

# ARCHAEO LINK

TURNING ARCHAEOLOGY INTO HERITAGE

## A STRATEGY FOR OUTREACH

### Troina Archaeological Project, Sicily

#### **Abstract**

This report, the result of a visit to Troina in September 2015, lays out a strategy for outreach and development including the installation of a variety of features to improve the museum experience; the creation of a children's programme specific to the content of the displays created by the *Cambridge & Belfast Universities Troina Project*; suggestions for involving larger numbers of youth in archaeology; the establishment of an ethnographic museum initially based on CBTP research; proposals for the demonstration of impact; the use of site-specific educational material; suggestions of ways to enhance commercial viability of the area; and recommendations of several low cost mechanisms for encouraging visitors to the area and enhancing their experience.

#### **Invitation**

*ArchaeoLink* was invited to work in Troina by Dr. Simon Stoddart of the *Cambridge and Belfast Universities Project in Troina* [CBPT], who expressed the need for an outreach programme for the community of Troina based on their research in the area, building on the significance of the discoveries in the context of the diverse histories of the island of Sicily.

#### **Location & Description**

The town of Troina is situated 50km west of Etna in the province of Enna in central Sicily in the foothills of the Nebrodi mountains. The historic centre is spread along a ridge; the eastern end of which is dominated by a Norman tower and cathedral whose exterior still exhibits the formidable facade which greeted visitors 950 years ago. At 1121m above sea level, Troina dominates the three valleys below it, and the major inland routes from Messina<sup>1</sup> and Catania, possibly since prehistoric times. This attests to its strategic importance to Norman Count Roger Hauteville (Altavilla) who made it his Sicilian capital in 1062. The town spreads below, among the vestiges of Arab, Roman, Greek and Neolithic occupation. The *Commune di Troina* comprises an area of 163km<sup>2</sup> of habitations, light industries, farm land, pasture and forests; with a population today of 9800 reflecting a 50% decline in 50 years.

---

<sup>1</sup> Walker, L. 2007, 'Populating the medieval upland landscape of Troina: a review of published documentary sources from the 9th-15th centuries', in *Uplands of Ancient Sicily and Calabria: the archaeology of landscape revisited*, ed. M Fitzjohn, Accordia Specialist Studies on Italy, vol 13, pp.115-142In

The archaeology of Troina shows that there have been fluctuations in population in the past with highs in the Bronze Age, the late first millennium BC and the mediaeval period,<sup>2</sup> contributing to the understanding of the current underdeveloped economy as part of a cycle.

Many Troinese identify themselves with the Normans and acknowledge the Norman period as being a major episode in their history<sup>3</sup>; and this led to their being twinned with Coutances in Normandy, France, from whose port the Normans sent expeditions eventually resulting in their annexation of Sicily.

The major employer since 1950s is the *Associazione Oasi Maria Santissima* [Oasi] : a medical institution focussed on assisting people with genetic disabilities.

### **Stakeholder Goals**

**Simon Stoddart**, co-Director of the CBTP, wishes to have their research more widely understood and accessible throughout the community. He believes politics affect memory and sometimes what is represented as important, is in fact mythological: archaeology assists in separating factual evidence from fabricated evidence. He wishes to assist in making the museum a permanent feature, to produce a catalogue, publish the results to date, and possibly to carry out further fieldwork in the landscape.<sup>4</sup>

**Fabio Venezia**, the Mayor, wishes to make the heritage '*Patrimonio*' of Troina, in which he explicitly includes the C&BTP material, available to be seen, appreciated and enjoyed by both the local population and visitors.<sup>5</sup> He would like more urban archaeology. This is all part of his primary goal to revitalise the town and regenerate the historic centre using archaeology and history, the heritage of Troina, as an important facet in creating economic development.

**Silvano Privitera**, Municipality employee, uses his knowledge and extensive community network to widely promote ideas, resources and activities for the benefit of the community. He wants to see more life, with more people living and working, within the historic centre; also fewer cars. He stated he wanted visitors to feel they are "our invited guests"; to feel "our hospitality ... we want to welcome you".

**Luigi Spina**, General Manager & **Quinto Ferranti**, Commercial Manager of the Costellazione Hotel & Spa, would like to offer more leisure packages combined with events and exhibitions. They applaud the Mayor's initiative of facilitating exhibitions during the summer months to draw visitors to Troina, but desire preferably 4 - 6 months' notice of such events so they might properly package and promote them. They would like to see a *tavola di lavoro* (working group) established and would also encourage communication between neighbouring communities to avoid holding festivals on the same dates.

---

<sup>2</sup> Simon Stoddart Personal comment : 24.08.15

<sup>3</sup> Silvano Privitera Personal comment 31.08.15

<sup>4</sup> Simon Stoddart Personal comment : 24.08.15

<sup>5</sup> Public comment : August 2015

**Padre Luigi Ferlauto**, Founder and CEO of the *Associazione Oasi Maria Santissima*, would like to see greater collaboration between the Municipality and Oasi. He endorses the Mayor's programme for regeneration of the historic centre and would commend practical ideas for limiting traffic. He wishes for more creativity and, as a mark of his support for CBTP, would like to see a life-size reconstruction of a Neolithic dwelling.

**Residents** endorse the Mayor's initiatives to repopulate and regenerate the historic centre; they applauded the exhibitions; those asked said, in the context of the refugee crisis, they would welcome refugees or would not mind them being settled in some of the vacant properties; all commented on vehicular access difficulties.

**Visitors** commented enthusiastically that Troina had a lot to offer; that they knew nothing about it until they arrived (for the Capa exhibit); that they were disappointed they could not see more, due to several of the exhibitions being closed; that they would return.

### ***Challenges***

There is a marked sense, sometimes verbalised, of discord between sections of the community and Oasi which has resulted in missed opportunities for shared benefits.

### ***Resources***

Troina and the surrounding area are rich in natural and historic resources providing a fabric of heritage to sustain local, national and international interest.

### ***Areas of interest***

#### ***The Historic Centre***

The long spinal road is flanked by stone buildings and churches, dating from the mediaeval, which spill down the hill. Many features of architectural interest, together with picturesque piazzas and vistas invite exploration.

*Archaeological Zone* to the south, from the Neolithic tombs of Monte Muanà in the East, to the ruins on Picco S.Pantheon to the west, encompassing vestiges of Hellenistic walls and a necropolis, Roman baths and streets.

*Scalforio* or Arab Quarter (lit.outside-the-walls) to the east and south-east, is of intricate narrow alleys and squares. Several points of archaeological and architectural interest can be noted including the intricate door fastening system from Arab times.

### *Churches*

There are 22 churches<sup>6</sup> in Troina, most suffered during the earthquake of 1643 and were restored in Baroque and in a few cases, Rococo style. The Normans founded the *Chiesa Madre* as their cathedral in 1065. The patron saint of Troina is S.Silvestro whose miracles feature on the massive C21<sup>st</sup> doors of the *Chiesa Madre* and the ornate C17<sup>th</sup> silver catafalque.

### *Confraternita*

Societies each attached to a particular church and originally formed, some as early as C11<sup>th</sup>, to practice religious devotions and celebrate certain religious events; those in Troina attend to the funeral arrangements of their members as well as charitable acts. They are responsible for organising the procession, some in mediaeval or renaissance costume, of the representation of a saint or artefact at appropriate times.

### *The Nebrodi Mountains*

The *Azienda Speciale Silvo Pastorale* is responsible for maintaining and conserving over 10,000 acres in the Nebrodi National Park and for developing scientific, social, economic and cultural projects in order that the area can be fully appreciated. *Caserma Bracallà* is one of a few forest houses which can be rented by schools and other groups wishing to explore and enjoy the area.

### *The Ancipa Lake*

Formed by the construction of a dam across the Troina river in the 1950s, it provides water for a vast area of central Sicily. The national environmental protection NGO, *Legambiente*, has formed a well signed 12km trail for bikers, riders and walkers around the lake. They provide maps and audio guides for the trail which passes 6 points of principle interest including several stone huts believed to be of Neolithic construction.

### **Accommodation**

*La Cittadella del'Oasi* and *Hotel Costellazioni*: combine to form a 4 star hotel and spa, situated at the foot of the old town, traditionally a businessman's hotel, with extensive conference and teaching facilities.

4 B&Bs, of which two are in the historic centre: most rooms have shared bathrooms.

1 *agriturismo*, offering a countryside experience and locally sourced products, situated 12 km from Troina.

The Mayor is considering the idea of a "Diffuse Hotel": comprising a central reception area and rooms dispersed throughout buildings in the historic centre.

### **Food**

There are a number of restaurants in Troina catering to all tastes; but there is only one, *Black & White*, in the historic centre, which functions as a bar and pizzeria.

Local produce of farm cured meats, sausages and cheeses; savoury delicacies and pastries, often home made, are readily available in Troina.

*Edys* a family run chocolate maker uses local almonds and pistachios and also produces novelty sculptures.

*Gruppo Agroalimentari Italiano*<sup>7</sup> produces biological olive oil and whole grain flour and pasta, milled by stone.

---

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.troinaturismo.it/CulturaTurismoETradizioni/CHIESE.htm>

<sup>7</sup> <http://www.alimentarebiologico.it/>

## Annual Events

Many *Feste*, religious festivals,<sup>8</sup> usually organised by the appropriate *Confraternita*, occur throughout the year. The members of the *Confraternita*, dressed in traditional or mediaeval robes and carrying a bier with a representation of the particular saint, process through the streets.

Often tables are laden with traditional foods for the participants' feast.

Historical pageants and re-enactments of religious events also take place.

## Exhibitions<sup>9</sup>

A number of exhibitions, manned by volunteers, were arranged during August & September of 2015. These included: archaeology (7 cases of archaeological finds, organised by the C&BTP)<sup>10</sup>; painting exhibitions; photographic displays<sup>11</sup>; exhibits of church vestments and sacred vessels including an ornate C17th massive silver catafalque; musical instruments; ancient books and maps; reproduction mediaeval costumes; and a presentation of traditions and natural resources.

An exhibition of photographs and artifacts of the cult of *S. Giuseppe* took place in the crypts and ancient ossuaries, allowing visitors to experience these locations.

## Markets

As well as a weekly produce market, there are monthly live-stock markets and large 3 day markets and fairs in June, July and September.<sup>12</sup>

---

<sup>8</sup> <http://www.troinasviluppo.it/manifestazioni.asp>

<sup>9</sup> See Appendix for a complete list of events, traditional foods, accommodation and exhibitions.

<sup>10</sup> No formal record of museum visitors was kept, however, ca1000 people signed the visitors' book in the first month.

<sup>11</sup> The Robert Capa exhibit drew over 3000 visitors in its first 6 weeks.

<sup>12</sup> [http://www.troinasviluppo.it/fiere\\_mercati.asp](http://www.troinasviluppo.it/fiere_mercati.asp)

## ***ArchaeoLink Recommendations***

The following recommendations will assist Dr. Stoddart extend the community impact of his research in the area of the *Commune Di Troina*, and thereby also help the community obtain the widest possible educational, economic and societal benefits from its heritage, and encourage as many visitors as possible.

### **Archaeological Research, Outputs, Education and Enrichment**

**Archaeological Material in Store** : with much of Prof. Scibona's material as well as that of CBTP unexamined, it is recommended that:

- the programme of research and publication of the archaeological and landscape data resulting from the Troina excavations and survey is continued;
- major papers written only in English be translated into Italian;
- supervised archaeology students from the university of Catania and/or Enna, be involved to assist with the sorting and identification of ceramics. This would offer them practical experience and produce worthwhile results both for Troina and academics.

#### **Museum : The new Archaeology Exhibition**

The excellent archaeology displays would benefit from further contextualising, in making the objects, their functions and stories more accessible to the general public; young and old. The following would assist in giving the museum greater definition:

- the installation of a time line of eras and events, possibly in comparison with other events in Sicily and the wider Mediterranean;
- the installation of information boards relating to the chronology and to each case;
- laminated information pages for each case should be made available in a variety of languages;
- the provision of a brochure / hand-out summarising the chronology and major events;
- the provision of a fun and instructive programme for children to include touchable materials;
- the availability of academic papers and articles for further casual or deeper study preferably on a desk with a chair in the entrance foyer;
- the installation of a small case or shelving where appropriate material and books can be purchased.

#### **Youth Engagement**

##### **Students A - research programme of supervised study of the archaeology material:**

Recognising the Mayor's wish to see more urban archaeology and to obtain a more nuanced identification of ceramic finds now in storage: the supervised involvement of archaeology students from the university of Catania and/or Enna, to assist with sorting and identification of ceramics would offer them practical experience and produce worthwhile results both for Troina and academics. It would also encourage a sense of engagement and ownership of their local heritage.

**Students B - local groups:** *Legambiente* has an extensive programme for involving students and young adults in their environment, both natural and physical. Their energetic volunteers tidied up the *Ospedale dei Fratebenefratelli* site in *Scalforio*. The *Servizio Civile* (replacing military service) has young interns working in the environmental and tourism sectors. It is recommended that :

- *Legambiente* and the *Servizio Civile* are kept abreast with CBTP research and closer ties are developed, to facilitate beneficial reciprocity;
- that any projects of an archaeological nature are carried out under the supervision of trained archaeologists;
- *Legambiente* or perhaps another, form a branch of an international young archaeologist club<sup>13</sup>

**Students C - summer schools :** the opportunity exists for the *Costellazione* to link with colleges and universities in Europe and beyond to offer their facilities for summer school programmes. While the pedagogic aspect is sculpted by the educational establishment, the Hotel can liaise with the Municipality to offer a series of recreational-educational visits so that Troina's heritage and history might better be appreciated.

**Schoolchildren :** in order to develop their deeper appreciation of Troina's story and heritage, it is suggested that :

- an educational programme specific to Troina's history as revealed by its archaeology and the rural and urban environment, be written for use in elementary schools and/or children's clubs or groups;
- the model, currently stored out of view in *S.Francesco*, could be displayed in the Library or in the Museum.

Research has shown that the enthusiasm of children will lead to and encourage the enthusiasm of their parents.

**Ethnographic museum :** the establishment of a permanent museum to illustrate ways of living based on Neolithic finds and CBTP's research and moving forwards to pre-industrial living, still remembered by many, would give Troina an additional feature of interest. One in which many residents could participate, therefore engendering pride in heritage, by offering articles on permanent loan from their family collections.

**Demonstration of Impact :** Qualitative and quantitative data could be obtained by brief "Before & After" surveys in Italian, English, French and German for both adults & children. Features to include:

- anonymous online survey with assigned reference numbers;
- accessed by a QR code for use on personal phone; and/or
- a computer terminal at entrance to museum;
- an area for comments;
- incentives to provide information ranging from the promotion of the satisfaction of helping, to the promotion of the satisfaction of puzzle, mystery or game solving.

## Strategy for Tourism and Visitors

The accomplishments of the CBTP is seen not only as additional attributes to the heritage of Troina and the appreciation of such, but also as being of benefit economically in assisting to augment the blossoming tourist potential of the town. The following are recommendations for its facilitation:

**Cultural Liaison Officer** : the appointment or identification of one person, based at the Tourist Information Office (renamed “Visitor Information” or simply “Information”) would ease if not resolve several of the identified challenges outlined below. They would :

- be the liaison between the Municipality and Oasi (medical centre and hotel);
- co-ordinate exhibitions and volunteers;
- liaise between the numerous *Confraternite*, groups and societies;
- provide a visitor information service in situ or by telephone;
- hold the keys to exhibits and churches to facilitate opening when required;
- oversee the management of the “Diffuse Hotel”
- train and organise on-call guides; and
- promote Troina locally, nationally and internationally.

**Business Visitors** : the *Costellazione* hotel & spa hosts 4 major conferences a year with a total of 2000 delegates. It is therefore recommended that:

- the *Guida Turistica Troina* is placed in every delegate pack
- that a simple flyer inviting delegates to visit the historic centre, the museum and other exhibitions together with shuttle bus times, be inserted in each *Guida Turistica*;
- that the hotel and the municipality provide a shuttle bus service to and from the historic centre at appropriate times;
- that a clear sketch map of *Scalforio* be distributed so visitors may have an interesting walk down the hill.

**Medical Visitors** : Padre Ferlauto advised that the medical centre saw 5000 patients a year. These were always accompanied by at least one if not two family members. It is recommended that:

- the *Guida Turistica Troina* is given to every patient's family
- that a simple flyer of invitation to visit the historic centre, the museum and other exhibitions together with shuttle bus times, be inserted in each *Guida Turistica*;
- that a clear sketch map of disability accessible buildings and toilets be provided.

Troina enjoys a minimum of 12,000 visitors annually who arrive for reasons other than tourism. Creative ways need to be devised of encouraging them to visit the historic centre, the museum and other places of interest and to spend money in so doing.



**Special Interest Groups** : drawing upon the rich resources in the area, including the unpolluted atmosphere, the friendliness of the people and the picturesqueness of the town, small specialist groups could be encouraged to spend time in Troina. These could include:

- photography courses;
- art classes;
- historic landscape tours;
- yoga, meditation, tai-chi classes;
- ornithological groups;
- walking groups;

While some of these groups would provide their own instructors, local instructors advertising on the web, could generate visitors particularly for:

- Italian cookery classes;
- olive oil production: AGAI would like to offer a course where guests would be involved in production from picking their olives to assisting with the pressing, to bottling.
- mushroom collecting: the *Azienda Speciale Silvo Pastorale* currently offer mushroom-picking certification courses for local residents and have confirmed that they would adapt these for groups of visitors from further afield.

**Skilled Demonstrations** : people enjoy watching others at work; viewing processes of production. Where health and safety allow, viewing areas can be a draw, as the pizza maker with his wood oven at *La Ferla* will confirm. It is suggested that:

- plain glass replacing the current obscuring glass at *Edys*, will allow people to see their chocolates being made;
- a tour of the process of producing flour and then pasta at AGAI or of a cheese making, wrought iron work and of other similar activities will create features of interest to make time spent in Troina more attractive.

**Exhibition Openings** : the necessity of having these serviced by volunteers, administered by several bodies, resulted in exhibitions being closed when visitors were in the area. It is recommended that :

- a central 'body' organises a rota of volunteers to assist all exhibitions;
- signs with opening hours are clearly displayed, with
- telephone number(s) to be called in the event of unforeseen closure;
- during low-season, telephone attendance be available.

**Casa Sollima** : this house, frozen in time, if sympathetically and faithfully restored to its former elegance, would make an additional and unique point of interest to the area. Opened to the general public it would draw many visitors. Further revenue could be achieved by it being rented for weddings, functions and to film and television crews wishing to recreate the times of *Il Gattopardo*. It is suggested that:

- an appropriate investor is canvassed for the project;
- in preparation, the history of the building and its inhabitants be researched.

**La Notte Bianca Event** : was a success. Some consideration might be given to a well promoted Christmas Fair or Market to draw in visitors. Arrangements need to be made well in advance, perhaps starting in January for Christmas 2016. This would give the hotels ample time to market special stay packages to showcase the event.

**Accommodation** : most of the B&B's current accommodation need to be brought up to at least 2 star standard to attract visitors who have funds to spend in the town. Furthermore current legislation prohibits expansion unless the owner lives on the property. It is recommended that :

- the *Municipio* writes to B&Bs suggesting they upgrade rooms to en-suite and to provide wifi access;
- the owners of B&Bs be invited on a fact finding tour of *Le Querce di Cota* to understand the style of renovation and decor that can be achieved;
- the regulation requiring owners of B&B to be resident in the building be reviewed for those wishing to add neighbouring buildings to an existing B&B. This would accord with the concept of "Diffuse Hotel";
- the plan for a "Diffuse Hotel" be implemented and initially be centred in the Tourism Office – the eventual commissions earned from private owners would help defray the office expenses.

**Access to Troina**: this is limited, as there is no railway connection, to private car or bus, typically a 1 or 2 hour journey respectively, from Catania. A heliport exists, with two companies based in Catania to offer quotations for the trip. This option should be offered to any special interest tour group gathering information.

**Collaboration** : both the community (*Commune*) of Troina and Oasi have much to gain from closer collaboration and information sharing. It is recommended that someone be given the responsibility of liaising between the parties. For example, in advising the Hotel in good time of special Municipality events so they may be packaged for sale; in advising the Municipality of conferences when large numbers of visitors can be invited to the museum and Historic Centre; in arranging for the shuttle-bus to operate; in ensuring shops and restaurants are also aware of special events and can react accordingly. It would be advantageous and prestigious if the 4 star *Costellazione Hotel & Spa* procured a minibus suitably branded to be used to ferry guests to and from the Historic Centre, especially during high volume occasions, to relieve the necessity of people having to use their own cars.

**Traffic Congestion** : A vast number of cars enter the historic centre in the mornings bringing almost 400 people to work; repeating the journey in the evenings. With the *Navetta* carrying only 18 passengers at a time, and taking 75 minutes to complete a round trip, most people have little choice but to use their cars. With few parking spaces and barely any drop-off room, this causes much congestion and undoubtably wear and tear along the historic streets. The long-term solution is thought to be the construction of car parks and escalators; however in the short term it might be effective if the Municipality asks drivers to ensure they have at least 3 passengers before ascending the hill – this might be achievable if a transit area is provided, perhaps at the *Piazza Gramsci*, where drivers can collect passengers from other cars leaving those drivers to continue their journeys. If the *Costellazione* acquired their own minibus, special arrangements could be made for its use as a shuttle, to supplement the municipality bus, at peak times.

**Tourist Information Office** : the cost/benefit quandary of maintaining this was evidenced by its being closed throughout my visit; in spite of visitors being around. *Trayna Travel* informally assists those visitors who ask in passing. The touch-screen sign by the square is no replacement for a human voice. Consideration might be made to having the tourist office staffed by someone who is fulfilling another, perhaps complementary, role. However, while the office is closed, it is suggested that:

- a telephone be installed, easily accessible by the public, with a direct line to an appropriate person who can supply required information.

**Brochures** : the recently published *Troina Civitas vetustissima* gives an outline of Troina's history and a few details of most of the prominent buildings and churches; it is a pleasant souvenir for visitors. The addition of information covering the last century; the Wars, construction of the dam and foundation of Oasi, together with reference to the museum and an indication of local produce, would help to make the guide complete.

**Maps** : the *Troina Civitas vetustissima Cartina Turistica* identifies many buildings of interest and is of a minimum scale.

**Guides** : provide instruction for a number of volunteers, about Troina in general, as well as on particular aspects or places of interest. This will help spread the knowledge of Troina's heritage among more of the community and also give them the opportunity to interact confidently with visitors in passing on information.

These guides can be :

- on call at certain times;
- available at conference times to interact with delegates;
- offer tours of certain areas at fixed times to residents and visitors;
- be available to visiting special interest groups.

**Signage** : places of interest are well indicated throughout Troina together with informative panels beside buildings or locations of historic note. However, some of the large information panels on the main roads leading into Troina need adequate access and space to safely park a vehicle. Large semi-circular panorama tables placed by the railings in the square and at other view points, eg. looking south east towards Mt Etna, south to the Monastery of S.Michele Vecchio and Nuovo, west to the Rocca S.Pantheon, or, on the other side to the north,, to the Ancipa Dam, the Troina valley with its water mills, and the Church and Convent of S. Agostino, noting landscape, archaeological and other features of interest, would be useful additions and if in 3D could be appreciated by people with sight impairments.

**Wifi** : free wifi is the mark of an area which understands the importance of access to information and connectivity. Unfortunately the cumbersome process<sup>14</sup> of accessing Troina's wifi can take between 12 – 15 minutes and thus be quite frustrating. It is suggested that:

- the barriers to access be largely removed;
- a simple login, providing an email address gives immediate, free and forthwith automatic access.

---

<sup>14</sup> Involves, registering, calling an Italian phone number, then texting the phone number at each log in.

**Troina's Website** : some effort has been made to modernise the site and the home-page video is excellent. Unfortunately subsequent pages leave much to be desired being too cluttered and with some information needing to have 5 or 6 pages loaded before it is found. It is suggested that:

- a thorough review is undertaken to make the information accessible;
- the list of festivals should be clearly listed on one page so visitors may select the best times to visit.
- some pages from the older site be retained. These are those which group all information in one category on one page : unlike the new pages which have the same information spread over 7 pages making it tedious to obtain:

I reference the *Azienda Speciale Silvo Pastorale's* website which is uncluttered and easy to navigate. As this is Troina's way of reaching not only nationals but also the world, it would be advantageous if the website was available in English, French and German.

**Beautification** : Troina has done much to restore and beautify its heritage; two further suggestions:

- the re-routing of power lines, particularly those that mar the facades of the churches on the terrace;
- encourage floral balconies, especially along via Garibaldi, by offering monthly awards for the most floral building, or most colourful balcony.

**Re-enactments** : currently historical events such as Count Roger's entrance into Troina and Charles V visit are celebrated by local processions in mediaeval costumes. Many groups now exist in Britain and Northern Europe who specialise in portraying life as it was lived in a particular period. They travel to towns during the summer months, set up camp and conduct daily life and sometimes markets and battle scenes. Many groups are true 'amateurs' who carry out re-enactments for their own amusement and those of townspeople for little more than their travelling expenses. Such a group, invited to Troina to portray life in, for example, the late Neolithic would draw tremendous interest from near and far.

**The Archaeological Area** : until a high level of funding is available to initiate and develop an appropriate programme of research, it is suggested that:

- minimal cutting of grasses and shrubbery be undertaken once a year so that existing features (walls) may be easily seen;
- no further cleaning or clearing should be undertaken as current vegetation assists in the protection of this vulnerable site;
- that the 2cm<sup>2</sup> grill currently obscuring the section opposite the education facility is replaced with a more user-friendly perimeter;
- that a detailed information board be installed so features may be easily identified.

Ideally the whole area should be the subject of an ongoing programme of excavation and study, in co-operation with the *Sezione per i beni archeologici* of the *Soprintendenza* of Enna, combined with student training programmes and simultaneous public explanations and tours. The result would be an exposed area with appropriate walkways, signs and viewing points.

### ***Concluding Remarks***

The *ArchaeoLink* team is available to discuss any aspects of this report further and would be pleased to assist and McDonald Institute and/or the Municipality of Troina to advance any of the proposals or recommendations herein; now or at a future date.

Patricia Duff  
Project Director

November 2015

## APPENDIX

### Accommodation

*Costellazione Hotel & Spa*; situated at the foot of the old town, traditionally a businessman's hotel, serving the conference centre.

76 rooms (sleeping up to 122) all en-suite, with an auditorium, conference, leisure, spa and dining facilities.

Caters to:

- 4 conferences a year with a total of approximately 2000 delegates;
- families visiting the medical facility
- weekend spa breaks
- commercial visitors

*B&B Idria*; situated in the street below historic centre with panoramic views.

4 rooms (sleeping up to 3 each) each with desk & TV, 2 shared bathrooms, communal sitting room w/fridge, coffee machine & TV.

*B&B Al Centro Storico*; situated near historic centre, currently upgrading to provide 5 double rooms each with en-suite bathrooms, TV, wifi & adequate a/c, 3 with kitchenette. Offer tour of Troina.

Would expand, but current legislation regulating B&B requires owner in residence.

*B&B Borgo*; 5 rooms (a triple with en-suite, 3 singles, 1 double) each with TV, 2 shared bathrooms, terrace, communal breakfast room, some parking, near shuttle, situated in Borgo area of cafes and shops near via Garibaldi. Entrance and stairs decorated with displays of traditional implements, Greek & Roman antiques.

*B&B Nebros*; situated at the foot of the old town, north side, recently constructed, in the most recently developed area of Troina.

9 rooms (6 triples with en-suite, 3 doubles each with private separate bathroom) restaurant, banquet room, bar and swimming pool. Caters for weddings and parties; ready to develop more rooms when needed.

*Agriturismo Le Querce di Cota*; situated 12 km from Troina.

9 rooms, all en-suite, each with TV, wifi, split level restaurant, pool.

Delightfully converted stone buildings around a central courtyard. Tastefully designed and decorated with traditional and rustic implements.

Excellent cuisine from locally sourced products.

An informative 3km walk, proximity of animals and disabled facilities are additional attractions.

Guests can assist with farm practices such as olive picking and milking sheep.

Bicycles are available as is horse-riding.

Meet & assist at Catania, transfers and a tour are provided for a minimum 5 day stay.

The Mayor is considering the idea of a "Diffuse Hotel": comprising a central reception area and rooms dispersed throughout buildings in the historic centre.

## Food

There are number of restaurants in Troina catering to all tastes; but there is only one, *Black & White*, in the historic centre, which functions as a bar and pizzeria.

Local delicacies, often home made, are easily available in Troina :

Arancini: rice balls with various stuffings, traditionally bolognese sauce and cheese, then deep fried;

Vastedda: a baked bread stuffed with ham and cheese and flavoured with dried elder flowers;

Nfasciatieddi: puff pastry rolled around lemon and orange peel with a thick prickly pear syrup;

Paste: biscuits made with pistachios or almond pastes;

Cudduri: pastry stuffed with nuts, raisins and prickly pear syrup.

Casatelle: puff pastry stuffed with almonds and chocolate.

Pignuccata: deep fried rich pastry balls, covered with caramel or honey

Caruzza: sweet, heart shaped sponge cakes.

Cannoli: light pastry or doughnut tubes stuffed with either ricotta and deep fried, or a custard and baked.

## Annual Events

Many *Feste*, religious festivals,<sup>15</sup> usually organised by the appropriate *Confraternita*, occur throughout the year. The members of the *Confraternita*, dressed in traditional or mediaeval robes and carrying a bier with a representation of the particular saint, process through the streets. Often tables are laden with traditional foods for the participants' feast.

San Silvestro - 2<sup>nd</sup> January – mass & at midday nuts are thrown to the crowd from a balcony

Sant'Antonio Abate - 16<sup>th</sup> January – bonfires are lit in ancient tradition on the eve of the saint's day.

Carnival Tuesday – before Lent – festive parade of floats and masked costumes.

San Giuseppe - 19<sup>th</sup> March – procession of robed *Confrati* bearing replica of Saint, followed by traditional feast.

Madonna Annunziata - 25<sup>th</sup> March – mass in the Chiesa del Carmine.

Holy Week - Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday – groups from 11 *Confraternite* process from their ecclesiastical seats to the *Chiesa Madre* singing hymns appropriate to the passion of Christ.

Holy Friday – at twilight – a procession from the Oratorio of the White *Confraternita* winds through the mediaeval streets.

Easter Sunday – at midday – a procession of several *Confraternite* to celebrate the Risen Christ.

Low Sunday – a procession to return the Lady of Easter from her week's stay in the *Chiesa di S.Luciato* to the *Chiesa di S.Nicolò Scalforio*.

Festa dei "Rami" - penultimate Sunday in May – branches are collected from the woods and returned to Troina.

Festa "D'a Ddarata" – last Sunday of May -

S.Silvestro decent of Fercolo - 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday in June

S.Silvestro ascent of Fercolo - 1<sup>st</sup> Monday in June -

Kubbaita – festival celebrating Charles V entry to Troina.

Vastedda cu Sammucu - 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in June – feast of local products.

Corpus Domini – 60 days after Easter – procession of SS.*Sacramento* with *Confraternita* from the *Chiesa Madre*.

Sant'Antonio Abbate - 13<sup>th</sup> July – the saint's statue is taken in procession by the *Confraternita* through the streets.

Madonna Assunta - 15<sup>th</sup> August – celebrations honouring the mother of Christ.

San Rocco - 16<sup>th</sup> August – procession of the saint's statue with the *Confraternita*.

Madonna della Lavinia - 7<sup>th</sup> September – an all night pilgrimage to Cerami

San Silvestro - 9<sup>th</sup> September – the saint's statue is taken to S.*Agostino* where it remains until the 2<sup>nd</sup> successive Sunday when it returns to the *Chiesa Madre*.

Vergine Immacolata - 8<sup>th</sup> December – commencement of Christmas festivities including a Nativity re-enactment in the streets of Troina.

## **Exhibitions**

A number of exhibitions, manned by volunteers, were arranged during August & September of 2015, including:

*Archaeological Museum*: 7 cases organised by the C&BTP.<sup>16</sup>

*Robert Capa*: a photographic exhibition which draw 3000 people in its first 6 weeks.

*Il Mio India*: a small photographic exhibition of India.

*Troina: I luoghi della memoria: a photographic exhibition*.

*Il Culto di San Giuseppe di Troina*: photographs and material culture appertaining to the *Confraternita di S. Giuseppe*; exhibited in the crypts and ancient ossuaries.

*Il Fercolo di S. Silvestre*: the ornate C17th massive silver catafalque used to carry the image of the saint in processions was on view in the church of S. Giorgio.

*Geatano Miani*: exhibition of paintings.

*Mariano Scorciapino*: exhibition of paintings.

*I Nebrodi*: an exhibition of the history, traditions and natural resources of the mountains.

*Mostra Bibliografica*: antique historical and geographical books from the Troina Library.

*Costumi Storici*: display of reproduction Mediaeval costumes worn during the *Feste*.

*Sassofoni Storici*: display of saxophones.

*Antica Cattedrale Normanna*: exhibition of church vestments and sacred vessels.

*SS. Salvatore*: exhibition of church vestments and sacred vessels.

---

<sup>16</sup> No formal record of museum visitors was kept, however, ca 1000 people signed the visitors' book in the first month.