

RNS Verdala Reunion

Malta: 14 – 16th September 2010



Welcome to this info sheet for our Verdala Reunion in September. We hope that the four major events which have been set up will fit neatly into everyone's personal holiday arrangements.

Thank you to everyone for passing us your information on your arrival dates, hotels, intentions and so forth; we have juggled the times and dates for the events as best as we can to make sure that as many people as possible are able to get to everything that they want to. We hope it works.

We have deliberately kept the organisation for the Reunion as light-touch as possible - Verdala pupils are all grown up now – so that everyone can have the variety of sunshine holiday they've been looking forward to. Whether you personally know many of the **Old Verdalans** or not, we hope you will all find just the right levels of activity in this company of friends and, through these opportunities, to revisit the echoes of the Verdala experience which many of us look back upon with such unaffected pleasure. So the initiative will be with you yourselves but, if you need support or contact at any time, that will be there for you to tap in to.

There are 4 main events during the week:

1. The Welcome Drinks.

Tuesday 14th September from 5 pm onwards at **The Villa Restaurant at The Méridien** Hotel, Balluta Bay, St Julian's. Pauline Mendez has magically persuaded the proprietors to waive the normal charges for you to use the balcony (right) as the rendezvous for the event.



This venue also has a great view over the bay, as you can see from the photo below. Come along and meet everyone else – OV's you know and those you don't (yet). Enjoy drinks



together, eat if you fancy, make the evening your own and look forward to the upcoming School Visit and Reunion events.

If there is late-breaking information to share about the School Visit the next day, this is where you are likely to hear it. Jane Banks will probably be circulating details, too, of how you might get the discount she's been trying to arrange for you if you should happen to use the Luzzo Cruises.

2 and 3. The School Visit and Grand Harbour Marina Lunch. Wednesday 15th September. Morning and early afternoon.

A bus will arrive at the **Victoria Hotel** at **0845**, ready to depart at 0900, to take you to the school. You don't have to take it but, for those who don't actually live in Malta, it is likely to be the very best way of getting to the School calm and unflustered!

The Royal Naval School, Verdala, has now become the **St Margaret's College**. Mr



St Margaret's College Boys' Secondary
Verdala, St Nicholas Road, Cospicua

T 21226336, 21220287, 27019451 F 21803850 E gdespott.bjl@gov.mt W schoolnet.gov.mt/smcboys

Vella, the Head of School, and his staff - have been working over the past few months to make your re-visit enjoyable, informative and entertaining **and** we're very grateful to everyone involved for all their efforts. For their part, they are looking forward tremendously to meeting you. Rita DeBattista from the School writes *"Please also spread the word ... we would really love any copies or originals of material related to the Royal Navy School in order to add to our school archives"*. You will find that members of staff – in particular Rita, Mr Abela and Mr Azzopardi - are intensely interested and proud of the history of their school – here embodied, in part, by yourselves. If your luggage space allows, please bring any memento you can that might be copyable. There was a rumour that someone had a film from our schooldays – if it's you, then the Oscars await ...

See what's changed of the old Verdala - and see, also, what is still there after all these years. A suitable caption for the photo at right might be *Kilroy woz 'ere*.

As a small token of our appreciation, we are treating a few of the staff to lunch with us after the visit and plan to absorb the cost of their meal.



After the School Visit, the bus will take everyone who wants to ride down to the **Riviera della Marina** on the Vittoriosa waterfront. The restaurant has been well chosen for you and you're sure to enjoy it. (Thank you for passing your menu choices to Pauline – that was most useful, and she will have a list, if needed, to remind you of what you chose for the occasion).

After the Lunch, everyone will be able to return to Sliema (or wherever) under their own steam as the public transport facilities are so good¹. You can take buses or taxis from Vittoriosa to Sliema. Another favourite is the "little boat" water taxi from the Grand Harbour Marina to Valetta, and from there to Sliema by little boat again (if it's running) or by bus. Singly or together, it's a journey that everyone is likely to find evocative as well as pleasant and easy.

4. The Reunion Dinner. Thursday 16th September at 7.30 pm at **The Barracuda Restaurant**, Balluta Bay, St Julian's.



The Barracuda is a most excellent restaurant and the staff have been preparing to receive you for some time now. It is a beautifully situated establishment, sitting on the point of Balluta Bay and looking out directly onto the waters of the bay. What's more, some of the best dining areas are now set aside for the Verdala party. It's a restaurant of considerable note on the Island and beyond

¹ We have added a schematic map of the Island's bus routes at the end of this info Sheet.

and very good, we're told, for spotting the rich and famous. You're sure to enjoy it.

The menu for the evening (and the Riviera lunch) is set out towards the end of this sheet. There are also vegetarian options available and Pauline has been in touch with those of you who have stated a preference for a meat-free meal.

Ice cream – we are advised that if you think you'll want ice cream at the Dinner, you should say so now. This is very intriguing and I don't pretend to understand why but, to give yourself the best chance of entering Ice Cream Heaven, let Pauline know now.

Pauline's email address is noted (with others) at the end of this sheet.

Organisation and assistance

There is no formal organisation committee for this Reunion; just the able and willing OV's who have been doing the thinking, the reconnaissance visits, the evaluating, contacting and liaising on your behalf. The important ones – the aforementioned Pauline, Christiane and Jane - will be there with you. We are sure that everyone will be able to find their way to the three locations (and home from the lunch, too) but we have added their addresses and telephone numbers later on in this Sheet. Just in case anyone has an urgent need to be in contact, Christiane Morris has kindly agreed to have her mobile with her most of the time. Her number is +44 7798 686214. Pauline's number is also listed later.



You will find plenty of administrative assistance available through your hotels; facilities such as doctors, bus timetables, visit suggestions and so on. Have your EHIC cards with you in case you need to make use of medical facilities² - and *do* keep all your receipts.

Those who have travelled with Malta Direct will find lots of useful touristy offers in the holiday information book that accompanies the tickets. Well worth taking note of.

² Jane writes: *In case of a medical emergency British passport holders should take their passport with them to the Mater Dei Hospital, Msida, where they will receive treatment free of charge. The Maltese Government and our British NHS have a contract to treat us free of charge. Please read my Forum comment on this Hospital ... Here are the Mater Dei Hospital numbers. Tel :254 50000.*

People, names and badges.

It's great to know who you're about to engage in conversation and reminiscence with. Such knowledge can also keep you out of trouble if you happen to owe someone from a prior game of marbles.

So, if you have a name badge from previous Reunions with your name, House and years at Verdala, please bring it and wear it. If you don't, please make one, bring it and wear it. It will help things along a great deal.



There's a list attached of who your fellow ex-pupils are and, where known, a little more of their information. Remember boys and girls, play nicely.

Email addresses, phone numbers etc:



Pauline Mendez: info@hargreaveshouse.com

Mobile: +44 7980 585047

Christiane Morris: christiane.morris@btopenworld.com

Mobile: +44 7798 686214 or +356 27 541 050 between 4-17th September.

Andrew West: andrew@amwest.co.uk

(not able to be there with you, but happy to try to help if anyone's stuck for information prior to departure).

The Victoria Hotel: Gorg Borg Olivier St, Sliema. Tel: 213 34711

The Imperial Hotel: Rudolph St, Sliema. Tel: 213 44093

The Park Hotel: Graham St, Sliema. Tel: 213 34780

The Plevna Hotel: Hughes Hallet St, Sliema. Tel: 213 31031

Plaza Regency Hotel: 240 Tower Rd, Sliema. Tel: 213 41297

The School: St Nicholas Road, Cospicua. Tel: 212 26336

The Villa @ Le Méridian: 9 Main Street, Saint Julian's. Tel: 231 10000

Riviera della Marina Restaurant: Vittoriosa Waterfront. Tel: 218 07230

The Barracuda Restaurant. 194 Main St, St Julian's. Tel: 213 31817



The atmospherically situated Riviera della Marina menus:

Starters:

- A: Fish Soup, or
- B: Riso Funghi, or
- C: Penne Carbonara

Entrées

- D: Fillet of John Dory with cherry tomatoes and fresh herbs, or
- E: Rib Eye Beef in mushroom sauce, or
- F: Vegetarian main course.

The menu includes vegetables for the mains plus a ½ bottle of water and a glass of red or white wine to accompany.

Price: 25 Euros.

The prestigious Barracuda Restaurant Menu:

Rigatoni pasta with a sundried tomato pesto, fresh basil, calamatta olives and peppered gbejna (Mmm! Que?)

Grilled Chicken Breast
braised cabbage with pancetta and a fig and Marsala sauce

Vanilla Pannacotta with a strawberry coulis

Price: 33.70 Euros - including a half-bottle of house wine, table water or soft drinks.



Attendees (and other details where held)

<i>Name</i>	<i>née</i>	<i>Accompanied by</i>	<i>Hotel</i>	<i>"V and TH Years" and notes</i>
Alison Farrar	Greenaway		Park Hotel	
Andrew McLeod		Lindsay		Verdala 1955-58; mother (Janet Mary McLeod, known as Jean) taught PE at Verdala 1955-58
Annmarie Burton				Was at Verdala '60-62 before going back to Plymouth.
Chris Jenkins				
Christiane Morris				Verdala: 1963-67. Lives both in Malta and in the UK.
David Pickett			Imperial Hotel	
David Woolfenden				
Gordon Husbands		Natalia		
Grahame Cain			Plevna Hotel	
Hugh Satow			Imperial Hotel	
Jane Banks		Charlie	Imperial Hotel	nee Stubbs
Janet Witcher	Merriman		House in Senglea	Attended with brother John. Lives in Adelaide, South Australia.
Jo Woodall		Graham		Family went to Malta 4 3-year postings between 1950 and 1972. Very happy memories of Malta and attending Verdala (Sept 1956 - July 59 and Tal-Handaq (May 1965 - July 1967).
John Beer			Victoria Hotel	
Joy Black	Taylor			Verdala: 1952-55
Judy Skelton			Park Hotel	
Kate MacDonald	Condie	Vince Dunbar	in Qawra	
Lesley Carr	Collett			
Lin Holdsworth				Lin lives in Malta – lucky ☺
Liz Mardel	McMeeking		Imperial Hotel	One of our lovely teachers!
Madeleine Adams	Knight		Park Hotel	
Martin Powell			Plevna Hotel	
Mary Briggs	Todd	Colin	Victoria Hotel	

Mary Carter	Furness	Michael	Victoria Hotel	
Maureen Cobb		Peter Linford	Plaza Regency	
Mike Conlan		Jo Frost		
Mike Kingston				Verdala 1937-41 and 45/46 (TaxBiex prior to the School going to Tal Handaq. Mike lives in Malta – lucky 😊)
Nick Holloway		Anne		
Pauline Mendez	Hargreaves		Imperial Hotel	Verdala: 1957-58
Peter Pacey		Elizabeth		
Mr Roy Jenkins				One of our lovely teachers!
Sally Wagner	Skelton			Verdala 1952-54. Has never been back to Malta since but, with memories so strong and vibrant, would love to meet up with people again.
Sheila Richards - Hyde	Swinn		Park Hotel	Malta 1949 - 51
Sue Adams			Imperial Hotel	
Susan Lewis		Colin		Verdala 1959-1964, infants and up, attending with younger brother Martin and, for a short period, with twin cousins Paul and Terry Martin. Now lives in Canada.
Tanya Wheway		Friends from America and Australia		Tal Handaq: 1958-61
Tony Clark		Joy	Victoria Hotel	

If there are gaps above that people would like me to fill in for the benefit of others attending, please email the details to Andrew West (OV@amwest.co.uk) and we will circulate another attendance list to everyone closer to the departure date.

SLIEMA MALTA HOTEL MAP

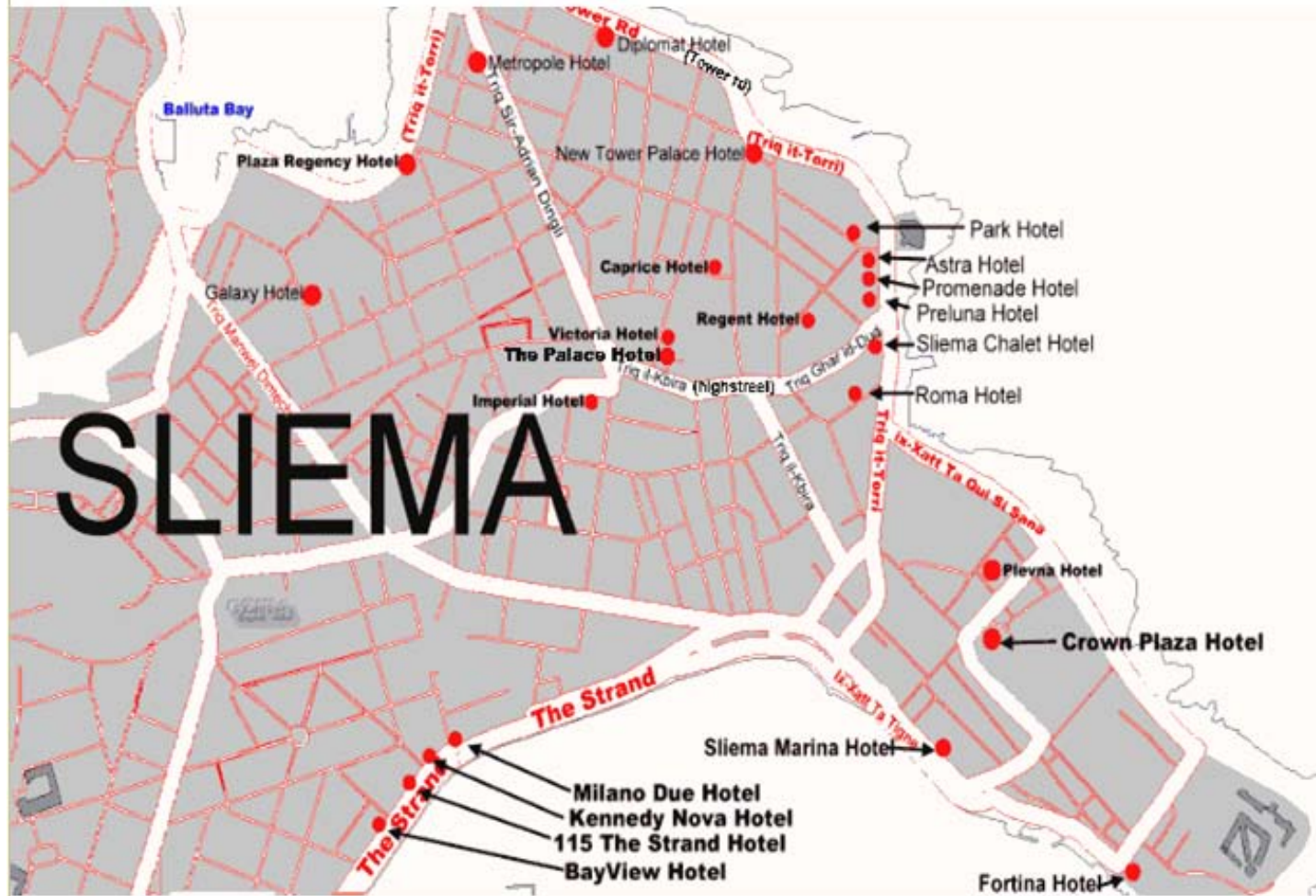


Figure 1 - Hotel locations: (with apologies for quality of rendering) Balluta Bay is the location of The Villa at the Méri dien Hotel (14th September) and The Barracuda Restaurant (16th September).

Figure 2: A Quick Guide to Bus Routes (not guaranteed for 2010; apologies for less-than-ideal rendering)

