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SICILY - LAUGHTER AND TEARS.

Spring has already arrived in Sicily - and to Agrigento, dancers and Musicians from many lands have come for the annual spring festival, including a British contingent from the Royal Marines.

Some of the visitors came from mountain villages which are still buried deep in snow, to perform in this sun-drenched Mediterranean town.

Buildings as old as time look down on the international festival - and what better season than springtime to forget old quarrels and make new friendships?

But the spring has brought havoc to Scaletta, a hundreds miles away on the island's eastern coast. A landslide has sent huge boulders crashing through homes and fields, destroying almost the whole of the village. Scaletta was built on a headland and so owing to coastal erosion, is slipping into the sea.

Nothing can be done to save the doomed village - the people of Scaletta must abandon the homes and the rich olive groves where their ancestors have lived and worked for countless generations.