



Registered Charity
No. 1113897



Associazione
CASA DELLA MEMORIA
Servigliano



Welcome to Servigliano

7-10 September 2023

80th Anniversary Commemoration

of the Italian Armistice 8th September 1943

EVENTS GUIDE

Thursday 7th September 6pm CdM Museum: You are invited to an interview by well-known Italian journalist Mario Calabresi with Isabella Insolubile, author of *The Allied Captivity in Italy, 1940-1943* and researcher for the website www.alleatiinitalia.it focusing on Allied PoW camps in Italy (*simultaneous translation will be provided*).

Followed at **8pm** by the Trust's **Welcome Dinner** at the **Ristorante Re Leone**

Friday 8th September 10am Casa della Memoria Museum:

A welcome at the Museum will be followed by a tour of the site of PG59 (now a Peace Park) including a description of its history, the conditions the PoWs found there, and answers to all your questions. Back to the Museum for a fascinating and moving presentation by **Dennis Hill**, author and administrator of the *Camp 59 Survivors* website <https://camp59survivors.com/> dedicated to PG59 but now grown to include many other relevant stories. Dennis' father Armie was held at PG59 and his and many others' personal stories – some of whose descendants will be with us on the day - make this a very valuable site.

Dennis' site contains many references to “Servigliano Calling”, the diary of **Robert Dickinson**, bound with strips taken from Red Cross tins. Robert's nephew **Steve Dickinson** will tell his story and present the diary to the Museum in memory of his uncle.

A light lunch, prepared by Bar Lu Ministru, will be kindly provided in the Museum by Casa della Memoria.

1.30 Bus/cars to Montelparo: *minibus(es) will be provided on a first come first served + needs basis. Given the winding roads and narrow streets it is a good idea for those not on the bus to carpool as far as possible.*

We will meet up with the ELMS (*Escape Lines Memorial Society*) walkers and make the 20-minute walk to a plaque dedicated to one Sidney Seymour Smith, killed on that spot, and the Italian families who sheltered him and all the other 25,000 escapers. His story will be told, along with that of others hidden in Montelparo.

You may continue on with the ELMS walkers to Ponte Maglio to hear more stories, take some free time and/or return to Servigliano for the launch at **4.30pm** of an exhibition by the **Parri Institute** - *Un altro viaggio in Italia* - in which an Italian and a German travel through Italian historical landmarks. To be followed by a presentation by author **Paolo Giunta La Spada** of his new book *Italia, 8 settembre 1943. Autobiografia di una nazione*, dealing with 8th September from the Italian perspective; a focus on Italian PoWs around the world; plus Allied PoW escapers in Italy (*simultaneous translation will be provided*).

8pm Dinner at Villa Funari, Via della Repubblica, (SP42) Servigliano

Saturday 9th September 9.30 at entrance to site of PG59

We travel by bus and car to meet up with the ELMS walkers in the village of Smerillo to hear from Marco Ercoli the story of his grandmother and the two American PoWs whom she sheltered and for whose descendants Marco is still searching.

12.30 Lunch at the Osteria del Lago, on the shores of Lago San Ruffino

Depending on the weather, if we are eating outside it is advisable to have a good supply of your preferred brand of insect repellent.

2.30 Bus and car to Monte San Martino

We are honoured to be invited to the private “Museum of the Contadino”, housed in the residence of Antonio Millozzi, good friend of Keith Killby and the Trust’s representative in Italy. Gianluca Vagnarelli, historian of the contadino life and custodian of many oral interviews, will describe for us the “mezzadria” (*sharecropping*) system under which the Italian contadini laboured for many centuries.

Nearby is Largo Keith Killby, dedicated to the founder of the Trust. The Church of San Martino will be open for us to view the renowned Crivelli frescoes within.

Return to Servigliano

6.00 CdM Museum

You are invited to a 20 minute documentary “Zella Mission” describing an evacuation by sea carried out by Italian fishermen. Then a talk by Giuseppe Millozzi to cover: how news of the Armistice was received inside PG59; the book, “*Antigone nella Valle del Tenna*” - interviews of local Italian helpers by historian Filippo Ierano - and the translation of this book into English by MSMT; Giuseppe’s work translating into Italian the online memoirs of Paul Bullard, a prisoner in PG53 Sforzacosta subsequently sheltered by the Cardarelli family.

<https://paulbullard.wordpress.com/life-in-war-time-italy-introduction/>.

Plus Eric Hunt on his research into Manuel Serrano, PoW and partisan (*simultaneous translation will be provided*).

7.30pm Free time. We can provide suggestions for local restaurants should you require.



Entrance to site of PG59

Sunday 10th September 10.30 Commemoration Ceremonies

Piazza Roma Servigliano

Wreath-laying and speeches. There will be the usual Sunday Mass in the Church of San Marco should you wish to participate.

Light Lunch provided by Bar Lu Ministru, Servigliano, held in the Town Hall (*Comune*)

Free time or join with ELMS in a visit to PG70 Monte Urano and “Casa Brugnoni” where Ken de Souza was sheltered (*bus and car*)

In Servigliano the Museum will host a bookstall plus some video loops of interviews with Italians and escapers.

8pm Farewell Dinner, Chiostro da Zena the cloisters of the ex-convent across the road from the main square in Servigliano. All attendees from all three organisations (*Monte San Martino Trust/ELMS/Casa della Memoria*) will join in celebrating the long-lasting bonds formed by the unique experiences of so many nationalities after the Armistice of September 1943.



Ristorante Re Leone – Welcome dinner



Ex-convent of St Mary -final dinner in cloisters



Casa della Memoria Museum

Contacts:

Anne Copley acopley01@gmail.com; Tel/WhatsApp: +39 0734 338 068

Nermina Delic ndelic@msmtrust.org.uk; Tel: +44 07508 56689