

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> 2013

Sand, Wine and the case of the vanishing hoodie...

Monday the home stretch only 100 or so hours left to go (not that I am counting or anything).

This morning a trip to the Marsovin winery has been organised by a member of the twinning association for 10am. We are escorted by Joseph the association member who arrives early and is concerned we may not all get on the same bus as it is early 'we'll walk' was greeted with dismay by the Scouts comments of 'what about the bus passes' were uttered but off we went, not helped by the many buses flying past us. A mere hour later we arrived at the winery, cool and with seating it was welcomed by all. A brief history of the winery and its vine yards was given followed by a tour of the cellars with explanation on the process of making and maturing wine barrels and the chemistry of the process was taken in by all, then onto the champaign process, again interesting and the Scouts now know how to open a bottle of champaign in the correct manner.

We all left empty handed and made our way to the bus stop to catch the bus to Birzebbuga and then to Pretty Bay (the beach) this is described in the Malta guide book as a once lovely beach until the container port was built opposite, and I have to say I agree. Undeterred by the several thousand tons of shipping opposite the nice sandy beach was enough, and the scouts proceeded to spend an hour or so playing on the beach and in the sea (which I'm told was cold). We packed up to leave when Matt noticed his hoodie was gone, an extensive land sea and air search failed to spot the missing hoodie so we had to expand our search to bags, all checked with no joy but it was an opportunity for some scouts to clear the rubbish from the bottoms! Email were sent to the Winery and Bus Operator as of this date 09-04-13 no response has been received. Hoodie believed to be Missing In Action. R.I.P Matt's hoodie.

The sombre events of earlier put behind us, we proceeded back to the camp site on a different bus, this one was bendy! Malta with its twisting streets and bad road surfaces invested in some bendy buses (like London) it made for an interesting ride, but it was not yet over as we had to stop and shop. Scouts placed themselves outside the shop and waited like a pack of hounds to descend on the first leader to come out with the ritual ice creams. We decided to sacrifice Jenny this time. Shopping distributed between the Scouts off we went and caught the bus home. Some free time before the evening entertainment, we walked into Floriana as they were having a practice run for their feast on the 24<sup>th</sup> this involved the children of the town carrying a small idol (12 people to carry it) around the streets followed on by the Marsa Scout Pipe and Drums band. Now to start with the Scouts wanted to see them pass and go home, but then for some reason after the girls saw the band in their kilts then decided to follow them for the route.. Some of the scouts now want to start a scout band, so far we have 2 guitars, 1 recorder, an African drum, a triangle and Lorna fancies the symbols (very useful for waking scouts in the morning!). Don't think you will be seeing a Bridgwater scout band in the near future.

Now for the Scouts eye view by Jessie.

On Monday we had to wake early to go to a winery. Unfortunately we had Joseph who wanted us to walk the whole way, which took us around an hour. I also fell over because I'm an idiot and a random Malteaser laughed at me and I nearly dropped the bananas... my sisters amazing. Molly also hit her head on a sign in front of about 20 people, and got laughed at by a group of guys walking past. We went for a tour of the cellar and he told us about the wine in the barrels, it was interesting at first, but he went on a bit, so in the end it got kind of boring... after the winery we went to a beach and the sea was freezing, and made our skin taste

salty, which was disgusting. But the sea was a really nice blue, and had little pedicure fish in, which nibble your toes, but they got scared of us, so swam away. We also caught up on a bit on sunbathing, but it was really windy, so sand and dirt often went in your eyes, or stuck to you because of the water... it wasn't one of the hottest days. Then later that day we went and watched a band which the Malta scouts were in, and it was really good, but quite busy and crowded. When we came back, we ate a Chinese, (sweet and sour chicken) which me and Mollie had been craving all week, so were happy to finally be able to eat it. Then after dinner, we had showers and went to sleep.















