



MAY 2017

VISIT TO BOSCO MARENGO

International Relations Chairman Lion Victor Borg Barthelet reports on the recent trip to Bosco Marengo.

A fairly large group of over twenty Lions and friends made the trip to Bosco Marengo in north Italy.

We were well taken care of by the host club Bosco Marengo Santa Croce. Highly interesting cultural tours were organised. Excellent restaurants were chosen and the Club also organised a superb Charter Night that was exceptionally planned. Throughout our stay all was done to maximise our enjoyment and comfort.

This was the second trip in meeting the twinned clubs in Italy. We are twinned with nine clubs and this year we will be twinning with Lions Club Licata, making this our tenth twinning with clubs in Italy.

The idea behind these trips and meetings is to meet possibly all our twinned clubs in one place at the same time, to establish a programme of collaboration between the clubs. At present three clubs are meeting namely Lions Club Castelnaso Villanove Gozzadini of Bologna, Lions Club Bosco Marengo Santa Croce and our club. We are presently contacting the other clubs to re-establish the cooperation that we had. Together we will be in a stronger position to achieve the aims that will eventually help others in need. In both the meetings we had at Bosco Marengo and Bologna, we also broached the idea of collaborating in the fields of culture, visual and performing arts and in other areas.

All the three clubs will be making an extra effort to bring in the other six clubs in this programme, so that after this exercise, we can start working on the suggestions that were discussed at the last two meetings.

If all goes according to plan we should meet later this year in Trieste, where we will be hosted by our twinned club Trieste Host which will be celebrating 70 years since it was chartered.



CLUB NEWS



MEMBERSHIP DUES:

Club members are reminded that Membership dues are to be paid at the beginning of July. The fee is €100. This entitles members to attend the annual charter night dinner free, while only paying for their spouses or partners. Cheques payable to Lions Club Sliema are to be forwarded to the Treasurer, Lion Carmel Azzopardi at his home address, 11 Triq il-Kbira, Dingli, DGL1830, or P.O. Box 62, Sliema SLM1000. A receipt will then be forwarded.

JUNE MONTHLY TALK:

The June speaker is Daniel Borg who will be talking to us about the architect Michele Cachia.

Michele Cachia's life spanned over the period of the Knights, the French and the British, having lived between 1760-1839. Cachia came from a renowned family of architects. During the troubled days of French and early British rule, he showed that he was also a capable leader and politician.

Daniel Borg is co-author of a booklet about Michele Cachia. During the talk Daniel will point out and discuss a few buildings planned or modified by Cachia. The talk will be on the third Wednesday June 21st.

PRESIDENT'S HANDOVER DINNER:

Lion President John Rusher will be handing over the chain of office to the incoming President Lion George O. Attard during a dinner being held at the Victoria Hotel on Friday June 27.

It is hoped that a good number of Lions and their guests will be present.

Kindly make your bookings with Lion Joe Messina who is organising the dinner.



Club President Lion John Rusher addressing the gathering during Charter Night of Lions Club Bosco Marengo Santa Croce.

At left the Mayor of the locality. Partly hidden at right is International Director Gabriele Sabbatosanti. Fourth from right is the President of Bosco Marengo Santa Croce.

See President's address at Bosco Marengo in following pages.

WE SERVE

PRESIDENT'S SPEECH AT BOSCO MARENGO

Dear Fellow Lions, District Chairperson, Presidents, Past Presidents, Honoured Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen.

This is going to be a short few words, so really I have to thank everyone for arranging this visit and making us welcome again. It is my first visit to Bosco Marengo and we are loving it. The scenery and architecture and historical sights are marvelous. But more than that the welcome and helpfulness of the club members is overwhelming and great for us and for me as a new President who cannot speak Italian! George has helped with this speech and I hope he has done a good job!

We wish to congratulate you on the 10th anniversary of your charter. We at Sliema Lions Club wish you all the best for your year ahead while at this time you celebrate the many achievements you have carried through in service over the past year.

We at Lions Club Sliema are also a hard working bunch, with vast experience of life and running successful operations. We do our best work when we are out there serving. I am very grateful for all the organization behind the scenes.

Last March saw our massively successful Mediterranean Lions Conference with hundreds of guests. This brought home the strength of our regional presence and the trust and solidarity placed in us by fellow Lions. That trust was repaid in spades with great events and hosting by the Malta Lions Clubs. This is proof that we should all work more closely together on other projects.

This year has also seen many social and philanthropic activities in our club. For example, we have raised much interest in the local culture and name awareness for the Lions. We have held a charity concert at Christmas, food, eye glasses and shoes collections, and donated funds to three music students. We have also had some very interesting talks and outings.

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LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

VOTING PROCEDURES

WHO IS ENTITLED TO VOTE

The 2017 International Convention for Lions Clubs will be held in Chicago from July 1 to 3. During this Convention delegates will vote to elect the Executive Officers and International Directors.

Every Lions Club in good standing can participate in the election of the Executive Officers and International Directors and can vote on amendments to the association's bylaws by assigning delegates to represent the club at the International Convention.

At the 2017 Convention certification and voting will occur at the same time in the convention Voting Area.

Club delegates will receive a ballot as soon as they are certified. The delegates will have been assigned by the Club President or Secretary by not later than May 1st, 2017.

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Neville ended the morning tour by handing out seeds of the indigenous trees. We now have the responsibility to help Mother Nature by growing these seeds into saplings. Our aim is to succeed in this mission and hopefully one day plant the saplings at Buskett Gardens.
Report by Lion Margaret Frendo. Photo Lion Joe Cassar.

**WE SERVE
Where there is a need
There is always
A LION**

OUTING TO BUSKETT GARDENS

The weather was perfect for the Buskett Gardens outing held on Sunday May 28.

Neville Ebejer, Parks Environment Officer, started the morning tour by leading us to a newly refurbished farmhouse where, with the aid of a power point projection, he explained to us the history of Falconry in Europe and in great detail in Malta. Falcons were used for hunting other birds but also rabbits. It was considered to be a great privilege to own falcons and only royals and nobles could own them. In medieval Malta pergrine falcons were found in abundance, but today only a few couples are in Malta. Charles V, Holy Roman Emperor, requested a gift of a Portuguese falcon as a yearly payment for



bequeathing Malta to the Knights of St. John. The talk was followed by a walk in the Buskett Gardens,. Neville pointed out to us a few indigenous trees. To mention a few, luq (white Poplar), ballut (Holm oak), znumber (Aleppo pine), gharghar (Sandarac gum tree). Most impressive was the quantity of Acanthus plants growing along the path ways. The gardens enjoy a rather sophisticated irrigation system with the traditional water channeling troughs undergoing restorations or reconstructiono the Knights Hospitalier of St. John.

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FIRST VICE GOVERNOR



Lion Paolo Gattola an Honorary Member of our Club (in centre of picture) was confirmed as First Vice Governor of Multiple District 108YA for the forthcoming Lionistic Year during the District Convention held in Naples from 12 to 14 May 2017.

Lion Paolo and his twin brother Danilo are honorary members of our Club.

They have both contributed towards our Club's restoration of priceless books at the National Library. The two brothers are frequent visitors to Malta and great supporters of our Club.

Lion Paolo will become Governor of MD108YA which comprises Campania, Calabria and Basilicata at the beginning of July 2018.

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For the centennial celebrations together with other Malta Lions Clubs supported Dar tal-Providenza, a home for the disabled and special needs, donating 100 olive trees and planting them with the President of Malta. Most recently I appeared briefly on TV to give a donation to a local ALS Motor Neurone Appeal. Thank you for your service, our holiday here is well deserved.