



## The Migration Crisis

### Bob Hawke EU Centre Lecture by H.E. Mr Sem Fabrizi

On behalf of Professor Anthony Elliott, Executive Director of the Hawke EU Centre for Mobilities, Migrations and Cultural Transformation and Dean: External Engagement at the University of South Australia, we extend to you an invitation to attend a public lecture by H.E. Mr Sem Fabrizi, Ambassador and Head of the Delegation of Europe to Australia and New Zealand. Mr Fabrizi will address some of the major issues the migration crisis from the perspective of the European union, and its impact on EU-Australian relations. The event will be introduced and chaired by Professor Elliott.

**Date** Wednesday 17 August 2016 **Time** 6.00pm start

**Location**

Bradley Forum, Level 5, Hawke Building, City West Campus  
55 North Terrace, Adelaide, South Australia



Sem Fabrizi has been Ambassador of the European Union to Australia and to New Zealand since September 2013. An Italian career diplomat, he served as advisor on international relations to the President of the European Council in Brussels and to the Prime Minister's Office in Rome. He also served in Geneva at the Italian Permanent Mission to the WTO and in Beijing at the Italian Embassy in the PRC. At the MFA in Rome he held positions in the EU Department and the Secretary General's Office. He holds degrees in International Law and International Economy from "La Sapienza", University in Rome.



The tradition of the Olympic Truce dates back to the 9th century BC, in Ancient Greece. The International Olympic Committee (IOC) decided to revive this ancient concept in order to protect the interests of the athletes and sport in general.

### **The idea**

The tradition of the "Truce" or "Ekecheiria" was established in ancient Greece in the 9th century BC by the signature of a treaty between three kings. During the Truce period, the athletes, artists and their families, as well as ordinary pilgrims, could travel in total safety to participate in or attend the Olympic Games and return afterwards to their respective countries. As the opening of the Games approached, the sacred truce was proclaimed and announced by citizens of Elis who travelled throughout Greece to pass on the message.

### ***Its relevance today***

Taking into account the global context in which sport and the Olympic Games exist, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) decided to revive the ancient concept of the Olympic Truce with the view to protecting, as far as possible, the interests of the athletes and sport in general, and to encourage searching for peaceful and diplomatic solutions to the conflicts around the world.

Through this global and symbolic concept, the IOC aims to :

- mobilise youth for the promotion of the Olympic ideals;
- use sport to establish contacts between communities in conflict; and
- offer humanitarian support in countries at war ; and more generally :
- to create a window of opportunities for dialogue and reconciliation.

### **The Athletes Oath**

was first taken at the 1920 Olympic Games in Antwerp  
by a fencer/water polo player

*"In the name of all the competitors I promise  
that we shall take part in these Olympic  
Games, respecting and abiding by the rules  
which govern them, committing ourselves to a  
sport without doping and without drugs, in  
the true spirit of sportsmanship, for the glory  
of sport and the honour of our teams."*





## MALTA AND THE ANZACS THE NURSE OF THE MEDITERRANEAN

**‘NOT FOR HIMSELF FOR US HE GAVE HIS  
LIFEDIED AS HE LIVED WITH HONOR ’**  
(Epitaph: Private J .F . Heywood, Sm Battalion,  
Australian Imperial Forces,  
Died 09.04.1918, Age 22.  
Pieta Military Cemetery, Malta)

Malta, during the First World War, was the site of extensive medical facilities that were set up to deal with the casualties of the campaigns on the Gallipoli Peninsula, Salonika and the Middle East. During the war, almost 135,000 Commonwealth service personnel, sick and wounded, received treatment on Malta. “The 232 Australians who died from wounds or sickness, are buried in 5 cemeteries?” Malta, situated in the centre of the Mediterranean, has always been seen as a crucial strategic location throughout history and was a British territory from 1814 and was used as a shipping way station and fleet headquarters.

The burials on Malta are unique because the graves had to be cut from the rock underlying the island’s shallow crust of topsoil. As a result, many of the graves are collective and joint burials, meaning that commemoration was mediated by efficiency.

The first burial occurred on the 7 May 1915, in Pieta Military Cemetery. Fitter William John Sergeant, No. 2262, 3<sup>rd</sup> Australian Field Artillery, died of Wounds received in action at Gallipoli. He was the son of Henry and Mahala Sergeant, of Plineburne, Hurworth, New Plymouth, New Zealand, and had been born in Ireland.

This is typical of the multi-cultural make-up of the men who enlisted in the Australian forces. Of the burials, 121 died of wounds, which equates to 60% of the total. The remainder died of disease or sickness, with ailments ranging from enteric, scarlet fever, dysentery, pneumonia, peritonitis and typhoid.

In 1917, two men from the H.M.A.S. Brisbane died of sickness whilst the Light Cruiser was docked at Malta, for re-fitting?” Petty Officer Stoker James Joseph Dwyer and Stoker Thomas Samuel Eastabrook, died between February and May 1917, and were buried in the Malta (Capuccini) Naval Cemetery, in graves R.C 130 and Prot. 341, respectively.

ADDOLORATA CEMETERY	28
IMTARFA MILITARY CEMETERY	1
MALTA (CAPUCCINI) NAVAL CEMETERY	3
PEMBROKE MILITARY CEMETERY	2
PIETA MILITARY CEMETERY	169

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### CALLING ALL YOUNG AUSTRALIAN/MALTESE YOUTHS IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA



**MALTESE YOUTH SA**  
*‘honouring our heritage’*

Please support the new group of Australian/Maltese young people who are striving to preserve and share the history, culture and heritage of Malta, the homeland of their parents and grandparents. This group is based in Adelaide, South Australia. MYSA welcomes anyone who is interested in joining or supporting them in any way possible.

For more information, visit and like MYSA’s Facebook page:  
<https://www.facebook.com/malteseyouthsa/> or contact Tessa or Stacey by email on [malteseyouthsa@gmail.com](mailto:malteseyouthsa@gmail.com)

## Patrick Sammut, Mosta, Malta – Writer and Poet



Patrick Sammut was born in Malta in 1968. He studied Maltese and Italian language and literature, and History, at the University of Malta, and later obtained a Masters Degree in Contemporary Italian Literature with a thesis on "The Novel of the Resistance Movement". Between 1994 and 1996 he studied Italian literature and literary criticism at the Università degli Studi of Florence.

He teaches Maltese and Italian Language and Literature at De La Salle College since 1992. He is vice-president of the Maltese Poets Association, editor of the poetry magazine *VERSI*, and coordinator of a literary page of a local and virtual weekly newspaper, *Il-Gens illum*. He writes poetry in Maltese, English and Italian. He is author of various publications: literary criticism, poetry and short stories for children. His poems were published in both local and foreign journals and magazines. In 2008 he participated in the "Progetto Dante" of Ravenna, together with Maltese poet and

translator, Alfred Palma, and won a "Special Mention" in the Nosside international poetry contest.

In 2011 he participated in the Gaeta Mediterranean Poetry Festival. He keeps in contact with other poets and writers through e-mail and has a personal blog: [www.patrickjsammut.blogspot.com](http://www.patrickjsammut.blogspot.com). He is married to Rosalie and father of Andrew, Kristina and Matthew.



**I would like to thank Patrick Sammut for sending me the great publication KACCA.**

Hilary Spiteri produced six original illustrations published in the poetic collection *KACÇA* (Hunting). The publication, edited by Maltese poet and author Patrick J Sammut, includes 29 poems by 16 Maltese poets.

**To obtain a copy write to Patrick: [sammutpatrickj@gmail.com](mailto:sammutpatrickj@gmail.com)**



Trevor Żahra

Il-papà iss'għandu l-facebook,  
Tgħidx kemm qed iħossu smart,  
Qisu skopra f'salt l-Amerka...  
Għalkemm daqs mitt sena tard.

Il-ħin kollu jistaqsina:  
"Dar-ritratt kif napplovdjah?"  
Għax għalkemm bl-account u l-password,  
Bilkemm għadu jaf jużah.

U jgħidilna b'kull ma jaqra...  
"Għax l-Italja għamlu strajk!"  
Jagħmel sigħat shaħ jiskrollja,  
Kull ritratt jagħmillu LIKE.

Anki jekk tkun aħbar falza  
Xorta waħda jrid jaqraha,  
U jemminha ... "għax fil-facebook"  
U ma' ħbiebu jixxerjaha.

Ritratt xeħet, ta' żgħožitu,  
U tgħidx x'ferħ ... xi frattarija  
Għax f'jumejn tletin LIKE laqqat!  
Qisu rebah lotterija!

Għalhekk inti, li qed taqra,  
Hu paċenzja, kun bil-lest,  
Jekk dalwaqt, mingħand missieri,  
Se tasallek friend request.

Fittex wiegħbu ... u aċċetta,  
W ibqa' ċert, jiktiblek żgur,  
Għaliex ħalef li jrid jgħaqqad  
Ħamest elef fi ftiit xhur.

Izda 'k forsi, b'xi prodotti  
Jew b'xi logħba dlonk javżak,  
Jew f'xi nitfa pastażata  
Ifettillu jitteggjak...

Toħodhiex tant kontra tiegħu,  
Toqgħodx tgħajru w takkużah,  
Ftakar li dal-qahbeċ facebook  
Bilkemm għadu jaf jużah!



## POEZIJA TA' TREVOR ZAHRA



## Orchids in Malta



Orchids are amongst the most interesting flowering plants. In the Mediterranean they escape the hot and dry season as underground 'bulbs'. Most of the orchids found in Malta have two 'bulbs', with one bulb usually swollen and another shrivelling away; hence they are sometimes referred to as *Bajdet il-Fenek* or *Hajja u Mejta*. Orchid flowers have specialised in various ways so as to attract and manipulate insects, some even mimicking insects visually and by scent.

Notwithstanding the small size of the Maltese Islands, over 40 species are known to occur, two of which are endemic, while others are sub-endemic. One can mention the Maltese Spider Orchid (Scientific: *Ophrys melitensis*; Maltese: *Brimba Sewda*), the Mirror Orchid (Scientific: *Ophrys speculum*; Maltese: *Dubbiena Kaħla*) and the Bumblebee Orchid



(Scientific: *Ophrys bombyliflora*; Maltese: *Nahla*). Orchids are often found in garigue and steppic areas, although they are also known from valleys and under trees. While the majority flower between February and April, different species may be seen in flower during most seasons, except summer.

Most orchid species are threatened, possibly even extinct, a result of collecting, dumping and non-native species, amongst others. Various rare and threatened orchids are protected under national and international law, implying that it is illegal to cut, destroy, damage, keep, sell or trade such particular species. A variety of sites that support orchids are also protected. While research and conservation work is often difficult, enforcement and public awareness are amongst the most important aspects that need to be considered so as to enhance the status of these fascinating species.



## Rejiet, faragħuni, allat u ċiviltà mitlufa fi ktieb ġdid għat-tfal *Marion Zammit*

14-il leġġenda mill-Eġittu tal-qedem ġew miktuba bil-Malti fl-ewwel pubblikazzjoni ta' Sensiela Kotba Sagħtar, ta' MUT Publications Ltd, din is-sena. Il-ktieb, b'kitba u illustrazzjonijiet ta' Victor Pulis, hu parti mill-istrategija tal-kumpanija li tinkoraġixxi l-qari fost it-tfal. Bit-titlu "Leġġendi mill-Eġittu tal-Qedem", il-ktieb għandu l-produzzjoni ta' Annabelle

Attard u distribuzzjoni ta' Matthew Falzon.

L-ewwel attività ta' qari fl-iskejjel saret fl-iskola primarja tal-kulleġġ San Alwiġi f'Ftal Balzan fejn l-istudenti setgħu jiltaqgħu mal-awtur u jisingħu partijiet mir-rakkonti, li jitrattaw allat, faragħuni, rejiet u diversi karattri oħra li jgħaddu minn għadd ta' avventuri matul sekli differenti.

## VICTIM SUPPORT MALTA – AN INSIGHT

TIMES OF MALTA Nicola Abela Garrett on July 29, 2016



**Dr Roberta Lepre** is the Director of **Victim Support Malta**, an independent non-profit organisation that had been founded a decade ago. Its mission is to assist victims of crime in the hope of helping them get through the criminal justice system. As a lawyer, she had been very much attracted to the idea of working for NGOs, which tend to be much less bureaucratic and therefore more effective in many ways. She finds the field of victim's rights challenging and intriguing.

**At Victim Support Malta, you're aided by a professional team of coordinators. What would you say have so far been the biggest challenges that you've faced in your efforts to help your clients?**

At VSM, we're lucky to have a small but very dedicated group of staff members and volunteers. Our biggest challenge is that of ensuring that we've enough resources to cover staff costs, in order to continue providing services for our clients.

**Independent** **With regards to cyberbullying, there's always the blurred crux of freedom of expression. How does Victim Support Malta work around this?**

Bullying is subjective and therefore, irrespective of whether a particular action constitutes a criminal offence or otherwise, we adopt a victim-centred approach and will support a victim if that person feels aggrieved or hurt by someone's comments. As with all other rights, freedom of expression is not absolute; the right to express yourself freely needs to be balanced against the other person's right to live free from fear or violence.

**We're often told that several victims hold back from coming forward and speaking up. What do you think is the main cause behind this within the Maltese context?**

Many victims fail to report a crime, and there are various reasons for this. There's the general lack of trust in the criminal justice system, the fear of not being believed or of being ridiculed, the fear of retribution from the offender and the perceived costs of getting involved in lengthy court proceedings. From our end, our service is confidential and we'll not report a case to the police or any other authority unless there's fear of harm to self or others. Therefore, we provide a safe space for victims to talk about their experience without having to officially report it.



DOI - Photo - Pierre Sammut

**Aside from raising awareness, what kind of direct action can a citizen take to help victims?**

In Malta we're very lucky to have a variety of free services offered by both the State and the NGO sector. However, many people are not aware of where to go to get what kind of support. Therefore, besides generally raising awareness about victims' rights, something simple that citizens can do is simply refer them to us or to any other relevant service. *Visit Victim Support Malta for more information.*



### MALTESE NEWSLETTER

The Journal of the Maltese Diaspora

The magazine that builds bridges between  
Maltese all over the world

## Widow's soup (soppa tal-armla) by Alexandra Vella



### Another Maltese Recipe

A simple, delicious soup made from fresh vegetables including kohlrabi, peas and broad beans. It's healthy and low fat. If you can find soft gbejniet cheese (available from selected delis and cheese makers), pop it into the hot soup for a few minutes before serving and you'll enjoy the beautiful taste of molten cheese too.

**Serves 6    Preparation 20 min**  
**Cooking 30 min    Skill level Easy**

### Ingredients

- **tbsp** butter
- **1 tbsp** olive oil
- **1** onion, diced
- **3–4** garlic cloves, crushed
- **⅔ cup** chopped parsley
- **2** potatoes, peeled and chopped
- **2** carrots, peeled and chopped
- **1** kohlrabi, peeled and chopped
- **2** celery stalks, sliced
- **1 cup** podded broad beans (fresh or frozen)
- **1 cup** podded peas (fresh or frozen)
- **½** large or **1** small cauliflower, cut into bite-sized pieces
- **1½ tbsp** tomato paste
- vegetable or chicken stock
- salt and pepper
- **6** soft gbejniet (small Maltese cheeses)

### Method

Heat the butter and oil in a large saucepan and add the onion, garlic and most of the parsley. Sauté until soft. Add the vegetables, tomato paste and enough stock to cover. Stir well and season to taste with salt and pepper. Bring to the boil, cover and simmer for 15–20 minutes, until the vegetables are just cooked.

Add the gbejniet and press down lightly to submerge. Cover and cook for a couple of minutes to heat the cheese. Add the remaining parsley to the soup and stir through.

Ladle the soup into bowls, topping each with a round of gbejniet.



## National bird 'has never been recognised officially' Il-Merill – national bird...or is it?

Songs and poems were dedicated to Malta's 'national bird', Il-Merill, which also featured on old currency, but new research indicates it got its title by popular mandate and there is nothing official declaring it so.



The same can be said for the 'national plant', Widnet il-Baħar, (the sea's ear) or Maltese rock-centaury.

"The only official recognition was a first day cover with stamps showing these two species on September 18, 1971. Otherwise, there was never a legal notice or a proclamation in The Malta Government Gazette declaring the Maltese national bird and plant," ornithologist Natalino Fenech said.

The stamps were issued on the recommendation of the Plant a Tree Committee, set up by the Ministry of Agriculture, in July 1970. The Natural History Society of Malta, set up by Guido Lanfranco, had been lobbying for Widnet il-Baħar to become the national plant. The plant was first described by Maltese naturalist Stefano Zerafa in 1827 and was adopted as the symbol of the Natural History Society of Malta since its inception in the 1960s.

The bird, blue rock thrush in English, on the other hand, was chosen as the national bird by the International Council for Bird Preservation Malta, which had representatives of the Natural History Society, the Malta Ornithological Society and the Malta Geographical Society.

In 1964, it became the emblem of the Malta Ornithological Society but it was ditched in 1995, the MOS became Birdlife Malta and the logo became a tern, which is part of the corporate logo of Birdlife International. The Natural History Society of Malta, which evolved into Nature Trust, no longer had the 'national plant' as its emblem either, Dr Fenech pointed out.



### History of Maltese Independence Day September 1964

Malta's position in the Mediterranean sea has made the islands a strategically important location since classical times, with the islands passing from one ruler to another through the ages.

In 1800, the British had assisted Malta in removing the occupying French forces and the Maltese people had asked to become a sovereign nation in the British Empire. This was ratified in the treaty of Paris in 1815. As a result of Malta's heroic stand against the Italian and German forces in World War II, the British King George VI vowed that self-government would be restored at the end of the war if the Maltese people wanted it, leading to self-government being granted in 1947.

The movement for independence gained pace after self rule was granted and after a few false starts, including a close referendum that would have made Malta part of the United Kingdom, independence was finally granted on 21 September 1964. Ten years later, Malta became a republic.



## The mammoth wasp (Iz-Zunzan)

**Paul Portelli**

The mammoth wasp is the largest wasp you will encounter in Malta or, for that matter, anywhere in Europe. It belongs to a family of wasps known as scolid wasps and, in fact, is also known as the large yellow-banded scolid wasp.

About 200 species are known to exist in the world, most of which are predators of beetle larvae. Some are important biocontrol agents.

The female mammoth wasp can grow up to 40mm or 45mm in length. Males are smaller, reaching a maximum of 30mm. It is a very conspicuous insect, seen from late spring to early autumn, especially in valleys and garigue areas with wild artichoke (qaqoċċ tax-xewk) plants growing in the vicinity. I have also seen them on the large pink flowers of the kaffir fig (xuxet San Ġwann).

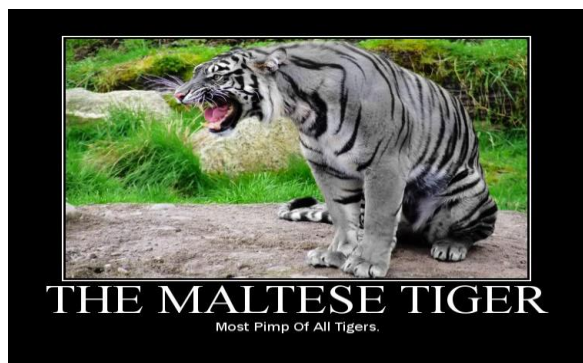
In spite of its large size and warning colours, it is not dangerous and does not pose any threat to humans. Only females have stings, and these are used mainly to paralyse the white larvae of Europe's largest beetle – the rhinoceros beetle. She then lays a single egg in the larva's body.

When the egg hatches, the wasp larva starts to feed on the larva's internal tissues. It eventually kills it and continues eating it until nothing is left but an empty skin. When fully grown, the larva forms a cocoon and emerges in spring when the air has warmed up sufficiently.

In Maltese the mammoth wasp is known as qerd iż-żaqquq. Qerd is Maltese for destroyer but I could not find the meaning of żaqquq. I assume that as this wasp kills the larvae of the rhinoceros beetle, żaqquq could be a lost name for this insect which nowadays is known as buqarn kbir.

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The **Maltese tiger**, or **blue tiger**, is a reported but unproven coloration morph of a tiger,



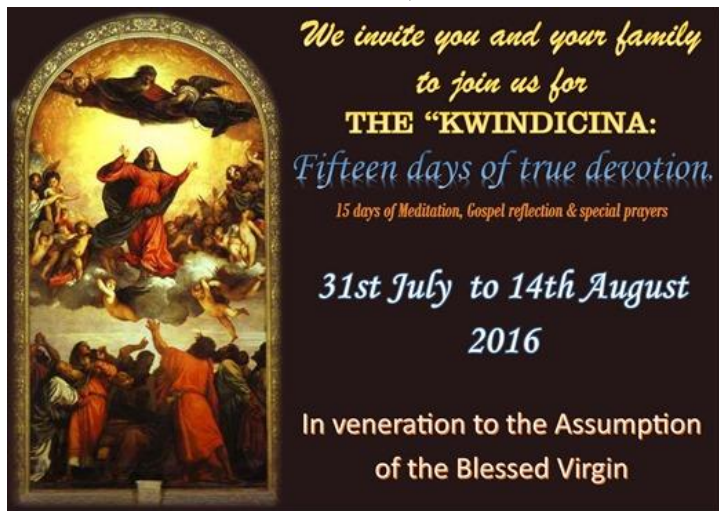
reported mostly in the Fujian Province of China. It is said to have bluish fur with dark grey stripes. Most of the Maltese tigers reported have been of the South Chinese subspecies. The South Chinese tiger today is critically endangered, due to their illegal and continued use in traditional Chinese medicine<sup>[1]</sup> and the "blue" alleles may be wholly extinct. Blue tigers have also been reported in Korea.

The term "Maltese" comes from domestic cat terminology for blue fur, and refers to the slate grey coloration. Many cats with such colouration are present in Malta, which may have given rise to the use of the adjective in this context.



## TA' PINU SHRINE – BACCHUS MARSH – VICTORIA

Dear Brothers and Sisters,



In preparation for the Solemnity of the Assumption of Our Lady, we invite you all to join us for the "kwindicina". The "Fifteen-days" devotion "Kwindicina" is a devotion to Our Lady as a preparation to the Solemnity of the her Assumption into heaven. It was included in the Maltese Ritual of Sacraments and Popular devotions issued in 1967. We, as a Nation, are very obliged to the Feast of the Assumption of The Blessed Virgin. Wishing that this devotion reaches, as many devotees of Our Lady as possible,

we decided to publish these beautiful thoughts adapted from Fr. A. Dimech's book published in May 2002. These will be posted on a daily basis as from 31st July and we hope that you will be in great numbers in joining us for this unique veneration. either on Website, facebook, Looking forward to be with you in prayer daily... **Msgr Benedict Camilleri**

## Local Crafts

Crafts have undergone a revival in recent years. Not solely because they make interesting souvenirs but also because of their high cultural value to the Islands. Some crafts, such as knitwear, basketware and lace, have a long history.



Other craft forms, such as weaving and pottery, date back to prehistoric times. The 'Sleeping Lady' found in the Hypogeum is a clay figurine of exquisite workmanship. In the **Tarxien Temples**, archaeologist also found fragments of red-dyed, flax textiles. These fabrics showed that the prehistoric islanders had considerable skills in weaving.

The **Arabs** introduced cotton into Malta from around 870 A.D. and brought also their expertise in weaving and dyes. Cotton production became a major rural industry from medieval times up to the early 19th century. During the time of **the Knights**, Gozitan cotton linen was highly-prized in mainland Europe.

Weaving, embroidery and lace-making were encouraged, often by the Church. Life in Gozo and much of rural Malta was relatively harsh and craft industries became a main source of income for rural families. Such was the workmanship of these textiles during the 17th century, that various Grand Masters prohibited the wearing of embroidered and fancy garments considering them frivolous and out of keeping with the Order's religious calling.

A craft that really flourished under the Knights was gold and silver ware. Malta's most precious production is filigree and jewellery. Today, Maltese goldsmiths are thriving, their work often exported to major cities abroad.

## Alda's Traditional Hand Weaving



Weaving is one of the oldest crafts in the Maltese Archipelago. As early as prehistoric times the Maltese weavers were famous for their craftsmanship. For many centuries weaving remained an important industry in these Islands. Every family had its loom and every member of the family gave his share of work in this craft, men planted and harvested cotton, children helped in washing the local sheep's wool and women worked on the looms. All family and house necessities such as clothes and blankets were woven at home. In fact the Maltese national costume is entirely made from hand woven material. However during the last decades of the 20th Century weaving lost much of its household use and did not remain so popular. Presently very few weavers still operate in these islands and an effort is being made not to let this noble craft die a natural death.

Alda Bugeja is the prime weaver on these Islands. In fact on the 2nd November 2000 in recognition of her outstanding performance in the crafts sector she was presented with the prestigious national award for Achievement in Industry. Weaving has been part of Alda's life since her early childhood. Watching her mother and older sisters deftly weaving intricate patterns it did not take her long to start experimenting on her own. In fact at the tender age of five years she started weaving her first pieces of material.

As time passed on weaving became her main hobby and she became a talented weaver. Although nowadays one can find electrical weaving equipment Alda has opted to continue using traditional equipment and methods while spinning the sheep's wool, preparing the warp and weaving. However, although using traditional equipment, it does not mean that Alda has not diversified her range of products. She uses all types of yarn and in all shades of colour for her woven items always keeping in mind to use the appropriate material and colour for the intended finished product. In order to adapt to present modern requirements apart from traditional rugs, blankets and national costumes she nowadays also produces among others, wall hangings, curtains, and lampshades. She is often commissioned to weave articles for churches and other organizations.

While weaving mostly in traditional patterns she has also created and often designs original patterns so as to meet the specific tastes and requirements of her clients. She is always striving to create new patterns and ideas while adhering to traditional weaving. Alda's main aim while producing her works is the high quality of her products as she believes that every serious artisan should do. Contact us by: 'Bright Eyes', Dun Pawl Micallef Street, Ir-Rabat (Victoria), Malta .

It is my pleasure to receive and read this magnificent Newsletter. The variety of articles reaches the young and the not so young. I print them all and keep them in my folio and share them with my relatives and friends – Maltese and non-Maltese. It's an encyclopaedia. N.C. Sammut





# St John Rescue Corps – Malta



St John Rescue Corps was founded by the late Anthony, the Marquis Buttigieg De Piro (1932-2012).

In 1986, the Marquis Buttigieg De Piro began to raise a corps of rescue volunteers, which would form a new and separate branch within St John Ambulance (Malta). The request to raise a

Rescue Corps under the banner of St John was done in order to meet the need of a support civil defence unit in Malta, consisting of adult volunteers fully trained in rescue and first aid.

The first rescue courses organised for the new volunteer recruits of the newly-formed St John Rescue Corps, were carried out by Marquis Buttigieg de Piro himself with the assistance of instructors from the Armed Forces of Malta. However, help was available from far and wide – the newly formed organisation received equipment, vehicles and uniforms from Germany, the United Kingdom and Italy. These initial donations and offers to help, enabled the Corps to commence operations and provide a sterling and impeccable service that is now approaching its 30th year since its foundation. Having been the founder and Corps Commander of the St John Rescue Corps for the first 20 years, Marquis Buttigieg de Piro retired in 2006, remaining Corps Vice President until his passing away.

St John Rescue Corps still operates under the same mission statement and while it does not have any regular donors or benefactors, still heavily relies on the generosity of the public in order to uphold the objectives instilled by its honourable founder.

Together with the St John Ambulance Association's Training Branch and the Ambulance Brigade (First Aid & Nursing), the Rescue Corps forms part of the St John Association of Malta and operates under the auspices of the Order of St John, of which Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II is Sovereign Head.

**Training** The Human Resources Management branch coordinates training for new recruits and active volunteers.

Each recruit must be over eighteen years of age, physically fit for the rigours of rescue work and must undergo a program of basic training which includes basic first aid, light rescue and foot drill, which is also part of the initial training. Cadet volunteers may join at the age of 16.

After this, a fully trained and certified Rescue Volunteer Class I is required to undertake a minimum of training every month. Many of the volunteers take further advanced courses during weekends in the more specialised and demanding fields of heavy rescue, cliff (high-angle) rescue, fire fighting, first aid and rescue diving.

The Corps also offers its volunteers other training options such as watermanship, climbing, abseiling and physical training, the aim being to inspire more confidence and to maintain physical fitness.

Most of the officers of the Corps as well as some of the senior leaders, qualified in Special Rescue Training at the Katastrophenschutzschule des Bundes – the Federal German Civil Defence Staff Training School in Ahrweiler, Germany. St John Rescue Corps Headquarters and Training School is based at Fort Madalena.

The Rescue Corps has taken part in numerous exercises together with the Department of Civil Protection in Malta, the Malta Police Force and the Armed Forces of Malta.

## Good news for patients with rare blood groups



*Blood is needed everyday...*

*Over 300,000 people in Malta  
can donate blood but  
barely 5% do.*

Blood Donation - Malta

Patients with very rare blood groups have been granted a lifeline thanks to new equipment which will make it possible to freeze their own blood bags for up to 10 years. The €130,000 machine removes water from blood cells and replaces it with glycerol, making it possible to freeze at a temperature of up to -80°C. The process is then reversed when the time comes to use the blood.

The equipment was unveiled this morning at the blood processing laboratories next to St Luke's Hospital by Health Minister Chris Fearne and National Blood Transfusion Services director Alex Aquilina. During the event Jenifer Cornthwaite, whose blood group is so rare just 0.04 per cent of the world's population share it, recounted her experience when she had to wait for six weeks until a European donor was finally found.



### DVD SIMSHAR

Dear Consul Scicluna,  
I hope this finds you well. I wanted to let you know that the Simshar DVD has just been made available for pre order from this Monday. The official site is: [zaar.com.mt](http://www.zaar.com.mt) and this link will take you to the Simshar page directly: <http://www.zaar.com.mt/projects/simshar-official-dvd/> On the site there is all the information about what the DVD contains, other possible things

like posters and bundle special prices etc. However I just wanted to let you know that if you wanted to place an order of more than 3 you can do it directly through me and not the site as I can give a further discount on orders over 3. Best regards from sunny Malta,

**Rebecca Cremona**

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## Stamp issue to mark 100th anniversary of the birth of Dom Mintoff

MaltaPost is marking the 100th Anniversary from the birth of former Maltese Prime Minister Dom Mintoff by the release of a stamp issue.

Born in Cospicua on 6 August 1916 Dominic Mintoff was known for his extensive and distinguished political career in Malta which included a number of terms as Prime Minister.

The stamp shows Dom Mintoff in a classical photographic portrait and bears a face value of €3.00. Printex Limited produced the stamp by the offset process and the print run is limited to 50,000 stamps each bearing the Maltese Crosses watermark. The stamp measures 31mm by 44mm with a perforation of 13.9 x 14.0 comb while a sheet of 10 stamps measures 185mm by 115mm.



Complementing this issue, MaltaPost and the Central Bank of Malta will be launching a joint product consisting of a silver foil stamp replica and a commemorative coin. The silver foil stamp replica depicts the €3.00 postage stamp from the '100th Anniversary of the Birth of Dominic Mintoff' stamp issue in full colour.

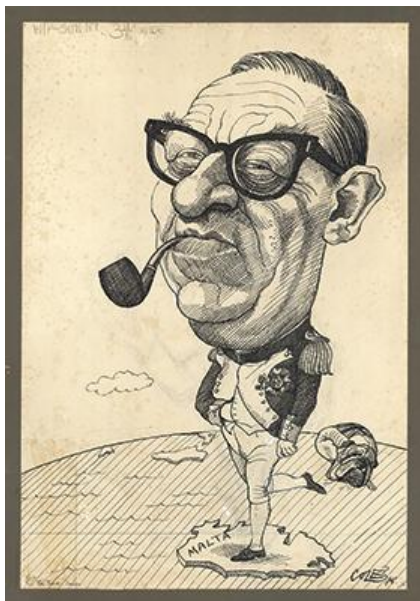
The silver coin depicts Mintoff's portrait and has a diameter of 38.61mm with a face value of €10.00. The silver foil stamp replica and the commemorative coin are housed in a presentation box together with a certificate of authenticity.

These items will be available as from 6th August 2016 from any Post Office, online at [www.maltaphilately.com](http://www.maltaphilately.com) or by mail from the Philatelic Bureau, MaltaPost p.l.c. 305, Qormi Road, Marsa, MTP 1001; Telephone: 2596 1740; email: [info@maltaphilately.com](mailto:info@maltaphilately.com)



*Believe me... this publication would not have been successful without the help and support of our readers, contributors and friends. Your regular emails of appreciation are always gratefully welcomed and give us courage to keep producing such a high quality journal.*  
*Editor - Frank Scicluna*

## Cartoon exhibition charts Mintoff's political evolution



A cartoon by Richard Cole depicts the former prime minister, in a pose traditionally associated with Napoleon Bonaparte, having kicked the British bulldog seen lurking in the background.

There may not be many facets of Dom Mintoff that remain unexplored, but a first-time exhibition of newspaper cartoons about him – from his own private collection – offers a fresh insight into the character of the former prime minister.

The National Archives are exhibiting 32 cartoons, collected and framed by Mr Mintoff himself, to mark the 100th anniversary of his birth, which falls on Saturday.

Twenty-nine of the cartoons, by 17 different cartoonists, were published in the British press, while the remaining three came from *The Sunday Times of Malta* and the *Times of Malta*. The earliest dates back to 1956.

The cartoons chart the political evolution of the man who was once revered by Labour Party supporters: on display are his efforts towards integration with the UK, his fallout with the

British government in the early 1970s and his final days in Parliament in 1998.

There are digs at his reputation for sudden mood changes, which the press depicted as a calculated negotiating tactic, and jabs at his close relationship with Libya and its leader Muammar Gaddafi. Known affectionately by his followers as Il-Perit, Mr Mintoff was a socialist throughout his life and is remembered most for social reforms and the welfare state he developed as Prime Minister from 1955 to 1958 and 1971 to 1984.

He is also the man who undermined Paul Boffa's government in the late 1940s and Alfred Sant's government a generation later. The exhibition – called *Magical Mintoff* after a cartoon depicting Mr Mintoff as a magician – opens on Wednesday and will run until August 13 at the National Archives in the Banca Giuratale at Mdina.



Landing on the Island of Malta





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# news update



## YOUTH EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM

Youth empowerment is a process of capacity-building needed to partake in society. It means youth participation in formal and informal decision-making, but also the participation of young people in society, through access to education, employment and health, as well as to

resources. Empowering young people means allowing them the opportunity to make responsible decisions that affect their lives – allowing them to be active agents for development and change. The aim of the Youth Empowerment Programme is to serve as a medium through which young people will be given tools to understand issues that are influencing their quality of life and become empowered to take action. This programme incorporates a series of project initiatives for young people both at national and local level. These initiatives aim to enable young people take further control of their lives, become motivated and develop further their own learning and resourcefulness to take up further studies, improve their employability skills and take action in the community to bring about social change.

We hope that you have found the information in this website useful -

<http://www.agenzijazghazagh.gov.mt/>. If you require further assistance do not hesitate to contact us from one of the following:

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## ***The evolution of office technology: From the typewriter to the tablet – Nick Heath***



A journey through 40 years of office technology.

For decades people have spent the majority of their working lives sitting in offices.

But while offices are still commonplace, today's workplace has very little in common with that of our grandparents' generation. Typewriters have given way to computers, computers and phones have shrunk down to devices we can carry in our pocket and ubiquitous internet means work is always with us, for better or worse.

The contribution of modern technology to each worker's productivity is nearly five times greater today than it was in the 1970s, according to a study by the Centre for Economic and Business Research, conducted on behalf of telecoms operator O2.

This scene captures the office of the 1950s and 1960s, from the solid metal Remington typewriter to the bulky Bakelite hand-dialled telephone. The receptionist would generally have operated the

switchboard and routed all of the calls. The mock-up is part of an exhibition showing the evolution of the office over the past 40 years to mark the launch of The O2 Business Show Live in the Business Design Centre in Islington, London.

In the 50s and 60s, the typewriter, 100 years old at the time, was a standard piece of equipment in the office. Computers were still in their infancy and IBM was establishing the Selectric as the de facto standard typewriter in offices, replacing the raucous clack of the older typebar machines with its quieter gyrating typeballs. Workplace roles were more unequal than today, with women generally employed to do the typing for men.

At the time the annual UK salary was just over £100, with 70 percent of British workers employed in manual labour. It wasn't until this time that it became the norm in Britain to work five days a week rather than six.



## About Malta > Legends and Beliefs

### **Il-Gawgaw**

In the past, December 24 was considered a most unfavorable day for birth. According to a superstitious belief which lingered on among the Maltese up to the end of the 19th century, persons who were born on Christmas Eve were to be transformed into a ghost called "il-Gawgaw". This had to happen only once a year, on this day, while these persons were asleep. In the form of a "Gawgaw", they wandered about frightening people with their groaning. Children were told that if they misbehaved, the "Gawgaw" would kidnap them and take them far far away in a distant land, where they would die of hunger and loneliness.

Towards dawn the persons transformed in a "Gawgaw" returned home exhausted. By the time they woke up in the morning they would have resumed their human form, quite unaware of their nocturnal peregrinations. The remedy against this transformation consisted in inducing the sufferer to sit up all night and to count the holes of a sieve from eleven o' clock at night to the following Christmas morning.

**Saint Paul's Grotto** According to a legend, the Grotto of St. Paul in Rabat, Malta remains the same size in spite of the fact that people remove pieces of rock from this cave as souvenirs. Another legend in connection with St. Paul says that when he was preaching at Burmarrad, his voice carried as far away as Gozo where the people there flocked on the coast to hear his sermon.

**Saint Paul and the Venomous Viper** This is perhaps the most well known legend in Malta. This legend is also written down in the Holy Bible, in the chapters regarding the shipwreck of St. Paul and his stay in Malta. It is believed that when St. Paul was gathering wood to make a fire to warm himself and the other shipwrecked people, a venomous viper sprang out of the sticks and bit him. The Maltese, who were very superstitious at the time, expected him to die of poisoning but instead no harm happened to him. It is said that from that day snakes and scorpions in Malta became quite harmless and non-poisonous.

**The Legend of Ghajn Razul** It is believed that the spring known as Ghajn Razul, in the areas of Burmarrad, was the work of St. Paul who needed water for his shipmates after their shipwreck on Malta. The name 'Razul' is derived from the Phoenician language and means 'apostle', thus giving more credibility to the Pauline connection. Of more importance is the fact that if this was truly the work of St. Paul it would point to his shipwreck being in St. Paul's Bay and not at Mistra where there was another spring.

**Treasure at Fort Ricasoli** The Maltese ghost is often referred to as "il-hares" (pl. "ihirsa"), perhaps a relative of the Roman "Lares" (household gods). Once, a "hares" in the form of a Turk, awakened a workman at Fort Ricasoli (by the Grand Harbor) and told him of a big treasure within the fort area. This workman told one of his colleagues and together they went to look at the indicated spot. They found a lot of coal coins. As in other local folk tales the coins were turned to coal. The following night the "hares" reappeared and beat up the workman for sharing the secret. The moral of this legend is: What the "hares" tells you is for your eyes only!

**Tal-Maqluba** This legend says that where today lies the area known as "tal-Maqluba", just south of the Maltese village of Qrendi, there once was an evil village. The people were so bad that God punished them by opening the ground and the whole village was swallowed by the earth. The opening in the ground stopped exactly in front a chapel, which is still present just by the edge of this enormous hole which is around 50 meters in circumference and around 40 meters deep.



## Our Lady of Victories Church, Valletta



**Our Lady of Victories Church** was the first church and building completed in Valletta, Malta. In 1566, following the Great Siege of Malta, Grand Master Jean Parisot de Valette and his Order showed interest to build a church in the name of the Nativity of the Virgin as a form of thanksgiving; the construction was funded by De Valette.

The church was built to commemorate the victory of the Knights of the Order of St John and the Maltese over the Ottoman invaders on 8 September 1565.<sup>[1]</sup> It was built on the site where a religious ceremony was held to inaugurate the laying of the foundation stone of the new city of Valletta on 28 March 1566. A church was chosen as the first building in order to express gratitude. Not only is the church dedicated to the Nativity of the Virgin, but the titular painting is situated behind the main altar as well and it depicts the birth of the Blessed Virgin.

Grandmaster Jean Parisot de Valette funded the building's construction. He died of a fever on 21 August 1568 and was entombed in the crypt of the church. However, when St. John's Co-Cathedral was built, his remains were moved to there.

In 1617, the order of St John chose this church as their parish church. The church was then dedicated to St Anthony of Egypt. In 1699, the apse of the church was enlarged on the orders of Grand Master Ramon Perellos y Roccaful. In 1716, Maltese artist Alessio Erardi was commissioned by Perellos to paint the vault with elemental scenes portraying the Life of the Virgin; these were finished in two years. In 1752, the façade, sacristy, belfry and the parish priest's house were enlarged. The façade received a beautiful baroque look. The façade also includes a bronze bust of Pope Innocent XII.<sup>[4]</sup> In addition, in the second part of the 18th century, apart from the altars dedicated to St John the Baptist and St Paul, two other altars were built.<sup>[2]</sup>

In 1837, the church became the Garrison Church to the Royal Malta Fencibles which later became the Royal Malta Artillery. Throughout the years, the church experienced several damages both to its structure and to its paintings. On 23 April 1942, the church ceiling was damaged as a consequence of an air raid that hit Valletta which also destroyed the nearby Royal Opera House.<sup>[2]</sup> In 1943, once again on 8 September another enemy, this time round the Italian fleet, surrenders; the church is now that of 'Our Lady of Victories'.

In 2000, the National trust of Malta, Din l-Art Ħelwa, started a project of restoration. On 8 September 2011, Din l-Art Ħelwa was entrusted as the guardian of the church by the government of Malta. Restoration is ongoing. The church has a number of artistic treasures. The paintings on each end above the altar depict St Anthony of Egypt and St Anthony of Padua. These were brought to Malta in 1530 by the Knights of Malta after the Emperor Charles V gave the island to the Order of St John as its base. The church also contains works by Francesco Zahra, Ermenegildo Grech and Enrico Arnaux.

In 1716, Ramon Perellos y Roccaful commissioned Alessio Erardi to paint the vault of the church. He painted scenes from the life of the Virgin Mary. In 1792, Venetian Grand Admiral Angelo Emo died in Malta. He wished for his heart to be buried in the Lady of Victories church; a monument in his name by Maltese sculptor Vincenzo Dimech was erected in 1802.<sup>[2]</sup>

In 2000, the National trust of Malta, Din l-Art Ħelwa, started a project of restoration along with the Valletta Rehabilitation Project and the Museums Department. Restoration was carried out on the roof, finials and part of the belfry, which was sponsored by Computime. The exterior restoration was completed by 2002; PricewaterhouseCoopers was a major sponsor. The interior renovation started in 2004. The church is still being restored and work should conclude by 2016. The church building is listed on the National Inventory of the Cultural Property of the Maltese Islands.

# Controversial Mrieħel towers given the go-ahead



*An impression issued by the PA.*

The Planning Authority has given the go-ahead for the building of four towers in Mrieħel despite legal concerns and vociferous objections from environmental organisations.

During a packed public hearing, the application by Tumas and Gasan Holdings was approved by the board with only Opposition representative Ryan Callus and eNGO representative Annick Bonello voting against.

The project, a €70 million development in the limits of the Mrieħel industrial estate, comprises

four cylindrical towers of 14, 16, 17 and 19 storeys respectively, overlying five basement levels.

The developers say the towers will be a “milestone” development and contribute to the development of Mrieħel as an up-market financial district.

Objectors, however, insist it will have a negative impact on iconic long-distance views – including between Valletta and Mdina – and strain the local infrastructure, as well as creating a huge parking shortfall.

They also questioned the manner in which Mrieħel was designated as an appropriate location for high-rise buildings after the close of public consultation, and called for a decision to be deferred until a masterplan for Mrieħel is concluded.



## Planning Authority approves Sliema tower project despite storm of objections

**Updated** - The Planning Authority has approved an application for the 38-storey Townsquare Project in Tigne, angering residents and the Sliema Local Council who have vehemently opposed the project.

PA Chairman Vince Cassar and deputy chairwoman Elizabeth Ellul both voted against the proposal, but were narrowly

outvoted 7-6 by the PA board after a long and often-heated public hearing. “I am aware that the Tigne’ area is designated for high-rise developments, but in my opinion this is an exaggerated development. A lower development could have been considered more in line with the area. I am also concerned by the excessive noise during construction: it is no solution to say that residents should keep their windows closed.”

Local council representative Paul Radmilli said the large reduction in parking spaces on Qui-Si-Sana Seafront was a “red line” for the council. During the hearing, Mr Radmilli also raised concerns about drainage and the predicted traffic increase, describing the impact assessment as inadequate.

The 38-storey Townsquare tower will include 159 apartments, 4,700 square metres of offices, 10,000 square metres of retail space and 748 parking spaces. The project will include the restoration of the nearby Villa Drago. “The project achieves the rehabilitation of Villa Drago, as well as creating wide avenues and pedestrianised open landscaped areas which will benefit not only residents of the complex but also neighbours,” project architect Martin Xuereb said during the public hearing.

*I think we can say we have created a landmark building worthy of Sliema and Tigne- Architect*