

## THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT LIONS AN ACTIVE LION:

A Member entitled to all rights and privileges and subject to all obligations which membership in a Lions club confers or implies.



Without limiting such rights and obligations, such rights shall include eligibility to seek, if otherwise qualified, any office in this clubs, district or association and the right to vote on all matters requiring a vote of the membership; and such obligations shall include regular attendance, prompt payment of dues, participation in club activities and conduct reflecting a favourable images of this Lions Club in the community. As in the Family Membership Programme criteria, qualifying family members shall be Active Members and be entitled to all rights and privileges thereof. As provided in the Student Member Programme criteria, qualifying students and Leos and young adult members shall be Active Members and be entitled to all rights and privileges thereof. The membership category shall be included in the club delegate formula calculations.

An important collection of cacti was donated to the gardens by Prof. John Borg in 1945. The medical plants used by the Knights in the hospital were transferred from Fort St. Elmo to the Gardens. Although the gardens may be Malta's best kept secret, they are in full activity. Dr. Buhagiar and his staff regularly organise several research projects for students. The gardens are also involved in collecting and cataloguing seeds for their seed banks.

*Report by Lion Margaret Frendo who is in the photo on page 7 attentively listening to Dr. Joseph Buhagiar.*

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### MEMBERSHIP DUES

**Membership fees for the Lionistic Year 2015/2016 become due on July 1st. Members are kindly requested to affect payment by that date by sending a cheque for Euro 100 made payable to LIONS CLUB SLIEMA to the Honorary Treasurer, Lion Carmel Azzopardi and mailed to P.O. Box 62, Sliema SLM 1000. Membership fee includes "free" attendance at the Charter Gala Dinner for the member.**



JUNE 2015

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This will be my last contribution to the newsletter as President since I am nearing the end of my term. However I am happy to think that it will not be the last time I participate in the work of Sliema Lions. It is good that many new members are taking important positions in the running of the club as this is what ensures the future. At the same time, it is good to know that there is a place for old Lions like myself and quite a few of my colleagues.

The two years of my presidency have been excellent due to the enthusiasm the members have shown in supporting our projects and their always-to-be-relied-upon support.

I would like to express my gratitude to you all for making the Club stronger, with better attendance at the many functions that are organised. It is very gratifying for all of us to feel united as Lions Club Sliema, channelling our energies as a team for the benefit of the community.

Lion Chris Borg Cardona will be taking over as President. Chris is very able to lead the club in the many services we offer. His biggest challenge will be in helping Lion Zone Chairman Tom Restall in the months leading up to the 19th Mediterranean Lions Conference in March 2016. This conference will be attended by the incoming International President, the highest authority of Lions International. I ask you all to join in committing ourselves to help make this important event a huge success.

In the first week of June some of us will be going to Salerno to celebrate the return twinning with LC Salerno Arechi, a club that shows itself ready to have a close working relationship with us. The good rapport we enjoy with LC Salerno Arechi has raised the ambition of establishing a network with all our twinned clubs, one that would enable us to help each other to achieve our aims.

Thank you once again for all the support and encouragement that you have given me. I am confident that we will give Chris the same wholehearted support.

*Lion Victor Borg Barthet President*

### A VISIT TO THE ARGOTTI GARDENS

The May cultural tour was to the Argotti Botanical Gardens in Floriana. All those who attended were mesmerised by the knowledge and enthusiasm of Dr. Joseph Buhagiar, director of the Gardens. Dr. Buhagiar is a Lecturer in the Department of Biology, Faculty of Science at the University of Malta.

He started the tour by giving a historic background to the origins of the gardens in 1740 by two knights of Malta, namely Don Emmanuel Pinto de Fonseca who was grand master from 1742 to 1773 and Ignatius de Argote et Gusman who held the post of Bailiff. De Argote later bought Pinto's part of the gardens where he built a beautiful palace, which was later demolished and a house which is still there. The gardens were further embellished with fountains and a nymphaeum, which still retains the coat of arms of de Argote on the ceiling. In 1805 the gardens were entrusted to the care of University of Malta for a period of 150 years, after which they were taken over by the Department of Agriculture for a while, eventually to be returned to the University.

The group was shown around the private gardens where thousands of species of Mediterranean climate plants, shrubs and trees are kept. Besides being found around the Mediterranean basin are also found in countries which enjoy a similar type of climate.

In the section dedicated to Maltese indigenous and endemic plants one could see the national tree, the Gum Sandaric tree, better known in Maltese as the "gharghar" tree, which was probably brought to Malta from Africa by the Phoenicians around 800 BC. Other plants included the carob, the olive, the ficus, the myrtle and the mastic tree

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### **CURRY LUNCH AT STA. LUCIJA—GOZO**

On Saturday May 16 a group of Club members crossed over to Gozo to enjoy a curry lunch at the idyllic home of Lion Hans Wijnberg and his partner Sue.

The curry lunch was to say the least was excellent and was enjoyed by all those present.

Hans and Sue were the perfect hosts and all those attending had words of praise for the welcome and hospitality.

“Diwi fir-Rih” as Hans’ house is called is splendid. It is situated on top of a hill commanding breath taking views of the Gozitan countryside.

The event was a fund-raising occasion and realized a nice sum which will be utilized for philanthropic deeds undertaken by the Club.

As the oldest member of the club it was nice to meet again Sue as it was an occasion to reminisce on the events that Lions Club Sliema organized years ago when Sue’s husband, Lion John Fletcher, was Club Secretary. In the good old days Lions Club Sliema was always in the forefront to organize fund-raising activities amongst which fashion shows, tombola evenings and coffee mornings. Those days are gone and fund-raising has changed but our Club still manages to raise much needed funds.



### **1.4 MILLION MEMBERS STRONG AND GROWING**

In a letter dated May 14, 2015 addressed to all Lions Clubs, International President Lion Joe Preston was pleased to announce that the 1.4 million target was reached recently. His letter is reproduced hereunder:

*Dear Lion*

*We have surpassed 1.4 million members in Lions Clubs International thanks to you! We couldn't have achieved this important milestone without your hard work and commitment to growing and strengthening your club. Let's keep the momentum going!*

*Encourage your Lions to continue inviting new members to expand your service and strengthen your membership. An it all starts by asking one friend, family member or neighbour to join your club.*

*Focus on keeping your members involved in club activities and service projects that matter to your members. When Lions feel the satisfaction of service, they'll keep coming back for more.*

*I am proud of what we've achieved so far, and I know we can achieve even more. Let's work together to finish the year strong and keep our great association growing!*

*Joe Preston  
International President*

*Editor's note: Our club increased membership by two members in the last year. We can still do more by inviting public spirited people we may know to join the club.*



## WELCOME VISITORS

At the May 6th meeting we welcomed three overseas Lions, namely Mirella and Jean Claude Mir of LC St. Cyrien Catalane, France and Lion Beat Hiestand of LC Zurich.

Lions Mirella and Jean Claude were on one of their visits to Malta. We will be seeing more of them as they have now bought property at Spinola Bay and will be spending lots of time in our Island. The French couple were also at the Curry lunch at Lion Hans Wijnberg in Gozo.

Lion Beat is no stranger to our Club as he is a frequent visitor to Malta. Beat is married to a Maltese and owns an apartment in Zurrieq. Lion Beat will be at the 2015 International Lions Convention in Hawai and will be carrying the Maltese national flag during the conference parade. During the Club meeting on Wednesday 20 we had the pleasure to foreign Lions to the meeting.



At the meeting on May 20 we also had two visitors namely Lion Rimantas Serva of LC Panevczys District D-131 Lithuania seen (left) exchanging bannerettes with Club President Lion Victor Borg Barthet, and

Lion Thomas-Eric Blom

from LC Rymattyla-Merimasku, MD107A Finland (photo on Page 5).

Both Lions were visiting Malta for the first time and both stated that they were thrilled to have visited Malta. It is always great to welcome foreign Lions to our Club meetings. This shows the



Over the years we have welcomed various Lions to our Club meetings and they were all impressed with the welcome given to them. Quite a few keep contact with our Club and speak highly of what our Club has achieved during the forty years of its existence.



**HAND OVER DINNER** is being held on Saturday June 20 at the Roof Garden of THE PALACE HOTEL Sliema. Time: 8.30 p.m.

This would be a good occasion to thank the outgoing President for all the hard work put in to see our Club continuing to prosper and be of service to the Maltese community. It will also be a good occasion to welcome Lion Chris Borg Cardona as the 2015/2016 President.

The cost is just Euro 25 including water and wine. Bookings should be made with Club Secretary Lion Joe Messina by not later than June 17 by sending an email: [messi242@gmail.com](mailto:messi242@gmail.com) or phoning him on 99237456.

Incidentally Lion Joe Messina will also be relinquishing the post of Secretary of the Club a job he did with great enthusiasm and dedication for a number of years. So it will also an occasion to say "thanks" to Lion Joe and to meet and welcome the incoming Secretary Lion Alexander Arena.