

Highness the Duke of Gloucester who also visited the Msida Bastion Garden where he inaugurated the memorial to the Victoria Cross recipient, Private Charles McCorrie on the occasion of Her Majesty's Jubilee Year. We also received visits from Dr Owen Bonnici, Labour Party Spokesman for Culture and Higher Education, from the Board of MEPA, from the UK Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings and from the new British High Commissioner, HE Mr Robert Luke. We thank Patricia Salomone, our hard working Communications Officer, for the support she gave us all during these very demanding events.

Three successful Bir Miftuħ Concerts were again organised and DLH is grateful to H.E. Dott Luigi Marras, Ambassador of Italy and the *Istituto Italiano di Cultura*, H.E. Mr Michel Van de Poorter, Ambassador of France and the *Alliance Française de Malte – Méditerranée* and H.E. Mr Hubert Ziegler, Ambassador of Germany, for their support with this international music festival. Our July Annual Dinner was most well attended and helped us raise valuable funds, as did the Autumn Dinner and Concert last November at St John's Cavalier. This was made possible with the support of H.E. Mr Jim Hennessy, Ambassador of Ireland and the Department of Foreign Affairs' Cultural Relations Programme. The concert featured young Irish musicians, Roisin Walters and Evin Kelly and Maltese soprano, Gabrielle Sargent. This sparkling event made a hit in the social pages. We thank Cettina Caruana Curran, Maureen Gatt and our office team, Rosemarie and Anne Marie for organising these social fundraising events, and Pat Salomone for the great PR and Joe Chetcuti for providing us with photographs.

An unusual event was the visit on 4th Sept by a delegation from the Hangzhou province of the People's Republic of China who came to learn about our culture, to introduce their tourist city of Hangzhou and to seek future exchanges. Vice President, Martin Scicluna made a presentation about DLH, and courtesy gifts were exchanged.

Our 6th photography competition for the Marine Environment was again organised by Council Member Stanley Farrugia Randon to coincide with *Notte Bianca* on 29th September. On the same night Fish4Tomorrow held their *Sunnara* Exhibition also at HQ.

In October, Pat Salomone organised the exhibition 'Pulchrior in Luce' (More beautiful in the light) by Maria Rossella Dalmas at the Auberge d'Italie under the patronage of the Minister of Culture, Dr Mario de Marco. The exhibition was inaugurated by Judge Giovanni Bonello who showered his brilliant wit on all present. We thank Ms Dalmas, a most talented artist, for donating part of the proceeds from the sale of her paintings that focussed on events at Victory Church. We would inform you that some of her paintings are still for sale through the DLH Heritage Corner.

Also in October, DLH was invited to participate at the *Wirt iż-Żejtun Roman Villa Symposium*. Vice President, Profs. Luciano Mule Stagno presented '*Heritage Saved in the South of Malta*'. For the Symposium publication, a series of five essays were compiled by Simone Mizzi with texts by Maria Grazia Cassar, Stanley Farrugia Randon and Dr Alexander Welsh, which focussed on Torri Mamo, Delimara Lighthouse, the Chapels of Bir Miftuħ, Ħal Millieri and Tal-Ħniena Church. The publication is on sale through our office.

We did manage to get out and about. Romina and Stanley Farrugia Randon organised a successful heritage and nature walk on Comino in September enhanced by our enthusiastic octogenarians who walked and walked, while Pat Salomone coordinated a walk in November to St Anthony's Battery in Gozo for council members.

Maria Grazia Cassar was successful in obtaining funding worth €8,514 under the EU Youth in Action programme. The project consists of the collaboration, for the third consecutive year, between Maltese and French youths from the *Rempart* Group, in the training and restoration process at Tal-Ħniena Church and this was held between the 7th and the 16th September. Well done to Maria Grazia Cassar and Cathy Farrugia for putting together this year's programme assisted by Sylvia Mule Stagno. Tara Cassar and Nicole Saliba ably managed the youth exchange and have formed a nucleus of young volunteers like themselves. Following the Rempart Group, Italian Students from the *Istituto Geometra "DI PALO"* from Salerno also did restoration work on the Tal-Ħniena Church.

Thirty delegates from Eco-Schools International on a conference in Malta visited the Red Tower on 4th October. The Floriana Local Council held an event on 21st October during which restorers worked on the Mattia Preti titular painting of the Madonna, which DLH is promoting, while the Msida Bastion Garden remained open for the *Genna tal-Gonna* day (Heavenly-Gardens-Day).

On 7th December, DLH's VIII Architectural Heritage Awards took place at our headquarters with the Minister of Culture presenting the awards to the winners. This year no less than ten high-profile applications were received. Maria Grazia Cassar took over from Vice President, Martin Scicluna as Chair of the Judging Panel and Joanna Spiteri Staines was elected in her place. We thank Dr Conrad Thake and the Chamber of Architects for their support each year, as well as Prof. Keith Sciberras who is also on the Judging Panel.

An eventful year was brought to a close with the joyous and uplifting singing of the Enkor Choir at our last fund-raising event of the year, the *Hallelulja* Concert at Our Lady of Victory Church on 28th December. Enkor's swinging gospel music took us through time and our thanks go to the numerous volunteers and to Pat Salomone who made this possible.

MEDIA COVERAGE

With all these great activities taking place, DLH was increasingly present in the national media, with articles involving our work and appearances on TV. There are simply too many to list them all here. We made the headlines several times with the media following the sponsorship programme for OLV very closely and reporting on the VIPs who visited it. Simone obtained one cover page and a major feature in *The Circle* for her 'Life in Heritage', and there was major coverage given to last year's AGM address with the 'Protect Manoel Island' appeal. This was followed by a full page article by Simone in *The Times of Malta* on 'How Heritage is Built', and two glossy pages on the restoration of the OLV icon painting in *Flair* magazine. The Chamber of Architects's magazine '*The Architect*' gave great coverage to the 2012 Architectural Heritage Awards, while our social activities were also featured regularly in the social pages.

Our environmental campaigning was also reported with major articles written by George Camilleri: 'Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported fishing', an article rebuking the Tuna Fest and one titled 'Trees cannot talk, but we can' challenging the authorities on the unbridled and unnecessary felling of trees.

Many features on TV focussed on our national appeal for Victory Church. Comino and Dwejra Towers featured with the launch of the video 'A Tale of Two Towers' on the programme '*Malta u lil hinn minnha*' for which we thank Carolyn Clements, who continues to lead the Gozo and Comino team with such dedication. It was due to Carolyn's work that we were able to benefit early last year from the Eco Gozo Fund for interpretation panels and the production of this video. Rossella Dalmas's exhibition was also shown on *Meander*. We were also on TV for many launches: that with the Minister for Culture for the restoration of the Wignacourt Tower, with HRH the Duke of Gloucester for the inauguration of the McCorrie memorial, for the launch by Minister Jason Azzopardi of the White Paper on the law on Public Domain, for the launch of the Eco Gozo fund with the Minister for Gozo, Ms Giovanna Debono, for the conclusion of the Mattia Preti restoration of *St Sebastian* at the Departure Lounge together with our sponsors Malta International Airport Plc. and for the visit by DLH Council members to the Leader of the Opposition, Dr Joseph Muscat at the Labour Party Headquarters.

A campaign to focus attention on Environment and Cultural Heritage was launched on 14th January 2013 through an online survey that asks the public to express their priority concerns for our natural and cultural resources. This brought DLH much acclaim and the result of this poll will be delivered by DLH to politicians and is available for all to see on the DLH website/Survey Results.

PUBLICATIONS

A *Ħal Millieri* booklet written by Stanley Farrugia Randon has now been printed by Best Print and is available from major bookshops