



Wirt Ghawdex

Press Release

Shame on the authorities for dragging their feet for so long in taking action to preserve the Santa Cecilia Chapel, the only surviving mediaeval chapel in Gozo. When last August's act of vandalism, when the chapel was set on fire, was not enough impetus for the authorities to follow the process as prescribed by law to protect this cultural gem, Wirt Ghawdex had predicted that unless immediate action was taken, the chapel was on the verge of collapsing. Unfortunately we have been proven right and, as can be seen from the photograph, the recent rain storms have created havoc and most of the west wall has now collapsed.

The society has been harping incessantly about the precarious state of this monument over the past ten years. Regretfully, none of its many letters, meetings or press releases had the desired effect. Ever since the expropriation of the site in 1997, all the authorities concerned have been reluctant to proceed with the execution of this order on the futile excuse of the compensation issue. Be that as it may, under the Cultural Heritage Act, the Superintendent of Cultural Heritage has had the authority to request the owners themselves to make the necessary repairs should there have been the will to preserve this monument from total destruction.

What else has to happen before the authorities take the necessary action?

Executive Secretary
Wirt Ghawdex
January 11, 2008



Wirt Għawdex

