



NEWSLETTER
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WIRT GHAWDEX

ISSUE 2/10
Edited by
Sandra Jackson

*A Word From
The Editor*

Welcome to the second edition of Wirt Ghawdex Newsletter for this year. I would like to thank all of you who wrote to me with their comments, which were all very encouraging indeed. Keep writing and if you have any interesting articles or stories that you would like to see printed in the newsletter, you can pass them on to me at the email address below.

As you may have been aware, it has been a very busy three months for Wirt Ghawdex. Some of our members have been giving a lot of their time organising events as well as guiding tourists and locals alike to our magnificent sites.

Others have been rolling up their sleeves and doing manual work which is very much appreciated in our society. Every pair of hands is vital and this proved to be true at that very important event last month—**Lejlet Lapsi**.

What an event! Our volunteers not only got the visitors interested in our sites but also promoted Wirt Ghawdex. As a result, we had many people asking about

our society and some visitors were impressed enough to join as members. You can read more and see some photos of **Lejlet Lapsi** on page 3.

Other events that are proving to be very popular, not only with our members but also with the public in general, are the lectures. So far this year, we have had three lectures by Francis X. Aloisio, Dr. Anthony J. Abela Medici and Prof. Stanley Fiorini. Here we'd like to thank all the lecturers who give these lectures without payment.

People attending the lectures were able to purchase copies of the books signed by the authors at discounted prices. You will be pleased to know that there will be more similar events coming your way later in the year. Keep a look-out on our website for more details.

I will leave you to read on now and don't forget, we always welcome new recruits so if you know of anyone who would like to join our society, or offer their time as a volunteer, then have a look on your right on how to do this. See you next time.

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"To Foster the Knowledge of and Safeguard the Natural, Archaeological, Historical and Anthropological Patrimony of the Islands of Gozo and Comino."



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ENROL A FRIEND

If you know someone

who would be interested in joining Wirt Ghawdex, an application form can be obtained from :

The Membership Secretary
membership@wirtghawdex.org



To the **Ministry for Gozo** for their continuous support in all our projects and also to **Gozo Channel Ltd.** for their sponsorship of the restoration of the Dghajsa tal-Latini and also for providing free transport to the Historical Re-enactment Group of Malta.



Wirt Għawdex will be organising a special event for our members this summer — a **BBQ on the 24th July 2010**. The setting will be none other than the lower bastions of St. John's, right where the cannons are. We shall wine and dine under the stars overlooking some astounding views of Xewkija, Xaghara, Nadur, Marsalforn, Zebbug and Rabat. So leave that date free and we can all meet-up and talk about knights, armour, gunpowder or even the world cup. If you would like to help with this or any other event, contact us at: activites@wirtghawdex.org

Meanwhile, the usual favourites like historical walks and lectures are being planned for the future. Keep your eyes peeled to our website: www.wirtghawdex.org for information as it happens. Meanwhile if you would like a particular speaker with an interesting subject about Gozo, write to us and tell us, we might be able to make arrangements for a public lecture.

Gozo MCAST Students at Torri Mgarr ix Xini

On Thursday 6th May fourteen MCAST foundation year students and five lecturers, plus the Wirt Għawdex support team, made their way to the Tower to carry out maintenance work on the seventeenth century building.

This tower has been restored by Wirt Għawdex in conjunction with the Ministry for Gozo and is now opened by volunteers from the organisation. Positioned as it is and attacked by all the elements it is in need of regular care and attention.

After being given the history of the Tower and its raison d'être the students were given a tour and advised of the work needed. Some were set to work with rakes, spades and hoes to tidy the area surrounding the base of the tower from



weeds, stones and general litter accumulated during the winter. Others retired to the roof with sandpaper, brushes and preservative and given the task of rubbing down and then oiling the recently fitted doors to the three roof rooms, which help make this tower unique, and to the door leading to the *garigor*. Still others, armed with brooms and buckets, proceeded to sweep out the lower chamber. Before leaving, the task of oiling the main door and drawbridge had to be accomplished.

The students were provided with homemade refreshments before they departed with grateful thanks from Wirt Għawdex for all their hard work. They even volunteered to return in the future!

Jay Jones
Activities co-cordinator

A note from a 6th Form student who chose Wirt Għawdex for his school project.

Hi to all the readers of the Wirt Għawdex newsletter. I'm Charles Mercieca, a 6th form student and I'm doing my Systems of Knowledge project with WG. Systems of Knowledge is an obligatory subject of the MATSEC course provided by MCAST Gozo. In essence it is actually 4 subjects into one: Democratic values and citizenship, Aesthetics, Arts and Culture; Values in Science and Technology; Environment and Sustainable Development are all covered. The subjects were intended to help students realise that there is an intermingling relationship between the arts, sciences, nature and culture and promote greater general knowledge. Part of the subject is a voluntary work

experience with an NGO. A bit apprehensive of what I could do, I approached one of my tutors who suggested I give WG a call. To be perfectly honest, that was the first time I had heard of the organisation. A friendly call and a peek at the website later, I arranged a meeting with Jay Jones. The thing that immediately struck me was the number of projects undertaken by this organisation that I had never heard of before! Four months later I can say that I'm enjoying it. I've also been humbled by the many British ex-patriates who know more about my country's history than I do. Indeed, the most important thing I've learned so far is that Gozo is as rich in artifacts and history as any other country which is proud of its heritage.

Charles Mercieca

LEJLET LAPSI



Wirt Ghawdex played host to the Historical Re-enactment Group of Malta (HRGM) during Lejlet Lapsi, an event eagerly awaited by Gozitans and Maltese alike.

Also present were a potpourri of foreigners, some that live on the islands and others were tourists who must have felt very lucky being on the island at the time. Re-enactments are not only entertaining, but also remind spectators important lessons about local history.



The HRGM demonstrated battles all over Rabat and the Cittadella. At the end of the day, the battle weary soldiers and their women, could be seen having a rest at the lower battery, inside the shelters and the Silos. At times, the president of the group Nicky Bianchi could be seen and heard snoring at the foot of a cannon near the Gunpowder Room. As the smell of pork stew, which they cooked on the spot, wafted through the bastions, the hungry soldiers ate hastily before another battle began. The Maltese Regiment of The Order of St. John re-enacted skirmishes amongst the many visitors that attended the event regardless of the chilly northerly wind that hit the Cittadella at the time. If you would like more information

This year's event saw over 2,000 people visiting our historical sites with a majority attendance of Gozitans. Others braved the strong winds and crossed over from Malta thanks to Gozo Channel who operated a shuttle service. Visitors queued to view our magnificent sites with



the main attraction being the Silos. People had heard from friends and relatives how they enjoyed viewing our sites the year before when the Silos were opened for the very first time during the same event. Tours were operated by our dedicated volunteers and interaction with the public was constant and informative. Children found the tours exciting especially when they were given a torch to make their way to the Silos.

about the HRGM or the historical events that the group covers, go to: www.degreeminiatures.com

Post Lejlet Lapsi, members of the committee discussed the success of the event and one definite plan for next year's event is to have the interpretation panels in place. We also aim to have some new attraction for our visitors. Visitors who piqued our interest included Antoinette, a lively octagenarian who has lived in Rabat all her life but had never entered beyond the gunpowder room. Another woman from Nadur said that she remembers the Franciscan Friars entering the bastions from below the Gardjola through a hidden passageway to celebrate mass at the Cathedral. Perhaps this will be the next exciting new project for Wirt Ghawdex.



SUDOKU

			9			8	3	
5			8					
9				1				
				5			8	9
		8	3		2	4		
6	9			4				
				6				5
					3			1
	4	9			7			

Have you had a look at our cartoon below? Good. Now grab a pen and try out our

Sudoku

The first correct entry will win a signed print of *Garzes Tower*—A limited edition of a watercolour reproduction by Salvatore Busuttil (1798 – 1854) taken from the original which hangs at the Gozo Ministry Hall, St. Francis Square, Gozo. Send your correct Sudoku by not later than 30 July '10 to:

Wirt Ghawdex

The Editor,
Dar il-Lunzjata,
Wied il-Lunzjata,
Rabat VCT 1680
Ghawdex



Each Sudoku has a unique solution that can be reached logically without guessing. Enter digits from 1 to 9 into the blank spaces. Every row must contain one of each digit. So must every column, as must every 3x3 square



A BIT OF FUN LIKE

We're back in the middle ages theme but perhaps the subject is more topical. I hope you'll enjoy our cartoon.

∞ ∞ ∞

G

N DAYS OF OLDIE

*WHEN KNIGHTS WERE BOLD
AND MEPA WAS NOT YET ENGAGED
THEY BUILT THEIR ABODE
IN ALL SORTS OF MODE
NOT A SHILLING WAS EVER EXCHANGED*

∞ ∞ ∞

