

Cannon restored by FWA



A new cannon collection was officially unveiled this morning at the Saluting Battery site at the Upper Barrakka Gardens in Valletta by Mario Farrugia, chairman and CEO of the Fondazzjoni Wirt Artna. The restoration of this collection forms part of the FWA project for the upgrading of the Saluting Battery site that is being sponsored by Bank of Valletta.

The six new guns on display date between the 18th and 19th Century and guns of this type were used in Malta between 1800 and 1920.

Being displayed next to the restored cannon collection is a sample of the ammunition used as well as a poster outlining the history of each cannon.

The collection also includes a 32-pounder Smooth-bore Breech Loader, which was the last type of cannon to serve in Malta until 1923.

"This is another important milestone in the process of transforming the Saluting Battery into a historic museum," Mr Farrugia said.

"This Saluting Battery is a very popular historic site that attracts thousands of visitors each year. We believe FWA's ambitious project to upgrade the facilities available here will continue to enrich Malta's cultural and historical heritage whilst making the site more attractive and accessible both amongst tourists who visit us as well as amongst the Maltese public," said Michael Galea, executive head at the CEO's Office of Bank of Valletta.

The Saluting Battery site will be open to the public on Sunday June 15, from 1000 hours to 1300 hours CEST, at a reduced rate of €3 per person.

Entrance is free for children under the age of 16 and for Fondazzjoni Wirt Artna members. The morning event will feature a lecture on the history and evolution of the cannon. Those present will also be able to take a guided tour of the battery and assist with the firing of the noon-day gun.
