

Photo - DOI - Reuben Piscopo

## Bulgaria President on state visit to Malta:

President of Malta, Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca, received President of Bulgaria, Rosen Plevneliev, at The Palace in Valletta at the beginning of President Plevneliev's State Visit to Malta.

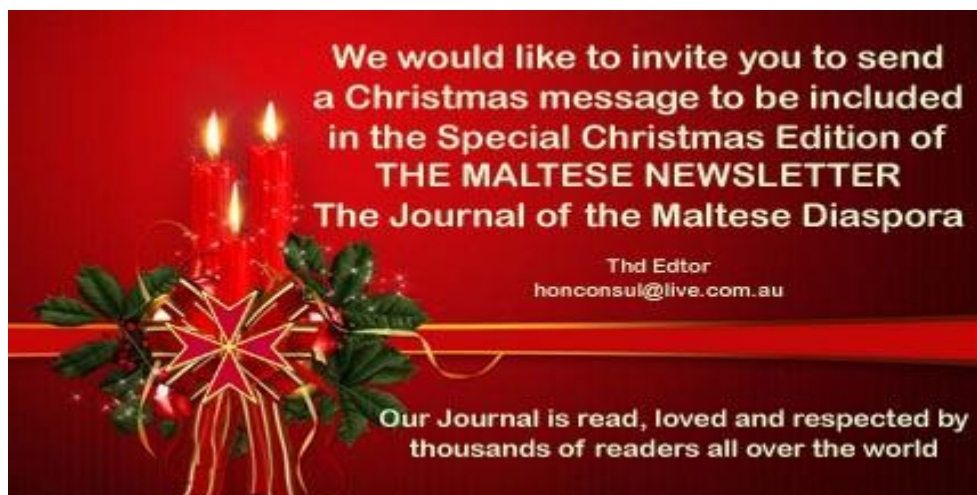
Following an exchange of gifts and decorations, both Presidents held bilateral talks together with their

respective delegations. The topics covered during the meeting circled around Malta's main priorities on the agenda of its EU Presidency in January 2017; the single digital market, the energy market, social inclusion and the current situation in the Mediterranean.

President Coleiro Preca said that Malta and Bulgaria enjoy excellent diplomatic and political relations, as well as great people-to-people contact, with tourism between the two countries being the perfect example, coupled with the fact that in Malta there is a Bulgarian community of around 6,000 people.

She said that despite the excellent relations, both Presidents discussed further potential between both countries, adding that 'there is much scope for looking into how both countries can develop further bilateral trade'. During the meetings both Presidents also mentioned English language learning, where there are also possibilities for young Bulgarians to come to Malta to learn English.

Finally, she thanked the Bulgarian President for the constructive meeting of the Arraiolos Group, held in Bulgaria last September. The Arraiolos Group is made up of non-executive heads of states, and it meets every year.



## PRESS RELEASE

**THE MALTA HIGH COMMISSION  
ACT AUSTRALIA**

On 3 November 2016, Ms. Julianne Hince, High Commissioner-designate of Australia to Malta, with non-resident accreditation to Tunisia, called at the Chancery for pre-posting consultations with High Commissioner Charles Muscat.

Besides mentioning the excellent relations that exists between the two countries during their conversation they also mentioned about the Maltese community in Australia and the excellent work they've conducted to support the Community.

High Commissioner Charles Muscat gave an overall picture of how the committees and councils operate within their different communities and how they manage to keep the Maltese culture alive since the early Maltese migrants settled in Australia.

Both High Commissioner Charles Muscat and High Commissioner-designate Julianne Hince agreed that they should keep close contact to ensure that existing friendly relations between Malta & Australia are maintained and enhanced.



High Commissioner Charles Muscat received courtesy calls at the Chancery from H.E. Mrs. Ekaterini Xagorari, Ambassador of Greece (RIGHT), H.E. Mr. Vakur Gokdenizler, Ambassador of Turkey and H.E. Mr. Lars Backstrom, Ambassador of Finland (LEFT). General discussions evolved around the present migration situation in the Mediterranean and Malta's Presidency in the first half of 2017.

The High Commissioner and Ambassadors assured each other of their cooperation on matters of mutual concern.

They augured each other that the excellent relations that exist will be nurtured and further strengthened.



## **REMEMBRANCE DAY NOVEMBER 11, 2016 IN THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL CITY**



High Commissioner Charles Muscat attended the Remembrance Day 2016 Ceremony at the Australian War Memorial on 11 November 201 and laid a wreath on behalf of the Government and people of the Republic of Malta.

Present in this year's ceremony were Governor General of Australia, Sir Peter Cosgrove, Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull and Opposition Leader Bill Shorten, Australian War

Memorial Director, Dr. Brendan Nelson, to name a few, and foreign diplomats, who also laid wreaths at the Stone of Remembrance to honor the fallen soldiers.

3700 gathered this year at the Australian War Memorial this year to remember the more than 102,000 Australians who lost their lives in wars and other operations



## **AUSTRALIA'S ANZAC CENTENARY OF FIRST WORLD WAR 1914-1918**

Between 2014 and 2018 Australia will commemorate the Anzac Centenary, marking 100 years since our nation's involvement in the First World War. The Anzac Centenary is a milestone of special significance to all Australians. The First World War helped define us

as a people and as a nation.

During the Anzac Centenary we will remember not only the original Anzacs who served at Gallipoli and the Western Front, but commemorate more than a century of service by Australian servicemen and women. The Anzac Centenary Program encompasses all wars, conflicts and peacekeeping operations in which Australians have been involved. The Program aims to give all Australians the opportunity to honour the service and sacrifice of all those who have worn our nation's uniform, including the more than 102,000 who have made the supreme sacrifice.

It also aims to encourage all Australians to reflect upon and learn more about Australia's military history, its costs and its impacts on our nation. The little island of Malta, just in the middle of the Mediterranean Sea, played an important part during the first world war so much so that it earned the title of The Nurse of the Mediterranean. A strong bond exists between the three countries since then – Australia, New Zealand and Malta.

Among the several Maltese whose names are forever recorded at Helles Memorial overlooking the Dardanelles there is that of Major Herbert Sammut who died when he was in command of Essex Regiment and Lieutenant Herbert Huber. He was a member of the Royal Iniskilling Fusiliers and was killed few hours before the British forces successfully evacuated from the Turkish soil. Unfortunately, his remains were never discovered.

Many other Maltese migrants were among the casualties at Gallipoli. There were 800 Maltese labourers serving under Maltese officers in Gallipoli. A young private, Andrew Camilleri, was 26 years old when he was killed in enemy action.

Indeed, Malta played a significant role in the Gallipoli campaign in 1915, not only as a back up base for the royal navy but also as one of the major hospitals in the Mediterranean. There were also convalescent centres and looked after 58 000 servicemen wounded during the World War I when Malta earned the title "**Nurse of the Mediterranean**". A number of them found their last resting place on Maltese shores.

There are 1500 British, 202 Anzac servicemen from Australia and 72 from New Zealand buried in Malta as well as French, Indians and Egyptians together with 26 Turkish prisoners. This was Malta's greatest contribution to the Allied's efforts during this terrible war.

#### **LEST WE FORGET – MALTESE INVOLVED IN WORLD WAR 1 1914-18**

**Hector Maistre** was engaged as a military interpreter with the French Army and posted to the headquarters of the Fourth Zouaves.

**Dr Henry Parnis**, eldest son of Judge Dr A. Parnis, living in London, volunteered his services on the outbreak of hostilities; he was gazetted Lieutenant in the Royal Army Medical Corps and served in France. William Parnis, son of Judge Parnis, enlisted in England and was given a commission in the Fourth East Kent Regiment. Being the son of a lawyer, he underwent his training with the Inns of Court Officers Training Corps.

Frederick Samut, son of Prof. Dr C. Samut, received a commission in the Worcestershire Regiment.

**Arthur Samut**, eldest son of Lieutenant Col. A. Samut, Chief Press Censor, proceeded to the front after joining the Artillery Company.

**Capt. B. H. Dunbar Vella**, Royal Army Medical Corps (RAMC), was wounded in northern France.

**Richard Agius** received a commission with the army for service at the front. Lieutenant Edgar Agius, brother of **Richard Agius**, was injured in the face in France and had a narrow escape inasmuch as he was struck by splinters of a shell that killed two men of his platoon immediately behind him..

**Capt. A. dei Baroni Sciberras Trigona** was wounded in France and received medical treatment in England.

**Lieutenant P.A. Micallef Eynaud**, King's Own Malta Regiment (KOMR), and Lieutenant W.R. Gatt were brought to Malta from the Dardanelles suffering from wounds and from dysentery respectively.

**Dr Alfred Vella** was given a commission in the Royal Medical Corps. He held several important hospital appointments and his medical skill earned for him flattering testimonials.

**Dr Giudo dei Marchesi De Piro d'Amico** of the University of Louvain was given a commission in the RAMC.

**Lieut. Col. Alfred Vella**, Royal Malta Artillery (RMA), joined the regiment in 1883, was made captain in 1892 and obtained field rank in 1897; he was active in Egypt during the Sudan Expedition in 1885; for his services he received the medal with clasp and Bronze Star. He commanded the RMA contingent at the Coronation festivities in London in 1911.

**Second Lieutenant A.H. Vella Bernard**, 1st Battalion, KOMR, joined the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force. He later arrived from the eastern theatre of war suffering from frostbite. He saw active service during operations in Serbia. He was treated at the Manoel Hospital.

**Captain R.A. Montanaro**, son of Col. Alfred Montanaro, who served with distinction in the Indian army, was the first Maltese to be decorated with the Military Cross for gallantry in the field. He was one of the youngest officers of that rank in the British army.

**Capt. F.M. Stivala** served with the Mounted Infantry in the Transvaal and received the medal with four clasps.

Lieutenant A.G. Dandria, Second Lieutenant J.E. Agius, and Second Lieutenant C.A. Muscat all volunteered for active service.

**Lieutenant H.W. Huber**, KOMR, was attached to the 1st Inniskilling Fusiliers; he was wounded in the trenches at Gallipoli, and was transferred to the base hospital at Alexandria, and later to Malta.

A number of Maltese officers proceeded to the Gallipoli peninsula with the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force (Malta Labour Corps KOMR Second Lieutenant E.A. Mifsud, H. Von Brockdorff and L. Samut; RMA Second Lieutenant H. Curmi and J. Mifsud; Mifsud and Von Brockdorff were later invalided to Malta suffering from dysentery.

**Lieutenant J.L. Muscat, KOMR**, was wounded in Gallipoli and invalided. In Malta he was treated at Tigné Hospital.

**Lieutenant P. Savona, RMA**, and **Lieutenant R. Mizzi, RMA**, served as gunnery instructors.

**Private Nicola Vella** of the 10th Highland Light Infantry was wounded in action and conveyed for treatment in a general hospital in Rouen.



## Hekuba

**Teatru Manoel** TIME Sat Nov 26th 2016 and Sun Nov 27th 2016 at 20:00 until 19:00

ADDRESS Malta, 115, Old Theatre Street, VallettaMalta

<https://www.mydestinationmalta.com/events/hekuba>

**BOOK NOW BOOK NOW**

L-Atturi: - Karmen Azzopardi, Mario Micallef, Michael Tabone, Anthony Ellul, Lee-N Abela, Alan Fenech, Andre Mangion

Kor: Marceline Galea, Kim Dalli, Michelle Zerafa, Daniela Carabott Pawley, Shelby Aquilina, Amanda Cachia, Veronica Mizzi, Claire Buhagiar, Maronia Mallia.

Traduzzjoni: Alfred Palma Direzzjoni: Josette Ciappara Dawma: 90 minuti

Hekuba hija waħda mit-traġedji kbar Griegi, miktuba minn Ewripide għall-ħabta tas-sena 424 Q.K., u sseħħ wara l-Gwerra ta' Trojja, iżda qabel ma l-Griegi jkunu telqu mill-Belt. Il-figura ċentrali hija Hekuba, il-mara tar-Re Prijamu, darba Reġina tal-Belt mirbuħa. Il-qofol tal-graġja huma n-niket bla qies ta' Hekuba għall-mewt ta' binha Polissena u l-vendetta tagħha mir-Re Polimestor, wara li dan ikun qatel bi tradiment lil binha Polidoru u seraqlu r-rigali li kien ħa miegħu. Id-dramm jiftaħ bil-fantażma taż-żagħżuġ Polidoru, li jtarraf kif wara li Trojja tkun tilfet il-gwerra, huwa kien intbagħat għand ir-Re Polimestor biex dan jieħu ħsiebu; iżda Polimestor jittradih, joqtlu, u jisirqu ...Għaliex? X'kien l-akbar skop ta' Polimestor biex jehles miż-żagħżuħ?

Immorru fi Thrace, fejn Hekuba, issa lsira tal-Griegi tinsab iġġarrab in-niket kbir tat-telfa tat-tron tagħha u ta' pajjiżha. Il-Kor ibassrilha l-mewt ta' binha Polissena. U Hekuba titbikkem. Għaliex kienet se tmut, jew tinqatel, Polissena, u x'tagħmel Hekuba iddisprata biex issalva l-ħajja ta' binha?

Għall-għana funerju tal-Kor, il-katavru ta' Polidoru jiddaħħal fix-xena, wara li jkun inġarr mill-mewg għalfuq ix-xatt. Meta Hekuba tiskopri li binha wkoll kien safa' maqtul, iżżid tiddispra u taħlef vendetta. Hija titlob lil Agamennone, Re ta' Micenea, biex jgħinha tivvendika ruħha għall-mewt taż-żewg uliedha. Cassandra, bint ohra ta' Hekuba, tkun il-konkubina ta' Agamennone; għalhekk dan isib ruħu bejn ħaltejn jekk jgħinx lill-omm jew le. X'jagħmel? Jgħinha lil Hekuba biex tikseb vendetta, meta kien jaf tajjeb li ma kienx jaqbilla jxellef difru mal-Griegi?

Polimestor jaħbi minn Hekuba dak li kien għamel lil binha. Iżda hi tkun taf tajjeb x'għamel, għad li ma turihx li kienet taf; u issa tkun lesta biex titħallas minnu. X'tagħmel Hekuba, biex tħajjar lil Polimestor u liż-żewg uliedu

subien biex jaqgħu fin-nassa tagħha? Xi skuża gġiblu biex hu u ż-żewg uliedu subien jidhlu fil-kamp tagħha? U kif jispiċċaw Polimestor u wlidu? X'jagħmel ir-Re Agamennone meta jara l-istraġi li tkun wettqet Hekuba. Għaliex Agamennone jagħti raġun li Hekuba għal dak li tkun għamlet, u xi jbassar Polimestor, irrabjat u sfigurat, għal Hekuba u għal Agamennone?

***I am addicted to  
The Maltese Newsletter  
and read it  
from cover to cover***

## SAN DIMITRI LEGEND – MALTESE CULTURE



This chapel full of myth and legend is built on a promontory just outside the village of [Għarb](#), close to a cliff called Ras San Mitri (The Cape of St. Demetrius). Approached by a country road from Għarb, the chapel stands in a delightful spot and is Gozo's westernmost chapel.

An early fifteenth century chapel was rebuilt in 1736 to create the building we see today. The altarpiece above the stone altar shows St. Demetrius on horseback with an old woman praying and a young man in chains. This relates to one of several legends about the chapel.

This legend – a favourite of historians and poets alike – tells how an old woman called Natalizja Cauchi, nicknamed Żgugina, was at home one night with her son Mathew when Barbary corsairs swooped on the island, broke into Żgugina's house, knocked her down and made away with her son. The unfortunate woman ran weeping to St. Demetrius' chapel and poured out her heart in passionate prayer, saying: "San Dimitri, bring me back my son, and I'll light your lamp with a measure of oil."



St. Demetrius heard her supplication. She saw him moving in the painting, whence he rode out in pursuit of the Turkish galley. Soon he was back holding the boy in his arms. He re-entered the picture, but a mark from his horse's hoof remained imprinted on the rock. The grateful Żgugina kept a lamp lit to the saint day and night.

A coda to this legend has it that during an earthquake the rock on which this first chapel was built, broke off and fell into the sea but the chapel did not break up. Sailors and fishermen have often reported seeing light in the depths of the sea – Żgugina's lamp still burning under the water!

Another version of this tale tells of a ship that dropped anchor close by. The anchor stuck and could not be recovered so a sailor dived overboard to try to pry it loose.

When he did not resurface, another sailor went to look for him. After a while both sailors surfaced and recounted to the awed crew how on the sea floor they had seen the chapel with the lamp in front of the painting still alight

The chapel's mosaic pavement was laid in 1935, and the walls were coated with mosaic in 1950. Other paintings in the chapel represent St. Paul, St. Aristarchus (one of Paul's companions in Malta), the Assumption and the Holy Face of Christ. The chapel has a small sacristy and a pleasant zuntier (front terrace). The feast in honour of St. Demetrius is celebrated on the Sunday following the 9th October. The church is well looked after by the Għarb parish with the Archpriest of Għarb also being the chapel's rector.



### TASTE THE CLASSICS AT PALAZZO DE PIRO- MDINA

A brand new initiative and joint venture between the Malta Philharmonic Orchestra and Palazzo de Piro, "Taste the Classics", presents the perfect combination of chamber music and fine dining in one of Mdina's most picturesque and beautiful locations.

Taking place at Palazzo de Piro in the historic town on Mdina, audiences will be treated to a performance by the Malta Philharmonic Orchestra's Voice & Harp Trio consisting of Britt Arend (Harp), Gillian Zammit (Voice) and Clare Ghigo (Voice). Repertoire will include songs by Mozart, Bellini, Puccini, Gounod and Rossini.

Throughout the evening, a three course meal provided by Infinitely Xara Catering will be served which includes starter, main, desert, wine and tea/coffee.

MPO Voice & Harp Trio Britt Arend, Gillian Zammit, Clare Ghigo

DATE & TIME: 26/11/2016 - 7.30pm LOCATION: Palazzo de Piro, Mdina

PRICE: €80/€60 per person

## The Junior Eurovision Song Contest – Valletta, Malta



is one of the world's highest profile talent events for children between the ages of 9 and 14.

Since its inception, the Junior Eurovision Song Contest has allied itself with the Eurovision Song Contest as a training ground for nurturing emerging talent. The Junior Eurovision Song Contest sets the standard for entertainment TV and embodies diversity,

creativity and respect.

Launched in 2003 and first hosted by Denmark, the annual contest promotes outstanding young singers in the field of popular music. Contestants represent their country and compete for first, second and third place trophies.

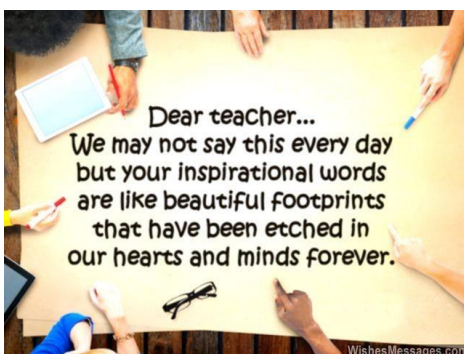
### JESC 2016

The 2016 edition took place on Sunday 20 November in Valletta, Malta. 10-year-old Mariam Mamadashvili from Georgia has been named the winner of the Junior Eurovision Song Contest 2016 with the song Mzeo (Sun). Anahit and Mary singing for Armenia came in 2nd place (232 points) with Italy's Fiamma Boccia 3rd (209 points). Both were given prizes after the show.

17 countries took part in the 14th edition of the annual singing competition for children between the ages of 9 and 14, hosted by Maltese Member PBS in the Mediterranean Conference Centre. For the first time the event was staged on a Sunday afternoon.

The Junior Eurovision Song Contest was broadcast to millions of viewers in the 17 participating countries over the Eurovision satellite and fibre optic network and online on Youtube and on [junioreurovision.tv](http://junioreurovision.tv).

In changes to the show's format this year, every entry was judged by one professional music industry jury and one youth jury in each participating country. Their votes were presented separately to create an exciting finale. Three expert judges also cast votes for the first time contributing to the rest of the overall score (each judge counted for the equivalent of one additional country). The expert jury was made up of Universal Music's Mads Grimstad, Eurovision Song Contest 2016 show producer Christer Björkman, and former Eurovision Song Contest participants Jedward



Doctors are sacred, lawyers are reputable... teachers are... well, just teachers!

But, according to many, who ironically are not teachers themselves, teachers ought to act as a police man, a carer, a nurse, a doctor, a psychologist, a mother/ father, and maybe, if there is still the time, well, as teachers! They MUST give out homework, they should mark classwork, they ought to give extra tuition at no extra cost in their very own free time. Well, they are teachers, no? That's what a mother/ father would do for their very own child! Wouldn't they? So should teachers then! Being a teacher by profession, I've experienced the post for two beautiful years, but two years were

enough to move on. Many have described my urge as insane, but I think It has been fueled a lot by the following misconceptions:

Teachers must work more, for they have a lot of holidays Granted. Teachers enjoy the perks of a lot of free time, at a glance, but their profession is one of the very few which require constant preparation at home.

Teachers have an easy job. Everyone could do it! No, not everyone has got the audacity to face a classroom full of demanding students, all differing in their demeanor and nerves.

Teachers get paid for babysitting our children Wrong. These individuals are highly influential. They are the ones who bit by bit shape someone's mode of thinking without coercion.

Teachers are solely responsible for my child's behaviour You wish! Teachers only get to meet the student for some minutes or hours in the day. They surely can't be with him outside school. That shifts the responsibility of an exemplary attitude onto you!







Teachers are to give All notes and material that my poor and hardworking child requires in order to pass the exam Teachers are no secretaries. Their duty is precisely to teach, instill creativity in your child and make space for critical thinking. They are not bound to give all photocopies and worksheets to your children. Your child must pay attention in class, jot down his/ her own notes and study hard at home! The student is also expected to do his own research!

Teachers make a lot of money, they give private lessons covertly! Many do it for the love of teaching, others do it to make ends meet! Yes, teachers are poorly paid, wake up!

Teachers last a lifetime! They have no higher expectations than finishing their job by 2pm! Given the realities we're facing at this day and age, no job will probably last a lifetime. Individuals nowadays are expected to keep on enhancing their knowledge and level of expertise. Many teachers are in fact ditching the profession, and many of them, to everyone's astonishment. Some people dare! The seven assertions spelled out above are just seven horrendously mistaken beliefs about teachers. They are among the prevalent wrong impressions that render the profession a very inferior one! Teachers are poorly paid and they are most of the time looked down upon, but their effects are in ripples and last a lifetime!

Next time you meet a teacher, just say thank you, for their breed might just be getting extinct.

## --Important facts about the Maltese Language

-  Maltese is a modern Semitic language closely related to the western Arabic dialects. While preserving its Arabic roots, in the course of its history, Maltese pronunciation and words have been subject to a strong influence from (Southern) Italian and, more recently, English.
-  Maltese is spoken by almost 400,000 people in Malta and Gozo, and some 100,000 in Australia, the US, Canada, Italy and the UK.
-  With some regional variations, Maltese is spoken in all Maltese islands.
-  Maltese is the only Semitic language written in Roman script. The Maltese alphabet consists of 30 letters including six special ones:  
 Ċ pronounced ch as in cherry  
 Ġ pronounced j as in jam  
 Ġħ mostly silent  
 Ħ pronounced h as in hard (normally, H is silent except at end of words when it's aspirated)  
 IE pronounced ee as in eel  
 Ż pronounced z as in buzz  
 The letter X is pronounced sh as in sheep, while Q sounds like a very deep K, and is produced by the vocal cords.
-  The first known literary text in Maltese, Cantilena, is dated to pre-1485. The second-oldest, written in the 17th century, is a sonetto by Giovanni Francesco Bonamico, entitled 'Mejju gie bil-Ward u Zahar' (May came, with its flowers and blossoms).
-  It is estimated that, at present, the origin of Maltese words is 40% Semitic, 40% Romance (Italian) and 20% English. Some aspects of Maltese grammar show two patterns: a Semitic pattern and a Romance one. For example, many nouns form their plural by adding an ending, as in Italian: omm = mother, ommijiet = mothers. Other plurals are formed by changing the word internally, as in Arabic, dar = house - djar = houses. Verbs, however, follow a Semitic pattern, including those of Italian or English origin.



**MALTA HIGH COMMISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF MALTA  
CANBERRA**

**CONSUL-ON-THE-MOVE PROGRAMME**

Submission of biometric passport applications from Maltese nationals

The Malta High Commission of the Republic of Malta in Canberra is pleased to announce its second visit of the Consul in South Australia, as part of the Consul-on-the Move programme - which facilitates the processing of applications for the Maltese biometric passport - between

**Friday 24 March and Saturday 25 March 2017**

from 9.00ams to 5.00pm to accept passport applications at the following venues:

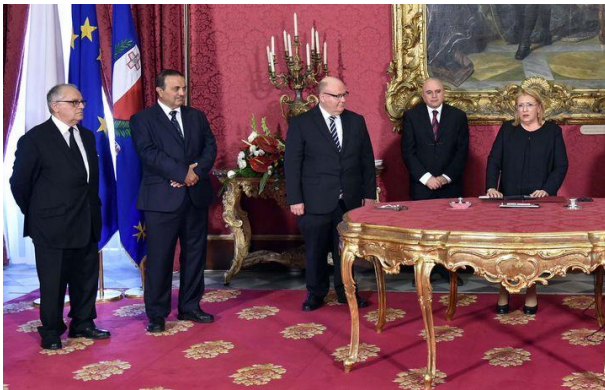
**The Community Centre Progressive Hall, 47 LeHunte Street, Kilburn South Australia**

**The Maltese Cultural Centre 6 Jeanes Street, Beverley, South Australia**

Apart from passport applications, the Consul will be available for other consular services. The Consul-on-the-Move Programme is strictly by appointment only. Maltese nationals intersted to avail themselves of this service are to seek an appointment and/or request further information by sending an email to [consul.canberra@gov.mt](mailto:consul.canberra@gov.mt) or Adelaide Consul Frank Scicluna: [honconsul@live.com.au](mailto:honconsul@live.com.au)

Appointments will be accepted until 21st March 2017. Requests after this date cannot be entertained.

**Children have the right to be heard & access to justice  
– President Coleiro Preca**



In light of today's swearing-in ceremony of new members of the Judiciary, and World Children's Day celebrated yesterday, President of Malta Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca reminded those present that children have the right to access to justice, and the right to be heard, even in the legal context.

The President was speaking at the ceremony during which the former Labour Party Deputy Leader Toni Abela was officially appointed as Judge and former Gozo Labour Party President Dr Grazio Mercieca as Magistrate.

President Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca made the remarks in reference to Article 12 of the Convention of

the Rights of the Child of the United Nations, agreed and signed upon by practically all leaders of the world. She said that the environment surrounding the child in Court also has to reflect this right. The child should be given the right protection and dignity, adding that, very often children are left waiting in the corridors of the Courts alongside the relatives of the accused.

Some cases involving children are not decided in one sitting, thus causing unnecessary emotional and psychological anxiety, the President explained.

With reference to these examples, President Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca proposed that Malta adopts a similar model to the Children's House model, created in Iceland, where children are taken to a neutral safe house.

"In this safe house environment, the child gives his or her statement to one professional, with stakeholders in the case listening in, without even meeting the child. This method is very crucial to the psychological healing process of the child."

The President also referred to, and presented copies of the Council of Europe guidelines on child-friendly justice, which have been endorsed by the European Union, to remind all stakeholders in the Judiciary system including the Executive, of these same guidelines. [www.gozonews.com](http://www.gozonews.com)



## A MALTESE TRADITIONAL CRIB – PRESEPIJU AT KURNELL NSW

Dear friends,

The Maltese tradition of the Presepio in Kurnell, will once again be on display to the public during the month of December every Friday, Saturday and Sunday evenings from 7.00 pm till late, and every night in the last week leading to Christmas at the same time.

This Nativity Scene was originally built by two Maltese that came from the village of Mosta in Malta, it took Victor Sammut eight months to build back in 2008, and Joe il-Mosti Deguara outlaid the money. All the figurines were brought from Malta and many of them were bought and brought from Malta by Victor Sammut himself, some of the figurines are worth around \$240.00 each.

The Nativity Scene depicting a village life in Bethlehem 2016 years ago, went on display for the first time at St. James Anglican Church in Kurnell, during their Christmas Carols in 2008, where in the presence of the congregation, Joe gave an explanation and interpretation of the Maltese Presepio, and the importance of the Presepio is to the Maltese people, where practically every house has a Presepio on display during the Christmas period.

The Presepio was then transferred to its present location at **37 Captain Cook Drive, Kurnell, NSW**, where it has been on display to the public every Christmas. Over the years this Nativity Scene has been displayed as a feature in the Maltese Herald, The Sutherland and St George Leader, The Kurnell Village News and The Voice of the Maltese and now on The Maltese Newsletter.

Since it was first built, many things have been added such as an authentic water fall, and this year is no exception. The Presepio has been enlarged by 1.5 square meter, where a farm and the Garden of Olives has been added. The size of the Presepio is now 2.7 meters wide X 1.5 meter deep X 1.5 meter high, and there are around 250 figurines ranging in size from .075 mm to .270 mm high, apart from Mary, Joseph, Baby Jesus etc. there are also shepherds, carpenter, King Harrod, sellers of various items, animals such as camels, sheep, cattle and other animals.

People have come to see this unique display from as far away as Llandilo, Liverpool and Hornsby. One person after reading about the Nativity Scene in The Voice of the Maltese, booked a flight from Brisbane the next day to come and see this artistic display. For Groups who want to visit during the day and for further information, **contact Joe Deguara on 0408 966 877** and make an appointment. Email: [joe\\_il\\_mostil@bigpond.com](mailto:joe_il_mostil@bigpond.com)



## The Addolorata Cemetery, PAOLA, MALTA

*This short article first appeared in the November edition of Air Malta's inflight magazine Skytime*



In common with Christian cultures all over the world, most Maltese mark the month of November with a visit to the graves of their departed loved ones. There are several village cemeteries scattered all over the Island, mostly humble, quiet and somber places usually adorned by a small central chapel.

Malta also has a large national cemetery which merits an off the beaten track visit for its

architectural and aesthetic values. The Santa Maria Addolorata Cemetery, on the outskirts of Paola, was designed by local architect Emanuele Luigi Galizia and opened in 1869, initially as a burial ground for the towns and villages of the vicinity. Galizia was a gifted architect who not only introduced the Gothic revival in Malta - best exemplified here - but also experimented with a number of styles, most notably in the construction of the Turkish cemetery in Marsa as well as a number of Moorish themed houses in Sliema.

At the Addolorata, Galizia made exceptionally good use of the site's topography, placing the cemetery's main chapel at the top of a hill from which a number of tree-lined lanes meander down to the cemetery's main entrance which is adorned by a gatehouse and a beautiful curved portico.

The Addolorata easily compares with the finest of Europe's monumental cemeteries, having a good number of richly carved private mausoleums in its older parts and a good representation of funerary sculptures.

Most noteworthy of the latter is a poignant bronze put up by a travelling businessman who, upon his unexpected return to the Island, so surprised his ageing mother that the excitement apparently helped to quicken her demise. Like most other places in Malta, the Second World War left its mark on the cemetery and this fine sculpture still bears the unmistakable scars of bomb shrapnel in its lower part. Another notable monument is the one dedicated to the Sette Giugno victims. On 7th June 1919 a number of Maltese were killed while rioting against the colonial forces. The unfortunate deaths are widely perceived as the catalyst that eventually led to Malta being granted its first Constitution by the British in 1921.

A visit to the Addolorata may not be everyone's favourite excursion but this extensive burial ground certainly represents another aspect of Malta's rich cultural and historical heritage.

*The Santa Maria Addolorata Cemetery is open every day of the year from 7am to 4.00pm*

# 36 Hours in Malta

By SETH SHERWOOD

Many conquerors and countries have left their mark on this Mediterranean archipelago, and visitors will likely be entranced with the cultural mash-up.

**Friday 1. A Grand Entrance, 5 p.m.** Valletta, Malta's capital, is having a moment. Filled with palazzos and churches, the storybook city celebrates its 450th birthday this year and in 2018 will be a European Capital of Culture. Channeling its stony grandeur, the architect Renzo Piano designed two structures that form a dramatic introduction to Valletta. Inaugurated last year, his city gate is a vast, blocky, asymmetrical stone entryway that opens onto the adjacent new parliament. The monolithic jagged buildings are lifted off the ground by slender pillars and covered in textured panels like rippling waves. Circle the buildings and ascend the stone staircase alongside to appreciate their shifting forms. At the top is St. James Cavalier, a cultural center that hosts exhibitions and performances.

**2. Green and Blue, 6 p.m.** Wasn't that the castle in the films "Gladiator" and "Troy"? Such questions might spring to mind while absorbing the panoramic view from the Upper Barrakka Gardens, a pleasant green space of palms, plants and stone arches overlooking the main harbor. Across the way are centuries-old fortresses like Fort St. Angelo and Fort Ricasoli — used in many Hollywood productions — and the deep blue Mediterranean. A grappa (2.20 euros, or about \$2.40) or limoncello (€2.20) at the outdoor cafe-bar is the perfect complement to the sunset.

**3. Sister Pact, 8 p.m.** A 16th-century palazzo with stone columns, gilded mirrors and chandeliers might sound like a recipe for pretentiousness. But Palazzo Preca, run by two Maltese sisters from a family of noted restaurateurs, defies expectations. The mood is easygoing, and the fenek moqli — in local parlance — is an inspiring concoction of plump rabbit nuggets rendered moist by a thick, elegant wine reduction, and velvety mashed potatoes. If the grilled rabbit liver appetizer feels like overkill, consider the seductive, spicy linguine Caruso, with diced squid, meaty shrimp, hot chillies and a zesty tomato sauce. The wine list is a Mediterranean tour, including Syrian, Israeli and Maltese bottles. Dinner for two, without drinks: about €70.

**4. Strait and Narrow, 10 p.m.** Not many people are walking straight on Strait Street as the wee hours approach, thanks to the cozy bars within and near the slim passage. A stony 400-year-old cavern hung with musical instruments, Trabuxu Wine Bar serves numerous Maltese vintages — including a citrusy blend of sauvignon blanc and local Girgentina from La Torre (€3) — alongside a roster of international wines. Sultry and plush, Taproom is a chic new bar-restaurant with creations like the Tap Tini (€12), a dessertlike blend of gin, cream, simple syrup, coffee bitters and chocolate liqueur.

**Saturday 5. John and Jerome, 9:30 a.m.** A half-dressed man lies on the ground with blood dripping from his slit neck while a knife-wielding thug prepares the death blow. Brutally realistic, Caravaggio's "Beheading of St. John the Baptist" (1608) — the Italian master's largest painting, and the only one he signed — and his nearby portrait of St. Jerome were painted during the artist's stay in Malta in the early 1600s. They are the marquee attractions of the stunning St. John's Co-Cathedral, a soaring barrel-vaulted space, built in the 1570s. The ceiling is painted with scenes from the life of St. John, as well as the goddess Minerva stomping upon invading Moors. Intricately inlaid flat tombstones panel the floor, radiant with images of angels, ships, skeletons and other symbols. Admission: €10.

**6. Saint Style, 11 a.m.** St. Paul, who was shipwrecked on Malta around A.D. 60 en route to Rome, is historically the patron saint of writers. In Valletta, he is also emerging as the patron saint of style — or at least his namesake street is. In addition to the Palazzo Prince d'Orange boutique hotel, St. Paul Street is home to new indie fashion boutiques like Kir Royal, a modern haberdashery

selling dress shirts and jeans from the Italian label Kurosawa, along with shaving creams, tie clips and cuff links. For women, Mint Sparrow offers everything from shimmery backpacks for yoga mats to seahorse-shaped pendants.

**7. Ride the Tide, 2:30 p.m.** Next to the restaurant, take the 10-minute ferry ride (€1.50) to the Sliema waterfront. From there embark on the 90-minute scenic “Harbour Cruise” (2:45 p.m. departure) from Captain Morgan Cruises (€16). Chugging along Malta’s rocky coast, you’ll pass massive, centuries-old fortresses and ruins, grottoes and gardens, lighthouses and church towers, tiny fishing skiffs, enormous container ships and even “Black Pearl” — a three-masted schooner that once belonged to the actor Errol Flynn. (It’s now a restaurant.) An English-language commentary gives details and dates.

**8. White Palace, 7 p.m.** Another night, another palace. With its white walls, white chairs and white tablecloths, the soaring palazzo-turned-restaurant known as Michael’s is a gallerylike environment for the culinary artistry of the father-son chef duo Michael and Daniel Cauchi. The menu features seafood — mussels in cream, grilled octopus — but the land-based bounty proves equally enticing. The crispy, fatty and moist pork belly appetizer delivers an Asian crunch from thin-sliced cabbage, and fruity notes from apple-beet jam. After, three lamb preparations mix crispy croquettes — filled with shredded meat — with discs of shoulder and a robust two-bone rack. Among desserts, the dark-chocolate brownie with white chocolate ice cream, crunchy cookie crumbs and forest fruits is outstanding. A three-course dinner for two, without drinks, runs €80 to €90.

**9. Step Out, 9 p.m.** Small, stone-walled, windowless: Many Valletta bars feel like dungeons. Fortunately, two of the best offer easy breakouts by allowing drinkers to escape onto the majestic outdoor staircase-streets beyond their doors. Bridge Bar serves up Aperol spritzes (€5.50), bottles of prosecco (€20), free cushions and live jazz (mainly Fridays) to the convivial crowds who fill the steps outside its door. Around the corner, the newcomer Cafe Society offers twinkling harbor views and stuffed agricultural sacks for the throngs who lounge in front while quaffing local Maltese craft beers like hoppy-crisp Rust (€4).

**Sunday 10. Storybook City, 10 a.m.** Ready for more time travel? Grab the number 51, 52, 53 or 54 bus (€1.50 to €2) outside Valletta’s gate, get off at Mdina and enter the walled city that was Malta’s capital for centuries before Valletta was built. Taking its name from the Arabic word for “city,” Mdina is a web of mysterious forking lanes lined by high walls, iron-barred windows and forbidding wooden doors. One leads to Palazzo Falson, a mansion built mainly during the Middle Ages and Renaissance that is now a museum of decorative arts. The elegant period rooms include a dining hall with Venetian glassware, a weapon-filled armory with inlaid pistols, a gallery of Oriental carpets, a soaring library with 4,500 historical volumes and a sitting room paneled with oil paintings. Admission €10.

**11. Pews and Views, Noon** Consecrated in 1703, St. Paul’s Cathedral is an ornately wrought homage its namesake. Especially notable are the Italian Baroque artist Mattia Preti’s two paintings above and behind the altar, which depict Paul’s conversion en route to Damascus and his stormy shipwreck on Malta. Practically next door, Palazzo de Piro is a sumptuous Baroque mansion that serves as an annex of Mdina’s nearby Cathedral Museum (open Monday to Saturday). Its pleasant courtyard cafe-bar offers panoramic views from an upper terrace, making it a sublime spot to enjoy a cafe latte (€2.75) or local Cisk beer (€2.75) while taking a final glance at the distant city of Valletta and the Mediterranean beyond.

KEEP ON SENDING YOUR ARTICLES, COMMENTS AND EMAILS  
BE PART OF THE ENCYCLOPAEDIA OF MALTESE CULTURE  
THANK YOU - GRAZZI



## BALBULJATA - MALTESE SCRAMBLED EGGS

AUTHOR: JACQUI CATEGORIES: FOOD, INTERNATIONAL CUISINE, SAVORY SNACKS & NIBBLES o COMMENTS



This is a Maltese Recipe, one that I never made myself ... until today! I recently saw it posted by a Maltese Chef who has many years of experience in culinary arts, Anton B. Dougall and it actually enticed me to give it a try!

Balbuljata, is metaphorically used in our language to mean 'a big mess'. Used often when one has made a mess of things like for example in some school exam. The culinary Balbuljata is in fact a mix of sauteed tomatoes, onions and garlic and then beaten eggs added to it until they start

to set. This is then served on Maltese toasted bread. I have adapted Mr Dougall's recipe and added just a few ingredients more to it.

### Ingredients (Serves 2)

- Olive Oil
- 12 cherry tomatoes, chopped\*
- 4 eggs
- 1 tbsp Parmesan Cheese (optional)
- 1 onion, finely diced
- 1 garlic clove, minced
- Dash red wine
- Dash Balsamic Vinegar
- 1/2 tsp Chilli (optional)
- Fresh chopped parsley
- Butter
- Salt & Pepper

*\* you can use 3 normal tomatoes, I only had cherry tomatoes.*

### Method

**In a pan, saute the onions until soft and then add the minced garlic and the tomatoes. Cook until the tomatoes soften and then add a splash of wine and a dash of Balsamic Vinegar. Season and cook for about 10 minutes or until the tomato mix starts getting dry.**

In the meantime, beat the eggs lightly in a bowl, add the Parmesan cheese, if using and add this to the tomato mix in the pan. Lower the heat and add the chopped fresh parsley and a knob of butter. Stir continuously, same as when you make scrambled eggs until the eggs start to set.

Serve on top of toasted buttered bread. Delicious!

## The Cave Dweller: visiting troglodyte homes of the past



*by Marc Buhagiar*

A gentle breeze blows through the surrounding fields making the grass dance. Behind me, majestic Verdala Palace emerges from Buskett woods, an old hunting ground of the Knights; and to my right, the prehistoric cart ruts, whose exact purpose remains shrouded in mystery.

I walk along the rocky path, past the remains of a tomb found in the maze of the cart ruts, all the way up past the *ħajt tas-sejjeħ*, rubble walls that characterise the Maltese countryside and are used to separate fields, till I reach a gaping hole in

the rocky ground. This is *Għar il-Kbir*, which literally translates as 'Big Cave'. It is the remains of a large cave complex which locals used to inhabit before the British authorities forced them to move out in the 19th century.



*Down the Rabbit Hole: The cave complex remains of Għar il-Kbir.*

I start making my way down, fancying myself an adventure like Indiana Jones. On the way, I spot a small cave to the right which seems to be accessible. I crouch through the gap and the cave opens up before me. The air is cool and heavy and I can smell a hint of dust and mustiness. The sensations are magical and stir something within me; a sense that I've travelled back in time to when the cave was a troglodyte dwelling.

The ceiling is low, and the space seems to open up into three small chambers. The stone has small openings and holes carved into it resembling shelves. I stare at these openings and wonder at what the previous inhabitants used to place here. The stone also offers a rich variation of colours: white, brown, yellow, grey, green and black, which give it a haunting look.

I crouch down to get out of the small cave and continue along the rocky path to the bottom. Looking around, I try to picture how breathtaking this cave must have been with a ceiling if its remains are still this magnificent. On this level there are four main caves which are accessible, and each cave opening is flanked by rubble wall structures. The cave on the left closest to the complex entrance has a massive chamber with a collapsed ceiling. Inside, the curious explorer can find stairs cut into the rock leading to shallow graves which inhabitants must have used as beds.

The other cave on the left side leads to another chamber divided into small spaces, which were possibly different rooms in the past. Some rubble walls still stand here, showing how the space was partitioned. I could sense still the presence of the people who lived here because of what they left behind; the cave itself is a living memory. The caves on the right are sectioned next to one another. They lead to a huge chamber, divided through the middle by rock walls.

Inside this chamber, it's dark and the air is heavier, as if you were inhaling the darkness itself. To the side there's a slope which you can climb up. At the top, I duck past some branches to reach the outside area which is basically a higher position overlooking the outdoor floor where you can access the four caves; it would have acted as a sort of balcony overlooking a historical courtyard.

What saddened me, however, is the amount of garbage I found in this magnificent cave. I found several old disposable barbecues littering the floors of the caves along with plastic bottles and food wrappers. Old gun cartridges, fired by hunters who shoot in the vicinity, were discarded on the floor. I wonder how those ancestral cave folk would have felt if they saw their 'homes' in this sorry state today.

## DR. ADRIAN ATTARD TREVISAN

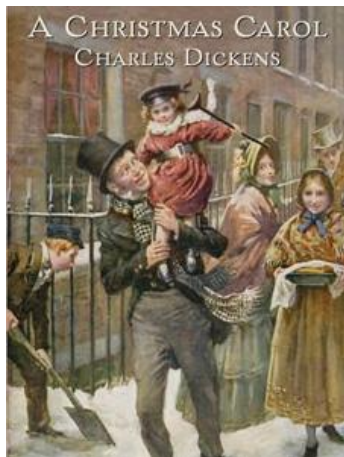


This is the story of Mente - a technology that helps provide a better future to children on the autism spectrum. Mente was invented by Dr Adrian Attard Trevisan, the founder of the AAT Research group of companies. Dr Attard Trevisan is a neuroscientist who has been researching Autism Spectrum Disorder for a decade. Dr Attard Trevisan's background in this field quickly became a key focus of the company's work.

"The inspiration to create Mente wasn't about surmounting the scientific challenge or a desire for fame. This is personal for me. When I was a student in Brittany I stayed with a family. Their son had Asperger's. I spent time observing him, trying to understand his behaviour. I wasn't observing him dispassionately, like a scientist conducting an experiment. I was watching him carefully to see where and how I could help the boy – and my friend. I knew I had to help. And importantly, I knew I could. This is when I started to understand how neurofeedback could be key to allowing my friend's son, and others like him, focus and better engage with the world. I knew about the limitations of neurofeedback – its cost and inconvenience. But Mente solves that because it's affordable and can be used safely at home."

Autism can now be "aided" through a Maltese researcher's brainwave: an invention that has been proven to improve relaxation and focus. Its creator, Dr Adrian Attard Trevisan, insists his ground-breaking headband, known as Mente, is not a cure for autism. He calls it a "special aid", improving autistic children's ability to be more in touch with their surroundings by 500 per cent. What resembles a simple headband, with two electrodes – highly sensitive microphones that record signals from the skull – allows autistic children who normally feel tense and uncomfortable in social settings to be more receptive.

*Consultant Gynaecologist and Gynae-oncology Surgeon*



### **MEDITERRANEAN CONFERENCE CENTRE – VALLETTA IN COLLABORATION WITH THE AMERICAN DRAMA YOUTH EUROPE PRESENTS A CHRISTMAS CAROL by CHARLES DICKENS**

Directed by Christian Flintand Paul Stebbings.

Music by Tom Johnson. Producer Grantly Marshall.

If a Christmas Carol is the most popular story ever told, then this stage version is possibly the most successful recent adaptation. From Tokyo to Malta, from Munich to Hong Kong, from Liverpool to Madrid and from Prague to Athens audiences have thrilled to this high powered musical production that moves the audience from tears to laughter. This production is true Music Theatre. The actors play and sing a score which is far more exciting than a string of carols.

Well known composer Thomas Johnson (whose credits include a Westend Hit) has composed a score that moves and delights, at times stomping and at others heart-breaking. The cast is led by Anthony Pedley as Ebenezer Scrooge, well known for his many years playing leading roles at the Royal Shakespeare Company, on Radio in the Archers and on Television in "Yes minister" and Poirot. The director, Paul Stebbings, is well known for his integration of music and theatre and has won many awards in Europe and Asia. A good story needs a good script and this adaptation is a real play rather than just a seasonal entertainment. From the moment when Bob Cratchit shivers in Scrooge's office until the hilarious and uplifting Finale this is a gripping and dramatic tale. Not that comedy is forgotten. The ghost of Christmas present has a weakness for pantomime. This is an evening for young and old, a Christmas feast of theatre that has delighted audiences in almost every corner of the globe.

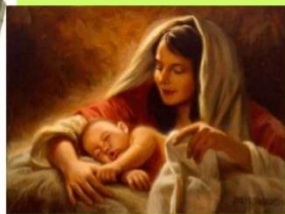
**DR STEPHEN ATTARD MONTALTO** *Consultant Gynaecologist and Gynaecology Surgeon*



Mr Attard-Montalto completed his undergraduate medical studies in 1993 in Malta. He completed his specialist training in Obstetrics and Gynaecology in the UK, coming here in the year 2000. He obtained this training via the South East London and Kent rotation. He has attained RCOG sub-speciality training in Gynaecology surgery and is an accredited colposcopist. He has a special interest in Gynaecology surgery as well as minimal access surgery and completed his MD thesis from the University of London on the subject of immunology within the field of ovarian tumours. He is the RCOG ATSM preceptor for vulval disease in the South East, with an interest in vulval disorders.

## L-Għażla dan il-Milied - mill-Kav. Joe M Attard

Niċċelebraw il-festa tal-Milied nhar **il-25 ta' Diċembru.**



Għadu kemm wasal fid-djar tagħna dan il-ktejjeb intitulat L-Għażla dan il-Milied: Għawdex li jiġbor fih dwar dak kollu li sa jsir fi gżirtna b'rabta mal-Milied bejn it-3 ta' Diċembru u t-8 ta' Jannar 2017.

Veru biċċa xogħol siewja u interessanti min-naħa tal-Ministeru għal Għawdex u l-Kumitat tal-Milied imwaqqaf fi hdanu. Żgur li ċ-ċentru ta' kollox huwa l-Presepu bil-Bambin fil-maxtura u dan itennih bla ebda tlaqliq il-Ministru għal Għawdex fil-kelmejn li kiteb għal din il-pubblikazzjoni meta qal: 'Il-Presepu b'Gesu' Bambin jibqa' ċ-ċentru tal-attivitajiet tal-Milied.

Ma niddejqux ngħidu dan u kbairin b'dak li nemmnu'. Tassew prosit lil Onorevoli Ministru li jagħti s-sapport tiegħu lil kwalunkwe attivita' li ssir dawn il-granet u jagħmel hiltu biex ilaħhaq ma' tant attivitajiet li jkun mistieden għalihom. Meta wieħed iqalleb il-paġni ta' din il-pubblikazzjoni stampata fuq karta fina u mżewqa b'għadd ta' ritratti, jbqa' mbellah kemm għandna attivita' għaddejja fi gżirtna matul dawn il-festi sbieħ u għeżiež tal-Milied. Bla dubju jispikkaw iż-żewġ avvenimenti annwali li issa ilhom żmien isiru u tant jiġbdu folol ta' nies, jiġifieri 'Betlem f'Għajnsielem' u l-Wirja tal-Presepi fil-Ministeru għal Għawdex mill-Għaqda Fbieb tal-Presepu Għawdex-Malta 1985.

Imma dawn huma biss 'the tip of the iceberg' kif jgħidu l-Ingliżi għax Għawdex f'dawn il-jiem huwa mimli b'wirjet korali u mużikali, wirjet ta' grotti, presepi, twieqi mżejna, presepi ħajjin fix-Xagħra u fin-Nadur, lista sħiħa ta' presepi mekkaniċi u statċi mxerrda ma' kulimkien flimkien ma' bosta attivitajiet oħra. Din il-kitba kienet tkun ferm itwal kieku kelli noqgħod nidhol fid-dettal; għalhekk nissuggerilkom tiflu sewwa din il-pubblikazzjoni u timmarkaw fejn se tmorru f'dan iż-żmien hekk sabiħ u mimli ferħ ġenwin li ma tagħtihx id-dinja bil-ġiri sfrenat għax-xiri tar-rigali, ikliet u xalar u tbaħrid iehor imma l-presepu bit-tarbija divina li għażlet li titwieled f'għar tal-annimali fil-kesħa tal-lejl. Importanti li nibzghu u ngożžu d-drawwiet sbieħ li għaddewlna misserijietna bħal Purċissjoni bil-Bambin fil-lejl tal-Milied li kien beda San Gorg Preca fl-1921 flimkien man-Novena tal-Milied u l-Quddies ta' nofs il-lejl.

Niftehmu; kollox importanti, bħal xi ikla tajba, it-tiżjin fid-dar, il-ħelu tajjeb, il-Christmas Tree; imma ejjew ma nqegħdux il-karettun qabel iż-żiemel imma naraw li kollox idur mal-familja Mqaddsa ta' Betlem. Nawguralkom Milied hieni u qaddis!

PLEASE SEND US YOUR CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

## MEET STEVE BONELLO



Hello... I am a freelance artist, cartoonist and illustrator based in the island of Malta in Europe. In my previous working life I was employed in the aviation business for thirty years, and after that in commuter transport - all of a year and a half of the latter. I have contributed a weekly cartoon to the Sunday Times (Malta) since 1991. I have had two personal shows of my work here in Malta in 1988 and 1991 and have recently returned to the exhibition scene, taking part in *Xebgha Nies* (2014) with a small group of like-minded quirky artists. I have also been involved in a few book illustration projects. I hope to exhibit more of my work - well, soonish.

I enjoy writing short pieces related to art in general, travel and the island I am blessed to have been born in. I have been published in a number of local magazines and in 2015 had a piece about Malta published in *Roads & Kingdoms*. 2015 was also the year I was invited by *Cartooning For Peace* to exhibit at the European Parliament in Strasbourg alongside cartoonists from all of the EU's 28 states.

DATE & TIME: **17/12/2016 - 8.00pm**

## Missa Solemnis di Beethoven



Under the baton of principal conductor Brian Schembri, the MPO begins its international concert series in the ancient city of Rome. The orchestra will be joined by the Coro dell'Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia to perform Beethoven's *Missa Solemnis* in the beautiful surroundings of the Basilica of San Paolo Fuori le Mura.

**Jacquelyn Wagner** – Soprano **Eva Vogel** – Alto **Daniel Kirch** – Tenor **Gerd Grochowski** – Bass  
**Brian Schembri** – Conductor **Carmine Lauri** – Guest Leader

*Questo Natale, il presepe esposto in piazza San Pietro sarà affidato ad un artista maltese. Si tratta dell'artista Manwel Grech, originario dell'isola di Gozo, che è stato scelto attraverso un concorso indetto dal Ministero della Cultura in collaborazione con Heritage Malta e con il supporto dell'Arcidiocesi di Malta.*

*È la prima volta dal 1982, anno in cui la Santa Sede ha dato inizio a questa bella tradizione, che il presepe viene affidato ad una nazione straniera e per celebrare quest'occasione speciale il governo di Malta ha voluto organizzare un grande concerto di musica sacra a Roma, nella basilica papale di San Paolo Fuori le Mura, il 17 dicembre alle ore 20: verrà eseguita la **Missa Solemnis di Beethoven** dall'Orchestra Filarmonica di Malta, diretta da Brian Schembri, con il Coro dell'Accademia di Santa Cecilia e con la partecipazione di quattro rinomati solisti la soprano Jacquelyn Wagner, il contralto Eva Vogel, il tenore Daniel Kirch e il basso Gerd Grochowski. Ingresso Libero. Si consiglia di arrivare alle 19 per consentire i controlli di sicurezza all'entrata. PRICE: **FREE***

LOCATION: **Papal Basilica San Paolo Fuori le Mura, Rome, Italy**



## **The biggest street party of them all at Hamrun**

*The town of Hamrun is admittedly not much to look at. Although a large conurbation by Maltese standards it is of relatively recent origin. Consequently there is little of historical interest and its main street is one of the busiest thoroughfares in Malta, chockful with traffic at most hours of the day. The main parish*

*church, inaugurated in 1875 but only completed seventy years later in 1955, is a smorgasbord of styles resulting in a strange marriage of neo-Gothic, Romanesque and Baroque elements surprisingly fused together by a wonderful cycle of ceiling paintings by Emvin Cremona - one of Malta's foremost 20th century artists. Although the town grew rapidly in the late 19th up to the middle of the 20th century, it is nowadays not much sought after as a residential area and so its population is a decidedly aging one. This somewhat pedestrian picture changes dramatically when the annual festa comes around...*

Hamrun lacks open spaces where extensive fireworks barrages can be let off and this is perhaps one reason that band marches take the front seat in the town's festivities. There is a whole week of this going on but the real climax is on the morning of the feast proper when the celebrated 'marc tal-briju' (very loose translation - the revelry march) takes place - a marathon band march which sees the two main bands participating in possibly the islands' largest traditional street party.

Hamrun celebrates the feast of Saint Gaetan in early August (this year on 7th August) and on the feast day proper all of Hamrun and *Hamrunizi* who have long left town and settled in other places on the island appear to congregate in the town's High Street (naturally closed to vehicular traffic for the day) for the much awaited band march which kicks off around 11 am and continues for some four hours - normally in temperatures which hover around the 30c mark. The town's two rival bands participate and at times it appears more of a show of strength than anything else. The clubs' supporters - young and old alike - turn out in droves, most with faces painted in red or blue according to affiliation, some wearing fancy costumes prepared for the big event. Most will carry large flags and a lot of dancing, drinking and general merriment will invariably take place.

The march starts off from near the church with the bands following each other along the same route - but at all times keeping a prudent distance from each other. A first awaited 'highlight' is when the 'red' St.Gaetan Band stops to play in front of the rival St. Joseph club's premises - this is where the reds make fun of the blues with chanted taunts - made mostly in good humour and 'received' in very much the same way. Though police are

invariably present to keep tabs on proceedings, the jeering remains very much good-natured - there is a gentlemen's agreement between the two clubs which ensures things don't get out of hand.

After the initial release of energy the bands follow each other through the back streets of the parish but soon enough return for a final run through High Street. This is where things come to a climax with the whole street turning into a sea of blue and red flags. The St. Joseph's band stops in front of the rival St. Gaetan's club where the former's supporters return the dubious compliments of a couple of hours earlier and then both bands stay playing for a bit more in front of their respective clubs. The clubs are situated just a hundred metres apart along High Street so by this time the street is chockful with both bands' followers - who naturally indulge in a final round of dancing, chanting and drinking.

The march comes to an end with a fireworks salute from both clubs which is a signal for the bands to return indoors for a well-deserved respite from the sun. The *Hamrunizi* mostly make their way to their homes to rest before the more solemn evening procession (bar the younger, more energetic ones who stay on for after-march parties...), satisfied once more that their band march remains the grandest of the lot... an annual ritual of colour, madness, fun and sweat quite unlike any other on the islands.

*This article was first published in August 2016 edition of IL-BIZZILLA - the inflight magazine of AIRMALTA*



**MARK U ANDREW** jixtiequ jirringrazzjaw lil dawk kollha li għoġobhom iżuruna fil-Festival Nazzjonali tal-Ktieb.

Aħna mhux biss sodisfatti bl-ammont ta' kotba mibjugħa, imma aktar u aktar aħna sodisfatti li kellna okkażjoni oħra biex niltaqqu magħkom u naqsmu magħkom dak kollu li għandu x'jaqsa mal-festi li tant inħobbu.

Hadna pjaċir nisimghu l-kummenti sbieħ tagħkom bħalma hadna pjaċir niehdu nota tal-kritika, sugġerimenti u xewqat tagħkom.

Intom bħalma temmu li **ILWIEN IL-FESTI MALTIN** hija sensiela enċiklopedika Maltija unika li bħala qatt ma kellna u wisq probabbli l-anqas qatt ikollna.

Bl-ghajnuna tagħkom inkomplu t-tieni nofs ta' dan il-perkors twil iżda sabih li qed naghmlu flimkien biex niddokumentaw fotografikament il-festi kollha li jsiru f'Malta u f'Għawdex.

Grazzi mill-qalb.

**deer**  
PUBLICATIONS

**MARK MICALLEF PERCONTE**

## A CLUB OF CANADIAN ACES IN MALTA



Flight Lieutenant Henry Wallace "Wally" McLeod, DFC and Bar, of Regina, Sask., earned the distinction of being the top-scoring fighter pilot in the Royal Canadian Air Force to date.  
DND Photo

Wally McLeod, the slim, mustachioed kid from Saskatchewan, soon to be known as the "Eagle of Malta," claimed 13 German and Italian aircraft destroyed over the island—the first just four days after arriving. Sadly, he was killed in action over Wesel, Germany, in late 1944, but his 21 confirmed kills (mostly against fighter opponents) made him the top-scoring fighter pilot in the RCAF to date.

Another Canadian legend, Flying Officer Bob Middlemiss, was with McLeod and Rouleau on Operation Style, along with three other Canadians destined to become aces: James Ballantyne, Frank "Spitfire Man" Jones and Philip Charron. Flight Sergeant Jimmy Ballantyne, a dapper 24-year-old former insurance clerk from Toronto, was an ace by the time he left Malta, and would have 9.25 kills to his name before his death in combat in 1944. Frank Jones, born in British Columbia, but hailing from Sherbrooke, Que., would bag five in Malta including two in one day — just three days after arriving. He was awarded the DFC and the accompanying citation described him as a "vigorous fighter whose fearlessness in face of odds sets praiseworthy example."

Philip Charron was a French Canadian from Ottawa, and he claimed three victories of his seven victories over Malta, before being killed in action over France in 1944. It seemed that every new club run to Malta brought with them one, two or even more Canadians that would go on to become aces.

But these club runs had been taking place for over a year before the aces on board Operation Style landed. In May 1941, in one of the early club runs, the entire pilot roster of 249 Squadron RAF took off from Ark Royal, as part of Operation Splice. They were led by Squadron Leader Robert "Butch" Barton of Kamloops, B.C.—a decorated ace of the Battle of Britain and a gifted leader. By the time he was rotated home for a rest in December, he had added six more victories to his score. Under Barton's stellar leadership, 249 Squadron was one of the most successful fighter squadrons on the island and indeed the entire war.

But the greatest of the Canadians at Malta, Flying Officer George Beurling, the "Knight of Malta," is a legend of international proportions. The story of this enigmatic and controversial ace is, for the most part, even familiar to Canadians who know little about the war. He arrived on Malta just one week after Wally McLeod, having also launched from HMS Eagle, during Operation Salient. Known for his passion for the science of deflection shooting, Beurling would add an additional 27 victories over Malta to the two he had when he arrived. By the war's end, he would tally 31 kills. His story is the stuff of books, film—and much speculation (the latter about his post war death in an airplane crash in Rome en route to Israel).

Operation Salient also brought two other Canadians to Malta who would later share ace status.

John "Mac" McElroy, like Butch Barton, hailed from Kamloops, B.C. Not only did he become an ace, but he also received a DFC for his "great courage and outstanding determination to destroy the enemy."

Flight Sergeant Ian Roy MacLennan, another native of Regina, became an ace with seven confirmed victories. He was awarded a DFC for his efforts to defend Malta and his award citation reads: "One day in October 1942, this airman destroyed two of a force of thirty Junkers 88s which attempted to attack Malta. The next day he destroyed a Messerschmitt 109. Flight Sergeant MacLennan has displayed great courage and tenacity. He has destroyed four and damaged several more enemy aircraft."

MacLennan was shot down the day after the D-Day landings and became a prisoner of war. He, unlike Beurling and McElroy who signed up to fight for the new Israeli Air Force, wanted no more of war when the conflict had ended. He entered civilian life, became an architect and spent the rest of his life contributing to the design and building of affordable housing for Canadians



Squadron Leader George U. Hill of Pictou, N.S., was one of the RCAF's most colourful fighter pilots and a veteran of air battles over Britain, Malta and Sicily. Hill shot down 14 enemy planes.  
DND Photo





## NOSTALGIA – THE ISLE OF OLD ROYAL PUBS

Throughout the Victoria era, Malta was a hive of expatriate activity. The British had arrived and made its naval base there and the royal family found it to be the perfect escape from English winters. To entertain themselves and make the cross-section of civilian society that descended on the Crown Colony more at home, they brought their home comforts with them, which of course included the staple of British society; the English pub! Shipbuilders, dockworkers, police inspectors, post office clerks, doctors, bakers and sailors alike unwound after a day's work at the flurry of pubs that mushroomed on the Mediterranean island— each and every one astutely named after the monarchy.

LIFE magazine reporter [Jack Birns](#) visited the island in 1950 and photographed these pubs that peppered Malta's streets...

## The Nurse of the Mediterranean Dr. Kevin Fong



In 1915, as Europe's armies faced stalemate, World War One spread beyond the Western Front. To try to break the deadlock Britain and France led new campaigns at Gallipoli in Turkey, and Salonika in Greece.

New battle fronts meant new places to treat the wounded would be needed. But the allies had more than just combat casualties to deal with. Climate and conditions brought malaria and dysentery. Very quickly, there were tens of

thousands of soldiers in need of urgent and ongoing care.

The answer was a tiny rock in the Mediterranean Sea. At a safe distance from the front line, Malta became a hospital island for more than 136,000 men. By the end of the war it had earned itself the nickname the "Nurse of the Mediterranean".

**A sanctuary across the sea** Thousands of soldiers were shipped from Gallipoli and Salonika on hospital ships to the island of Malta. Although Malta was located relatively near to the new battlegrounds, it was still separated from them by hundreds of miles of sea.

**The Gallipoli campaign** At Gallipoli, a force of 70,000 men was sent to attack the Ottoman Empire. British, French, Australian and New Zealand soldiers launched an amphibious assault on the Turkish peninsula in an attempt to take the city of Constantinople. It was hoped that Germany would be forced to divert troops from the Western Front to support their Turkish allies.

The first batch of patients from the battlefield arrived in Malta in March 1915. The soldiers had to travel 850 miles across the Mediterranean to reach the safety of the island. Thousands of patients made the week-long journey on hospital ships. Gallipoli was a military disaster for the allies and after eight months of fierce fighting, both ground and naval forces had to withdraw.

The Salonika campaign At Salonika, British and French forces landed on the northern Greek coast in 1915, in an attempt to relieve Serbian forces fighting the Bulgarian army. Fighting continued for many months, and the allies were forced to dig in. The sick and wounded were taken from the battlefield and brought to Malta by ship.

In April 1917, after several hospital ships were sunk by German submarines, the allies decided the journey to Malta was too dangerous. Many hospitals on the island were closed and replaced with new facilities in Greece.

**An island hospital** Medical Services General History Vol. I By Major-General Sir W. G. Macpherson, Military Hospitals In Malta During The War, By G. R. Bruce

Hospitals were opened up at a frantic pace to keep up with the thousands of sick and wounded soldiers brought to Malta. Pioneering heart surgery Robert Hugh Martin was shot in the heart at Salonika in 1917. Evacuated to Malta, he underwent one of the first successful heart surgeries of World War One in Malta..

**Rest and recuperation** Australia Hall was built on Malta in 1915 by the Australian Branch of the Red Cross. Medical care on Malta went beyond emergency treatment. The rest and recuperation of recovering soldiers was taken very seriously. Many of the troops were afflicted with dysentery, fever and malaria and needed ongoing care. Several convalescent hospitals were set up on the island to help those who were still not fit to return to the front.

In May, 1915 tea rooms were set up in Sliema to provide rest and refreshment for the sick and wounded soldiers. The tea rooms were manned by a band of local volunteers and hosted weekly concerts. They proved popular with the soldiers and during the course of the war around 50,000 men were served.

In October a Gymnasium in Valletta was converted into a facility for convalescents. It was equipped with a library, bar, a billiard table and a fully equipped stage. Over 80,000 men passed through its doors. Around this time Australia Hall was built by the Australian Red Cross. It was a combined recreation centre and theatre and provided entertainment for wounded soldiers of the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps.



## FRENCH POLITICIAN OF MALTESE BACKGROUND

**Claude Bartolone** (born 1951) is a French politician. He has served as President of the National Assembly since June 2012. A member of the Socialist Party, he has been elected to the National Assembly, representing the Seine-Saint-Denis department, since 1981. He served in the government as Minister for the City from 1998 to 2002, and he has been president of the Seine-Saint-Denis General Council from 2008 to 2012.

He was born on July 29, 1951 in Tunis, Tunisia.<sup>[1]</sup> His mother was from Malta and his father from Sicily; both his parents were working-class. At the age of nine, he moved to Le Pré-Saint-Gervais in France and grew up in a council estate. After he was encouraged a teacher named Marie-Thérèse Thoullieux not to get a professional degree, he attended the Lycée Turgot in Paris. He received a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics.

He was a municipal councillor of Le Pré-Saint-Gervais from 1977 to 1983, and from 1995 to 2008. He served as Deputy Mayor of Le Pré-Saint-Gervais from 1977 to 1983, from June to October 1995, as Mayor from 1995 to 1998, and again as Deputy Mayor from 2001 to 2008. He was also municipal councillor of Les Lilas from 1983 to 1989.

He served as Seine-Saint-Denis general councillor from 1979 to 1992, and has served again since 2008. From 1985 to 1992, he served as vice-president of the Seine-Saint-Denis General Council, and as president from 2008 to 2012. From 1998 to 2002, he served as regional councillor of Ile-de-France.

He served as a member of the National Assembly for the sixth district, encompassing Seine-Saint-Denis from 1981 to 1998. From 1998 to 2002, he served as Minister of the City. Since 2002, he has served as member of the National Assembly again.

Following the June 2012 parliamentary election, in which the Socialist Party won a parliamentary majority, Bartolone was designated as the Socialist candidate for the post of President of the National Assembly. In the vote, held on 26 June 2012, Bartolone was accordingly elected to the post, receiving 298 votes against 185 votes for the Union for a Popular Movement (UMP) candidate Bernard Accoyer, who held the post during the preceding parliamentary term. Since 2012, he has served as President of the National Assembly of France. Thus, he lived in the Hôtel de Lassay. In April 2013, he received a menacing letter containing ammunition powder, suggesting he should stop supporting same-sex marriage. He is married, in a second marriage, with Véronique Ragusa, a parliamentary collaborator. He resides in a 320 square metre mansion on the outskirts of Paris.

## ZURRIEQ - an old town a with spectacular valley



island, is very popular in this town. However, the motto seems to dismiss this; it says “Sic a Cyaneo Aequare Vocor”, meaning “From the blue sea I took my name”.



BLUE GROTT  
ZURRIEQ - MALTA

**Zurrieq** is located in the **South West** of **Malta**, around 7km away from Valletta, having a population of around 12,000 people. It seems that the town got its name from the colour blue, *zoroq* in Maltese, but authors disagree whether it refers to the blue sea of the Blue Grotto or to the colour of the eyes of the town inhabitants, which to the contrary of the rest of the

Zurrieq seems to be one of the oldest towns in Malta; in fact, a collection of remains dates back to the Bronze, Punic and **Roman times** was found. Such heritage includes tombs, pottery, the Punic Tower, Xarolla Catacombs, Cart Ruts at 'Tal-Bakkari' and 'Tal-Hlantun Tower' amongst others. The first documentation shows that back in 1436 it already had a parish

church dedicated to St. Catherine of Alexandria, while other heritage from the times of the Knights and the British still remain. Structures from the 15th and 16th century are spread across the town, such as the Xarolla Windmill, Armoury, Palazzo Ganbatist, the Wardija Tower and Bubaqra Tower. Żurrieq is also famous for the beach in **Wied iż-Żurrieq** and the **Blue Grotto**. The island of **Filfla** is administratively a part of the town.

**“Bridges don’t fall from the sky, they don’t rise from the ground. People build them.”**

– Eboo Patel  
CWW 2012

