

Sunday 7th 2013

The religious bit.....

Early to rise on Sunday to winds and rain and a bus pick up at 08:15. Into Marsa we went to meet members of the twinning association, local councillors and other invited guests. The plan for the morning was a tour of the churches and chapels of Marsa. I will say now I cant really remember the names of the places so will waffle generically! We first visited the museum of the first church (not being allowed inside as there was a service in progress) Nice arty things, old portraits, even a set of air Malta cutlery that we think the pope used?? From here we piled into buses and went to the other parish church where were met by the priest and he told us a little about the building and parish. This church was built in the 1960's so was modern in design, numerous photo calls later we set off back to the first church and went inside where we were given a tour and explanation by a local historian, this church was celebrating its centenary next week and was lavish inside (compared to C of E churches I've seen). Now back onto the buses and off to the Marsa Sports Club (private members club) this was to see the last chapel that was in its grounds and was from around to 1400's. This was a small little building on the side of the golf course. From here into the club for drinks and snacks. The club and sports ground itself is a direct relic of British rule as it was originally the officers club. Spiritually enriched from their time eating all the biscuits the Scouts were then dropped back at the Valletta bus terminal to start their next adventure. We boarded the number 52 to Rabat and then on to the 'silent city' of Mdina, with the wind and rain and the fact that we were now at one of the highest points on the island made it fill just like home! Dinner was dispatched with speed and then a visit to the Mdina Dungeons where arranged. Warm dry and out of the rain we saw and learnt about the torture methods used throughout the ages on Malta, some good ideas were taken away for the next people who cause

us trouble! Homeward bound by bus and free time until Tea of Pizza with salad followed by jelly and tinned fruit. The evening activity was a visit to meet the leaders of the Marsa Scout Group at there HQ. The Scouts now want a pool table, table football and games console for our hut... introductions were made, speeches and gifts were exchange and then we were fed, the Scouts ever up for a challenge tuck in despite just eating. We spent a few hours with them and did notice an interesting phenomenon in the fact that Scouting in Malta is for boys and is run by men... Lorna did learn from some of the wives present that they did go on some of the camps but activities were restricted to washing, Lorna has declined to wash my smalls.

And now the Scouts eye view by Gareth:

The evening was very enjoyable and we had some weird mushy pea and curry pasties. The drinks were all familiar; we had coke,tango,7up. However we did discover a new drink, some of us like, called Kinnie. On the other hand some people have developed a hatred because the after taste apparently resembled plastic. The Bugs were flying around again at night meaning Will now has a swollen eye, which we have told him to stop messing around with, but it has swollen to the size of walnut!!! Anyway the weather is starting to get better in the evening after the event. Plus we did ball games in the hall when we got back, then had one of best showers ever :)







