



THE MALTESE NEWSLETTER
The Journal of the Maltese Diaspora

THE MOTTO - BUILDING BRIDGES NOT WALLS

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If your front door could talk,
what would it say about your home?



Photo: DOI - Gilbert Fenech

**The Malta Labour Party wins the 2017 election
Joseph Muscat re-elected as Prime Minister of Malta**

**We, at The Maltese eNewsletter, congratulate
the PL and the Hon Joseph Muscat
for the convincing win**



**The President of
Malta appeals for
reconciliation**

**'Let's return to dialogue built on
facts and reciprocal respect'**

Malta's president is calling for reconciliation following an election campaign marred by what she calls "aggressive and abusive language."

President Marie Louise Coleiro Preca spoke to the country after polls closed at 10 p.m. and said abuse started on social media and continued at workplaces, schools and

entertainment venues. She says it led to "disrespect" between neighbours, friends and relatives. She said she wants "to see people returning to open dialogue, which is the basis of a healthy democracy".

The president added: "We remain one people and one nation. Let us unite again."



MALTA'S HALL OF FAME

It has long been felt the need to pay tribute and to honour those who have served and contributed with excellence towards Malta's sporting endeavors. Finally in the offing, the Olympic Hall of Fame will act as a showcase of athletes, coaches, officials and administrators who have, through their participation and service promoted and fostered the principles of Olympic ideals at various levels whilst respecting the Olympic charter.

In line with other such Halls abroad, the Hall of Fame in Malta will serve to preserve Maltese sporting history and be a point of reference. Acting as a motivating mechanism it will be a driving force for the public to emulate local sporting heroes and encourage locals to participate in sports in its different facets, whether on the sporting field or administration. No doubt it will be an ideal inspirational force for those involved in sports to aspire to and hope that one day they too would be so honoured for their outstanding achievements, thus creating the right channels for greater attainment.

The Hall will be managed by a Board of Trustees constituted of former Presidents of the MOC as well as the active MOC board of management and, led by a Chancellor, will be responsible for the management of the Hall's affairs. Eligibility for election will not be merely restricted to those who would have battled it out on the competitive arenas but will equally honour officials, coaches and administrators alike.



THERESA BROUSSON : Minn meta bdiet l-isquash fl-1980, bejn l-1982 – 2011 kienet Champion ta' Malta ghal 23 darba. Bejn l-1987 u l-1991 kienet in-numru 1 fl-Italja fejn rebhet 4 edizzjonijiet tat-Tournament tas-Sitt Nazzjonijiet. Bejn l-1991 – 2003 fil-European Small Nations Group Tournament għhal 10 darbiet rebhet deheb ghal Malta. Fit-tim nazzjonali tan-nisa rebhet id-deheb fil-Logħob tal-Pajjiżi žgħar fl-2003 f'Malta u fl-2011 fil-Liechtenstein. Fl-2007 u fl-2008 suċċess simili fil-European Challenge Cup. Fl-2012 u fl-2015 kienet parti mit-tim Nazzjonali li spiċċa l-ewwel post fit-tielet diviżjoni u promoss fit-tieni diviżjoni. Fl-aħħar kompetizzjoni tal-2015 fis-Slovenja ħabbret li rtirat. Fl-2013-14 saret Champion tal-Ewropa għal Atleti ta' l'fuq minn 50 sena. Hija wkoll kowċ kwalifikat kif wkoll Scrabble Champion ta' Malta ghal 10 snin konsekuttivi.

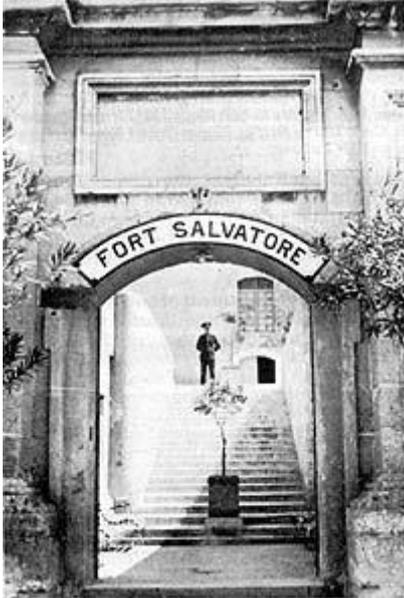


PAUL MIFSUD : Beda karriera fil-billiards u snooker fl-eta' ta' 7 snin f'St. Philip Band Club, Haz-Zebbug. Wara li fl-1963 rebah il-Boys League, kien il-bidu ta' karriera ta' rebh ta; Kampjonati Nazzjonali tal-Billiards u snooker fis-settur internazzjonali jibqa ghalih il-qofol tal-karriera. Fl-1969 iddebutta fil-Kampjonat tad-Dinja tal-billiards f' Londra u sena wara fl-iskozja. Fl-1976 tilef il-finali fil-Kampjonat tad-dinja tas-Snooker meta tilef kontra Mountjoy. Mid-dizappunt fl-edizzjoni tal-1978 li saret f'Malta fl-1979 rebah il-Kampjonat tad-Dinja tal-Billiards u fl-1985 u fl-1986 rebah il-kampjonat tad-Dinja tas-Snooker. Magħzul ghal erba' darbiet bhala Sportiv tas-Sena filwaqt li fl-1980 inghata l-Medalja ghal Qadi tar-Repubblika



XUEREB JACQUELINE : Karriera ta' suċċessi fil-judo li bdiet fl-1990 bir-rebħ tal-Olympic Youth Fest u l-Kampjonati tal-Ewropa għall-Pajjiżi Žgħar. Rebbieħa ta' bosta edizzjonijiet tal-Malta Open tal-Judo. Il-qofol tal-karriera jibqa bir-rebħ ta' tlett medalji tad-deheb għal Malta fil-Logħob tal-Istati Žgħar tal-Ewropa fl-1993 f'Malta, fl-1995 fil-Lussemburgu u fl-1997 fl-Iżlanda. Dejjem preżenti fit-tim Nazzjonali Malti tal-Judo fil-kompetizzjonijiet ewlenin fl-Ewropa. Fl-1992 irrappreżentat lil Malta fil-Logħob tal-Commonwealth li sar f'Cardiff, Wales. Runner-up fl-Isportiva tas-sena fl-1993 izda pattiet meta saret l-Isportiva tas-sena fl-1995

Exile of 43 Maltese 60 years ago : One of the most shameful episodes of Malta's history



The Fort Salvatore internment camp

Ex-Home Affairs Minister Tonio Borg has recalled the deportation, 60 years ago, of 43 Maltese to Uganda, describing it as a gross injustice and one of the most shameful episodes of Malta's history.

Speaking in parliament, Dr Borg said the deportation of the Maltese had been a gross injustice by the British government, the consequences of which were suffered by those people and their families long after the war ended.

The deportees came from all walks of life, including Nerik Mizzi, one of the leaders of the Nationalist Party, Sir Arturo Mercieca (who had been forced to resign his post as chief justice) Herbert Ganado, editor of *Lehen is-Sewwa*, Chev Vincenzo Bugeja, dockyard workers including the brother of Dun Gorg Preca, and even a 70-year-old man. They had originally been interned in May 1940, shortly before Italy entered the war, because it was claimed that they posed a threat to public safety

and national security. They were never told how that was the case.

He recalled that the Maltese were interned without due process. They were first taken to Fort Salvatore in the Cottonera Lines, then the Corradino prisons, where they protested that they were not criminals, and finally St Agatha convent in Rabat. Dr Borg read an excerpt of *Rajt Malta Tinbidel* by Ganado to give an example of the hardship of separation caused by the British government's decision:

"Qbatt il-valigga u hrigt nigri lejn il-karozza li kienet daqs hames passi boghod mill-bieb. Alda harget fil-bieb b'Tonio u Vanni kull naha. Vanni, meta rani diehel fil-karozza, haseb li kont sejjer passiggata. 'Ha nigi mieghek Papa, ha nigi mieghek...' L-ispettur Tabone hareg il-maktur u beda jomhod. Kellu ghajnejh bid-dmugh. It-tfal, qalli, it-tfal.... ma komplix, u qbadna t-triq lejn is-Salvatur."

But worse was to come. In February 1942 the British government decided to exile 43 of the internees to Uganda. The internees instituted two court cases. They argued in the first case that their deportation constituted a punishment when they had committed no crime and had not been found guilty of anything by any court. Mr Justice Anthony Montanaro Gauci, despite his imperialistic ideas and despite having been an MP of the Constitutional Party, in a landmark judgment found that the deportation order was illegal.

The government, therefore, sought to change the law to authorise the Governor to exile the Maltese. The bill was debated in the Council of Government (parliament), which, apart from the members nominated by the British government, also included six members of the Constitutional Party, three of the Nationalist Party and one from the Labour Party.

The debate was held on February 9, 1942 and Sir Ugo Mifsud, one of the leaders of the PN, delivered one of the most stirring speeches ever given in a Maltese parliament. It was such a wonderful speech, Dr Borg said, that it should be taught in schools because it should make every Maltese proud.

Sir Ugo himself was so overcome by the seriousness of the situation that he suffered a heart attack half-way through his speech. In his speech, Sir Ugo asked how the Maltese members of the Council of Government could be expected to approve a law to exile fellow Maltese when Britain, despite the war, had itself not enacted such a law to exile Britons.

"What has happened to the internees can happen to anyone. We are here to defend individual human rights" Sir Ugo said.

This, Dr Borg said, revealed the greatness and courage of Sir Ugo, as he, an expert in public international law, took on the British empire to argue fundamental human rights in wartime, well before

human right conventions became the norm. "I pray to God that such ugly matters which will leave an indelible mark on our history will not happen in Malta...I am feeling ill", Sir Ugo said. He then suffered a heart attack and was taken home, dying two days later.

Unfortunately his appeals fell on deaf ears. Dr George Borg Olivier, the only remaining Nationalist member on the council (the third, Nerik Mizzi having been interned) ended up being the only council member to vote against the bill. The internees filed a court case against the new law. The first court found against them but they appealed.

But even as their appeal was about to be heard, on February 13, 1942 the group was forced into the hold of the cargo ship Breconshire and transported to Alexandria and on to Uganda. The crossing was made in the midst of a naval battle, the internees having been warned that should the ship be hit, there would be no boats for them, and if they did manage to reach a boat, they would be shot.

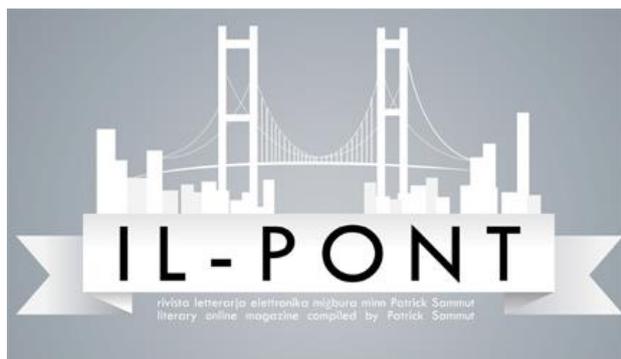
Upon arrival in Uganda the internees were told they had actually won their appeal, yet they were not brought back, not until March 7, 1945 even though by that time Italy had been out of the war for over two years. Many of the internees contracted malaria while in Uganda, but all made it back to Malta. Nonetheless, even after their return they and their families continued to suffer prejudice from several people.

Dr Borg said it was unfortunate that the people tended to forget their history. Sixty years on, the injustice suffered by a group of Maltese who were punished when they had committed no wrong, needed to be officially commemorated. Source: Times of Malta, www.timesofmalta.com



34th ANNIVERSARY DINNER DANCE OF THE MALTESE SENIOR CITIZENS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

On 3 June 2017 the Maltese Senior citizens held an anniversary dinner dance at the Progressive Hall, Kilburn. It was attended by well over hundred members and friends. They provided a three-course meal and desert. The entertainment was provided by *Godfather Band*. The Hon Consul for Malta in South Australia, Mr Frank Scicluna and Mrs Josie Scicluna were the special guests. The Senior citizens association was formed in 1983 during a Maltese Community Council meeting. The members of the first committee were President- Andrew Coleiro, Secretary- Frans Falzon, Treasurer- Emmanuel Grima, members Joe Barbara and Paul Delia. The seniors meet every Friday at the Progressive Hall 49 LeHunte Street, Kilburn from 9.30am till 4.00 pm. They organise bus trips, Fathers' and Mothers' Days celebration, feast of Our Lady, Easter Bonnet activity and Christmas luncheon. The Maltese Diocesan Chaplain Father Gabriel Micallef OFM celebrates Mass for the members at St. Brigid Catholic Church, Kilburn every First Friday of the month. They also raise funds for the *Dar tal-Providenza, Malta*. We congratulate the current president Mr Frank Grima and all the members of the committee as well as the volunteers who give their time to assist in all the events of the Association



Nirringrazzjaw lil Patrick J. Sammut li regolarment jibgħatilna r-Rivista Letterarja Elettronika li hija mimlija daqs bajda b'artikli ferm interessanti u ta' tagħlim u poeziji miktuba minn kittieba u poeti Maltin. Dawn iz-zewg siltiet ta' hawn taht gew mehuda minn din ir-rivista



TNEDIJA TA' TLIET RUMANZI TA' LINA BROCKDORFF

Nhar is-26 ta' Mejju 2017, id-dar tal-pubblikazzjoni Horizons nediet tliet rumanzi ġodda f'rabta ma' għeluq snin il-kittieba Lina Brockdorff. It-tliet rumanzi huma: *'Il Barra mill-Isqaq*, *Taht is-Swar tal-Imdina* u *Dwett għal Żewġ Vjolini*. Waqt din il-lejla mużiko-letterarja nqraw siltiet mit-tliet rumanzi ġodda, ittellgħet prezentazzjoni dwar il-ħajja tal-kittieba, u l-Prof. Charles Briffa qara studju kritiku dwar il-kitba narrattiva ta' Brockdorff. L-intervalli kienu mżewqa b'kant u mużika strumentali. Lina Brockdorff għalqet 87 sena. Minn hawn nifirħulha u nixtquilha iktar snin ta' sliem, saħħa u lehma.



'IL BARRA MILL-ISQAQ Lina Brockdorff, Horizons 2017

L-isem ta' Lina Brockdorff illum jintrabat sewwa mal-kitba tan-novella u tar-rumanz. U dan sa mill-1974, meta ħareġ l-ewwel rumanz tagħha, *Kien Kwinta l-Qamar*. Dan hu rumanz ġdid ta' ftit iktar minn 300 paġna u li jinqasam f'39 kapitlu. Bħal dejjem, Brockdorff tippreżentalna storja nadifa u mexxejja li l-għan tagħha huwa li tagħti gost u sserraħ lil dak li jkun. Nenu kellu tnax-il sena, il-kbir tal-familja fqira mimlija tfal. Dara jgħix fil-faqar. Li kien ikiddu wisq kien il-fatt li hu twieled u jgħix fi sqaq fir-raħal ta' Hal Qormi fil-ħamsinijiet tas-seklu li għadda. Kellu moħħu tajjeb, irnexxielu jkun l-ewwel tifel tal-isqaq i jgħaddi għal-Liċeo. Għalih kienet rebħa li qatt ma stennieha. Waqt li kull filgħodu jkun jistenna l-kowċ biex twasslu l-iskola laħaq tefa' għajnejh fuq Lara, tfajla li tkun faċċata tiegħu tistenna l-kowċ lejn skola privata. Minkejja li missierha Inġliż "kważi nobbli", Nenu jinduna li Lara ma kinitx taqla' għajnejha minn fuqu. Laħaq kellimha darbtejn, imma l-ġardinar mar jikxef kollox ma' omm Lara li għamlet minn kollox biex fi ftit jiem siefru lejn darhom l-Ingilterra biex qatt ma jerġgħu lura. Tgħid dan kellu jkun it-tmiem tal-imħabba bejn Nenu u Lara?

IC-CITTADELLA T'GHAWDEX



L-istorja ta' Cittadella: Għawdex għadda mill-eñrex żmien fl-1551, meta flotta mdaqqa ta' xwieni Torok immexxija minn Dragut wara li kienu f'Malta, ħarbu għal Għawdex u għamlu ħerba bil-poplu. Dawn irnexxilhom jattakaw liċ-Ċittadella u ħadu xi 6,000 ruħ bħala lsiera. Il-bini g'garraf sew u dam ma reġa ħa r-ruħ. Iċ-Ċittadella kienet post ta' kenn għall-Għawdxin mill-attakki tal-furbani. Hi mibnija fuq għolja u għalhekk minn fuq is-s war l-Għawdxin kienu jżommu l-għassa mill-attakki tat-Torok u l-pirati tal-baħar.

Hi bla dubju l-Kastell
Mibni fl-għoli, fuq blat qawwi
Rari ssiblu rokna dell!

Għaliex fuqu l-jum kollu
Tisreg hawnhekk xemx bla ħniena
Minn fejn bosta drabi tpassi
Il-gamiema u s-summiena!

Hawnhekk sabu l-kenn tagħhom
Fl-imghoddi w is-snin bikrija
Tfal, żgħażaġħ, irġiel u nisa
Dawk mgħobbija bix-xjuħija.

Minn hawn fuq int tgawdi dehra
Ta' dil-gżira helwa Għawdxija;
Knejjes, djar, raba, u baħar,
Għall-kwiet f'lejla mustaxija!

U fi ħdanha c-Cittadella
Tigbor fiha l-Katidral,
Bosta bini qadim ieħor
Li jżuruh il-kbar u t-tfal!

L-ewwel ħjiel ta' ħajja Għawdxija
Twieldet żgur go dal-kastell
Li illum reġa' ħa l-ħajja
Bl-iskriepel u il-martell.

Cittadella, Cittadella
Kemm aħna imkabbrin bik
Sejrin nagħmlu kull ma nistgħu
Biex nibzghu ħafna għalik.

Għaliex inti gojjell sbejjaħ
F'nofs il-blu Mediterran
U min jiċhad dal-fatt uniku
Oieghed jgħix f'ċappa duħħan!

Kav Joe Attard Għawdex 2017



Il-kor personali tal-Papa Franġisku se jagħti kuncert rari f'Malta

www.tvm.com.mt | Rapport: Maria Muscat

Il-ġimgħa d-dieħla fuq stedina tal-Arcisqof Charles Scicluna se jittella' f'Malta kuncert mill-kor personali tal-Papa Franġisku. Il-kuncert li se jittella' fil-Kon Katidral ta' San Ġwann huwa meqjus bħala uniku ħafna għaliex dan il-kor tal-Papa, rari joħroġ mill-Vatikan.

Wieħed mil-iktar korijiet prestiġġużi fid-dinja, il-Kor tal-Cappella Musicale Pontificia Sistina, ġej Malta għal kuncert speċjali li se jsir fid-9 ta' Ġunju fil-Kon Katidral ta' San Ġwann, fuq stedina tal-Arcisqof Charles Scicluna.

Il-kor huwa magħmul minn 51 membru, li minnhom 27 huma tfal b'vuċijiet angeliċi, magħzula b'reqqa kbira biex jiffurmaw parti minn dan il-kor li huwa meqjus bħala l-kor personali tal-Papa. Dan il-kor jitharreg fil-Vatikan stess u hija rari ħafna li joħroġu biex jagħtu kuncerti 'lil hinn mill-Vatikan.

Il-Kap tal-Uffiċċju tal-Komunikazzjoni tal-Kurja, Kevin Papagiorcopulo qal li għal dan il-kuncert l-Arcisqof Charles Scicluna stieden tfal vulnerabbli minn istituti, wara li Itaqa' magħhom waqt zjarat li qed jagħmel fil-parroċċi bħala parti mill-viżta pastorali tiegħu.

Il-kor tal-kappella Sistina janima ċ-ċelebrazzjonijiet liturġiċi mmexxija mill-Papa Franġisku. Michael Pace Ross mill-Kumitat Organizzattiv qal li l-kor se jitmexxa mill-Monsinjur Salezjan Massimo Palombella. Minbarra tfal b'vuċijiet angeliċi, il-kor għandu wkoll għoxrin adult raġel fosthom 11-il tenur. Fil-kuncert se jindaqqu siltiet mużikali sagri minn kompożituri Ewropej fosthom il-Miserere tal-kompożitur Gregorio Allegri kif ukoll mużika Gregorjana.

Therese Pace - A poet from Malta



I got to know Therese Pace through my involvement in the Maltese Poets Association. She is an active member of the Association and writes in three languages: Maltese, English and Italian. Therese Pace is amongst some of the best contemporary women poets in Malta.

Mother of three Therese Pace was born in Rabat, Malta. She has published an anthology in Maltese entitled **ARPEĠĠI** (ISBN 99932-0-246-0), for which she was awarded first prize by the National Book Council. Other poems can be found in anthologies in various languages, in newsletters and newspapers. Award winning poet in various contests in Malta and in Italy. She is an active member of the Maltese Poets Association and a member of the World Poets Society. She took part in a literary project in conjunction with the Maltese Poets Association and the European Union celebrating its 50th year of existence. She is currently working on a couple of new projects.

Links to her poetry www.freewebs.com/theresepace www.ghpm.netfirms.com Provided by Patrick J. Sammut

National Geographic lists Malta as one of best places to visit in 2017 for culture

VALLETTA, Nov. 23 (Xinhua) -- Malta has been selected as one of the National Geographic Traveler's "Best destinations for 2017" recently.

The destinations were all chosen by the magazine's editors and fall into one of three categories: cities, nature and culture. Malta is in the top of culture categories.

Writing for National Geographic, author Lisa Abend writes: "Eager for its turn on the world stage, this tiny island nation in the Mediterranean Sea is embracing a reboot while holding fast to a formidable heritage."

"Storied land of the Knights of Malta, home to three World Heritage sites -- including the capital, Valletta -- and a recent headline-grabber as a setting for the television phenomenon Game of Thrones, Malta pivoted toward the future with the 2015 inauguration of architect Renzo Piano's reimagining of Valletta's old City Gate, Parliament building, and Opera House," Abend wrote.

There are variety of cultural activities occurring throughout the year in Malta, such as Carnival week in February; a number of three-day weekends celebrating feast days of various saints, known as traditional village festas, from late May to September.

Also popular is the annual Isle of MTV free outdoor mega-concert, and Malta Music Week in June.

Earlier this month Sport Diver Magazine readers voted Malta 3rd best diving destination in the world, placing just behind the Maldives and [Egypt](#) at this year's Sport Diver Awards.

This placed Malta as the most popular diving destination in the Mediterranean as voted for by thousands of Sport Diver readers.

Such events are expected to leave an impact on Malta's already thriving tourism industry. Official monthly figures published from Malta's National Statistics office have all seen an increase in tourists when compared with their corresponding months in 2015.

Weekender: Malta

Amid its ancient ruins and grand architecture, this tiny archipelago nurtures a few surprises, such as a flourishing wine industry.

Work up an appetite Stretch your legs with a morning stroll around The Three Cities — the fortified towns of Birgu, Senglea and Cospicua, situated just across the harbour from the capital, Valletta. Birgu is quiet yet enchanting, with narrow, cobbled streets lined with yellowed townhouses. Washing lines hang between colourful balconies, and elderly ladies peer down from dusty, wooden-shuttered windows. Make your way to il-Gardjola, Senglea's ancient observation tower, to get a real feel for the area: soak up the views of the Grand Harbour, dotted with yachts, and Valletta's jagged skyline.

On the grapevine - Head to the cool, cavernous cellars of Marsovin winery in Marsa to learn about Maltese wine production. Winemakers here once had to make do with pressing imported vines from Italy, but today, of the dozens of grape varieties used, two are indigenous: gellewza (red) and ghirghentina (white). Malta's small-scale vino production means only tiny quantities of the stuff is exported, and what is exported is expensive — enthusiasts wanting to cross Maltese wines off their list are best off heading to the source itself.

Plates piled high - Head to [Cent'Anni](#) in the village of Gharghur for dishes of fresh pasta, braised rabbit and king prawn, accompanied by a fine Maltese wine.

Fine dining - Try the five-course menu plus wine pairing at the InterContinental's [Waterbiscuit Restaurant](#). The dishes are mouthwatering: think cauliflower frittadini alongside pan-seared red mullet and prawn, followed by pumpkin and honey cake with pear sauce and date chutney.

On-the-go snack - Tuck into a pastizz, Malta's beloved street food — traditionally filled with ricotta or peas — and wash it down with a locally brewed Cisk beer.



Ghajn Tuffieha Bay. Credit: Alamy

Old-school charm

Mdina is a picturesque walled city, with Baroque architecture, winding lanes, ornate streetlamps and honeyed stone walls glowing pink in the evening light. At Bastion Square, look over sprawling fields and vineyards towards Valletta and the deep velvety blue of the Mediterranean. As the sun begins to set, stop in for a glass of wine at the charming Vinum Wine Bar & Bistro.

vinumwinebar.com

Backstreet bars - Strait Street was once the centre of Valetta's nightlife when the Royal Navy was stationed here, with more than 150 pubs frequented by British sailors on a nightly basis. The area is now returning to its former glory, with a smattering of attractive pubs and smart wine bars. Pay a visit to Loop Bar, still decked out in authentic 1950s deco, or check out the vaulted Trabuxu Wine Bar around the corner.

Go to Gozo - Malta's greener sister island is where the Maltese take their summer breaks. To get a taste for Gozitan life, join a tour of the vineyards, olive groves and orange trees of Ta'Mena Winery in the Marsalforn Valley, a 27-hectare estate run by Joe Spiteri and his siblings. The man himself greets us with a selection of bottles and, beneath the shade of a vast gazebo, I sip wine — a fruity rosé of Merlot, Grenache and Tempranillo grapes in my left hand; a dry white of Vermentino grapes in my right hand — and eye up platters of traditional food: wild capers in vinegar, peppered cheese, and sweet sundried tomato paste, all made from produce grown on the estate. Adventurous souls should sample the prickly pear liqueur.

These photos are on Joe Borg's (NBSW) facebook

**Ciao Qalbi ser ikolli naqtgha
ghax qed insuq**

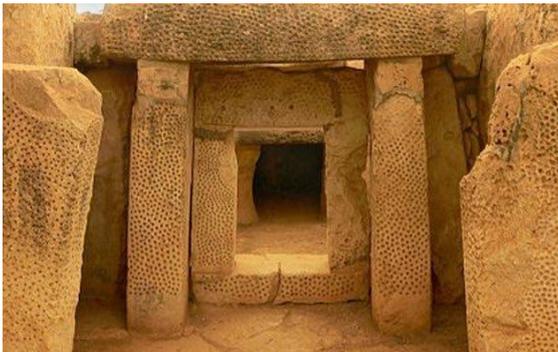


Mysteries Of Ancient Malta Abraham Rinquist

At just 131 sq km are kilometers (121 mi²), Malta is one of the world's smallest and most densely populated countries. This Mediterranean island is also home to the world's oldest freestanding structures and enduring mysteries. Inhabited for over 7,000 years, Malta has been settled by Phoenicians, Greeks, Romans, Byzantines, the Muslim Emirate of Sicily, and Crusaders under the Holy Roman Empire. The history of mysterious Malta is the history of the entire Mediterranean—and beyond.

In 1694, the Knights of St. John discovered two ornamental pillars known as the Cippi of Melqart in the village of Marsaxlokk. The pillars contained engravings that allowed linguists to unlock the ancient and mysterious Phoenician language.

Temple Of The Giants



Malta's megaliths are older than Stonehenge and the Egyptian pyramids. These supersized temples date to between 5500 and 2500 BC. The date of the structures was surmised through radiocarbon dating of human remains and pottery found in the vicinity. Located on the island of Gozo, Ggantija is the oldest freestanding structure anywhere in the world. According to legend, giants built the massive structure.

First excavated in 1827, the Ggantija temples sit on the Xaghra plateau facing southeast. Massive limestone blocks compose the exterior. Slabs reaching 8 meters (26 ft) covered this edifice. The interior walls are made of rough limestone chunks. It is likely that these jagged walls were once smoothed over with clay and a thin coat of lime plaster.

The Phoenicians' homeland was in modern-day Lebanon. However, their trading empire stretched across the Mediterranean. The key to their success was mastery of the sea. Precious little is known about these mysterious ancient merchants.

Mysterious Cart Ruts



Malta is home to mysterious "cart ruts." These networks of enigmatic parallel tracks cut across the island's limestone and appear to be man-made. No one knows how the ruts got there. Some run off sheer rock faces. Others appear underwater. A common theory is that they were a system for catching water.

Most of the cart ruts date to the Bronze Age around 200 BC when Sicilian settlers came to Malta. One theory proposes that the ruts began when early inhabitants

moved massive objects via carts and sleds. These modes of transport would cut through the topsoil, leaving furrows that grew deeper through the years. It is unlikely that the ruts were used to irrigate. Parallel channels would serve no function in that regard. Cart ruts near Dingli Cliffs support the load-bearing sled theory because many lead directly to a rock quarry.

The cartruts of Malta date to Bronze Age 200 BC

Temple People Of Malta



For a little over a millennium, Malta's Temple people covered their small island with over 30 stone temple complexes. This culture developed in complete isolation. The more it advanced, the more extreme it became, seeming to ignore all influence from the outside world.

The temple complexes contain ritual and burial sites along with hundreds of statues. How this advanced culture developed is an enigma; so is its sudden disappearance.

The Temple people were not wiped out by invasion, disease, or famine. Yet around 2900 BC, they vanished. We are left without written documents to reconstruct their past.

Isotope analysis of human remains revealed that they consumed mostly meat and vegetables. Strangely for an island people, they had very little seafood in their diet. Some theorize that rapid climate change ended the era of the Temple people. But more research is required to prove this.

Maltese Oil Biscuits with Sesame Seeds (della Nonna 'Lina)

This is a recipe for traditional Maltese biscuits sprinkled with sesame seeds. It is the sort of recipe that is passed down from generation to generation, however the biscuits were originally made at bakeries or sold at confectionery shops.



Nonna "Lina" (Carolina) Dessmann's Maltese heritage comes through with this recipe. The recipe was passed on to her daughter, Josie Grasso (nee Dessmann).

1 1/2 cups of olive oil - 1 1/2 cups sugar - 5 small

eggs (or 4 large eggs) - 5 cups self raising flour

1 cup plain flour - vanilla essence - sesame seeds

1. Beat eggs and sugar. Add oil, vanilla and flour and keep beating until soft and smooth.
2. Make sticks approx 1/2 inch thick, then form rings.
3. Roll them in sesame.
4. Place on a lined baking tray and bake in oven at 180°C for about 20 minutes or until golden brown.



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World Health
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[Gift of His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI on the occasion of his Apostolic Voyage to Malta to the President of the Republic](#)



MOSAIC DEPICTING "SAINT PAUL'S SHIPWRECK IN MALTA"

Gift of His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI on the occasion of his Apostolic Voyage to Malta to the President of the Republic (17 April 2010)

The mosaic was inspired by a fresco, the work of Nicolò Circignani, also known as the "Pomarancio", which is found in the "Sala della Meridiana" in the "Torre dei Venti" in the Vatican. The fresco depicts the shipwreck of Saint Paul in Malta as it is described in chapter 28 of the Acts of the Apostles, at the moment when ... "Paul had

collected a bundle of sticks and was putting them on the fire when a viper brought out by the heat attached itself to his hand. When the inhabitants saw the creature hanging from his hand they said to one another, „That man must be a murderer; he may have escaped the sea, but divine justice would not let him live". However, he shook the creature off into the fire and came to no harm, although they were expecting him at any moment to swell up or drop dead on the spot. After they had waited a long time without seeing anything out of the ordinary happen to him, they changed their minds and began to say he was a god" (The New Jerusalem Bible, Darton, Longman & Todd, London, 1985).

The work is a harmonious composition of two scenes: the shipwrecked on the coastal banks with parts of its wreckage carried, by the waves and in the next scene, the image of Saint Paul and others by the fire while the viper attaches the Apostle. A team of mosaic specialists worked on the piece between December 2009 and March 2010 in the "Studio del Mosaico della Fabbrica di San Pietro". The polychrome enamelled pieces are applied to oiled stucco with a metallic base (dimensions 63.5 x 45.1 cm, without the frame, 79 x 97 cm with the frame). The stucco is made from marble powder combined with a linseed oil base. This same material was used centuries ago to create the mosaics in Saint Peter's Basilica in Rome.

For this work, the Vatican Mosaic Studio used a particular process, referred to as threaded or spun enamel. The technique was invented in the second half of the XVIII century and allows for the creation of a large range of colour tones by mixing glass enamels in high temperatures. The polychrome enamels also attain an intensity of colour, giving the figures dimension and all the while offering clear and harmonious images.

Sisters return to Malta, 65 years after migrating to the US



Edith and Marie were teenagers when they set sail

Left to right: Aunt Mary Borg, Marianne Cassans, Louis Caruana, Dorothy Caruana, Marie Hagan, Edith Ferraro, Carmen Caruana, Aunt Lilly, and bottom: Alex Caruana and Rosanne Debono.

Sixty-five years after they left for the US with their mother and four siblings, two women have returned to the island that held a special place in their hearts for all those years.

Marie (then Caruana) bid farewell to post-war Malta and set off on an 'adventure' that completely changed the course of their lives.

It was June 27, 1952, when 12-year-old Edith and 14-year-old



Edith Ferraro and Marie Hagan have returned to pay a visit after 65 years. Photos: Chris Sant Fournier. Their brother Edgar had already crossed the Atlantic, and their family members in America sponsored their move to the US. Together with their brother Alex, mother Carmen and siblings Dorothy, Marianne and Louis, the two featured in a *Times of Malta* story on June 28, 1952.

"Emigration to North America resumed yesterday morning, when the 25,000-ton liner Nea Hellas called in and embarked 121 passengers for Canada and the US," the story read. Originally from Birkirkara, the Caruanas featured in a photo published alongside the article.

Bidding farewell to their friends in Malta was the saddest part, recalled Edith Ferraro, 77, and Marie Hagan, 79. Their father, Joseph, died suddenly soon after the war, and their mother had just suffered a stroke which paralysed half her body. The family left the island for greener pastures. It took them 13 days to reach New York.

One of Ms Ferraro's first glimpses of New York City was of the Statue of Liberty, which she saw through a crack in the ship's railing. "It was the most striking thing we had ever seen... You feel fear, happiness and anxiety all at once, because you don't know what's going to happen. You are so young, you start thinking: am I going to belong here?" she told this newspaper on her first trip back to Malta.

S MIGRANTS LEAVE FOR NORTH AMERICA

By a Staff Reporter

Emigration to North America was resumed yesterday morning when the 25,000-ton liner Nea Hellas (Messrs. J.B. Sorotto, agents) called in and embarked 121 passengers for Canada and the United States.

The Nea Hellas, enhanced her reputation for punctuality by being in Grand Harbour long before the fixed time of embarkation, and was at her berth at 7 a.m. As the liner had to be clear of harbour before H.M.S. Vengeance arrived at 10 a.m., embarkation formalities started earlier than the notified time and within 20 minutes, the single ferryboat was on its way to the liner. Thanks to the perfect organization of (Cont. on page 8.)

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Ms Ferraro is in Malta with her sister Ms Hagan, the latter's son Ken, and his family. Ken and his wife, Tracy, are the ones who planned out the overdue trip for the sisters. They explained that as all of them got on with their lives, bringing up their own families, "life got in the way" whenever they planned to come to Malta.

"But don't kid yourself, there's always a place here," Ms Ferraro said, putting her hand on her chest, adding: "Malta is always here. You never, ever forget your little island. We never forgot. But America was very good to us." Ms Ferraro said they settled easily in New York. Their most vivid memory remains their mother's resilience. Despite her paralysis, she was the "strength and pillar" of the family.

Their departure was reported in the *Times of Malta* of June 28, 1952. Asked about any traditions that had made their way to the US with them, Ms Hagan said she definitely kept up Maltese cooking, with baked pasta being a favourite with her kids. And what was the first thing they noticed when they landed?

"There are definitely many more buildings... When we left, some places had turned to rubble. And I remember the place being a lot quieter," Ms Hagan added. After 65 years away, the sisters will be kept quite busy touring the island, with a visit to San Anton on their to-do list. They also hope to find their father's grave, stop at Ghajn Tuffieħa and visit the street where they were raised. They would also like to get in touch with any childhood friends who remember the Caruana family from Fleur-de-Lys Road in Birkirkara. Their house was across from the Railway Station Gardens (L-Istazzjon). Friends can call them on 9963 3605. Source: THE TIMES OF MALTA

Unsolved mysteries of St Gregory's church

An old inscription in St Gregory's church relates the attack of 1614. Right: Human bones discovered in the secret passages of St Gregory's church.



The old church-fortress of St. Gregory - Żejtun - Malta

Deep-rooted mysteries, which to date remain unsolved, are entrenched in the old parish of St Catherine in Żejtun, popularly known as St Gregory's.

Some of these dilemmas were discussed at the second national symposium organised by NGO Wirt iż-Żejtun in this church, particularly since they are related to the theme that was commemorated and discussed – the 400th anniversary of the Turkish raid of 1614 on Żejtun and other areas in Malta. The speakers who participated in the symposium came from various fields of study and each presented interesting and significant relative information from different perspectives.

Among the matters discussed was the old inscription that for many years was believed to represent a narrative of what took place on the eventful day of July 6, 1614, when 60 Ottoman galleys anchored at St Thomas' Bay and the port of Marsascalea, and from there, 6,000 Turkish soldiers attacked Żejtun and the surrounding areas.

According to the inscription, the Turks pillaged the villages and the churches and chapels they came across, until they finally met Maltese soldiers and cavalry, and retreated back to their ships. Some Maltese were injured but none died, while some Turks were killed and others were captured as slaves.

However, when referring to some local archives, including those written by Ottoman authors, one finds details that do not necessarily concur. So what is the real story?

The old church-fortress of St Gregory in Żejtun.

Other curious issues relate to the 1969 discovery of three secret passages in the old church of St Gregory, in which human bones were also found. At the beginning of the third corridor, some engravings bearing the initials V.A. and C.Z. and the date 19.02.09, thereby suggesting that the corridors had already been discovered before.

Rumours say that after the last discovery, the parish priest had searched among the village elders people who had those initials until he traced a certain Carmelo Zahra, known as 'ir-Rangu', who confessed that he had entered the passages when he was a young boy together with some other individuals. He claimed

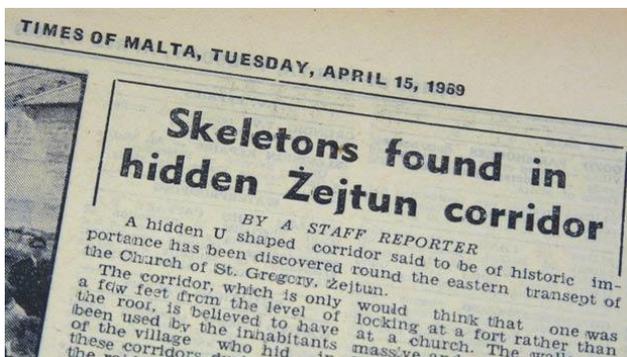
that they had seen skeletons dressed as soldiers in the passages and that they had some weapons and flags with them.

Moreover, he said that some people who were with him removed the objects and took them away, and threatened the others not to mention anything. Indeed, many had been surprised at the frugal objects that were found with the bones in 1969. Could Zahra have been telling the truth?

The remains that were collected during the last discovery included a wooden shoe sole with a high heel, a small gilded wooden cross of Byzantine design, odd bits of a gilded wooden frame (perhaps an icon), three coins (two bronze with the cross of the Order, the other gold, but so worn out that it cannot be deciphered), pieces of pottery of the 16th and 17th centuries, fragments of animal bones and a part of a chain-mail armour vest.

No one knows why [the bones] were found in these secret passages

These are currently stored in one of the rooms in the church and it seems clear, both from their state of preservation and from the display box in which they are stored, that no one has bothered to look at them for many years. In fact, very few individuals knew about their existence. It is a pity that these objects are hidden away from researchers and from the public. Don't they deserve to be conserved and studied and then displayed appropriately?



Cuttings from the Times of Malta of April 15, 1969.

Grezzju Vella showing the location of the opening to the secret passages.

Likewise, there are various versions of how and who came across the opening to the secret passages. One of the claims is that the person was none other than Ġann Mari Debono, the church sacristan, as published in Times of Malta of April 15, 1969. However, in 2011, Grezzju Vella recounted a slightly different story, saying that he had exposed the

opening and entered first inside the secret passages.

The human remains have also led to another mystery since, to date, no one knows why they were found in these secret passages.

A ballad written by Walter Zahra soon after the discovery of 1969 imagined these people to have been the victims of an Ottoman attack after they had gone there to hide in the secret passages and were found by the enemy.

Over time, this invented story transformed itself into a legend and many villagers believed this to be true.

However, in 1978, Seshadri Ramaswamy and Joseph Leslie studied these bones and presented a report on their paleopathological studies. They concluded that the bones had been buried in some other place since some of the vertebrae had a plug of soil in the vertebral canal.

Hence, according to this theory, during a particular period, the secret passages in St Gregory's church might have been used as an ossuary.

Many have asked what was the sense of carrying the bones up these passages when they could have been stored elsewhere. And many more have asked why a carbon dating examination has not yet been performed on the bones in order to date these remains and end some of these rumours. The information delivered during the presentations of this national symposium will be published by Wirt iż-Żejtun in the book *The Turkish Raid of 1614*. One can benefit from a pre-publication offer on this book by ordering it through the NGO's website below.

www.wirtizzejtun.com

How To Speak 'Strayan' (Australian)

When you learn English you're taught how to speak and write 'proper' English, then you visit an English speaking country and start hearing some very strange slang terms. Aussie slang is certainly 'interesting'!

So, whether you are dreaming of visiting Australia, have just arrived or have been in this gigantic island of paradise for a while, there are a few Australian terms that you should know to help you get through day to life. Although Australia is an English speaking country, arriving into the country with little knowledge of the "Aussie slang" may just get into you into a few awkward situations. Aussies have a tendency to shorten most words in the English vocabulary. You will soon become accustomed to this. Here are a list of some common terms that should help you get by...

An AUSSIE GENTLEMAN



G'day mate
Pleased to make your acquaintance.

He's Blotto
Inebriated beyond the capacity to stand up.

You little ripper!
Words of praise fail me.

Rack off
Your presence is no longer required.

Fair dinkum
Of course I'm telling the truth.

Pull ya head in
You may be correct in your assertion but shut up.

Wanna Rage?
Would you like to drink vast amounts of alcohol with me until we both drop?

You Drongo
A rather dimwitted person.

An AUSSIE SHEILA



Your shout
If you value your well being you should buy the next drink.

Go on
I'm not entirely convinced you know what you're talking about.

Whadayawant?
Might I enquire about your needs?

Have a Chunder
The delicate act of regurgitation.

You pong
Dear me, we do smell don't we.

Bloody oath!
I'm in total agreeance with you.

Howya going?
May I enquire about your welfare?

Give it a go ya mug!
Are you perhaps incapable of performing this act?



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*Aussie Aussie Aussie
Oi Oi Oi*

Testing start awaits Caruana Bonnici and Zarb at the Serravalle Arena



Gertrude Zarb (left) and Dorianne Caruana Bonnici with beach volley coach Oscar Bjorlin. Photo: Domenic Borg

Gertrude Zarb and Dorianne Caruana Bonnici open their GSSE beach volley campaign today when playing Iceland and Luxembourg in the opening matches of the round-robin competition at the Beach Volley Arena, in Serravalle.

This is the first time that the pair are playing together at the Games.

While Zarb has already represented the country in the previous two editions – in Luxembourg 2013 and

Iceland 2015 – when lining up with Alison Borg, Caruana Bonnici will be making her first showing at this level. After today's matches, Zarb and Caruana Bonnici face Cyprus, tomorrow, and Monaco, on Thursday.

They have been practising under the tutelage of coach Oscar Bjorlin for the past three months and the Swedish mentor sounded pleased with the level of preparation of his players.

“Gertrude and Dorianne have been putting long hours of training since February,” Bjorlin, himself a former beach volley player, said. “Their training was serious and very intense. Now, we are looking back from where we started and we know there has been significant improvement in their build-up play and technique.

“We do not have a lot of information on the other teams but from what we've seen during practice sessions here we are sure the competition will be tough. That makes the challenge more daunting. So, hopefully, it will lift our players to higher standards along the way.”

Malta has never made the podium in beach volley competitions at the GSSE and while Bjorlin admits it's too early to predict how far his team can go he reckons a satisfactory showing here in San Marino could provide a major boost to the sport.

“There's no two ways about it... encouraging results in San Marino will augment our commitment and development for the sport,” Bjorlin said.

“Due to lack of funds we cannot sustain a well-structured project to increase the number of beach volley players in Malta. But I'm sure that if we do well here we can get more funding to invest in new initiatives and that will also be a good promotion for beach volley.

“Malta has everything in place to be a perfect beach volley destination – the climate is perfect and several beaches are available where the sport can be practised. “That's why I keep telling my players that they have another good reason to give their all and I'm sure they will try their utmost to get the best possible results.”

The Maltese eNewsletter



The Journal of the Maltese Diaspora



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Orchid fever in Malta

Orchids represent up to 10 percent of the world's plants and their immense diversity has reached the Maltese Islands, home to over 40 different species, of which two are endemic. Unfortunately, most of these orchids are threatened or possibly extinct as a result of dominating non-native species, habitat degradation and human disturbance.

The existence of thousands of orchid species staggers the imagination. Some flowering plants are promiscuous, relying on enticement and reward to lure whatever insect comes along. But orchids typically have adapted to have exclusive relationships with their pollinators.

These are usually bees, wasps and flies; however, many orchids are also closely linked to moths, butterflies or birds to cross-pollinate their flowers. For many orchids, their pollinators – animals that facilitate fruit or seed production by moving pollen from one part of the flower to another part – remain unidentified. Some pollinator species are so specialised that they feed only on one particular species. If an orchid goes extinct, this may result in the extinction of its pollinator as well. Another dangerous uncertainty looms in this scenario, the effects of local extinctions on the rest of the environment. If the pollinator is an insect, does its beginning stage (called larva) perform some other function different from that of the adult? Is the larva the primary food for other species which performs another unique function?

Though these are hypothetical questions which oversimplify the effects of extinction, the steady loss of species affects the global ecosystem in ways that may only become visible years down the line, if not immediately. These various connections include factors that directly affect humans from food availability to medicines.

Given that threats to Maltese orchids are growing at an unknown rate, it is vital that the citizens join conservation efforts to save this unique group of flowers. MABIMO, a Biodiversity Monitoring Network, has been set up by local and foreign scientists with volunteers from the NGOs Greenhouse Malta and BINCO Belgium as an orchid monitoring programme to follow moving orchid populations on the Islands over a minimum of three years.





Cyclists win Malta's first medals at Small Nations Games

From left: Marie Claire Aquilina, Stephanie Alden and Michelle Vella Wood at their presentation ceremony. PHOTOS: Maria Vella Galea and the men's cycling team pose with their medal

Cyclists gave Malta its first medals in the 2017 Small Nations Games after both the men's and women's selection achieved a podium position in the team competition.

Stephanie Alden, Marie Claire Aquilina and Michelle Vella Wood placed second overall in the women's team event at the games being held in San Marino. On the other hand, Maurice Formosa, Etienne Bonello, James Mifsud and Alexander Pettett had to settle for the bronze medal in the men's category behind gold medallists San Marino and Andorra who placed second.



Harvesting Sea Salt on the Maltese Islands

TRICIA A. MITCHELL

On the northern coast of the Maltese island of Gozo, mounds of snow-white salt sparkle under the summer sun in salt evaporation pans. About 300 of these pans cover a section of Gozo's northern coast, called the Xwejni Salt Pans. It's believed that such pans have existed here since Roman times.



When we visited the Xwejni Pans last month, three of the family members who manage them were carefully sweeping the moist salt. Like gardeners raking the pebbles of a Zen rock garden, the men and women methodically moved the salt crystals to ensure the water evenly evaporated. Not far away, a mammoth mound of prepped salt was cloaked with a black tarp. With the family's salt shop just across the road, housed in a wind-swept cave, we were guessing they'd soon be carrying it away to be bagged and sold.

I've read that about 24 liters (just over 6 gallons) of sea water is needed to produce about 1 kg of salt (roughly 2 pounds). During the peak summer months, this family might be able to produce as much as 3 tons of salt each week!

On a Mediterranean island where snow is almost unheard of, it's initially jarring to see these sparkling mounds of white glistening under the sun's scorching rays! Pumping water from the sea into the pans (left) and tiny mounds



(right).

To protect the integrity of the salt, it's important that visitors not walk inside the salt pans (left)! On the right, one of the brooms used by the family to 'rake' the salt crystals.



Mark Micallef Perconte
© 2017
Ilwien il-Festi Maltin

FEAST OF OUR LADY OF FATIMA, PIETA, MALTA

We thank the very able photographer Mark Micallef Perconte for sending us this photo



SWING THROUGH THE FESTIVAL — VALLETTA 2018

BANDLI is an interactive sound installation which is being organised for the Malta International Arts Festival as part of [Modern Music Days](#), a concert series by Teatru Manoel, the Malta Association for Contemporary Music (MACM) and Valletta 2018. The installation consists of eight swings, each equipped with motion sensors, which when moved, produce music. Each swing is assigned an instrument, allowing for up to an eight-piece ensemble if all the swings are being moved.

BANDLI was inaugurated during the Malta International Arts Festival of 2016. For this year's edition of the project, original works have been commissioned to three Maltese composers: Albert Garzia, Alex Vella Gregory and Mario Sammut. The Malta Association for Contemporary Music will be taking care of project management, Sergio Costa will act as technical director and Andrew Schembri will be responsible for creative coding and music interfacing.

BANDLI will be installed in Pjazza San Ġorġ in July, as part of the Malta International Arts Festival.

- See more at: <http://valletta2018.org/events/bandli-2017/#sthash.yWBzO9PC.dpuf>

Basketball: Malta women claim gold



The Basketball women's selection won gold in the 2017 GSSE tournament after edging Luxembourg 52-50. This is the third time ever that Malta finished on top of the podium in Basketball after 2003 and 2009.

Growing a good crop at St Edward's



The boys harvesting the potatoes. Photo: Blanche Caruana

As part of hands-on Science and Nature Study, earlier this year Year 1 and 2 boys at St Edward's College Junior School planted potatoes in the school garden with the help of the school gardener. The boys nurtured the potatoes for a few months and then helped to harvest what turned out to be a very good crop. Each boy proudly took home a bag of

potatoes that they themselves had grown.

