment and turtle friendly boats available in Dalyan. They had a very relaxed day on Kaptan Mehmet's boat and sent us this picture as a souvenir and in acknowledgement of the work the foundation does.



Some impressions of our daily work in the information centre and shop at the beach



Phil, Janine and Emily visit the Hut and have a chat with Kaptan June



Kamer Mumcuogullari visited June and the foundation. He interviewed June and wrote an article about her and the campaign to save Iztuzu and the turtles.



Quinta with Kaptan June. Quinta and her friend made bracelets for the Kaptan June foundation, and she got to give them to Kaptan June personally! It was a lovely morning at the hut!



This is the famous hut in state in June's garden, where it had to be put after being taken from its original place. From here it was dismantled and transported to Iztuzu Beach, where it had to change place again to where it is now and hopefully stays forever. Photo: Rene Voulon



We love to have large groups of children visiting our centre at the beach. They are the future of this lovely country and it is so important for all of us that they learn to understand and respect the importance of conservation our nature.



Would YOU like to be volunteer or do you know someone else who would ...

Without volunteers, we could not run our centre at the beach, distribute flyers, organize events and do all the little things that have to be done and that you don't see. PLEASE

contact us: kaptanjuneseaturtleconservationfoundation@gmail.com

