



Tradition Something To Be Cherished



Brian Roberts

I know I might seem old fashioned but I am a traditionalist at heart. I strongly believe in upholding the age old traditions in any country or community. If we don't learn from the past how can we teach future generations?

Music has played a part in forming traditions. Cave men found that by blowing into sea shells or hollowed out wood they could produce a sound and it was not long that dance and music became part of local traditions.

This year Kate and I attended another great British tradition. The Whit Friday Brass Bands Marches on the very edge of Saddleworth Moor on the borders of Yorkshire and Lancashire. Brass Bands from all over the UK and abroad gather to perform not only their musical skills but their individual discipline and stamina. The weather up on the moors can be very daunting and this year was no exception. Driving rain and very low temperatures failed to dampen the spirits of competitors and spectators alike. Bands travel from village to village by coach and perform a march where they are judged on their deportment and appearance as well as their music. We were privileged to hear 67 bands pass through the small village of Greenfield in just six hours.



Brighouse and Rastrick Brass Band

The tradition dates back to 1884 when following the normal Whit Friday Church March two bands decided to have a small competition. It has now grown into one of the greatest cultural events of the year attracting thousands of people young and old. Another great tradition which must not only be preserved but cherished.

Even the youngsters did their bit to make it a memorable occasion. They are made of hardy stuff up in that part of the world. There is no doubt that the musical tradition will go on for many more years if these youngsters have anything to do with it.



So we are now approaching our feast and yet another great tradition. Yes things have had to change over the years. The tragic deaths in the fireworks factories are testimony for the need to find alternative means of lighting the beautiful sky but we should never forget why we celebrate the 8th September each year. We remember all those brave souls who lost their lives during two great sieges on the islands but it is also a time of great happiness and joy. That is the legacy of this great tradition which has been handed down to us. A time for families and friends to get together to share one of our greatest traditions – our feast here in Mellieħa.

I WISH EVERYONE A VERY HAPPY FESTA.