



Malta Red Cross
Malta Branch

**QUARTERLY
NEWSLETTER**

ISSUE NO. 7

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**THEA GARRETT
SUPPORTING
THE MALTA
BRANCH**

Editor's Note

What do you do in your free time? Some people take up courses, others exercise, others go out with friends, some watch reality show programmes, while others offer some time to help other people in the community.

We at the Malta Red Cross - Malta Branch do all of the

above through our work in the fields of first aid provision and training, as well as humanitarian projects. This is not something to brag about but a realisation that our varied activities help others in need and that is what keeps us going. Read through the newsletter to find out about all this.

On a different note, I would like to thank Professor Fenech

as well as Dr. Saydon for their sterling work within the Malta Red Cross Society.

Also a big welcome to Mr. Caruana, the new Secretary General, to whom we pledge our cooperation to sustain the work of the Malta Red Cross Society within the Maltese and the international community.

James Xuereb

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Contact Info



For more information about the Malta Red Cross — Malta Branch, our Ambulance Service, First Aid Courses and if you want to become a volunteer and be part of our dynamic team, please contact us on:

(+356) 79000112

info@redcrossmalta.org.mt

www.redcrossmalta.org.mt

Red Cross Day

8th May 2010

Red Cross day has been celebrated around the globe since May 8th 1948. The date commemorates the birthday of the founder of the Red Cross and Red Crescent movement Henri Dunant. His humanitarian, voluntary spirit and through a lot of determination led to the creation of the movement and the signing of the

Geneva conventions.

Locally the Malta Red Cross joined more than 180 independent nations where the Red Cross and Red

Crescent societies are established, to celebrate this important event. Various activities were held both in Malta and in Gozo.

The Malta Branch organised its activities at the Valletta Waterfront, where the general public had the opportunity to follow activities related to the Red Cross, First Aid training, fun activities and had a closer look inside the ambulances and other rescue vehicles.



The main aim of the activities were to increase the awareness of the importance of learning first aid and to promote the



work carried out by the Red Cross amongst the general

public. Present for the activities at the Valletta were Professor F. Fenech, Presi-



dent Malta Red Cross, Dr. Christina Saydon,



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outgoing General Secretary, Mr. Edward Caruana, the new Secretary General and employees from Head office.



The highlights of the activities were reached when Ms. Thea Garret, Maltese finalist at the Eurovision joined the activities and signed autographs, took photos with all those present.



All the activities proved to be successful thanks to the dynamic team spirit of the Malta Branch volunteers!



News from Abroad

During the earthquake that struck Haiti in January 2010, Salvanie lost all trace of her nine-year-old daughter, Saïda. The girl had been pulled alive from the rubble of her school, taken to a hospital and then sent on to an unknown destination. Her desperate mother appealed to the ICRC and the Haitian Red Cross for help.



Thanks to their efforts, little Saïda was finally found in Guadeloupe. More than three months after the earthquake, she was back in her mother's arms.

The face of the 46-year-old mother lit up when she described being told by the Red Cross that her daughter had been found. "The lady who called said that Saïda was already on a plane heading straight for Port-au-Prince. I was so overcome with joy that I started to tremble."

A few hours later Salvanie was waiting quietly at the airport with an ICRC team, still in a state of disbelief... until Saïda ran up and threw herself into her mother's arms.

Avel Joseph, a Haitian Red Cross volunteer, said: "I've never been quite so moved by a meeting of this kind. The beaming faces of both mother and daughter made me more aware than ever of the importance of my work."



May 11, 2010 — From the plains of the Midwest to the deep south, the American Red Cross is providing a safe place to stay and relief supplies for thousands of people displaced by tornadoes and floods. Even as relief operations continue full force in Tennessee, Kentucky, Mississippi, Arkansas and Alabama, the Red Cross has opened shelters in Oklahoma after last night's tornadoes.

"These storms have left thousands across the country without homes; without any belongings," said Joe Becker, senior vice president for Red Cross Disaster Services. "Our disaster teams are in the Midwest and across the South, and will be there for as long as it takes to help people get back on their feet."

Amy Sallah, a young volunteer from the Gambia Red Cross Society, puts drops into the mouth of Youma Cham, an eight-month-old baby.



She is in the arms of her mother, Tarie Gaye, who is visibly happy, as is her father, Moustapha Cham, standing next to them and leaning on a crutch. Their little girl has just been vaccinated against polio in the second round of a massive synchronized vaccination campaign, which started on 24 April and aims to ensure that every child is properly immunized. The first round was carried out from 6 to 9 March.

For the Cham family and many other parents, the risk of paralysis caused by polio is a constant worry, as the consequences are irreversible.

"I have suffered paralysis since an early age and I am therefore very much aware of the importance of the oral vaccination against polio. "It is the only way to ensure protection against this disabling disease," he adds.

Know the Emblems

The red cross and red crescent emblems are universally recognized symbols of assistance for the victims of armed conflicts and natural disasters.

In use since the nineteenth century, these emblems unfortunately do not always enjoy the respect to which they are entitled as visible signs of the strict neutrality of humanitarian work. Moreover, certain States find it difficult to identify with one or the other.



To resolve these issues, the States party to the Geneva Conventions adopted a Third Additional Protocol to the Conventions at the diplomatic conference in December 2005 establishing the red crystal.

In June 2006 the 29th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent amended the Movement's statutes to incorporate the new emblem and formally adopted the name red crystal.

The change in the Statutes allowed the ICRC to recognize and the International Federation to admit as a member the Magen David Adom in Israel. The same conference requested the ICRC to recognize and the Federation to admit the Palestine Red Crescent Society. As a result, both societies joined simultaneously.

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Pope's Visit to Malta

17th–18th April 2010

As soon as we received the good news that Pope Benedict will be visiting Malta, the Malta Red Cross – Malta Branch, teamed up with Health Authorities in Malta, to prepare itself for such an important visit.



Pope Benedict visited Malta on Saturday 17th April 2010 and Sunday 18th April 2010, in which he had two full days packed with Activities. The Malta Red Cross – Malta Branch pledged its full support in all of the Pope's activities, mobilising all its volunteers and equipment in order to give the best possible service in the smooth running of all the Pope's activities.

The Mass on the Granaries in Floriana held Sunday morning was the highlight of the visit, which marked the 1950th anniversary of the arrival of St Paul in Malta.

Pope John Paul II had visited Malta twice – in 1990 and in 2001, the latter for the beatification ceremony of three Maltese.





Malta Red Cross Malta Branch



Dear Friend,

We are inviting you to join our energetic team of volunteers and make a difference in the life of others. We train our volunteers in *Basic First Aid, Child First Aid, Advanced First Aid, Basic Fire Awareness and Emergency Response.*

Our dedicated volunteers choose to give some of their free time to the service of others. Our team aims to make our community safer.

So why don't you join our team and help save a life!

Act now, tomorrow might be too late!

Contact us on 79000112 or volunteers@redcrossmalta.org.mt and you can be the one who acts to save a life!

How would you rather spend your voluntary time? (Please tick your interests):

First Aid posts / Ambulance Service	<input type="checkbox"/>	Humanitarian Work	<input type="checkbox"/>
Branch Committee Support – administrative work	<input type="checkbox"/>	Technical/ maintenance support	<input type="checkbox"/>
Projects	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (please specify)	<input type="checkbox"/>

Courses Offered

Name: _____

Address: _____

E- Mail: _____

Phone: _____

Mobile: _____

**I am interested to attend this / these courses
(Please tick your interests):**

Basic First Aid	<input type="checkbox"/>
BLS (Basic Life Support)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Child First Aid	<input type="checkbox"/>
Advanced First Aid	<input type="checkbox"/>
AED (Automated External Defibrillator)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Emergency Response	<input type="checkbox"/>

To attend courses kindly contact us on
courses@redcrossmalta.org.mt

Thank you

News from the Branch

NEW ADDITIONS TO THE BRANCH, FLEET AND EQUIPMENT



NEW IMAGE FOR THE BRANCH'S UNIFORM



JACKET



WAISTCOAT

Landrover Malta Marathon

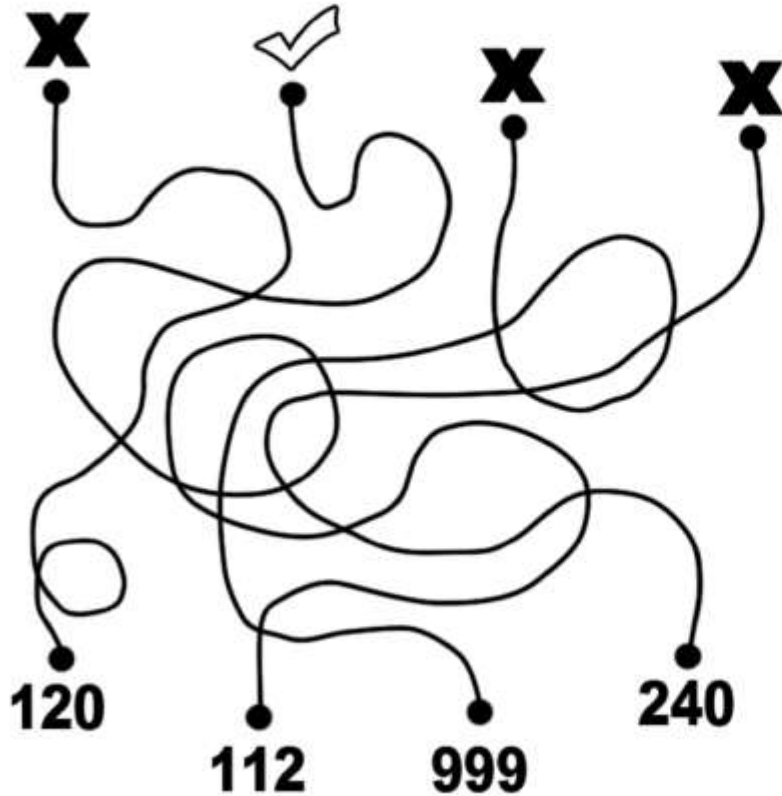
The Malta Red Cross – Malta Branch, like in previous years, was there offering its full support in terms of First Aid to all participants, both en route as well as at the finish line. During this event, we put up the inflatable tent at the finish line, which served as a First Aid Clinic, and which was also manned by a Red Cross Doctor.



Though extremely tired, all volunteers were satisfied with their work, and with the service given to all participants.



Kidz Corner



Which is the correct emergency telephone number ?

Jokes

Doctor, Doctor I think I need glasses.

You certainly do, Sir, this is a fish and chip shop!

Doctor, Doctor my son has swallowed my pen, what should I do?

Use a pencil 'till I get there.

Doctor, Doctor I feel like a sheep.

That's baaaaaaaaaad!

Doctor, Doctor I keep seeing double.

Please sit on the couch.

Which one?

What are bones made of?

Almost every bone in your body is made of the same materials:

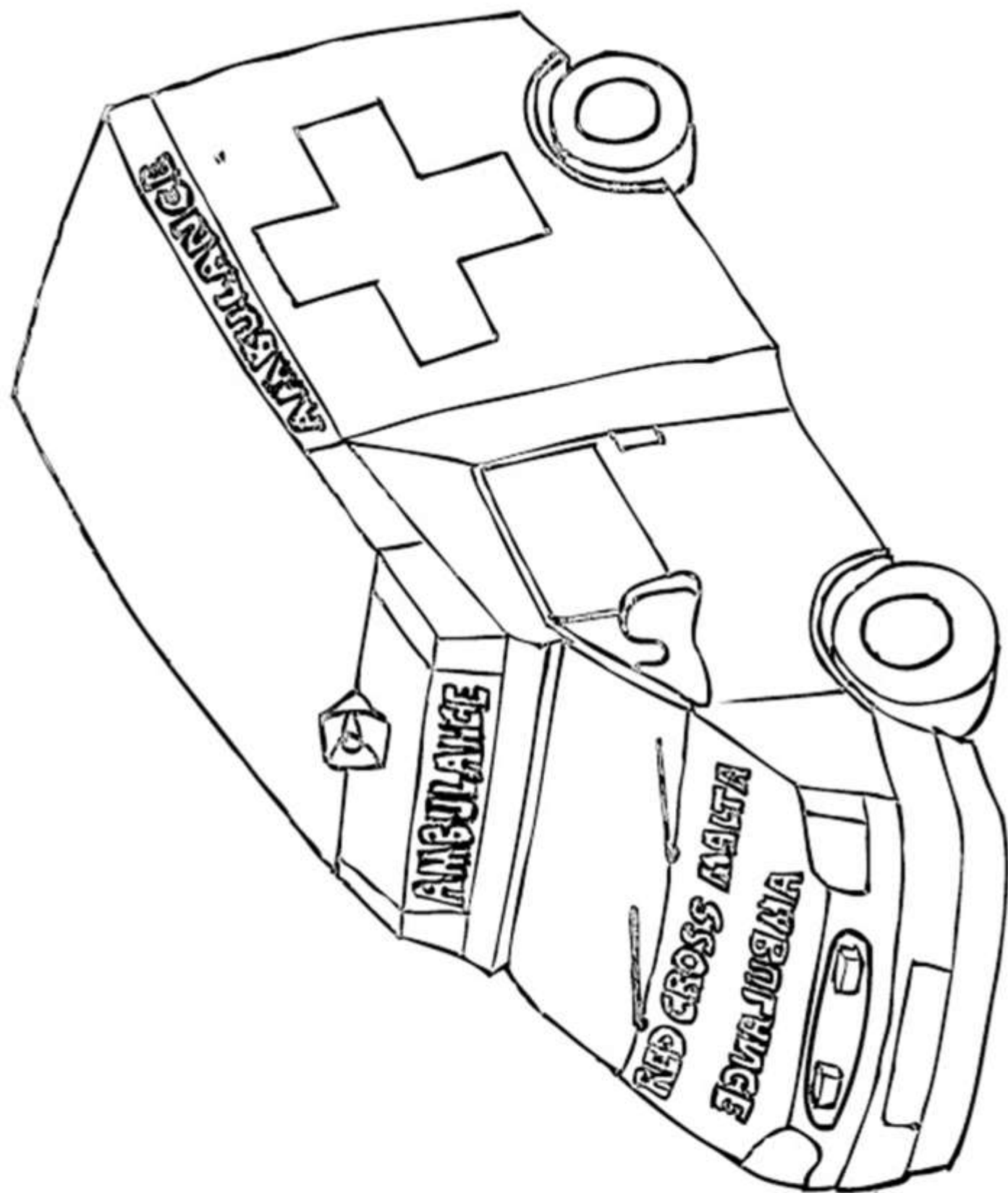
The outer surface of bone is called the periosteum (say: pare-ee-os-tee-um). It's a thin, dense membrane that contains nerves and blood vessels that nourish the bone.

The next layer is made up of compact bone. This part is smooth and very hard. It's the part you see when you look at a skeleton.

Within the compact bone are many layers of cancellous (say: kan-sell-us) bone, which looks a bit like a sponge. Cancellous bone is not quite as hard as compact bone, but it is still very strong.

In many bones, the cancellous bone protects the innermost part of the bone, the bone marrow (say: mair-oh). Bone marrow is sort of like a thick jelly, and its job is to make blood cells.





COLOUR ME IN COMPETITION

WIN A PRIZE

Send in your drawing with your name, age, address and telephone number to:

Malta Red Cross—Malta Branch
P.O. Box 6 Sliema SLM1000

You must be aged between 3 and 10 to enter this competition.



Know Us Better

Every volunteer in the branch has a role and for this issue of the newsletter we have met up with Paulette Fenech who is our Ambulance Officer. In future issues, we will be introducing you to some of our other volunteers.

What is your profession?

I am a primary school teacher and 3 years ago I have joined the Health and Safety Unit which falls under the umbrella of the Directorate for Educational Services. Being a teacher with special responsibilities apart from teaching kids topics related to health & safety I am also assigned the task of carrying risk analysis in assigned state primary schools.

When and why did you choose to join the Red Cross to become a volunteer?

I have been in love with the medical profession since I was a kid. However the subjects I chose throughout my scholastic life led me to take up the teaching career. It was 4 years ago when I realised I could still be involved in the medical field and thus be able to help others.

What is your role within the branch?

Even though during these 4 years I have covered a good number of roles, my main role is that of Ambulance Services Officer. Thus I am primarily in charge of dealing with clients or prospective clients. Communication mainly takes place through emails. Anyone interested in getting our assistance during mass events may contact me on services@redcrossmalta.org.mt



In your opinion, what are the benefits of being a Red Cross volunteer?

Up till a few years ago people used to think that a volunteer is someone who gives time and spends energy out of pure altruism. I think that this is a myth. Even if we don't get a wage, at the end of the day we all do get something back. This could be in the form of continuous training, courses, seminars, experiences abroad, improvement of skills etc.

What are your ambitions for the Red Cross?

When I first joined the branch I found a small family. Just a few people who had set the foundations, with limited resources but unlimited love and passion for Red Cross. Throughout these past 4 years the family has grown and the vehicles and equipment have increased but the good will and pride of being a Red Cross member is still the same. I don't like to jump the gun so my vision for Red Cross is to continually consolidate what we have and keep growing at a slow steady pace. My dream is that we will shortly be able to continue consolidating the humanitarian aid sector. I want us to start helping our community in ways which go beyond giving First Aid.

If someone is interested in becoming a Red Cross volunteer, what should they do? Are there any requirements and/or rules?

If someone is interested in joining us the first step is to email Owen Micallef on hr@redcrossmalta.org.mt or else calls Robert Brinciau directly on the branch's mobile phone which is 79 000 112. It is important for us to see what motivates the person, what is the role that s/he would like to take. From there on other volunteers will take this person under their wings. Red Cross offers an infinite array of possibilities. It is up to the individual to choose which path to take. If there is a will, there is always a way.

Blood Donor's Club

On Saturday, 15th May, 2010 at 10am, members of the Malta Red Cross – Malta Branch visited the National Blood Transfusion Centre in Guardamangia to donate blood. A good number of new blood donors joined the activity.



Social Activities

Picnic



On Sunday 25th April 2010, volunteers from the activities group, organised a Picnic activity for all the family at Ta' Qali.

The aim of the activity, served as a 'get together' for all volunteers as well as a relaxing activity for all the family...including family dogs which enjoyed some freedom from their strict owners!

We were quite a nice group, who encouraged by the nice weather on the day, came fully equipped as if we were staying there for a week! As regards foods, we had enough to satisfy a whole battalion!

All volunteers enjoyed the activity, and we all encouraged the activities group to organise even more of such activities, since we felt that it was a good team building exercise! Furthermore, our family members, got to know some of the people that we speak about most in our daily lives...thanks to Red Cross !!



New Sponsors and Partners



Mr and Mrs Mifsud donating the flagstand to Mr. Edward Gruppetta, Chairman, and Mr. Robert Brinciau, DRT Co-ordinator, of the Malta Red Cross—Malta Branch.



Mr. Alex Pace and Mr. Jonathon Pace Meli of Intervisions Ltd who supply us with the Segways whenever the need arises.



Mr. And Mrs. Rizzo who sponsored the Malta Branch with an Inflatable shelter and also a monetary sponsor for our vehicles.