

Recent Activities at the University Gozo Centre

JOSEPH CALLEJA

Ms Kate Gonzi at the Gozo Lace Day

Ms Kate Gonzi, wife of the Prime Minister, attended the 12th edition of 'The Gozo Lace Day' organised in Gozo on 6 April by the University Gozo Centre Lace Making Programme. Ms Gonzi distributed certificates to students who completed the advanced lace-making course.

When addressing those present, Ms Gonzi said that she was impressed by the work carried out at the University Gozo Centre stating that the centre has been instrumental in reviving the craft and giving it an academic dimension.



Ms Kate Gonzi presenting a certificate to a successful participant.

The Hon. Giovanna Debono, Minister for Gozo, who was also present, said that the centre has become a hub of activity and through it hundreds of Gozitans have obtained a university degree. She said that the Diploma in Lace Studies offered at the centre is unique and she augured that more students will join the course when it will be offered again next October.

Ms Consiglia Azzopardi, Coordinator of the Lace Making Programme, talked about the social aspects of lace making and said that in Italy lace making is used for its therapeutic effect, even to reform drug

addicts and prisoners. She said that it has been observed that lace making can also help to give up or reduce cigarette smoking. Ms Azzopardi stated that the Lace Making Programme is also planning to target younger persons including males and this summer a course in lace making will be offered with this specific aim.



Ms Consiglia Azzopardi showing lace exhibits to Ms Kate Gonzi and Hon. Giovanna Debono.

Professor Lino Briguglio, Director of the Gozo Centre thanked all those present and made a special mention of the Hon. Anton Tabone, former Speaker of the House of Representatives, who, when Minister for Gozo, did his utmost to establish the University Gozo Centre and always wanted to give lace making the high profile it deserves.

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

On 5 April the Italian Ambassador for Malta, H.E. Paolo Andrea Trabalza, paid a second visit to the University Gozo Centre where he met a number of Gozitan artists, members of Parliament, and other persons who are involved in the cultural scene.

The aim of his visit was the launching of a second competition for Gozitan artists, organised by the Embassy of Italy in Malta in order to celebrate the

8th edition of the week of the Italian Language in the World which will take place in October 2008. The theme of the competition is 'L'Italiano in Piazza'



The Italian Ambassador H.E. Paolo Andrea Trabalza addressing the audience present

Courses

In February a set of courses offered by the Ministry for Gozo, and co-financed by the European Social Fund came to an end. In March another set of similar courses commenced. The subjects consisted of Basic English, Basic Maltese, and Basic Reading and Writing Skills. Concurrently a set of courses dealing with Organic Farming, Soil Conservation, Rabbit Production, Sheep and Goat Cheese Production, Animal Health and Welfare, New Standards and Product Quality, and Plant Health Pathology also started. All courses were attended by a very good number of Gozitans and many participants showed their interest in attending similar courses in the future.



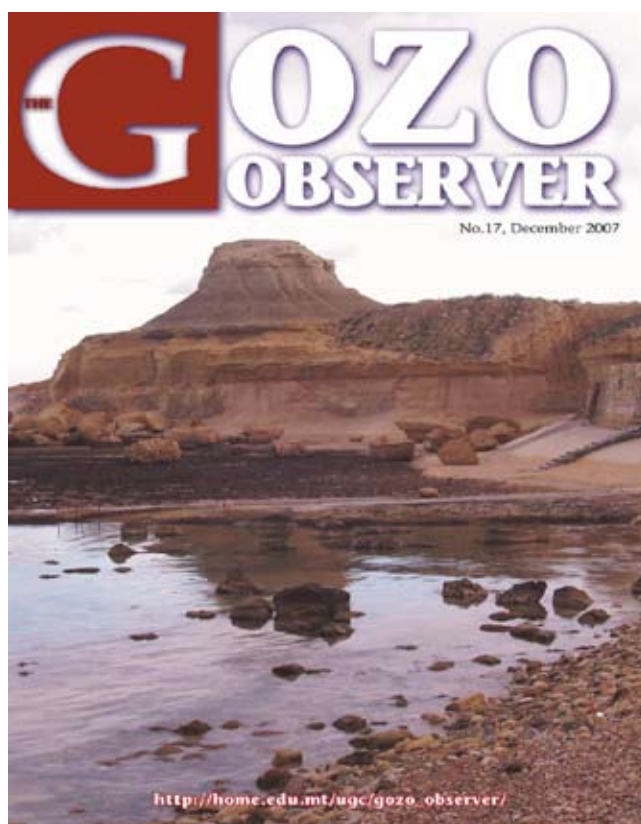
One of the lectures of the Organic Farming course in progress.

Publications

The 17th edition of the Gozo Observer was published in December 2007. It contained a selection of articles on Gozitan affairs.

In this edition Joseph Xerri presented an interesting article about Gozo as being the only electoral district to keep its identity in all government elections in the Maltese Islands. Professor Lino Briguglio wrote about the setting up of the University Gozo Centre in 1992, on the occasion of the 15th anniversary of its establishment in an article entitled "From Vision to Reality". Godwin Vella described the V.I.P. Treatment and related ceremonies in the early 18th Century Gozo. "The Aspirations of Gozitan Female students attending secondary schools in Gozo" was the theme of an article by Marilyn Attard.

Maria Theresa Farrugia's article related to the village of Nadur as a Best Emerging Rural Zone for the Maltese Islands, while Caroline Camilleri Rolls gave her experience as a student at the University Gozo Centre which required juggling the role of a mother, a worker and a student.



Joseph Calleja is Administrative Officer at the University Gozo Centre.