



NEWSLETTER

VALLETTA ALIVE FOUNDATION

July 2008 – Issue No 10



1 BOV Streets Alive is Back

For the third year running BOV Streets Alive is back. For three consecutive Friday evenings, a programme of music, dance, arts display, displays of various vehicles will bring the streets of Valletta to life in the evening. Dine al fresco in Valletta's unique historic streets. BOV Streets Alive is organised by Valletta Alive Foundation and supported by Bank of Valletta.

The dates are:

Friday July 25th , Friday 1st August and Friday 8th August.

The main features of this year's BOV Streets Alive are at the end page of this newsletter.

Special thanks to the Bank of Valletta for supporting this event for the third year running.

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2 Valletta 450

2016 will be the four hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the founding of Valletta. How do we as a nation wish Valletta to be in the year 2016?

Preparations for a seminar 'Valletta 450' are well underway. The aim is to promote the unique historical, cultural, social and economical importance of Malta's capital city. A number of high profile speakers have been approached and accepted to participate. Pencil in the Saturday morning 25th October in your diary. More details will be announced closer to the date.

The Foundation is seeking sponsors for this important event. Interested? Write to pisben@gmail.com.

3 Congratulations

PROSIT to Dr. Paul Borg Olivier for his election as the General Secretary of the Nationalist Party.

As Valletta Mayor, he provided support and encouragement to the Foundation since its inception. Up to 2005, Valletta Alive Initiative was a lobby group composed of representatives from various organisations. It was following Paul's suggestion that a Foundation with its own statute was formed. The Valletta Local Council is a Founding Member of the Foundation.

The Foundation thanks Dr. Paul Borg Olivier for his contribution and wishes him the best of luck in this important role.

4 Donation to VAF

The Valletta Alive Foundation has received a generous donation from the Sir Martin Laing Foundation. Sir Martin, now retired, played a leading role within the UK's construction industry for many years and has a keen interest in sustainable development

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and the environment. He was a member of the Board of the Marine Stewardship Council and Trustee Emeritus of WWF-UK.

Sir Martin's family owns property in Valletta and he has always shown a keen interest in the City's regeneration. As such, he has consistently shown support to the Foundation ever since its inception. The Foundation is greatly appreciative of his support.

5 www.vallettaalive.com

Do you plan to go shopping? You would like to go out to dinner but are not quite sure where to go to? Valletta surely has the place you are looking for. To find out, visit www.vallettaalive.com. Visit also the Foundation's website on vallettaalivefoundation.org.

Those interested in being featured in the www.vallettaalive.com website are to contact Mr. Daniel Frendo of Multi-Services International Ltd. at dfrendo@msi.com.mt or tel. no. 21373222.

6 Bank of Valletta Renews Corporate Sponsorship

The Bank of Valletta has renewed its corporate sponsorship for the Valletta Alive Foundation. The Bank supported VAF in its first three years of operation and has renewed its support for a further period of three years.

The Foundation again thanks Bank of Valletta for its continuous support.

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7 **Il-Belt Valletta**

Il-Belt Valletta is a magazine which is issued every month. It is distributed in all Valletta households and outlets. Its distribution is to be widened further to include hotels and other tourism establishment.

Foundation officials met Mr. Roy Russell of Network Publications Ltd. Possible cooperation between the two sides was discussed during the meeting.

The Foundation supports all initiatives which highlight the cultural, social and economic value of Valletta and congratulates Network Publications for the consistent improvement in quality the magazine has achieved since its beginnings over a year ago.

Anyone wishing to advertise in *il-Belt Valletta* is to write to adriana@networkpublications.com.mt or call Mr. Roy Russell on mobile no 79538424.

8 **August Dinner at Upper Baracca**

The Foundation's August dinner at the Upper Baracca gardens for members and their friends is gradually becoming a tradition. This year it will be held on 9th August. Enjoy the views of the Grand harbour and fireworks over Cottonera while you dine. Price for dinner is €25. For reservations please call Maria Dela on 21472255 during office hours.

9 **Heard it in the Grapevine**

The Foundation heard of various projects which Government, in this new legislature, is planning to implement in Valletta. The repaving of Castille Square and the provision of underground car park and pedestrianisation of St. George's Square (in front of Grand Master's Palace) are being mentioned. A comprehensive programme of pavement renewal/ replacement has also been mentioned and it appears some works on this have started. The

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setting up of a Museum of Fortifications also seems to be in the offing.

Although VAF has heard of these projects from various sources, no formal announcements have been made.

One should not forget the redevelopment/ rehabilitation projects which are now long overdue and which are of central importance for Valletta's regeneration namely the Opera house site and Fort St. Elmo.

In the meantime, VAF officials met Perit Claude Borg of the Valletta Rehabilitation Committee. Areas of possible cooperation were discussed. It is hoped that the collaboration between VRC and VAF can be strengthened in the coming months and years.

10 AGM February 2008

The Foundation's third Annual General meeting was held on the 19th February 2008. During the meeting, a report on the Foundation's activities was presented by the Honorary Secretary.

Elections were held for the four posts of elected governors. In accordance with the statute, each of the seven Founding members were asked to nominate a Governor to sit on the board.

The Board has two new Governors Ms. Pauline Tufigno (representing Valletta Local Council) and Dr. Kari Pisani (elected governor). They replace outgoing governors namely Mr. Peter Buontempo and Ms. Philippa Said respectively.

The officer's of the Foundation are as follows: Mr. Alfred Zahra Chairman, Mr. Paul Fenech Vice Chairman, Perit John Ebejer Secretary, Mr. Tonio Camilleri Treasurer, and Mr. Anthony Camilleri vice Treasurer, Ms Elizabeth Aquilina vice Secretary and Dr. Kari Pisani officer in charge of website.

The other governors are: Mr. Effie Micallef, Mr. Michael Borg, and Mr. Charles Camilleri.

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11 Band Clubs in the City

Congratulations to Mr. Ivan Grixti who was elected as President of the Kings Own Band Club and to Mr. Alfred Zahra who was elected as President of Soc.Fil.Naz. La Valette. The two Clubs are members for the Valletta Alive Foundation. The Clubs provide a valuable contribution to the community and to the City.

12 Is Valletta still on the decline?

The 2005 Census reveal some interesting results about Valletta. In 2005 the number of occupied dwellings stood at 2,576, a decrease of 6 per cent from the 1995 figure. Valletta population stood at 6,300, a decrease of 13 per cent from the 1995 figure.

Admittedly, this comes as a surprise when one considers the increased interest in Valletta over the past five to ten years.

One factor may have been that foreign owners of properties were mostly away during census night and therefore would not be recorded. Alternatively, the increase in prices acted as a strong disincentive to buy, in spite of potential buyer's interest in the City.

One wonders how these figures have changed since the 2005 census.

Another interesting figure from Census 2005 is 73 per cent of all the occupied dwellings in Valletta are rented unfurnished (the corresponding percentages for the South Harbour region and Malta are 34 and 18 per cent respectively).

In view of this high figure, the planned reform of the rental market will have a significant effect on Valletta. It is hoped that policy makers will keep this in mind when eventual decisions are taken.

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Featuring in this year's BOV Streets Alive:

BOV Streets Alive - 25th July 2008

7.00 pm onwards: Musical Performances by Paul Abela's Big Band, Malta Police Band Display, Police Silent Drill Display, street baskers, Sculpture and Arts Garden, Old Motors Club & Mini Minors Club Displays- Milonga Tango Dance - Children's Corner and animation.

BOV Streets Alive - 1st August 2008

7.00 pm onwards. Featuring: Sculpture and Arts Garden, Classic Motor Bikes Display, Old Motors Club - - Luna D'Estate (excerpts from Operettas etc) by Vox Lirica, Ball Room Dancing by Malta Dance Sport Association – Milonga Tango Dance- Children's Corner and animation.

BOV Streets Alive - 8th August 2008

7.00 pm onwards. Featuring: Milonga By Tango Malta, 'Show Biz High' Variety Entertainment by Batista Leisure Group - 'My Way' by Joe Cutajar and P. Abela Band, Jaguar Club - Modified Cars and Motor Bikes Displays – Children's Corner and animation.

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