demonstrations donating €700 to DLH. We must thank Albert Galea who coordinated the event.

22/23 June: DLH and the Historical Re-Enactment Group of Malta organized a re-enactment at the Red Tower, while on the 28 June, Council Members held a gathering at the Tower for volunteers. HSBC volunteers who help at Our Lady of Victory Church also attended. Judge Joe Galea Debono, himself a volunteer at the Red Tower, gave a presentation about the history of the tower.

July 19: The Annual Fund Raising Dinner at San Anton was held with the patronage of HE the President of Malta, Dr George Abela beautifully organised by Cettina Caruana Curran and Charles Gatt. Through the efforts of our Treasurer Martin Scicluna, many corporate sponsors took tables in support. An exciting raffle organised by Dame Maureen Gatt was held with a beautiful pair of paintings by John Borg Manduca as top prize. We are most grateful to the artist for his generous support.

29/31 Aug: the Iniżjamed Malta Mediterranean Literature Festival, now a successful annual event, took place at the Msida Bastion Garden coordinated by 'Vipigo’ Editor Joe Azzopardi.

Sept 6: we were honoured by a visit to Victory Church by the Prime Minister Dr Joseph Muscat and Mrs Muscat who both left us encouraging messages in ‘the Victory Book’.

Oct 28: DLH again celebrated the European Heritage Weekend organised by the Superintendence of Cultural Heritage during which the main properties held in guardianship were open free of charge.

Nov 16: The 48th Anniversary Autumn Dinner was held at St John’s Cavalier, Vallaletta by courtesy of H.E. Ingr. Umberto Di Capua, Ambassador of the Sovereign Military Hospitalier Order of St John. Featuring a recital by the renowned Maltese soprano Lydia Caruana, this concert was made possible through the support of the HSBC Malta Foundation. DLH is extremely grateful to Mark Watkinson, HSBC CEO, and Josef Camilleri, Head of Public Affairs for their support.

Dec 12: The interactive unit at Victory Church was unveiled by Ms. Gemma Mifsud Bonnici, Chairperson, Vodafone Malta Foundation, in the presence of H.E. Mr Rob Luke, the UK High Commissioner and Council members.

Dec 18: The IX DLH Architectural Heritage Awards Scheme organised with the support of the Chamber of Architects was celebrated with Hon Parliamentary Secretary for Culture, Dr José Herrera who presented the awards. We thank the judging panel, composed of Dr Conrad Thake, Architect Joanna Spiteri Staines, Profs. Lucio Mule Stagno and the chairperson, Maria Grazia Cassar for overseeing this prestigious award scheme.

Dec 21: the ‘Gloria’ fund raising concert at Victory Church organised by Pat Salomone brought our year to a close with triumphant Christmas Songs by the Enkor Choir.

Over the year 11 high profile talks took place at the Judge Caruana Curran lecture hall. We are grateful to all the lecturers for giving of their time and knowledge to raise the profile of Malta’s cultural and natural heritage.

Simone Mizzi gave a presentation re DLH to the Malta Hotels and Restaurants Association on 10 September and on 30 Jan 2014 spoke to St Edward’s College Sixth Formers. She also represented DLH on the European Cultural Networks’ Seminar this month.

MEDIA COVERAGE

We obtained incredibly high profile media coverage, several interviews and featured on TV programmes during the course of the year. Numerous environment issues brought about by proposed development gave rise to much activism and ensuing media coverage. These were MEPA’s approval of the Mistra development, the Anti-Spring Hunting Referendum, the proposed Gozo bridge, the demolition of town houses in Urban Conservation Areas, the launch of 12 new planning regulations by MEPA without a national Strategic Plan for the Environment, the Delimara Power Station issue and Land Reclamation schemes.

Lead opinions by Simone Mizzi and George Camilleri were carried by the Times of Malta and Malta Independent: ‘A Ministry for Development?’, ‘Our Development Zone’, ‘Where is Fred Flintstone?’, ‘Looming catastrophe’, ‘Building, building everywhere’, ‘Government slow down your haste’ and ‘What if something does go wrong?’. Pre budget submissions by Simone Mizzi to the Minister of Finance re a ‘Budget in the Making’ were published and an article on Regeneration by Joanna Spiteri Staines appeared in the Times Property and Construction Supplement.

Simone spoke on TimesTalk TV re Govt’s pro construction stance, and George Camilleri spoke on Mistra on Dissett. Maria Grazia Cassar participated in the airing of “Int Min Int” on 17 July, a TV debate with MCAS students on the introduction of “modern” architecture in our historic towns. The Sarria restoration and the new grill cover at Victory Church featured on PBS news. Stanley Farrugia Randon contributed to 5 features in the TV program ‘Ma Bundi’, focussing on Marine Issues and gave 5 interviews on “Meander” about the Bubonic plague also featuring the two St Roque statues in Żebbuġ and B’Kara, both restored by DLH.

At end September DLH introduced regular website blogs by Alan Deidun, Conrad Thake and Petru Caruana Dingli to stimulate debate on environmental and heritage issues. Some 40 blogs have been written to date. Visits to our website have increased substantially since their inception and we thank Petra for spearheading this initiative.

DLH teamed up with FimbBank Plc to create a series of television spots promoting heritage and spreading awareness of the historic sites managed by DLH.

Our restorations and events generate great interest and, our PRO Pat Salomone continues to liaise with the media.

YOUTH SECTION

Ian Camilleri has re-established the DLH Youth Section which had its first meeting on 24 Sept. Simone Mizzi took them through the history of the organisation showing them historic material appertaining to the former Teenagers DLH. The section participated in the NGO fair held at the Naxxar High school, set up a stand during Freshers’ Week and has its own Facebook page.

DLH Youth members concluded another exchange with Union Rempart for the fourth consecutive year. The project, entitled ‘Maltese and French Youth for the Restoration of European Heritage’, involved French and Maltese volunteers working on fortifications for two weeks in Coucy, France. We thank youth member Tara Cassar who successfully led the initiative and won finance through the EU-funded Youth in Action Programme and a subsequent Award for Excellence.

ADMINISTRATION

DLH relies on subscriptions as one of its main funding sources. In order to streamline this process we have reformed our Annual Subscription system so all membership contributions are due at the beginning of the year. With an increased workload it was also necessary to upgrade the Sage 50 accounting software package to better plan and report on DLH’s finances.

WE THANK VOLUNTEERS

We are proud to have recorded an increase in volunteer hours over last year to a total of 20,533 in 2013 which represents a contribution to the economy valued at €250,000. These figures are reported regularly to the Culture Ministry and the National Statistics Office.

We must include thanks to HSBC volunteers and PWC interns who have helped with attendance at Victory Church and Red Tower and with maintenance work at Ta’ Braxia and Msida Bastion. Above all we must thank our wardens and volunteers everywhere for their support at the properties, Joe Busieta who compiles our statistics and inventories, Professor George Camilleri for his work in DLH archives, Joe Azzopardi, for editing Vigilo and Judy Falzon for its proofreading, Romina Farrugia Randon, Sophie Woltz, Carmen Naudi, Karen Galea, Jenny Welsh and Joseph Chetcuti for their assistance in the office. We also thank Rosemarie Stagno Navarra and Anne Marie Navarro for their endless support, John Gafà, our loyal handyman, and Annie Tabone, our cleaner. Finally our thanks must also go to all our members everywhere for supporting yet another great year of DLH achievements.