



# A.L.P.S. News

ASSOCIATION OF LYCEUM PAST STUDENTS | GHAQDA EX-STUDENTI LICEO

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## FROM THE ALPS PRESIDENT'S DESK

# We are hoping that you are having a great Summer 2018

As I write this message I can hear fireworks in the background. It is the festa season and all towns and villages are celebrating the yearly feast of a Patron Saint in their particular area of Malta or Gozo. Let's remember to take time to thank those who have served or currently serve in that area where we live, whom we meet throughout the year. For you members and friends of ALPS, it seems like there is never a dull moment or month, where the association is concerned. Many very active members are the reason we have such a great organization and coupled with an enthusiastic team of Council members who continually are working with me throughout the year, we seem to be doing quite well.

Since our last issue of ALPS News, we had a number of events taking place, including the Manresa Retreat, the Pastoral Visit of His Grace Archbishop Charles J. Scicluna who came visiting and celebrated Holy Mass at the Pwales Chapel, the initiating of White Light Pictures showing a great film in an exclusive atmosphere. These were but a few of the many activities that ALPS is organizing for you throughout the year. The annual barbeque event has taken place this year on the 21st July on the open terraces 'al fresco' at the Radisson Golden Sands

Resort Ghajn Tuffieha. We truly loved to bring a little smile to your faces as we saw all our members keeping in touch with their circle of friends that they have formed within the Association of Lyceum Past Students. We all need time to socialize and recharge on a regular basis. Those who have attended for the BBQ, have experienced another way to relax in an evening wrapped up with some fun whilst listening to some popular tunes by our friend David who had prepared a good selection of songs that brought back memories from a past which we never want to forget. May it always be a happy occasion for ALPS, to bring you members and friends together, to reminisce, talk and dine to your hearts delight. A little summer poem that has recently struck my attention (author unknown), goes something like this:

“ Some beach,  
 somewhere, there's a big  
 umbrella, awaiting and  
 casting shade over an  
 empty deckchair...  
 Palm trees are growing  
 and warm breezes blowing  
 I picture myself there, ”  
 some beach, somewhere...”

I close by wishing all our members a safe and enjoyable summer season. The Council members are now taking a rest. There are no activities planned for the months of August and September 2018. We shall see you at Pwales for Holy Mass on the 20th October at 17.00 hrs. For those of you who intend coming with us to White Light Pictures on the 28th September, for the film Legend of 1900, we recommend that you complete the attached coupon and place your bookings early with payment. The venue takes only 24 persons on first come first serve basis and I can assure you that you will enjoy a wonderful cinema evening to the full. Other films are also announced in the booking form/s for the months of October and November 18. You may choose from any month and place your booking/s. I must not forget, another great summer event for our association that is the ALPS summer tour to Lourdes between the 13th to 17th August. This year a sizeable number of our members have booked. Accompanying the group on this pilgrimage to Lourdes, is Mons. Laurence Gatt. No doubt, we are also blending-in with this holiday, some special



culinary evenings in or around Lourdes. A full description about this event will be presented with some pictures in our next issue of ALPS newsletter. And, last but not least, I would like to bring to your attention the ALPS Grand Reunion that shall be held at Liceo Hamrun on the 13th October this year. We want your participation so that we can have a good attendance. Furthermore, we ask you to give to us details of any past Lyceum students who may not yet be members in ALPS but who, we still wish to invite for such event. Have fun, enjoy yourselves and stay safe throughout the remaining summer months, because the memories are just waiting to happen .....Happy holidays dear friends.

Very sincerely

George dei Conti  
 Stagno Navarra





Photos from Festa Sant' Anna - Pwales 7th July 2018





# Pwales Chapel News

*Two important events have taken place over the recent past weeks at the Pwales chapel.*

*ALPS is very pleased to report about the two occasions as follows:*

## **PASTORAL VISIT BY HIS GRACE ARCHBISHOP CHARLES J SCICLUNA** *by G Stagno Navarra*

The Pwales Chapel was very well frequented by members and friends of ALPS on Saturday 12th May 2018, when His Grace Archbishop Charles J. Scicluna made his pastoral visit. It started with a very brief stop at one of the houses near the entrance to Pwales, where two Old ladies (w/chair bound) awaited the bishop. Inside their humble home, His Grace, prayed and blessed these two residents. He then proceeded further up the small access hill to the chapel. Arriving nearer to Kappella Sant Anna, ALPS president George Stagno Navarra introduced the Archbishop to all the Council Members who awaited his arrival at the very start of the passageway. On reaching the

Pwales Chapel Parvis, the congregation that had already been seated, all rose with a most welcome clap and received the bishop with happy faces, greeting him with much enthusiasm and happiness. Together with Bishop Scicluna, we also had with us for con-celebration of Holy Mass, Fr. Michael Bugeja (cerimonier) as well as Fr. William Bartolo the Spiritual Director of ALPS. Much emphasis was made by His Grace when he was delivering one of his best homilies that was, full of praise for The Association of Lyceum Past Students. He also dwelled on the canonization of San Gorg Preca and his studies at the Liceo towards the late 1800. The Bishop went on to speak, about what the countryside means to us humans, as well as the cultivation of arable land that still surrounds the Pwales Chapel. A very hearty wish was coming

from Bishop Scicluna when he said:

“

*and may all this open countryside that is in front of us today... continue to stay untouched as it is, and producing many different products that can be consumed by humans”*

”

When Holy Mass was ended, the ALPS President delivered a speech that yet again referred to the land and the fields around the chapel. Mention was made of the agricultural products that

are grown, the water supply coming directly from the rocks, the machinery and tools and the animals that all form part of the farmlands which up to this day, remain unencumbered from high rise buildings and uncontrollable development that have over the recent past years been the subject of much controversy. The President ended his speech, by thanking His Grace for finding the time to come and visit The Pwales Chapel. A commemorative gift was handed over to Bishop Scicluna who really appreciated receiving such a present consisting of a silver plaque inscribed with the date of the 12th May 2018 for such pastoral visit. It is indeed another golden page written into the ALPS history book. We are proud to be instrumental for organizing and bringing prominent personalities to The Pwales Hamlet and its inhabitants.

## **FEAST OF ST ANNE IN PWALES** **- SATURDAY 7th July 2018** *by Oscar Galea*

The Feast of St Anne held annually at St Anne's Chapel in Pwales, is always a special occasion for ALPS, and this year was definitely no exception.

Work in preparation for the feast commenced in earnest a few days before, where amongst other duties the chapel and sacristy were given a thorough clean up. On the day, the footpath and parvis were lined with a festoon of gaily colored light bulbs. A temporary altar was set at one end of the chapel parvis facing an arrangement of benches and chairs to accommodate all those who came for the festa evening.

A strong number of people (members, relatives, friends and family members from the Pwales Hamlet) turned up, where all the participants strode up the last stretch of the rough and stony footpath to the chapel and all this, in spite of the world cup football fever at same time of this event.

Rev Canon Charles Gauci celebrated Holy Mass. He was standing in for Father Wm Bartolo, our Spiritual Director, who was indisposed.

In his short but meaningful homily, Canon Gauci reflected on the Gospel readings and the celebration of the Feast of St Anne, who, he added, must have been truly blessed and privileged to be grandmother to Jesus. Canon Gauci proceeded to cite a good number of Maltese folk sayings.

At the end of the Eucharistic celebration, an array of tasty sandwiches and cakes were served to all those present, accompanied of course by an abundant flow of wine and cold drinks. As is now tradition, one of the Pwales families distributed chunky pieces of delicious melons and water melons that have all been grown in the Pwales region.

The evening progressed with everybody engaged in friendly conversation where the jovial and enthusiastic Canon Gauci talked to each and every one there present. Everyone seemed reluctant to bid farewell to such charming and picturesque surroundings! Indeed, we must collectively state, that this year's celebration of Festa Sant Anna at Pwales was yet another great success for The Association of Lyceum Past Students.

## **URGENT REPAIR WORKS TO WATERPROOFING MEMBRANE OF CHAPEL ROOF**

Works on the roof of the Kappella Sant Anna are due to be taken in hand during the month of August. Last winter, heavy rains and wind have damaged part of the membrane. Therefore, we are taking the necessary action to have it repaired soonest, in order to avoid damage to the roof of the chapel itself. The costs are rather expensive and if there is anyone of you reading

this appeal who would like to contribute something towards such works, we shall be more than happy to receive any form of assistance that goes towards such expense. Already we have found a very charitable firm by the name of AG WATERPROOFING SERVICES, who have out of their generosity reduced their estimate for materials and works. We are very proud to be looking after and maintaining this chapel. Please help us to keep this Pwales Chapel always in its best condition.

## **Calendar of Activities at St. Anna Chapel Pwales**

Date	Time	
August		No activities
September		No activities
October 20th	1700hrs	
November 17th	1630hrs	Remembrance Day
December 13th	1100hrs	Christmas Mass with carols

**WE RECOMMEND THAT YOU ENTER THESE DATES IN YOUR DIARY**

# ALPS Will Organize Another Grand Reunion at Liceo in October 2018

If you happen to know any LICEO past students who are not members in ALPS, we would like to ask you to circulate a message, about a grand reunion that we are planning for the month of October 2018. It does not matter if they are not yet members of ALPS. They are all invited, but we need to have their details to extend to them an invitation for such an event. Reunion takes place at the LICEO building, Wenzu Mallia Street Hamrun on Saturday 13th October 2018. At 19.00hrs., His Grace Archbishop Emeritus Mons. Pawl Cremona, concelebrates Holy Mass

with other Lyceum colleagues who have taken up priesthood. This shall be followed by a get-together / reception with finger food and light refreshments inside the main hall of the Liceo itself. Wives / partners and or family members, are most welcome to accompany for this Lyceum reunion.

It's hard to believe that it has been so long since we last met with our Lyceum Classmates of 30, 40 or perhaps even 50 years ago or more. But did we believe that we were immune to the passage of time? Perhaps we were thought we'd never grow old. Or, at least

we never realized it would happen so quickly !

Reunions by The Association of Lyceum Past Students ,can be a time to renew old friendships and relive glory days. Some of those old classmates have probably grown into people we will like even better today than we did when still at the Liceo Classes. It is said, that the older the participant is for such reunion, the more that he should enjoy the event.

An invitation card will be posted to you if you reply and complete the attached booking form listing the total number of persons who

will be attending against a small donation of only €5.00 per head that goes towards the ALPS organizing funds. The rest of the expense shall be wholly sponsored by ALPS in order to promote and to foster even more Lyceum Past students under its wings. We shall certainly look forward to seeing many of you ALPS members and friends who continue to be loyal to the association. Please do not forget to send to us names of other classmates who you can remember and let us have their details, so that we can extend an invitation to them also.

## Visiting the ALPS Members Who Are Sick or Indisposed...

We know that there can be a few of the members and friends of ALPS who may have over the recent years, become housebound and therefore unable to participate in any the events or functions that are organized by our association. Needless to say that we miss them all and we do wish to

maintain contact with them. Over the past years, it has been the custom of ALPS council members to make home visits to such members and friends who may be sick or housebound for some reason or another. We shall be more than pleased to come and visit any of you who would like to stay in

touch with the ALPS administration. You can be visited by a delegation of two council members. This to show you, that we always keep you in our thoughts and prayers.

It would be greatly appreciated, if anyone who knows about any such ALPS members who are not attending any more to social or cultural events

organized by the ALPS, to establish contact soonest via landline 2143 6041 or mobile: 9944 4129 or by [alpsmalta@gmail.com](mailto:alpsmalta@gmail.com) e-mail. We do thank you for every assistance you may give, that helps ALPS to continue maintaining contact with its members at all times.

## Another Film at 'White Light Pictures'

The next film that will be screened at White Light Pictures is going to be held on Friday 28th September 2018 and, if there may be enough demand, it can be shown again on the 29th September always subject to having a full seating of 24 fully booked. The chosen film is going to be THE LEGEND OF 1900. In brief, it is about a baby boy who was found on an ocean liner and he grows into a musical prodigy but never sets his feet on solid land. Film runs for 165 minutes and the price is @ €15.00 per person including a welcome drink ( wine or beer or soft drink) before the show. The suggested entrance time to White Light Pictures shall be 6.00 pm. After the show, patrons may purchase drinks from the fully stocked bar against payment. The venue is fully air-conditioned and also has fresh air circulation.

### 28 and 29 September 2018: THE LEGEND OF 1900

A baby boy, discovered in 1900 on an ocean liner, grows into a musical prodigy, never setting foot on land. Director: Giuseppe Tornatore. Writers: Alessandro Baricco (monologue Novecento), Giuseppe Tornatore. Stars: Tim Roth, Pruitt Taylor Vince, Bill Nunn. Running time: 165 minutes. Price: €15.00 pp incl. welcome drink (wine or beer or soft drink). Suggested entrance time: 6pm after the show, patrons may order from the bar any type of drinks against payment

### 26 and 27 October 2018: LA TRAVIATA (Opera)

La Traviata (The Fallen Woman) is an opera in three acts by Giuseppe Verdi set to an Italian libretto by Francesco Maria Piave. It is based on La Dame aux Camélias (1852), a play adapted from the novel by Alexander Dumas. The opera was originally titled Violetta, after the main character. It was first performed on 6 March 1853 at the La Fenice opera house in Venice. Running time: 135 minutes. Price: €15.00 pp incl. welcome drink (wine or beer or soft drink) Suggested entrance time: 6.30pm after the show, patrons may order from the bar any type of drinks against payment

### 23 and 24 November 2018: A CHRISTMAS CAROL

An animated retelling of Charles Dickens' classic novel about a Victorian-era miser taken on a journey of self-redemption, courtesy of several mysterious Christmas apparitions. Director: Robert Zemeckis. Writers: Robert Zemeckis (screenplay), Charles Dickens (novel). Stars: Jim Carrey, Gary Oldman, Colin Firth. Running time: 156 minutes. Price: €30.00 pp incl. welcome drink before the show and finger food including wine, beer and soft drinks after the show. Suggested entrance time: 6pm. (All other beverages consumed at the bar will be against cash payment).

## ALPS Web Page Statistics

We are pleased to publish the following analytic statistics for the period January 1 to June 30, 2018

Country of Viewing	# of Viewing Sessions	Average duration of sessions (mins)
MALTA	507	09:03
USA	75	00:11
UK	37	01:47
AUSTRALIA	36	02:09
CANADA	15	04:52
ITALY	13	00:16
GERMANY	12	00:28
FRANCE	6	02:30
CZECH REP	4	00:01
BANGLADESH	3	00:01
<b>TOTAL VIEWERS</b>	<b>708</b>	

We are pleased to note that, based on this year's first half results, our Maltese viewers represented 71.6%% of all visitors. This translates to an average of 85 Maltese visitors per month. We are also pleased to note the viewers from other countries. These results show that despite our humble existence, our Website has quite an international audience. It also shows that our Maltese viewers spent an average reading time of 09:03 minutes per visit which is almost 4 times longer than last year's.

We would like to see an increase in our readership. Therefore, we encourage our members to send in their contributions to make our website even more appealing to our Maltese and international audience. We thank you sincerely for your contributions by way of photos and articles of Lyceum times.

At every event that we organize, we always take photos. They are immediately uploaded on our website [alpsmalta@gmail.com](mailto:alpsmalta@gmail.com) under that tab PHOTO GALLERY. This is the place where you can see photos of our events going back to 2005, that is twelve years of photographic memories.

Please help us to continue building our library of photos both of Old Lyceum Events as well as Students. We are pleased to mention that this gallery is growing with new additions as soon as you make them available to us. Ideally this gallery would include group photos with the names of those in the photo and the date of the event. Scan your photos and send them as an email attachment to: [josephdbtg@gmail.com](mailto:josephdbtg@gmail.com). Helping us in building the sections named: COLLEAGUES OF OLD and PHOTO GALLERY would ensure that we have a permanent record of historic events of our school and of our activities. Thank you for your co-operation because your contribution is very important to us.

# Reporting About The Lyceum Youth Theatre

by Dr Nazarene Azzopardi

I am continuously searching newspapers and other sources relating to our dear Lyceum.

A pleasant surprise was when at an auction where I bought some items of furniture I came across loose papers such as this one entitled 'THE LYCEUM YOUTH THEATRE'.

## Foundation of the Theatre.

Lyceum students of the post war period remember the strenuous efforts of headmaster Cyril Parker encouraging them to take part in the annual presentation one of William Shakespeare plays! But the headmaster's efforts were not recognised by the Education authorities in power at the time.

According to the brochure I have at hand the Lyceum Youth Theatre was created in

1979 under the auspices of the Education Ministry. It embarked on the presentation of both classical as well as experimental works. Among the classical plays presented were ones written by Anton Chekov, Pirandello and Garcia Lorca while the experimental plays presented were written by Harold Pinter, James Saunders and Edward Albee.

Of course one must remember that senior students are committed to academic achievement and thus theatre work had to take on a secondary role thus accounting for the rather sporadic schedule of presentation.

On the other hand drama offers a medium of better understanding of English as well as strong character formation facing an audience of vociferous

fellow students as well as the critique of the general public including parents.

According to drama critic David Thompson writing in Theatre Today the experimental drama works written by the above named were 'the product of the twentieth century man who after two world wars had lost all faith in himself as a logical being'. He continues 'science has discovered wonders of its achievements as well as means of men destroying themselves by atomic weapons. Surely a tragedy of the age, but also the absurdity of living at a time when man has lost faith in the primacy of reason.'

The modern plays were thus a product of the Theatre of the Absurd and a Comedy of Menace – rather beyond the mind set of the Lyceum students at the time.

## The Actors

The actors listed in the brochure are Ray Farrugia, Kenneth Vassallo, Marvic Cordina, James Borg, Robert Micallef and Anthony Ellul!

It will be appropriate if any of them on reading this article were to relate to the readers of the newsletter some reminiscences of their Lyceum student days.

## Participation in an Italian Theatre

At the time the brochure was published the Lyceum headmasters were Dr Paul Heywood LLD and Mr Charles Mizzi as joint head.

The Lyceum Youth Theatre presented a program organised by the Lyceum Cultural Exchange Committee in a theatre of Trento-Bolzano. More than one play was prepared for this event and the results were satisfactory.



## Lourdes Prayer Request

Submit your Prayer Request to Our Lady of Lourdes. Your petition / prayer request will be placed at the Grotto in Lourdes, when the ALPS group shall be visiting between the 13th to 17th August 2018. Pilgrims visit Lourdes each year and many of them place their prayers at the Grotto. Your letters or e-mails must reach us not later than Saturday the 11th August 18.

### LOURDES PRAYER REQUEST:

must include name, address or e-mail and your prayer with special intention that is needed.

It is Catholic tradition in Lourdes, to ask for prayers in memory and in hope.

There is a prayer intentions box next to the Our Lady of Lourdes statue at the Grotto, in the Lourdes Sanctuary, where prayer intentions can be deposited. Whatever your needs are, prayer provides strong belief, to any situation you may be faced with. Many people find prayers to assist them in every day life and with any difficulties they may have before them. We understand your intentions are sacred and you can be assured that they will be kept strictly confidential. **They can be sent to: Secretary General, A. Borg, Alson, 82 Naxxar Road San Gwann or e-mail: alpsmalta@gmail.com**



## Kindly pay your annual subscription to ALPS for the current year!

We are pleased to report that since our last newsletter, there has been an encouraging response with payments received from you members and friends of ALPS, who have sent a payment to settle for their annual subscription. However, there remains some more who inadvertently overlooked this issue and we therefore hereby kindly remind you to settle at the very earliest please.

**One-year subscription remains @ €12.00 per annum.**

**Life Membership Fee remains**

**@ €70.00 once only remittance for life**

**The Friends of the ALPS pay @ €10 only per annum.**

Payments can be addressed to:  
**Mr. David Abela.,**  
**The Hon. Treasurer, ALPS**  
**Juniper, Gianni Vella Street**  
**Tal-Qattus B'Kara BKR 4263**  
**Tel: 2148 7693**  
**Mob: 9902 0845**

We thank you for the continued support with a payment of your pending renewal.



## IN MEMORIAM



Our Founder President: Dr Guido Saliba LL.D., who passed away on Dec 7, 2004

ALPS Member Lino Gatt, aged 80, passed on May 1, 2018

ALPS Friend M'Anne Sammut, aged 87, passed on Apr 30, 2018

ALPS Member Donald Pace Bonello

ALPS MEMBER 526

Ena Saliba, aged 85, passed on June 20, 2018, in Whitby, Ontario, Canada, wife of ALPS Member Alfred J Saliba

Joe Barbara - ALPS MEMBER -

PASSED AWAY 29th JUNE 2018

John Frendo

ALPS MEMBER 585 - PASSED AWAY 23rd MAY 2018

ALPS members and their family members who passed away since the foundation of ALPS in 1994

The members of families from the Pwales Hamlet, who died in the recent past years

**MAY, THEY ALL REST IN PEACE, AMEN.**

We also remember and pray for all the sick and aged members and friends of ALPS, who may be house bound or in a Seniors Retirement Home. We promise to keep them always in our thoughts and prayers.

## A Thought for this Month...

*Every situation in life is temporary.*

*So when life is good, make sure you enjoy and receive it fully.*

*And when life is not so good, remember that it will not last forever and better days are on the way...*



## Give tribute to another friend of days gone by

The philanthropic section of ALPS organises visits to hospitalised or house bound members.

One of the latest visits was to a very well known personality Professor Angelo J. Psaila who is now an inmate at St Vincent de Paul Hospital.

Hailing from Zabbar, Angelo was brought up in difficult circumstances by his widowed mother and it was with the great help offered by his maternal uncle, a staunch MUSEUM member, that he was kept at the Lyceum and later on at the Royal University of Malta to graduate as a doctor.

Under the guidance of the late Professor Tommy Agius Ferrante he was encouraged to proceed to the United Kingdom and study Paediatrics up to Membership of the



Royal College of Physicians level.

Back in Malta he was appointed Consultant and later on Professor of Medicine.

During his thirty five years lecturing practice many students were trained by him and later on proceeded to important lecturing posts in the medical schools of USA and UK.

During the ten year (1977-1987) Medical Association of Malta strike action, he played an important part and helped in keeping the medical services going. He founded the Maltese Medical Tennis team and took part in a European tournament of the group.

The Maltese nation recognised his contribution to the advancement of teaching by awarding him the "Order of Merit in 2006"

# We would like to dedicate a special corner for our readers who might wish to send their ideas that can be considered for preparing a full year program taking us into the year 2019 for the 25th anniversary celebrations:

As you very well know, ALPS is approaching its 25th Anniversary in 2019. It is therefore our wish to give to you members and friends, an opportunity to participate in the preparations for this unique event that marks a special date in the history of our association next year. Any ideas that you wish to put forward so that we may consider before preparing next years' full program of events, shall be given due consideration. Write to us as early as possible with your thoughts and ideas that can perhaps be making this special occasion even more enjoyable to all. Together, we can formulate a wonderful 25th anniversary celebration that marks this special event in the history of ALPS. Let us be hearing from you soonest by letter or e-mail. You can address your material to Secretary General Alex Borg 'Alson' no 82, Naxxar Road San Gwann SGN 9032 or via e-mail : [alpsmalta@gmail.com](mailto:alpsmalta@gmail.com) Photos from any past events that were organized by our association between 1994 and today, will be



also appreciated and considered for a special edition next year 2019.

We must formulate a program of events well ahead of the 25th anniversary that should take us from January to December 2019 with a whole program staggered over the full year. This will include, amongst other activities during a year, "a get together Grand 25th

anniversary celebration " for all Liceo Past students of all ages. We shall advertise even abroad and expect to have arrivals from overseas who, will come specifically for such a memorable occasion. The Lyceum has a glorious history and we have to maintain such prestige by organizing a great celebration to mark our 25th anniversary of an Old Boys

Association that belongs to all Liceo past students.

For such event we are doing our best to invite a very prominent Prince of the church who will be invited to come to Malta for such a special occasion and celebrate High mass preferably at St John's Co-Cathedral where all the LICEO past students may congregate and celebrate this unique event together. There is a lot of work that has to be completed and this is why we are turning and asking for your suggestions that must reach us not later than the 31st August as we have a sub-committee working on this and will compile all the suggestions that you can put forward in order to make this, an event of the century. Nobody will surpass the Lyceum Past students for ideas. Put on your thinking caps and give to us some of your best thoughts and ideas. History will be written with the ALPS - 25th Anniversary Celebration during 2019. And you especially, are going to be a contributor for such a success.

## Announcing a new sponsor for ALPS website AG Waterproofing Services

This firm has been entrusted with the waterproofing works at the Pwales Chapel. During the month of August, repairs to roof membrane shall be taken in hand by this company, because we want to ensure that before the winter months all repairs would have been finalized.

It might be interesting for all of you readers to note the capabilities of this company, who have offered to become sponsors to the ALPS web-site. Their services and products are varied and include waterproofing of roofs, wells, terraces, basements, damproofing (appoggi), balconies, roof gardens, and anti-mould problems that you may have at some time or other in your homes.

The products that AG Waterproofing Services apply, are in



compliance with Euro Standards. Immediate reliable service with

certification can be given on a 10 year guarantee. This of course

besides being suppliers of Liquid membrane in different colors, Cool roofing systems and Liquid Membrane cement based for roof.

Other products that can be found or supplied by AG Waterproofing Services are: Aluminium Paint / Expansion Joints / Thermal Roof Insulation Boards and the like. You may call them on tel: 9987 9221 / 2180 3043 or send an e-mail [alexgrech.waterproofing@gmail.com](mailto:alexgrech.waterproofing@gmail.com)

Besides being sponsors to help maintain our ALPS website, this company has part financed the costs and reduced the overall bill for the works being done during August this year on the Pwales Chapel roof. We truly recommend that you support this firm by placing orders for any requirements connected with their trade.



# ALPS Annual Presentation of Sports Trophies



The second presentation of Sports Trophies to the Winners and Runners-Up for Season 2017-2018 was held on Friday 4th May, 2018, at the Lyceum Hamrun.

The Tournament, sponsored by the Association of Lyceum Past Students, was won by Class 10.2 (ex Form 4) and the runners-up were Class 10.1.

Ms. Dorianne Portanier Mifsud, Headmistress and Mr. Peter Tortell, on behalf of ALPS, presented the Trophies.

Mr. Joe Micallef (ALPS Youth Coordinator) organized the event and Mrs. Margaret Micallef was the photographer. Mr. Robert Farrugia, Sports Master, assisted Mr. Joe Micallef for this event.



## Laughter is the Best Medicine

While on a road trip, an elderly couple stopped at a roadside restaurant for lunch. After finishing their meal, they left the restaurant and resumed their trip. When leaving, the elderly woman unknowingly left her glasses on the table, and she didn't miss them until they had been driving for about forty minutes. By then, to add to the aggravation, they

had to travel quite a distance before they could find a place to turnaround, in order to return to the restaurant to retrieve her glasses.

All the way back, the elderly husband became the classic grumpy old man. He fussed and complained and scolded his wife relentlessly during the entire return drive. The more he

chided her, the more agitated he became. He just wouldn't let up for a single minute. To her relief, they finally arrived at the restaurant. As the woman got out of the car, and hurried inside to retrieve her glasses, the old geezer yelled to her,

***"While you're in there, you might as well get my hat and the credit card."***





# 160th Anniversary of the Apparitions of Our Lady of Lourdes

## THE VISIONARY

Bernadette was the eldest of four siblings: another girl and two boys made up the Soubirous family. Their father Françoise was a miller and his wife Louise Casterot besides helping him used to do all the house work and also care for a small flock of sheep.

The family was quite poor and the eldest daughter suffered from asthma and lacked attendance at school as well as at catechism classes run by the Cure' of the parish of Lourdes, Pere Peyremal.

## LADY OF THE GROTTO OF LOURDES

On the eleventh of February 1858, Giovedì Gras of that year, Bernadette with her sister and a friend were collecting debris from the banks of the river Gave following their parent's order to bring in firewood for the fireplace so as to cook the evening meal.

At noontime Bernadette said the Angelus.

She felt a gust of wind and saw in small niche of the Massabielle (Old Rocks) an aureole of light surrounding a

beautiful Lady dressed in white and having a blue sash round her waist. The Lady was saying the Rosary!

## THE MIRACULOUS SPRING

The Lady appeared again on the fourth day, Sunday while Bernadette splashed some Holy Water obtained from the parish church. The Lady smiled and continued counting the beads of the Holy Rosary as Bernadette prayed.

On the fourth visit the Lady asked Bernadette to walk on her knees to the deepest part of the grotto, do penance such as eating some grass and then dig with her fingers a small hole in the earth. Lo and behold! A small stream issued from the earth.

The village people associated this spring with a gift from Heaven and Louis Bourriette, a partially blind labourer dipped his scarf in the water and applied it to his face and eyes...and regained full vision.

## I AM THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

On the twenty fifth of March (The Annunciation) Bernadette

following a request by the Cure', asked the Lady her name.

She replied 'I am the Immaculate Conception'.

Bernadette hurried on her way to visit the Cure', pronouncing Immaculate Conception all the time, and without the least idea of the meaning of this name. When the Cure' Peyremal heard this name he was astounded!

From this moment onwards he believed the Visionary and became her defender in front of the Bishop Bertrand Severe Lawrence of the province of Tarbes.

## THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY LADY OF THE GROTTO OF LOURDES

The Immaculate Conception requested Bernadette repeatedly to tell the Church Authorities to build a church on site and organise pilgrimages to the site.

In this spirit the Bishop Lawrence on the eighteenth of January 1862 set up a Commission to examine the Visionary's pronouncements, claims of miracles that abounded after the Louis Bourriette one as well as to plan how best to

fulfil the Immaculate Conception desires.

After fourteen years the Commission reported that there was no explanation for the sudden cures that happened after the water of the miraculous spring was applied or drunk.

The official seal was given for the start of building the Basilica, the processions, and the Bureau of Miracles.

## THE ACCEPTANCE BY THE EMPEROR

The emperor of France at the time was Napoleon the Third. On the fifth of October 1858 he offered the French nation's help in the construction of the Basilica.

However the land around the Massabielle rocks had to be bought by Bishop Lawrence from the town of Lourdes!

## THE END OF THE VISIONARY

Bernadette entered the Convent of the Sisters of Charity of Nevers during July 1866 and lived there until she died on the sixteenth of April 1879.

She was beatified in 1925 by Pope Pius Eleven.

*The above essay is a precis of the book Bernadette and the Apparitions an English translation of the French book OUR LADY OF LOURDES by Henri Lasserre 1945*

# A Most Pleasant Excursion to Sister Island of Gozo

The ALPS day tour to the sister island of Gozo, kicked off nicely with a very pleasant ride in a comfortable coach that left from its meeting place at San Gwann Church with 43 passengers. On arrival at the Cirkewwa ferry terminal, we were all escorted onto the Gozo Ferry. We landed at Gozo to find another coach awaiting the ALPS group for a day excursion around the island. To accompany and guide the group Chev. Joe M. Attard was there and briefed us all on what we were about to experience when visiting il-Ggantija. The site has seen a massive restoration and is a real wonder to see and admire the ancient remains with plenty of history that tells visitors, they are walking the same paths and in caves of our

very ancestors who, with plenty of strength and courage had erected the megaliths They keep standing in spite of the fierce, savage and ferocious winds that have beaten against them for many centuries. Maps of the site were given to all participants who then proceeded to visit the **Mithna Ta' Kola** also found in the Ggantija area.

Towards Mid-Day, the group were becoming tired and a great lunch was awaiting them at Il-Lantern Restaurant in Marsalforn. Indeed it was so very nice to see the group mixing and chatting freely between themselves, whilst eating a very nicely prepared lunch with a glass of lemonade or wine as preferred. Some free time after the meal enabled the ALPS group to stretch their legs

whilst they awaited the coach that took them to Ta' Pinu Shrine. Holy Mass was celebrated by Fr. Dominic Sultana. His short but very meaningful homily kept everyone listening to every word. When mass was ended we still had another treat awaiting us at a wonderful outlet named 'Vini e Capricci' that is situated at Xewkija. On arrival, we found a most cordial reception with welcome drinks / wines and a variety of tasty nibbles that have pleased everyone whilst walking inside the complex.

A huge selection of wines and food presentations have made the participants dip their hands in their pockets and yet again make some more purchases to carry with them home and to remember what a lovely day

tour we have enjoyed whilst visiting Gozo. The coach made it to the ferry terminal on time. We all boarded and sailed back to Malta and returned to San Gwann where our cars had been parked in the morning. Suffice it to say, that the Association of Lyceum Past Students really prides itself in organizing such excursions. It is now a known fact that each one turns out to be a great success for all who attend. May be for our next excursion, you who are reading about this Gozo tour, will become interested to join us for a pleasant get together.

It is planned that for the month of November, we should have another cultural tour. More details will of course be issued in due course.

## The ALPS 2018 Barbeque Event at Radisson Golden Sands

There has been very much to do to make the event happen, all for a single evening at the Radisson Golden Sands Resort on the open terraces overlooking one of the nicest sandy beaches that we have in Malta. On behalf of ALPS therefore, here comes a heartfelt thanks to a whole lot of people who directly or indirectly were involved for making this years' barbeque event a great success.

We saw the chef behind the charcoal grill busy preparing food in front of everyone. At one time, we could see the grill billowing raging high flames, that were two feet high in the air to everyone's delight, who then approached the serving area to taste from the freshly prepared meat / fish / chicken delights that were marinated and then cooked for all the participants at the ALPS barbeque.

We want to say "THANK YOU" to the Radisson Golden Sands chefs and kitchen staff who have prepared a wide variety of food for the starters and for the main course. Thank you also goes to the waiting staff who



were serving in a most polite and professional manner and with utmost courtesy. Each table had been nicely decorated for this event with pure white table cloths. The free flow of wine and water have made the barbeque food even more tasty. To finish off this event, a specially prepared dessert at the end, sealed the dinner to everyone's pleasure.

Raffles were drawn and many a happy face could be seen leaving the venue carrying prizes that had been won from such fund raising activity, all for the benefit of ALPS. A selection of popular tunes were carefully selected and played on the synthesizer by the now popular David Vella who is always in charge of entertaining our guests during a dinner or social

event of ALPS.

Last but not least, a thank you note goes to Secretary General Alex Borg, to other council members and to the ladies who sold tickets for the raffles. We really appreciate all the work they have done to make this years' barbeque event another unforgettable and memorable success for all.



Photos: From the ALPS day tour to Gozo - June 2018



Photos: From the ALPS BBQ Radisson Golden Sands - July 2018





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