Raising funds for lepers in India and Uganda

A lino print called "Wild Horses" by the esteemed artist Antoine Camilleri, considered by many to be the father of Maltese modern art, was the main item at a summer auction held by the Grand Commandery of the Castello, which forms part of the Military and Hospitaller Order of Saint Lazarus of Jerusalem, based in Spain.

This lino print, together with other donated items, fetched a substantial amount, further sustaining the charity fund of this chivalric organisation, based at Castello Lanzun, in Mensija, San Ġwann.

The Grand Commandery of the Castello holds regular fund raising events to assist particular communities afflicted by leprosy in India and Uganda. Following a proposal by the Hospitaller Chev Paul Warren, during this summer, the Grand Commandery Council presented four donation tranches amounting to €11,110 to Kagando Hospital in Uganda, to fund the building of two units in what is going to be called the St Lazarus Wing at this hospital. Photos received from Kagando Hospital show the rapid progress being made in their construction.

Dating back to the 11th century, the Military and Hospitaller Order of Saint Lazarus of Jerusalem today is dedicated especially to the care and assistance of lepers, while maintaining the principles of Christian chivalry in all its work. Membership of the Grand Commandery hail from different countries (both Maltese and foreigners permanently residing in Malta), and from different professions including medicine, business, finance, law, the military, academia, architecture, and the arts.

The Grand Commandery events are open also to members' guests, while a Friends of the Castello group is being set up for members of the public who would like to become more aware of the Order and participate in its charitable and social activities in Malta and abroad.

Further information can be obtained from: grandcommanderymalta.org

Photocaption: Confrere Giovanni Navarro conducting the fund-raising auction at Castello Lanzun