

■ *Training Local and Abroad*

From the training side, we are now offering new courses to the public. These include basic first aid, basic life support and AED use. New courses are being formulated for the near future. A group of volunteers are being trained as paramedics (emergency medical technicians – basic). In fact they are doing a 120 hour course in advanced first aid and emergency medical care. The course includes some practice sessions in different areas of Gozo. Further training in disaster response and basic land rescue is being sought from several experts in the field.



■ *Demonstration with the Civil Protection Department*

Our latest volunteer Robin a dog, is being trained in rescue. This is done with the aid of the Italian Red Cross. Water rescue training and beach posts were organised in summer for a group of volunteers



■ *Youth Exchange in Germany*

For the first time ever some exchanges abroad took place. These include a seminar on minority groups organised by SALTO, youth exchange that took place in Koln in September for one week which involved 16 participants, and paramedic training in August in Germany. Most of the funds for these training came from EU projects and from the individuals concerned.

■ *Social events*



■ *On the boat to Commino*

The social events group did manage to organise some very good social events for the volunteers and their families. BBQ, hike on Commino, and Christmas dinner were some of the activities organised by this group. The activities organised were enjoyed by everybody concerned. These activities were also open to non Red Cross members/volunteers. More activities are being planned for the coming year 2004 such as trips abroad.

■ *Fund raising*

The fund raising committee headed by the branch treasurer Mr Pierre Sacco managed to do very good fundraising activities throughout the year 2002. Beyblade competitions, lotteries, car wash, and a bazaar were some of the main activities organised. A good income was established.



■ *Car Wash*

Keeping in Touch

Newsletter of the

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■ *From the Editor*

Welcome to the first issue of the Red Cross news letter issued by the Gozo Branch of the Malta Red Cross. The aim of this news letter is to share information and to keep in touch with the:

- General public
- Volunteers and members
- Our donors and sponsors
- And increase the awareness of the Red Cross in Gozo

For the time being this newsletter will be a bimonthly publication. It will cover several aspects of Red Cross work such as First Aid and Health and Safety. It will also serve as a photo album of local events, and International events will also have their space.

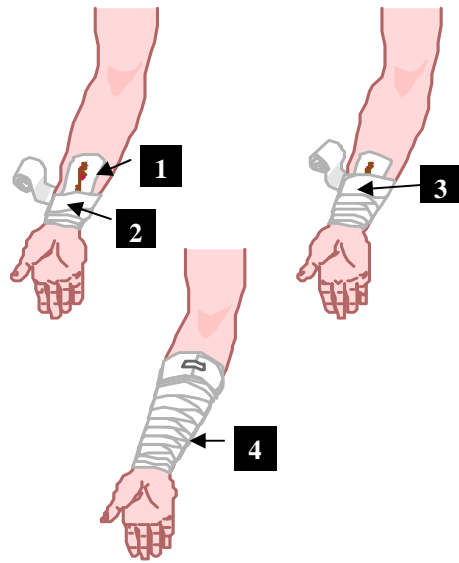


■ *The Red Cross is part of the Community*

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■ First aid tips - Applying a bandage



A roller bandage is applied to an injured limb for several reasons, such as to control blood loss, to offer support etc.

In order to apply a roller bandage you must:

1. Put a sterile gauze pad on at the wound
2. Start applying the bandage starting from below the wound
3. Slowly cover all the gauze pad, making several overlapping turns
4. Secure the end of the bandage by means of an adhesive tape
5. Make sure that you do not over tighten the bandage. It should be a snug fit

■ Community Health and Safety

The health and safety committee headed by Mr Lino Xerri did manage to organise some very good school visits. Health and safety tips, and basic first aid tips were delivered to several pupils in Gozo. These were enjoyed both by the teachers, pupils and Red Cross volunteers involved. An art competition for the school children was organised.



■ Demonstration at Sannat Primary - First aid

■ Branch Assembly 2004

The Annual Branch general assembly meeting 2004 took place on the 28th February 2004 at the branch head quarters. Two new members were elected on the branch committee namely Mr John Portelli and Mr Anton Portelli. Special thanks goes to Mr Frank Theuma who's term of office is over and did not wish to be re-elected. Mr Frank Theuma is one of the founding members of the Gozo Branch and he gave sterling work to the establishment of the Red Cross in Gozo. Mr Theuma will remain a member and an active volunteer at the branch.



■ Branch Assembly 2004

■ Blood donation



■ Members of the blood donors group donating blood

The blood donation campaign that was organised by Mr Marvic Attard did an excellent job. In fact a blood donors group was successfully established. This group coordinated by Mr Attard organizes and promotes regular blood donation for its members. An awareness campaign was done so as to get new blood donors. A lot of collaboration was found from the staff of the blood donation unit at the Gozo General hospital. A new campaign is being planned for the year 2004.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

First aiders, ambulance paramedics, social support and youths
Contact us for more information

■ History of the Gozo Branch

It was only in the year 2002, that the official opening of the Gozo Branch of the Malta Red Cross was inaugurated even though we have been using the premises for several years. In fact the branch was officially inaugurated on the 16th February 2002. The Malta Red Cross Gozo Branch forms part of the Malta Red Cross Society which is the national society in Malta. Briefly, we are an autonomous voluntary aid society, independent of and auxiliary to the public authorities in the humanitarian field on the basis of the first Geneva Convention (Malta Red Cross Society Act VI of 1992 Cap.359), adhering to the rules and principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

Being finically independent from Malta we are totally dependent on individual and corporate membership subscriptions, sponsorships, donations, and nominal service fees, for the running of the Branch.

The Gozo branch is run accordingly to the statues of the Malta Red Cross society. A committee is responsible for the running of the branch. We are located in Xewkija at the Malta University Gozo Centre.

■ Purchase of a new ambulance

Due to the increase in demand and the nature of certain public events the committee has decided to get a new Ford emergency ambulance from the UK. In fact the Ford ambulance should be ready for service by mid May 2004. More information regarding this project including the official list of sponsors will be presented in the next issue of the newsletter.



■ The Ford Transit ambulance