



Il-Grupp Filateliku taż-Żejtun

The Melite Post

*Edited by MR. SEAN CHIRCOP,
Chairperson of Il-Grupp Filateliku taż-Żejtun*

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Il-gazzetta ufficjali ta'

Il-Grupp Filateliku taż-Żejtun

Kelmet l-Editor

Wara l-Ewwel Ħarġa

minn **Sean Chircop**

Għaddew xahrejn mill-ewwel ħarġa li kellna ta' The Melite Post u minn hawn niringrazzja lill-qarrejja kollha tal-kummenti sbieħ li wrew li din l-introduzzjoni mill-ġdid ta' dawn il-ftit paġni ta' tagħrif dwar il-filatelija. F'din it-tieni ħarġa se nkunu qed inwasslu aktar artikli informattivi u ta' opinjoni mill-membri tal-Grupp Filateliku taż-Żejtun stess. Infatti, dawn l-edizzjonijiet ta' din il-gazzetta nixtieq li jkunu mimlija aktar bl-opinjoni tagħkom dwar il-ħsibijiet tagħkom lejn il-Filatelija u tagħrif li tkunu sibtu biex aktar tagħrif dwar din in-namra tingasam ma' membri u qarrejja oħra.

Fil-31 ta' Jannar, fis-Sala tal-Kunsill Lokali taż-Żejtun, fakkarna l-15-il sena anniversarju tal-Grupp Filateliku tagħna u f'dan l-editorjal nixtieq naqsam magħkom l-ewwel ittra li ntbgħatet mill-Kunsill Lokali taż-Żejtun lil disa' residenti Żwieten, biex forsi jithajru jwaqqfu lil dan il-Grupp. Għall-ewwel laqgħa attendew ħames persuni u bi ftit ftit il-Grupp kompli jikber għal dak li hu illum. F'din il-ħarġa qed nipubblikaw ukoll ritratt tal-membri tal-Grupp wara sena mit-twaqqif tiegħu, uħud minnhom għadhom jattendu b'mod regolari u oħrajn ħallewna.

L-Ittra bid-data tat-18 ta' Jannar, 2002, kienet tgħid hekk:

“Għezież Ċittadini,

Nieħu din l-opportunità sabiex nifraħlek tal-interess tiegħek fil-Filatelija. Żgur li għandek kollezzjoni sabiħa u li hi tant għal qalbek.

Nemmen li tixtieq tkabbar l-interess tiegħek fil-filatelija. Għal dan il-għan inti mistieden/a sabiex tattendi laqgħa apposta għalikom li ġgemmgħu l-bolol. Din ser issir nhar il-Ġimgħa 25 ta' Jannar 2002 fis-6.00 p.m. Il-post fl-uffiċċju tal-Kunsill Lokali.

Jista' jiġi kulħadd, kbar u żgħar. Il-laqgħa ma tieħux ħafna ħin.

Narak u ġib miegħek oħrajn.

Ħajr fis-sliem.”

Minn din l-ittra sempliċi l-Grupp kompli jiffjorixxi u jattira diversi nies fih, anki minn barra ż-Żejtun, għalkemm illum l-interess lejn il-filatelija kull ma jmur qed jonqos. Illum il-ġurnata l-Grupp tagħna sar popolari fuq livell nazzjonali. Barra l-mijiet li jiġu jżuru l-Wirja Annwali tal-Filatelija, hemm numru kbir ieħor ta' filatelisti minn madwar Malta u Għawdex li kull meta noħorġu materjal filateliku minn bolol personalizzati mint u *first day covers* sa kartolini dejjem iċemplu u jibagħtu minn qabel biex jieħdu sett. Infatti, għalkemm sirna noħorġu l-mijiet ta' bolol u kartolini, meta mqabbel ma' qabel, xorta jkollna nerġgħu nistampaw bolol personalizzati *mint* u jerġgħu jinħattfu. Infatti f'Jannar, għalkemm is-sett ma kienx popolari daqs tal-400 sena Matriċi, kellna nerġgħu niprintjaw darbtejn. Nittammaw li l-Grupp jibqa' jilħaq l-aspetattivi tiegħu fis-snin li ġejjin.

British Monarchs on Maltese Stamps

by Carmel Bonnici

Queen Victoria (1860 - 1902)

The Queen Victoria Halfpenny Yellow Stamp

In 1859 it was decided that the Free Internal Post in Malta would be withdrawn. An order was sent to the Crown Agents for the Colonies, who in turn commissioned Messrs. De La Rue & Co. to go ahead with the engraving of the die for the Halfpenny Yellow stamp, which was engraved by Jean Ferdinand Joubert de la Ferté.

The Halfpenny Inland Post was introduced on 1st December, 1860.



The Queen Victoria Halfpenny Green Stamp

In 1883 it was decided that the time had come for the Malta Post Office to be controlled internally. The Post Master General in Malta Roger Duke wrote that the Postal Union decided to have certain stamps of uniform color throughout its members. The halfpenny yellow had to change to green. The stamp was issued in 1885 (1st January) with other 5 values.



The Queen Victoria other designs and values

On 1st January 1885 the Victorian 'Heads' Set was issued. Apart from the halfpenny green the set consisted of 1d carmine/rose, 2d grey, 2 1/2 blue, 4d brown and 1/- violet. Four different designs were used. All the stamps were produced by Messrs. De La Rue & Co.



The King Edward VII (1903 - 1911) Head Issues

These issues, which show the profile of the King by the celebrated Austrian artist Emil Fuchs, are normally grouped into three sets: The 1903 –1904 set on Single Crown CA watermarked paper, the 1904 –1906 set on Multiple Crown CA watermarked paper, and the 1907-1911 set in U.P.U. standard colors on Multiple Crown CA watermarked paper.

(....continues on page 5)

Memorji

15-il Sena Anniversarju

Il-membri tal-Grupp Filateliku taż-Żejtun, it-Tlieta 31 ta' Jannar fakkar il-15-il sena anniversarju mit-twaqqif tal-Grupp. Dak in-nhar ħargu wkoll żewġ bolol personalizzati u żewġ kartolini postali biex jikkomemoraw dan l-avveniment. Fl-istess jum ħarġet ukoll l-ewwel ħarġa ta' The Melite Post. Għal din l-okkażjoni kien hemm attendenza tajba ħafna, fejn il-membri tal-bidu u l-membri li komplew jingħaqdu ma' din l-għaqda filatelika matul is-snin setgħu jgġeddu l-memorji flimkien ta' dawn l-aħħar 15-il sena.

Għal dan l-avveniment ukoll ġie ppreparat kejk tal-okkażjoni fejn ġie maqsum mis-Sur Carmel Bonnici, wieħed mill-membri fundaturi tal-għaqda. Għal din l-okkażjoni ngħatat ukoll diversi informazzjoni dwar l-istorja postali fiż-Żejtun, u żgur ma setgħax jonqos li ftakarna fil-membri li ħallewna matul dawn l-aħħar 15-il sena. Kif ġraw fl-avveniment preċidenti tiegħed ukoll ritratt tal-okkażjoni, ħasra li mhux il-membri kollha setgħu jattendu b'hekk hemm xi membri neqsin mir-ritratt.



(... continues from page 3)

King George V (1914 - 1936)

The King George V Definitives 1914 –1922

Although King George V succeeded to the throne on 6th May, 1910, the first stamps of his reign were not issued in Malta until 1914, appearing as and when the Edwardian stamps ran out. The new series bore the medallion portrait of the King designed by the Australian sculptor, Sir Bertram MacKenna.



The War Tax Stamps 1917

The necessity to raise extra revenue for the prosecution of the war led to Malta, like many Commonwealth countries, levying additional charges on letters and parcels. The stamps which were overprinted were 1/2d King George V and 3d King Edward VII.

The overprinting was done by Messrs. De La Rue of London, the printers of the stamps.



Overprinted Self-Government

The stamps were overprinted at the Government Printing Press, Valletta in 1922.



The 1926 - 1930 Definitive Sets

These three sets have never received much attention. These sets were unpopular probably for two reasons. First, the aftermath of the Self-Government overprints and the Melita sets, created a feeling that Malta was issuing too many stamps.

The design for the pence values was simple and attractive - the King's head enclosed in a circular frame occupied the top right corner of the stamp, which was balanced in the bottom left corner by the Arms of Malta.

Designer: John Harrison

(continues in the 3rd issue, June 2017)



Il-Kollezzjoni tal-Bolol

minn **Frances Falzon**



Il-Filatelija jew kif kulhadd isibha bħala l-kollezzjoni tal-bolli, tista' tiġi deskritta bħala dak il-passatemp li permezz tagħha ġgemma l-bolol, *postal impressions*, *First Day Covers*, *folders* u materjal ieħor relatat mal-posta.

Dan il-*hobby* beda eżattament – wara li l-bolla postali, il-famuża *Penny Black* ġiet maħruġa għall-ewwel darba fl-Ingilterra fil-5 ta' Mejju, 1840, fuq sugġeriment ta' ċertu Sir Rowland Hill (1795 – 1879), li wara sar il-Post Master General tal-Ingilterra. Billi din l-ewwel bolla ma kellix stampat fuqha l-kelma Ingilterra, il-pajjiż fejn oriġinat, it-tradizzjoni baqgħat sal-lum – li l-bolol Ingliżi ma tidhirx fuqhom il-kelma '*Great Britian*' huwa magħruf li fl-Ingilterra, il-bolol kienu jiġu użati wkoll jiddekoraw ħitan, *lamp shades* u oġġetti oħra.

Iktar tard, fl-1852, ġie prodott fl-Ingilterra l-ewwel album li fih ġew ippreservati l-bolol. Dan il-passatemp beda jsir iktar komuni, meta bdew jiġu stampati iktar bolli.

Beda jkun hemm ħafna kollezzjonijiet serji u waħda mill-iktar kollezzjonijiet antiki u kbar kienet dik tar-Regina Elizabetta II tal-Ingilterra. Illum il-filatelija saret iktar avvanzata u mqassma f'diversi fergħat bħal ma huma *postal history*, *stationery* u oħrajn.

Illum tant il-filatelija avvanzat li ħafna dilettanti jllimitaw ruħhom għal pajjiż wieħed jew tnejn. Inkella, joħolqu kollezzjoni tematika, jiġifieri jagħzlu sugġett u jgemma għu dawk il-bolli kollha li joħorġu madwar id-dinja dwar dak is-sugġett partikolari. Sugġetti popolari huma ħafna, fosthom l-arti, l-isport, il-medicina, ix-xjenza u sugġetti oħra.

Wieħed mill-iktar persuni entuzjasta fil-filatelija kien Edward Stanley Gibbons, li twieled l-Ingilterra fl-1840. Fl-1856 meta kien għadt għandu sittax-il sena waqqaf kumpanija għal dan il-għan tal-filatelija, *Stanley Gibbons & Co*. Ir-reputazzjoni ta' dan Gibbons tant kibret li illum din il-kumpanija għadha toħroġ mijiet ta' katalgi kull sena. Il-ħwienet ta' Gibbons fil-qalba ta' Londra għadhom sal-lum il-mekka tal-bolol.

Din mhux kwistjoni ta' li ġgemma l-bolol, tippustjahom f'album u wara tgħalaqhom f'kexxun. L-ewwel nett dan il-*hobby* irid ikun fik bħal kull passatemp ieħor. Wara li jiġu f'idejk il-bolol u tkun apprezzajthom, teżaminhom, tara d-dettalji tagħhom u tistaqsi lilek innifsek x'qed jikkomemoraw.

Ħafna mill-bolol jiġu maħruġa biex jikkomemoraw personaġġi distinti, ġrajjet nazzjonali u oħrajn ikunu dwar ix-xjenza, l-agrikultura u mitt sugġett ieħor. Wara li jirnexxielek issir taf il-fatti dwar is-sugġett tal-bolla, mingħajr ma trid tkun qed tkabbar it-tagħrif generali tiegħek fuq diversi temi. Bit-teknoloġija tal-lum u sistemi iktar moderni ta' komunikazzjoni dan il-passatemp sar iktar faċli li ssegwiha.

Il-Posta tar-Regjun fiż-Żejtun

minn Carmelo Bonnici

Meta l-Italja dañlet fl-añhar Gwerra fil-11 ta' Ġunju 1940, bdew l-attakki mill-ajru fuq Malta.

F'dak iż-żmien il-Posta fiż-Żejtun kienet tagħmel parti mill-Posta ta' Bormla, li dak iż-żmien kienet tiegħu ħsieb id-Distrett tal-Kottonera (Bormla, L-Isla, il-Birgu u l-Kalkara), Ғaż-Żabbar, Wied il-Għajn, iż-Żejtun, Marsaxlokk, Ғal Għaxaq, il-Gudja, Birżebbuġa, Ғal Tarxien u Raħal Ġdid.

Meta l-Uffiċċju tal-Posta ta' Bormla ntlaqat mill-bombi Taljani f'Ġunju 1940, l-apparat li kien hemm fil-Posta ta' Bormla ġie trasferit għas-Sub Post Office ta' Raħal Ġdid, li kien għadu kif infetaħ fit-22 ta' April 1940, fl-indirizz 116, Triq Ғal Tarxien. It-timbru użat kien Pawla S.P.O. – Malta, forma tonda b'żewġ crieki Wara, l-Uffiċċju tal-Posta ta' Bormla ġie meqrud għal kollox bil-bombi tal-għadu.



Meta anke s-Sub Post Office ta' Raħal Ġdid ġie milqut f'attakk mill-ajru fit-12 ta' Frar 1942, l-apparat tal-Posta li kien għad fadal ġie meħud ġewwa ż-Żejtun f'post temporanju. Jista' jkun li dan il-post kien "Circolo Santa Katerina" (Tal-Laċċi).



F'xi żmien mhux magħruf, aktarx fl-1942, l-Uffiċċju temporanju sab post iżjed permanenti fid-dar 16 Pjazza Britannja, iż-Żejtun. F'din id-dar kien mar joqgħod it-Tabib Sandy Cachia Zammit fl-1954 meta żzewweg.

Dan l-Uffiċċju tal-Posta ġewwa ż-Żejtun dam miftuħ sad-19 ta' Ġunju 1946, meta l-postijiet kollha li kienu moqdija minnu saru parti mill-Uffiċċju tal-Belt Valletta. It-timbru wżat f'din il-Fergħa tal-Posta ġewwa ż-Żejtun kien dak użat qabel fil-Fergħa ta' Bormla, jiġifieri Cospicua – Malta.

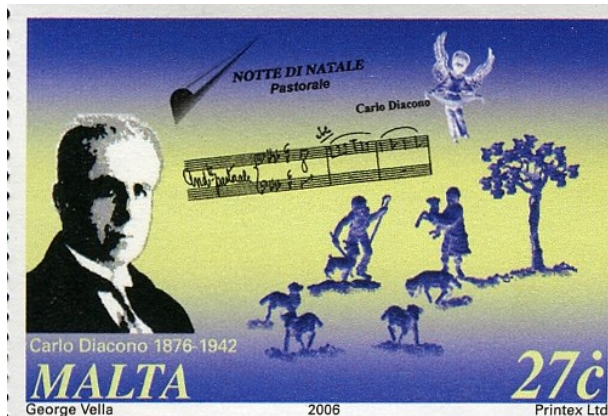
Matul il-Gwerra ġewwa ż-Żejtun ġew kwantita ta' refuġjati, l-biċċa l-kbira mill-Kottonera. Dawn kellhom il-faċilita li jiġbru l-ittri ndirizzati lilhom fil-Kottonera miż-Żejtun stess.

Referenzi

The Branch and Sub Post Offices of Malta and Gozo – Alan Bannister (MSC 1999)

Malta – The Postal History & Postage Stamps 1576-1960 – Malta Study Circle (1980)

Iż-Żejtun fuq il-Bolol ...



Il-Maltapost fis-6 ta' Novembru, 2006 ħarġet sett ta' ħames bolol biex ifakkar ħames mużiċisti u kompożituri ta' għanjiet tal-Milied; Paolino Vassallo, Carmelo Pace, Paul Nani, Carlo Diacono u W. A. Mozart.

Il-bolla ta' 27ċ, fuq disinn ta' George Vella kienet turi lill-kompożitur Żejtuni Carlo Diacono, fuq l-isfond tidher parti mill-kompożizzjoni tal-pastorale *Notte di Natale*, miktuba minn Diacono nnifsu.

Din is-sena jaħbat il-75 sena anniversarju mill-mewt ta' dan il-kompożitur Żejtuni, li ħalla din id-dinja fl-1942. Fiż-Żejtun insibu bust ta' Diacono f'Misraħ Girgor Bonici, mad-dar li kien jgħix fiha.

Filatelista Żejtuni ...

Is-Sur Carmelo Baldacchino

Wieħed mill-membri fundaturi tal-Grupp Filateliku taż-Żejtun kien is-Sur Carmelo Baldacchino, magħruf bħala l-Kanonku. Is-Sur Baldacchino, li għamel żmien iservi bħala pulizija, kien wieħed mill-aqwa riċerkaturi u storiċi dwar iż-Żejtun ta' żmienna. L-imħabba tiegħu lejn l-istorja u r-riċerka ġabha mingħand il-qassis Dun Ġwann Farrugia.

Minn ta' età żgħira kien imur fl-uffiċji tal-Berqa u t-Times iqalleb u jfittex dwar dak kollu li għandu x'jaqsam maż-Żejtun u niesu. Minn dejjem kien lest biex jiskopri aktar u jaqsam it-tagħrif tiegħu fost il-poplu, biex dak li jkun sab hu jkun jista' jgħaddih lill-pubbliku. B'dik l-informazzjoni kollha li sab dwar grajjiet iż-Żejtun seta' jikteb artikli mill-aqwa u ddettaljati, li żgur matul iż-żmien se jkunu ta' mitqлу deheb għal min jiġi biex jagħmel xi riċerka. Diversi Żwieten kienu jistennew ta' kull



sena l-artikli informattivi li kien jikteb għar-rivisti ta' żmien il-festa. B'dak il-karattru ċajtier u dħuli kien jirakkonta grajjiet li żgur qatt ma tiddejjaq tisma'. Carmelo Baldacchino minn dejjem kien minn ta' quddiem biex jagħti l-għajnuna tiegħu lejn il-Grupp Filateliku taż-Żejtun, għalkemm lejn l-aħħar ma setgħax jibqa' jattendi daqshekk fil-ħinijiet ta' filgħaxija. Iżda sal-aħħar jiem ta' ħajtu baqa' jieħu interess f'dak kollu li għandu x'jaqsam mal-filatelija u l-Għaqda, fejn xtara s-sett tal-400 Matriċi, qabel ħalla din id-dinja fid-19 ta' Jannar, 2016.

Philatelic Exhibition

by **Mario Casingena**

The other day had no option other than going to the National Public Library in Valletta to do research work. Planned to go through the Government Gazette for the years from 1969 to 1980. Thus from the years 1969 to 1974 the information was on micro film, this involved going through every single page going from left to right on a projector screen. First half hour was a sickening process till getting used to the equipment, the following years involved going through pages of bound gazette copies. And started gathering information, of the first Christmas Stamp Exhibition held from 22 to 31 December 1969. Then Post was a Government Department and therefore everything had to be listed on the Government Gazette, that is the organization of the Exhibition, and same applied to any stamp issues along the years. Following the hours there, sought more information and had to go through the newspaper archives which are available online. Here an array of wide info, to sum it up the conclusions made are: **1. General Post office was run by professional dedicated personnel 2. without any conflicting interest in philately, but a sense of service 3. the outcome of which successful exhibitions spread eight editions over the years 1969 to 1980.**

The venue of the first exhibition and up to the fifth were held at the annex of St Johns Co-Cathedral in Valletta. Overseas postal administrations were invited to participate. It surely made sense the choice of venue on a relatively busy street in the capital and above all during the period selected. It also emerged that the newspaper gave a continuous coverage on philately be it a local event or an overseas Maltese participation or a new stamp issue. The interest might have been attributed to the fact that philately was a common popular past time then and was promoted as an interesting investment. However the Exhibitions of this large scale continued till 1980, and all of a sudden the interest dwindled. In all probability dealers could have pushed prices up to some extent and other interests took over. The enthusiasm can still be revived by exploiting the social media and instilling interest in philately with the very young, and the printed newspapers.



An Exhibition requires that extra energy to set it all up apart from the efforts that the members make, this is precisely the break through that needs to be made by the surviving philatelic societies around that mostly had been taken over with ageing passive ideas. Quote from Times of Malta of 20 December 19 , on the First Exhibition Christmas Stamps: Mr V Zammit Assistant Postmaster General and Chairman of the Organising Committee, told the press that one of the aims of the local postal administration was to get together the Christmas stamps of the various other administrations. He said that the subject of some of the stamps, which will be exhibited had nothing to do with Christmas although they were issued as Christmas sets. The reason is that some countries have no religious motives. The local postal administration displayed Christmas stamps issued since 1964 which had all been designed by Chev. E. Cremona who had also designed the layout of the exhibition. *(continues...)*

In a later edition of the IV Malta Philatelic Exhibition it was reported by Times of Malta on 10 September 1973 : Dr Hyzler, Minister of Development said that the success achieved by the previous exhibitions encouraged the organizers to continue holding such exhibitions every year. The Minister added that the fact that stamp collectors were increasing gave great satisfaction since philately widens educational and cultural knowledge besides being a sound financial investment. Mr J Buttigieg, Postmaster General said that 70 countries and 19 private stamp collectors took part in the exhibition.

Then on the VII Malta Philatelic Exhibition of 1977, officially opened by Mr W Abela, Minister of Development , Energy, Port and Telecommunications, it was reported by Times of Malta of 13 December 1977: The aims of the bi-annual philatelic activity are to encourage local philatelists to exhibit collections and other philatelic material and to serve as a means of reunion of Postal Administrations through the display of their postage stamps. The exhibition also serves to foster a lively interest among the younger generation, promote interest in Malta stamps locally and overseas and be an attraction to tourists.

Kantanti fuq Bolol Maltin



Chess Olympiad - 1980

by **Mario Casingena**

The chess game is quite an old game it knows the origins in India and moved in Persia well close to 1500 years ago. When the Arabs conquered Persia, the chess game was taken up by the Muslim world and then spread to Southern Europe. Chess evolved into its current form in the 15th century.

In 1980 the Chess Olympiad were held in Malta, this attracted quite a number of important players of the time. Here it is impossible to go in the details of this game that attracts global interest. It says a lot just to mention that the FIDE Women's World Chess Championship from 10 February to 5 March 2017 in Tehran, Iran.

However the scope of this write up is solely the issue of the 1980 stamps. Then way back in 1980, the enthusiasm in philately was surely more evident. Notice of the issue was on the Government Gazette of 7 November 1980, and then it stated that the stamps were to remain on sale up to Saturday 27 June 1981 unless stocks were exhausted earlier. The newspapers also gave detailed coverage on the progress of the chess games. The designer of the set was Harry Borg, undoubtedly then there must have been quite pressures following the years on end in which Chev. Envin Cremona heavy contribution to philately. Relatively the set is a valid well studied artistic contribution, the first stamp of 2c5; the fortification truncheons on the back and the gladiola in focus are the ideal set up for the game. Here also two pieces are resting on the board,(set below the mentioned gladiola watch) the pawn and the tower, that in a way have restricted moves in actual fact. The pawn is the most numerous pieces of chess, in most situations the weakest. The three stamps are also set at after dusk or late night that further puts in the idea that to play the chess game basically depends on silence for deep concentration. The second 8c stamp shows the Mediterranean Conference Centre on the right side, as the venue for the chess games. Again the fortification truncheons at the other end. The bishop and a pawn are standing on the board. (Here the archbishop was in political issues over church schools and property in 1980, therefore the artist might have had this consideration in the set up.) The final 30c stamp concentration on the actual chess game, a pawn is in proximity of the white king and two moves away from the black queen as put on the board. This is not to be interpreted as towards the final moves, termed checkmate, for other pieces could also be on the board. All three stamps carry the logo and title.





Il-Grupp Filateliku taż-Żejtun, flimkien mas-Sindku Joe Attard, wara sena mi t-twaqqif tiegħu, 5 ta' Mejju, 2003, fis-Sala tal-Kunsill



Ritratt Antik: William (Willie) Sestito kien wieħed mill-ewwel pustiera li kienu jservi fl-inħawi taż-Żejtun. Bħala għaqda fakkarna lil dan il-pustier fl-2014

ABBONA

ma'

The Melite Post

Isem: _____

Indirizz: _____

Tel./Mob.: _____

E-mail: _____

Din il-ħarġa toħroġ 4 darbiet fis-sena. Il-ħarġa li jmiss se toħroġ lejn l-aħħar ta' Ġunju 2017. Din il-ħarġa hi b'xejn għall-membri kollha tal-għaqda, iżda dawk li mhux membri jridu jħallsu €0.50ċ.

The Melite Post, hi l-gazzetta uffiċjali tal-**Grupp Filateliku taż-Żejtun, Dar iż-Żwieten, 28, Triq Sant' Anġlu, iż-Żejtun**, biex issir membru tal-Għaqda tista' ċċempel lill-Kunsill Lokali taż-Żejtun fuq 21 663 866. Il-membri tal-għaqda jiltaqgħu kull l-aħħar Tlieta tax-xahar fl-indirizz muri hawn fuq. Biex tabbona għall-ħarġiet futuri imla l-formola t'hawn fuq.