

## **Notte Bianca's extended footprint brings further success**

**by Annaliza Borg**

Activities during Notte Bianca, held last Saturday in Valletta, brought further success since events were spread all around the city, the organisers said yesterday.

Moreover, activities continued on Sunday morning with historic re-enactment shows, tours around the city as well as the In Guardia parade by the police.

Davinia Galea, CEO at the Malta Centre for Culture and the Arts, explained that the past Notte Bianca event presented “an authentic Maltese product” which elicited a “sense of pride” in all present.

“This was an event of entertainment and culture in a broad sense,” she added.

Pointing out the exhibition of antique survey sheets, plans and drawing instruments, held at Auberge de Baviere, she said that many were drawn to this venue which was open to the public at Notte Bianca for the first time.

Notte Bianca project manager Noel D'Amato explained that those who made it into Valletta did not only look for leisure and shopping but a stronger participation in cultural events and venues was noted.

Quoting some statistics, Mr D'Amato said that around 1,400 people were said to have visited Tal-Pilar Chapel in West Street while another 600 persons visited the Santa Croce private chapel in St Ursola Street. Some 1,800 people were said to have attended the concert given by the national orchestra.

He also pointed out that sending a detailed programme to all residences proved to be very successful because people had planned where to go before hand.

Valletta mayor Alexiei Dingli expressed his satisfaction at the way the event was coordinated. He also pointed out that the Valletta local council only received complaints regarding minor traffic congestions and queues at places of interest, for which little could be done because of the strong participation.

Heritage Malta alone recently announced that some 10,000 people had visited museums and places of cultural interest run by it, Dr Dingli said.

While urging for more commitment and initiative from shops to remain open later, he urged small business especially those owned by self employed persons to submit ideas for their participation during the next edition of Notte Bianca.

Dr Dingli thanked all those involved in the organisation including the Police, those providing medical assistance, the Public Works Department and the Girl Guides.

The next edition of Notte Bianca is to be held on Saturday 3 October 2009.

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