



Wirt Ghawdex *(founded 1981)*

*Dar il-Gvernatur
Triq l-Imġarr,
Rabat, VCT9010
Ghawdex, MALTA*

*Award Winner:
Architectural Heritage, Prix d'Honneur 2012
Ġieħ Ghawdex 2014
National Volunteer Organization 2016*

PRESS RELEASE

Cittadella Ditch walls suffer extensive damage

The Knights period outer wall of the Cittadella Ditch suffered extensive damage as works were ongoing in a private property adjacent to the ditch. Less than a month ago Wirt Ghawdex had aired its concern about the development permit PA 4553/17 which gave the authorities' approval for the opening of a door and two windows in the back wall of the property abutting the Cittadella Ditch as part of the conversion of an eighteenth century house. Yesterday, the wall, now punctuated with the windows and a door collapsed taking down with it a chunk of the newly restored pathway including a preserved part of the original outer wall.

Wirt Ghawdex said that it was ironic that whilst the world was celebrating International Day for Monuments and Sites and this Gozitan NGO together with another 21 Heritage NGO's were coming together to act as a pressure group for the safeguarding of Malta's and Gozo's built heritage, the centuries-old ditch of the newly restored Cittadella was suffering irreparable damage.

Wirt Ghawdex said that the authorities concerned, mainly the Superintendence of Cultural Heritage and the Planning Authority, should stand up and move from words to action to save our fast disappearing heritage. Such attacks on our heritage should never happen let alone be approved and sanctioned by authorities whose primary aim is to safeguard our heritage.

Committee
19 April 2018