

Recent Activities at the University Gozo Centre

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The Gozo Lace Day

On 29 April, the Lace-Making Programme at the University Gozo Centre organised the annual event 'Gozo Lace Day' for the eleventh consecutive year. The event consisted of a number of exhibitions and demonstrations of Gozo lace and talks on matters related to lacemaking. Present for the event were Hon. Anton Tabone, Speaker of the House of Representatives, His Grace Mgr. Mario Grech, Bishop of Gozo, Professor Lino Briguglio, Director of the University Gozo Centre and Ms Consiglia Azzopardi, coordinator of the Lace-Making Programme.

His Grace Mgr. Mario Grech, when addressing participants expressed his admiration for the work carried out at the University Gozo Centre and said he was impressed with the variety of courses being offered at the centre. He said that lacemaking, like any other human work, should elevate the dignity of the person not only because lacemaking has economic implications but also because of its cultural, social and artistic dimensions. He continued that from lacemaking we can derive a lesson in that life is made up of different interwoven strands and success in life depends on our ability to maximise the benefits of these different strands.



His Grace Mgr. Mario Grech talking to lacemakers during the Lace Day 2007.

In his talk Hon. Anton Tabone, congratulated Prof Briguglio and his staff at the Centre in particular

Consiglia Azzopardi who directs the Lace-Making Programme within the centre. He said that he hopes that the diploma course in Lace Studies, which is an interdisciplinary one, will one day be elevated to a degree course.

In her introductory talk Ms Consiglia Azzopardi mentioned the three-year course on lacemaking, which has been offered at the University Gozo Centre for many times. She stated that the idea of offering a University course leading to a Diploma in Lace Studies has become a reality. She distributed certificates to candidates who completed the lacemaking courses. She said that this year the programme will also include an international summer school for international students.

Visit by the Italian H.E. Ambassador Paolo Andrea Trabalza

On 2nd April the Italian Ambassador for Malta, H.E. Paolo Andrea Trabalza, paid a visit to the University Gozo Centre where he met with Gozitan artists, members of Parliament, mayors and others persons who work in the cultural scene.



The Italian Ambassador H.E. Paolo Andrea Trabalza speaking during the meeting for artists.

The aim of this visit was the launching of a competition for Gozitan artists, organised by the Embassy of Italy in Malta in order to commemorate the bicentenary from the birth of Giuseppe Garibaldi who was born on 4 July 1807.

Visit by HRH Princess Benedikte of Denmark

On 6 April HRH Princess Benedikte of Denmark paid a short visit to the Centre. She was met at the Centre by Ms Consiglia Azzopardi, co-ordinator of the Lace-Making Programme. HRH Princess Benedikte had the opportunity to watch a number of lacemakers who were present at the Centre sitting at their pillow. She was very interested in the current techniques that the lacemakers were using. The princess also admired a display of Maltese lace items.



Consiglia Azzopardi showing a number of lace items to HRH Princess Benedikte.

Diploma in Facilitating Inclusive Education

On 19 January, a course leading to a Diploma in Facilitating Inclusive Education was inaugurated. The course, which is spread over two-years on a part-time basis, is being organised for the first time at the University Gozo Centre by the Faculty of Education of the University of Malta. The course is being run with the support of the Ministry for Gozo. Seventy-four students are attending the course.



Hon. Giovanna Debono (fourth from left) speaking during the inauguration of the course in Facilitating Inclusive Education.

Publications

The 15th edition of the Gozo Observer was published in December 2006. It contains a number of interesting articles on Gozitan affairs. Godwin Vella describes two late 16th century reports on the fortifications of Gozo. Patronage in Late Medieval Gozo is treated in an article by Charles Dalli. Maryrose Vella writes about climate change and its effects on small islands such as Gozo. The management of beaches, yacht marinas, which are of direct interest to the Gozitan economy, are considered in an article by Anton Micallef. In another article Saviour Formosa analyses crime in Gozo while George Borg gives an interesting informative feature on the Gozo Public Library and its subsidiaries.



Free copies of the Gozo Observer and more information can be obtained from the University Gozo Centre, Mġarr Road, Xewkija, Gozo Tel: 21564559; Fax 21564550 email: ugc@um.edu.mt.

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