



THE MALTESE NEWSLETTER

The Journal of the Maltese Diaspora

THE MOTTO - BUILDING BRIDGES NOT WALLS

EDITOR: Frank L. Scicluna OAM CONTACT - Email: honconsul@live.com.au



MALTESE QUEEN OF VICTORIES BAND SOUTH AUSTRALIA INC

MQVB FOUNDERS:

*Fr. Edward Zammit OFM , Francis Louis Brincat, William & Antoinette Azzopardi
Queen of Victories Maltese Chaplaincy Council 1980/81
The Maltese Queen of Victories Band Inaugural Committee 1981*

36TH ANNIVERSARY



The Maltese Queen of Victories Band

The Maltese Queen of Victories Band rehearsals are held at
The Christ the King Parish Hall Henley Bch Rd Lockleys
every Wednesday at 7.30-9.30 pm

Enquiries: please approach any member of the committee at rehearsals from 6.30 pm

MALTESE QUEEN OF VICTORIES BAND SOUTH AUSTRALIA

BRIEF HISTORY

With the arrival of the new statue of Our Lady Queen of Victories to the Maltese Franciscan Friars at Lockleys, the Maltese Community of South Australia saw the need to have its own cultural and community band. The task of this project was entrusted to the Maltese Chaplaincy Council under the guidance of the Maltese Chaplain, Father Edward Zammit OFM.

The Chaplaincy Council designated its secretary Mr. Francis Brincat to explore the potential of forming such a band. Mr. Brincat with the assistance of many other individuals, prepared all the necessary ground work to initiate this band.

He called a special meeting on February 8th 1981 and an interim committee was elected to prepare the Maltese Queen of Victories Band (MQVB) constitution. The band was incorporated with the Corporate Affairs Department on July 6th 1982.

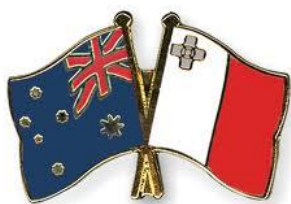
During the following years the MQVB represented the Maltese Community with great pride both here in South Australia and Interstate. On many occasions the MQVB has been invited to perform at various special events, some of which have been in the presence of dignitaries from Malta and from within Australia. In 2006 the MQVB celebrated their Silver Jubilee.

Reaching this milestone is something that all past and present administrators, musicians, musical directors and members can surely be proud of.

MQVB Highlights

- 1981 MQVB was Founded
- 1982 MQVB Constitution and Incorporation initiated.
- 1983 First interstate trip to Melbourne
- 1986 Performance for the President of Malta, Mrs Agatha Barbara & Archbishop of Malta, Mons. Joseph Mercieca.
- 1986 Performance to coincide with Mass celebrated by Pope John Paul II in Adelaide
- 1988 Participation in Australia's Bi-Centenary Celebrations • 1990 Performance for the Prime Minister of Malta, Dr Edward Fenech Adami.
- 1991 10th Anniversary Ball
- 1991 Salute to Maltese Societies
- 1993 Performance for the President of Malta, Dr Censu Tabone
- 1996 15th Anniversary "Musical Extravaganza" Concert
- 2001 20th Anniversary Concert "A Musical Odyssey In 2001"
- 2001 A Chronological History of the MQVB was published
- 2001 Release of MQVB first CD
- 2006 25th Anniversary Concert
- 2006 New MQVB Uniforms unveiled
- 2006 25th Anniversar Slide Show CD

Submitted by Joseph Chetcuti – Kilburn – South Australia 2017



SOUTH AUSTRALIAN MALTESE COMMUNITY INVITATION TO THE

SECOND GENERATION REUNION PICNIC

It's on again! We will be holding the picnic again with the intention of attracting even more family and friends!!!

DATE: March 26th, 2017

TIME: 11.00am onwards

PLACE: Bonython Park, Port Road (Opposite Coca Cola)
(Area 11, north of the lake) Look for the Maltese Flags!!

BYO: Food, Drinks, Chairs, Shelter and any photos you may want to share

This is an open invitation to the members of the Maltese Community of all ages and their families.

For further information, you can contact:

Catherine Saliba on 0438 825 174 or email catherine.saliba@yahoo.com

IV KONVENZJONI GĦALL-MALTIN LI JGĦIXU BARRA 2015



IV CONVENTION FOR THE MALTESE LIVING ABROAD 2015

WWW.FOREIGNAFFAIRS.GOV.MT

THE MALTESE NEWSLETTER MENTIONED AT THE CONVENTION 2015

THE JOURNAL OF THE MALTESE DIASPORA, PUBLISHED BY FRANK L. SCICLUNA, HON CONSUL FOR MALTA IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA, AND ALSO AT THIS CONVENTION, SAYS HE CREATED THIS NEWSLETTER THREE YEARS AGO, AND "IT NOW HAS 72 ISSUES OUT."

FRANK ADDS: "IN MY CAPACITY AS CONSUL, I OFTEN AM ASKED BY MANY MALTESE CITIZENS TO GIVE THEM INFORMATION ABOUT MALTA. MANY ARE PLANNING TO VISIT MALTA OR HAVE FRIENDS WHO ARE CONSIDERING IT. ALSO, AS A TEACHER OF MALTESE FOR MORE THAN 30 YEARS, I ACCUMULATED 'HEAPS' OF MATERIAL ON THE CULTURE AND HISTORY OF MALTA. SO, I DECIDED TO START WRITING A PUBLICATION TO PROMOTE THE MALTESE ISLANDS."

SCICLUNA ALSO SAID: "THE NUMBER OF READERS IS IN THE THOUSANDS AND THE NEWSLETTER IS SENT PRIMARILY TO MALTESE IN EVERY CORNER OF THE WORLD. I COLLECT, WRITE, AND COLLATE

THE INFORMATION MYSELF ALTHOUGH I RECEIVE REGULARLY CONTRIBUTIONS FROM SEVERAL READERS AND ASSOCIATIONS REGARDING THEIR ACTIVITIES AND FUNCTIONS. (PAGE 198)



Dear Members and Friends of the Maltese
Literature Group and readers of
The Maltese Newsletter

I am very pleased to give you free access to my latest
creation - a book of lyrics that I wrote over a span of 60
years.

The lyrics in this [online flipbook](http://online.fliphtml5.com/bxaj/dnpd) are in Maltese and
English.

To access the book, please click on the following link:

<http://online.fliphtml5.com/bxaj/dnpd>

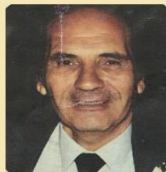
Bejn Sema u Art - Versi f'Zewg Ilsna

online.fliphtml5.com

Bejn Sema u Art - Versi f'Zewg Ilsna

Thank you in advance for your comments,
Through Mr Paul Vella – Victoria Australia

~~~~~



*In memory of Carmelo (Charlie) Scicluna  
beloved husband, father, grandfather great-grandfather,  
uncle, brother and friend*

*Born in Malta 2 February 1935  
Died in Terrigal, NSW Australia 7 February 2017*



*God took you in his loving arms  
He saw you needed rest . His garden must be beautiful  
For He only takes the best*

from your loving bother Frank

## Il-Ħajja u l-Istorja ta' Ġorġ Agius magħruf bħala 'Tal-Mużew'

*Permezz ta' din il-pubblikazzjoni qed nċelebraw it-tgħidja u l-qalb tajba ta' Ġorġ Agius, imma minx biss. Għandna prova li ħajja ta' tgħidja hi possibbli. Mhux illużjoni, xi haġa tant diffiċli li hadd minna ma jista' qatt jikseb.*

L-Eċċellenza Tagħha, Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca, President ta' Malta

*Ġorġ għandu kelma sempliċi li tiftiehem minn kulhadd. Kliemu jinzal għasel u appena hu jiftah fomm, min ikun quddiemu jiftah qalbu għar-riflessjonijiet tiegħu. Nisthajjel li Ġorġ kellu 'master key' li tiftah kull qalb.*

L-Isqof t'Għawdex, L-Eċċellenza Tiegħu Mons. Mario Grech

*Kemm nies ikkonsultati, kemm qub infarrġa, kemm ħajjet mibdula, kemm dagħa evitat, kemm talb intenzi, kemm relazzjonijiet iġġirgħi, kemm pariri mogħtija, kemm paċi mxerrda. Malta għandha bżonn ta' persuni bħal Ġorġ Agius dogħkemm pajjiz mill-paċi għandu bżonn iobba.*

Is-Superjur Generali tas-Socjetà tal-Museum, Is-Sur Natalino Camilleri

*Il-bniedem għandu bżonn nifja poezija f'ħajtu, anki jekk tkun il-poezija sempliċi u mingħajr pretensjonijiet ta' Ġorġ tal-Mużew.*

Professur tal-Filosofija fl-Università ta' Malta u Awtur, Prof. Joe Friggieri

*L-għanijiet tiegħu, fuq Alla u fuq il-Madonna, kienu jkunu mahsubin biex iħallu tagħlima u biex iġegħlu lill-folla titlob miegħu.*

Professur tal-Malti fl-Università ta' Malta u Awtur, Prof. Oliver Friggieri

*Hemm diversi modi kif ġenju jista' jigi definit. Jekk wiehed iqs bħala ġenju persuna li jkollha kapacità straordinarja, f'dan il-kaz partikulari allura wiehed jista' jgis lil Ġorġ bħala ġenju.*

Kap tal-Psikjatrija fl-Isptar Monte Carmeli u Senior Lecturer fl-Università, Dr. Anton Grech

*Jalla pajjizna jintela b'Ġorġijiet habrieka biex lil uliedna nħalluhom pajjiz aħjar milli stnieh.*

Awtur u Artist, Is-Sur Mikiel Spiteri MQR, magħruf bħala Kilin



24sevenMedia  
WWW.24SEVENMEDIA.TV

Il-Ħajja u l-Istorja ta' Ġorġ Agius magħruf bħala 'Tal-Mużew'

## Il-Ħajja u l-Istorja ta' ĠORĠ AGIUS

magħruf bħala 'Tal-Mużew'



M A L T I N

TONIO BONELLO

Doris Zammit  
Gabriella Parsons

## “Il-Ħajja u l-Istorja ta' Ġorġ Agius” magħruf bħala tal-Mużew

Ftit aktar minn erba' snin ilu, Tonio Bonello l-moħħ wara dan il-proġett, direttur maniġerjali ta' 24sevenMedia, minn dak li kien sema' dwaru u partikolarment il-famużi taqbiliet tiegħu, ra f'Ġorġ, enċiklopedija oħra umana.

Għal min ma jafx, Ġorġ la jaf jaqra u lanqas jikteb. Dak kollu li għamel tul ħajtu, ħareġ kollu frott intelliġenza straordinarja li għandu ta' taqbil spontanju, prattikament dwar kollox u kulhadd - xogħol li nistgħu ngħidulu teżor imprezzabbli li se jibqa' jitgawda għal ġenerazzjonijiet li ġejjin.

“Il-Ħajja u l-Istorja ta' Ġorġ Agius magħruf bħala tal-Mużew” jinkludi wkoll xejn anqas minn 15-il personalità prominenti, Maltin u Għawdxin jikkellmu dwar ħidmietu mill-perspettiva ta' kull studju / professjoni tagħhom rispettivament.

Kemm L-Eċċellenza Tagħha, il-President ta' Malta, Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca kif ukoll il-Kardinal Prospero Grech aċċettataw li jagħmlu daħla għal dan ix-xogħol.

L-Istorja ta' Ġorġ, il-ġabra taqbil, l-intervisti, ir-riċerka u l-kumpliment hađu erba' snin shaħ.

Il-qofol ta' dan ix-xogħol hi l-ġabra mill-isbaħ ta' taqbil, 'il fuq minn tliet mitt taqbila ta' ispirazzjoni, ta' kuraġġ, ta' ħsieb u riflessjonijiet li Ġorġ ħoloq u qasam magħna l-koll Maltin u Għawdxin tul 65 sena ta' żjarat ta' missjoni kontinwa, kuljum iżur postijiet pubbliċi u jikkonsla eluf kbar ta' Maltin u Għawdxin fl-isptarijiet Maltin fejn minkejja l-età ta' 90 sena, Ġorġ għadu jagħmel ta' kuljum fl-Isptar Mater Dei.

Dan il-ktieb jinkludi numru estensiv ta' ritratti bil-kulur dwar il-ħajja ta' Ġorġ.

L-Istorja ta' Ġorġ mhix il-bidu u t-tmiem. Hija l-bidu ta' ġrajja fejn minn żmien għal żmien, jekk Alla jrid se nkunu qed inkomplu nlaqqugħkom ma' aktar persuni bħal Ġorġ, **Maltin!**

Dan hu l-ewwel volum fis-sensiela ġdida, '**Maltin**' li titratta profili estensivi, mistħarrġa, studjati u riċerkati dwar ħajjet personalitajiet Maltin u Għawdxin li għamlu d-differenza fil-ħajja ta' dawn il-gżejjer.

'**Maltin**' hu proġett ieħor kuncett ta' 24sevenMedia b'kollaborazzjoni ma' Miller Distributors Ltd. u negozji Agenda. Hu okkażjoni minn din l-opportunità unika. Akkwista dan il-ktieb illum, ktieb ideali wkoll li jista' jingħata bħala rigal. Submitted BY Doris Zammit (Malta)



## EU SUMMIT UPDATE

## Four prime ministers, nine milky teas and two-dozen Maltese pastizzi please



Order up for four EU premiers and their partners at Rabat's legendary Crystal Palace: 'Disà te, zewg tuzzani pastizzi' please 4 February 2017, 2:56pm MALTA TODAY

"Irkotta jew pizelli Guz?" (Photo: Omar Camilleri/DOI)

Four prime ministers enter a Maltese pastizzerija. The Maltese places the order, the rest get busy eating and sipping on tea and coffee.

It's 2pm in Rabat, and prime ministers Charles Michel of Belgium, Xavier Bettel of Luxembourg, Miro Cerar of Slovenia, and their partners are being hosted by Joseph Muscat and his wife Michelle at the Crystal Palace, home of Malta's favourite savoury snack, the pastizz (or Maltese cheesecake).

Enjoying an off day after the Malta Summit, Muscat this morning took the leaders and their partners to a tour of the Roman Villa and Mdina before heading to Serkin's

### Update 2: Government says ITS land contracts are published entirely

Monday, 6 February 2017, 14:42 Last update: about 11 hours ago



Partit Demokratiku leader Marlene Farrugia is requesting more details on how prime location land in St George's Bay was handed over for development to a hotel group.

In a letter to the Prime Minister, Dr Farrugia said that in the light of the transaction of the land until now occupied by the Institute of Tourism Studies, she would like the PM to give more details about the deal via a statement in Parliament.

In this way, certain points that were raised after the deal was announced would be clarified, she said. Last week, the government signed a 99-year temporary emphyteusis with db San Gorg Property Ltd for the current ITS site, and during the press conference it was stated that the government will receive nearly €60 million in return. The project includes the building of a hotel, a commercial centre, and two towers primarily consisting of residential units, with a few floors dedicated to office space. The project still needs to go before the Planning Authority.

Arthur Gauci, the CEO of the db Group, has defended the €60 million valuation of the ITS site deal signed earlier this week, following a number of arguments made that the draft Paceville master plan had valued the site at a higher price.

In another statement, the Nationalist Party also called for the immediate publication of the contract that was signed with the db Group.

Shadow minister Marthese Portelli and spokesman Ryan Callus said that once again the government chose to publish half a contract, and the public deserved to know more about the deal.

It has transpired that 14 documents related to the deal have not been published so far, the PN said, including the site plan showing peninsula and shoreline.



## GENSNA IN CONCERT now in Australia

The Maltese Cultural Association of NSW has been able to secure permission to show to the public the Maltese musical phenomenon GENSNA IN CONCERT. this masterpiece the works of Maestro Paul Abela & the lyricist & poet Raymond Mahoney.

I do not believe there is a better way to refresh one's memory than with music & song as well as commentary Some of Malta's top vocalists take part backed by a 40 piece orchestra & a 100 plus choir.& the Allison White Dancers etc.

Some of the award winning vocalists are, Bayzo, Mary Rose Mallia, Renato, Catherine Vigar, Paul Giordmania, Joe Cutajar, Mary Spiteri, Geogrina Abela, Ryan Abela, Ivan Grech, Ira Losco & many more.

As you can imagine what Maestro Paul Abela & the Director Joe Galea have been able to do is to blend together some of the original vocalists who starred in Gensna the Rock Opera 30 years earlier & the younger generation vocalists & the result is simply fantastic.

To see & enjoy this once in a lifetime experience is not to be missed. We may never again have this golden opportunity, so don't miss it..

In this "Concert with a Difference" the popular & well known Cittadini will also be taking part. On Sunday 5 March at 2:00 pm at Wentworthville Leagues Club.

Tickets are only \$12 Adults & \$8 Children U/12...For more information & tickets

Charles N.Mifsud 0421 662 298.

Jim Borg. 0418 825 591.

Monica Ledger 0414 859 386

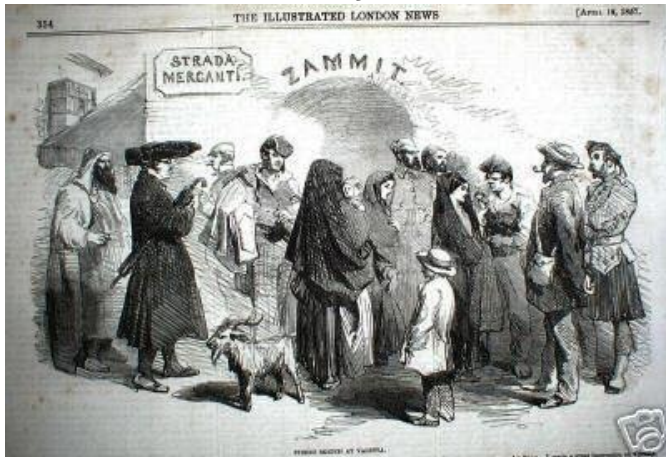
Charlie Mifsud. 0412 264 933.

## Maltese Customs and Traditions – A Thing Of The Past?

Women wearing their 'għonnella' (traditional cape-like garment) accompany their children to school. A peasant wearing a cap and a waistcoat herds his goats down the street, on the lookout for clients wanting to buy some fresh milk, as a swaddled baby wearing a skull-cap ('skufja') looks on. Stray dogs mingle with the vivacious goats in the street, while automobiles vie with horse-drawn 'karozzini' for right of way, and a policeman dressed in a British uniform tries to coordinate it all.



**Not Merchant Street as you know it, is it?** The scene described, in fact, was a typical day in 1933, a time when Malta was still under British rule. Much has changed since then, and many traditions have been lost, or if not, are only still hanging on by a thread.



While it is obviously imperative for a country to evolve and improve with time, not only economically, technologically, and artistically, but also with regards to mentality and culture, it is also a pity that certain traditions are being forgotten. Each generation moves one step further away from our past and heritage, and though mentions of certain skills, customs and practices are sporadically brought up, this is not enough to bring them to life.

Let us take, for example, the *għonnella*. Described as a 'peculiar black headdress' worn by Maltese women of age, this type of cape is to be found nowhere else in the world. There are many legends and stories about how and where the *għonnella* originated, but none are corroborated by any kind of evidence. Following the Second World War, the *għonnella* fell into disuse, particularly with the appearance of new trends and fashions.

The purchase of **fresh milk** today has nothing at all to do with bleating goats stomping and defecating in front of your door, and *karrozzini* are used only as a tourist attraction and not as an actual or practical mode of transportation.

Apart from these, there are many, many other Maltese customs and traditions which, I am sorry to say, future generations may know nothing about, at least unless we make it a point to revive them.





## Permanent base for Order of Malta unit in Kilkenny, Ireland



After campaigning for many years seeking a permanent base for its members, it now looks like the Order of Malta unit in Kilkenny are to be blessed with a new and permanent headquarters for the county.

Over the years, the Kilkenny unit, like all other Order of Malta units throughout Ireland have served their communities well, and now they are set to lose their current temporary base at Wolfe Tone House, at the former Auxiliary Hospital on Wolfe Tone Street due to development works in the area.

Members recall having to climb five flights of stairs to get to 'a poky room' to train its members and assign upcoming duties and over the years the Kilkenny unit has struggled with inadequate space and a lack of training facilities which have made it difficult to train new members and cadets.

Kilkenny Order of Malta was established in 1939 by Walter Smithwick of the Smithwick brewery in Kilkenny. The family's devotion continued when Walter's son, Judge Peter Smithwick became a Knight of Malta, a Regional Director and President of the Irish association of the Order. Kilkenny's Order of Malta has now located a building which would be suitable as a permanent base. The proposed building is a former physiotherapy clinic on the Waterford Road which has seven rooms and ample parking. The Officer in Charge says it be perfect for the units 60 members, two ambulances and their 4x4 vehicle.



.....because we love : to be united in diversity - to travel freely - to go on [#ErasmusPlus](#) the choice - to work and to live in another EU country



**2017 - 1950 anniversarju  
tal-Martirju ta' San Pietru u San Pawl.  
Frar 2017 Nru. 4**



**Mill-pinna poetika tal-poeta Dun Frans Camilleri, ejjew induqu l-benna ta' dawn is-sentimenti li jesprimu l-imħabba tal-poeta lejn il-ġrajja Providenzjali tal-miġja ta' San Pawl fostna. Dan huwa l-Innu taċ-Ċentinarju tal-1960. Innu immortali - priedka ħajja u dejjem attwali.**

Art sabiħa, magħżula mis-sema,  
Biex fost l-ewwel fid-dawl tat-twemmin  
Tkun imgħammda mill-akbar Appostlu,  
Pawlu Mqaddes missier il-Maltin.

Lilu bierak bħal meta ġie jżurek  
Bl-ikbar ħlewwa li f'qalbek ħassejt;  
Lilu faħħar u sellem bil-qima,  
B'dik l-imħabba li dejjem urejt.

B'dik il-kelma tas-sema fuq fommok,  
B'dik il-ħlewwa, o missier, u b'dik l-id  
Ġibt lil Kristu fil-qalb ta' Gżiritna  
U mlejt darna bis-saħħa, bil-ġid.

Fost uliedek din l-art Nisranija  
Dejjem ħabbet tagħlimek qaddis:  
Tul is-snin, fit-taqbid mal-għedewwa,  
Lilek sabet Missier hekk għażiż.

**Rit: Kbir Appostlu tal-Knisja ta' Kristu  
Li fil-qlub ridtu jsaltan rebbieħ,  
Int ħarisna biex f'din l-art imbierka  
Jibqa' jiddi d-dawl tiegħek sabiħ!**

Kienet qalbek bla biża' qawwija,  
Dejjem tħegġeg bl-imħabba ġo fik;  
Għax ħabbejt, lilek ħaqru bħal Kristu,  
L-infern kollu ried jaħbat għalik.

U mill-baħar li kaxkrek f'dil-Gzira  
Frigt qalbieni mixgħul bit-twemmin:  
Fuq ix-xtajta b'dik qalbhom ħanina  
Sibt 'l uliedek jilqgħuk ferħanin.

B'dik il-kelma tas-sema fuq fommok,  
B'dik il-ħlewwa, o missier, u b'dik l-id  
Ġibt lil Kristu fil-qalb ta' Gżiritna  
U mlejt darna bis-saħħa, bil-ġid.

Fost uliedek din l-art Nisranija  
Dejjem ħabbet tagħlimek qaddis:  
Tul is-snin, fit-taqbid mal-għedewwa,  
Lilek sabet Missier hekk għażiż.



## WOMEN'S AUSTRALIAN FOOTBALL LEAGUE



### Players with Maltese Surnames



THE LOGO for the AFL Women's competition features a stylised 'W', with iconic goalposts and a goalsquare.

The logo, developed in consultation with the AFL women's advisory group, was released in Melbourne on Monday morning.

The AFL said the 'W' logo paid tribute to the heritage of the AFL logo, with the posts and goalsquare presented in a "contemporary, energetic, and youthful manner". AFL CEO Gillon McLachlan said the women's league marked a new era in Australian sport. "We have been thrilled by the public and media groundswell to the announcement of the AFL Women's competition," he said. Here are some young players with a Maltese surname:



**AMANDA FARRUGIA**

Amanda Farrugia is Physical Education teacher at Our Lady of Mercy College in Parramatta – the school she attended as a student years earlier. Farrugia lives in Seven Hills and took up AFL in the recent years when looking for a new sport to keep her active. She won the 2015 Mostyn Medal as the Best and Fairest in the AFL Sydney Women's competition. Farrugia was drafted with pick 64 from the Macquarie University Warriors.



A traditional shutdown defender, Attard will play an important role for the Blues in the backline. She joined the Diamond Creek Women's Football Club in 2008, and in 2012 played in their premiership victory. Senior women's coach Damien Keeping says Attard is a versatile defender who can play on the league's most dangerous forwards.

"Laura's ability to play on either tall or short opposition will be a real bonus for our team," Keeping said. "Also her commitment to elite training standards will have a positive influence across the entire squad."

8.



**BRITTANY BONNICI**

The story so far: Bonnici is a midfielder with a strong work ethic. She won her own footy and breaks well away from contests, running hard forward to make an impact on the scoreboard. She only played at the end of the 2016 season after taking a break from the game.



**What Melbourne recruiting manager – AFL Women's Anthony DeJong says:**

"It was Alyssa's

first year at senior football. We think she can play through the midfield and forward as well. She's got really clean hands and she's probably one of the strongest players in the competition, so we think we can use her physicality upfront and through the midfield. She is an exciting young prospect for us."

~~~~~



Enjoy Valentine's Saturday in Gozo, and do something different by going back in time with through the experience of a 'Drive-In' theatre. The Ministry for Gozo is presenting a Valentine's drive-in movie night: Back in time with love.

Guests will enjoy the nostalgia of a drive-in, while enjoying two highly rated movies: Enchanted

(Rated PG – starts 8.00pm) or/and Valentine's Day (Rated PG13 – starts 10.00pm).

The movies will be screened at the Leli Farrugia Football Ground (next to main car park/Victoria bus terminal) on a big screen that will be specially set up for the night. It's not just a night at the movies, it is an event with romance in mind, so don't miss it, Saturday, the 11th of February. The event is free of charge.

Dear Hon. Consul Mr Frank Scicluna

Thank you very much for your informative newsletter. It's nice and very good to know what's happening over there. I have both relatives and friends in Australia and I can just tell you that though I live in Malta sometimes there is more information on your newsletter than Maltese local paper. I love to enjoy the pictures and read the stories of "Nostalgia" and of all old Maltese legends and customs.

So if you don't find any objection I wish to continue receiving your paper. After all it's mostly about Maltese and as a Maltese I like to hear about Maltese and matters even abroad. Your readers are growing because your journal is full of knowledge regarding the history and culture of my country. Peter Barbieri

Thanks to all those who confirmed their subscription in this Journal.

TRADITIONAL MALTESE ALMOND NOUGAT



The festa season bursts like a firework every May and, with some 90 religious feasts celebrated every year in Malta and Gozo, it heralds a busy time for stall owners.

Traditionally, stalls at village feasts sell local delicacies such as imqaret, delicious pastry stuffed with dates and fried in oil. However, in recent years, they have been joined by all manner of mobile kiosks selling fast food, doughnuts and ice cream.

However, one delicious ingredient that makes village feasts what they are has remained unchanged since its origin back in the time of the Knights of St John – nougat. The production of nougat – from the Sicilian cubbaita to Greek mandolato – has been almost endemic in the Mediterranean, but when it comes to Maltese qubbajt, there are only a few people who know more about it than Robert Caruana who, together with his wife Marie, own the Beehive confectionery in Żebbuġ, where they specialise in traditional Maltese nougat.



Here is a simple recipe

Ingredients:

1 kg of almonds
1 kg of sugar
100g of honey

Method:

Shell the almonds (also remove the dark film) soaking them for a few minutes in hot water. Put them into a pan with the sugar and honey, and cook them on a very low heat, continuously stirring. At a certain point the sugar will begin to melt and form a crust around the almonds. Then it will melt again, taking on a dark colour. This is the most delicate moment of the preparation. Now you have to remove the almonds from the heat at the exact moment when all the sugar has melted and taken on a nice golden colour, otherwise it might burn. Quickly pour the nougat on a marble worktop (previously greased, trying to roll it out with the help of a lemon. Let it cool and cut into pieces with a sturdy knife, using a weight with which to lightly strike the blade.



From Left: Mrs Sammut, Mr Mario Sammut, Mr Paul Borg, Mrs Pauline Borg, Mr Peter Toyne, Mr Joseph Borg, Mr Andrew Gatt, Mrs Rita Pullicino, Mr Victor Borg, Minister Robin Scott, Dr Edwin Borg-Manché, Mrs Edwina Mallia, Mr Victor Grech, Ms Edwidge Borg, Mr Eddie Micallef, Mrs Antonia Camilleri and Mr Joseph Stafrace. [Photo: Nino Xerri]



Unveiling of vibrant, flowing mural depicting Malta transforms the Maltese Community Centre hall
11 May 2015



MALTESE COMMUNITY CENTRE Royal Parade, Parkville, Victoria

II-GRUPP HBIEB TAD-DAR TAL-PROVIDENZA TA NSW FLIMKIEN MAL-KLABB TAL-HAMRUN

qeghdin jorganizzaw **Lejla biex jingabru fondi**

ghal dawg l-imsejkna persuni nkapacitati tad-dar tal-Providenza Malta.

Fil-klabb tal-Hamrun, 100 Jackson Street, Marsden Park, **is-Sibt 18 ta Frar 2017, fis-6.00 pm**

Ghal entertainment se jkollhom maratona ta kantanti Maltin bhal:

Charlie Muscat, il-kor ta l-ghaqda kulturali, Joe Apap, James Cassar, Katelyn Vella, Charlie Camilleri, Charlie Lawrence, Alee, Martin Vella u ohrajn.

Issa ghandna avviz importanti

Nixtiequ nghidu grazzi kbira mill-qalb lil kull min ghen biex din il-lejla ghal karita' tkun ta success. OK issa lx-'show' huwa booked out u mgbandnix fejn inpoggu nies iktar. Issa nixtiequ naghmluha cara lil kullhadd li jista jidhol biss fis-sala tal-klabb min qata l-biljetti (only those who booked) can go into the club hall OK. Min m'ghandux tickets jista ma jigix ghax ma ssibx post . ghax smajna xi diskors li jekk m'ghandekx biljett tista tidhol, dan m'hu veru xejn. Qedin nghidu hekk ghax ma jridux problemi u tfixkil bizzejjed jkunu imhabbtin bin-nies li gejjin imbierka il-providenza divina.

Kuntatti Greg Caruana 0411 517 187 jew Jim Borg 0418 825 591



Maquette received for the Diaspora Monument Competition:

1. Maquette submitted by Mr Emanuel Vella and Mr Steven Borg from the Malta School of Art in Valletta.

The Maquette for the Maltese Diaspora Monument symbolises the Suffering, the Anguish, the Torment, the Distress... and at the same time the Will to survive, the Guts to Invent out of nothing, the Daring to travel the unexplored paths, the Courage to discover the impossible and conquer the problems and succeed. These are great qualities, that they (all the members), must work towards in Unity.

The Maltese Families had to embark and search for new beginnings in far- away lands. This wind of change is represented by a gust of wind in the form of a sail and a Maltese family confronting all these odds with a will of courage and determination never experienced before in their country of origin. They are seen facing the future with determination leaving everything behind except for a few belongings and the pride of being Maltese.

This maquette also represents a very important feature of the Maltese – The Unity, Bond-ship and Perseverance of the Maltese Family, when facing difficult uncertain times... and the willingness of moving forward... Hoping for a Better Future for their Children... and to Succeed against all the Odds. Material: Cold Cast Bronze (maquette) – Full size to be cast in Bronze

Brief info on students:



Steven Borg:

Is enrolled at present as a Sculpture-Modelling & Casting Diploma Student in his first year of the course. However he has been attending the Malta School of Art for six years. He has attended Courses in Drawing and Painting, Life Drawing and Painting, and History & Appreciation of Art.



Emanuel Vella:

Is enrolled at present as a Sculpture-Modelling & Casting Diploma Student in his first year of the course. However he has been attending the Malta School of Art for four years. He has attended Courses in Drawing and Painting, Life Drawing and Painting, and History & Appreciation of Art.



THE MALTESE
NEWSLETTER
IS SPREADING
LIKE



Valletta - Emerging Capital by the Sea



With a history as rich as it has been dramatic, Valletta has become a laid-back coastal destination with a thriving creative class. By GISELA WILLIAMS (USA)



© Can Stock Photo - csp5974795

People love to invade Malta. The Mediterranean island nation, situated between Sicily and Tunisia, counts among its unwelcome guests the Romans, the Ottomans, Napoleon and, in the early 20th century, hundreds of Russian aristocrats fleeing the fall of the czarist autocracy. For the most part, the Maltese were having none of this. Napoleon was forced out after just two years, and the Knights of Malta — effectively, and against all odds — defeated the Ottoman Empire's much larger forces. In Valletta, Malta's capital, people still bring up the Great Siege with enormous pride, boasting about it as if they had actually been there.

For all of Valletta's interest in the past — the city is a Unesco World Heritage Site, and the 16th-century Saint John's Co-Cathedral in the center of town has been magnificently preserved — it has become in recent years a vibrant cultural destination, with an appeal that is both historic and modern. The area's Baroque architecture now houses boutique hotels instead of knights in armor, while none other than Renzo Piano has refurbished the parliament and historic city gate. Art is increasingly moving indoors as well, with several ambitious galleries on the horizon, and MUZA, a new National Museum of Fine Arts.

Valletta, like the rest of Malta, is a pastiche of historical influences. Its language has undertones ranging from Arabic to Italian, among a variety of other dialects. The same is true of the food, a unique mix of Mediterranean and North African influences — which, as it turns out, is one of the more positive results of all those invasions.

Valletta declared European Capital of Culture (ECoC) on the 12th October 2012. The Valletta 2018 Foundation was responsible for compiling the bid for Valletta as an ECoC and is in charge of implementing the project. Valletta will be hosting the title of European Capital of Culture in 2018 with a partner Dutch city, Leeuwarden. The ECoC includes all the Maltese Islands, with an aim to spread its impact throughout the whole Maltese territory.

The Valletta 2018 Foundation is responsible for the implementation of the Cultural Programme. As per ECoC regulations set by the EU, the Cultural Programme is to promote a European dimension and encourage citizen participation. Valletta 2018 will enable the participation of the citizens of Malta and Europe and will form an integral and sustainable part of the long-term social, economic and cultural development of Malta. The Cultural Programme is built around four themes: Generations, Routes, Cities and Islands. In conjunction with the Cultural Programme, the Foundation is developing a programme of consistent, accessible and comparable research and evaluation directly linked to culture.

For more information visit: <http://www.valletta2018.org/>

Starfish with 10 to 11 arms spotted in the Mediterranean



Oceana has said that marine scientists have discovered a population of a species of starfish with 10 and 11 arms living more than 200 m below the surface in waters off Malta.

These starfish were spotted using an underwater robot during an at-sea survey as part the **Life BaHAR for N2K** project, which aims to identify new marine areas for possible designation as marine protected areas.

A post-expedition biological analysis of the starfish confirmed the species to be *Coronaster briareus*, a starfish that usually has ten or eleven arms. This starfish was previously reported from the western Atlantic, where it is found from the United States to Brazil, but it has never been reported in the Mediterranean Sea, until now.

“This is a quite a discovery. What we don’t know for sure is how or why these starfish are in the Mediterranean. Either they travelled a long way from the Atlantic into Mediterranean waters, or they simply had not been spotted earlier because the animals were observed in deep waters,” says Ricardo Aguilar, Senior Research Director at Oceana in Europe.

In total, scientists from the University of Malta and Oceana spotted 26 starfish at depths ranging from 240 to 562 metres. Some of the animals reached up to 25 cm in diameter and had a fiery-red colour and characteristic pom-pom-like white wreaths (known as pedicellariae) along the arms, giving the starfish a fuzzy appearance.

“The discovery of what has always been considered an Atlantic species in the central Mediterranean was a surprise to us all. The fact that such important discoveries are made during scientific surveys covering only a small proportion of the seabed once again goes to show just how little we know about the sea which surrounds the Maltese Islands,” says Prof. Patrick J. Schembri from the University of Malta’s Department of Biology. Oceana said that it is clear that more surveys in the Mediterranean may be required to ascertain its presence in other parts of the Mediterranean and the adjacent Atlantic ocean.

The discovery of this new population of multi-armed starfish in the Mediterranean has been **published in ‘Marine Biodiversity,’** an international, peer-reviewed scientific journal and is just one of the many new findings resulting from the LIFE BaHAR for N2K project, co-financed by the EU LIFE+ Funding Programme and led by Malta’s Environment and Resources Authority (ERA), with the participation of the Ministry for Sustainable Development, the Environment and Climate Change (MSDEC), the Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture, the Department of Biology of the University of Malta and Oceana as partners.

Photo: An 11-armed individual of the starfish Coronaster briareus photographed in Maltese waters – OCEANA © LIFE BaHAR for N2K



TAKE ME TO CHURCH

by Fiona Vella (fionavella.com)



“ ‘They have hit our church!’ cried a man as he stumbled down in the tunnel which was located under the Mall Garden. We were huddling in there for shelter together with many other people as the bombs came down over Floriana,” reminisced Pawlu Piscopo who was eight at the time.

“At this horrible news, my father grabbed me and my brother by the hand and took us out of the tunnel and over to the granaries where a very sad spectacle awaited us. St Publius’ Church had suffered a direct hit. Its dome was gone and the area was surrounded in rubble. Thirteen people who were taking cover in the church’s crypt were killed and eleven more were injured. That was the blackest moment in the history of the parish church of Floriana: April 28, 1942 at 7:50am.” After their house had been bombed, Pawlu’s family were allowed to take some respite in a large residence which today houses the Floriana Local Council. Yet for four years, they lived mostly underground in this tunnel which probably saved their lives. They took with them only a few belongings and the most cherished items, including a statue of St Publius which dated back to 1928 and used to adorn the model altar that his father had constructed at home.



“Most families in Malta had a model of an altar or a miniature church at home at the time. Unfortunately, many of these had to be abandoned during the war and a good number of them were destroyed when the houses were bombed.” The craft of church model-making had been introduced to our islands by the Knights of St John back in the 16th century, and therefore its knowledge was a distinct tradition. However the adversity of war ravaged even this precious memory until eventually this craft was almost completely forgotten.

“After the war, people tried to get on with their lives as best as they could. Shops started to open again but those that used to sell miniature items with which to decorate our religious models, dwindled down to almost none. Nevertheless, the passion for model-making was much engrained in our family and when I bought a miniature structure made of four columns and a dome from a man who was leaving Malta to go to live in Australia, my father Carmelo was inspired to use it as the foundation for a model of St Publius’ church,” explained Pawlu.

Carmelo was a very skilled carpenter. He would go from time to time to have a look at the church and then go back to his model and construct an exact copy of the section that he had seen. “He used the material which was handy at the time, mostly cardboard, wood and gypsum. I helped him out too in order to build the whole church which included ten altars. Eventually, this model reached a huge size of three by four metres and we could walk in it and look above at the beautiful dome,” Pawlu said proudly.



Once his father grew old, Pawlu continued with the work on this church which they had started back in the early 1960s. As he embellished this model, the wish to set up a group for model-makers in order to share this passion with them, burnt within him.

“On February 26, 1986 which happened to be the tenth anniversary of my father’s demise, I discussed this idea with two of my friends, Raphael Micallef and Tony Terribile, who were very interested in this sector. We all agreed to do something in order to revive this craft and we sent out adverts in the newspapers to announce the setup of this group which we called *Għaqda Dilettanti Mudelli ta’ Knejjes* (Church Modelling Society). We were very happy when we received a great response from enthusiastic individuals all over Malta. Soon, a committee was formed and on March 1986, we organized the first exhibition during the first two weeks of Lent wherein the members displayed the works that they had.”



It was certainly a great satisfaction to see this society thrive and grow along the years, always adding up new members of various ages. Today, around 400 members form part of this group which operates from its premises at 37, East Street, Valletta.

"This year we are delighted to celebrate the 30th anniversary from the establishment of this society," Pawlu said. "The annual exhibition has been taking place each year. Besides offering the opportunity to showcase our members' works, this event has served to help our members and the public which visits it, to meditate during the Lent period and to prepare for the Easter celebrations."

A bi-monthly magazine, *Il-Knisja Tiegħi* (My Church), which was also initiated by Pawlu, is marking its 30th anniversary too. Members have been writing features in it related to different aspects of religious folklore, thereby kindling even further interest in model-making.

Once again this year, the society has organized this exhibition which saw the participation of several of its members. Exhibits varied and included small to large statues of the passion of Christ and Easter, statues of Blessed Mary and several saints, models of altars, church facades and whole churches made of different materials. "I hope that I'll have enough strength to exhibit my large model of St Publius' church," revealed Pawlu at one point. "It takes me four weeks to set it up on a large platform and to connect the miniature chandeliers and light fittings to electricity. I am getting old now and such work is very tiring."

Pawlu has been exhibiting this model in a building besides the Floriana Cathecism Museum for many years now, during the feast of St Publius which takes place two weeks after Easter. "Many people come to visit my model and they are fascinated with it. Tourists take photos besides it and they ask me how I managed to construct it section by section and yet making it look as a whole. I tell them that there are lifetimes of passion invested within it and that it is imbued with a blend of religious meaning and local traditional skills and creativity."

At 82 years, Pawlu is serene and thankful to see the society which he has founded together with his friends strengthen itself and adding members to it. "I just wish that it will continue to flourish for very long," smiled Pawlu as he looked contentedly around him in order to appreciate the beautiful displayed works of the society's members.

(This article was published in the Easter Supplement which was issued with The Times of Malta dated 21st March 2016)

KEEPING THE ANZAC STORY ALIVE



Charles Bonavia who was born in Valletta in 1888. Charles was one of the very first to have died in battle, on April 25, 1915.

His father Emanuel was the registrar at the Law Courts and his grandfather, Thomas, rose to the rank of Colonel in the Royal Malta Fencible Artillery. Charles Bonavia graduated in architecture at the Royal University of Malta before emigrating to Australia in 1911. His is a sad story.

Bonavia enlisted in the 11th Battalion 3rd Infantry Brigade and his regiment sailed from Fremantle on November 2, 1914, for Egypt bound for the European front. On April 8, 1915, he wrote a letter of one sentence while at sea bound for the Dardanelles to let his family in Malta know he was in good health. That was the last they ever heard from him.

The combined British, French and Australian and New Zealand troops landed at dawn on April 25 along an impossible coastline and were met with devastating resistance by the defending Turks. Bonavia was landed at Anzac Cove at a point far from the intended beach and was one of the first to fall. His body was never found. There are 31 cemeteries on the Gallipoli Peninsula with 22,000 graves; of those commemorated, only 9,000 have been traced. 13,000 more rest in unidentified graves and with another 14,000 whose remains were never found,

these are remembered individually Charles on the Helles Memorial which overlooks the entrance to the Dardanelles Lone Pine Australia and New Zealanders, and other memorials including Chunuk Bair dedicated to the New Zealanders. Bonavia is commemorated on the panels at Lone Pine and also at the War Memorial in Canberra. I visited all the cemeteries at Gallipoli a few days ago and the battle zones earlier this month and was impressed by the great care the Commonwealth War Graves Commission takes of the cemeteries.

This was one of history's most cruel campaigns, the Allied troops being compelled to live in appalling circumstances for nine months along a strip of land only a few miles deep with the dead rotting between trenches only a few feet apart. There were over 800 Maltese labourers serving there under Maltese officers. One of them, Giuseppe Camilleri was 27 when he was killed by a shell and buried in an unmarked grave close to the beach at Ari Burnu, near Anzac Cove. When I visited his headstone at the Ari Burnu Cemetery, I took a stroll along the sandy beach and picked up part of a skeleton. So many died and were buried on the spot that even today on the beaches and inland in fields one is likely to come across human bones, parts of uniforms such as buttons, and water-bottles, bullets, shrapnel and other articles.

Of the 410,000 British troops in action over half were casualties; of the French contingent of 79,000, more than half were casualties. The Turks also lost half of their 500,000 men involved. I visited the Hells Memorial where tribute is paid to two Maltese — Major Herbert Joseph Sammut who died leading the Essex Regiment in one of the major battles for the town of Krithia and Lieutenant Herbert Huber who had joined the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers and was killed only hours before the British forces were successfully evacuated.

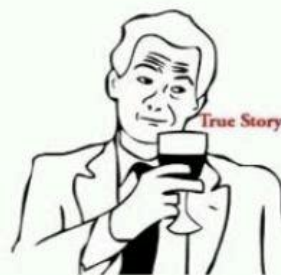
The graves of both were never found. It is of interest to record that Sammut's granddaughter married the grandson of Sir Winston Churchill but, sad to relate, they separated two years ago. Malta played a notable role in the campaign, not only as the back-up base Bonavia for the navy, but as the major hospital centre for the sick and wounded. In all 28 hospitals and convalescent centres were established to look after 2,550 officers and 55,400 other ranks.

There are 1,500 British servicemen of that war buried in Malta, beside 26 Anzacs as well as French, Indians and Egyptians together with 26 Turkish prisoners. It was the island's greatest contribution to the war effort. Yet today the memorial to these gallant men lies derelict as anyone will see who cares to take a look at the Australia Hall in St Andrews. It is a sad reflection of the sense of history of the Maltese people



**THANK YOU
FOR MAKING THIS JOURNAL
NUMBER ONE**

**I asked my trainer which
machine at the gym I
should use to impress
beautiful women... he
pointed outside and said
"The ATM machine"**



"CANZONI D'OGGI 1962"

Twenty-three-year-old Edwin Galea of Kospikwa, became the third winner of the "Canzoni d'Oggi" contest held at the Radio City on March, 17, 1962. He gained a deserved verdict.



Tony Agius and Grace Said who placed third and second respectively in the 1962 "Canzoni D'Oggi".

Twenty-year-old Tony Agius of Hamrun, won second place in the 1962 contest, while third prize was won by 16-year-old Grace Said.

A better standard was achieved in the last contest and an all-round improvement on the first contest in 1960 has been maintained.

The "Canzoni d'Oggi" annual contests are organized by the Valentes.

THE THREE WINNERS TO DATE



Victoria Briffa — Edwin Galea — Nunzio Galdes

— 15 —

Quddiem Wirja tal-Istatwi tal-Ġimgħa l-Kbira

Drawwa illi hadet sewwa
Fil-gzejjer tagħna l -Maltin
Hija illi tara għall-wiri
Għadd ta' statwetti helwin

Illi dawn flimkien idommu
Il-mumentu tal-Passjoni
Illi minnha għadda Kristu –
Swat, żeblih, flagellazzjoni

Sa ma wasal fil-quċcata
Tal-moħqrija w tat-tbatija;
Fuq salib spiċċa mdendel
Tlett sigħat ta' agunija!

U dan kollu Kristu għamlu
Sabiex jifdi lili w lilek;
Habib li qed tara l-Wirja
Qis li tagħmel dejjem dmirek

Biex mill-ġdid le terġa' ssallab
Lill-Feddej tagħna l-bnedmin,
Izda ismu nsebbħu, nfahħru
Għal kemm għad itulu s-snin.

Gesu' fl-ort gewwa l-Getsemani,
Mal-kolonna, il-Marbut,
Biex-xewk rasu nkurunata,
Bis-salib mgħobbi, batut;

Statwa oħra turi l-laqgħa
F'nofs it-telgħa tal-Qorriegħa
Mal-Veronka, Gesu' kellu
F'tagħha l-velu halla x-xbieha.

Aħna nhobbu nsejħulha
Fost l-istatwi, l-Vara l-Kbira,
Fiha bosta persunaġġi
Ta' kulhadd tkun żgur il-mira!

Tiġbor fiha d-Duluri,
U l-Appostlu l-Maħbub;
Ma' Longinu, l-Maddalena
U fin-nofs Gesu' Mislub.

Statwa oħra illi nilmħu
Hija tal-Addolorata,
B'Binha mejjet ġo dirgħajha
Minn kulhadd abbandunata.

L-aħħar statwa turi dejjem
Gesu' f'qabar ġdid midfun;
Tlett ijiem jistenna jgħaddu
Biex mill-mewt rebbieħ iqum.

F'dal-wirjiet xi drabi tilmaħ
l-Aħħar Ikla ta' Gesu';
l-Iskarjota inkiss joħroġ
moħħu mdallam, m'għadux hu!

Jalla dawn il-Wirjiet sbejħa
Joħolqu fina kuxjenza
Ta' ndiema maħfra, sogħba,
U b'xulxin nieħdu paċenzja.

Kav Joe M Attard
Rabat - Ghawdex



GOZO MEANS “JOY”

Gozo meaning “joy” in Castilian, is **the second largest Island** of the Maltese archipelago.

Though separated from mainland Malta by a mere 5km stretch of sea, Gozo is distinctly different from Malta, more rural and tranquil, its culture and way of life are rooted in tradition and yet open to the present. “The Maltese archipelago has more to offer than just the island from which it takes its name. A mere 25 minutes by ferry from Malta, tiny Gozo is a destination in its own right, boasting a distinct history, culture and character. The Maltese flock here to enjoy the verdant scenery, superior food and relaxed pace of life. And it isn’t just the locals that love it: none other than Brangelina chose it as their honeymoon destination.

Most roads in Gozo lead to the capital, Victoria, an attractive jumble of markets, restaurants, quaint British gardens and diverting museums. Its high point – quite literally – is the ancient fortified Cittadella, with its magnificent 360-degree view of the island. Spread out below you are the island’s chief sights: the scenic beach resort of Marsalforn, the world-famous Neolithic temples of Ggantija, and the legendary Calypso’s Cave, where Odysseus may or may not have taken a break during his travels. Believe us: come to Gozo, and you’ll want to stay for more than just a pit stop.” **By Time Out Malta & Gozo**

Places to Visit - Gozo and its inhabitants have their own distinct character and identity. Gozitans are known for their friendliness and warm welcome, going out of their way to help a visitor find their destination.

The real beauty of Gozo, apart from its stunning seascape and interior, lies in the villages. Here, it seems as if time really stood still. The locals treasure their peace and the villages are tranquil, providing a wonderful respite from the modern pace that many of the city dwellers have to endure in their everyday life.

Local Gozitan Food - Gozo is well served by restaurants, where the eating is good and varied. Apart from restaurants and cafés offering local dishes, as well as continental menus, one can also enjoy restaurants specialising in ethnic cuisines, such as Chinese or Indian. You will be spoilt for choice in Rabat, Mgarr and the resort towns of Marsalforn and Xlendi, as well as in several other places around the island.

