



LIONS CLUB SLIEMA  
**NEWSLETTER**



**MAY 2022**

## OUR CLUB FEATURED IN “LIONS MAGAZINE”

Eleven years ago, in the February 2011 edition of “LION” the International Association of Lions Club magazine featured an article written by then Club President Lion Alfred Micallef Attard.

In the magazine section “Lions on Location” your guide to the great work we are doing around the world featured an article entitled: “Book Lovers Fight Bookworm in Malta”.

The article is being reproduced hereunder.

*The Hortus Romanus, an eight-volume collection of botanical engravings published between 1772-1791, is so rare that eyes the Library of Congress and the British Library one or more of the volumes. Only a handful of the 300 copies of the work were coloured. The National Library of Malta has seven of the coloured volumes, but bookworm (insects) the books, causing severe damage.*



Figure 1Ms. Dolores Cristina, Minister of Education viewing one of the restored books

*That’s where the Sliema Lions Club of Malta comes in. The Club launched a national library restoration project. Because the library lacked the funds to restore rare books, Lions raised awareness of the damage to the nation’s literary treasures and found sponsors to restore the books.*

*The club convinced NGK Spark Plugs Europe in Germany and Fratelli Galbarini, an Italian manufacturer of motor oil, to sponsor restoration of three of the volumes (the other four having already been restored). The Club is now sponsoring the restoration of 24 rare books at the library.*

*“Now our members have a personal interest in the project. It is only our love for our country that has induced us to take up such an ambitious project,” says Alfred Micallef Attard, club president.*

*The restoration work is being done in partnership with the Ministry for Education and the National Library.*

*Other companies also are following the Lions’ lead. Air Malta has agreed to restore 20 volumes of Shakespeare in French. And perhaps another sign that the Lions have succeeded in promoting the importance of books, the number of books checked out of the National Library and other government libraries rose 13 percent in the first seven months of 2010.*

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## SPONSORED GOLF TOURNAMENT

After a lapse of two years due to COVID 19, our Club once again sponsored a Golf Tournament. This tournament was the brain child of the late Lion Alex Mangion (a keen golfer) whereby our Club matches the sum raised from the event by the golfers with the total sum being donated to a charity alternately decided by the Royal Malta Golf Club and Lions Club Sliema. Over



*Presentation of the shield to the winner of the tournament*

the years this activity raised a considerable sum of money which was then donated to various charities including orphanages.

This year it was agreed that the record sum of Euro 2500 be donated to the Lions International Ukraine Appeal Fund. This decision was approved unanimously after a motion to this effect was put to the vote at the meeting held on May 4. It is hoped that this fund-raising activity will continue in feature in the calendar of the Golf Club. Lion George O. Attard was present when the prize presentation was made to this year’s winner.

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**“WE SERVE” – Serve with a smile thinking of those you help  
not on your achievements.**

## VISIT TO ALESSANDRIA

A group of Club members paid a visit to Alessandria for the Charter celebrations of our twinned club Bosco Marengo Santa Croce. The Lions of our twinned Club prepared a programme of activities for the visit.



*During visit to Limbiate with Lion Akex Arena (3rd left) and Lion Giovanni Fosatti (3rd right)*

Highlight of this event was a visit to the Lions Dog for the Blind Training Centre at Limbiate soon after arrival, where the group was greeted by Lion Giovanni Fosatti who founded the centre. After a briefing on the training system adopted to train dogs, mostly Labradors, the group were taken round the centre. One of the centre's trainers took a dog around a track having various obstacles that a blind person could encounter on the road. It was amazing to see how the dog reacted to such situations. Lion Treasurer Alex Arena, who is in charge of our Club's project to acquire a dog for the blind, and Lion Giovanni Fosatti to fruition discussed details about this matter and hopefully now the Club would bring this project to fruition.

On Friday May 13 the group visited "*La Cantina Dogliani*" after travelling to hundreds of vineyards on the hills and valleys of the district. The group stopped for wine tasting and informed about the methods of wine making. Later we also visited the nearby town of Barolo famous for its wines.

Saturday May 14 was a busy day, as besides the Charter Dinner in the evening, we visited the Santo Croce Monastery which has a beautiful church. The Monastery was for several years used as a prison for youths. Later we stopped at the huge "*Serravalle*" shopping centre, returning to Alessandria in time for a rest before the official dinner later in the evening.

During the official dinner held on Saturday May 14 at the Golf Club in Spinetta, our club members mingled with our twinned club members. In her speech Lion President Marinella Lombardi spoke about our two clubs' strong relationship, auguring that this will continue for many more years. Our Club President Lion Norman Wilson, who was unavoidably absent, sent a message which was read on his behalf by Lion Tom A. Restall. Lion President message was as follows:

*“Lion President, Lions, Guests - I should have been standing here this evening giving my address and enjoying your company, but instead I must apologize for my absence. Unfortunately, Covid has caught up with me and I am in quarantine so I was unable to fly to Italy to be with you. May I, on behalf of Lions Club Sliema, congratulate you on your Charter and wish you an equally enjoyable year “To Serve” in 2022-23. In turn, I invite you to join me to celebrate Lions Club Sliema Charter in Malta on Saturday 19 November. I look forward to meeting you”.*



*2Lion Tom A. Restall reading the President's message.*

Gifts were exchanged with the Bosco Marengo Santa Croce Lions Club presenting a painting of a Maltese “luzzu” painted by one of its members who came to Malta when a swimmer with a disability swam from Gozo to Malta. This event was sponsored by the two clubs. The Bosco Marengo President was presented with a silk scarf made in Malta.

On Sunday May 15 a visit to “Casa e Museo Pelezza de Valpedo was on the programme. After visiting an old church, we were taken to the Casa Museo which had several paintings by Pelezza. In the village square we saw a reproduction of a painting recording the workers uprising to demand better working conditions. Our guide explained that the original painting had only three men protesting. It was later expanded to show a woman on the front line and a huge crowd marching in protest. After lunch at a local “Casa Agri Turismo”, it was time for four of us to proceed to Linate (Milano) airport to fly back to Malta. Four others from the group remained for two more days visiting Genoa and Porto Fino.

The trip to Alessandria continued to strengthen the good relationship that our Club has with the Italian Club. We now look forward to welcome our twinned club members to Malta for our charter on November 19. It also further showed that twinning with other Lions Clubs is important as this brings us to understand the way other Clubs operate in the through spirit of Lionism.

Past President Lion George O. Attard together with Lion Rosalba Marengo coordinated the programme of the visit. They both deserve credit for the way the programme was well executed and doing their utmost to see to this.

## MONTHLY TALK – THE ATLAS MAIOR

Joan Barnewell from The Chester Beatty Museum in Dublin gave us a presentation on The Atlas Maior which was published by Joan Bleau in Amsterdam in 1662. Joan spoke about 17th century printing and map-making during the Dutch golden age of exploration and she showed us some really beautiful hand painted maps which are true works of art. They were decorated showing peoples of the regions and their dress, animals, flora and fauna, ships and their flags and bird's eye views of cities - and included were some lovely maps of Malta, Gozo and Valletta which were printed during the reign of Grandmaster Cotoner.

Joan ended her talk by showing paintings by two great artists of the Dutch golden age, de Hooch and Vermeer, which included maps from the Atlas Maier. These highlighted the importance, not just of exploration and trade,



but also the role these maps played as a status symbol in Dutch society. The Atlas Maier was considered so prestigious that it was presented to royalty and foreign embassies as a symbol of the artistic, intellectual and commercial power of the Netherlands. It is a truly remarkable production and the maps are a real feast for

the eye, so it is not difficult to see why it is referred to as “The Greatest Atlas Ever Published”.

**CLUB MEETINGS:** The next Club meetings are scheduled for Wednesday June 1 commencing at 1830 and Wednesday June 15 commencing at 1800 as there will be a guest speaker. Meetings will be held at THE IMPERIAL in Sliema.

**AWARDS NIGHT:** This event is being held on Saturday June 25 at the pool deck of Lion President’s residence in Mellieha. Further details will be communicated in due course. In the meantime, keep this date free.

**CONDOLENCES** to Lion Victoria Muscat and her family on the death of her husband George. A good number of members led by our Club President attended the funeral. RIP.

## PICTURE GALLERY



Above: The Gala Dinner Cake  
with the two Clubs  
bannerettes

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Right: Lion Andrea Giordano  
reading a poem regarding the  
Gozo to Malta swim before the  
presentation of a painting of  
the luzzu seen in the hands of  
Lion Marinella Lombardi,  
President of Lions Club Bosco  
Marengo Santa Croce.

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### SPARE A THOUGHT:

Don't cry over the past. It's gone.

Don't stress about the future. It hasn't arrived.

Live in the present and make it beautiful.

ANON

As Lions we can make things beautiful if "WE SERVE".

