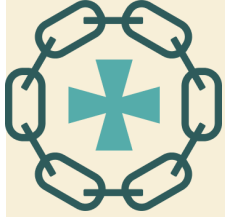


SALISBURY CATENIANS NEWSLETTER

December 2024



Province 11 Circle 266
Founded 14th March 1972
Current membership 27

Circle Website: www.salisburycatenians.org



The Alabare Malta Project

Visit to Fort Delimara

A Report from Bro. Joe Falzon.

While on holiday in Malta, I had the opportunity to arrange a visit to Fort Delimara on Friday, 15th November 2024. The primary purpose of the visit was to provide Brother Steve Carrivick with a firsthand view of the scale and significance of the restoration effort. We were joined by ten other guests, including Michael Attard and Joseph Scicluna, both members of the San Lucjan Circle, and the Rev Stephen Robbins who is an Ambassador for Alabare and Senior Chaplain of the Royal Regiment of Artillery.

Prior to the start of the tour, I took a moment to emphasise the importance of acknowledging the enduring values that have long been associated with the Royal Regiment of Artillery. Courage, service, duty, friendship, and sacrifice are not merely historical ideals but remain at the heart of military ethos, continuing to inspire and guide those who serve today. I also pointed out that although the fort was designed by British Royal Engineers, it is essential to acknowledge the remarkable craftsmanship, skill, and ingenuity of the Maltese master masons who completed its construction in under three years.

We were fortunate to have Matthew Balzan from Heritage Malta as our guide. We owe him a special thank you for his enthusiastic and insightful commentary, which he delivered with both passion and flair. His deep knowledge of the fort's history and significance was truly impressive, and he struck the perfect balance—informing us thoroughly without overwhelming us with excessive detail. As a result, we all left the tour not only better informed but also deeply engaged by the story of Fort Delimara.

As you know, during their time in Malta, the veterans will play a key role in the conservation efforts at Fort Delimara, working alongside the experts from Heritage Malta. This invaluable opportunity will not only contribute to the preservation of Malta's rich heritage but also support the veterans in regaining their self-esteem, improving their mental well-being, and enhancing their overall quality of life.

What's on in January 2025

Pub Lunch; TBA.

Tuesday 14th Council mtg; Zoom
7.00pm.

Thursday 23rd Circle Meeting;
Ladies Invited, Registration from
11:45. Meeting starts at 12:00 &
Lunch at 1.00pm

Anniversaries in December

Enrolments:

John Detain 16yrs
Phil Jones 12yrs

Birthdays:

Joe Falzon
Richard Hilliard
John Detain
David Gillen
Tony Sadler
Gerry Lynn

Ladies Birthdays:

Patricia Morehead

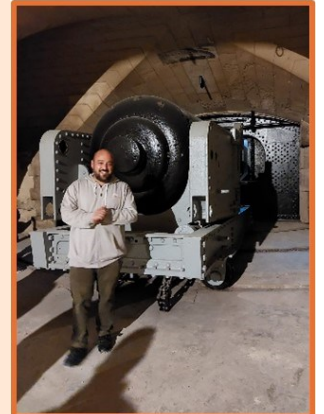
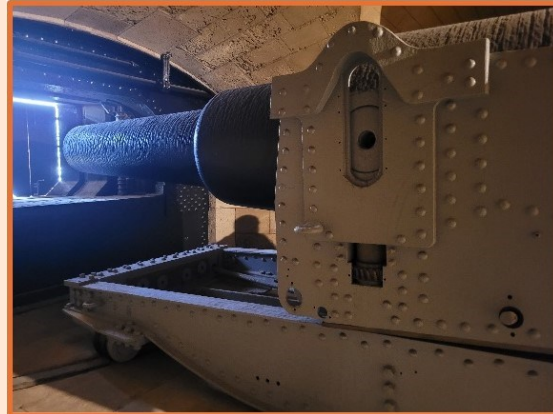
Wedding Anniversaries:

Adrian & Julie Holloway
Eamon & Collette Duffin

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Your unwavering belief in this project continues to inspire us, driving us to work tirelessly to make a meaningful difference for those who need it most.



For further details of this project and on how you can support it, see the flyer at the end of this Newsletter

Malta Gozo Week



As Joe mentioned above, the annual Malta week was held towards the end of his Malta holiday. Joining Joe &



Josephine for Malta Week were Steve & Maureen Carrivick, along with some reprobates from Southampton Circle.

Circle Officers Vacancies 2025

Two key posts are Vice President & Dinning Officer. Whilst both need to be filled, short term we have a number of Past Presidents who can stand in when required, the post of Dinning Officer however, urgently needs to be filled. Even if you don't feel able to take on either of these posts but wish to take on a more active role in the running of the Circle do come forward. Many posts have been held by the same individuals for many years and they would be content to pass them on.

Christmas Party

Wednesday 11th December our Christmas Party at the White Hart Hotel. Arrival from 6:00pm, Sitting down for dinning at 6:45. Events includes a Christmas Quiz, Mr and Mrs session, Music and song lead by John Detain. Dress as you please, smart casual or novelty Christmas attire if you wish. A Christmas Card Exchange table will be provided – donations to the President's Charity in lieu of postage will be appreciated. Remember you can invite friends & family to our party (all ages welcome).

Poets Corner

By Brother Eric

Advent

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near

Wake up! The night is ending

A nipping and eager air. The pall of mist thins in the anticipation of dusk.
We must keep watch, not let our guard slip, miss the moment we yearn for.
Blink and it may be too late. When? Soon now for over 2000 years.
Nobody knows – except it will be when we least expect, when we neglect
To focus. On the time. The watching time. Wake up! The light is breaking.
Vigilance. Stay awake and pray. For Christ will come again, take heart:
Faith. Persistence. Resistance to the distractions of busyness. Await, alert
With the shepherds, with the angels, the slow turn of the trillions of planets,
Our fate written in the stars. Wait for the Lord, whose day is near. We hear
The never-ending telling of the first coming, the annual loop to herald the
Procession of the centuries till the promise of His Kingdom is fulfilled,
Replaces the chaos of sin-shackled free will that amazingly still can be
Saved. So stay safe through the flood, keep a look-out, stand ready,
On guard, on watch, through mayhem and miracle, believing Love's
Power to give all - if only we can wait and pray for the Lord to come.

Christmas Eve

It is time to set up the crib again,
dust off another year in the cupboard,
bring it out into the light. Who now
can remember who made it? Another
forgotten carpenter's hammer and saw.

Childhood's awe recalled : the mystery
of waking so long before dawn,
creeping down creaking stairs
to where the empty stocking
is still there, magically bulging

with surprises and early seeds of
hope that must be tenderly nurtured,
cherished for recollection : inside I find
things to bash, blow, colour, build... kits
for a conjuror, chemist, cowboy, pirate

my first novel –Treasure Island – to hold
me in terror through hours to come....
even this week's Beano is special,
its title capped in snow... and look!
there's more to find ... right down to the toe's
chocolate sovereigns and clementine waiting
to be unpeeled for sweet pre-prandial delight....
This special night to be stage managed by
nostalgic parent playing another role
my father I hope will have enjoyed too -
till the time I was caught out by a clever daughter
who stealthily descended the carpeted stairs
to stand at the living-room door in order to spy
and saw me sprawled by the chimney red-handed
tucking in to Santa's brandy and mince pie!

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Christmas Party, Wednesday 11th Dec

Arrival from 6:00pm

Sit down to eat 6:45

Dress Code: Very Casual indeed, whatever takes your fancy

Dinning Cost: £31 or £35 if you want the Cheese Board for Dessert

Brothers are kindly asked to advise the Dining Secretary David Morehead of their dining intentions, menu selection plus any dietary requirements, especially allergies, no later than Sunday 8th December.



Starters

Roasted Tomato and Red Pepper Soup.
Chicken and Apricot Terrine, Crostini, Red Onion Chutney.
Prawn and Cucumber Salad, Marie Rose Dressing.
Wild and Field Mushrooms, Cream and Blue Vinney Cheese, Toasted Brioche.

Main Course

Roast Turkey with Traditional Trimmings.
Braised Blade of Beef, Tomato and Shallot Sauce.
Fillet of Salmon with Herb Crumb, Saffron Cream Sauce.
Baked Aubergine, Roasted Mediterranean Vegetables, Tomato Sauce.

Served with a selection of Vegetables.

Dessert

Chocolate and Clementine Delice, Orange Syrup.
Tangy Lemon and White Chocolate Parfait, Raspberry Compote.

Selection of Sorbet, Berry Compote.

Christmas Pudding, Brandy Sauce.

Selection of Cheddar, Brie and Stilton, Grapes, Celery, Chutney and Savoury Biscuits - £4.00 supplementary charge.

To Finish

Coffee and Mince Pies.

Brothers are reminded that photographs may be taken at our Circle functions for inclusion in the Newsletter and our website unless an objection has been notified. Please advise any of your visitors accordingly.

Circle Officers

President	Steve Carrivick	Vice President	Kevin Lynn
Imm. Past President	Michael Presley	Provincial Councillor	Joe Falzon
Secretary	Albert Rhodes	Treasurer	Allan Trowbridge
Presidents Marshall	Eric Williams	Registrar	David Gillen
Welfare	John Detain	Charities	Phil Jones
Dining Secretary	David Morehead	Benevolence Board Chairman	David Morehead
Newsletter & Website	Richard Verrian	Chamberlain	David Morehead
Press & Publicity	Eamon Duffin		

APPEAL BY BRO. JOE FALZON

(Salisbury Circle, Mensija Circle, San Pawl Circle)

Supporting Homeless, Marginalised and Socially Excluded Veterans



Dear Friends,

In a world that often rushes past and forgets the sacrifices made by our veterans, it is crucial to pause and reflect on their stories and experiences. Many men and women who once wore the uniform now face homelessness and marginalisation, struggling to find their footing in modern society.

Alabaré



Since 1991, Alabaré, a UK based Christian care and support charity, has been dedicated to empowering homeless, vulnerable and excluded veterans to lead fulfilled and independent lives.

Eighteen months ago, I had the privilege of being approached by Andrew Lord MBE, CEO of *Alabaré*, to draw on my 37 years of service in the British Armed Forces and over 21 years with the Royal British Legion as a member, employee, trustee, and national officer. I was invited to develop a meaningful initiative focused on restoration and conservation at a military site of historical significance in Malta, aimed at uplifting the morale and well-being of ten veterans.

Thanks to the invaluable support of Bro. Steven Fenech (*Director, Province 23*) and Bro. Achille Pace (*St. Julians Circle*), my vision was presented to Heritage Malta, custodians and guardians of 8000 years of history, who embraced our project, and identified Fort Delimara as the ideal location. We have held several meetings, both online and in-person, to build up and refine the logistical details for the project scheduled to take place from 3rd – 10th May 2025.

Our Objectives

1. **Support Meaningful Development:** Enrich the lives of Alabaré's veteran beneficiaries through a hands-on project that fosters a collaborative environment, enhancing mental health, resilience, confidence and self-esteem, while combating loneliness and isolation.
2. **Contribute to Conservation:** Actively support the restoration and conservation efforts led by Heritage Malta, ensuring that our project leaves a lasting legacy in a historic country cherished by *Alabaré*'s donors, supporters and beneficiaries.
3. **Establish Community Links:** Create and strengthen enduring connections between *Alabaré* and the Maltese community, raising public awareness and inspiring future collaborative initiatives for the benefit of both communities.

We are particularly proud and privileged to have the support and patronage of the Commander of The Armed Forces of Malta for this project.

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Fort Delimara was built between 1876 and 1884 by the British as part of a network of forts and batteries that protected Marsaxlokk Harbour. The end of World War II brought all existent fortifications in Malta into question. In 1956 the fort was stripped of most of its artillery and suffered decline, abandonment, neglect and misuse.

Ownership of Fort Delimara was transferred to Heritage Malta in August 2005. The fort still retains four of its original complement of six Victorian 12.5-inch 38-ton rifled muzzle-loading guns, mounted on their original small port carriages and platforms. Today, Fort Delimara stands as a testament to Malta's colonial past and British military history.

Throughout my time with the Royal British Legion, and now with *Alabaré*, I have witnessed firsthand the eight most pressing issues facing vulnerable veterans: These are:

A sense of belonging

A supportive community

A listening ear.

A purposeful life

A path to healing

A strong connection

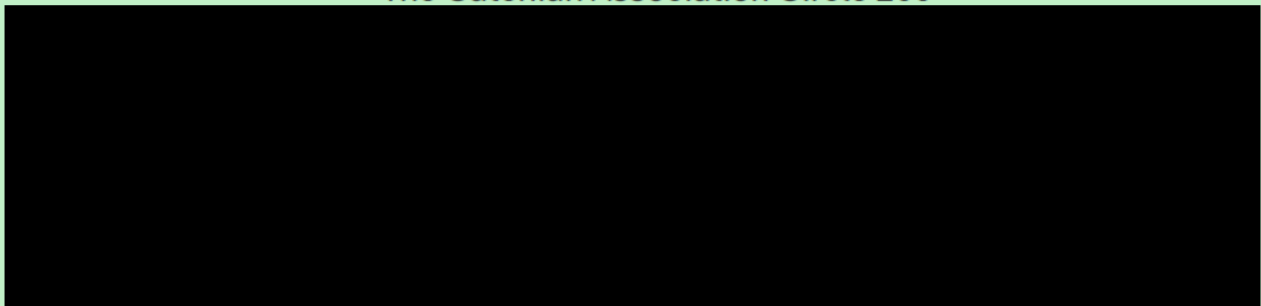
A safe environment

A second chance

At *Alabaré*, we believe that these eight vulnerable veterans deserve hope and the chance for a more fulfilling life. While we may not be able to solve all their challenges, we excel at providing compassionate support and practical assistance. Together, with your financial support, we can make a meaningful difference in these eight lives.

If you wish to support and donate please pay in £GBP by Bank Transfer to:

"The Catenian Association Circle 266"



Thank you for your generous support and for standing shoulder to shoulder with us.

With gratitude,

Bro Joe Falzon