



## Celebrations, Samos and Sailing with the Ship's Doctor!



On 04 Sept. we travelled home by overnight ferry from Samos to Piraeus and SAS to Copenhagen. (with no pets cabins, Tucker was banished to the ship's kennels and was not at all amused!). We spent a relaxing week at the summerhouse before joining family and friends for a wonderful evening on 12 Sept. to celebrate Kisser & Pauls' 50<sup>th</sup> (Golden) Wedding Anniversary (Jan's sister). On 16<sup>th</sup> Sept., Peter, our very own ship's physician joined us in Samos for his third trip aboard Havana.....



To avoid complicated registration procedures, we joined a tour boat for a day trip to Ephesus in Turkey. It was a great day out with a very charming and funny young Turkish guide to bring the ancient city alive. In 300BC this was the largest city of the ancient world under Alexander the Great with a population of 250,000. It was then a thriving harbour trading centre with 120 shops, rich villas with everything we have today except electricity (running water, WC's, light, heat), a library of 30,000 papyrus scrolls (connected by underground tunnel to the bordello so husbands could tell their wives they were going to do some reading...), an amphitheatre seating 25,000, chariots which ran on anti-slip paving stones, lavish temples and more. Today it lies 7 km from the sea. The river silted up, the swamps filled with deadly mosquitos and the city died. Amazingly 90% is still buried...waiting. It's incredible.





We based ourselves in Pythagorio on Samos – such a beautiful and verdant island with lovely villages and a rich archaeological heritage. 100.000 guests a year visit and we managed to run into Hundested acquaintances of Peter’s (Jan & Lone, plus Lilian & Ulla) metres from us on a beach which turned into a jolly evening onboard. We had some lovely days out- to the tiny mountain village of Manolates with it’s charming tiny crafts shops and Lucas Taverna perched high above breathtaking views...to Kokkari – a real gem on the north coast with tiny winding streets around the harbour and to the tiny bay of Poseidonion which is about as lovely as it gets with a wonderful fish taverna (and shrimp cooked in cream, garlic and mustard. Very yummy). We also visited monasteries with chapels full of golden mosaics and colourful frescoes-still fresh after 500 years, places of beauty and peace, the Eupalinos Tunnel constructed 1000 yrs ago through a mountain- a marvel of engineering -built from 2 ends with only 60 cm. difference, the temple to Hera in Pythagorio itself-once a wealthy and powerful city of 300,000 with many slaves.



To our dismay, when we returned, our loyal and hardworking (“little Havana”) dinghy had been irreparably damaged by the weight of accumulated water from thundershowers while we were away. UV sunlight weakens the rubber and the average life in the Med is 5 years. We’d hoped for another season but she just couldn’t make it. The good news was that she didn’t sink under us with outboard and all ! We now have a shiny brand new “Quicksilver” ordered from Athens and delivered by ferry. Little Havana II.