



CLUB NEWS



CLUB MEETINGS: Our next Club meetings are schedule for Wednesday November 6 and Wednesday November 20 starting at 1830 at the Victoria Hotel, Sliema.

CHARTER DINNER: The Club will be celebrating its 45th Charter Anniversary with a Gala Dinner at the Grand Hotel Excelsior, Floriana, on Saturday November 9 at 7.30 p.m. for 8.00 p.m. Club members are reminded that for this occasion they have only to pay for their accompanying partner.

For this occasion a group of Lions from our twinned clubs are expected to attend. Lions from our twinned Club Bosco Marengo Santa Croce and Licata have already confirmed their presence.

Members who have not booked for this event are kindly requested to inform Lion Joe Messina not later than November 2nd.

COLLECTION OF FOOD: On Saturday November 2 at Tower Supermarket in Sliema. Food items donated by customers visiting this supermarket will be later donated to needy families in the Sliema/St. Julian's area. Lion Louis Sciberras is co-ordinating this event. Helpers would be needed in the morning and/or afternoon.

DIABETES AWARENESS DAY: On Monday November 11 from 0930 to 1600 at St. Anne Square, Sliema. A group of paramedics will be testing people for diabetes. This event is being held in connection with the "Diabetes Awareness Campaign" being organised by Lions Clubs International.

LIONS CLUBS GET-TOGETHER: A Get-together for members of thr four Lions Clubs in Malta and their wives/partners is being held on Friday November 15, 2019 at Villa Arrigo, Naxxar. This occasion is being held to enable Lions to meet socially. Further details will be sent by circular later.

CHRISTMAS TOGETHER: On Wednesday December 18 at Palazzo Capua (next to Victoria Hotel). Further details will be sent nearer to the date.



OCTOBER 2019

VISIT TO LIONS CLUB LICATA

A group of Club members led by Lion President Alex Arena paid a visit to Licata from October 18 to 20 on the occasion of our twinned club Licata's charter anniversary.

Besides the President the group consisted of Past Presidents Lion Frank F. Galea, and George O. Attard and Lions Brian Darmanin, Jean Pierre Todeschini, Elisa Solomini and Tom A. Restall.

On arrival by catamaran at Pozzalo we were met by LC Licata Past President Agostino Balsamo, who accompanied us during the two day visit. We travelled to Licata by coach and arrived at our lodgings at the "Marina di Cala del Sole" where we each had a fully furnished apartment with all facilities. After settling down we went for supper at a typical Sicilian restaurant getting back home in the early hours of Saturday morning.

On Saturday morning we were joined by our new member Edward Pellegrini Petite who lives in Ragusa. During the morning we visited the museum of Licata where saw several articles like pottery, amphorae and stone anchors recovered from the sea along the coast. The museum is housed in an old Carmelite Friars convent. Our next stop was to go up to Forte Sant' Angelo, an old fortress high up on a hill overlooking Licata where we had a bird's eye view of the town and its surroundings. On the way up to the fort we passed through part of Licata which is called San Paolo where-in lived several Maltese families who had fled Malta during the Arab invasion of our country. As a matter of fact we were told that there are still some descendants of these people who have Maltese surnames.

The official dinner was held at the "Agroturismo Coscio" situated in the countryside. It took us nearly two hours to arrive at the venue. Prior to dinner we had occasion to meet several members of our twinned club including Lion President Salvatore La Lumia. As is the custom with Italian Lions Clubs there were various speeches before dinner, thus it was some time before dinner was served. Dinner ended in the early hours of Sunday when we had to travel back to Licata through the winding roads in the countryside.

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After 2000 years porcelain is still being made in Jingdezhen, a testament of Chinese adaptability, great artistry and craftsmanship and the beauty of porcelain.

Many thanks to Joan for giving us an extremely interesting talk increasing our knowledge and appreciation of fine porcelain.

Photo (opposite page) Ms. Barennewell delivering her talk with Lion Chris. Borg Cardona co-ordinator of our monthly talks nearby.

(Text and photo by Lion Susan Galea Borg)-

VISIT TO GARDEN CENTRE

On Sunday the 27th of October, we were given a tour of Stella's Garden Centre which has lovely plants, trees, and herbs. We were shown the advanced method of growing seedlings from high-quality seeds which are grown and then distributed as seedlings to farmers throughout Malta who grow them on to produce a variety of vegetables, flowers, and fruit for the local market.

Our guide for the visit was Mr Kurt Grima who gave an informative talk about the process of growing the seedlings and also explained the olive oil pressing method. We were told that in Malta harvesting olives is done from mid-September until the end of November.

The production area has a hopper into which the olives and leaves are placed. By means of a conveyor belt, the debris can be separated from the olives. After washing the olives are crushed and kneaded in a Malaxor tank for forty-five minutes. It is here also that oil, water, and solids are separated by centrifuge. The pure oil is then collected. This natural extraction process ensures the oil retains all the nutrients and antioxidants that are so beneficial for our health. The oil produced is Extra Virgin Olive Oil because it is not heated, nothing is added and the oil is not treated in any way. It takes approximately ten to twelve kilos of olives to produce one litre of oil. The waste from production is used for compost or for making into logs for use in fireplaces.

We all appreciated sampling the oil with Maltese bread and bigilla....delicious! Thank you to Lion Isabelle Micallef for kindly arranging this lovely visit and also thanks to her generous family for hosting us.

Very grateful thanks to Mr Kurt Grima for showing us around and explaining the process of obtaining the high-quality cold-pressed olive oil.

Text by Lion Susan Galea Borg

THE HISTORY OF PORCELAIN

On Wednesday 16th of October Joan Barnewell from Dublin, Ireland, delivered a very well-received talk on The Story of Chinese Porcelain and its Journey to the West. Joan's talk was inspired by her interest in the arts of Imperial China and in particular her love of the Qing Dynasty porcelain in the Chester Beatty collection where Joan has been a tour guide for many years.

After a brief history of Chinese pottery and porcelain, Joan introduced us to the famous kilns in Jingdezhen. We learned of the remarkable people who climbed the mountain every day for the secret ingredient-kaolin-and carry it down the mountain where it was processed and fired in enormous kilns to make beautiful objects for the Imperial Palace-and eventually for Europe.



We followed the boatmen and stick-men on their arduous 700-mile journey. They carried the precious porcelain across large lakes, through rivers, across rapids and rough slippery terrain and through steep mountain passes in all weather to reach the port of Canton. The labourers were met there by the merchants and were photographed by the renowned Scottish photographer John Thomson.

It was here in the 16th century that the Dutch and Portuguese ships carrying porcelain began their journeys reaching Europe several months later (if they were lucky). Many ships did not make it. The shipwrecks which would have been a disaster at the time have proved to be a blessing as porcelain.... like gold is not affected by

being under the sea.

In 1604 a consignment of 100,000 pieces of porcelain reached Holland on the "SS Catania" and was sold at auction. It caused a stir. Everyone who could afford it wanted it. If the secret of how it was made could be found.... there was a fortune to be made. A French Jesuit missionary priest managed to get the details from some of his Catholic converts and the rest is history. Nowadays the Chinese are buying back porcelain at auctions around the world. We saw a slide of a sixteen inch vase from the 18th century which had been used as an umbrella stand. It was sold to a buyer from Beijing for \$43 million.

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Though official proceedings were long, nonetheless it was an enjoyable evening with good food and wine (produced from the vineyards of the region, and also an occasion to meet old friends and also get to know others.

Sunday morning was free, hence it served as a good time to do some shopping. After lunch on Sunday which ended at 3 p.m. we had to start our journey to Pozzallo to be in time to return back to Malta by catamaran.



From left: Lion Elisa Solomini, Ms. Silvana Arena, President Alex Arena, LC Licata President Salvatore La Lumia

During our short sojourn in Licata we were accompanied by Past President Lion Agostino Balsamo (who is now the Club Secretary) who left no stone unturned to make our stay pleasant.

A group of members from our twinned club will be coming to Malta for our 45th Charter Anniversary.

(Note: During dinner I met the First Vice Governor of MD108YB who suggested that our club and our four-twinned Sicilian Lions Clubs should meet together on occasions. I pointed out that we keep contact with them and also invite them for our Charter Night)

VALUE OF DIVERSITY

In this social year Lions Clubs International President Dr. Jung-Yul Choi conveyed an important message about diversity.

Diversity is seen as enrichment in relationships and a means of contact between that which is "other than me" or else an occasion for growth and understanding of one another.

A strong cultural idea, always declared by Lions throughout the world, is to commit themselves to support today's social realities, in endeavoring to foster the feeling of integration, so that single individuals can acknowledge what causes diversity and improve their capability of accepting others different from oneself.

It is certainly not unknown that whenever Lions meet they share their diversity, affirming "us" as a value. However, it is quite revolutionary to say so today when globalization dictates diversity not just as individuals from each other, but also when there is the need for multiple requests, even complex ones, in order to unite one another according to individual competences.

"We serve" to make a difference and we are different to serve together.

NOTE: Above article was sent by PDG Paolo Gattola (MD108YA) who is an honorary member of our Club. It was written in Italian and translated by First Vice President Lion Margaret Frendo.

DEMISE OF LIONESSE CLUBS

The first Lioness Club, namely the Mount Pleasant, North California was formed on December 24, 1975. From that date several other clubs were formed worldwide, including Malta. However in 1991 it was decided to disband the Lioness Clubs. This came about when an American Lioness instituted a court case claiming that Lions Club International was discriminating females. In October 1991 Lioness Clubs the had three choices namely:

1. Individual Lionesses are encouraged to seek invitations to join a Lions Club.
2. Lioness Club can apply for a Lions Club Charter.
3. Join as an affiliate of their sponsoring Lions Club.

Consequently in Malta female members of LC Malta Host formed Lions Club Mdina.

BANNERETTES

Practically all Lions Clubs worldwide have a bannerette. These are normally exchanged with other Clubs and/or given to members when they first join the Club.

Bannerettes normally depict either a prominent landmark or a subject of local interest in their town or district. Invariably every bannerette carries the Lions emblem



The four Maltese Lions Clubs are no exception and each club has its own bannerette. Our Club's first bannerette had a white background with the eight pointed Maltese cross in red with the Sliema tower superimposed together with the Lions emblem. The original bannerette had the words "SLIEMA LIONS CLUB" printed in blue on top and MALTA below the cross printed in red. In 1984 however the club's name was changed to Lions Club Sliema and consequently the wording on the bannerette was also changed.

Two years ago a new bannerette was made keeping the same design but appropriately including the year of the Club's charter below the word MALTA stating *Chartered 1974*.



The Club had also made a bannerette to commemorate its tenth anniversary. Unfortunately both this bannerette and the original have never been found.

In 2014 the Club had a bannerette for its fortieth anniversary which was designed by an Italian Lion who was working in Malta at the time.

Interesting to note that each International President, and most District Governors have a bannerette to commemorate their term of office. Thousands Lions collect these bannerettes.

Our Club have drapes with various bannerettes affixed. These used to be displayed at Charter Night. This custom has been discontinued due to logistical reasons.

VISIT TO DAR TAL-PROVIDENZA

A group of Club members led by Lion President Alex Arena visited Dar tal-Providenza in Siggiewi, a church home founded in 1965 by the late Mons. Mikil Azzopardi, to offer a residential home in a family atmosphere for persons with disability.

Presently "Dar tal-Providenza" (Providence Home) is home for about 115 persons of various ages including some seven year olds. The home also offers respite to families thus enabling residents to live in a family atmosphere.

It is estimated that the Home requires over Euro four million annually to cater for the needs of the residents. The money to keep the home to a high standard is mostly raised by donations made by individuals and firms and by a subsidy from the Government.

Lions Clubs in Malta have supported the Home for a long time and every year in October members of the Lions Clubs in Malta visit the home for Sunday mass and each Club President makes a donation of euro 250. The Lions Clubs have also planted 150 olive trees in the Home's gardens. The olive grove is aptly named "Lions Grove". A commemorative plaque showing the Lions emblem was installed therein.



Lion President Alex Arena presenting cheque to the Home Director Rev. Fr. Martin Micallef. Lion Alfred Micallef Attard at left.

VISIT TO PRESIDENT OF MALTA

Presidents of the four Lions Clubs in Malta paid a courtesy visit to HE Dr. George Vella, President of Malta.

During the visit the Presidents led by Zone Chairman Lion Joe Messina outlined the scope of Lionism and the projects which the Clubs have undertaken in Malta and their future projects to help those in need mentioning the glaucoma screening project and other projects benefitting the Maltese nation.

HE Dr. Vella acknowledged the work done and being done by Lions in Malta and encouraged them to continue in their good work in favour of those in need.



Photo: Club President Lion Alex Arena presenting a bannerette and souvenir to the President.

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JUST REMEMBER: Four things you can't get back:

The stone after it's thrown
The word after it's said
The occasion after it's missed
The time after it's gone

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GIVING is not just about making a donation. It is about making a difference to others.

Quote by Cathy Calvin - President and Chief Executive Officer of the United Nations Foundation who will be retiring from her UN post in December 2019.