

Our Countryside, what a Mess!

Our class had the chance to go trekking along the coastal cliffs from the Ghadira ta' San Raflu to Dwejra in Gozo. It was all thanks to Mr Joseph Gatt, our science teacher, who planned the route and prepared worksheets, fieldwork and information for us. We did learn a lot about flora and fauna in the area and also had time to check wind speed and direction with the apparatus we took with us. What we didn't expect to see was the litter and construction rubble which we saw all along the way even in very remote areas.



We weren't prepared to see food wrappers flying around (it was very windy). We even saw plastic bottles squashed in holes in rubble walls. Everybody should know that rubble walls are not for sticking rubbish in. The holes are good for the insects and small wild animals to live in and to let rain water come out of the fields when it rains a lot. Yes, we know that people who visit the area also need to eat and drink. We took a break there

ourselves and put wrappers, banana peels and juice cartons back in our lunch boxes. Don't expect to find litter bins there. It is no excuse to throw your litter away or push it into holes. Just remember, put them back in your bag and take them home with you. Now that they are empty they are not heavy anymore.



Car spare parts? We saw loads, ranging from bumpers to car seats. There is certainly no mechanic nearby. Some of these items were in very remote places, so who put them there must have done this on purpose. Why? Is it so important to be comfortable to enjoy

the view? These items are not part of the area which is otherwise left untouched and so they stand out.

Everyone, please listen! Do be careful when you go out for a walk to take everything back with you. Even if something falls off and you do not need it anymore, please pick it up and take it back with you. Do not treat the countryside as a dump yard because it is far away from home. Finding excuses is not a solution. We are very lucky to live in such a beautiful place. Let us all enjoy it the way God made it for many other years.