



Wirt Ghawdex

New restoration works at Mgarr ix-Xini Tower

Restoration works are currently being carried out at the Mgarr ix-Xini tower, built in the times of Gran Master De Redin in 1661. These works are being effected through the collaboration of the Ministry for Gozo and the voluntary organisation *Wirt Ghawdex*.

Extensive restoration works on this tower had been carried out by these same entities some years ago. However, due to various vandalism acts perpetrated during recent years as well as other damage caused by natural elements, the need for further restoration arose. In fact the internal staircase leading to the roof has been reconstructed while several parts of the tower were plastered. The floor was covered with new stone slabs while new apertures were installed amongst which the main door and the bridge leading to it.

The Minister for Gozo, the Hon. Giovanna Debono, paid an on site visit during which she met with the president and secretary of *Wirt Ghawdex* as well as the employees deployed by the Department for Projects and Development within the Ministry for Gozo, to effect the related works. The Minister explained how in this case, the Ministry for Gozo joined forces with a non-governmental organisation, in order to safeguard part of our country's historical heritage. This will ensure that it is conserved and passed on in a duly preserved state to future generations. Minister Debono also said that through management agreements, *Wirt Ghawdex* was given the responsibility of various historical sites while urging members to make effective use of this tower. The Minister for Gozo condemned all vandal acts particularly those effected on monuments and heritage sites. Minister Debono stressed the need for everyone to realise that our heritage, which was passed on by our ancestors, does not only belong to the Government or a particular entity but it belongs to all of us. It is therefore everyone's responsibility to safeguard and protect this heritage.

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September 16, 2008



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