



CENTENARY

1st Rabat Scout Group

1913 - 2013



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1st Rabat Scout Group
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Contents

Message from the Group Scout Leader	02
Message from the Chief Commissioner	04
The Band of the 1st Rabat Scout Group	06
History of the 1st Rabat Scout Group	07
The Colours	18
Beaver Scouts	20
Cub Scouts	21
Scouts	22
Venture Scouts	23
Programme of Activities 2013	24

Published by the 1st Rabat Scout Group on the occasion of its first centenary.

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Message from the Group Scout Leader

When the Group was registered in September 1913 as one of the first Scout Groups in Malta, the move probably being hastened by the strong Military presence in the vicinity, I do not think they could possibly have imagined that in 100 years anyone would be reading this and participating in the Centenary celebrations.

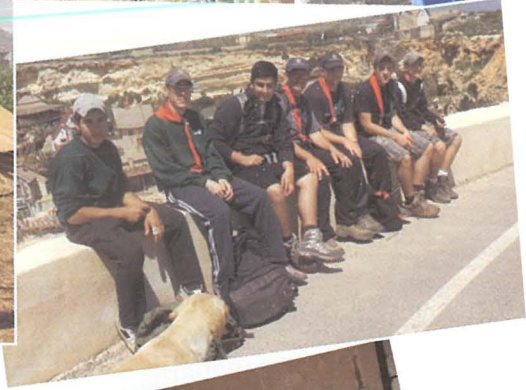
It is truly a magnificent achievement that the Group has been part of the Community of Rabat and help to form the character of thousands of boys and girls. Since the last celebration of the Group's founding, a new Headquarters has been set up in a custom designed building in the central part of Rabat. This has enabled the increase in the frequency and quality of the Group's activities.

Scouting is still based on the same moral principle of over 100 years ago. The discipline and the pledge to do one's best to help others and establish harmonious relations are the Scout law. Scouting builds character and nurtures the young to be independent whilst acquiring the skills of a leader by connecting with others in a way that is relevant and attractive.

These Centenary celebrations are also an opportunity to also look ahead and to continue adapting to the changing social landscape and to remain relevant to maintain a positive contribution to the new generations of youth in Rabat.

Jason Deguara
Group Scout Leader





Message from the Chief Commissioner

Celebrating the centenary of Scouting in Rabat is no small feat.

This shows that throughout all these years, the Group painstakingly followed the Principles and Methods of the Scout Movement as laid down by our founder Lord Baden Powell. This also shows the great dedication and determination of both past and present Leaders.

As with any other Scout Group on the Island, the Group has passed through different experiences, some good and some perhaps not so positive, however the Group has learnt how to persevere and work hard to achieve! This is seen in the balanced number of Group members and Leaders and the personal progress achieved by each member in the Personal Progressive Training Scheme within the respective Sections.

A mammoth success was achieved by the Group with the building of their own Headquarters following numerous years of chasing around Rabat in search of a place its members could call their own Headquarters. Following a bold decision by the Leaders, it was determined that the Group would embark on a massive project and build their own Headquarters. Numerous and lengthy negotiations took place and in 2006 the Group managed to lease a plot of land. In the record time of six months, lots of hard work and endless fund-raising activities by Leaders and supporters of the Group, the 1st Rabat Scout Group moved into their new Scout Headquarters.

In the past decade, members of the 1st Rabat Scout Group have consistently participated at all Sectional Events organised at District and National level.

Participation at International Scouting events is something worth mentioning too.

These include:

- World Jamborees: Chile (1999), Centenary UK (2007) and Sweden (2011);
- Euro Jamboree UK (2005);
- Roverway: Portugal (2003), Italy(2006), Iceland (2009) and Finland (2012).



Participation at such events shows that the Group has also widened its horizons and as a result continues to sustain a good perception of Scouting, both on a local level as well as internationally.

Before concluding, I would also like to mention that apart from their hectic roles as Leaders within the Group, most of the Leaders work voluntarily and contribute towards the upkeep of the Għajn Tuffieħa Scout Campsite.

There have been numerous youths from Rabat and its environs who have received a Scouting education in the past 100 years. Many of these youths have grown up into exemplary citizens within our society and this is thanks to the dedication and help of their Adult Leaders.

I would like to take this opportunity to encourage the young members of Rabat Scout Group to follow in the footsteps of their past and present Leaders. When the time comes look forward and take up the leadership of the Group to keep the great legacy, the 1st Rabat Scout Group, going!

Well Done to One and All.

Keep on Trekking and God Speed!

Leslie Bonnici
Chief Commissioner

The BAND of the 1st Rabat Scout Group

- **1933** The first Scout Band at Rabat was formed at this time when the Royal Malta Artillery Regiment stationed at Mtarfa donated two tenor drums, one base drum and four bugles.
- **1946** Further band instruments were donated by the South Lancashire Regiment stationed at Mtarfa. The band now consisted of four tenor drums, one base drum, six bugles, cymbals and six fifes. The Regiment also provided tuition for band members.
- **1982** The Scout Band was reformed and new band instruments purchased.
- **2013** On the occasion of its 100th. Anniversary, the 1st Rabat Scout Group has reformed its Corp of Drums with the purchase of three new tenor drums. The highlight of this reform is the introduction of Bagpipes, a first in the Group's history.

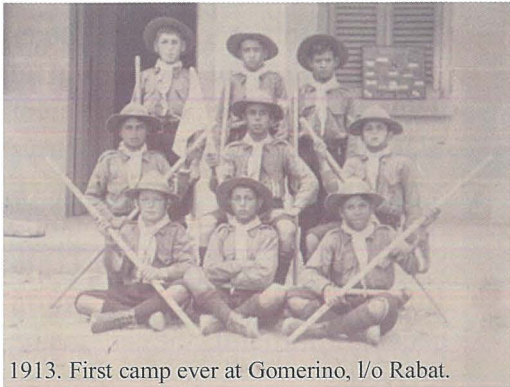


History of the 1st Rabat Scout Group



1912. At Saqqajja.

As a member of the Scout Association of Malta, the 1st Rabat Scout Group is a member of the Central District, which is a modern amalgamation of three older districts, namely the Acorn, the Aardwolf and the Griffin.



1913. First camp ever at Gomerino, I/o Rabat.

The 1st Rabat Scout Group holds regular weekly meetings for its Sections and also organises several outdoor activities like hikes, camping and joint activities with other Groups, throughout the year.

It is the aim of the 1st Rabat Scout Group to live up to the Scout Motto 'BE PREPARED' as did our predecessors over the decades since its founding.



1916.

Time line of the 1st Rabat Scout Group

- **1913** On the 30th September the Group was registered as part of the Overseas Branch of The Boy Scouts Association. This was soon after scouting in Malta was registered with the Imperial Headquarters. Mr. W. H. Alton



1920. Church Parade, at St. Domenic Square, with Rev. Can. V. Mangani.



19th July 1946. A. Spiteri.

was the first Scoutmaster and meetings were held outside his residence in College Street. Some time later the meetings were being held in a garage in St. Mary Street. The first Camping was held at Gomerino, limits of Rabat.

- **1918** Rabat Group was amongst the Troops that took part in the Armistice Celebrations soon after regrouping and after losing most of its leaders due to the war effort. Mr. Louis Ebejer was in charge of the Group at this time. The Government Elementary School for Boys was being used as Headquarters. At about this time, the Notabile Scout Group was formed (16th June), however this soon became dormant, never to be revived.

- **1920** Mr. Dominic Gruppetta was Scoutmaster at this time. The earliest known Group photo was taken during this year in St. Dominic Square, Rabat. When Mr Gruppetta eventually left to join the Hamrun Scout Group, Rabat Group became dormant.

- **1932** Mr. R. W. Hubback re-opened the Group using the Government Elementary School for Girls as Group Headquarters.

- **1934** Mr. Tommy Vella was in charge of the Group in 1934. The Headquarters moved to St. Pius V Street, Rabat.

- **1936** Again the Headquarters was moved to a new location, this time in Cosmana Navarra Street, Rabat. The Scoutmaster in charge of the Group was Mr. Joseph Vella.

- **1939** The outbreak of World War II found the Group being led by Mr. Peter J. Micallef. The Scouts performed various duties in the community and the Headquarters was given up to house refugees' safely in Rabat. Due to lack of adult leaders, who were otherwise absorbed in the war effort, the Group became dormant.

- **1943** Rabat Troop attended the presentation of the Bronze Cross awarded collectively to the Scouts of Malta during St. George's Day at Palace Square (now Pjazza San Ġorġ) Valletta.



1948. At Cittadella, Gozo.



- **1944** Mr. A. Giordimaina reorganised the Group and the Headquarters at Saqqajja Hill was used for the first time. The premises are still used for scouting purposes to the present day.

- **1947** The Group participated in the 11th World Scout Jamboree in Moisson, France, the first post war Jamboree, and daubed the Jamboree of Peace. In this and the subsequent year Scouters from Rabat and St. Julians Groups helped set up a new group at Mtarfa for Maltese and British Boys.



1948. On the Gozo boat.



1948.
In front of St. Augustine Church, Rabat, Gozo.

- **1949** Mr. Anthony Micallef took charge as Scoutmaster of the Group.

- **1953** Four representatives of the Rabat Group were amongst the 53 Scouts from Malta who attend the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II in London. In this same year the Overseas Travelling Commissioner from the Scout Imperial Headquarters praised Rabat Group, amongst another few, and noted that it was “a good little Group”.



- **1954** In 1955 the Rabat Group won the ‘Mallia Shield’, an award based on camping standards and given by the Scout Association of Malta.



1949. Corpus Christi Parade, in Count Roger Street.



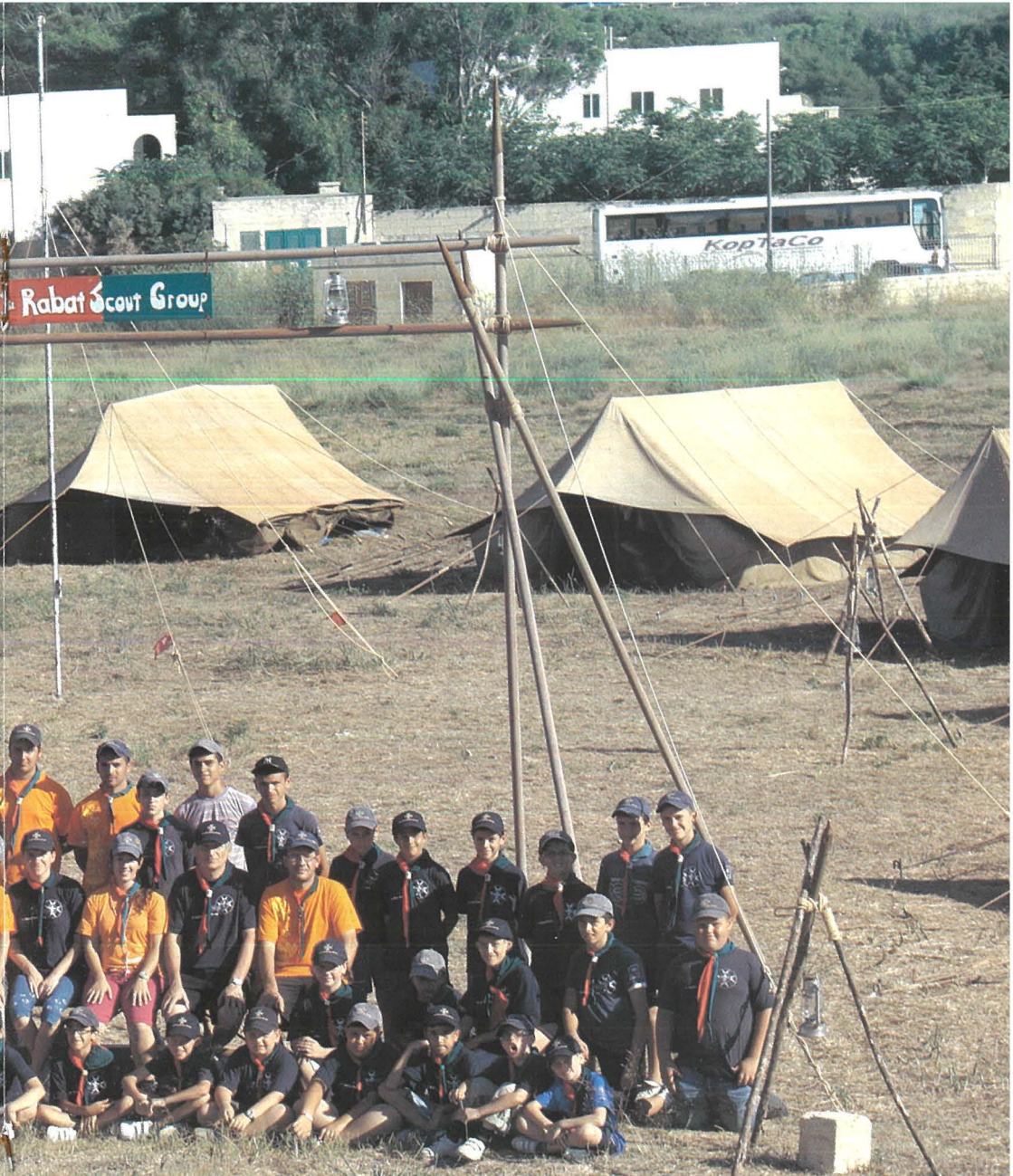
The Centenary Badge

July 2012 : Summer Camp a

From left, front row : Luke Busuttill, Kurt Farrugia, Danielle Cachia, Mariah Fenech, Melchior Grixiti, Nick Aquilina, Ryan Vella, Luke Scicluna Cascun, Nathan Calleja, Jai Xuereb, Josef Tan Fenech and Owen Bonello. *Seated* : Godfrey Micallef, Brian Borg, Marica Chappell, J

Squatting : Anthea Magro, Eric Galea, Reid F

Right middle row : Jean Paul Ellul, Gavin Bonavia, Mark Mifsud, Andy Attard, David Bu Andrew Micallef, Alexander Mifsud, Sean Gatt, Jonathan Azzopard



Ghajn Tuffieha Camp Site.

Mifsud, Damian Cutajar, Daniel Borg, Robert Mifsud, Nicole Micallef, Maxine Bonavia, Nicole
 and Dylan Vella. **Left middle row** : Jake Depasquale, Eldon Aquilina, Jean Paul Attard, Luke
 Deguara, Marvic Vella, Stephanie Azzopardi, Alphonse Zahra and Vincent Vella.
 , Daniel Azzopardi and Zachary Muscat.
 and Matthew Chappell. **Back** : Zack Depasquale, Julian Calleja, Daniel Pace Bonello,
 Keith Schembri, Liam Antonelli, Mark Azzopardi and Kurt Grixti.

- **1957** Nearing 50 years of scouting in Malta, the Rabat Group participated in the 9th World Scout Jamboree, also known as the Jubilee Jamboree, held at Birmingham, England.

- **1963** The Group participated in the 11th World Scout Jamboree in Marathon, Greece.

- **1968** On the 55th Anniversary of the registration of the Group Mr. Frank Vassallo was appointed Scoutmaster.

- **1971** Dr. Joseph Cacciottolo appointed Group Scout Leader.

- **1977** Mr Martin Scicluna took charge of the Group.

- **1982** The Group sets up headquarters in a hired house in Lion's Well Alley. This was subsequent to moving out of Depiro Youth Centre which was followed by utilising a large room at the Rabat Civic Centre as temporary headquarters.

- **1983** Rabat Group was amongst the Groups that participated in the 75th



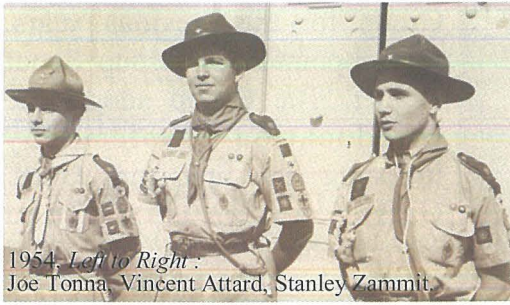
1950, Summer Camp.



1951. At IHQ, Floriana.



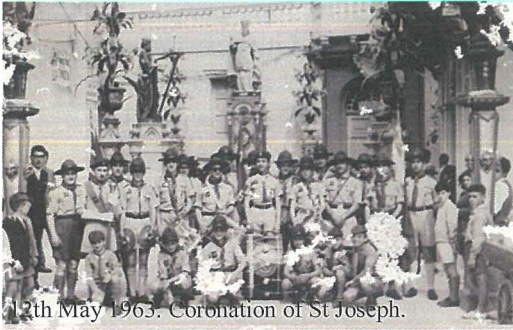
1953. Good Friday Parade. Turning from St Joseph Street into L'Isle Adam Square.



1954. *Left to Right* :
Joe Tonna, Vincent Attard, Stanley Zammit.

anniversary of the Scout Association of Malta.

- **1988** The 1st Rabat Scout Group celebrates its 75th. Anniversary and participates in an exchange visit with Isle of Wight.



12th May 1963. Coronation of St Joseph.

- **1990** Marica Cascun (later Chappell) invested as the first female member of the Group.

- **1998** Two members of the Group attend the 19th World Scout Jamboree in Picarquín, Chile.



1976.

- **1999** The annual Summer Camp is held in Marineo Scout Centre in Sicily. The lease on premises being used as Headquarters in Lion's Well Alley expires and the Group finds itself without a Headquarters. The Rabat Local Council offers as temporary headquarters the use of three rooms within the Local Council Offices. Efforts towards a permanent solution for the Group's headquarters intensify.



1970's.

- **2000** Mr. Joseph Borg, who had been taking care of all the day to day running of the



1980.

Group for the previous years, was appointed as Group Scout Leader. The Group adopts the co-education system by investing its first girl Cubs. Girls were introduced incrementally with the full adoption being finalised in 2006. Millennium celebrations were held together with the 7th Rabat Girl Guides.



1988. Good Friday Parade, in St. Augustine Avenue.

- **2002** Parliament passes a resolution whereby the 1st Rabat Scout Group is granted the use of land in Rudolph Saliba Street to be developed into Headquarters.



1995. At Lion's Well Alley H/O.

- **2007** On the centenary of World Scouting, the Group participated in the 21st World Scout Jamboree in Hylands Park at Chelmsford, Essex, U.K.
- **2009** Mr Jason Deguara is appointed as Group Scout Leader. This followed the appointment the previous Group Scout Leader Joseph Borg as Acting Assistant Chief Commissioner.
- **2010** The new Headquarters in Rudolph Saliba Street is officially inaugurated on Sunday 21st November.
- **2011** The Group attended the 22nd World Scout Jamboree in Rinkaby, Sweden.



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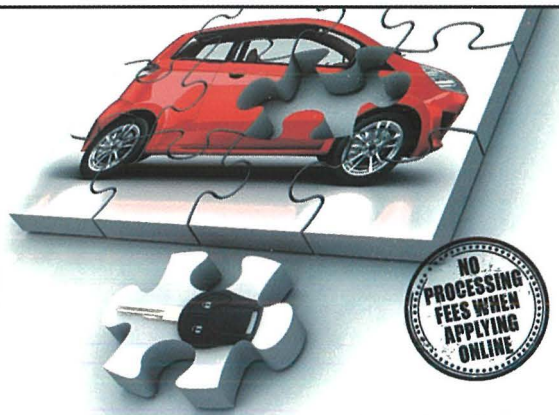
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The Colours

The colours of the 1st Rabat Scout Group are red and green. The red signifies Malta and the green signifies Peace. The Group Scarf is equally divided in two parts, half being red and half being green. On wearing it, the red half of the scarf is always kept on the right.



The Golden Day, Sunday 21st. November 2010. The new Headquarters in Rudolph Saliba Street is officially inaugurated.

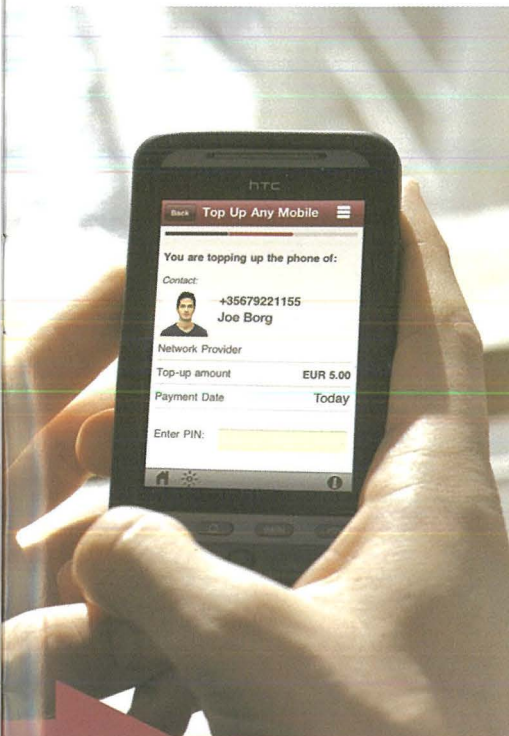
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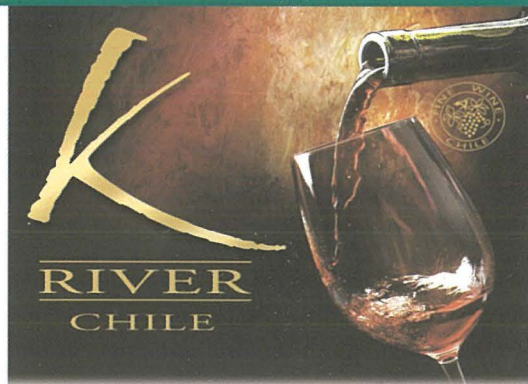
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Beaver Scouting is a child's first step in scouting. Through fun activities, Beavers learn how to help others, explore and discover their world, go on visits, make things and meet new people, act, sing and make music and grow up to appreciate life and nature. From such an early age, Beavers may eventually proceed through all the Scout Group's sections, growing up to be the leaders of tomorrow.

Age Group : 5 yrs to 6 yrs

Meetings : @ HQ on Tuesdays

Time : 17.00 hrs to 18.00 hrs





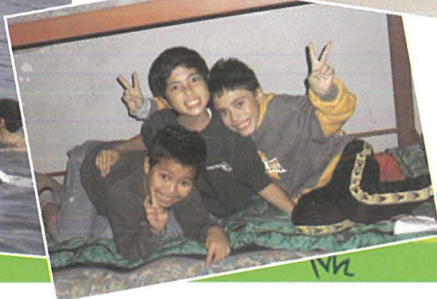
cubs

Cub Scouting is fun! Do you like to learn by doing? This is just the place. You can learn to tie knots, set up a tent, go for hikes and ride a canoe. Have you ever cooked a meal on a campfire? Gone trekking with torches at night? Being a Cub helps you learn discover these life skills and more, at the same time earning you rewarding badges.

Age Group : 7 yrs to 10 yrs

Meetings : @ HQ on Fridays

Time : 16.30 hrs to 18.00 hrs



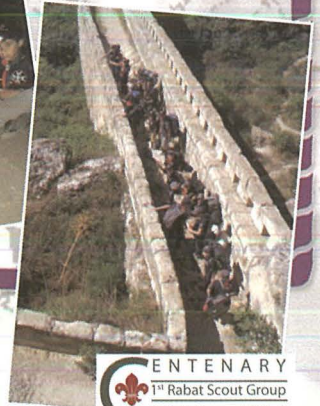
SCOUTS

Scouting offers adventures for older boys. It captures the interest of through diverse high-adventure and outdoor opportunities that reinforce Scouting's ideals. Outdoor adventure is the promise made to boys when they join Scouting, be it camping under canvas, going for overnight expeditions, or getting to know other scouts from all over the world when participating in jamborees.

Age Group : 11 yrs to 14 yrs

Meetings : @ HQ on Wednesdays

Time : 19.15 hrs to 21.00 hrs



VENTURES

Venturing offers a youth development program with the purpose to provide positive experiences to help young people mature and to prepare them to become responsible and caring adults.

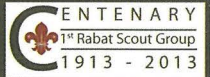
Age Group : 15 yrs to 18 yrs

Meetings : @ HQ on Tuesdays

Time : 19.00 hrs to 21.00 hrs



Programme of Activities 2013



February

Friday 1st

Annual General Meeting

Friday 22nd

Founders' Day

March

Friday 29th

Good Friday Parade & Procession

Friday 29th to Sunday 31st

Easter Camp

April

Sunday 7th

Investiture

Sunday 21st

Annual Parade

May

Saturday 25th

Scouters' Reunion

June

Sunday 2nd

Corpus Christi Parade & Procession

July

Friday 12th to Sunday 14th

Leaders' Camp

July/August

Wednesday 31st to Sunday 10th

Camping in the Netherlands

October

Saturday 19th to Sunday 20th

JOTA-JOTI *Jamboree on the Air/Internet*

Sunday 27th

Participation in the centenary celebrations of the 1st Hamrun Scout Group, Duke of Argyll's Own.

September

Thursday 5th to Wednesday 11th

Summer Camp

Sunday 15th

Centenary Parade

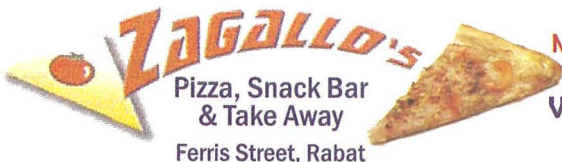
December

Friday 6th to Sunday 8th

Christmas Camp

Sunday 22nd

Church Parade



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Scouting is fun with a purpose, directed towards helping boys and girls become happy, healthy, useful citizens. It compliments the school and the family by developing self-knowledge, the need to explore, to discover, to want to know and to learn visual skills. Scouting programs have instilled in youth values which are relevant in helping youth grow to their full potential.

This is what has propelled the 1st Rabat Scout Group in maintaining an active presence in Rabat since 1913. For these 100 years, the 1st Rabat Scout Group has helped its youth members develop their academic skills, self-confidence, ethics, leadership skills, and citizenship skills that influence their adult lives. Many a prominent citizen from Rabat can proudly claim a connection with the 1st Rabat Scout Group.

This commemorative booklet aims to celebrate this centenarian milestone, auguring many more years of fruitful activity.

