



Victoria Scout Group

N e w s s h e e t

Nº: 196

[October - December 2016] January 2017



SCOUTS
Nibnu Dinja Afjar

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SENA

SCOUTING
F'GHAWDEX
1916-2016



THE SCOUT ASSOCIATION
OF MALTA

Victoria Scout Group

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From the Group Scout Leader **Lorrie Saliba**

A group photo at the
Citadel Square at the end
of the Anniversary Parade



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The year 2016 is over. It was the year where Scouts in Gozo celebrated the 100th anniversary of the Scout Movement in Gozo. Throughout the year, several activities were held between our Group and the Xaghra Group to mark this special event. The last activity in this programme of activities is the planting of 100 trees. These trees will be planted in Nadur in mid- January.

Besides the activities held in connection with the above mentioned anniversary, both the Group council and our members were kept busy with other activities that the Group organised. The memories of these activities and the service rendered will remain with us for a long time to come. Undoubtedly the Easter and summer camps and the outdoor activities are our members' favourites. This year all the sections had an increase in outdoor activities. It is during these activities that our members practise the beauty of the brotherhood and the team spirit that they learn during the weekly meetings throughout the year.

This year another section, the Rover Crew was introduced to our Group. The

Views expressed in this publication are personal and not necessarily those of the Victoria Scout Group as a whole, or of the Scout Association of Malta.

Published by the: **VICTORIA SCOUT GROUP**
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Layout & Printing: **A&M Printing Ltd.** – Għala – Tel: 2155 3217



From the Scout Group Leader

cont....from front page



The appointment certificate as a Cub Leader for Mr Anthony Falzon from Nadur dates back to 2nd April 1946.

leader of this section is Scouter Dr Christopher Micallef. We wish him all the best in this new post.

During the last 12 months we saw the refurbishment of the kitchen and the headquarters yard-store. We also started work on the new shelving at the stores where we keep the camping equipment. We hope that it will be ready by Easter. In November we started works in the Ġorġa Grech Hall which is the main hall at headquarters. It will be inaugurated at the next Annual General Meeting which is to be held at the end of January.

To continue with our work with the members of the Group and to enable us to carry out the works at headquarters, we needed a lot of help which came in many ways and from different people. A heartfelt thank you goes to all those who from time to time answered our call for help. Your help was very much appreciated by us all.

Another thank you goes to the Group council members and my colleagues, the leaders for their work and dedication. The Group would not be what it is without you. We are much indebted and so fortunate to have your support.

On behalf of the Group council, the leaders and all members of the Group I wish all our readers good health and the best of luck during 2017.

• On Tuesday 17th October 2016 at the age of 93 years, Mr **John E. Brincat**, (photo) formerly, GSL 1st Cospicua Scout Group, Scout Shop Commissioner, Field Commissioner and Deputy Chief Commissioner of the Scout Association of Malta.



- **Mr Vincent Refalo** - father of council member Joseph Refalo.
- **Tereza Attard** - mother of group supporter Vincent Attard.

A point to Ponder with the Editor - Anita Muscat

While Scout groups in Malta and Gozo were fully occupied with their schedules, other Scouts worldwide were just as busy.

Here are two examples of what they were up to

• **The United Nations General Assembly –The Scouts were there too.** A group of 6 young people from different countries represented World Scouting at the 71st Session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York held during September 2016. This team took part in meetings which discussed sustainable development, gender equality, children's rights, refugees and migration, humanitarian action and peace building. They also demonstrated how Scouts worldwide are working to contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Vide poster at the bottom of page 5 .

(These 17 SDGs were proposed by the United Nations in 2015. They aim to guide the role of public, non-profit, for-profit, and voluntary sectors in global development in an effort to improve the lives of people worldwide.)

• **Rio 2016 - We will do our best and Italian Scout Beatrice certainly did.**



Well done to Beatrice, a nineteen year old Italian Scout who is the new Paralympic Fencing Champion. Beatrice is a member of the Agesci - Associazione Guide e Scouts Cattolici Italiani, one of the National Scout Associations in Italy. In 2008, Beatrice was affected by severe meningitis, and this led to the amputation of both her legs from the knee and both her arms from the forearms. In spite of this, Beatrice kept going. Well done, fellow Scout for setting such an excellent example of courage, perseverance and optimism!

(Information taken from <https://www.scout.org/europe?>)

Marquee lunch 2016

The Victoria Scout Group raises funds for the victims of the earthquake in Italy.

At the beginning of November, the Group Scout Leader of the Victoria Scout Group, Lorrie Saliba presented a cheque of over a €1000 to a representative of the Caritas organization in Gozo. These funds were raised during an open-air fund-raising lunch held by the group under the marquee tent at



The marquee lunch at Dwejra



Dwejra in October. These funds will now be passed on to Caritas Italia to be donated to the victims of the devastating earthquake which hit central Italy last August. In this way, the Scouts put into practice the Scout Law and Promise which emphasizes their duty to help other people at all times.

CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES



This year's decorated cakes

• Christmas cakes

Once again, a group of council members and other helpers prepared Christmas cakes as a fund-raising activity for the Group.

Thank you to all those who gave a helping hand in one way or another during the whole (lengthy) process of these cake making sessions. - shopping, weighing, mixing, baking, washing up, decorating and finally packing, labelling and delivering these cakes.



Cubs are eager to help during the raffle.

• Christmas dinner

The Group organised its annual Christmas Buffet dinner on Saturday 17th December. The group would like to thank the management and staff of the Hotel Calypso and other sponsors who donated items for the raffle.

Group Treasurer Gino Mizzi presents the cheque to Fr Eddie Zammit, representative of Caritas in Gozo.



The 100th Anniversary Concert

On the occasion of the 100th anniversary of Scouting in Gozo, the Victoria and the Xaghra Scout Groups organized a concert at the Kempinski Hotel. The concert featured the Gaulitanus Choir under the direction of Mro Colin Attard. The choir was accompanied by its resident pianist, Stephen Attard. Chloe Muscat, a Scout from the Xaghra Group also presented an item on the piano.

Mr. Edgar Preca, on behalf of H.E. Marie Louise Coleiro Preca, President of the Republic of Malta, attended the concert. The Chief Scout of the Scout Association of Malta, George Cassar was also present. Also present were Council members and Scout leaders from both groups as well as parents and supporters.



Mr Carm Cachia, group librarian reads a brief history of the two Gozitan Scout Groups.

Scout Chloe Muscat delivers her item on the piano.



Part of the audience during the concert





Mro Colin Attard, pianist Stephen Attard and the Gaulitanus Choir



A well-deserved applause for all

Group photo of some Scouters from the Victoria and the Xaghra Scout Groups



AWARDS and BADGES
for October – December 2016

Packs
Cash Neil - Camper
Rapa Simon – Chil, Camper

I WELL DONE

Congratulations to **Anton Pisani** who has been appointed as Deputy Chief Commissioner for the Scout Association of Malta. We wish him a fruitful term in office and promise him our support.

Forthcoming events

Saturday 14th January – The planting of 100 trees to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Scouting in Gozo.

Saturday 28th January – Annual General Meeting.

Sunday 19th March – Charity Walk in aid of Puttinu Cares.

<p>1 NO POVERTY</p>	<p>2 NO HUNGER</p>	<p>3 GOOD HEALTH</p>	<p>4 QUALITY EDUCATION</p>	<p>5 GENDER EQUALITY</p>	<p>6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION</p>
<p>7 RENEWABLE ENERGY</p>	<p>8 GOOD JOBS AND ECONOMIC GROWTH</p>	<p>9 INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE</p>	<p>10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES</p>	<p>11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES</p>	<p>12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION</p>
<p>13 CLIMATE ACTION</p>	<p>14 LIFE BELOW WATER</p>	<p>15 LIFE ON LAND</p>	<p>16 PEACE AND JUSTICE</p>	<p>17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS</p>	<p>THE GLOBAL GOALS For Sustainable Development</p>

THE GOZITAN SCOUTS CELEBRATE THEIR 100TH ANNIVERSARY

2016 marks the 100th anniversary of Scouting in Gozo. As part of the activities commemorating this special occasion, on Sunday 30th October, the Victoria and the Xaghra Scout Groups organized an anniversary parade in Gozo. They were joined by 18 Maltese Scout Groups and several Scout Bands. The commemoration started off with a thanksgiving mass at the Gozo Seminary Gym. The mass was celebrated by H.E. the Bishop of Gozo, Mgr Mario Grech in the presence of Acting President of Malta Dolores Cristina, the Chief Scout of the Scout Association of Malta and the Chief Commissioner, George Cassar and Leslie Bonnici respectively as well as previous Chief Scouts and Chief Commissioners, other officials of the Association and members of the two Gozitan groups' councils.



Mass at the Seminary gym



Mass at the Seminary gym



The Bishop of Gozo, Mgr Mario Grech salutes the Acting President, Dolores Cristina and the Group Council Chairman, Michael Grech.



The Acting President, Dolores Cristina, the Chief Scout, George Cassar and the Chief Commissioner Leslie Bonnici take the salute.

After mass, all the groups met at St Augustine Square. The Scout Groups then marched through the streets of Victoria. At Independence Square, they saluted the Acting President of Malta, Dolores Cristina, the Chief Scout and the Chief Commissioner, other officials from the Scout Association of Malta as well as Government representatives. The parade ended in the Gozo Cathedral Square where a group photo was taken in the location where the first Scout Group on Gozo had its HQ.



The Group Scout Leader Lorrie Saliba delivers his address.



The two Group Scout Leaders, Lorrie Saliba and Loraine Borg cut the anniversary cake.



One of the bands approaches the Citadel Square.



The Group marches along Republic Street.



The commemorative plaque, done in pyrography by Scouter Emmanuel Mizzi

Back at the Victoria Scout Group headquarters, the Acting President unveiled a commemorative plaque which was blessed by the Bishop of Gozo. In his speech, the Victoria Group

Scout Leader, Lorrie Saliba described the salient points of Scouting in Gozo. The Acting President also addressed the guests. She was later presented with a copy of the book narrating the history of the Victoria Scout Group by its author, Carm Cachia. A reception followed.

An aerial view of St Augustine Square.



At the Citadel Square



SATURDAY & SEONEE PACK REPORT

by CSL Anita Muscat

At the beginning of October, several new boys joined the Packs. We give a warm welcome to Aiden, Anthony, Dilyn, Glenn, Greg Anthony, James, Kevin, Paul, Philip and Simon into our Scouting family.

The Packs' programme for these three months offered a mix of indoor and outdoor activities. In October, the Cubs were given a sample of what the Health and Fitness and Scientist badges consisted of and encouraged to try and gain these badges. A sleepover at the beginning of November included a belated Halloween party, a film show, a sing-song and a campfire, pizza and Halloween cupcakes and lots of games. Later that month a hike took the Cubs to the fertile Lunzjata valley and through the hamlet of Santa Luċija. During this hike the Cubs practised what they learnt during the meetings as regards the Country and the Highway Code. Games, songs and a few lunch breaks also featured.

(Scout Law no 13: A Scout is always hungry.)

During a Group meeting later in November, the Packs bid goodbye to 10 Cubs – Christian, Enzo, Gabriel, Lucas, Matthew, Neil C, Neil S, Nicholas, Simon and Zack who now have joined the Troop section. During a going-up ceremony, the list of badges and the progress registered by the Cubs was read out. Scout Leader David Grech welcomed the new members in his section and wished them more fun, friendship and opportunities for learning.

During one of the meetings in November, the Cubs commemorated World Diabetes Day. By means of a Powerpoint presentation and a discussion, the leaders highlighted the importance of a healthy diet and the need to exercise. The symptoms of this



At the sleepover



Fancy some cupcakes?



During the Pack hike



condition were also explained.

At the beginning of December, as their good turn for the Christmas period, the Packs visited a home for the elderly. They entertained



The Packs perform their good deed.



The Cubs and their Christmas decorations

the residents with some Christmas carols and some Scout songs. Before leaving, the boys distributed some gifts.



Cub scout Jake Sacco delivers the boy's Christmas sermon.

Another activity for December was the Christmas party, consisting of lots of noisy and boisterous games as well as food. During a group meeting held later that month, Cub Scout Jake Sacco delivered the boy's Christmas sermon.

At the end of another year, I would like to thank the Group Scout Leader, my fellow leaders in the Packs and the Group as well as the Cubs' parents for their continued support and cooperation.

WORK AT HEADQUARTERS

Once again, a major project is under way at headquarters. This time it is the main hall's turn to get a facelift. AGSL Gorg Said, in collaboration with council members Raymond Caruana and John Xerri and ASL Mario Galea, is working on transforming the old hall into a more modern one. Well done to all!



Work on the hall



AGSL Gorg Said and ASL Mario Galea discuss the project



We were there

- Some of the Group's leaders attended the commemoration of Remembrance Sunday at Independence Square, Victoria.
- The group provided a guard of honour to Mgr Joseph Curmi on the installation of his term as the Archpriest of the parish of St George.



Remembrance Sunday - Group Scout Leader Lorrie Saliba and Rover Leader Christopher Micallef lay a wreath on the monument to the war victims.

Venture Unit **REPORT**

by Venture Scout Keith Bajada

The past few months have been quite eventful for the Victoria Venture Unit, with quite a few changes taking place. The Unit is proud to welcome Jesmond Scerri as acting Venture Scout Leader. Nonetheless, the Unit thanks former VSL Darren Mercieca profusely for his unconditional patience and his contribution towards the growth of the Venture Unit.

The end of September was marked with a day hike around Comino in searing temperatures with a Geocaching theme as well as a few wide games organized by Nathan Camilleri and Izaak Bajada. Another hike, which was organized soon after, took the Unit from Ċirkewwa to Il-Buskett, with the greatest challenge of the hike coming from climbing the Great Fault itself. The reward however was a very promising warm plate of pasta at the end of the journey. The Unit also gave its contribution to this year's Marquee Dinner at Dwejra, on the 9th of October, with the setting up and pulling down of the Marquee tent as well as constant help offered to the dedicated kitchen staff. In the fourth week of October, the 100th year Anniversary of Scouting in Gozo Rally took place, with several activities including marching and a mass which were held to commemorate this event.



The Unit gives a helping hand at the Marquee lunch at Dwejra.

November was a very active month for the Unit with the majority of the activities being held outdoors. A Night Game in the newly refurbished Citadel, with games including Capture the Flag and Hide and Seek, as well as the Annual Local Area Network Party (LAN party) kicked off the month. Both activities were a success, creating a number of unforgettable memories, amongst others, the creation of the Burger Pie during the LAN party itself. Both activities contributed greatly towards improving the already strong bond and teamwork within the Unit. The following day the Unit also attended the activity mass which was held for all the group.



November cook out



Unit Computer Squad during the LAN party



Ċirkewwa to il-Buskett expedition



November ended with a cookout under the Chambray Fort. The Unit cooked a variety of meats and sausages which were then followed by a night game in the Chambray tree line.

The Unit is also proud to welcome a number of new members to our section, both those coming up the ranks from the Troop Section as well as those who joined without any previous experience. We hope you'll settle in well and that you will be of assistance, when needed. The Unit will always be supportive in times of need.

December marks the Christmas period which immediately brings to mind the Christmas school holidays. Once again, a hike was organized by the Unit: a night spent in a room near the Ta' Ġordan Lighthouse. The Unit braved through the thunderstorm persistent throughout the evening to complete the hike and dined at their final destination. Other meetings so far include the assembly of Christmas decorations throughout the HQ, as well as the planning and preparations for the Joint Rover and Venture Winter Camp which will take place from the 27th to the 29th of December. Activities planned include instructions, board games as well as a variety of wide and night games.



The Ta' Ġordan expedition



The Venture Executive is once again working hard to organize activities for the next 6 months in a bid to ensure that the Unit continues to give the opportunities of participating in enjoyable activities which also help us Venture scouts to hone our Scouting skills.

VISITORS TO HEADQUARTERS

Dolores Cristina - Acting President of Malta.

Mons Mario Grech – Bishop of Gozo.

George Cassar - Chief Scout.

Leslie Bonnici - Chief Commissioner.

Vincent Cassar and **Kenneth DeMartino** - Former Chief Scouts.

Joseph G Grech - Former Chief Commissioner, former GSL of the Victoria Scout Group and the Group Patron.

Loraine Borg– Group Scout Leader, Xagħra Scout Group.

Harry Haig – Island Headquarters staff.

Fr Alfred Briffa – Chaplain of the Scout Association of Malta.

Mark Pizzuto – Honorary Treasurer, Island Headquarters.

Betty Berry – former Cub Scout Leader.

Lawrence Sciberras – former Scout Leader.

Vincent Vella – former GSL Xagħra Scout Group.

Caroline Portelli and **Hercules Farrugia** – GSL and AGSL - St Michael's Group.

Mark O'Neil – Żebbuġ Scout Group.

David Schembri – Mayor of Qrendi.

Joe Cordina – Mayor of Xagħra.

Various leaders from different Scout Groups from Malta.

Dave and **Gill Clements** from Peterborough, England.

Mrs May Castrey - UK.

Franklin Micallef, Matthew Borg, Marlon Bajada and **Fr Giovanni Curmi** - Gozo Seminary.

Mrs Angela Thomas - Surrey UK.

Choo Ting - Malaysia.



Dave Clements with the Group Scout Leader Lorrie Saliba and the Asst Group Scout Leader Gorġ Said



Choo Ting from Malaysia visits our HQ

ROVER AND VENTURE SCOUTS WINTER CAMP 2016

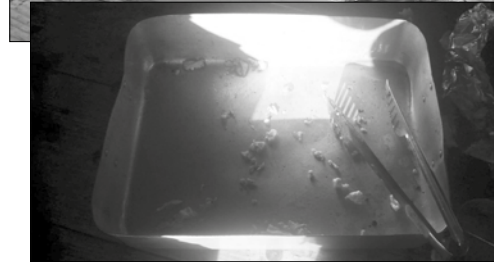
by Acting Venture Scout Leader Jesmond Scerri

While our Unit is mostly used to Easter and Summer Camps, this year the Rover and Venture Scouts took advantage of the Christmas holidays and organised a 3 day winter camp at Dwejra between Tuesday 27th and Thursday 29th December 2016.

The main focus of the camp was "Camping skills" with activities varying from setting up a campsite, pitching and striking tents, building a fire and cooking.



Breakfast – before and after.



During the 3 days, we experienced all sorts of weather conditions, with bright sunshine bringing with it warm temperatures to force 7 winds at night and some heavy rain. While this was unplanned, this camping in extreme weather conditions provided the participants with further opportunity to acquire more camping skills. I must say that all participants rose to the occasion and were out in the rain and wind, checking the tents and fine tuning them, to limit the damages.

Well done to all participants and a special thanks to the Rover crew who co-ordinated the camp together with the Venture executive committee.

Let's keep coming up with such activities to live the Scouting Spirit to the full!



Setting up camp



Dismantling camp



Nothing beats our campfire stew.



Group photo at the Venture and Rover winter camp