

84th Edition

The Agiot

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Village News

By Paul McGovern
Editor

Welcome to a new website for the Agiot on this 84th Edition, created by Kostas McGovern.

We hope you like it. There is simple functionality and none of the awkwardness of downloading required to have been able to read this little magazine over the last seven years.

There is also the option for you to comment on any of the articles you find here, on the page.

Please let us know what you think and come forward with suggestions to improve it. After all, it is your magazine.

We call it the Agiot [a derivative of Agios Ioannis], but we don't think for a second it is reflective of this special village at all. No, it is not the whole cake, merely a slice.

There are 101 Agios Ioannis' and each are quite unique, overlapping here and there to be sure, as is the nature of the interconnectedness of all things. But separate at the same time.

The month following the Agiotfest has been a particularly lovely one for us in terms of the return of old friends from thirty to forty years past, from England.

Terry and Sheila Lawrence arrived from Faversham, Kent with their daughter Katie, and her boyfriend Sam. What an honour it was to share a fine lunch with them at Lakones, on a beautiful day overlooking the sea, where in the



"Katie and Sam
At Villa Theodora"

midst of the meal Sam proposed and Katie accepted. Not a dry eye.

After these dear old, and new, friends departed along came John and Elaine Christie from Peterborough to spend a week at Villa Theodora. What fine japes here and the Spider Bar got some useful late-night business.

Late season BBQ time is always a joy and we had two fine ones in our garden, these friends supplemented by the famous Stuarts from Edinburgh and Ron and Lesley Woolven from Canterbury.

Hi All

Alex and Steph have given us the most beautiful gift of a granddaughter born 15/08/14 at 8.20pm after only 4hrs labour!!

Her name is Pearl and she weighed 7lb 12ozs. Daddy, Mummy and baby all well and Nannie and Grandpa doing good too.

Loads of Love
Nannie Stel and Grandpa Bas
xxxxxxx



October shapes up to be even busier with guests, so the holiday season is set to go out with a bang.

Don't forget the Corfu Beer Festival is on from next week! Anybody interested in a bus from Central Corfu to Arillas should leave a comment here.



A Magical Occasion

by
The Minstrel

It was a cracker. Our biggest crowd to date enjoyed a magical night under the Corfu moon.

All the acts performed with their hearts. It showed and it sounded.

Read these accompanying articles to get a flavour of a truly inspired week. Yes, week!

There is a steady build-up from the previous Monday, as fans start to drift in from abroad. Then the Fallout arrived on Wednesday and was at our unplugged session at Ma Cocette, Kanoni on the Thursday.

This was a taste of things to come. The sound-checks on the Saturday morning went well and before we knew where we were the show went on, the bands were on and the dancing was on. Many of us stumbled to the Spider Bar after the show, to emerge blinking in the dawn several hours later. A certain Scotsman, who we are not allowed to name, did a quite spectacular

dance atop a bar stool!

The party spilled into the Sunday and still on Monday evening Ray Bachan was in the taverna, entertaining us on the guitar and going through strings like a locust.

The Agiotfest is now well-established, so again the best of thanks and wishes to our special core of helpers and volunteers, without whom it would all be an impossibility:

Diane Carden, Chas Clifton, Peter Cookson, Sue Done, Elina Mantzarou, Rob Groove, Paul Grove, Ken and Jan Harrop, Spyros Hytiris, Sophie Jensen, Dimitris Krokidis, Jimmy, Kostas McGovern, Peter McGovern, Dick Mulder, Kostas Panaretos, Peter Papageorgiou, Brenda Pangrakiotis, Spiros Revis, Sally's Bar Ipsos, Paul and Jan Scotter,, Michael Spiggos, Lucy Steele, Bill Vrionis, Adrian Ward, Richard Wilson.



"All ages love Agiotfest"

Agiotfest

Links

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1427706954166861/?context=create&source=49>

<http://www.pinterest.com/agiotfest/>

<http://www.agiotfest.com>

<https://fabrily.com/agiotfest14>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/the100plusclub/?fref=ts>

<https://twitter.com/>

<https://www.facebook.com/corfubeerfestival?fref=ts>

<http://corfuwall.gr/festivals/agiotfest-2013.html>

[http://www.robgroove.com/photography/agiotfest-2013/#prettyPhoto\[gallery-5959\]/22/](http://www.robgroove.com/photography/agiotfest-2013/#prettyPhoto[gallery-5959]/22/)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=61beYf24Ux0>

<http://realcorfu.com/?s=Agiotfest>

<http://www.the-green-island.co.uk/>

Agiotfest Sponsors



Fully licensed under Greek law, OCA Y Property Services offers both land and property for sale, mostly in the central region of Corfu. They can also handle the

entire design and construction of a home including all licences, taxes, etc.

Daylong have been working in the compression hosiery market for over 50 years and have a wealth of experience in providing the right solution for their customers. They stock one of the widest ranges of products available in the UK including specialist medical products, sports ranges and a full range of fashionable support stockings and tights.



Design of temporary structures in tube and fittings and various proprietary scaffolding systems including temporary roofs, facade shores and difficult access solutions all designs carried out in accordance with all current British and European standards and regulations.

If you are looking for a travel agent who will spend the time to come up with the exact holiday that you want, in the right place and at the right budget for you, and knows what they are talking about as well, Spear Travels can provide a huge choice and offer holidays with the smaller tour operators that are often not available on the High Street.



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Boatman's World is a full service chandlery adjacent to Gouvia Marina in Corfu, Greece.

Green Island

Holiday Accommodation on the Greenest Island of Greece: Corfu. Specialized in the Dutch & the British tourist market

Vrionis

With us since 2009, every year Bill Vrionis supplies the best of sound and lighting. Visit his excellent shop on town

British Corner Shop

The largest selection of British food in Greece. Favourite leading brands including Waitrose groceries and Iceland frozen foods. Plus a selection of confectionery, ice cream, soft drinks, beers & wine, dairy produce, household cleaners, personal care, newspapers, magazines and greetings cards.

Sunrise Cars

Discover the hidden beauties of the island with the hospitality and security of Sunrise Rent a Car. Situated on the main road opposite the customs buildings at the New Port, this company has been operating since 1980 and due to its experience can offer the best services and prices.

Nikos Pouliasis

A local and much-respected architect and Mekanikos, Mr Pouliasis has been designing houses across Corfu for many years. He is always kind, patient and fair-minded. Also, his rates are consistently competitive!

And:

NSK

Sally's Bar



Paul & Jan Scotter

Ken & Jan Harrop

Steve Young

Jo & Mel Sperling

Lionel Mann

Sue Done

Tavola Calda

Nikolas's Taverna, Agni

Vassilis Pandis

In Action gym

Star Bowl

Greg Zoxios

La Tabernita Mexicana

Barry & Stella Knight

David Dickinson

Sarah Young

Simon & Lin Baddeley

Bob & Jill Carr

Chas Clifton

Rob Groove

Michael Spiggos, Firebrand Radio

<http://www.firebrandrr.co.uk/michael-spiggos/>

Dimitris Krokidis

<http://corfuwall.gr/>

Tony Barker

<http://villaoasiscorfu.com/>

Adrian Ward

<http://realcorfu.com/>

Maria. Driving School

Spyros Kouloudis. Dentist

Martin & Tracey Stuart

Posidonio Restaurant Agios Giordis

Aqualand

Gouvia Marina

Hotel Telesillas, Kontokoli

Sephora Shop

Compass Café, Kontokoli

Big Bite Restaurant, Benitses

Agiotfest isn't Glastonbury so what!

On reflection
by Sue Gentry Done PPP

Agiotfest 2014 is over or is it? It may not be Glastonbury but so what!

Well another year is over and already thoughts are with Agiotfest 2015 - will there be one, who will play? Watch this space is all I can say at this juncture.

WOW - another great Agiotfest with the largest crowd to date. Thanks to everyone who helped make this year such a success - there are so many people who contribute in so many different ways - too many to mention so one b i g T H A N K Y O U , EYXAPICTOYME to everyone - our sponsors, the performers, the workers, and of course the audience.

How was Agiotfest 2014 for me?

Honestly 'busy' is the word that first comes to mind but secondly enjoyable, fun, great music, big crowd, lots of familiar faces and many new ones too.

Why busy?

Well I was joint compere(with Richard Wilson & some greek translation by Fonda Grammenos), charity wristband lady, t shirt person, general dogsbody person. Plus trying to be a person in the crowd too.

So firstly to the compere bit - I know it has been mentioned that I had notes - well several reasons for that - I didnt know for sure what I would need to say until the day before and those notes were typed up on Friday ready for use on Saturday. I am a very busy person with my fingers in many pies - I help with Agiotfest out of the goodness of my heart - so if anyone

has an issue with me not learning my 'script' then my answer to you - come and do it yourself and put all the hours into the festival that I have this year!! Rant over - well maybe.

Enough of all that I loved being compere but would prefer to be a face in the crowd and have the time to really enjoy the festival, savour every moment and dance the night away. My duties semi finished before the Fallout so I was at least able to relax and dance to this great young rock band from Manchester.

The festival for me like for others has been going on for months with meetings with Paul to discuss the finer details and prepare job lists running up to the event. Paul's job lists are massive and he can keep them - all I can say is I dont know how he manages to do everything he does - he is amazing and doesnt like anyone to say so. The festival flows despite the enormity of what has to be done - of course Paul is backed by the wonderful Lula who keeps the cogs turning and is the support you dont see and without her it simply would not happen.

Who played Agiotfest 2014?

This year saw mainly local artists perform, there really is so much talent on this beautiful island. Sadly Perfect Strangers were unable to perform due to a death in one of the artists families. However the show went on and we hope to see them play at a future festival.

The show was opened by a talented young violinist called Artemis preceeded by a song from her mother. Not only is Artemis a musician she is also an up and coming artist and we were lucky enough to have some of her work on display for people to view.

Our 2 surprise guest of the evening was Maria Voulgari, a talented local singer and guitarist, who stormed onto stage with her powerful voice. A brave and confident singer/songwriter, Maria is putting together her own band. Be sure to watch out for her in the weeks to come, here on our musical island of Corfu. Maria joined The Fallout at the unlugged event at Ma Cocotte.

Next 3 and The Cuckoo took to the stage, they are a very popular, well established local Corfiot band. They played to the crowd and gave a strong performance all round. This gifted band played for us under the rising of the Corfu moon.

Our 3rd surprise guests of the evening were Nicola and Dan from the very popular 4 Square who played at Agiotfest 2010 & 2011 with their folk band from Manchester. It was wonderful to have them back to perform a few songs for us. They played with their usual panache and professionalism.

They were followed by The Mojo Bunch Blues Band - lead singer Peter Papageorgiou had said to me to say that they were not professionals in my introduction of the band - but I decided not to and am I glad I didnt - they gave a tight performance with variety and they are defintely a band to watch out for in Corfu. They have since played a set at Sallys Bar in Ipsos as part of the 100+ club draw event and they were brilliant.

An interlude where the raffle with 17 great prizes was presented by Lucy Steele ably assisted by Nicola and Dan from 4 Square.

Continued on Page 5

Agiotfest isn't Glastonbury so what!
Continued from Page 4

The climax of the festival was an outstanding performance by the young rock band The Fallout from Manchester. In the crowd I heard the comment that 'they are the best rock band I have ever seen perform live in Greece'. The 4 lads - Josh, John, Alex & Nic are very talented musicians and the set they played included many of their own songs. People were also pleased to hear some cover versions and the dance floor saw plenty of action with people of all ages dancing the night away. The Fallout also played an unplugged set on the Thursday night before Agiotfest at Ma Cocotte in Kanoni and we saw the raw talent of these young musicians. It was a pleasure to meet them, true gents with talent to match.

All the performers were great and there was something for everyone.

It was super to see such a wide age range in the audience with families and friends enjoying the festival together.

What does Glastonbury have that Agiotfest does not ?

More toilets - many different varieties too, if you would like more information please feel free to ask!

Mud mud glorious mud - you definitely need your wellies for Glastonbury - we were lucky to miss the rain by 2 days at this years Agiotfest - phew!! My purple wellies were ready and waiting should they have been needed - instead I sported a pair of vegan pink check DM style boots - well I needed something comfortable for all that running around with my many different hats!

More stages & more bands, lots more walking too.

Lots of food stalls & things to

buy - we hope more people will bring a stall next year to Agiotfest.

But - lets remember that Glastonbury costs nearly 14 times as much to attend plus all the travel costs to get to the event too. So basically Agiotfest is a bargain by all accounts.

Did you know that Glastonbury 2015 tickets go on sale this week and will be sold out in an hour with no bands having been announced. All I can say is Have the Faith - Agiotfest 2015 will be worth the ticket money which we will not ask you to part with until the line up is announced.

Please join our facebook page to keep up to date with any events happening as part of the Agiotfest 'roadshow' - truthfully it never stops - it is either being planned or happening and there are lots of smaller events in between.

Fingers crossed for Agiotfest 2015 - the decision wont be made until the decision is made - we need willing volunteers to help with the enormity of the task of organising and promoting the festival. Please contact either Paul or myself if you would like to be a part of the Agiotfest team and once again thanks to all those that already are.

Another year bites the dust (thankfully not mud!) - let the plans for Agiotfest 2015 begin.

Sue Done Ice Bucket Challenge

<https://www.facebook.com/video.php?v=10204868669059229&set=vb.1314579529&type=2&theater>

The 100+ Club

In association with the Agiotfest.



The 6th draw of year 2 was held 26th September, at Sally's Bar Ipsos Rose Curley a non- member, drew out the number.

The winner was Barbara Williams, a new member, winning 100€

Number of people present 60+.
Members present 6.

Excellent evening thank you to all who attended.

Thank you to Sally Rob & Rachel, for hosting the event.

A big thank you to the 76 members who support The 100+ Club, also a big thank you to:

Paul & Jan Scotter central area co-ordinators, Sally Tinkler Ipsos area Co-ordinator, North area Co-ordinators, Louise Taylor & Sandra Klouda. Agiotfest, Paul & Lula McGovern.

The Mojo Blues Bunch Band, fresh from their success at Agiotfest, provided the lively music! Thanks lads!

In Conversation with The Fallout

By
Hilary Paipeti

Josh Stokes, Alex Lacey, Nic Southwood and John Clapper - names you will hear more of. They are of course the four members of The Fallout, the star turn at this year's AgiotFest, the amazing annual rock event which took place at the end of August.

They are surely going places, but have not come out of nowhere. Aged in their mid-twenties, and four years together as The Fallout, they've been playing in bands for about a decade already. 'It's been a long process building towards what we are,' they tell me. 'Today, everyone's looking for instant fame, gained on the basis of who you know. We do it the older way. We graft, put the time in, and aim to get the respect of our peers.'

It's working; The Fallout is resident band at Manchester's prestigious Hard Rock Cafe. They

have got 'day jobs' (guess which one's the personal trainer!), but regard themselves as 'semi-professional'.

Around 70% of their material is self-penned, though towards the end of a gig they play a few covers. The trip to AgiotFest was their first performance outside the UK.

'When the inquiry came, we never thought we'd be coming to Corfu,'

they reflected. 'It's usually nonsense, but here we are! And Corfu's been good to us.'

Staying at Villa Theodora in Agios Ioannis, the band got to see the more Greek side of the island (though I believe they did visit Aqualand). And they experienced a good wedge of Corfu's musical culture - though alas not a traditional panegyri. Two nights before AgiotFest, they performed an acoustic gig at Mon Cocotte in Kanoni, where they met sponsors

and other musicians. Then they attended a Joe Lynn Turner concert at the Rena Vlachopoulou Theatre in Mon Repos park on the Friday night. Wind-down after AgiotFest was a trip to a Greek night club.

And AgiotFest itself?

'It was an interesting environment, and a good stage. But what was funny from a musician's point of view was that the audience was in a strange place. You can't see out because of the lights, and we didn't expect a lot of the applause to be coming from the side as well as from the front!'

And how did they think it went?

'We take every gig as it comes, but that was a great gig. It was the icing on the cake of a very good trip.'

Find out more about The Fallout at www.the-fallout.co.uk

PROPERTY SITE

WE APOLOGISE FOR THE INTERRUPTION TO OUR PROPERTY SITE AT WWW.PROPERTYCORFU.ORG, OWING TO TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES.

WE ARE CREATING A NEW SITE WHICH WILL BE COMPLETE BY NOVEMBER 1ST.

IN THE MEANTIME PLEASE GO TO OUR OTHER SITE AT <http://www.ocaypropertycorfu.com/>

OR MAIL US DIRECT AT mcgovern@otenet.gr
THANK YOU.

Here is a recent photo of our build in the valley.



OCAY VILLAS

KEEP CHECKING OUT OUR SITE AT

www.ocayvillascorfu.co

for your Corfu holiday next year.

There will be an even wider choice of villas, apartments across the Island for you to dip into and choose the one that suits you and your pocket.



Agiot 2014 Raffle

Again this year our **Sixth Agiotfest!** we held a very successful Raffle and the response was just as enthusiastic as in previous years, if not more so! There were seventeen (17) good-quality prizes and all were claimed and appreciated!

Once again, we maintained our lower ticket price of only **2euros** and the Raffle was well supported by our friends, both local and from abroad. This ticket price is fair and we will do our best to ensure that it will not increase at any time in the future; it will remain at only **2 euros** !

As always, we were very impressed with the high level of support we

received from one and all, and it is very encouraging to know that, despite our present financial restrictions etc., we can always find some cash to help those less fortunate than ourselves!

In our continuing effort to support local charities we have again, this year, made three donations to the following whom we considered most in need:

**Corfu Donkey Sanctuary,
Doukades
Medical Centre, Corfu town
State-run Old Peoples Home,
Perama**

We think it is important that you,

our supporters, are aware of where we donate and our reasons for doing so. In that respect I will prepare a separate article, in this issue, for your information.

We have some exciting new ideas for the future and advise you to watch our brand-new Website and Facebook for regular updates/activities.

We are looking forward, with much enthusiasm, to all the activities during the run-up to our 2015 Annual Music Festival – for the **seventh** year running!

Lucy STEELE, M.B.E.
Raffle Organiser

Agiotfest 2014 - Raffle Donations

CORFU DONKEY SANCTUARY

At Doukades, near to Paleocastritsa

Desperately in need of financial assistance after losing six precious donkeys to a very serious Virus in July/August.

See separate report

MEDICAL CENTRE/FIRST AID

SURGERY (Koinoniko Iatreio)

Salamanga Square 4, behind the recently opened 'Public' Store, opposite Pono D'Oro Restaurant, in Corfu town.

Established more than 100 years ago, it is supported by volunteer doctors/nurses and offers daily assistance to those in need, ie: children; the elderly; those requiring nursing care; daily injections etc. Their services are free if the patient is unable to pay.

For more information on exact opening hours etc. you can contact the following numbers: 26610 39615; 6939 693348 or: info@ixek.gr

Since the relocation of the General Hospital from Corfu town to Kondokali the work-load at the Centre has increased considerably and they are presently dealing with approximately 20,000 cases each year! This has caused a huge drain on their limited finances and they are in need of some support. If you are not able to make a financial donation they will accept 'old' medications, even if they are 'out of date' or already opened.

STATE-RUN OLD PEOPLES HOME

At Perama, near to the British Corner Shop

At present there are thirty-six (36) in-patients; 18 male and 18 females.

As compared to other Homes for the Aged, these patients live in very sparse conditions, to say the least. As with many other State-run departments money is in very short supply and only the very basics services are provided.

To make sure our donation went where it was intended to go, I prepared a small 'care' package for each patient containing a pair of warm winter socks and a packet of wet-wipes! Not a lot, I know but, with 36 patients to cater for I did the best I could!

Lucy Steele, M.B.E.
Raffle Organiser

BREAKDOWN OF AGIOTFEST 2014 RAFFLE PRIZES:

- 1st: Villa Theodora, Ag Ioannis, date to be arranged
Ticket No: 801 - Janine S Claimed
- 2nd: Beauty aids from Sephora Shop
Ticket No: 442 - Ken Doran Claimed
- 3rd: €25 shopping voucher from British Corner Shop
Ticket No: 494 - Boutari Bill Claimed
- 4th: Meal for 2 at Posidonio Restaurant, Ag. Gordis
Ticket No: 951 - Kim S Claimed
- 5th: Free cocktail for 2 at Hotel Telesillas, Kondokali
Ticket No: 712 - Sue J Claimed
- 6th: Day ticket for 2 at Aqualand Water Park
Ticket No: 774 - Sam L Claimed
- 7th: €25 shopping voucher from British Corner Shop
Ticket No: 726 - Paul H Claimed
- 8th: 24hr Internet card for Compass Cafe, Kondokali
Ticket No: 956 - Garry M Claimed
- 9th: Beauty aids from Marks & Spencer
Ticket No: 225 - Vera Zotou Claimed
- 10th: Meal for 2 at Big Bite Restaurant, Benitses
Ticket No: 420 - Audrey Bedell Claimed
- 11th Indian Head Massage
Ticket No: 185 - Chris Peacock Claimed
- 12th: Meal for 2 at Nikolas Taverna, Agni
Ticket No: 282 - D Ive Claimed
- 13th: Beauty aids from Sephora Shop
Ticket No: 987- Monique Vincent Claimed
- 14th: Meal for 2 at LaTabernita, Old Fortress
Ticket No: 474 - Reg & Nikki Claimed
- 15th Meal for 2 at Tavola Calda, Alepou
Ticket No: 239 - Christine Spatou Claimed
- 16th Croquet lesson for 4, followed by snacks & drinks at Blue Bar, Marina
Ticket No: 721 - Ken Harrop Claimed
- 17th Six bottles Red Wine from Gouvia Marina
Ticket No: 988 - Monique Vincent Claimed

Aunty Lula's Love-bites

Pasta and Tuna Salad

Go:

Ingredients:

250g of Fusilli Pasta
 1 can (200g) Tuna, drained
 and flaked
 6 tbsp. of reduced fat
 Mayonnaise
 1 tbsp. of Olive Oil
 1 tin (200g) of Sweetcorn
 1/3 of Cucumber, peeled
 and chopped into small
 chunks
 2 tsp. of Curry powder
 Salt & Pepper

1. Cook the pasta until al dente. Drain and rinse with cold water and drain again.
2. Mix in the olive oil, mayonnaise. Salt, pepper and curry powder.
3. Add the tuna, sweetcorn and cucumber cubes. Mix thoroughly.

Bon appetit!

Video Corner

Be aware says Nick The Clock:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w-0TEJMJOhk>

Paul McCartney in Red Square:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dD5EdQzY5rI>

Stray Dogs:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i6ml28ValI0>

I must buy one before they are obsolete:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7H0K1k54t6A>

The World of Simon

<http://democracystreet.blogspot.gr/>

Corfu Weather Statistics

	Max	Avg	Min
Max Temperature	27°C	24 °C	19 °C
Mean Temperature	24 °C	20 °C	17°C
Min Temperature	21 °C	15 °C	11 °C
Heating Degree Days (base 65)	2	0	0
Cooling Degree Days (base 65)	10	2	0
Growing Degree Days (base 50)	25	17	13
Dew Point	22 °C	115°C	5°C
Precipitation	17,0 mm	0.9 mm	0.0 mm
Wind	42 km/h	7 km/h	0 km/h
Gust Wind	60 km/h	38 km/h	27 km/h
Sea Level Pressure	1029 hPa	1018 hPa	1001 hPa

Read more at:

http://www.wunderground.com/history/airport/LGKR/2013/9/1/MonthlyHistory.html?req_city=NA&req_state=NA&req_statename=NA#PFq1VRYHlbugcTGf.99

Hilary's Ramblings

Contributed by
Hilary Paipeti

A few unprecedented rainy days in July, and another wet spell in early September, have upset the usual pattern of autumn flowering. I spotted the first cyclamens on 15 August - an unexpected sight as they normally flower towards the end of September. Most years, once prolonged rain comes in October, summer has already departed, and new growth struggles against the growing chill; this year, warm weather has followed the soak, triggering an almost springtime explosion of green undergrowth. It won't be long before spring flowers are tricked into bud - indeed, one cranesbill has already bloomed along my little lane.

Nearby, a real autumn flowerer has appeared, the first time I have seen it in this area. This is the Biarum, a type of lily - but not the pretty, sweet-smelling type. It's a sinister-looking plant, dark purply-black in colour, comprising a blade-shaped upright and a long, snaking

proboscis. Rather than attracting insects with a sweet scent, it puts out a reek of sewage combined with rotting carcasses. Luckily there are only three growing so far; a mass blooming is required before our poor noses pick up the stench.

The first time I came across the Biarum was when, several years ago, I was escorting an autumn botany and walking tour. The punters were particularly anxious to see Biarums and accordingly the botany leader, Simon, had procured a sketch map from a friend, who told him that a location near Makrades was the only spot in Corfu where the Biarum grew. From the sketch, I managed to work out the exact place, and we set out hopefully on the Great Biarum Hunt.

Simon finally spotted one on a terrace above the track (Simon was renowned for spotting things at vast distances). Not having Simon's hawk-like eyes, and not really knowing what we were looking for, none of us could see it, so I volunteered to climb up on the terrace so that Simon could guide me to the spot:

'Left a bit, right a bit; OK, you're there.' said Simon. 'Would you point it out to us?'

'Simon, all I can see is a stick stuck in the ground.'

'It does look rather like a stick.'

'Er, Simon, I'm really sorry, but it actually IS a stick!'

Disappointment all round. We did find a narcissus, though.

On the last day's walk, we climbed into the hills above Nissaki.

Nearing Katavolos on what would a few years later become a section of the Corfu Trail, I was suddenly stricken with a terrible head pain, as if something was simultaneously burrowing up my sinuses and driving a compass point between my eyes. We were surrounded by Biarums! They were everywhere on the olive terraces, and it was the reek of them en masse which had literally browbeaten me. So much for a single Makradean terrace being the Biarum's one and only habitat on Corfu.

I've never got up that path and out of the olive groves so fast since.

But at least the botanists were all happy.

An Improbably Short and Personal History of the Greek Komboloi or "worry beads".

By Paul S. Hyett.

(Στην ελληνική Παρακάτω -
Greek Version Below)

After many years of asking, it seems that the authentic history of the Greek komboloi has been lost in the annals of time. There are only a few books specifically about

komboloi available. These books have been written and published by retailers such as the "Komboloi Museum", Nafplio; "Kombologadiko", Athens and Nafplio; and "Eyxantpon", Athens. My greatest thanks go to the owners of these establishments for all their help and generous hospitality, while

answering my questions. By reading these and other books about the general history of Greece I have been able to piece together the possible origins of the ubiquitous "Greek komboloi"...

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A mix of komboloi including two Hindu prayer strings of 100 beads.

Personally, I have never liked them being described as “worry beads”. Although, that might be acceptable to many, especially tourists, it seems to me a rather derisory epithet when one considers their illustrious origins. If we transliterate the ancient Greek word, it is spelt “kompoloiu”, a single collective noun; the plural being kompologia – meaning quite literally “to say the knots”. Therefore, the word originally referred to religious prayer beads. How did that come about?

Historically, the use of beads to count prayers goes as far back as Buddhism and Hinduism. Also, it can be noted that the early Orthodox Christian monks, who lived on Mount Athos, used long strings of knots to keep count as they unceasingly recited the “Jesus Prayer”. They continue to do so to this day – these strings are known as “komboskhini”.

In Catholicism, the use of “the rosary” was officially approved by

Pope Leo X in 1520. Furthermore, in 1574, Pope Gregory XIII changed the name of the anniversary of the Battle of Lepanto (1571), to the feast day of “Our Lady of the Rosary”.

I believe that the history of the komboloi begins earlier, in 1453, with the surrender of Constantinople, when the Empire of Byzantium came under Ottoman rule for almost four hundred years. The Ottoman Empire was vast and could not be ruled entirely by force alone, however, under the “Millet System” of Islamic Law, ethnic groups and communities were allowed to rule themselves under their own system. Sultan Mehmed II, not only appointed Georgios Yennadhios as the Patriarch of Constantinople (Gennadios II), but also ethnarch, or milletbasi, of all Orthodox Christians throughout the Ottoman Empire. The Byzantines were permitted to govern themselves, Greek speaking Byzantines, known as “rumci”, were appointed into positions of authority. They also provided a fighting force for the Ottoman army, known as “Janisseries”.

As long as the “harach tax” was paid, all was well; the Ottomans and Byzantines appeared to live in relative peace. Except in the mountain regions, where bands of brigands had formed, waging a perpetual guerrilla war against the Ottomans’ occupation, or “Turcocratia”. These tribal bands, collectively known as “klephts”, frequently raided Ottoman caravans, always retreating into the safety of their mountain hideouts. (“Klephts”, under Kolokotronis, would form the core of the Greek army in the war for independence.) When Suleiman the Magnificent brought the relics of Mohammed to Constantinople, it became the new

centre of Islam and visited as a place of pilgrimage by Muslims. The devout Muslims would always carry a set of 99, or 33 closely strung beads. These were for the daily recitation of the “99 Attributes of Allah”. Wealthy Ottomans displayed beads made of amber; semi-precious stones; or black coral inlaid with silver symbols; all finished with tassels of silk. A string of 99 beads could be worn around the neck or waist; a string of 33 would be carried around the hand. Given the highly decorative nature of these beads, their open display became not only an act of religious piety, but also a symbol of personal wealth and social status. Eventually, the Orthodox Christians would appropriate the carrying of 33 beads for themselves...

As mentioned before, the recitation of prayers was already common practice amongst Orthodox Christian monks. However, the patriarchs and “rumci” desired to create a rosary of their own, so they might also display their religious piety and social status, in a similar way to the Ottomans. Or was it to rival the Roman Catholic rosary? It was easy to draw a Christian association with the string of 33 beads, as this was Christ’s age at the time of His crucifixion. Retaining the founda, or tassel, they replaced the Imman, or priest, with the Byzantine cross and divided the beads into four groups of seven with a larger, or solid silver bead, to represent the days of the week and months of the year respectively.

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One odd bead separated the main string from the cross and tassel. The beads were still closely strung, as they were counted one by one through the fingers. (Today one can still find examples of komboloi made of amber or stone that are divided by solid metal or silver beads. I believe this harks back to their Byzantine origins.) Amber was still a popular material, as well as agate, carnelian, and black coral. The silver inlaid black coral beads are called "yusuri", which is possibly a Greek corruption of an old Arabic word meaning "to be rich"!!

As the practice spread through all the Orthodox Christians of the empire, the demand for beads grew. Other materials were used, such as wood, seeds and natural resins. In the 1780s, it is believed an Egyptian chemist, called Arava FATURAN, developed a method of mixing amber filings; natural resins; mastika; colophony; and frankincense with turpentine to create a bead that looked exactly like amber, but was harder, more resilient and cheaper.

It would appear this method of imitation extended to semi-precious stones as well. Early Faturan beads can be a deep burgundy/red, or even black, imitating the colours of agate, or sard, and would be highly polished.

Now my story continues with the Greek War of independence, which raged for eight years from March 1821. Historically, at the outbreak of the rebellion, it would seem that



A variety of komboloi made of amber and other materials, including 33 bead strings of yusuri. The photograph also shows different configurations.

the Orthodox Church attempted to appease the Ottoman Sultan by issuing an encyclical, excommunicating any that took part in the rebellion. The encyclical was signed by the Patriarch of Constantinople, Grigorios V, and 22 other Church leaders. Grigorios, however, was hanged on the gates of the Patriarchate for apparent complicity in the revolt. His body remained there for three days. In commemoration, these gates were permanently sealed shut, and painted black. Strangely, it was at some point during the rebellion, that the rebel leaders decided, perhaps as an act of defiance, to remove ten beads from the 33 bead Ottoman rosary. For me, this is too much of a coincidence. Surely, the remaining 23 beads represent the 23 signatories on the encyclical? And at least one was executed in the name of the rebellion.

Now every "Greek" warrior would carry into battle a 23 bead komboloi, not for counting prayers exactly, although I am sure many a

pray was spoken, but to signify independence. The new komboloi became a powerful talisman and could now be noisily "clicked", as if to say, "I am free, I am Greek!" It seems to me, the war not only created the independent country of Greece but also a uniquely secular item, which along with rembetiko would epitomise Greek culture.

During the early 1900s, the komboloi underwent one further change, isolated to a particular group in Athens. A gang of criminals, known as the "Koutsavakides", reduced the number of beads to only 17, and because they were expensive removed the silk "founda" and began omitting the large "papas".

So, today you can purchase a komboloi, with or without a founda; and with or without the papas.

The beads are now made from many different materials and vary in number from 17 to 33, but it must always be an odd number. Also, some consider numbers that are divisible by three as lucky, which makes 27 a very auspicious number indeed to have as a komboloi! Some people spoke to me about balance - deducting the odd one; the remainder should be divisible by four. Hence strings of 17, 21, 25, and 33 are preferred, but 33 may be considered too many for a komboloi to be played with, especially when the legendary klephts carried komboloi of only 23 beads!

My personal preference is for 21, 23 or 27 beads and definitely with a papas and a founda. But no matter which, I've found collecting the different configurations, and searching for the older beads, an irresistible and rewarding Odyssey!

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Books about komboloia available in English.

"The Komboloi and its History..."

by Aris Evangelinos - The Komboloi Museum, Nafplio.

"The Path of Man and Worry Beads" by Tasos Thomaidis - EYXANTPON

"The Greek Worry Bead..."

Komboloi" by Tasos Thomaidis - EYXANTPON

"Bead by Bead" produced by Kombologadiko, Athens

Places worth visiting.

The Komboloi Museum, 25

Staikopoulou Street, Nafplio

EYXANTPON, 97 Solonos and

147 Asklipou, Athens

Kombologadiko, 1 Staikopoulos

Street, Nafplio and 9 Amerikis

Street, Athens

The National Historical Museum,

Old Parliament Building, Stadiou

Street, Athens

Historical references.

"Crescent and Cross. The Battle of Lepanto 1571" by Hugh Bicheno.

"The Greek War of Independence" by David Brewer.

"Greece, the Hidden Centuries" by David Brewer.

Paul S. Hyett August 2014

Μία Απίθανη Σύντομη και Προσωπική Ιστορία του Ελληνικού Κομπολογιού ή «Χάνδρες

Στενοχώριας» Του Πώλ Σ.

Χάιετ

Μετά από πολλά χρόνια έρευνας, φαίνεται ότι η πραγματική ιστορία του Ελληνικού κομπολογιού έχει χαθεί με το πέρασμα του χρόνου. Μόνο λίγα βιβλία που ασχολούνται ειδικά με το κομπολόγι είναι διαθέσιμα, και αυτά τα βιβλία έχουν γραφτεί και δημοσιευθεί από ειδικά ιδρύματα όπως το «Μουσείο του

Κομπολογιού» στο Ναύπλιο, «Κομπολογάδικο» στην Αθήνα και το Ναύπλιο και «Εύχαντρον» στην Αθήνα.

Απευθύνω τις θερμότερες ευχαριστίες μου στους ιδιοκτήτες αυτών των ιδρυμάτων για την βοήθεια και την γενναιοδωρη φιλοξενία που μου προσέφεραν απαντώντας στις ερωτήσεις μου.

Διαβάζοντας αυτά και άλλα βιβλία που αφορούν την γενική ιστορία της Ελλάδος μπόρεσα να συναρμολογήσω την πιθανή προέλευση του πανταχού παρόντος Ελληνικού Κομπολογιού.

Προσωπικά ποτέ δεν μου άρεσε η περιγραφή τους ως «χάντρες στενοχώριας».

Ίσως αυτή η περιγραφή να είναι παραδεκτή σε πολλούς, ιδίως στους τουρίστες αλλά νομίζω ότι είναι μια γελοία ονομασία όταν γνωρίζουμε την ένδοξη προέλευσή του.

Όταν μεταγράψουμε την Αρχαία Ελληνική λέξη, αυτή είναι «Κομπολογιού», ένα μονό συλλογικό ουσιαστικό και ο πληθυντικός του είναι «Κομπολόγια» που σημαίνει «Λόγια των Κόμπων».

Η λέξη παραπέμπει σε χάντρες θρησκευτικής προσευχής. Πώς έγινε αυτό;

Ιστορικά, η χρήση χαντρών για το μέτρημα προσευχών μας παίρνει πίσω στον Βουδισμό και τον Ινδουισμό.

Οι ενωρίτεροι Ορθόδοξοι Χριστιανοί Μοναχοί που ζούσαν στο Άγιο Όρος στον Άθω χρησιμοποιούσαν μακριά σκοινιά για να μετράνε, επειδή απήγγειλαν τις προσευχές του Κυρίου μας, Ιησού Χριστού.

Αυτή η διαδικασία συνεχίζεται μέχρι σήμερα και το σκοινί αυτό ονομάζεται «κομποσκοίνι».

Οι Καθολικοί χρησιμοποιούν το «ροζάριο» ή κομποσκοίνι το οποίο είχε εγκριθεί επίσημα από τον Πάπα Λέοντα X το 1520.

Επί πλέον το 1574 ο Πάπας Γρηγόριος XIII άλλαξε το όνομα της επετείου της Ναυμαχίας της Ναυπάκτου (1571) και την ονόμασε «Εορτή της Παναγίας του Ροζαρίου».

Πιστεύω ότι η ιστορία του κομπολογιού αρχίζει ενωρίτερα, δηλαδή το 1453 με την παράδοση της Κωνσταντινούπολης, όταν η Βυζαντινή Αυτοκρατορία ήταν υπό τους Οθωμανούς για περίπου

τετρακόσια χρόνια.

Η Οθωμανική Αυτοκρατορία ήταν αχανής και δεν μπορούσε να κυβερνηθεί μόνο δια της βίας, όμως με το «Σύστημα Μιλλέτ» του Ισλαμικού Νόμου, εθνικές ομάδες και κοινότητες είχαν το δικαίωμα να κυβερνούνται με το δικό τους σύστημα.

Ο Σουλτάνος Μεχμέτ II διόρισε τον Γεώργιο Γεννάδιο ως Πατριάρχη Κωνσταντινουπόλεως και επίσης ως Εθνάρχη ή «Μιλλετμπάσι» απάντων των Ορθοδόξων Χριστιανών ευρισκομένων εντός της Οθωμανικής Αυτοκρατορίας.

Οι Βυζαντινοί που γνώριζαν την Ελληνική γλώσσα οι «ράμσι» όπως τους ονόμαζαν διοριζόταν σε θέσεις εξουσίας. Επίσης παρείχαν ένα ειδικό στράτευμα για τον Οθωμανικό στρατό τους Γενίσαρους.

Όλα πήγαιναν καλά όταν πληρωνόταν ο ειδικός φόρος το «χαράτσι» και γενικά οι Οθωμανοί και οι Βυζαντινοί φαινόταν να ζουν με σχετική αρμονία εκτός από τις ορεινές περιοχές. Εκεί είχαν σχηματισθεί συμμορίες ληστών που ήταν σε διαρκή ανταρτοπόλεμο εναντίον των Οθωμανών για λόγους της Τουρκοκρατίας.

Τούτες οι συμμορίες γνωστές ως «κλέφτες» συχνά έκαναν επιδρομές και λήστευαν Οθωμανικούς καταυλισμούς και μετά επέστρεφαν στα κρησφύγετά τους στα βουνά.

(Οι «κλέφτες» υπό τον Κολοκοτρώνη αποτελούσαν το πυρήνα του Ελληνικού στρατού στον πόλεμο υπέρ της ανεξαρτησίας).

Όταν ο Σουλεϊμάν ο Μεγαλοπρεπής έφερε τα λείψανα του Μωάμεθ στην Κωνσταντινούπολη αυτή έγινε νέο Ισλαμικό κέντρο και έγινε μέρος προσκύνησης των Μουσουλμάνων.

Οι ευσεβείς Μουσουλμάνοι πάντοτε είχαν μαζί τους μια σειρά από χάντρες των 99 ή 33 δεμένες σφικτά.

Αυτές ήταν για την καθημερινή απαγγελία των «99 ιδιοτήτων του Αλλάχ».

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Οι πλούσιοι Οθωμανοί επιδεικνύουν χάντρες από κεχριμπάρι, ημιπολύτιμους λίθους ή μαύρο κοράλλι με αργυρά σύμβολα και όλα τελείωναν με μεταξωτές φούντες.

Ένα σκoinί με 99 χάντρες μπορούσε να φορεθεί γύρω από τον λαιμό ή την μέση ενώ αν είχε 33 χάντρες το κρατούσαν στο χέρι.

Λόγω της υψηλής διακόσμησης αυτών των χαντρών η ανοικτή επίδειξη τους έγινε όχι μόνο σύμβολο θρησκευτικής ευσεβείας αλλά επίσης σύμβολο προσωπικού πλούτου και κοινωνικής τάξης.

Τελικά οι Ορθόδοξοι Χριστιανοί θα παραδεχτούν να κρατούν 33 χάντρες οι ίδιοι.

Όπως ανέφερα προηγουμένως η απαγγελία προσευχών ήταν ένα κοινό γνώρισμα των Ορθοδόξων Χριστιανών Μοναχών, αλλά οι Πατριάρχες και οι «Ραμσί» θέλησαν να δημιουργήσουν ένα δικό τους «κομποσκοίνι» ώστε και αυτοί επίσης να επιδεικνύουν την θρησκευτική τους ευλάβεια και κοινωνική τάξη όπως οι Οθωμανοί.

Ή ήταν για αντιζηλεία του Ρωμαιοκαθολικού ροζαρίου;

Ήταν σχετικά εύκολο να βρεθεί μια Χριστιανική σχέση με το «κομποσκοίνι» των 33 χαντρών επειδή ήταν η ηλικία του Χριστού κατά τη Σταύρωσή Του.

Κράτησαν την φούντα και αντικατέστησαν τον Ιμάμη ή «Παπά» με τον Βυζαντινό Σταυρό, μοίρασαν τις χάντρες σε τέσσερις ομάδες των επτά με μια μεγαλύτερη ή συμπαγή ασημένια χάντρα που αντιπροσώπευε τις ημέρες της εβδομάδας και τους μήνες του έτους αντίστοιχα.

Μία χάντρα χώριζε το κυρίως σκoinί από τον Σταυρό και την φούντα.

Οι χάντρες ήταν δεμένες πολύ κοντά η μία με την άλλη επειδή τις μετρούσαν μία προς μία με τα δάχτυλα. (Σήμερα, ακόμη υπάρχουν κομπολόγια από κεχριμπάρι, ή πετράδια και οι χάντρες χωρίζονται με ένα συμπαγές μέταλλο ή αργυρές χάντρες.

Πιστεύω ότι αυτό μας γυρίζει πίσω στις Βυζαντινές ρίζες του).

Το κεχριμπάρι ήταν ακόμα της μόδας όπως επίσης το μάρμαρο, το χρωματιστό γυαλί και το μαύρο κοράλλι.

Οι χάντρες από μαύρο κοράλλι με ασήμι λεγόταν «γιουσουρί». Πιθανώς

είναι μία Ελληνική παρερμηνεία της παλαιάς Αραβικής λέξης που σημαίνει «να είσαι πλούσιος»!

Επειδή η συνήθεια του κομπολογίου ξαπλωνόταν σε όλους τους Ορθοδόξους Χριστιανούς της Αυτοκρατορίας, η ζήτηση για χάντρες μεγάλωνε.

Χρησιμοποιούσαν και άλλα υλικά για τις χάντρες, όπως ξύλα, σπόρους και φυσικές ρητίνες.

Το 1780 λέγεται ότι ένας Αιγύπτιος φαρμακοποιός ο Αράβα ΦΑΤΟΥΡΑΝ ανέπτυξε μια μέθοδο ανακατεύοντας γέμιση από κεχριμπάρι, φυσικές ρητίνες, μαστίχα, κολοφώνιο και λιβάνι με νέφτι για την κατασκευή μίας χάντρας που ήταν τελείως όμοια με αυτήν από κεχριμπάρι, αλλά πιο σκληρή, πιο ελαστική και πιο φθηνή.

Φαίνεται ότι αυτή η μέθοδος της μίμησης επεκτάθηκε και στους ημιπολύτιμους λίθους.

Οι ενωρίτερες χάντρες του Φατουράν μπορεί να έχουν χρώμα βαθύ πορφυρό-κόκκινο ή μαύρο μιμούμενες το χρώμα του μαρμάρου ή το χρωματιστό γυαλί και ήταν πολύ καλά γυαλισμένες.

Η ιστορία μου συνεχίζει με τον Ελληνικό πόλεμο υπέρ της ανεξαρτησίας που λυσομανούσε για οκτώ χρόνια από τον Μάρτιο του 1821.

Ιστορικά όταν ξέσπασε η ανταρσία, φαίνεται ότι η Ορθόδοξη Εκκλησία προσπάθησε να κατευνάσει τον Σουλτάνο με την έκδοση εγκυκλίου που αφορούσε όσους είχαν σχέση με την ανταρσία. Η εγκύκλιος ήταν υπογεγραμμένη από τον Πατριάρχη της Κωνσταντινουπόλεως Γρηγόριο V και από άλλους 22 Εκκλησιαστικούς ηγέτες.

Ο Γρηγόριος παρά ταύτα κρεμάστηκε στην καγκελόπορτα του Πατριαρχείου διότι καθώς φαίνεται ήταν συνένοχος με την ανταρσία. Το σώμα του παρέμεινε κρεμασμένο για τρεις μέρες. Προς ανάμνηση, οι καγκελόπορτες ήταν μόνιμα κλειστές και χρωματίστηκαν μαύρες.

Περιέργως σε κάποιο σημείο της ανταρσίας, οι αρχηγοί των ανταρτών απεφάσισαν να αφαιρέσουν δέκα από τις 33 χάντρες του Οθωμανικού «κομποσκοινιού».

Κατά εμένα, νομίζω ότι είναι περισσότερο από σύμπτωση.

Σίγουρα οι 23 χάντρες που απέμειναν, δεν αντιπροσώπευαν τις 23 υπογραφές της εγκυκλίου; Τουλάχιστο

ένας εκτελέστηκε στο όνομα της ανταρσίας.

Τώρα κάθε Έλληνας πολεμιστής θα είχε μαζί του στη μάχη ένα κομπολόγι με 23 χάντρες, όχι για το μέτρημα των προσευχών αλλά για να εκφράσουν την ανεξαρτησία τους.

Το νέο κομπολόγι έγινε τώρα ένα ισχυρό φυλακτό και τώρα μπορούσε να «παιχτεί» με θόρυβο σαν να εκφράζει τις φράσεις: «Είμαι Ελεύθερος, Είμαι Έλληνας!»

Είμαι της γνώμης ότι ο πόλεμος όχι μόνο δημιούργησε το ανεξάρτητο κράτος της Ελλάδος αλλά επίσης ένα μοναδικό μη εκκλησιαστικό αντικείμενο το οποίο μαζί με τα ρεμπέτικα θα συνοψίζουν τον Ελληνικό πολιτισμό.

Κατά τις αρχές του 1900 το κομπολόγι υπέστη ακόμα μια αλλαγή που αναφέρεται μόνο σε μία συγκεκριμένη ομάδα στην Αθήνα. Μία σπειρά κακοποιών γνωστοί ως «κουτσαβάκηδες» οι οποίοι ελάττωσαν τον αριθμό των χαντρών στις 17 και επειδή ήταν ακριβές αφαίρεσαν την μεταξωτή φούντα και άρχισαν να παραλείπουν τον μεγάλο «Παπά».

Σήμερα μπορείτε να αγοράσετε ένα κομπολόγι με φούντα ή χωρίς φούντα, με «Παπά» ή χωρίς «Παπά».

Οι χάντρες σήμερα είναι φτιαγμένες από πολλά διαφορετικά υλικά και αριθμούν από 17 έως 33, πάντως ο αριθμός τους είναι πάντα περιττός.

Μερικοί θεωρούν ότι οι αριθμοί που διαιρούνται δια του τρία είναι τυχεροί, έτσι ο αριθμός 27 είναι ένας πολύ αίσιος αριθμός για το κομπολόγι.

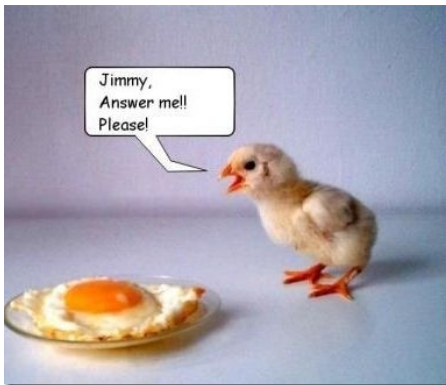
Μερικοί μου μίλησαν για ζυγισμα-αφαιρώντας την μία περιττή χάντρα οι υπόλοιπες πρέπει να διαιρούνται δια του τέσσερα.

Για αυτόν τον λόγο προτιμώνται κομπολόγια με 17, 21, 25 και 33 χάντρες αλλά οι 33 θεωρούνται πολλές για να «παίζεται» το κομπολόγι, ειδικά όταν οι θρυλικό κλέφτες είχαν μαζί τους κομπολόγια με μόνο 23 χάντρες!

Η προσωπική μου προτίμηση είναι με 21, 23 ή 27 χάντρες και οποσδήποτε με «Παπά» και φούντα.

Χωρίς να με πειράζει ποιο από όλα τα κομπολόγια συλλέγω, ανακάλυψα ότι με την συλλογή διαφόρων παραλλαγών και με την έρευνα για παλαιότερες χάντρες, το ενδιαφέρον μου ακολουθεί μια ακαταμάχητη Οδύσσεια με μεγάλη ανταμοιβή.

Nick the Clock's World



Wives 2

In the morning Tom calls to his boss:

- Good morning, boss, unfortunately I'm not coming to work today. I'm really sick. I got a headache, stomach ache, and my both hands and legs hurt, so I'm not coming into work."

The boss replies:

- You know Tom, I really need you today. When I feel like this I go to my wife, and tell her to give me sex. That makes me feel better, and I can go to work. You should try that.

2 hours later Bob calls:

- Boss, I followed your advise, and I feel great! I'll be at work soon. By the way, you got nice house.

Flu Vaccine:

http://www.naturalnews.com/045705_flu_vaccine_mercury_heavy_metals.html

Wives

Husband: Honey, I have problems at work.

Wife: Not "I", but "we"

have problems - since we are married, your problems are mine problems as well.

Husband: ok. Then I wanted to let you know that our office-girl got pregnant from us.

Wives 3

There was a middle-aged couple who had two stunningly beautiful blond teen-aged daughters. They decided to try one last time for the son they always wanted. After months of trying, the wife became pregnant and sure enough, nine months later delivered a healthy baby boy.

The joyful father rushed to the nursery to see his new son. He took one look and was horrified to see the ugliest child he has ever seen. He went to his wife and said that there was no way that he could be the father of that child.

"Look at the two beautiful daughters I fathered!" Then he gave her a stern look and asked, "Have you been fooling around on me?"

The wife just smiled sweetly and said, "Not this time."

Bra and Hat

What did the bra say to the hat? You go on a head while i give these two a lift.

Wives 4

Two cannibals, a father and son, were elected by the tribe to go out and get something to eat. They walked deep into the jungle and waited by a path.

Before long, along came this little old man. The son said, "Ooh dad, there's one." "No," said the father. "There's not enough meat on that one to even feed the dogs. We'll just wait."

Well, a little while later, along came this really fat man. The son said, "Hey dad, he's plenty big enough." "No," the father said. "We'd all die of a heart attack from the fat in that one. We'll just wait."

About an hour later, here comes this absolutely gorgeous woman.

The son said, "Now there's nothing wrong with that one dad. Let's eat her."

"No," said the father. "We'll not eat her either."

"Why not?" asked the son.

"Because, we're going to take her back alive and eat your mother."



August 1914

By
Dr. Lionel Mann

The centennial of the outbreak of World War One has given rise to widespread interest in that happening. Much of my life had been lived amongst persons to whom that was one of the most memorable events of their lives and they have never been hesitant in talking of it.

I have been disturbed by a number of misapprehensions that I have heard concerning the circumstances of Britain's declaration of war and the public responded to it. To view events of 1914 with the mindset of 2014 is to gain an entirely distorted impression of cause and effect.

In 1914 Great Britain, with its Empire stretching around the globe, was by far the most powerful nation on earth, believing completely in "Land of hope and glory, God who made thee mighty" and Britannia really did rule the waves with a huge battle fleet. Boys were brought up with a sense of duty if need be to fight for King and Country, girls with an obligation to become mothers to produce future warriors and mothers. Britons believed themselves to be a superior race. Britain was the custodian of the world's morals, judge, jury and police, much as the U.S.A. now regards itself. I know because this ethos persisted into the thirties when I was a child.

Heroes were Drake, Rodney, Hood, Jervis, Nelson, Clive, Mapier, Gordon, Kitchener and the like.

For ninety-nine years Britain had not been involved in a war on its doorstep. Its army had fought a succession of distant campaigns in Crimea, India, China, the Maori

Wars in New Zealand, the Ashanti, Matabele, Zulu, Egypt, Sudan, Boer wars in Africa. There had been disasters, but eventually the 'invincible' British Army had triumphed everywhere. Everywhere except in Afghanistan. "Those who cannot remember history are doomed to repeat it." The idiots who have been trying to impose Western ways upon the fiercely independent Afghan tribesmen have caused thousands of deaths of innocent men, women and children through their stupidity. Afghans will only change if and when they see the need, but at the behest of any intruder.

In July 1914 the assassination in Sarajevo, the Austrian ultimatum had later attack on Serbia, the Russian support of Serbia, the German support of Austria aroused no great interest in Britain; the antics of the suffragettes and the apparent imminence of civil war in Ireland were of much greater concern to the general public. There was neither radio nor television in those days and when at the beginning of August every newspaper carried the story of the German invasion of Belgium in an attempt to attack France, who had declared support of Russia, by avoiding the strong fortifications on the French frontier, as well as retailing accounts of German 'atrocities', many of which were later discovered to have been products of vivid journalist imagination the impact was colossal; Britain fairly seethed with anger at the 'brutal Huns' who had unprovoked attacked poor little Belgium. Politicians might later cite ancient treaties as a reason for declaring war on Germany, but

public fury was the motive force. Even the churches, in those times far more influential than they are today, preached a 'holy war against German aggression'.

The entire nation was seized with patriotic fervour. Anyone suggesting pacifism would probably have been lynched. Women were just as bellicose as men, urging relatives to join the long queues at Recruiting Centres and soon were going around handing out white feathers to any young man who was not in uniform.

I have heard it suggested that many men hurried to enlist in order to escape from dull jobs. Such a libel is a gross insult to the memory of the thousands who gave their lives in what they considered their nation's service.

On 5th August my father, then aged twelve went into the city with an older sister and younger brother. Schools were on summer holiday and the three joined with hordes of children following marching bands waving Union flags that they had been handed. There was almost a festive atmosphere and local dignitaries were giving patriotic speeches from the steps of the Civic Offices.

My Uncle Lionel queued for more than five hours at the local barracks. Aged seventeen he claimed to be eighteen and was accepted but told to go home and wait to be sent for as they had more volunteers than they could cope with. More than five weeks later he went off to become a soldier. For more than a month they still wore their civilian clothing until uniforms became available.

August 1914

Continued from Page 16

His unit was sent to the Middle East, but he would never talk of his army time as he was in the British army that surrendered to the Turks at Kut in Mesopotamia and he spent time as a prisoner-of-war in Turkish hands, a very unpleasant experience. In due course he became manager of grandfather's shoe factory.

In 1945 in the army I was billeted in York on Reg who aged twenty in 1914 had at once volunteered. He told of similar excitement in that city. Because he was a mechanic in the railway workshops he was trained as a machine gunner. Serving nearly four years on the Western Front he was gassed, but not badly, and later recovery was remustered in the Engineers. When I knew him he was high up in the technical division of the railways.

From 1948 to 1956 I lodged in Wembley with Bill and his wife. In 1914 living in Stepney, working in the stores of a big West End retailer and aged sixteen, Bill recounted the crowds thronging the streets of London on the first days of the war. He and a friend of similar age tried to volunteer in the first week. His tall friend was accepted, but short Bill was told by the Recruiting Sergeant to go home and grow up. He had better luck the next year, served three years in the trenches, finished as a sergeant with a slight bullet graze on his right forearm. He went back to his former work and in time rode to Head Storeman as well as also becoming a Special Constable. He was as a second father to me while I stayed with him.

Then from 1958 to 1962 I was in the household of Angus who upon

leaving school went at once into the Royal Artillery. Serving in France he rose to colonel and after the war joined the Colonial Police. In turn he was Chief of Police in Tanganyika and Trinidad and Tobago and then Inspector General. His war service left him with impaired hearing,

All these and many more whom I have met regarded their military service as no more than their patriotic duty.

A child in the thirties, I was taught to hate the Germans, the tale of their 'atrocities' being regularly repeated by my aunts in my grandfather's household where I lived; It was left to a History Master at school in 1942 who set the record straight. He not only had a Cambridge doctorate but also the D.F.C. and M.C., won as a fighter pilot in WW1. "Never believe everything that you read in newspapers."

The same source also on another occasion when a boy had expressed a particularly bellicose remark was equally surprising. Wearing the uniform of an R.A.F. Squadron Leader as Commanding Officer of the school Air Training Corps he surveyed us very seriously. "Boys, war is filth deposited on this fair earth by power-crazed, Self-seeking politicians. Nobody wins a war it destroys civilisation, polluting all that it touches. At Assembly this morning we stood to honour the memory of Flight Lieutenant Grover. He sat there." He pointed to a desk in the second row. We always sat in alphabetical order. "Now he is gone, he was a very promising student and always cheerful. Grover was one of my Scouts too." Our mentor was also Scoutmaster of the school troop as well as County Commissioner. "You all remember Waters; he was

one of you. What an athlete! He too was one of my scouts and he also has been obliterated." Waters was the only one of the 750 boys in the school to be killed in the blitz on the city. He had broken every school track record. "I hope this current mess will be over before you are involved, but if not you must try not to be contaminated."

In 1914 few people travelled further than to the seaside for their summer holiday if they were fortunate enough to afford that; there was very little continental travel. Even today few people leave tourist centres to meet the locals and to learn their customs. I was very fortunate in the army to be sent to Germany and to become responsible for the administration of a small unit of seven British soldiers and twenty German civilians, men and women. Too, I made a number of friends in the locality. Years later, having learnt the language properly I regularly visited the country, often with a group of my pupils travelling widely meeting the people and eating their cuisine. Building bridges!

Politicians encourage xenophobia, racism, bigotry and ignorance in order to hide the ineptitude of their rule compared to that of other more prosperous and efficient nations.

People may now consider Britain's involvement in the world wars as having been almost unnecessary but Britons thought otherwise at the time.

CORFU DONKEY SANCTUARY, DOUKADES

It was with great sorrow I learned of the awful tragedy at the Donkey Sanctuary during July/August this year. 30 of the 60 of the donkeys contacted a virus/sickness and Judy and her small staff were run of their feet for five weeks. Judy appealed for help and a volunteer came from the UK.

There were daily visits to and from the vet; to give blood samples to be tested in Athens - all to be paid for. But the biggest expense was for the special anti-biotics which cost a whacking €120 a bottle (as opposed to the ordinary antibiotic at €16 a bottle). The blood results were sent to three different equine specialists in three different countries but no-one could ascertain the problem. So we were left in the dark as to how to treat them and could only give these expensive antibiotics and another very expensive drug which brought the fever down. All this was a tremendous financial strain on the sanctuary, apart from the emotional strain on everyone who did their best to save these gentle beasts of burden.

Sadly, six donkeys were lost and there remains at present: 58 donkeys; 2 ponies; 22 cats; 10 dogs and 14 very young puppies - all these abandoned animals in a sanctuary that was originally meant for donkeys!

This particular crisis is over but if you are willing to help in any way or would like to find out more about the sanctuary, please visit:

www.corfu-donkeys.com or
[Face Book Corfu Donkeys](#) for regular updates

Lucy STEELE, M.B.E.

THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION POPPY APPEAL

Remembrance Day, Tuesday 11 November, approaches and the Collection Boxes and Supplies are now available to one and all.

You will find boxes and supplies in various locations around the island: North, South, East, West and Central Corfu and I hope you will all do your usual best to support this very worthy cause.

With so much happening in the world at present the need for our protection is great and the support for our brave serving troops (and those injured in active service) is of the utmost importance.

I know I can count on you!

Lucy Steele. M.B.E.
Poppy Appeal Honorary Organisor