

Friday the 5th April 2013

The night of the windy woes....

Well the night was survived and nobody blew away, up we got ~~bright~~ and breezy now for the next challenge, breakfast, this will involve the whole group a hike to the ?nearest supermarket. The scouts were well up for an early morning hike with no map and only James vague memory of directions given the night before... It did not work, but lucky Lorna has no problem asking for directions (must be a lady thing). A Lidl was located and shopping commenced with the scouts and young leaders outside. First order of business pass out food to placate scouts then commence to fill two trolleys. The whole thing only took a couple of hrs. Now for the first activity visiting the Hospital of St John and the Malta Experience. Another walk this time with a better knowledge of direction through Valletta, one snag market day, but we arrived on time for the tour to commence. The hospital tour was very interesting with the guide keeping the facts short sharp and to the point, perfect for the scouts. We were shown the two wards and history of each explained. From there it was to the Malta Experience (www.themaltaexperience.com) an audio visual presentation about Malta and its history (45 min in the dark, not all adults caught the whole thing!) The Scouts appeared to enjoy it (well they sat still and did not talk, that said they could also have been asleep). From here we proceeded back up Valletta through the lower Barraca Gardens where we had lunch and then onwards to the Upper Barraca Gardens where we waited for Lorna who was in the local bar.... buying pepsi so some one could use the toilet. Then back to the IHQ for some free time which was spent sunbathing, showering etc. Tea of a fine meatball and vegetable stew (if I do say so myself.) gateau for pudding set us in good stead for the evenings activity. As some of you know members of the twinning association are also over in Malta at the same time and we were invited to the opening of an art exhibition that has

been run for the past 3 years by Marsa town council (the town with whom we are twinned, along with 1st Marsa Scouts). So at 19:00 all dolled up in full Scout uniform we were picked up by coach and taken to the event. We were warmly received and numerous photo calls outside the venue were preformed, not only were there dignitary from Marsa Council but also the government minister for culture (see photo). We were then escorted inside and seated (at the back next to the toilets!) Art work from various artists hung all around us with the low vaulted ceiling tastefully lit from below, The programme (in Maltese) appeared to show a musical evening was in store, and so it was some 3hrs in total of the groups programme were sat through (they were good but not really to the taste of 10-16 year old's), but to there credit the Scouts sat, eyes glazed over and took it, after the interval complete with speeches (in Maltese) the group returned to complete there set. Just as things started to wind down we were told that the council wanted to present us with a souvenir each so, after the artists were acknowledged with gifts we were called up, it was a long walk from the back but we made it, each of us were greeted by the council and minister and presented with a shield commemorating the event. This marked the end of the opening so out onto Valletta waterfront in the Mediterranean evening (22:00) for the reception, this cheered the scouts no end as there was now food and drink, they seemed to come alive. Warning was given not to attack the waiters and off they went. At 23:00 the coach returned and we were returned home for another late night, but all was well as tomorrow was Saturday and a lie in.

Now for the scouts view on the day by Grace & Amy.

We thought the tour of the hospital and the Malta Experience would be a little boring, but surprisingly it was really enjoyable! First we went to the ward for the men, which could fit up to 900 beds in it! We then moved on to the ward for the poorer people, which was a lot nicer than the men's! We were told that there were

another 4 floors underneath. The Maltese cross is made up of 8 points, which we found out represented the 8 knights famous in the hospital. We then moved onto the Malta Experience, we sat down and worked out how to change the language on the headset. Through out the film a few people got a little bored so they started to change the language on the headset, like Gareth, who changed the language to Islamic through the whole film! Now Rachel will tell you about the rest of our day.

After we saw the Malta Experience we set off back to the camp site. We went to a garden to have lunch it was a lovely view Molly, Georgie and Jessie started to get a sun tan in a dry fountain located near our tents. After about five hours we got told that we were going to an art exhibition, it was very long. For tea we had hollow pasta with meatballs and vegetables. Most of the time at the art exhibition there was people singing and when a man started to talk we got even more bored because we could not understand him! After it finished everyone wanted to go back but lorna wanted to stay for a bit to have some wine. Everyone tried all the nibbles that were served and everyone enjoyed them selves. Lorna said we were very good so she let us have until 10:00am to wake up!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

It is very hot but we are coping very well we are doing a lot of walking but are enjoying every minute.



