



Victoria Scout Group

News sheet

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From the Group Scout Leader **Lorrie Saliba**

Dear friends, some time ago I attended the funeral of our dear friend John Brincat, the ex-GSL of the Cospicua Group and former Deputy Chief Commissioner at Island Headquarters. What struck me most during John's funeral was the homily delivered by Rev. Fr Anton Briffa Cap., the Chaplain of the Association. I consider Fr Briffa's homily as a fitting tribute to John. It was also a message to us all, members of the Scout Movement, as in a few words, Fr Anton outlined what Scouting stands for and how we must do our utmost to preserve the Scouting tradition as handed down to us by our founder, Lord Baden-Powell. Allow me to reproduce some reflections from Fr Anton's homily.

"This passage (Matthew 7, vs 21-27) talks about a wise man and a foolish man. The wise man is he who follows the will of the Father, he who accepts the mission that God entrusts unto him. This man prepares himself for the morrow by thinking about and by considering every eventuality. He is the one whose motto is: BE PREPARED. The foolish man is he who does not accept the mission God has entrusted him with. He cares not and lives every day of his life as if 'tomorrow never comes'.

I have chosen this passage for John's funeral on purpose. Since early childhood 'Is-Sur Brincat', as he was known

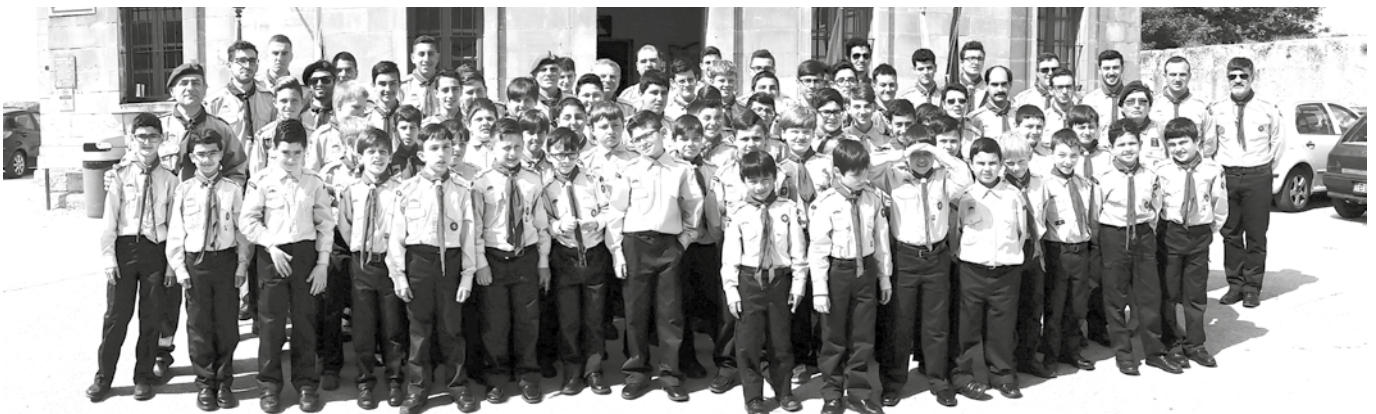
to everyone, always strove to serve both the community where he lived and the Maltese community in general. And he decided to base his mission on the spiritual aspect of the Scout Promise and the Scout Law.

Inspired by the Gospel of Matthew (Chapter 21), Robert Baden-Powell wanted each member of the Scout Movement to believe in God and this belief must be shown through the Scout's own way of life. Baden-Powell wrote this formula as a Promise, an Oath, in God's presence: *On my honour, I promise to do my best to do my duty to God and my country, to help others in need at all times and to obey the Scout Law.*

In this formula one finds a number of values:

- Spirituality: I believe and I do my duty to God.
- Patriotism: I do my duty to my country.
- Charity/Love towards one's neighbour: to help whoever is in need.
- Loyalty: I observe and protect the ideals that I have accepted to follow.

One can find a number of values in the Scout Law as well. Here are some of them. Whoever becomes a member of the Scout Movement has to:



Group photo at Island Headquarters before the annual rally.

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.



From the Scout Group Leader

cont....from front page

- Be correct in his words and behaviour
- Be ready to form part of a team
- Be honest, sincere, trustworthy, amiable, and respectful.

I prefer not to speak of Mr Brincat as a leader and organiser, the person who organised camps both in summer and in winter. I do not wish to remember him as a leader who trained and prepared many boys and youths so that they could acquire badges in cooking, swimming and so on. I would like to present Mr Brincat as a person who learned about the values and the ideals of Robert Baden-Powell, made them his own, believed in them and lived them throughout his life.

Then he did his utmost to promote the ideals and values of Scouting in the boys and youths, both in the community where he lived and in the youths of Malta and Gozo. This he did both as a Group Scout Leader of

the Cospicua Group and as Deputy Chief Commissioner at IHQ.

He used to tell me: The Promise has words which may reprimand. 'On my honour...!' One has to be honourable to utter such words. If you have not been honourable, how can you appear before God and tell Him: 'On my honour'?

He used to tell me: Tell the boys that the Law states that a Scout can be trusted. Do I dare trust you as a Scout? Can I trust you simply because you wear a Scout's uniform? Or because you know the Scout Law by heart? I will trust you when I see the way you live, the way you speak, the way you behave.

This was Mr Brincat, a man who knew what he was saying and what he was doing. He understood what he was saying and he understood what he was doing.

Mr Brincat was also a father. He was a family man. Notwithstanding this, he created an equilibrium between time for his family and time for serving the community, and this he did through

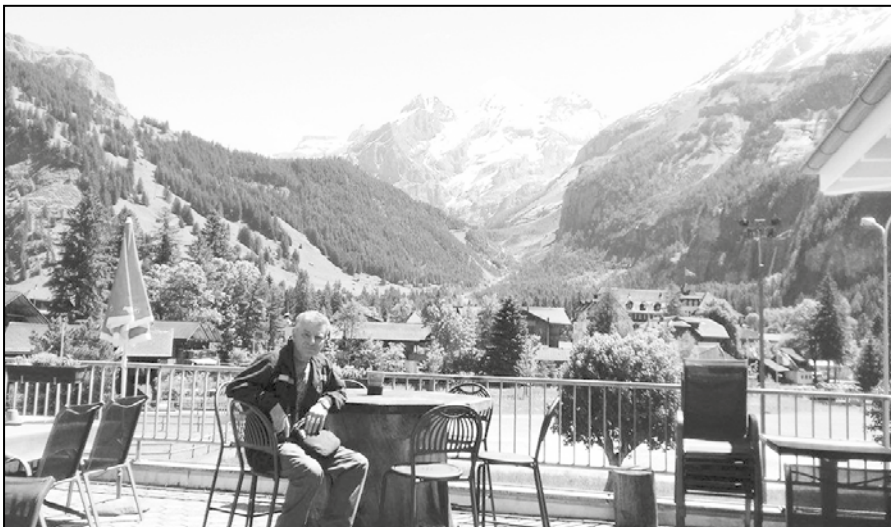


The Pathfinder

Scouting. Having a wife and five children to care for was no excuse for not doing voluntary work.

At the end of Mass, a holy picture will be distributed. John was so devout to this holy image. It is called the Pathfinder and portrays a boy in Scout uniform standing beside a table with a map spread on it. The boy holds a compass in his hand and Jesus is standing behind him. Jesus helps him find the way to the truth. Christ is our compass."

Fr Briffa ended his homily thus: "Do teach the children how to put up tents, tie knots, cook and swim. But above all you must teach the children the values and the ideals of Robert Baden-Powell. Teach them to be wise: before embarking on the road to their ideals, they must prepare themselves for every eventuality. Teach them wisdom. This is the true meaning of the words: **BE PREPARED.**"



GSL Lorrie Saliba visits the International Scout Centre at Kandersteg, Switzerland

ANNUAL RALLY 2017

The Group took part in this year's annual Scout and Guide rally. The Group marched from Island Headquarters in Floriana to Valletta. On passing in front of the Grandmaster's Palace, they saluted the President of Malta, Marie Louise Coleiro Preca and the highest authorities of the Scout and Girl Guide Associations.



The Group salutes the President of Malta and the Chief Scout and Guide.

Point to Ponder with the Editor, Anita Muscat

First of all, I would like to say and it is no secret that I love camping. For the past 25 years, I have attended quite a lot of Scout camps – in Gozo, Malta and even overseas. Each time it has involved a lot of hard work but it also left me with lots of wonderful experiences and memories. But probably the best thing about these camps is watching our youngsters enjoy themselves, grow and mature. It is very satisfying to note how certain timid 7-year old boys have now developed into (much needed and greatly appreciated) competent Scout Leaders who are ready to put their skills and their energy at the Group's service.

Recently I came across an interesting article by an American Scout Leader, Mike Cooney. He described 10 reasons why parents should send their children to camp. Since we are approaching summer camp and since I agree wholeheartedly with what he says and can add my experiences to substantiate his claims, I thought I would pass on his and my thoughts. **Send your children to camp:**

10. They'll be homesick, and get over it. - Most of the new campers, especially the Cubs are homesick. For most it's the first time they will be spending a night away from home and its comforts, their parents, siblings, pets, technology etc. However at camp, they will have around them people who they feel comfortable with and can offer support when 'Mammitis' strikes and encourage them to stick to it. In most cases, the tears dry up, and by the last day of camp, some do not want to go home.

9. They will gain confidence. - Going to camp can initially be an intimidating experience for most children. Probably they'll get nervous, and feel apprehensive about lots of things. They are afraid they are going to fail in this and that. However a Scout leader or an older Scout whom they trust will convince them that they are going to succeed. And they will. This confidence won't evaporate once they return home. They will have these little triumphs to look back on when they go back to school and to encourage them for the rest of their lives.



8. Camp gets them moving. - Camps involve lots of physical activity – playing, hiking, climbing, swimming, kayaking etc. All these activities keep them on the go and are more stimulating and healthier than playing video games.

7. They will try out new things. - Where else but at camp would you get the chance to try out exciting activities such as the ones mentioned in (8) above as well as others such as building a raft, a tower, a bridge, a catapult or a rocket, getting wet and dirty in crazy water or mud games, having a go at archery, building clay ovens or a smoker, cooking your meals, sleeping with your friends in a tent under starry skies, taking part in a campfire and performing in front of a big audience etc, etc?

6. They will gain self-reliance - The best way to learn how to do things for yourself is to do things for yourself. At camp mum will not be there to take care of clothes, money or other belongings. The campers will have to take care of their own persons and things and so learn how to do it through trial and error.

5. Camp is a safe place to fail. – Sometime things can go wrong at camp. Maybe a T-shirt goes missing. Maybe they have an argument with a friend. Maybe they end up with a bruise. This is the same as what goes on in life. In life, things can and do go wrong at times. And they will realise that these little setbacks are not the end of the world. There will realise that there will be people to whom they can turn to for help and who will support them. They will learn it is ok to fail and it is also ok to try and try again.

4. They learn new skills. – At camp one has to live with other people who might share similar or different habits and opinions. Just as in life, we need to compromise and reconcile our differences to make it work. At camp one learns to look after himself and others, delegate certain tasks, meet others half way, obey orders and share duties. Working in a team is a very important skill which will come in handy later on at the workplace and elsewhere.

3. Camp is the place to be. - At camp, every one tends to have a good time. It may rain sometimes or things might not always be plain sailing, but still any day at camp is better than one at school, at an office or any other workplace.

2. They will see the world differently - At camp one meets other people – older, younger or the same age. Sometimes you meet and get to know people from other countries, cultures or religions. When you spend time with, and become friends with these people, this gives you a different perspective. One might also perceive their own area - the campsite- and its environs in a different way and learn to appreciate and protect it.

1. Make friends that last a lifetime – Living with other people at camp and sharing experiences will lead to making new friends and consolidating old friendships. At camp you discover your similarities and your differences quite quickly. And you learn to accept them and adjust your way of thinking and acting so that the shared experiences are as pleasant as could be for all those involved.

In my opinion, camp is a microcosm, the world in miniature. In various ways, life at camp is very similar to life in society in general. So it helps Scouts *Be Prepared* for what life has to offer.

And yes, another **BIG** reason to attend camp is that **IT IS FUN!** There is no other experience like it in the whole wide world!

(Info taken from <https://mikecooney.net/> and his *Grow your Group* blog)

FAMILY WALK



Over the cliffs and far away

On Monday 1st May, a public holiday, the Group organised a walk for its members, their families and friends. The group started this walk from the square in front of the primary school in Kerčem. Along their way, through the countryside and over the cliffs, they enjoyed magnificent views of the area. At the end, tea, coffee and cakes were served.



The hikers stop for a coffee break.

Figolli Sale 2017

The Group would like to thank all those who were involved in one way or another in the preparation of this year's figolli. Other thanks go to those parents and supporters who purchased these figolli.



Dinner at Santa Lučija

On Saturday 24th June, the Victoria Scout Group organised a fund-raising dinner at the square in the hamlet of Santa Lučija.

The group would like to thank all those who helped towards the success of this activity.



Happy birthday to Group Council Secretary Marija Mercieca.



The kitchen team prepares to serve the dessert.



A view of the square at Santa Lučija

AWARDS and BADGES

for April – June 2017

Packs

- Azzopardi Nathan** - Kaa, Raksha
- Ballucci Dilyn** - Membership
- Bonello Nathan** - Kaa, Raksha, Botanist, Chil
- Cassar Mattia** - Scientist
- Cauchi Karl** - People and Places
- Cini Sven** - People and Places
- Cordina Kevin** - Tenderpaw, Membership
- Farrugia Mark Saviour** - Kaa
- Gambin Greg Anthony** - Membership
- Grima Christon** - People and Places
- Pace Aiden** - Membership, Hobbies
- Magrin Michael** - Kaa
- Magrin Philip** - Membership, Craftsman
- Mifsud Glenn** - Membership
- Mizzi Simon** - Membership
- Morgan Sam** - Kaa
- Refalo Michael** - Kaa, People and Places, Raksha, Chil
- Said Thiago Jo** - People and Places, Our Earth, Collector, Craftsman, Hobbies, Botanist, Musician
- Sacco Jake** - People and Places
- Spiteri Sean** - People and Places
- Sultana Paolo** - Kaa
- Vassallo Anthony** - Membership
- Vassallo James** - Membership

Memories of Easter Camp 2017



The former 2 Akelas, Mary Rose Pace and Betty Berry are busy at the washing up post.

The Victoria Scout Group organised its annual Easter camp at Dwejra. During the 4 day camp, the four sections of the group – the 2 Cub Scout Packs, the Troop Section, the Venture Unit and the Rover Crew – took part in various activities including athletics, nature hikes, cook-outs, campfires and clean-ups. On Easter Monday the newly formed Gozitan Girl Guide Group, the 1st Victoria Bishop Conservatory Unit visited the camp. The Chief Commissioner and the Chaplain of the Scout Association of Malta, Leslie Bonnici and Fr Anton Briffa also paid a visit to the camp.



We're off to camp! Let's get all our equipment down to Dwejra.



Flag down. Another camp is over. Till we meet again.



The Gozo Guides visit camp



All hands on board. Let's put the marquee tent up boys.



Group photo at Easter Camp 2017



And down comes the kitchen tent after having faithfully served its purpose for the duration of camp. (and churned out meal after meal)



Preparing for the hungry hordes



Here they come

GOOD DEEDS

Victoria Scout Group Car Wash

On Saturday 29th April, the Victoria Scout Group organised a Car Wash in aid of ARKA and OASI organisations. The car wash started at 8am. 172 cars and 12 hours later, the sum collected amounted to €1445.

The group would like to thank all those volunteers (mainly Scouts) who gave a helping hand throughout the day, to all those who brought their cars to be washed and to other persons who in one way or another helped to make this activity a success.

Well done to all!



At the car wash



GSL Lorrie Saliba checks the totals during the car wash.

Fundraising Activities

Good Deeds

A Scout helps others at all times. So says the Scout Law and so did the members of the Victoria Scout Group on various occasions during the past 3 months.

Friends of the Sick and the Elderly Lunch

On Sunday 7th May, the Group organised a lunch at its headquarters. Council members and leaders prepared the lunch, while Scouts, Rover and Venture Scouts helped to serve it. The proceeds of this lunch were donated to the Friends of the Sick and the Elderly.



Pasta and Pizza Night in aid of the Sisters of Mother Teresa, Bari

On Friday 26th May, a pasta and pizza night was held at headquarters. Every summer, members of the group Volontariat f' Bari spend some weeks in Bari, Italy helping out in a convent run by the Sisters of Mother Teresa. These nuns work with disadvantaged youths and children. In this way, the Gozitan and Maltese volunteers, together with some Group Council members and leaders, raised funds for their stay in Italy.



The Friends of the Sick and Elderly lunch



Pasta and Pizza Night in aid of the Sisters of Mother Teresa, Bari

Presentation of Funds

The Victoria Scout Group presents €2400 to other NGOs.

We will do our best to help others at all times.

On Saturday 20th May, the Group Treasurer Mr Gino Mizzi presented cheques for the amount of €2400 to three different Gozitan NGOs. This amount was collected by the Scouts, their leaders and Group Council members during a car wash and a lunch held in April and in May 2017. The beneficiaries were ARKA, OASI and The Friends of the Sick and the Elderly.

The presentation took place at the group's headquarters in the presence of the Scouts. The Group Scout Leader, Mr Lorrie Saliba reminded those present of the Scout Law and

Promise which binds its members to help others at all times. Through similar initiatives, the Scouts put into practice their commitment to help those in need.



The Group Scout Leader Lorrie Saliba and the Council Treasurer Gino Mizzi present the funds collected during the car wash to Fr Michael Grima and Ms Daniela Gauci, respectively representing ARKA and OASI organisations.

WE WERE THERE

GSL's visit to Kandersteg International Scout Centre

"I have a dream....." said Lord Baden-Powell after the first World Scout Jamboree held in 1920 in Olympia, London.

The **Kandersteg International Scout Centre (KISC)** is the World Organization of the Scout Movement's (WOSM) World Scout Centre. It is an international Scout centre in Kandersteg, Switzerland. The centre provides lodges, chalets and campsites covering 17 hectares of land. It is open to Scouts all year round, as well as to non-Scouts for most of the year. Every year more than 11,000 young people from over 50 different countries visit this centre in the heart of the Bernese Alps.

The centre began in 1923 after Lord Baden-Powell had a dream about a place for Scouts from all over the world as a permanent Mini Jamboree site. By visiting this centre, Scouts can live their founder's dream and keep it alive.

In June, our Group Scout Leader, Lorrie Saliba visited this site and sent us this photo.



GSL Lorrie Saliba visits the International Scout Centre at Kandersteg, Switzerland

WasteServ Activity



Cub Scout Simon does his bit while Mrs Emma Morgan guides the other participants. (Lots of Cubs left their signature on the WasteServ chart visible on the right)

On Sunday 30th April, various members of the group took part in an open day held by WasteServ at the Civic Amenity site in Xewkija. Among the activities they participated in was the painting of a giant (25m) mural. This initiative was the brainchild of two of our parents, Emma Victoria Morgan and Abi McLeod Clark. Well done to all!



Mrs Abi McLeod Clark checks the nearly completed giant mural.

SATURDAY & SEONEE PACK REPORT

by CSL Anita Muscat

Easter camp started off the activities for these three months. 37 out of 40 Cubs attended this 2 day camp. A varied programme full of fun, games and badgework awaited the participants. Hikes to various parts of Dwejra and a campfire were also part of the programme.

The Cubs had a go at the Athlete's Badge which involved several athletic feats such as sprints, throwing a ball, the long jump and the sargent jump as well as a shuttle run.

The Packs also completed several items of the World Scout Environment Badge. The World Scout Environment Badge is an international badge which seeks to create an awareness of personal responsibility for the environment. The badge encourages Scouts to connect with nature, think about how we interact with the environment and take action to protect it. The environment is a global subject and the badge focuses on learning about local and global issues and how taking local action can help both of these.

During the Sense Nature activities, the Cubs used all their five senses (seeing, hearing, tasting, smelling and touching) to observe and understand how the information relayed through our senses helps us to create our awareness of the natural world which surrounds us. During the Sticky Leaves activity, the boys collected and compared the residue on leaves which are close to the road to that on those leaves which are further off. They then had to decide whether the leaves' proximity to the roads was linked to the effects of air pollution. Local flora and fauna (quite abundant in the area) were also scrutinized, investigated and tasted. (Thank you to former Akela Betty Berry, for sharing your expertise and joining us for this badge.)

Other items for this badge such as *What disaster am I?, What have I*

done today?, and *Catch the carbon dioxide molecules* are being carried out during the weekly meetings.

Several Cubs were quite busy gaining proficiency badges as can be seen in the Awards and Badges entry in this newsheet. A very unusual Hobbies badge, the first ever in my long experience as a leader, was that presented by Cub Scout Thiago Jo Said. 8 year old Thiago Jo is a bell ringer. For the past few years, he has joined much older persons in practising this pastime. During his presentation, Thiago Jo showed us photos and videos of these experiences in lots of churches both in Malta and Gozo .

During two investiture ceremonies, the Group welcomed 11 new Cubs. Aiden, Anthony, Dilyn, Glenn, Greg Anthony, James, Kevin, Philip, Paul and Simon became members of the Group and the worldwide Scouting family. We hope that the time spent with the Group will provide them with new friends, new experiences, moments of fun as well as occasions for learning new skills which will serve them in good stead for their future.



Thiago Jo presents his Hobbies Badge and explains what being a bell-ringer involves.



Getting up close to Mother Nature. It is true. The Gozo Everlasting (Sempreviva t'Ghawdex) really does smell of curry.



The customary visit to Baloo's Cave in the cliff face at Dwejra



A nature hike around Dwejra as part of the World Scout Environment Badge



Congratulations!



AVSL Giacomo and Mary Claire

Congratulations to the newlyweds, Assistant Venture Scout Leader **Giacomo Xerri** and his wife **Mary Claire** as well as Assistant Cub Scout Leader **David Mario Fenech** and his wife **Svetlene**. Both couples got married on Saturday the 1st July 2017.

Best wishes on this wonderful journey, as they build their lives together.



ACSL David Mario and Svetlene

TROOP REPORT

The Scout Promise

by Scout Leader David Grech

*On my Honour, I promise that I will
do my best,
To do my Duty to God and my
country,
To help other people at all times,
And to obey the Scout Law.*

This is the promise that every Scout makes during his investiture into the Scout Movement. On the day, one may see this as part of the whole ritual of the investiture ceremony. However, for a Scout these four lines should have a deeper meaning. To fully understand the underlying substance of the Promise, we need to break it down.

On my Honour I Promise

From its first words, the Promise is asking something more of us. We are not saying; "I will try" or "If I can". With the word promise we are imposing the word Honour. This puts an extra weight on the words which will follow in the Scout Promise. In the past, and even in circumstances today, all kind of people attach their honour to what they say, to put a larger emphasis on what they are saying. So does a Scout by starting

this promise in this way, by placing an emphasis on what he is about to say after this.

Do my Best

In my opinion these three words are the core of the Scout Promise. If anyone should forget all of the Scout Law, at least they should remember these three words. If one lives up to these three words in all he does; not just with the Scouts, he would surely be reaching the aim of what Scouting is all about. A person should not be evaluated on the score they get or the time they run a race. This promise is all about doing your utmost to do things to do the best of your abilities. Once a Scout realises what one's limits are and tries his best to, first, match them and then work towards moving those limits. It is the leader's role to evaluate what these limits are and since the promise applies to the leaders as well, they too should **try their best** to help the Scout live up to his promise.

Do My duty to God and Country

When we are reciting our promise, we have to understand that we are declaring it to our fellow Scouts, not to ourselves. This means that we are **Promising to do our best,**



The Troop and their three towers

but to whom and to what end? In the past, doing your duty to your country had a different meaning. Today one will do his duty to his country not by participating in wars but by being a citizen who honours his country. This is what Scouting is all about, moulding its members into being not just good citizens for their community, but citizens that are promising to do their best. I think that our duty to God is achieved through Scouting, by helping to create a moral compass by which one lives his life. When Baden-Powell was asked what the religious side of Scouting was, he replied that there is no religious side in Scouting as **ALL** of it is built on a religious principle.

Help others at all times

This phrase is often used to describe the stereotype Scout - that small Scout that is helping an old lady to cross the road. While this may not be an ideal representation, it does make one thing absolutely clear. When someone mentions Scouts, one of the first images that pops up is someone who is helping others. In the Cub Law we find something similar - Do a good deed every day. What does this mean however? If I already did my good deed for the day, can I stop? Or if I do another one, does that count for tomorrow? And what happens when I don't do one today? These questions used to trouble me as a Cub (many, many years ago). Today I realise that this promise already has the answer, **DO YOUR BEST**. How can I help others? Help may come in different versions. It can be material help but it can also be an emotional one. Sometimes you do not even realize that your words or your actions are helping others. Back when I was of Scout age, I was being bullied at school. It was thanks to the words and actions of kids that were Scouts that I was able to move forward. Today, whenever I hear a



The Troop's hike is framed for eternity.

new Scout reciting this promise, I remember those instances where others fulfilled their promise of helping others by helping me, and I come to realize the deeper meaning of this promise.

Obey the Scout Law

In life everything has its rules and laws. Every game we play is based on a few simple rules. Without rules everyone would do as he pleases and if this were to happen, then surely someone would end up not enjoying the game. In the Scout Law there are not a lot, but each of them is important in the message it is trying to portray. Most of them



Troop hike and cookout

follow universal principles that one finds in civil and religious laws. However, what for me makes these laws different is that these laws come as a consequence to the promise that we have just said. Thus before each law, we have to put on top of it our **HONOUR**, our **PROMISE**, our **BEST**, our **DUTY**, our **HELP**.

Conclusion

Most probably, this promise was first learned by heart for the investiture ceremony. (That's what I did.) However one should realise, that for me, these are not just any four lines but they are now a way of life. During each ceremony, the GSL has the same words of wisdom to impart, words that I have now heard for hundreds of times in the past 23 years. The last part of his speech is "with the

promise that you have just made, in front of everyone, you are now not just a member of the Victoria Scout group but a **FULL** member of the worldwide Scout Movement." Every time I hear them I focus on the one word – **FULL**. Why is the GSL using these exact words? Why does he not just say a member of the worldwide Scout movement? However when reading the Scout Promise again, one realizes that it is there to be followed in **FULL** not in part, or in those parts that are easier or sound better. I have to be a **FULL** member because in the end that is what I said – **ON MY HONOUR I PROMISE**.



Clean-up at camp



Dismantling the towers. Do you remember these knots?

Donations by the Victoria Scout Group

A recent check-up regarding the amount of funds raised by the group in favour of other organisations during the past ten years resulted in the following:

- Dar tal-Providenza - €330
- ARKA Foundation - €2026
- Lourdes Institute - €690
- OASI Organisation - €3827
- Committee for the National Monument of Pope John Paul II - €550
- Puttinu Cares - €1007
- Fondazzjoni Kenn u Tama - €150
- Community Chest Fund - €7176
- Phillippines Missions - €353
- Ability For Disability Association (AFDA) - €500
- Friends of the Sick and the Elderly - €1692
- Dorthese Ellis Foundation - €753
- Caritas Italy (Earthquake Fund) - €1030

GRAND TOTAL - € 20,084

Well, I think we have certainly done our best!

Congratulations!

Congratulations to the newly elected Gozitan Members of Parliament –
Dr Justyne Caruana,
Mr Clint Camilleri,
Dr Anton Refalo,
Dr Chris Said,
and Mr David Stellini.

Dr Anton Refalo and Mr David Stellini are former members of the Group. We wish them all the best for their term in office.



Via Crucis

On Saturday 8th April, the Group organised the Way of the Cross from the square in front of the Marian sanctuary at ta' Pinu up Għammar Hill. Several parents joined the Scouts for this Lenten pilgrimage. At the end of the Via Crucis, a mass was celebrated at the top of the hill.

Work at headquarters

The work at the Group's store in Carolina Cauchi Street is now completed. New shelving and a loft have been installed. This store can now house some of the Group's substantial amount of camping equipment in a more organised way. Thank you and well done to all those involved in this project.



The new layout of the camping equipment stores

Visitors to Headquarters

- Gilbert Taylor and Tim Hosband and the latter's sons Brandon and Caine, Cub Scouts with the Linkinhorne Scout Group, Cornwall, UK
- Fr Michael Grima obo ARKA
- Friends of the Sick and the Elderly committee members
- Ms Daiela Gauci obo OASI
- David Stellini – former Group member and newly elected Member of Parliament



ASL Jean Pierre Scerri takes Tim Hosband, his sons Brendan and Caine and their great uncle Gilbert Taylor for a 'tour' around the headquarters.

Venture Scouts REPORT

by VSL Jesmond Scerri

During these past three months, most Venture Scouts were busy with their exams and not many exciting activities could be organised. We had members sitting for their O-Levels, A-Levels and also for annual exams. This did not stop us from participating in a number of activities organised by the group such as the car wash, the Annual Parade and Easter Camp.

The highlight of this year's Easter Camp programme for the Venture Scouts was smoking various cuts of meat. This involved doing some research online, building the actual smoker, preparing the meat and spending twelve hours slow cooking/smoking the meat. The activity was a great success and one to be repeated and improved upon during future camps. *(Confirmed! Tried, tested and approved!! Can we have the encore during the next camp please? -the editor)*

The Unit was also asked to support the group in a number of activities namely, the lunch in aid of the Sick and the Elderly and the Santa Lucija dinner. We also gave a helping hand with the Cubs Scouts meeting when this was requested.

Our programme, although perhaps less exciting than usual, included a mixture of activities ranging from carrying out maintenance work together with the Rover Scouts, cleaning up the HQ, to cookouts and pioneering projects.

As part of the Apollo Award, some Venture Scouts planned and built a tower in the HQ yard. Keith even managed to climb up the tower. This augurs well for summer camp where we are planning to build an even bigger tower.

Another activity was a cookout. This included some axe work, building the fire and cooking a variety of food including sausages, pasta, and steak. During this activity the members present had the opportunity to plan

some further activities and to start working on the programme for the summer camp.

Most of the Venture Scouts are kept very busy during summer with jobs as waiters, kitchen staff, working in supermarkets etc. Although this impacts on their availability for the regular meetings, this will give them work experience and will help them to put into practice most of the skills learnt during the year such as teamwork, being prepared for all eventualities and social interaction.



Venture Scout David Saliba is presented with the Venture Scout of the Year Award for 2016.



Guess if the marquee tent is going up or down



Archery time at camp



The big boys get to do the heavy stuff.



Building the smoker and putting it to the test.



Congratulations!

Congratulations to Assistant Cub Scout Leader Joseph Saliba on becoming a doctor. Well done! We are all very proud of you. Joseph is the 4th member of our group to become a doctor. We wish you all the best in your new profession.



ACSL Joseph Saliba