

MALTA EU 2017
01.01.2017 — 30.06.2017

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The 'Making Malta Great' campaign is relaunched with the Maltese Presidency of the Council of the EU 2017 as the main theme. The Maltese Presidency is striving to continue bringing the European Union's message in people's homes and to involve and bring the general public closer to European politics.

The Parliamentary Secretary for the EU Presidency, Ian Borg, was present to official launch of the information campaign 'Making Malta Great' that was relaunched by the local radio station 89.7 Bay, in collaboration with local entities. This year's theme is the Maltese Presidency of the Council of the EU 2017.

"Following the success achieved in the previous edition of 'Making Malta Great', I firmly believe that this initiative will continue to raise awareness about the Maltese Presidency of the Council of the EU. The messages that will be broadcasted in the near future will complement the information campaign launched by the Maltese Presidency of the Council of the EU in the recent weeks," announced Ian Borg during a news conference held in the Intercontinental Hotel. The main objective of this campaign is to educate people about the history of the European Union and its important work, as well as providing a clear and simple explanation of the specific role that our country will play during the following six months, where Malta will assume the Presidency of the Council of the European Union for the first time.

The managing director of the radio station, Kevin De Cesare expressed his satisfaction at the collaboration with the Office of Parliamentary Secretary that will give 89.7 Bay the chance to update its listeners with the latest updates on developments occurring during the Maltese Presidency of the Council of the EU. "We would like to make a strong contribution to such a historic event, and we are committed to be an integral part during this time, to serve as a worthy communication channel and to move our listeners closer to events occurring in Europe."

Dr Borg further stressed that the Maltese Presidency is striving to continue bringing the European Union's message to people's homes and to involve and bring the general public closer to European politics.

The content and information that will be delivered to the public is related to the story of how the European Economic Community was set up and all the developments that ensued. Additionally, it will also discuss the funds allocated for the completion of various projects in Malta, the calendar of informal meetings and cultural programs.

Malta to host 2017 Commonwealth Local Government Forum

Mr Wright said the conference would be much more than a mere talking shop. Photo: DOI/Omar Camilleri



Malta will host the Commonwealth Local Government Forum in November of next year, the Justice Ministry confirmed today. It will be the first time Malta hosts the conference, with the 2017 edition being titled 'Fit for the future: resources and capacity for effective local government.'

The conference is expected to bring over 500 senior policy

makers to Malta, and its outcomes will be presented to the 2018 CHOGM in the UK. In a pre-recorded message aired at the launch, Prime Minister Joseph Muscat described the conference as a "forum where people from different localities, cities and towns around the world share their experiences and best practices."

Commonwealth Local Government Forum general secretary Carl Wright said the conference would focus on strategies aimed at boosting local government's resource base and capacity to improve its performance and service delivery. He was at pains to insist that such meetings were more than mere talking shops.

Justice Minister Owen Bonnici said the conference would be an "excellent opportunity for high level exchanges between policy makers from around the world including the United Nations, fellow ministers and also heads of government." Local Government Parliamentary Secretary Stefan Buontempo said that "when we share experiences we learn that our friends from the Pacific region or municipalities in a large African country face the same problems which we might be facing."

The conference will be held from 21 to 24 November 2017 at the Mediterranean Conference Centre, Valletta.

MALTESE NEWSLETTER
The Journal of the Maltese Diaspora



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KEMM RAJT PRESEPJI SBIEH DAN IL-MILIED !!!

Kav. Joe M Attard, Victoria, Gozo

Il-Milied ġie u għadda iżda din is-sena f'Għawdex kellna għadd sabiħ ta' Presepji mferrxin mal-gżira kollha. Jiena nħoss li l-Milied bla presepeju mhux Milied. Sbieh il-parties, il-ġiri għar-rigali, in-Novena, il-priedka tat-tifel, il-purċissjoni bil-bambin li jagħmlu tal-Museum, il-Pageant f'San Lawrenz, is-serati tal-Milied. Kollha sbieh imma żgur li xejn u ħadd ma jgħaddi l-Presepju. U għalhekk f'Għawdex f'Ottubru tal-1985 kienet twaqqfet l-Għaqda Hbieb tal-Presepju biex tkompli tteġġeg din id-drawwa sabiħa u għażiża ta' misserijietna li f'kull dar jintrama l-Presepju. U naħseb li l-Għaqda qed tilhaq dan il-għan. Apparti l-fatt li l-Għaqda ta' kull sena tagħmel Wirja ta' Presepji fis-Sala ewlenija tal-Ministeru għal Għawdex, li din is-sena wkoll żaruha ħafna nies minn kullimkien, fil-Milied ħafna qed ikunu dawk li jagħmlu l-Presepju. L-Oqsma tal-Museum f'Għawdex kollha jibnu xi tip ta' Presepju għall-membri u soċji tagħhom. Jien irnexxieli mmur nara dawk tax-Xagħra, ix-Xewkija, ir-Rabat, u n-Nadur li mhux biss bnew il-Presepju imma żejnu wkoll din id-dar fejn ta' kuljum ħafna tfal u żgħażaġħ imorru jitgħallmu d-duttrina u jieħdu l-formazzjoni tagħhom li tibqa' magħhom għal ħajjithom.

Mort imbagħad inżur dawk il-presepji li fetħu beraħ il-bibien tagħhom għall-pubbliku u bqajt tassew skantat kemm għandna nies b'sengħa u fantasija. Ma' dan it-tagħrif qed nurikom xi presepeji tassew sbieh li rajt għand David Xuereb fiż-Żebbuġ, fuq ir-riħ ta' Marsalforn, fejn ħalla l-karkura x-xitan. Tassew ma xtaqtx noħroġ minn għandu għax bena għadd ta' presepeji l-ġmiel tagħhom b'pasturi kollha maħduma bl-idejn l- parti l-kbira tagħhom minn artisti Maltin u minn Joe Camilleri, magħruf bħala l-'Grigal', membru tal-Għaqda Hbieb tal-Presepju Għawdex-Malta 1985. Dħalt nara wkoll il-presepju fil-knisja parrokkjali u tassew ħadt gost waqt li kont qed nattendi għall-kunċert sabiħ tal-Milied mill-kor parrokkjali 'Regina Angelorum'. Fi triqti lura lejn ir-Rabat pajjiżi għaddejt mill-Għasri fejn fil-bidu tiegħu rajt l-iżgħar presepeju mibni go daqsxejn ta' rewwieħa m'ogħla bniedem mill-art u magħluqa minn xibka tal-ħadid biex ħadd ma jmiss mill-persunaġġi u bhejjem li jagħmlu n-Nativita; fl-isfond tagħha lmaħt ukoll x-xbieha ta' żiemel; ma nistagħġibx jekk hawn irabbu xi wieħed għax biex tagħqad fuq il-bieb ta' biswit rajt miktubin il-kelmiet 'Dar l-istallel'! Prosit! Lura fil-Victoria mort nara l-Presepju sabiħ u li trid seba' għajnejn biex tarah, dak ta' Frankie Mizzi mill-Victoria li għalkemm mhux miftuħ għall-pubbliku xorta laqagħni għandu biex narah u li huwa komdu biżżejjed biex iżommu armat is-sena kollha. Fl-Għarb laqagħni b'idejh miftuħa Joe Theuma li bena presepeju b'ġebel li ftiit tara bħalu u sibtu diġa qed jaħseb għal żmien ir-Randan.

Fix-Xewkija nsibu wieħed ta' ċertu kobor fil-Knisja Rotunda tal-Battista waqt li taħt il-Knisja Parrokkjali ta' Għajnsielem fejn nsibu wkoll l-istazzjon tar-radju parrokkjali, Pawlu Stellini rnexxielu joħloq nistgħu ngħidu Mużew tal-Presepju fejn hemm għall-wiri diversi presepeji b'pasturi verament tal-ġenn li ħarġu minn idejn artisti lokali, Taljani u barranin. Prosit tassew Pawlu! Bla dubju ta' xejn kif kont Għajnsielem ingħaqadt ma' tant ħluq biex inżur Betlem f'Għajnsielem u rkibt id-dgħajsa u għaddejt minn fuq il-bridge waqt li doqt ukoll il-pizza sħuna ħierġa mill-forn u bla dubju żort l-għar fejn kien hemm ix-xena ħajja tat-twelid tal-Bambin.

Ngħid li għal darba oħra dan kien esperiment li rnexxa imma sewwa li l-organizzaturi ma jibegħdux kemm jista' jkun mill-istampa ta' Betlem ta' elfejn sena ilu biex żjara hawnhekk ma tinbidilx f'xalata fejn kulħadd jiekol u jixrob imma l-familja ssib verament l-ispiritu qaddis tal-Milied li għalih inġoloq dan il-proġett! Nissuggerixxi li jiżdied xi ftiit id-dawl li jkun jista' jgħin lil dak li jkun jimxi b'iktar ħeffa u liberta hekk kif jibda jidlam u forsi anke titwaħħal xi tabella kbira bil-postijiet ta'interess u mdawla biex isservi ta' gwida għal

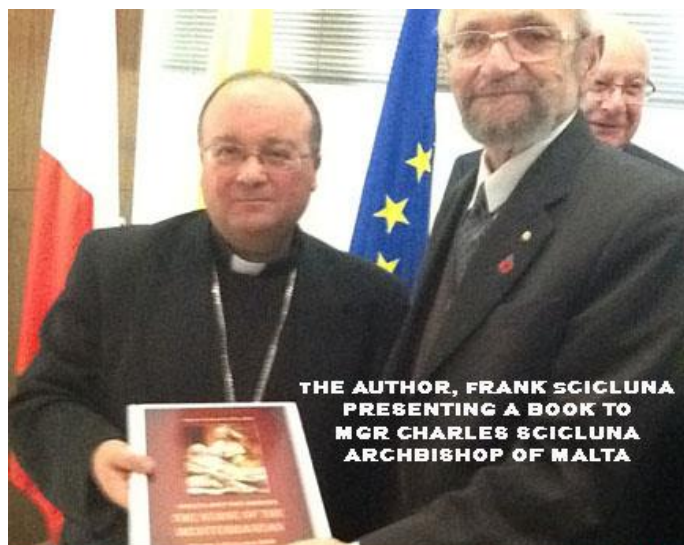
tant nies li jżuru din l-inizjattiva unika fil-gżejjer Maltin. Il-wasla tas-Slaten Maġi l-Ħadd wara nofs inhar nistgħu ngħidu li tkun ċ-ċirasa fuq il-kejk! Il-ħabib tiegħi Herman Mifsud ukoll laqagħni fil-garage biex nara l-Presepu sabiħ tiegħu. Fi triqti lejn in-Nadur stajt nara l-Presepu tal-Patrijiet ta' Giezu; insellem minn hawn lill-Patri Marcello Ghirlando li ngħaqad ma' din il-kommunita'. Fin-Nadur apparti dak tal-Qasam tal-Museum, li ħa kamra sħiħa u tassew għoġobni, mal-familja dħalt nara presepu tassew ħaj mifruq u mqassam tajjeb fejn l-imbuljuta u l-ħobż fil-forn kienu b'xejn kontinwamnet għal min iżur il-post. Prosit lil tant żgħażaġħ li joffru xi ftit mill- ħin liberu tagħhom biex janimaw din l-istorja tas-Salvazzjoni tagħna! Minn hawnhekk mal-familja bqajt sejjer sal-Qala fejn rajt xi presepi sbieħ b'mod speċjali Wirja sħiħa ta' presepi li tellgħu għadd ta' żgħażaġħ Qalin fiċ-Ċentru Parrokkjali li kien tassew fiha x'tammira!

Fil-belt Victoria fejn noqgħod jien rajt ukoll għadd sabiħ ta' presepi fosthom presepu mekkaniku għall-aħħar maġenb il-Knisja ta' San Frangisk u tefgħa ta' ġebba bogħod dak li tana Anton Sillato li bena fl-istess knisja Frangiskana mzejna tant tajjeb għall-Milied. Minn wara l-antiporta stajt nara l-presepu ta' Carmel Grech fi Triq il-Kapuċċini u bqajt skantat bl-għadd kbira ta' movimenti fil-presepu ta' Joseph Attard li joqgħod fi Triq Sagħtar li sena wara sena qed jissokta jżid fil-presepu tiegħu. Hdejn Pjazza Sant Wistin rajt il-presepu tal-Oratorju Don Bosco u dħalt għand Salvu Cremona li mhux biss bena l-presepu imma żejjen ukoll il-faċċata li żejnet triq sħiħa.

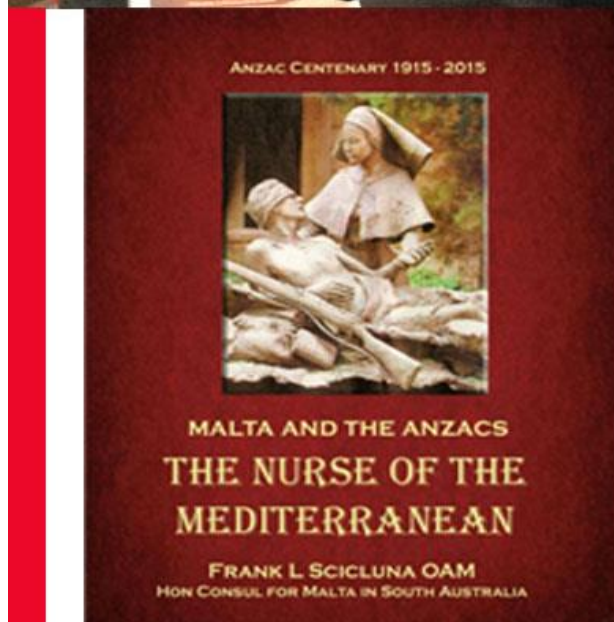
Ħallejt għall-aħħar ix-Xagħrin għax hawnhekk f'dan ir-raħal tal-Ggantija kien hemm għadd rekord ta' Presepi x'tara u tammira. Hawnhekk insibu wkoll Għaqda tal-Presepu li hija ferm organizzata u tara li ta' kull sena tippubblika ktejjeb dettaljat li jgħinek tiġri ġirja mar-raħal u tara għadd ta' Presepi, wieħed minnhom ħaj li fih ħadu sehem bhejjem u persunaġġi b'sagrifiċju mhux żgħir u li ridt tiġri miegħu bil-karozza biex tarah sewwa (nistqarr is-sewwa xbajt nistenna fil-kju u dort lura lejn id-dar u allura ta' min jara x'jista' jsir biex jinqatgħu l-kjus kbar biex ma jitgerrxux in-nies!) -- esperiment li reġa sar u mhux iktar hdejn il-Knisja tan-Nazzarenu fejn rajt wieħed taħt il-kunvent tas-sorijiet li ġie li nzertajtu bix-xita nieżla flimkien ma' tlieta oħra li ta' kull sena jibni f'daru l-ħabib tiegħi l-marmista Raymond Bonello Anke fil-knisja Parrokkjali kien hemm għadd ta' presepi fuq l-altari laterali u ieħor kbir f'waħda mill-Kappelluni. Jorganizzaw ukoll tour bil-coach mar-raħal biex dak li jkun jara dawn il-presepi b'ċerta kumdità'. Ngħidilhom grazzi li stednuni ningħaqad magħhom għal dan it-tour. Iż-żagħżuġ Aaron Agius ukoll urieni l-presepu interessanti li ħoloq din is-sena! Il-Qasam tas-Subien tal-Museum kien fih l-hena żżuru għax barra li ta' kull sena jippreżenta presepu mekkaniku għall-aħħar, ikun fih wirja ta' presepi maħduma mit-tfal, presepu Naplitan tas-sinjura Beatrice Cini flimkien ma' attrazzjonijiet oħra li jsammruk quddiemhom għal ħin twil. Mhux bogħod minn hawn rajt zewġ presepi oħra kif tilwi l-kantiniera maħduma mill-istess ġuvnott li nsejt x'jismu! Tonio Caruana, ta' Trtiq Vestru wkoll bena ġmiel ta' presepu hawnhekk flimkien ma' missieru li ta' kull sena arah iżid xi pastur ġdid ta' Jesmond Micallef. Il-każin tal-Banda 'Victory' żamm ukoll l-appuntament tiegħu.

Żgur li f'Għawdex kellna iktar presepi, saħansitra f'Marsalforn, imma li ma kenux għall-wiri u allura ma tkunx taf bihom u ma tkunx mistieden iżżurhom. Bla dubju sabiħ dak li nbena fil-parroċċa tiegħi ta' San Gorg f'waħda mill-kappelluni u dak fuq stil Għawdxi li bnew iż-żgħażaġħ fi Pjazza San Gorg fejn hemm l-istazzjon tal-kommunita'. Fiċ-Ċittadella ħafna żaru dak li bena

Giovann Cassar, presepiista bravu u intelligenti. Għal sena oħra jiena nhegġeġ lil kull min jagħmel presepu ta' ċertu daqs jiftaħ biebu u jaqsmu ma' ħaddieħor biex b'hekk tkompli tikber il-kultura favur il-Presepu li huwa l-qofol ta' kull Milied. Jiena rrodd ħajr lil dawk kollha li laqgħuni f'darhom biex nammira l-Presepu tagħhom li ta' kull darba li naraħ ingarrab ferħ li ma nsibux fid-dinja ta' madwari imma li jibdilni f'tifel ta' ftit snin li bihom kien jieħu gost li jkun imdawwar il-Bambin.



THE AUTHOR, FRANK SCICLUNA
PRESENTING A BOOK TO
MGR CHARLES SCICLUNA
ARCHBISHOP OF MALTA



THANK YOU.....Once again, we thank you for all the e newsletters filled with information and which are a pleasure to read. We wish you and your family as well as those who in some way help you with your wonderfully presented newsletters A VERY HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR.

To my dearest and most treasured Family, Please enjoy the last Maltese Journal of the year. If not all, please read the first part...What the Maltese Leaders say. Frank Scicluna is the leader of a team who works hard to bring to us this magnificent journal regularly during the year. He is the author of the book I gave to you.. Malta....Nurse of the Mediterranean ..What fantastic Journal he produces! Enjoy !

Maria and Armando Catania – Melbourne, Aust.

DEAR FAMILY & FRIENDS - WISHING EACH ONE OF YOU THAT YOU HAD A HOLY & HAPPY CHRISTMAS. DURING THE DAY WE FINISHED THE LAST BIT OF SHOPPING (SHOP TILL YOU DROP). ON CHRISTMAS EVE MARY AND I WENT TO A BALL WHERE WE HAD A GOOD TIME DANCING SHARING GOOD WISHES THE OCCASIONAL DRINK YES f000D

LATER IN THE NIGHT WE WISHED ONE AND ALL A HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND WENT TO MIDNIGHT MASS AT ST DAVID'S PARISH CHURCH TEA TREE GULLY. FROM 11.30pm TO MIDNIGHT SINGING OF CHRISTMAS CAROLS

MIDNIGHT ON HOLY MASS WAS CELEBRATED ACCOMPANIED BY A GREAT CHOIR. AFTER MASS WE WENT HOME BECAUSE THE BODY SAID IT NEEDED A REST. CHRISTMAS DAY TURNED OUT A BEAUTIFUL SUNNY HOT HOT DAY TEMPERATURE REACHED 43deg (109F)

AROUND 12.00 WE WENT TO OUR DAUGHTER VERONICA & GEORGE HOUSE WHERE ALL THE FAMILY MET. IT WAS SUCH A BLESSING FOR US TO HAVE OUR CHILDREN AND GRAND CHILDREN AROUND US. ONCE AGAIN FOOD FOOD & FOOD (MY WAISTLINE IS SUFFERING & SUFFERING SO MUCH THAT I AM NOT WEARING A BELT). THIS WENT ON TILL LATE IN THE EVENING WHEN ONCE AGAIN HUGGING AND KISSING WE ALL WISHED ONE ANOTHER A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND GOOD NIGHT

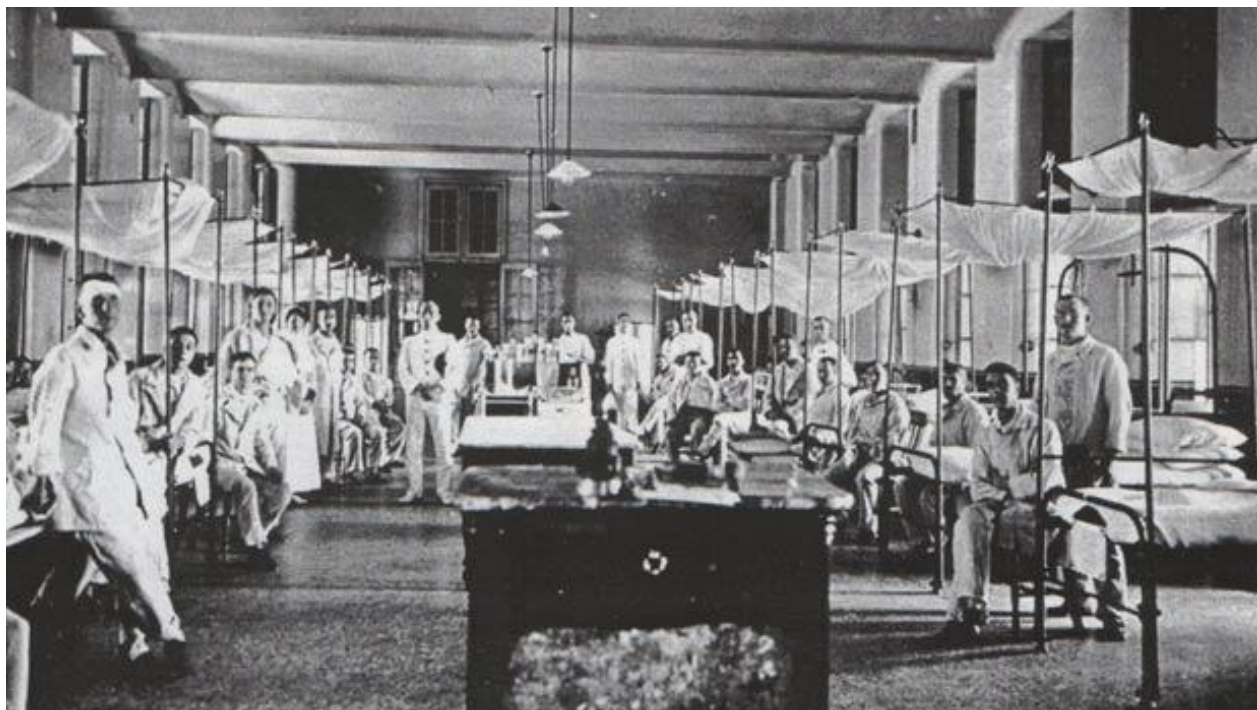
WITH SO MUCH FOOD LEFT OVER BOXING DAY WAS ANOTHER FOOD DAY (ANYONE GOT A FORMULA ON HOW TO LOSE WEIGHT ???) WITH REGARDS TO THE WEATHER THE HEAT HAS NOT SUBSIDED IT'S STILL HOT AND STICKY WITH RAIN ON AND OFF. THE CAUSE OF THIS HEATWAVE ETC IS BECAUSE WE ARE ON THE EDGE OF A CYCLONE WHICH HIT THE LOWER PART OF WEST AUSTRALIA AND TONIGHT AND TOMORROW THE FORECAST IS HEAVY WIND AND RAIN AND FLOODING. NOW WE ARE PREPARING FOR A NEW YEAR

MAY THE NEW YEAR BRING YOU. GOOD HEALTH AND HAPPINESS. I'm also taking the opportunity to thank you Frank for the amount of time you dedicate to produce the Maltese Newsletter of which I am a regular reader and look forward to receive the next issue. Well balanced and of great interest. Congratulations & thank you.

Harry and Mary Bugeja, Adelaide Australia

Ps: Some books are still available – contact me to order a copy: honconsul@live.com.au

MALTA – THE NURSE OF THE MEDITERRANEAN



INJURED ANZACS FROM GALLIPOLI AT BIGHI NAVAL HOSPITAL, MALTA 2015

In the wake of the Dardanelles campaign, preparations began for large-scale troop landings on the Gallipoli peninsula. After the initial landing, the Allies were able to make little progress from their landing sites as the Turks gathered more and more troops on the peninsula from both the Palestine and Caucasus fronts.

The Allies suffered huge casualties during the campaign, and thousands of wounded troops were brought to Malta for treatment. It was during this period that the island earned the nickname 'Nurse of the Mediterranean'.

Both John A. Mizzi in his book *Gallipoli: The Malta Connection* and the Royal Army Medical Corps (RAMC) Malta website tackle in detail Malta's role in the Gallipoli campaign.

In 1914, Malta had four military hospitals – the Military Hospital in Cottonera with 167 beds, Mtarfa Barracks Hospital with 55 beds, St Julian's Forrest Hospital with 20 beds, used mainly for venereal diseases, Valletta Station with 26 beds, and Military Families Hospital. There was also a small military hospital at Fort Chambray in Gozo and the Royal Naval Hospital at Bighi.

The establishment of the RAMC in Malta before the outbreak of the war in 1914 was 23 officers, 150 other ranks and 12 nursing sisters of the Queen Alexandra Imperial Military Nursing Service. On the declaration of war, the majority of regular RAMC officers were withdrawn from Malta for active service elsewhere, and replaced by four RAMC Territorial Force (TF) officers, four officers and nearly 200 men of the 1st (City of London) Field Ambulance TF.

In February 1915, the general officer commanding in Egypt was offered 500 beds for any wounded as the Gallipoli campaign appeared imminent. But the authorities in Egypt replied that these would not be required. Governor Lord Methuen (February 16, 1915 - April 1919), foreseeing heavy casualties, ordered

the expansion of existing hospitals and selection of buildings for hospitals. A scheme was drawn up to extend the number of beds to 2,000 in Malta, with 500 beds for convalescents at Fort Chambray.

The first batch of wounded in the naval operations arrived in Malta on March 20, 1915. On April 9, Malta was asked to prepare, in case of necessity, for 3,000 wounded.

The first casualties from the Gallipoli campaign consisted of 600 cases that arrived in Malta on May 4. Barges of wounded men were gently unloaded on to the quayside outside Valletta's ancient Sacra Infermeria Hospital. From here the wounded were sorted and moved on to the other hospitals around the island.

Local Boy Scouts ran errands for the soldiers, posting their letters and bringing them magazines. There was a cool garden at the back of the hospital where a weekly concert was held for the patients.

More wounded soldiers arrived during the next days; 500 on May 5, and 640 on May 6. By the end of the month over 4,000 sick and wounded had arrived.

The nuns of the Little Company of Mary, the 'Blue Sisters', offered their hospital at St Julian's, comprising the nursing home Casa Leone XIII and adjoining Zammit Clapp hospital. Marchesa Scicluna lent Villa Dragonara as a convalescent home and provided £100 a month for its upkeep.

Australia Hall was quickly constructed near the hospitals at St Andrews, capable of accommodating 2,000 people. An additional 39 nurses arrived on May 7. A total of 240 medical officers, 567 sisters and voluntary aid detachments (VADs), as well as 1,760 men of the RAMC attended the sick and injured.

The first badly-wounded soldiers, who reached Malta on May 4, were brought on HT Clan McGillivray. Of these, 160 severe cases were admitted to Valletta; the remainder went to Tigné to be treated as convalescents.

The HT Clan McGillivray was moored in Sliema Creek and the slight cases were taken to Tigné, while the rest were taken off in lighters to Pietà. They were then moved by ambulance wagons and motor cars to Valletta Hospital.

There was no end to the number of casualties arriving in Malta. On May 5, 394 military wounded arrived on the HS Sicilia. Two hundred of these were sent by lighter to Cottonera Hospital, the remainder to the Royal Naval Hospital in Bighi. Another 30 wounded disembarked from the Somali Ambulance.

On May 12, about 700 cases arrived in the HT Caledonia, bringing the total number of sick and wounded in the island to 2,593. The sick and injured were disembarked at Marsamxett Harbour. The minor cases were sent to St George's and the cot cases to St Andrew's.

On May 17, HS Soudan proceeded to Gaba Tepe to receive 314 wounded from the Anzac contingent. On May 21, HS Soudan left the Dardanelles for Malta. It arrived on May 24 and disembarked 85 non-commissioned officers (NCOs) and men, who were sent to Cottonera Hospital, seven officers to St Andrew's Hospital, and 128 cot cases to Valletta Hospital.

On May 17, 773 wounded arrived from Egypt on the HT Braemar Castle and were sent mostly to Mtarfa and St Andrew's hospitals. On May 18, the Royal George brought 353 cases; the Southlands brought another 776 cases, all from Egypt.

By June 1915, there were 14 hospitals in Malta, served by 117 medical officers, 300 nurses and 753 ranks. Between June and July the number of beds rose to 13,093, dealing also with new ailments, dysentery and enteric fever. – Charles Debono



About Us



Aġenzija Żgħażaġħ was established in Malta in February 2011 to promote the interests of young people and to provide assistance to youth organisations and young people in achieving their potential.

The aim in establishing Aġenzija Żgħażaġħ is to mainstream youth related issues and further develop youth services. It enables further investment in young people and helps them realise their potential. Aġenzija Żgħażaġħ's overall objective is to provide a coherent, cohesive and unified Government approach to addressing the

needs and aspirations of young people and to realise the following benefits:

- For Young people:
 - More actions within existing policies for young people
 - Greater participation, empowerment and dialogue for young people
- For Policymaking and Policy makers:
 - Change in attitudes and work culture to include a youth perspective
 - Greater coherence in policymaking
 - Better data and information on youth issues

The Mission of Aġenzija Żgħażaġħ is to:

Manage and implement the National Youth Policy to promote and safeguard the interests of young people which it pursues through the following policy measures.

Youth Activity Centres at Villa Psaiġon and at Marsaxlokk.

The first Youth Cafes in Malta at Qawra, Msida, Cottonera and Kirkop.

The first Youth Hubs in Malta at St.Venera, MCAST, GCHSS and Junior College

The Youth Information One Stop Shop in Santa Venera

Awareness raising, listening to young people and promoting the role of Aġenzija Żgħażaġħ at locally and at European level

An interactive web portal Youth Information Malta and online support services *Kellimni.Com*.

At European level, the agency engages on an on-going basis with the Youth Working Party, Youth Minister's Councils, the European Commission, EU Presidencies, the Council of Europe, and other European bodies such as SALTO, ERYICA and EuroMed on youth related issues.

The agency manages and oversees the EU's Structured Dialogue process with young people and the European Youth Card.

Programmes and initiatives for the active engagement and participation of young people

Training and support is provided for young people through projects that will enhance their skills and competencies and empower them as both responsible individuals and active citizens in their communities. Projects include, inter alia: empowerment, civic engagement, music, volunteering, contemporary arts, specialized study support and drama.

Research - Research is essential within the youth field and that is why Aġenzija Żgħażaġħ recognizes the importance of investing in this area. In fact, the Research Unit is one of the main pillars within which Aġenzija Żgħażaġħ operates. This unit administers all research that the agency undertakes itself or commissions to other entities. Aġenzija Żgħażaġħ's research targets and focuses on the main areas concerning young people, mainly education, employment, environment, rights and responsibility, health and well-being, justice etc. The outcome of such research is then utilized by the Empowerment Unit within the same agency to design the programmes that Aġenzija Żgħażaġħ implements with young people.

Policy development and mainstreaming - In addition to developing and implementing youth policy, Aġenzija Żgħażaġħ also participates on relevant committees and working groups with the aim of promoting and supporting a cross-sectoral approach to issues that impact on the lives of young people.

Visit our website: <http://www.agenziazghazagh.gov.mt/>



Maltese Traditional Game – Il-Passju

The game of il-Passju was popular in bygone times in Malta. In the past, villageroads were mainly traffic free and children used to play games outside instead of playing indoors on Wii and Playstation. Il-Passju was such a game and here's how it's played. A chalk grid is drawn on the road, with boxes for the numbers 1 to 9. Each child picks a stone or pebble and then has to throw their stone onto each numbered square, starting at number one. Once the stone lands on the correct number, the player then has to hop onto the corresponding square. Once that has been achieved, then the player moves onto the next number. If the player fails to aim the stone into the correct box, then that player is "out" and the game moves onto the next player. The winner is the player who successfully gets to number 9 before anyone else.

Traditional games are undergoing a bit of a renaissance at the moment, with cultural events regularly being organised by some local councils inviting today's children to play the games that their grandparents would have played. These events are advertised in the media and are popular with both tourists and Maltese alike that their grandparents would have played. These events are advertised in the media and are popular with both tourists and Maltese alike that their grandparents would have played. These events are advertised in the media and are popular with both tourists and Maltese alike that their grandparents would have played.





ORDER OF MALTA
MALTA

VOLUNTEERS IN GOZO

SISTER RACHELE AGIUS,

DOMINICAN, IN PAKISTAN



One of the latest hospitaller works of the Order of Malta Volunteers in Gozo was support for the Dominican Mission in Pakistan which consists of three communities, a school, an orphanage and a clinic with a dispensary. Last year, the Gozo corps also donated medicines to this missionary, however this year, the Board of the organisation decided to provide a monetary contribution to make things easier for the mission.

Sister Rachele thanked the Order of Malta and all our well-wishers who contributed generously and told us that buying medicine is the mission's priority – sometimes they could not buy the medicine for the poor people due to lack of funds. One has to take into consideration that there is no free National Health Service in Pakistan and many of the people do not have health insurance. Sister Rachele Agius was born in Gharb, Gozo. At the age of twenty, she joined the Dominican Sisters. After three years she went to St Catherine's hospital where for fifteen years she worked mainly in the maternity wards. She had spells in various other communities including Rome and then began missionary work. She loves that work and is currently in Pakistan providing education for orphaned children and medical help to the community by running a dispensary supported by the Order of Malta.

Fondazzjoni Patrimonju Malti receives the Peter Serracino Inglott Award 2016



Fondazzjoni Patrimonju Malti has received the Peter Serracino Inglott Award 2016 for a significant contribution in civic thinking translated into an initiative benefitting society. Since its inception in 1992, Fondazzjoni Patrimonju Malti has sought to educate by shining a light on well-known and lesser-known areas of Maltese culture, bringing to widespread attention hundreds of artefacts belonging to private collections. The Foundation has forged ahead in the Maltese cultural landscape, showing the way forward with its spectacularly splendid exhibitions, by creating and transforming museums, and

informing and enlightening with its award-winning publications. The objectives of the Foundation are well known and well respected, so much so that its endeavours are only made possible through the generous support of its many patrons, some of whom have been contributing since the very beginning. The Peter Serracino Inglott Award commemorates one of Malta's foremost thinkers. In the many roles throughout his lifetime, Fr Peter brought the qualities of civic thinking, participation and creative social innovation, and Patrimonju feels honoured to be receiving an award that memorializes such a great man. The award was accepted by Judge Giovanni Bonello, Patrimonju's Deputy Chairman and Editor of its publications, at a ceremony held at The Malta Chamber of Commerce in Valletta.





MSC'S newest cruise ship to bring 150,000 passengers to Malta in 2017

MSC CRUISES have announced that in 2017 the newest, largest and most luxurious five star cruise liner **MSC MERAVIGLIA** will grace Malta's Grand Harbour on a weekly basis between June-November bringing

over to Malta over 150,000 passengers, sailing to Malta immediately after being officially launched on 04 June 2017. At 167,000 gross tonnes **MSC MERAVIGLIA**, with a passenger capacity of 5,700, will be cruising around the Mediterranean, choosing Malta as one of its main ports of call. MSC MERAVIGLIA will give the unique weekly opportunity to 170 Maltese holiday makers to cruise round the Mediterranean from Malta to Malta on this largest ever cruise liner to enter Malta every Wednesday between 14 June till 15 November 2017.

MSC MERAVIGLIA will be the first MSC cruise liner to fly the Maltese flag. MSC Cruises have decided to register all new cruise liners in Malta launching five new super liners till 2020. **MSC MERAVIGLIA**, the lead cruise liner of MSC's new Vista generation vessels, is at the moment under construction for **MSC CRUISES** at its Chantiers de l'Atlantique shipyard in St Nazaire, France.

MSC MERAVIGLIA presents a futuristic vision with a new contemporary cruise ship designs to extend the existing fleet. MSC Meraviglia will be a ship for all seasons, adapting and transforming communal spaces throughout the year, evolving to best suit each itinerary. It has an extraordinary new-era design with innovative technology and spectacular entertainment options. MSC Meraviglia is a sophisticated combination of state-of-the-art-technology, a love of the sea, design, comfort and practicality. It is a cruise ship that will dazzle her travelers. Entertainment areas have been multiplied: there's a fun park and a water park, breathtaking panoramic areas and two covered promenades.

MSC CRUISES has been voted as the dominant cruise liner company in Europe for the fourth consecutive year. MSC Cruises has 9.9% market share of the world cruise liner industry and has just won the title of the best cruise liner company at the 'Travel Media Award' in Dublin.

Dr Claire Falzon LLD

Notary Public of Malta. A trained and qualified lawyer in Maltese Law
Advice on and drawing of Power of Attorney documents to be used in Malta,
as duly authorised by the Government of Malta.

Legal Advice, explanation and translation of wills and other legal documents
drawn in Malta.

Assistance with settlement of deceased estates in Malta.

CONTACT: claireminogue@bigpond.com

Giardiniera – pickled Vegetables



Ingredients:

1 cup cider vinegar
 2/3 cup water
 2 tbsp., plus 1 tsp., sugar
 1/3 cup onion, sliced
 1/3 cup green olive
 1 cup cauliflower florets, chopped
 1 cup carrots, peeled, sliced and roughly diced
 3/4 cup pepperoncini, drained and chopped
 1 serrano pepper, sliced
 4 garlic cloves, peeled and halved
 Approximately 1 tsp. salt
 Fresh cracked pepper, to taste

2 tbs. olive oil

Method:

Begin making giardiniera by placing vinegar, water, sugar and in a large, pot. Add salt and season with pepper to taste. Stir to combine and bring to a boil

Once the sugar is dissolved, add onions, green olives, carrots, pepperoncini, serrano pepper and garlic cloves. Simmer giardiniera for 3 minutes. Remove from heat and set aside to cool.

Place cooled giardiniera in a plastic container. Stir in olive oil. Chill and stir occasionally.

This entry was posted in [Appetizers](#), [Recipes](#), [Salads](#), [Side Dishes](#), [Vegetables](#) and tagged [food](#), [Recipes](#), [traditional maltese recipes](#), [vegetables](#). Bookmark the [permalink](#).

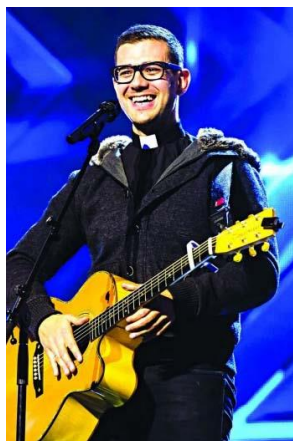
Maltese recipes

ilovefood.com.mt
 discover malta's culinary delights...

<http://www.ilovefood.com.mt/maltese-cuisine/>

If you want to experience authentic **Maltese cooking** you need to eat in a Maltese home, where **Maltese food recipes** have been handed by word of mouth over many generations. **Maltese food** has evolved over thousands of years, influenced by the many cultures brought over by foreign powers who at one time or another occupied or traded with **Malta**. This foreign influence mixed with Indigenous peasant food, which was mainly based on local vegetable produce since most farm animals were kept to produce milk and eggs or help on the farm.

Cooking in **Malta** and **Gozo** is very important in our way of life, and family meals have survived the changes in Malta's social fabric. This recipe collection aims to bring together a wide selection of **Maltese food recipes** including **soups** (Sopop), **meat** and **poultry** (laħam), **pies** (torot) **bread** (ħobż), **pasta vegetables**, **sweets** (ġelu), and **sauc**es (złazi). We are also trying to group these recipes by course or by occasion. We are continuously add more **Ricetti** on a daily basis, hoping to make this one of the biggest online repositories of **Maltese food recipes**. If you would like to send us any of your own **Maltese Food Recipes** including recipes handed over by your grandparents (ricetta tan-Nanna) please email us at info@ilovefood.com.mt



Maltese-born Singing priest brings X factor to Youth Festival

Fr Rob Galea's living example of how to be 'cool and Catholic' will take centre stage before thousands of young people at next month's Australian Catholic Youth Festival. The assistant parish priest from Bendigo is a guest speaker at the festival in Adelaide, as well as leading workshops and performing.

Photo: Supplied

By Rebecca DiGirolamo

Father Rob Galea's living example of how to be 'cool and Catholic' will take centre stage before thousands of young people at next month's Australian Catholic Youth Festival.

The assistant parish priest from Bendigo is a guest speaker at the festival in Adelaide next month, as well as being involved in leading workshops and performing.

Fr Galea said he was hoping to have released one of two new singles before the festival, which runs from 3 to 5 December.

"We have a lot of new and exciting things planned for Adelaide," he said.

One of his workshops, "Jesus and the X factor", will explore how youth can live as Christians in the world of popular culture.

It's a disparity he's successfully merged as a pop-singing consecrated man and which was recently evidenced through his audition performance on the popular Australian television show, *X-Factor*.

Fr Rob shone on the secular stage, singing *Don't You Worry Child* by Swedish House Mafia. He says the song choice reflected Psalm 128, that God has a plan for everyone.

He says his decision to compete on the show was simple.

"It's something that was reflective of what I have been doing all my life and throughout all my ministry."

The 33-year-old, Maltese-born priest has sold tens of thousands of albums, ministers to more than 150,000 young people each year, and has toured the United States, India, Canada and Europe.

Last month, he performed before 25,000 youth at a Christian conference in the US.

He's currently writing songs for secular artists for an album for Ministry of Sound Australia— the nation's largest independent dance music label.

"I use every means possible to give a positive message," said Fr Rob.

"In dance culture, the main message is always objectifying people, predominantly women, and living a very shallow life of riches, while I try to give a message of our solidarity and our dignity."

Fr Rob said Jesus was a great example of engaging mainstream audiences.

"Jesus dialogued with the people of His time; He went to the red light district of His time; He went to the nightclubs of His time; He went where the people were and, I think, as a Church, what we need to do is be in the world but not of the world."

X-Factor judges, pop princess Dannii Minogue, US rocker Chris Isaak, Guy Sebastian and James Blunt, thought Fr Rob was 'out of this world' when all four voted him through to the next round and later tweeted him praise. After the first week of boot camp, though, Fr Rob decided to leave the show.

"The opportunity to be part of *X-Factor* came my way and I took it but, at the same time, having realised the 16-week commitment required, I couldn't commit to that and all the other commitments to my parish and my youth work that are ultimately more important to me than fame," he said.

"Winning souls for me is infinitely more important than winning votes."

Fr Rob was born in Malta to Catholic parents. He says he stopped attending Mass as a tween when life choices led to depression, anxiety and addiction before he experienced a deep conversion at 16.

He did not consider the priesthood until six years later after meeting a young charismatic priest in Italy while touring with his Catholic ministry band.

Despite graduating with a university degree in commerce and expecting to take over his father's businesses, he entered the seminary and left behind his fiancé of four years to pursue his vocation.

Fr Rob travelled to Australia to complete his final years of seminary life in 2007 and has remained since, ministering to parishioners of the Shepparton diocese and leading a youth program which spans across three states and includes up to 1,000 young people each year.

ANDREA BOCELLI TO SING AT JOSEPH CALLEJA 20TH ANNIVERSARY CONCERT



2017 marks the 20th Anniversary of Joseph Calleja's public debut in the world of opera. To commemorate this occasion, NnG Promotions are proud to announce

world renowned tenor Andrea Bocelli as special guest for the annual Joseph Calleja Concert

Joseph Calleja's debut came at the age of 19 as Macduff in Verdi's Macbeth at the Aastra Theatre whilst studying under the tutelage of the late Mro. Paul Aciak. Shortly after he went on to win an award in the Hans Gabor Belvedere Competition which launched his international career. Calleja went on to win the 1998 Caruso Competition in Milan and was a prize winner in Plácido Domingo's Operalia in 1999, the year of his U.S. debut at the Spoleto Festival. The last twenty years has seen Joseph Calleja go from strength to strength, receiving accolades wherever he has sung with his voice being compared to opera greats such as Jussi Björling, Beniamino Gigli, even Enrico Caruso. Calleja has appeared in most of the world's great opera theatres, having sung an impressive 33 leading roles to date.

Born in Laiatico, Andrea Bocelli started his career under the guidance of Mestro Luciano Bettarini and, similarly to Joseph Calleja, made his stage debut in the role of Macduff in Verdi's Macbeth in 1994. The release of Con Te Partiro in 1996, later arranged as a duet with Sarah Brightman, saw the tenor reach the top of charts all over the world with the name Andrea Bocelli becoming a household name. To date Mro Bocelli tours the world selling out venues and releasing chart topping albums whilst at the same time fronting various charities, chief amongst which is the Andrea Bocelli Foundation which operates at an international level through intervention programs aimed at overcoming the barriers generated by poverty, disability and social exclusion.

The Joseph Calleja 20th Anniversary Concert will be held on 19 August 2017 at The Granaries in Floriana with the participation of the Malta Philharmonic Orchestra and the BOV Joseph Calleja Children's Choir under the direction of Gillian Zammit. Once again, an agreement has been reached between the Government of Malta, the Malta Tourism Authority and NnG Promotions so that the whole of the standing area will be free of charge and open to the public. The concert is supported by Bank of Valletta, the Malta Tourism Authority, the Government of Malta and Gasan Mamo.

**OUR NEWSLETTER IS PRESERVED AT THE MALTA MIGRATION
MUSEUM IN VALLETTA AND ON OUR WEBSITE
www.ozmalta.page4.me**



The Maltese Community Council of NSW invites the Maltese Community to attend, Australia Day Calibration, on Sunday, January 22nd 2017 at the (Wattle Room), 17 Miller Street, Merrylands NSW 2160, 4 pm. Admission is free. Light refreshments. Parking available. For more information, Contact Emanuel 0409 744 376

Former Manchester United footballer to become Dominican priest in 2017

Published: 22 December 2016



Phil Mulryne will be ordained as Dominican priest this year after more than seven years of study for the priesthood. *Eurasia Review* has the story.

Mulryne, who shared the field with David Beckham and played for Ireland 27 times, was ordained as a deacon in October by Archbishop Diarmuid Martin of Dublin. He will be

ordained priest in 2017.

"To give oneself completely to God through the profession of the evangelical councils, to take him as our example and despite our weakness and our defects, trust in Him that he will transform us by his grace, and thus being transformed, communicate the joy in knowing him to everyone we meet – this for me is the ideal of Dominican life and one of the major reasons of what attracted me to the order," he told the *Daily Mail* in a video interview.

Mulryne, 38, began his career in football in 1994 when he attended the Manchester United youth academy.

His teammates were among the many of his surprised acquaintances to find out that he gave up his global fame and lucrative career to pursue the vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience as a priest.

"It was a complete shock that he felt this was his calling," fellow footballer Paul McVeigh said, according to the *Daily News*.

After a series of major injuries at the end of his career in 2008, Mulryne was faced with the question of how to spend his post-footballing days. According to McVeigh, Mulryne began "doing a lot of charitable work and helping the homeless on a weekly basis." In 2009, he entered the Irish Pontifical College in Rome, where he has been pursuing the priesthood through studies in philosophy and theology.

IS-SENA T-TAJBA – HAPPY NEW YEAR



**Xaghra Association of NSW Inc.
INVITES YOU TO COME & CELEBRATE AUSTRALIA DAY
2017**

With a Dinner Dance

Date: Saturday 21 st January 2017

Time: Doors open 6:30 pm for 7:00pm start

Place: Mandavilla Function Centre

1788 The Horsley Drive, Horsley Park

Entertainer: Joe Apap

**Dinner: 3 Course Meal, Beer, Wine, Soft Drinks, tea, coffee,
pastizzi & fruit platters For more information contact:**

Ray & Josephine Bigeni: 9627 4182, Mob: 0439 974 182

M'Anne Teuma: 9627 4641

**CATHOLIC LOGIC: He who drinks, sleeps.
He who sleeps, does not sin.
He who does not sin is holy. Therefore he who drinks is holy.**



IMPORTANT NOTICE: Hello Everyone, the latest news on the 80 SIMSHAR DVD Kits is.....we have not as yet received them, according to documents from Malta Post they left Malta on Thursday 24 NOV. & they arrived somewhere in Australia on Friday 2 DEC. We are reliably told that in DEC.& JAN. it is not unusual for parcels to take 6 or even 8 weeks to reach their final destination, this is because of the large volume of parcels that arrive in Australia...Previously the last parcel of DVD Kits arrived in 16 days but that was in November. As you can understand the situation is entirely out of our (Rebecca & I) control & all we can do is to wait, & apologize to you. We wish we can do something but we can't.. Please do us a favour & if you know others that are waiting for these DVD Kits as well tell them of the problem. Thanks for understanding & Have a Safe & Happy New Year....
Cheers Charles N. Mifsud Email: cnmifsud@gmail.com.au



I am Vesselin Vesselinov, born in Bulgaria and living in Canada. Football is my hobby since childhood – not the most important part of my life, but lifelong addiction nevertheless. Playing, watching, talking and collecting football. Now I am sharing my addiction with you. Hope you enjoy it

ABOUT FOOTBALL IN MALTA 2012

Malta at the very bottom – how true was that? Were they really weaker than, say, Iceland? Difficult to judge, for the dwarfs of football world hardly ever played competitive games against each other. The curious part is but one: most of the dwarfs had old clubs and old championships. The structure existed years before many other countries. At least on local level the history was rich and trophy rooms – crammed.

Yet, domestic history had nothing to do with international success. Malta run the smallest league in Europe – along with Iceland, they had 10-team league. Smaller championship existed, but they were not official – San Marino, Andorra, the Vatican, Northern Cyprus. Wales and Lichtenstein had no championships at all, their better clubs playing respectively in the English and the Switzerland's leagues.

The smallest, but still a league – 2 relegated, Zebbuq Rangers, 9th, and Senglea Athletics, 10th. Both names meant little in Malta and absolutely nothing outside the island. Senglea did not win a single match, finishing with 3 points. Zebbuq Rangers had a chance to survive: they and Msida St. Joseph finished with 13 points each, and by rules goal-difference was not decisive factor. A play-off instead, which provided some drama – the match ended tied: 2-2 and went into penalty shoot-out. Msida clinched the victory 5-4 and survived, Zebbuq went down.

Generally speaking 5 clubs were traditionally stronger, but this is just an overview. Hamrun Spartans were 5th, yet closer to the relegation zone than to medals – they were 8 points behind the 4th. The next three clubs fought for 2nd and 3rd place – Hibernians missed the podium by 2 points and Valletta missed silver also by 2 points. Sliema Wanderers finished 2nd, losing only one match, but with 27 points they were far behind the champions. Floriana comfortably won the title with 33 points. They finished unbeaten and more – they won 15 out of total 18 championship games. Scored 53 goals, 10 more than the second best scorers, and allowed only 12 goals in their net. Truly supreme.



Back: Sultana, Farrugia E, Balani, Darmanin, Holland, Micallef C.

Front: Micallef P, Buhagiar, Xuereb, Farrugia R, Micallef F, 1977-1978



Panini gave different year for this squad – 1977-78, but who can really tell? Maltese teams and players are difficult to place in actual time, for they were of little interest to the world. At home, however, it was

different – Floriana are one of the better Maltese clubs. They won their 24th title – very few clubs have so many even today in 21st century, when Valletta is considered the top club of Malta. Valletta were favorites back in the 1970s as well, but they had won only 9 championships by 1977. Floriana was way above everyone... fate is cruel, though - 25th title was surely coming. It did – in 1993. Floriana kind of faded after 1977.

The Cup final was an opportunity for a double – Floriana reached the final and given their excellent form in the championship, they were favorites. Valletta, having so-so season, was hoping at least to win something, but seemingly it should have been easy victory for Floriana. It was not – Valletta scored a goal and the champions did not.



PHOTO: Darmanin,
Demajo, Abdilla, Spiteri,
Fenech, Farrugia E,

Grima, Agius, Farrugia L,
Magro, Sechel, Galea (1977-78)



Once again, the year of this photo may be wrong – the kit is the hint: Valletta played with fashionable Adidas in 1977-78, so may be this picture is from 1976-77. Valletta won the Cup for 4th time and from a time distance one thing can be detected: so far Valletta was not the dominant Maltese club, but among the better ones. But the club was on the rise. On the other hand, Floriana was going into decline. May be the Cup final of 1977 indicated the shift of power – easy to say now, but not back then.



Playing Bocci in Malta

CUSTOMS



The popular game of **Bocci** is played all over the Maltese islands, and the pastime is closely related to the French game of Petanque, English Bowls and the Italian Bocce. Variations of Bocci are played all over Europe and it's believed that the sport has its origins in the Roman period. Migrants from southern Europe who settled in Canada, Australia and The United States took the game with them and it formed an important part of their social scene. Maltese emigrants to Toronto and Melbourne set up Bocci clubs and these formed the hub of the Maltese communities there, together with band clubs and the Church. There

is a Bocci **club** in almost every village in Malta and Gozo. These clubs are regulated by Federazzjoni Klabbs Tal-Bocci based in Tarxien.

. As well as watching or playing Bocci, these clubs are a hive of activity in the bar area, and some Bocci clubs serve snacks and even full meals. Bocci is played on a **sand-covered smooth surface**, and each team has three players. The jack ball is around the size of a marble and the look like snooker-balls. One team plays with red balls, the other one with blue. The object of the game is to get your team's balls as close to the **jack** as possible. Rules do change and vary from club to club, so it's worth watching a few games before trying your luck.

A particularly popular Bocci club – especially in summer – is Bugibba Bocci Club. Located right on the seafront, this popular venue attracts locals, summer residents and tourists alike. The bar serves a range of very reasonably priced beers, wines and spirits, and there's seating available on a patio overlooking the sea. The club also dishes up some great bar snacks, sandwiches and hot meals and does a decent Sunday Roast.



EUROVISION 2017 – MALTA FINALISTS

PBS Malta announced earlier today, the songs and singers which will compete to represent them in the Eurovision Song Contest 2017. Many familiar names are returning. The Maltese final this year will contain sixteen songs and will be held on February 18 2017. Amongst the finalists is last years runner up, Brooke Borg, who returns with a song from the same team as her second placed Golden from the 2016 competition.

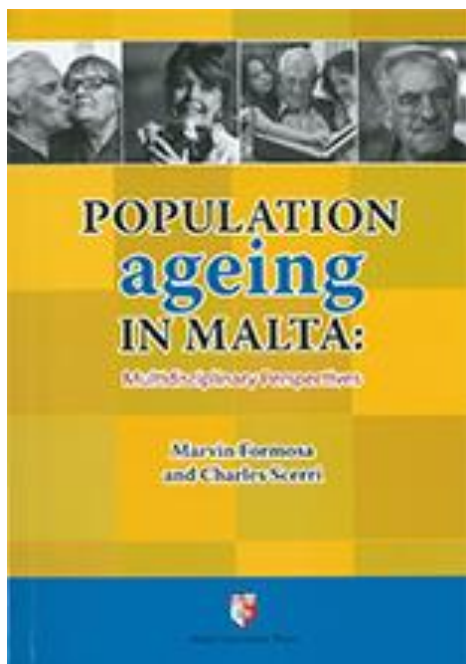
Claudio Faniello will make her eighth appearance in the Maltese final, her last was in 2012 where she finished second with the song Pure. In 2014, Franklin Calleja placed fifth in the Malta Song Contest with the Alexander Rybak penned Still Here. The list also contains many other familiar figures who are making a return appearance.

Here is the full list of the contestants: Brooke Borg – Unstoppable Cherton Caruana – Fighting To Survive Claudia Faniello – Breathlessly Crosswalk – So Simple Deborah C & Josef Tabone – Tonight Franklin Calleja – Follow Me Jade Vella – Seconds Away Janice Mangion – Kewkba Kevin Borg – Follow Klinsmann Coleiro – Laserlight Maxine Pace – Bombshell Miriana Conte – *Don't Look Down* Raquela Dalli Gonzi – Ray of Light Rhiannon Micallef – Fearless, Richard Edwards – You Shauna Vassallo – Crazy Games. All the songs can be listened to at the PBS official [website](#). The winner will be chosen by a Maltese public televote. Last year Ira Losco won the Malta Song contest with the song Chameleon, which was later replaced by Walk On Water, which finished in 12th place in Stockholm, Sweden.

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

THANK YOU - GRAZZI





Publication by MUP: Population Ageing in Malta

Malta University Press

POPULATION AGEING IN MALTA: Multidisciplinary Perspectives

Edited by Marvin Formosa & Charles Scerri

ISBN 978-99909-45-79-9 380 pp Price: 35 euro

The latest publication by Malta University Press, **POPULATION ageing IN MALTA: Multidisciplinary Perspectives**, is a must read for every student and teacher of nursing, medicine and gerontology.

'Life for older people was more simple 28 years ago. In 1982, the post office issued a set of two stamps on the theme of 'a time of rest' featuring an older man and woman in stereotypical village clothes against a background of Zammit Clapp Geriatric Hospital and St Vincent de Paul Residence for older persons. In 1986, the Department of Medicine provided a few lectures on geriatrics to medical students in the final year almost as an afterthought, with the management of bedsores being the most important topic taught.

The future for our idealised 'Wenzu u Rozi' older people was evidently to 'rest' in institutions where doctors could manage their bedsores. Fast forward to 2015 and I am reading the book **Population ageing in Malta: Multidisciplinary Perspectives**. It is a landmark publication showing the vast progress that the study of ageing in Malta has undergone in the last 29 years.

The book brings together a wide variety of authors writing accessibly and authoritatively about different aspects of aging and aged care in Malta from miscellaneous fields such as history, sociology, criminology, professional roles, and the informal, formal and private care sectors.' (*Dr Carmelo Aquilina, St George Hospital, Sydney, New South Wales, Australia*)

- The book is available from the offices of Malta University Press on campus at Guze Cassar Pullicino Building opposite the playschool, and from leading bookshops. Tel: +356 2340 3448 Email: mup@um.edu.mt

Carmelo Aquilina Malta



Dr Carmelo Aquilina graduated from the University of Malta in 1986 and started his psychiatric training in Liverpool in 1988 and trained as an old age psychiatrist in London in 1991. He started work as an old age psychiatrist in 1996 working in Sheffield, Eastbourne and then South London. During this time he was the founder-editor of the Royal College of Psychiatrists' Faculty of Age Psychiatry's Journal – 'Old Age Psychiatrist' from 1994 to 2002. In 2006 he worked as the Director of Old age Psychiatry services in Auckland, New Zealand and in 2008 took up his current position as Director of mental Health Services for Older people in Western Sydney Local Health District. He is also Clinical Senior Lecturer with the University of Sydney. His interests include *dementia*, ethics, health economics and self-neglect in old age.

Santa swings by Hal Far for breakfast children and adults alike enjoy Breakfast with Santa



His gift-giving engagements may be done for another year, but Santa had one last stop to make on the island before returning to Lapland. As he has done for the last 15 years, Father Christmas appeared at the Playmobil Fun Park in Hal-Far yesterday, treating nearly 100 lucky children to some festive cheer. Now an established part of the holiday season, this year's edition of the Playmobil Breakfast with Santa drew some 90 children and their parents, all of whom were treated to food, drinks, music and games alongside the beloved Christmas figure. Santa Claus himself is now an old pro, having been played by the same actor for 15 years. He was accompanied this year by Mrs Claus and a team of elves, who walked the young children through a number of games and crafts, entertaining them with song and dance and leading them in a Christmas-themed singalong. The children, not surprisingly, took to the entertainment with gusto – even before the presents were rolled out. “Christmas is all about warmth and true loving spirit,” Playmobil said. “It’s a time for people to get together and celebrate the festive season, sharing good vibes and of course lots of good food. Despite the difficult times many





THE NATIONAL SPORT SCHOOL
Introducing the National Sport School, Malta



Malta's first school dedicated to sporting excellence was set up in September 2012. A recognized National Centre of Excellence, fully

supported by the Maltese Government, the National Sport School is leading the way in providing opportunities for young people in Malta to develop their sporting talents as part of their school education.



It is now housed in Pembroke, adjacent to the Luxol St. Andrews Stadium.



The National Sport School is a co-educational school for students who have undoubted sporting talent and a high potential for development in their chosen field of sport. Presently there are 217 pupils aged between 11 and 15 and specializing in one of sixteen sports. Students follow a balanced curriculum of academic studies together with their sports specialism.

They receive coaching within the school day, which is carefully timetabled around their academic subjects. Great care is taken in providing pupils with every opportunity to maximize not only their sporting but also their academic potential. The ultimate aim of the National Sport School is to guide these students along a dual career path, leading them to a successful career in sports and academic achievement.

This is the only local school to connect sports and academic studies closely by offering a flexible academic environment that is customized to student sporting demands. It has a distinct identity within a co-educational setting providing appropriate facilities for both male and female students, its own uniform and sportswear, transport arrangements and educational resources.



Entry is by selection only. Care is always taken to ensure that the development of students is not compromised. It is quality over quantity, thus there is a focus on a select few rather than pandering to the masses.

Students' Council

During the first week at the National Sport School, all students had the opportunity to vote and elect the new members of the Students' Council. The formation of the council is as follows:

- President: Alessia Maria Cristina
- Vice- President: Emilia Vella
- Secretary: Liam Scicluna
- Vice-Secretary: Matthias Debono
- Treasurer: Nigel Scerri
- Vice-Treasurer: Jacob Crossey
- PRO: Jake Huber
- Vice-PRO: Anthea Cutajar
- PROs (Form 5) Jan Culic and Andreas Vella

The main purpose of the Council is for the students to engage in school planning strategies and give their input during meetings which discuss school policies and school rules. They also strive to strike a balance between their academic studies, sport practice and attending meetings while working within the council. The Students' Council organises numerous events consisting of extra-curricular activities, social gatherings and fund-raising events. This year the members are planning to organise fund-raising activities during the first term of school in order to gather funds to be donated to several organisations during the festive season. The second and third term will then be devoted to organising activities aimed at exploring a number of themes such as bullying, peer pressure and healthy food options. This is intended to raise awareness about such topics.



MALTA DARTS ASSOCIATION

Darts Round-Up

Janet Debrincat , 2016



Kalkara St Joseph & Marsa St Michaels dominate the scene

In Division one of the National league, Kalkara St Joseph were crowned national champions for the first time ever after seeing of the challenge of Marsa St Michaels. These two teams were inseparable throughout the entire season with Kalkara only claiming the title on the second to last day of the championship. From the lower end of the table Hamrun Education Bar A and Birkirkara Juventus Vero Amore were relegated to Division Two.



Despite finishing runners-up, Marsa St Michaels had a season to remember as they manage to claim both of the cup honours at stake. Firstly, winning the 4 a-side competition against Floriana Ajax which required a deciding leg in a 9-8 victory and a week later took revenge on Kalkara by securing the 5 a-side cup in a 3-2 victory.

In Division two, Mosta Horseshoe Bar dominated the division by claiming 64 points from the 66 available and next season they will be serious contenders for the top honour. Joining them in division one will be Gudja POs Bar B which finished eleven points behind but a comfortable five points ahead of third place Zejtun Beland Bullseye. & **Good Luck – MARY AND HARRY BUGEJA – ADELAIDE, AUSTRALIA**

THE FIRST ALL-MALTESE SOCCER TEAM

HABANA – MACKAY – AUSTRALIA 1926

Habana pioneers found time for soccer



THE Maltese men of Mackay took another pioneering step when in 1926 they formed their own soccer team — believed to have been the first all-Maltese soccer team in Australia. Most of the members lived and worked in the Habana district so they played under that name, wearing jerseys presented to them as a sign of goodwill by Jim Love of the Imperial Hotel in Victoria Street. Pictured are, from back row left, Paul Bartolo, P. Calleja, A.F. Vella, Tony Saliba, S. Portelli, Tony Borg; second row: Jim Camilleri, Andy Frendo, P. Camilleri, J. Deguara, C. Deguara; front row: J. Fenech, Paul Camilleri and Jim Camilleri.

Celebrating a Maltese Christmas in North Queensland

ABC Tropical North By [Harriet Tatham](#)



Photo: *Rose and Joe Borg have numerous nativity scenes displayed in and outside their home.*

Despite being one of the world's most celebrated holidays, there is great difference in how we all celebrate Christmas.

The 2011 census data reveals Mackay has one of the largest Maltese-ancestry communities in regional Australia, a percentage well above the national average. So how do Maltese people celebrate Christmas? Sister Pauline Bonavia spent roughly 30

Christmases in Malta, before moving to Mackay to work as a nurse at Francis of Assisi Home. She remembers Christmas as a time for family, public processions, and baby Jesus dolls in cribs. "By Christmas Eve ... a group of people will carry baby Jesus and all the children process along with a baby Jesus [doll] and there will be Christmas carols," Sister Pauline said. "That ends up in the parish church, and then about 10 o'clock, they will start doing some pageant — narrating the story of Christmas, and then at midnight exactly the mass will start," she said. **Photo:**

Sister Pauline Bonavia says displaying a crib at Christmas time is an important part of Maltese culture.



CHURCH SERVICES LEAD BY A 10-YEAR-OLD BOY

While Catholic services in Australia are frequently led by a senior member of the congregation, Sister Pauline said Malta takes a younger approach. "Over there that they get a 10-year-old boy and he'll preach — this is just a tradition and it's still happening today," she said. "It's very, very nice because it always ends by

this little boy asking baby Jesus to bless him, to bless him family, to bless the place where he is, to bless Malta, to bless the leaders," she said.

Sister Pauline said after midnight mass, Maltese families typically go home and share food and drinks with one another before enjoying a hot lunch on Christmas Day. "The main dish is turkey, and roast potatoes, baked pasta — everything is baked — you wouldn't dream over there to have salads for Christmas, and I suppose part of the season is because Christmas is winter for us, and is very, very cold," she said.

Sister Pauline said Christmas time was also a time for people to decorate their homes with nativity scenes. **"When I was there, every house had a crib and then decorated the house with Christmas trees," she said.**

"[The cribs] come from Spain and you would give someone, let's say that's going to have first Holy Communion, a baby Jesus, because that's something that they then," she said. And this is a ritual she continues to perform today.

"The sisters have been here in Mackay 54 years, so we always do cribs everywhere — like if you go at any entrance you'll find a crib," she said.



"It's a tradition for us that we don't want to lose either."

Photo: [A traditional Maltese meal includes a casserole made out of rabbit.](#)

TRADITIONAL MALTESE FOOD

Rose Borg is also trying to keep Maltese traditions alive in north Queensland, by cooking a traditional Christmas lunch.

["I always make the rabbit at Christmas time — being a Maltese dish I just kept it up," she said.](#)

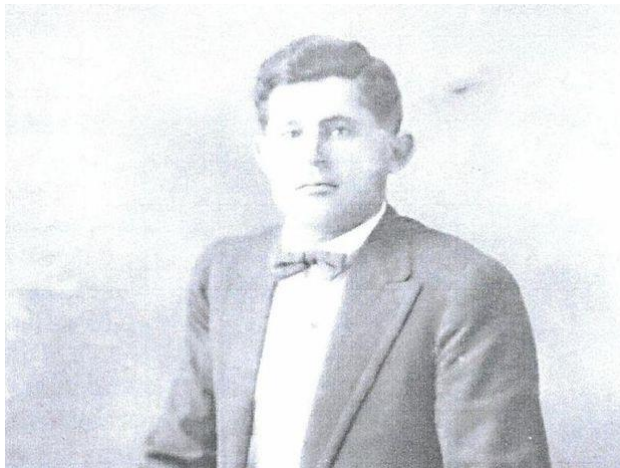
"I don't like it, I don't eat it, but the rest of family, they love it."

"I just get a joy out of other people enjoying it."

Aside from the rabbit casserole, Mrs Borg said she also enjoyed people coming to look at the crib she had placed out the front of her home, as she believed it helped to refocus the holiday period.

"I feel like that's what Christmas is about — Christmas is the birth of Jesus and I just sort of feel as if it's not emphasized enough anymore," she said.

"You sit here sometimes at night time and see people walk in the yard and see people stopping out the front [to look at the crib] and I just enjoy doing it."



Jumping ship over politic - 1916

Lucy Martin
Joe Sherry in 1928

JOE Sherry and Tony Axiak swam in shark infested waters to reach Australian soil - they swam towards the lights of Sydney while shots were fired over their

heads.

This year the Sherry and Axiak families celebrate 100 years since Mr Sherry and Mr Axiak made that tough journey to eventually settle in Mackay. Mr Sherry, also known as Giuseppe Xerri, was 25 years old and Mr Axiak was 21 when they left Malta. They were among 200 Maltese to make the trip to Australia in September 1916.

But the French mail steamer 'Gange' was prohibited from docking and was anchored off Fremantle on October 21, 1916. The ship had been detained because of the referendum to impose conscription in Australia. Prime Minister, at the time, Bill Hughes feared the immigrants would "turn the tide" against the conscription vote.

Hughes implemented the Immigration Act's stipulation that "persons seeking to disembark at Australian port could be classified as prohibited immigrants if they failed a dictation test in any European language." The passengers were given the test in Dutch - they all failed. The ship was turned around and headed to New Caledonia where the passengers spent 10 weeks before being allowed to return to Australia - their original treatment was deemed as discrimination.

Before the ship had departed for New Caledonia, Mr Sherry and Mr Axiak with 42 other men jumped ship under the cover of darkness - 15 were captured quickly including Mr Sherry, more were later found but Mr Axiak made it land with the help of wharf workers.



Mr Sherry's granddaughter Therese Townley said the family was proud of Mr Sherry and all he went through to set up life in Australia.

"They came from a place that was established to Mackay which was just starting off," Mrs Townley said. "It was pretty basic and they left their homeland with nothing - they had to start all over again. "They worked hard in harsh conditions to set us all up." Mr Sherry eventually purchased a cane farm which still remains in the family.

SHERRY FAMILY: Children of Joe Sherry, back from left, Frances Camilleri, Lawrence Sherry, Joe Sherry and Mary Borg. Absent Tony Sherry (dec)

Mrs Townley said Mr Sherry and Mr Axiak were reunited in Mackay a couple of years later and both worked in it sugar industry and become life-long friends.

"My grandfather came to Mackay because he knew there were Maltese people here," she explained.



Mr Axiak made his way to Mackay by working on the railway and arrived in 1918. He also established himself in cane farming after he took on a crop partnership with Gaetano Zammit in Farleigh. The Axiak still own cane farms the Mackay area.

AXIAK FAMILY: The children of Tony Axiak, back from left, Charlie Axiak, Margaret Bezzina and Fred Axiak, front, Tony Axiak, Mary Schembri and Joe Axiak contributed

The men's extraordinary journey to Australia was commemorated with a limited edition post card

printed Canberra & Gozo Philatelic Societies - Joe Sherry's son Joe has number 92 of 100.



NEXT EDITION – AUSTRALIA DAY SPECIAL