



*Leros at last...Celebrating with ...
Barbara & Neil's -October 2016.*



At last, in late October and after much anticipation, Barbara and Neil arrived on Leros for their first visit after a quick stay in the Old Town of Rhodes (Christmas shopping!). We didn't waste a minute. But we also found time to relax and soak up the atmosphere and enjoy the sun - still 25C -even swimming right up to the last day of October. We had *such* a good time....and managed to celebrate two birthdays and an anniversary!





A few snaps to sum up the atmosphere of Leros, an island we have come to feel is quite unique, still authentic, all its own and timeless, where the warmth of the climate is matched by the warmth of the people...who are stubborn, independent, quirky, and quick to laugh. It is not ideal- it is currently home to 700 refugees who arrived in small dinghies last year and are currently interned until the politicians figure out what to do with them. Typically, Lerians donate what they can, the Greek Church helps, the aid agencies help and they are now trying to integrate the children into local schools. The tourism they gradually built up from Turkey is now floundering...but they will survive as they have always done-self sufficient, proud, just getting on with it. It's a place that gets under your skin. And always that marvellous Greek light...



To those who have visited, perhaps you'll remember the "kastro" with its amazing views, the "crab chapel" the chapel where you get wet feet, Pandeli for the tavernas (above-fresh tuna) and swimming (natural fish spa included), the "souvlaki MacDonalds" grill in Platanos Square, the massive pork chops, the yummy "filled pitas" down at the port of Aghia Marina and the tiny, painted fishing boats you could tuck under your arm. And just who is that nutter in the red hat and feather boa?...a birthday reminder from Barb "to remember to have fun" (and I had to wear it to the restaurant - Greek shrugs all round...but it *was* fun! *Thank you* and for the wonderful "Otter" woodcarving. Come back **soon!!!**