

# MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER

**The journal of the Maltese Diaspora**

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**V.I8 VALLETTA**  
EUROPEAN CAPITAL  
OF CULTURE 2018



**From 1 January 2018, Valletta, the capital city of Malta is holding the title of European Capital of Culture for one year.**

**The opening celebrations for Valletta will take place from the 14 to the 20 of January across the city, inspired by the traditional Maltese festa(village feast).**



## Annual Festivals & Traditions

The Maltese Islands have a number of religious festivities and cultural events that take place every year.

Feast days are the life of the Islands and some holy days are

actually national holidays, such as the feast of **Santa Marija** in mid-August. Others, such as the harvest festival of **Mnarja** at the end of June, are steeped in folklore. However, the most important events to all villages are their individual **festas**, honouring their parish patron saint.

Religious holidays, such as **Christmas** and **Easter**, are highly celebrated, with the traditional festivities that go along with them. As families tend to be quite close-knit, the holidays are a time to strengthen the sense of community as well as reinforce family bonds. Church services play a large role during this time of year and during the **Holy Week** of Easter, many flock to the churches in great numbers for the 'seven visits', the visit of seven churches, to pay homage to the Altars of Repose.

The festive commemorations are also a time of food, drink and merriment which brings out the Mediterranean roots of the locals. Families prepare large **Christmas** and **Easter** lunches; giving thanks for all that they have with their relatives. During these festas the streets are lined with carts, selling a wide assortment of different **foods** as well as the more traditional sweets and delicacies.

Introduced relatively recently, cultural events such as the **Malta Fireworks Festival**, the **Malta International Arts Festival**, **Notte Bianca**, the **Malta Jazz Festival**, the Malta World Music Festival and **Mediterranea** in Gozo are becoming traditions in their own right.

The Maltese Islands offer a colourful **annual calendar** of traditional seasonal events such as **carnival** and **summer festas** with nightlife to rival that of many European cities.

Every year, an eclectic blend of local and international events, entertainment and exhibitions take place. Choose from classical and jazz to band and folk music, from **theatre and opera** to dance and baroque festivals.

The Islands also play host to a variety of international events, **sports championships and tournaments** that provide something for everyone.



www.visit**MALTA**.com



## Which Valletta 2018 projects will be ready in time?

### Days to go for its European Capital of Culture role



In the run up to V18, more than €1.3 million had been spent on infrastructure projects around Valletta though some works are still not completed yet. Photos: Matthew Mirabelli



As Valletta prepares to take on the mantle of European Capital of Culture, many of the project's much-publicised infrastructure projects have been revealed but others will have to wait a while longer.

At the entrance to the city, the restored Triton Fountain and the new pedestrianised square replacing the old bus terminus is all but ready to go ahead of the official January 20 opening ceremony, with workers putting the finishing touches on the €4 million restoration project.

A few steps away, however, the City Gate ditch – earmarked for transformation into a public garden by the end of 2017 – remains a construction site, shielded from the sight of visitors on the bridge by a V18 banner.

The façade of the magnificent Palazzo Ferreria, close to the entrance, has been revealed after an extensive restoration project, complementing completed embellishment works on the nearby Freedom Square arcade and other palaces around the city as well as the renovated Manoel Theatre.

#### *Valletta cultural programme kicks off on January 20*

The revamped Valletta market (*Is-Suq tal-Belt*), another high-profile project, was opened on 2 January 2018, its original architecture restored and the space transformed into a new food market, with eateries and an area for the sale of fresh produce.

There will be a longer wait for some of the other flagship projects, such as the new fine arts museum, Muġa, in De Valette Square. The museum, billed as a first-of-its-kind “national community art museum”, is still under construction and is planned to open in May 2018.

It will take even longer for the opening of the Valletta Design Cluster, an international design hub taking shape within the dilapidated Old Civil Abattoir (*Il-Biċċerija*), which is targeted for completion by October.



Culture Minister Owen Bonnici said in July that more than €1.3 million had been spent on infrastructure projects around Valletta in the run up to V18, out of a total spend of €11 million.

Other ongoing projects, including Muġa, the Grand Master's Palace and the Manoel Theatre, were valued at €19 million.

The cultural programme, which kicks off on January 20, includes more than 140 projects and 400 events featuring about 1,000 local and international artists over 12 months.

## 2017: Malta's tumultuous year

As 2017 disappears in mid air we traverse the salient happenings of a year characterised by the demise of the Azure Window, an election, a change in the Nationalist Party leadership and the murder of journalist Daphne Caruana Galizia

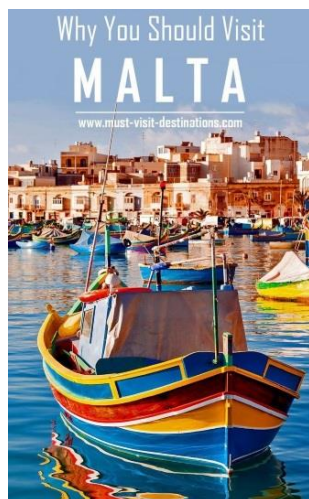
A heavy political atmosphere dominated 2017 as the country went to the polls early amid allegations of corruption that hounded Joseph Muscat's first term in office.

From the election that delivered Muscat a second massive victory to the historic introduction of gay marriage and Adrian Delia becoming Nationalist Party leader, 2017 was also a year dominated by the assassination of journalist Daphne Caruana Galizia.

This tumultuous year started with Malta's presidency of the EU and closed with a record sum collected during the I-Istrina charity telethon and an unfortunate private jet that crashed into a building as a result of strong wind.







## WHY YOU SHOULD VISIT MALTA

Located in the Mediterranean just south of Sicily. Its capital Valletta is located on the largest island Malta, with the smaller islands Gozo and Camino also forming part of the archipelago that is collectively known as 'Malta'. Geographically Malta is situated in a key position between East and West and over the years has been occupied by Greeks, Phoenicians, Carthaginians, Romans, Arabs, Normans and then finally, by invitation, the Brits before they gained their independence on the 21st of September 1964. A rich cultural history has contributed significantly to the architecture, language and culture, making Malta both a unique and attractive destination. Its language is partly Arabic, partly Sicilian and partly English, so don't be surprised if some things look or sound a little familiar. There are many great places to visit in Malta, despite its compact size. It truly is the gem of the Mediterranean. These are a few reasons why you should visit Malta.

**IT'S WARM CLIMATE** - The Maltese enjoy a Mediterranean climate, with mild winters and warm to hot summers. Their average yearly temperature is 23°C (73.4°F) with their warmest season being August at an average of 32°C (89.6°F). An average winter's day doesn't dip below 16°C (60.8°F) making Malta an attractive destination to escape mainland Europe's winter chill. Thanks to its southern position, it enjoys more daylight during the winter, on average 10 hours compared to London's 8 hours. As well as enjoying longer days, it also enjoys lots of sunshine. Compared to an English December which enjoys on average 37 hours of sunshine for the month, Malta tops in at a whopping 161 hours, making it an attractive destination for the Christmas holiday period and a little winter sun.

**ITS BEAUTIFUL COASTLINE** - With towering cliff faces, rocky outcrops and beaches to boot, when it comes to Malta's coastline it is both varied and spectacular. A key reason many visit Malta is for the beaches and swimming. The best swimming is over on Gozo and Camino which feature white sandy beaches and are set up with the amenities required for a day at the beach. It's a little chilly to swim in winter, so we recommend you visit Malta in the summer months if you're keen on getting in the water! Gozo was also home to the 'Azure Window' (pictured above) which is the remnants of a collapsed limestone cave and popular with divers. It was one of Malta's premier attractions until it collapsed. It still makes for an impressive sight and story. If you enjoy sea caves, then why not take a cruise inside the Blue Grotto on the main island. Located within an inlet close to the shore, tours operate daily (subject to weather) and allow you a closeup look at this wonder.

**ITS RICH HISTORY** - Archaeologists have found evidence of occupation of Malta from as far back as 5200BC. In more modern times, it has been occupied and run by many different cultures, notably the Phoenicians who had a significant impact on the architecture and language of the country. Its historic past means that no two parts of the island are the same. Valletta is a modern grid based city, similar to a smaller city in Italy or Spain. Older cities such as Mdina have a more Arab feel and in some areas such as Zejtun the red soil and olive crops are reminiscent of Lebanon. In more recent times, Malta was a colony of Britain, and many of its shops are British (think Marks and Spencers and Next). In addition to this, you'll also see red telephone boxes and mail boxes scattered around the island. If you're a Brit, a visit to Malta will be a little like home. Malta's strategic position during WW2 meant that it suffered significant damage due to bombs dropped to disable its ability to be used as a trade route or base by the allies. This led to many Maltese heading underground to avoid the shelling and a large cave network remains to this day.

**ITS DELICIOUS FOOD** - Pastizzis are a Maltese dish of filled filo pastry enjoyed around the world. Generally filled with ricotta and spinach, chicken or vegetables, they are available as a quick snack on many a corner in the cities. Malta also has a large fishing village and you can visit working villages such as Marsaxlokk below. Due to its abundance, seafood is readily available and inexpensive, making it a great destination to enjoy freshly caught produce. Seafood features heavily in Maltese

dishes and you will eat very well in Malta if you are a seafood lover. Its British heritage also means there are a number of English and Irish pubs, as well as many international cuisines catered for. Food is good value in Malta and there are plenty of supermarkets scattered through the villages to pick up water and snacks.

**ITS REASONABLE PRICING** - The national currency of Malta is the Euro. When it comes to food, try and pick local. Compared to the UK, eating out is on average 15% cheaper than in the UK, but this isn't the case if you are looking to buy western branded foods such as Mc Donalds or imported alcohol. The parks are free to enter, and there are plenty of things to see in the city for free such as the Barakka gardens. Entry to the main cathedral (St Johns - a must see) €10.00 for an adult. Valletta is an attraction in itself with its high walls, fortifications, beautiful squares and picturesque homes. You could easily explore Valetta for half a day without spending a cent.

**ITS FRIENDLY CULTURE** - Most Maltese speak fluent English and they are very happy to say hello. We felt welcomed at all times and it was very easy to get around and ask questions. The Maltese culture is similar to the Italian culture, where family and community relationships are important and this warm vibe translates into their interactions between themselves and with tourists.

**ITS EASY TO USE TRANSPORT SYSTEM** - Transport in Malta is varied. It features a combination of bus and ferry services. Malta's compact nature makes it easy to traverse. Like the Brits, they drive on the right and their well signed roads also make hiring a car an attractive option. The roads aren't overly busy, so driving in Malta is a calm affair and a good way to see the attractions in Malta at your own pace. We stayed in Sliema and opted to catch the [ferry across to Valletta](#) and used a hop-on-hop-off bus to see the main attractions on the main island. The seas were quite rough the first two days we were there, so keep that in mind as many of the ferries won't operate in these conditions. Due to its compact nature, walking is also a great option on cooler days as many villages back are situated adjacent to each other, making it possible to walk from one place to another without having to travel too far at all.

**ITS BEAUTIFUL CITIES** - Malta features a range of cities, from the ancient [Mdina](#), with its narrow curved walls designed to make it impossible for medieval armies to attack, to its modern capital [Valletta](#). With 2.5 days to explore, we chose to set our sites on Valletta. There were so many points to stop for photos and David was very flexible, allowing us to stop and take photos, as well as taking photos for us as often as we wanted. We also parked our segways up for 10 minutes at the end to explore the Lower Barrakka gardens and get some recommendations for where we should explore on foot after the tour. We enjoyed an awesome 1.5 hours zipping around the city, including a bit of time for showing off and having a play on the segways before it was time to return them. Post tour we enjoyed [The Malta Experience](#), a 45-minute film on the history of Malta, was very engaging and helped the tourists to better understand the culture and history of the country.

**ITS SPECTACULAR GARDENS** - As space is at a premium, most Maltese do not have a garden. To accommodate this, the cities in particular are full of beautiful public gardens. The most notable are the Upper and Lower Barrakka Gardens. The Upper Barrakka Gardens sit high above the coastline and offer panoramic views of the harbour. Featuring a [20 storey glass lift](#) that juts off the site of the city wall and descends to the bay level below, they certainly are a wonder for the eyes. Make sure to check online as to what time they are firing the canons as they are site worth seeing.

Unlike the name may suggest, the [Lower Barrakka gardens](#) don't sit at the base of the the Upper gardens, but are located at sea level, a short walk away. Featuring a neo classical temple, and tropical plants it is a beautiful oasis amongst the stone of the city. Lastly, the Hastings gardens are a local secret. Much quieter than the other two, they offer spectacular views of Floriana, Msida, Sliema and Manoel Island. limited holiday availability.

## INĦARSU 'L QUDDIEM B'OTTIMIŻMU

**MESSAĠĠ U AWGURI MIS-SEGRETARJU ĠENERALI CLYDE PULI LILL-QARREJJA TAL-MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER**



Gheziez huri Maltin ta' barra -Hekk kif is-sena 2017 qed tasal fi tmiemha xtaqt nawguralkom għas-sena l-ġdida kif ukoll naqşam magħkom f'tit riflessjonijiet dwarha kif ukoll f'pjanijiet tagħna għas-sena l-ġdida.

**OTTIMIŻMU GĦALL-FUTUR:** Ir-riżultat elettorali ta' Ġunju 2017 ma' kienx dak mixtieq u bla dubju għab diżappunt għal kulmin bħalna emmen fil-kawża ta' 'governanza tajba u ġustizzja. Imma l-ewwel f'tit ġimghat ta' tmexxija ġdida diġà qed joffrulu l-ewwel f'tit sinjali ta' tama u kuraġġ. Minn meta nħatar Adrian Delia Kap sal-lum, elf persuna taw vot ta' fiduċja lill-Partit Nazzjonalista meta għażlu li jitterseraw għall-ewwel darba. Il-Maratona ta' għbir ta' fondi ta' dan ix-xahar kienet l-akbar waħda li qatt kellu l-partit f'dawn is-snin fl-Oppożizzjoni. Fil-Parlament tajna sinjal ta' mod ġdid fit-tmexxija bi proposti prattiċi u fattibli dwar il-park tal-Majjistral fejn għibna lill-Gvern jivvota magħna għal emenda li ressaqna aħna. Ix-xoljiment tal-koalizzjoni mal-Partit Demokratiku qed ikompli jagħtina l-opportunità li l-aġenda tagħna nagħmluha aħna.

**PROĊESS TA' TIĠDID:** Wara r-riżultat tal-elezzjoni ġenerali li għadda nbeda proċess ta' tiġdid li wassal għal tmexxija u amministrazzjoni ġdida tal-Partit Nazzjonalista. Bħala Segretarju Ġenerali tal-Partit Nazzjonalista għandi r-responsabbiltà li nwettaq il-programm politiku, amministrattiv, kummerċjali u finanzjarju ta' dan il-partit.

**SEGRETARJI ĠENERALI KBAR:** Jien konxju li se nkun qed nsegwi tradizzjoni ta' Segretarji Ġenerali kbar. Fiż-żgħorija tiegħi kellix x-xorti li fil-partit naħdem taħt Lawrence Gonzi, Austin Gatt u Joe Saliba u naf li mhux faċli tidhol fiż-żarban tagħhom u ssegwi fil-passi ta' dawn il-ġganti politiċi. Dawn flimkien ma' Louis Galea se jkunu nixxiegha ta' ispirazzjoni kontinwa fil-hidma tiegħi.

**L-ISFIDI TA' KAP ĠDID u TMEXXIJA ĠDIDA:** F'Adrian Delia sibt persuna intelligenti, kariżmatika, enerġetika u komda ħafna fost in-nies u fil-Viċi Kapijiet David Agius u Robert Arrigo u fil-kumplement tat-tmexxija, sibt tim ta' nies, li kapaċi jikkumplementaw l-enerġija, d-dinamiżmu, u l-komunikattiva tiegħu, bl-esperjenzi varji tagħhom. Dan għandu jgħin biex il-partit jerġa' jinbena u jsir forza politika u effettiva fil-pajjiż. Il-Partit Nazzjonalista dejjem kellu sfidi x'jegħleb u qatt ma beża' minnhom. U llum qed niffaċjaw sfidi ġodda anke jekk lesti niffaċjawhom bl-istess kuraġġ.

**SFIDA EŻISTENZJALI:** Jeħtiġilna nwieġbu l-mistoqsijiet eżistenzjali. Aħna min aħna? X'inhuwa l-Partit Nazzjonalista? F'hiex nemmnu? X'inhuma l-valuri tagħna? Lil min nirrappreżentaw?

Jeħtieġ nirrikonoxxu li s-soċjetà nbidlet u rridu nifhmu kif inbidlet. Hekk biss nistgħu nkunu partit tan-nies li kapaċi nilhqu l-aspirazzjonijiet tan-nies. Qed isir diffiċli titkellem fuq Malta waħda omogenja għax qed nirrealizzaw li Malta tagħna saret aktar tixbah mużajk ta' identitajiet u valuri diversi. Għaldaqstant bdejt naħdem fuq riforma fl-AŻAD biex nerġgħu nagħmlu minnha centru ta' ftehim politiku.

**SFIDA POLITIKA:** Għandna wkoll sfidi ta' organizzazzjoni politika. Dan huwa il-mument li nħarsu lejna nfusna, qabel nerġgħu nħarsu 'l barra, lejn pajjiżna. L-ewwel xogħol qabel tellieqa tal-karozzi jkun fil-garaxx, aktar milli fit-track tagħfas il-gass. U għaldaqstant ġejt inkarigat mill-Kap biex nibni mill-ġdid l-istrutturi tal-partit, biex nerġgħu nagħmlu minn dan il-partit magna effikaċi u effiċjenti li kapaċi tagħti sfida lil Gvern li hu espert tal-illużjoni.

Biex nagħmlu dan irridu naħsbu b'mod strateġiku u mhux aktar nirreaġixxu għal sfidi lixka li jipprezentaw l-Gvern minn hin għal hin. Irridu naħsbu fil-fond u nikkomunkaw b'mod effettiv. U hawnhekk ma' nistax ma' nsemmiex l-akkwist li għamilna bi Pierre Portelli bħala Chairman Eżekuttiv li miegħu u mall-Kap diġà qed niddiskutu strateġija ta' kif irridu nittrasformaw il-media tagħna.

**SFIDA FINANZJARJA:** Biex noperaw b'mod professjonali rridu eluf ta' ewro kuljum. U għaldaqstant l-isfida finanzjarja tibqa' waħda reali. Kien għalhekk li waqqafna tim ta' professjonisti mmexxi mill-Kap innifsu biex noholqu strateġija finanzjarja li tagħtina sens ta' sostenibiltà. Mall-Viċi Kap Robert Arrigo qed noholqu programm shiħ ta' fundraising biex il-għbir ta' fondi jibqa' għaddej bir-ritmu mixtieq u meħtieġ u għaldaqstant inhegħgek tingħaqad magħna f'xi waħda minn dawn l-attivitajiet.

Fl-istess hin se naraw li nużaw it-talenti ta' kull wieħed u waħda minna aħjar u nużaw ir-riżorsi materjali tagħna bl-aktar mod effiċjenti u produttiv. **AWGURI lilkom u lill-gheziez tagħkom:** Nerġa' niehu din l-opportunità biex nawguralkom sena mimlija paċi, hena u ġid.



## Michael Wright – LeMakoo Lee D'Amato



A remarkable (and my personal favourite) artist with an extraordinary career. He is an Australian oil-painter who blends the commercial and the flamboyant. He is not only successful in Malta, but also internationally. Indeed, his work is on display at a prestigious gallery in Moscow. His latest exhibition, held at the Intercontinental Hotel Malta, celebrated his 200<sup>th</sup> sale.



This painting depicts the landscape of Valletta, burning with the vibrant orange and reds that have so often adorned LeMakoo's Mdinas and Sydneys. Valletta itself has a Van Gogh feel to it, with the sleepy black, thick paint that animates it – but instead of a Starry Night we see crowning it is the Sunny Dawn that characterizes the Maltese Islands.

He may not have been born in Malta, but his dedication to Maltese architecture, its landscape and impact on his home makes him a valued asset in the Maltese arts community. Several restaurants in St. Julians, wine bars in Valletta and even furniture showrooms proudly display a burning, moving landscape of LeMakoo.

### CHARLIE CAMILLERI tal-piccolo (Mellieha 1930 – New South Wales 2017)



Charlie Camilleri was born in Mellieha Malta on 7<sup>th</sup> September 1930.

He came from a family of six children three girls & three boys. He was the youngest of the boys. Like other Maltese migrants, arrived in Australia, in 1949 aged 19. He resided in the city & worked in a factory. He then moved to Horsley Park with a friend to run a market garden.

He then met his wife Jane who worked in a shop at Randwick and fell in love. They married on the 4<sup>th</sup> April 1959 at St Marys Cathedral Sydney and started their lives together at Horsley Park. They had four children Jim, Charlie jr., Theresa and Miriam.

Apart from the love he had for his family, he also loved playing his Piccolo. He loved

watching the army band performing in Mellieha, he was fascinated by one instrument the Piccolo. He started playing in the Imperial Band Club in Malta.

When he arrived in Australia in 1949, he didn't start to play again until 1976 with Our Lady Queen of Peace Maltese Band at Greystanes in NSW. He was a member of the band almost from its beginning. He never missed the Monday night rehearsals and played till the end which was the Christmas Party.

Horsley Park parish church "Our Lady of Victory" was always in his heart and he was involved in the group mostly from his village of Mellieha where they organized to bring the statue of the Bambina and later on the eighties he helped in the Good Friday procession group.

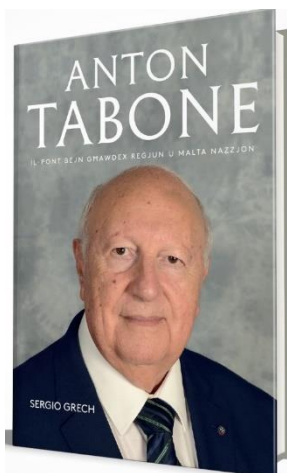
Charlie worked very hard as a market gardener, was up very early most mornings to either go to the markets, planting and watering.

But his family came first, and the children remember many happy times – even though busy on the farm he still found time to take us to the beach and many picnics on Sunday afternoons.

Charlie specialty for his family was the cooking rabbit stew. Another pride and joy of Charlie, was his white Kingwood, which he purchased in 1971. He was asked many a time, would you like to sell your car Charlie, he would always say no with a very proud look on his face

Charlie will always be in his family hearts and his friends, they are grateful for all the memories and things he done for them all. RIP – Farewell from your friend Greg Caruana





## ANTON TABONE – IL-PONT BEJN GĦAWDEX REĠJUN U MALTA NAZZJON TA' SERGIO GRECH

**Kav. Joe M Attard – Victoria, Għawdex**

Dawn il-jiem ġie f'idejja l-volum interessanti li ħareġ mill-pinna tar-Riċerkatur u Kittieb Malti Sergio Grech imwieled iż-Żejtun fit-30 ta' Ottubru 1975 li studja l-Istorja fl-Universita' ta' Malta u minn dak inhar 'l hawn ippublika għadd ta' kotba interessanti fosthom Bijografiji, rumanzi u kitbiet oħra kif ukoll xandar għadd kbir ta' programmi b'xejta kulturali. Lil Sergio nafuh ukoll bħala l-ewwel Direttur Eżekuttiv tal-Kunsill Nazzjonali tal-Ktieb.

Meta wieħed tiġi f'idejha din il-Pubblikazzjoni tal-Kite Group u jaqra kif Sergio Grech fl-imġħoddi mhux imbiegħed kien ippublika l-Bijografija ta' Patri Felicjan Bilocca inkella dik dwar Alexander Cachia Żammit inkella edittja l-ktieb Duminku Mintoff Bejn Storja u Miti, forsi jasal biex jikkonkludi li l-pubblikazzjoni li għandna f'idejna issa titkellem purament dwar il-Bijografija tal-Ex Ministru għal Għawdex u ex Speaker tal-Kamra tad-Deputati Anton Tabone (għal xi żmien ukoll Aġent President tar-Repubblika) li kif jaf kulhadd għadda ħajtu fil-Politika. Dan iżda mhux il-każ kif tistgħu taraw meta taqbd u dan il-ktieb f'idejkom ipprezentat b'mod tassew attraenti u intelligenti. Dan kollu jistgħu jixhdu ukoll l-għadd kbir ta' qarreja Maltin u Għawdxin li nsibuhom imnizżla fit-Tabula Gratulatoria li biha l-awtur jagħżel li jiftaħ dan il-ktieb tiegħu.

Għal min ma jafx, ta' 28 sena, fuq l-għatba li jiżżewweġ, dan iż-żagħżuġ Għawdxi mill-belt Victoria, sab ruħu fi-Parlament u fl-istess ħin itterminawlu l-impieg fiss li kellu ma' Bank ewlieni li bih seta' jgħajjex il-familja tiegħu. U minn hemm tibda l-ħidma ma taqta' xejn ta' Anton Tabone favur Għawdex, li bosta drabi fl-Istorja, ġie romantiċizzat u pprezentat bħala l-gżira tal-ħolm. Imma staqsd li lna li għexna hawn tul ħajjitna kollha u ngħidulek kif din il-gżira tagħna kienet ukoll il-gżira tal-iżvantagġi, il-gżira tal-insularita' doppja li tort tagħha bosta Għawdxin kellhom iħallu djarhom u familjethom minħabba li ma sabux xogħol adegwat fil-gżira li welldithom. Din hija l-istorja ta' Anton Tabone u ħidmietu b'risq Għawdex biex sar kontributur ewlieni fil-ħajja tal-pajjiż.

Bosta mill-proġetti tiegħu għadhom hemm u sa jibqgħu hemm biex jixhdu l-ħidma bla ma taqta' u disinteressata ta' dan il-ġentlom li jien ilni naf għal parti kbira minn ħajti, l-ewwel nett għax il-papa tiegħu kien t-tabib tal-familja tiegħi (naħseb li rani nitwieled) u iktar tard kemm dam Ministru għal Għawdex ma waqafx isejjahli meta kien ikun wasal biex jiġi inawgurat xi proġett, u li minn dawn ma kenux ftiit. Paradossalment fl-aħħar kampanja elettorali il-partiti kollha tista' tgħid wegħdu ħwejjeg li Anton Tabone fil-kapaċita' tiegħu ta' Ministru għal Għawdex fil-maġġoranza tagħhom kien wettaqhom hu bejn l-1987 (meta nholoq il-Ministeru għal Għawdex) u l-1996 u ġew ipprezentati lill-elettorat Għawdxi u Malti daqs li kieku kienu xi inzajattvi godda u oriġinali. Wara kollox din hija wkoll l-istorja ta' Għawdex minn wara l-Gwerra sa żmienna; gżira reġjun ta' Malta nazzjon f'nofs il-Mediterran.

Għal Anton Tabone, Għawdex ma huwiex kopja ta' Malta l-gżira l-kbira fl-Arċipelgu Malti imma għandu identita' distinta, karattru speċjali, interess speċjali b'potenzjal ta' żvilupp speċjali. Għakemm kien hemm din id-distinzjoni Għawdex esperjenza l-istess esperjenzi li għaddiet minnhom Malta matul l-istorja tagħha. Imma l-ispeċifiku ta' Għawdex jistrieħ fuq l-iżolament relattiv, id-daqs u t-topografija. Dan kollu kien anke r-raġuni għaliex l-Għawdxin kellhom jaqtgħu bi snienhom iktar mill-Maltin. Anton Tabone isostni li Għawdex jista' juża l-kultura tiegħu biex itejjeb il-kundizzjonijiet u l-kwalita' tal-ħajja ta' niesu. Għawdex quddiemu għandu l-isfida li ma jsirx kopja ta' Malta.

Kemm dam fix-xena politika, Anton Tabone qatt ma ġie attakkat minħabba l-onesta' u l-integrita' tiegħu. Kien irnexxielu jirbaħ ir-rispett anki tal-avversarji politiċi tiegħu. Nagħlaq dawn il-ftit kummenti dwar politiku rari, ħabrieu u mhux komuni billi nikkwota x'qal dwaru politiku ieħor kbir u matur, Dr Ugo Mifsud Bonniċi: Għalkemm kien elett minn, u kien jipprezenta l-interessi ta' Għawdex, b'danakollu Anton Tabone rnexxielu jkun politiku nazzjonali. Kien l-ewwel Ministru għal Għawdex u kien hemm minn beża' li kien ser ikollu wisq poter u li kien sejjer jintilef fil-provinċjaliżmu. Anton qatt ma ħalla l-poter jitlagħlu għal rasu, u qatt ma ħalla l-fatt li kien Ministru għal Għawdex jagħlaqlu l-orizzont jew jingħalaq f'niċċa għaliha. Kien Ministru ta' Malta kollha. Hekk għadu sallum, il-ħabib u l-bniedem ta' kulhadd. Għaddi mnejn San Frangisk u faċilment taħbat miegħu u titkellem u tiftaħ miegħu diskussjoni fuq elf suġġett bil-pajċir u bi tbissima.

## X'hemm lest ghall-familja wara s-Servej fuq it-tbdil fid-definizzjoni taz-zwieg Carmel Galea

Issa hareg ir-rizultat tas-servey nazzjonali li l-Gvern Awstraljan nieda biex suppost jiehu l-mandat minghand il-poplu biex jibdel id-definizzjoni legali ta' zwieg bejn ragel u mara ghal wiehed ta' l-istess sess, sar ligi gimgha ilu. Suppost is-servey kien biex jara kif jahsibha l-poplu Awstraljan fuq din il-proposta wara li gie rrifjutat ir-referendum fuq din il-proposta. Id-definizzjoni ta' zwieg huwa mibni fuq il-kunsens bejn mara u ragel. Il-politikanti ta' Canberra huma tal-fehma li jibdlu din id-definizzjoni u jibdlu zwieg ghal wiehed fuq kunsens fluwidu bejn membri ta' l-istess sess. Qeghdin jghidu li jridu l-ugwaljanza fiz-zwieg. Dan huwa hafna 'l boghod mill-verita. Minn wara kwinti ta' l-iskuza ta' zwieg bejn koppi ta' l-istess sess, hemm agenda radikali li trid tibdel is-socjeta Awstraljana kif nafuha llum. Il-politikanti ta' Canberra jridu jiddeciedu huma minghajr irbit ta' referendum jew dettalji fuq l-att taz-zwieg. Ma jridux jikxfu idejhom fuq il-proposta halli jaghmlu li jridu w jimponu regolamenti ambigwi fuq il-poplu Awstraljan issa li r-rizultat tas-servey hareg favur il-bidla.

Il-bidu ta' din il-krizi bdiet meta sar l-Att tal-ligi 'Sex Discrimination Act' (SDA) meta fl-2013 li nehha d-definizzjoni ta' ragel u mara bhala bnedmin b'sess differenti w poggew flok ohm il-kelma fluwida 'persuni' li ghandhom karratteristici ohra ( anke b'interventi medici jew le) minghajr kunsiderazzjoni ghas-sess ta' l-individwu mit-twelid sal-mewt.

Allura ragel jista jiddikjara li hu mara u ikollu l-protezzjoni legali ta' mara meta jaddotta karratteristici ta' mara bhal hairstyle, ilbies, zraben, make-up, anke jekk ma jkunx hemm intervent mediku. Dan jista japplika ghal *jobs* tan-nisa u japplika bhala mara biex jiehu vantagg tal-pre-selection tan-nisa fil-partiti politici w jaghmel uzu f'postijiet li huma eslussivament tan-nisa. Din id-definizzjoni ta' l-SDA hija aktar serja ghaliex tirrikonoxxi legalment id-dritt tat-tfal permezz tas-Safe School Program id-dritt li t-tfal jaghmlu huma s-sess li jrid fl-iskola minghajr l-indhil tal-genituri. Ghalhekk kliem newtrali gie introdott u qed jintuza flok deskrizzjoni proprji ta' l-individwu. Fl-iskejjel issa dahlu regoli godda fejn is-subien jew bniet jistghu jidhlu f'toilets ta' xulxin minghajr ma l-iskejjel jistghu jiehu azzjoni kontribom.

Hafna ma jistghux jemmnu kif il-politikanti ta' Canberra tilfu kull sens ta' dicenza morali favur id-dinjita tal-bniedem u ma gruppi ohra jridu jeqirdu l-familja kif nafuha l-lum. Qeghdin juzaw kull strategija biex igibu fost il-poplu Awstralja socjeta mibnija fuq il-qerq u mnezza minn kull valur morali. Dan huwa pjan ta' ngann biex iqarqu bil-poplu. L-ewwel ingann sar fl-2013 meta gruppi bhal Rainbow, GetUP u LGBT influwenzaw il-politikanti biex l-identita sesswali tinbidel u Mark Dreyfus, li kien attorney-general waqa' ghalihom u ntroduca din id-definizzjoni gdida. Il-Human Rights Commission ukoll hija komplici ma din it-tragedja li qed issir quddiem ghajnejna.

It-tieni ngann huwa id-definizzjoni gdida taz-zwieg biex tinkludi zwieg ta' l-istess sess. L-iskejjel ta' l-istat huma mgeghla li jghallmu dan it-tbdil gdid lill-istudenti anke kontra r-rieda taghhom fejn 'persuna' tista tibdel is-sess u l-identita li wirtet mit-twelid. Habsijiet tan-nisa jithalltu ma prigunieri b'identita gdida u problemi kbar jinqalghu biex jakkomodaw relazzjonijiet sesswali bis-sahha ta' ligi SDA.

It-tielet ingann huwa li jridu jinfurzaw 'gender-fluid' policy fuq kull Awstraljan. Wara li serqu l-identita ta' kull wiehed minna, issa il-politikanti jriduna li nghixu dik l-identita ohra li ma rridux. Jekk ma taqbilx hemm il-konsegwenzi. Dawn il-ligijiet u regolamenti jmorru kontra l-helsien tal-kuxjenza u l-helsien tal-kelma, tar-religjon u partikolarment kontra d-drittijiet tat-tfal, tal-genituri, ta' l-ghalliema fl-educazzjoni, tan-nisa, d-drittijiet tal-haddiema u tan-negozjanti u min ihaddem li jipprovdu servizzi u hwejjeg materjali lis- socjeta.

Wara l-mistoqsija tas-servej 'Taqbel ma zwieg bejn koppi ta' l-istess sess?' hemm l-agenda serjissima biex inti taghti 'blank cheque' lil politikanti biex jinfurzaw fuqna ligijiet u regolamenti fuq l-ideologija sesswali ta' 'gender fluidity'. Mhux ta' b' xejn il-gvern inheba wara s-servej. Il-kap ta' Oppozizzjoni weighed li ikun xi jkun ir-rizultat tas-servej, xorta jibdlu l-ligi jekk ikunu fil-gvern, jigifieri, jigu w jqumu ta' xi jrid il-poplu. Il-gvern irid li wara r-rizultat tas-servej ikollu mandat li jaghmel dak kollu li jrid b'detriment ghall-maggoranza tal-poplu Awstraljana li jrid id-definizzjoni tibqa kif inhi, zwieg bejn mara u ragel. It-telliefa ser ikunu il-familja tradizzjonali w it-tfal kif ukoll is-socjeta indigena li zgur jtilfu d-drittijiet taghhom li wirtu f'eluf ta' snin biex il-politikanti jakkomodaw sessjoni zghira tas-socjeta Awstraljana. Teqred id-demokrazija tal-maggoranza biex tpxxi ftit gruppi radikali zghar li ghandhom l-appogg tal-politikanti federali f'Canberra. Tghid tista tghid id-demokrazija biex thares il-libertajiet fundamentali saret fluwida wkoll biex teqred id-drittijiet li tqabadna ghalihom sekoli shah? Tajt dan qed jigri f'Malta wholl?





## JAMES VELLA-BARDON

NOVELIST

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Dear all,

Crazy to think that it's already Christmas Day tomorrow, and less than a week until NEW YEAR day. Then again, I probably shouldn't be surprised at how quickly the year has flown. The last time I wrote a group-wide message was August, when I was still stressing over how I was going to meet the demands of the structural rewrite.

Incredible to think that it's all water under the bridge now, and that the manuscript was signed off last month, following another demanding round of copy-editing and a bit of back and forth at the proof-reading stage. Anyone who follows my updates on Facebook, Twitter, my Unbound Author Page and 'The Wall' on my own website will be well aware of all the work that went into the last four months.

And now we've reached the end of such an eventful year, I'd like to say **THANK YOU** Thanks to all pre-purchasers who made this novel a reality, and everyone else who supported this venture in any way. As we approach the pearly gates of publication I want to repeat that I can't thank you enough for your support and I have learned heaps this year. The guys at Unbound have been just great. I wish you and your folks a fantastic festive season, a wonderful Xmas Day and a great New Year. Have a fantastic time, wherever you are!

I'd also like to share two exciting updates:

### (1) PUBLICATION DATE

I don't yet have an actual date, but I can confirm is that the guys at Unbound are dead set on it being sometime in January 2018. I tried to ask them whether we should push the publication date back to March 2018 to better prepare for launch, but that suggestion didn't go anywhere. Unbound proceeded to share their own marketing and distribution plans with me, which are quite exciting.

Oh, and for those who are interested, 'The Sheriff's Catch' is going to be available for reading on 'The Pigeonhole' from the 8 January 2018 (which should be a few days before the novel's publication in electronic and hard copy). For the uninitiated (who recently included me) 'The Pigeonhole' is a cutting edge online platform which works with some of the world's biggest publishers to bring its users the best in fiction. It also allows readers to share ideas and thoughts (during their read) with other readers and of course the author, who can answer any questions readers might have etc.

### (2) COVER UPDATE

Award-winning designer Mark Ecob, who's designed covers for works by Roald Dahl, Wilbur Smith, Arturo Perez-Reverte and Paul Kingsnorth (among others) recently got back to me with a couple of first roughs last week, with one of them set to become the cover of the novel.

Both covers were posted on my Facebook novelist page around a week ago, with friends asked to click a button depending on which cover they preferred. People who kindly also left comments will have their names thrown into a hat, and the name I pull out of it on Christmas day will receive a nice bottle of plonk for their pains.

Feel free to dive in and have your say, if you haven't already:

[https://www.facebook.com/jvb.novelist/posts/2040248709544016?comment\\_id=2040290509539836&reply\\_comment\\_id=2042310342671186&notif\\_id=1514030174782298&notif\\_t=feed\\_comment](https://www.facebook.com/jvb.novelist/posts/2040248709544016?comment_id=2040290509539836&reply_comment_id=2042310342671186&notif_id=1514030174782298&notif_t=feed_comment)

In conclusion, a last couple of points: **Last minute pre-purchases:** anyone wishing to get their name in this novel still has a few days left to do so. Just hop on the following webpage:

<https://unbound.com/books/the-sheriffs-catch/>

Once you're in it click 'Log In' on the top right of the page: you'll then be able to create a profile by providing a username and password, and other details which include address. Once this is done, go back to my page again and choose the reward which you'd like to receive for your patronage. Anyone who's still not sure how this works can contact me by email or phone and I'll take them through it.

**Reviews:** anyone who wants to help give this novel a 'kick in the pants', can help me as follows: after reading it (post-publication), it would be great if you could share your thoughts about it on Amazon and Goodreads. Just a short review of a couple of lines will do. Reviews get the novel to pop up as a

suggested read more often on Amazon, which helps drive digital sales, which in turn boosts orders from bookshops. So my colleague Preston at work was right when a few weeks back he asked me: 'it's all about the reviews isn't it?' That's all for now folks, and look forward to further adventures in the NY – ROLL ON 2018!!!With best wishes, James 25 December 2017 Sydney [jamesvellabardon.com](http://jamesvellabardon.com)



The Malta Youth Film Festival (MYFF) will be organized by the Malta Film Foundation, Agenzija Zghazagh and the Parliamentary Secretariat for Youth, Sport & Voluntary Organisations within the Ministry of Education and Employment. The festival forms part of the Malta Film Foundation's artistic programme supported by the Cultural Partnership

Agreement through the Arts Council Malta. The festival is also supported by the Malta Film Commission.



For Guidelines, Application form and consent form go to:

<https://www.maltafilmfoundation.com/malta-youth-film-festival>

**Eligibility** - Submissions can be made by individuals or groups whose ages range between 16 and 30 years on the closing date of applications. In the case of applicants 16-17 years, a signed consent form for each applicant is also to be attached to the submission.

**Genre** - The festival is open to all genres including animation, drama, thriller, music video, documentary and others. Adverts and/or Public Service Announcements are not eligible.

**Applicant/s** - The primary contact submitting the entry form must be authorized to submit the film for consideration from all members of the group. It is essential that the application is filled in accurately. The

organizers of the Malta Youth Film Festival cannot be held responsible if there are errors on the application or if the titles of the films on the application and film do not match.

**Duration** - The maximum duration of the films is 10 minutes including the credits. There is no minimum duration.

**Language** -The film can be in Maltese or English.





# THE LAST DAY OF WORLD WAR 1

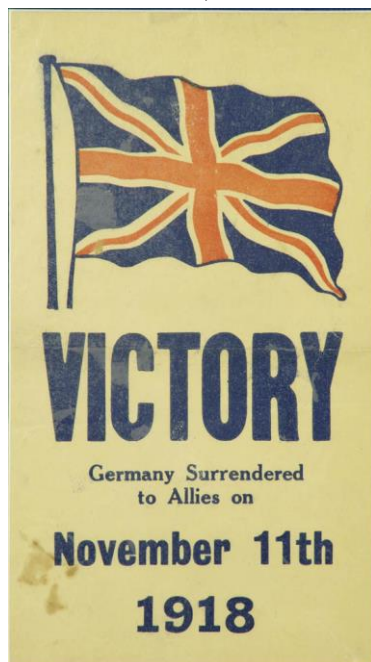
## 11 NOVEMBER 1918



Certain soldiers acquired a tragic posthumous celebrity by dying a matter of minutes before the ceasefire on 11th November 1918. One such was 256265 Private **George Lawrence Price** of the 28th North West Battalion, Second Canadian Division, who lost his wife at 10.58am in the little Belgian mining village of Ville-sur-Haine near Mons

The proximity is shattering: here we find the beginning and end of the conflict separated by a stretch of sleek Belgian grass shorter than a cricket pitch. That Ellison was aged 40 while Parr is believed to have been 16, points to the remarkable range of ages of the men who fought and fell in the Great War.

As for German casualties on this day, there is the belief that the last fallen soldier of WWI was a junior German officer called **Tomas** who approached some Americans soldiers with the information that the war ended and that they could take a shelter in the house German soldiers just left vacant. However, the Americans didn't know that the war had finished because of a communications difficulties and Tomas was shot as he approached them after 11.00.



The casualty statistics for 11th November 1918 are surprising and disturbing. According to the Commonwealth War Graves Commission's figures, taking into account all countries, all theatres of operation, and fatalities in hospitals or elsewhere from all causes, 860 British and Empire servicemen, and three servicewomen, paid the ultimate price on that historic day

The American Expeditionary Forces can claim a casualty even closer to time than Price, one of 320 Americans who died that day. As the deadline

approached, Private **Henry Gunther**, one of the 313th (Baltimore's Own) Regiment, with fellow 'doughboys', was advancing on a German machine-gun position. Horrified, as they knew the war was about to end, the Germans waved the Americans back, but Gunther kept advancing, was shot and died instantly. The time of his death was recorded as 10.59am 11 November 1918.



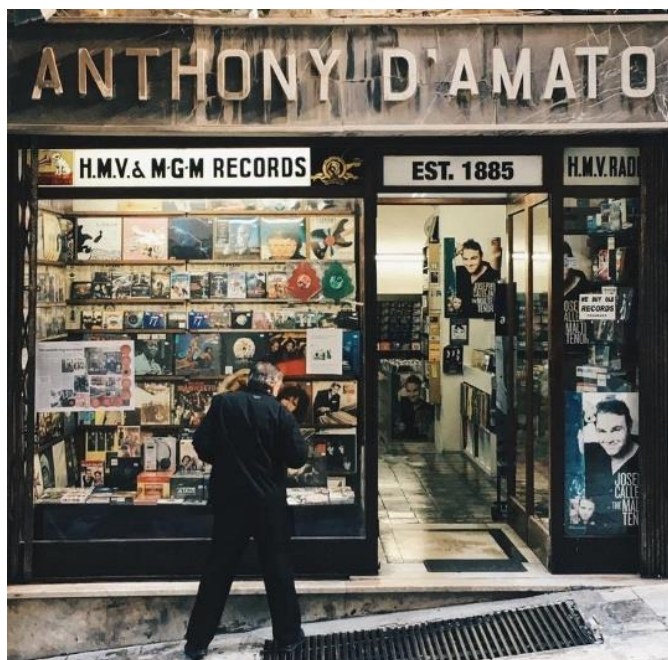
The last British fatality, according to the records of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, was L/12643 Private **GE Ellison**, Fifth Royal Irish Lancers. Like Price he died near Mons, when a dismounted patrol of the regiment was confronted by 20 well-entrenched Germans who fired on them and then fled. In this brief exchange Ellison was shot and killed. His time of death is thought to have been 9.30am 11 November 1918.

### FATALITIES ON 11th NOVEMBER 1918

|                                                                                                 |     |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| France .....                                                                                    | 278 |
| UK (including three women) .....                                                                | 242 |
| Mesopotamia (now Iraq) .....                                                                    | 71  |
| Persia (now Iran) .....                                                                         | 45  |
| Belgium .....                                                                                   | 29  |
| Egypt, Greece and Russia (each) .....                                                           | 18  |
| Canada and India (each) .....                                                                   | 16  |
| New Zealand .....                                                                               | 15  |
| Palestine .....                                                                                 | 11  |
| Southern Ireland .....                                                                          | 9   |
| Tanzania .....                                                                                  | 7   |
| Lebanese Republic, South Africa (each) .....                                                    | 5   |
| Italy .....                                                                                     | 4   |
| Ghana, Gibraltar, Kenya, Poland (each) .....                                                    | 3   |
| Belize, Mozambique, Namibia and Serbia .....                                                    | 2   |
| Bulgaria, China, Malawi, Malta, Netherlands, Pakistan, Syria, Turkey, Yemen, Zimbabwe (each)... | 1   |
| Australia .....                                                                                 | 0   |

**Total ..... 863**

Fatalities attributable to the war would continue at a high figure for many months. There would be over 74,000 further deaths before counting finally ceased in August 1921.



## Is Valletta's D'Amato Really "The World's Oldest Record Store"?

EST. 1885: Fact or hype? Teodor Reljić

An intriguing detective story is currently unfolding on Malta's blogosphere. Trackage Scheme, an online space for Malta's alternative music scene, have returned to one of the island's most beloved and enduring spots for recorded music in an attempt to test whether a bold claim about its history is in fact true.

D'Amato in St John's Street, Valletta claims to be the oldest record shop in the world, with 'EST. 1885' firmly etched into the floor of its entrance as you walk inside the still-operational shop. A wonderful possibility, sure, but can it be backed up

with hard data?

In a blog series for Trackage Scheme by Jonathan Cilia decided to see whether he could gather the necessary evidence.

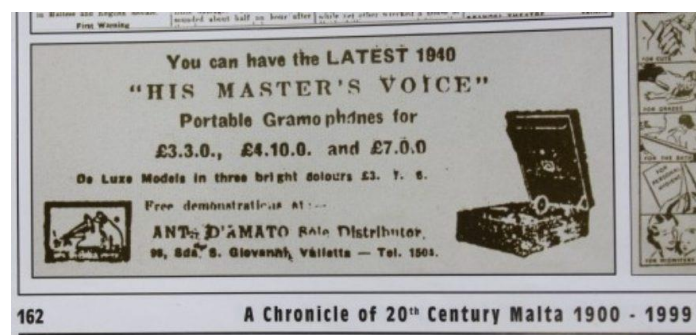
What results is a wild goose chase, pitched like a serialized detective story. Only in this case, the hunt is not for a thief or murderer, but for any paper trail that Giovanni D'Amato may have left 131 years ago.

Now run by Anthony D'Amato and his two cousins, D'Amato records was (supposedly) set up in 1885 by Anthony's great, great-grandfather Giovanni D'Amato, who was born in Italy in 1861.

Operating with an aversion to social media that would make hipsters blush, the store relies on a loyal clientele to keep going: a heartening testament to its enduring grip on the cultural texture of Valletta. Anthony himself is keen to discover the truth about the store; perhaps more so than anyone else. Though he's proud of the possibility that it may just be oldest record store around – and believes that the country as a whole should realise how important this is – he wants to try and "authenticise" this as much as possible.

And this is where the Trackage Scheme boys stepped in.

Understandably enough, Anthony himself could only trace his family history up to a point: namely, the 1930s. Luckily, plenty of research has been done into D'Amato's involvement in recording and fostering the indigenous musical scene at the time, and we have clear evidence of Maltese musicians going up to Italy to record their music so as to sell it through D'Amato. But to find something more concrete, the team had to root through some musty documents.



*They did, however, find a d'Amato advert for portable gramophones in the Times of Malta*

"We have clear evidence of Maltese musicians going up to Italy to record their music so as to sell it through D'Amato"

The National Archives in Mdina seemed like the logical step forward in their search. But he was too good for their search, and no evidence of Giovanni ever being involved in any mercantile/land appropriation-related court cases was found.

Relocating to the National Library in Valletta did nudge the boys in the right direction, even if it wasn't quite the jackpot. Sorting through adverts in local publications – of which there were actually quite a few at the time – did lead them to examples of music shops operating at the time... but none for D'Amato. In Cilia's words, "It was like finding ads for McDonalds and KFC, but not for Burger King."



## Beijing toasts Malta's Independence – Sept 2017



Centrepiece for the celebration of the 53<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary of Malta's Independence in Beijing, China, was a magnificent three-tiered 53 kilogram cake, brilliantly decorated with Malta's Flag, the Maltese Cross and beautiful scenes of Malta.

The more than 450 guests marveled at the culinary masterpiece created by the world renowned Austrian Executive Pastry Chef, Alain Heuze, in commemoration of Malta's Independence.

This was the largest public event ever held by Malta in China, and the first to be welcomed by a broadcast message from the Hon Carmelo Abela, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade Promotion.

Hundreds of Chinese businessmen and women attended, keen to learn as much as possible about the outstanding beauty and economic attributes of our island nation.

Also in attendance were most of the ambassadors of the European Union member states, as well as scores of ambassadors from the rest of the world.

Guest of honour was the Chinese Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs, HE Wang Chao, who was accompanied by a group of senior Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs officials.

Just prior to joining the gathering, Ambassador John Aquilina and Vice Minister Wang Chao had a friendly bilateral meeting during which the Vice Minister extended congratulations on the anniversary of Malta's Independence.

He also congratulated Malta on the celebrations which had been held earlier in the year in commemoration of the 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations between Malta and China.

Shortly after joining the large gathering the Maltese and Chinese National Anthems were played by the string trio which previously had been entertaining the audience with presentations of Handel's Waterworks.

Following the playing of the National Anthems, the broadcast presentation of the Minister's welcome, and a brief speech by Ambassador John Aquilina, the ambassador and vice minister extended a toast to the future wellbeing of both our nations, and the increasing strength in the bond of friendship between Malta and China.

Finally, acknowledging that one cannot have one's cake and eat it too, it was time to cut the cake, with everyone merrily jostling to get a better view and photograph of the destruction of the mouth-watering monument.

Greetings, and all the best for the New Year. Congratulations again on the production of your excellent Newsletter. I find the information in the newsletters extremely interesting and informative. Kindest regards, John Aquilina – Ambassador of Malta in China



## BLINDNESS IS NOT AN IMPEDIMENT

**Samuel Farrugia**, a 12-year-old boy who cannot see and who has moved and inspired many people who met him, has written his first book. Samuel, who likes dinosaurs, wrote a magical story called *Samuel and the Magic Tooth*.

Interviewed on *Indepth* by The Malta Independent editor-in-chief Rachel Attard, Samuel said that his love of books helps him fire up his imagination. "When I am listening to my audio books, I manage to create a picture in my head of what an object looks like."

Samuel, who has many aspirations and projects in mind, says: "One of the reasons I decided to write this book is because it was a promise I made to President Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca."

The President gave Samuel a wonderful Christmas gift this year because after he had sent her a draft copy of the book, she decided to publish it for him. Samuel was given the surprise on Xarabank.

Asked why he had decided to call the character in the book Samuel, he replied with a half-smile: "Because while I am writing it will help me get more involved in the story and as a result my imagination will flow."

Samuel told us that because he is a perfectionist, it took him two years to write the book. Samuel now intends to write and publish a second book next year. "My dream is that this book and the ones that follow will end up as audio books so that children who cannot see can still enjoy them."

Samuel, who was one of the main protagonists in this and last year's *L-Istrina*, lost his eyesight due to cancer. His book can be bought from various outlets around Malta and Gozo and all proceeds will go to the Malta Community Chest Fund Foundation.



Back row (L - R) Nick Lelule, M.P., J. Micallef, R.S. Cumbo, L. Azzopardi, J.R. Cordina, Dr. S. Haidasy, M.P., B. Grys, Sir T. Uruquhart.

Middle row - Prior F. Capell (U.S.A.), Rev. I. Barbara (Malta), unknown, C. Mizzi, J. Muscat, A. Bonello, P. Freudo-Cumbo, M. Caligiure-Verano, Rev. A. Grivua, Alf. Goggi.

Seated- Count Wilelund, Prince Roberto II, Prior J. Freudo-Cumbo, Lady, Kt. Cdr. M. Sillato.



Newly invested Sovereign Order of St. John of Jerusalem, Knights of Malta, Grand Priory of Canada at a reception at Villa Colombo, North York after an investiture at St. Paul the Apostle Maltese Church-June 13, 1976. RSC-2017





## Snippets from Malta during World War I – June 1917

**Charles Debono**, curator of the National War Museum, provides more snippets from newspapers published in Malta a century ago to provide snapshots of some of the most significant stories in Malta during June 1917. Times of Malta

### Sir Gerald Strickland returns to Malta



Early on June 9, 1917 Sir Gerald Strickland, Count della Cotena, the retiring Governor of New South Wales, Lady Edeline Strickland and the Misses Strickland, arrived in Malta. Strickland's last stay in Malta was in 1902. He had relinquished the position of Chief Secretary to Government during Lord Grenfell's Governorship, and went to the Leeward Isles as Governor of that colony. From there Sir Gerald went to Tasmania and Western Australia, being afterwards appointed Governor of New South Wales, from where he was now retiring.

### Honours bestowed on Maltese officers

On June 12 1917, a supplement was published containing Field Marshal Sir Douglas Haig's despatch submitting names deserving of special mention. The officers were Lieutenant Colonel (temporary Colonel) J. Grech, DSO, RAMC and Major (temporary Lieutenant-Colonel) B.H. Dunbar Vella MD, RAMC. Colonel Grech, DSO, was serving in France in charge of a field hospital, was twice mentioned in despatches while he was the first Maltese officer to gain the coveted Distinguished Service Order, ranking next to the Victoria Cross, for conspicuous service in the field. Lieutenant-Colonel Dunbar Vella was likewise given command of a field hospital some time after he went to France.

### Japanese naval vessels in Malta to assist Britain



**Japanese naval vessels in Grand Harbour.**

As Britain pressed for help in the Mediterranean theatre due to the deterioration of the situation, in March 1917 Japan accepted to dispatch a naval force to the Mediterranean, under Admiral Sato Kozo on the cruiser Akashi, with eight destroyers. It was collectively known as the 10th and 11th destroyer flotillas. They passed Aden on April 4 and reached Malta a few days later. Some changes occurred in the formation of the Japanese forces in Malta in June 1917. They also took over two British gunboats, temporarily renamed Kanran and Sendan, and manned them with Japanese crews. At its peak

the Japanese fleet in Malta numbered 17 warships.

### Seaplane, flying-boat base set up at Kalafrana, Marsaxlokk

The Lords of the Admiralty advised the Senior Naval Officer in Malta to ask Squadron Commander Bowhill, who was on his way to Mesopotamia, to identify a site suitable for a base in Malta from which seaplanes and flying-boats could operate, because they were more suitable for this service. A site that was already in the hands of the Admiralty at Kalafrana, on the southern shore of Marsaxlokk Bay, close to the Naval Torpedo Depot, was chosen for this purpose.

The Admiralty approval for work to proceed with all possible haste on the seaplane base was received towards the end of January 1916. To further emphasise this urgency, material that had already been dispatched elsewhere from Britain, was diverted to the island while it was still en route to its destination. So work on the new station, under the auspices of the Royal Naval Air Service (RNAS), began in earnest.

By May 1916, the necessary work was already done, including the construction of hangars and slipways, and by July 1916 it became operational. During that month the first Curtiss H-4 Small America flying boats



arrived in Malta from Felixtowe, Britain, accompanied by nine officers, two warrant officers and a substantial number of engineers, under the command of Flight Commander J.D. Maude.

Serviceable flying boats were intended to be kept anchored to moorings inside Kalafrana Bay, protected by a man-made breakwater stretching out from the shore to the eastern side of the entrance into the bay. However, it was found unreliable during the winter months, particularly when the sea was at its worst.

During these periods, aircraft were moored inside the bay opposite to that of Kalafrana, where it was far better protected by the Delimara Point promontory.

In March 1917, three Short 184s arrived at Kalafrana to cover losses sustained during the previous year, but by this time, operational experience with the H4 had proven the aircraft's worth as a U-boat hunter. Two small Italian FBA two-seat flying boats arrived as reinforcements on June 27, 1917.

### **Strengthening of Malta's defences**

To strengthen the defence of Malta, 12-pounder guns were deployed, which were positioned at L-Aħrax Tower, Qawra Tower, Benghisa Point, Gżira, Ġhajn Tuffieħa and Delimara Point. In June 1917, orders were issued for all anti-torpedo boats to be manned by night and certain guns were manned by day and by night against submarines. In April, searchlights for anti-aircraft defence were positioned at Fort St Elmo and Fort Ricasoli, manned by the Royal Engineers. There were also three-pounder guns adapted for AA defence, at Fort Ricasoli, manned by the Royal Garrison Artillery and at Fort Tigné manned by the Royal Malta Artillery..

### **First anniversary of Battle of Jutland**

JUNE 1917 - A Solemn Requiem Service in commemoration of the first anniversary of the Battle of Jutland, for the repose of the souls of the R.C. officers and men who lost their life. The commemoration was held Ta' Giesu Church, Merchants Street, Valletta. The church was crowded, and the interior of the sacred edifice presented an imposing and deeply impressive appearance. During the naval battle nearly 100 perished in the memorable battle.

### **New regulations in view of air attacks**

On June 11, a set of regulations were published, titled the 'Orders to be observed in the event of an unexpected attack by hostile aircraft' to draw the attention of the public. With a view to better ensuring the carrying out of the orders, parish priests were involved to bring them to the notice of their parishioners, and also to have them translated into Maltese and distributed in the country. The following are the orders to be observed in the event of an unexpected attack by hostile aircraft:

The alarm signal will be:

- (i) One long blast followed by six short blasts on the alarm siren at HM Dockyard.
- (ii) The extinguishing of the civil electric lights or the diminution of gaslights.

The signal that the danger is over will be given by four long blasts on the alarm siren of HM Dockyard, or by the turning on again of the civil power electric current or by notice from the Police.

### **Concluded**

*The author wishes to thank the staff of the National Library for their continuous help, the staff of the Reading Room at the National Archives of Malta and Michael Cassar for their help*

**THE MALTESE NEWSLETTER**  
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## **Friends of Divine Providence House Group NSW Australia**

**HBIEB TAD-DAR TAL-PROVIDENZA TA' NSW**

**Co-ordinator: Jim Borg -Ph:(02) 9636 7767 (M)0418 825 591)**

**Secretarja: Marisa Previtera email:foph@bigpond.com**

**All Correspondence to:23 Kootingal Street, Greystanes NSW 2145  
or email: foph@bigpond.com**

### **KUNCERT SPECJALI TA' ĠENEROŻITA'**

Il-Hbieb Tad-Dar Tal-Providenza ta NSW qeghdin jorganizzaw Kuncert nhar il-Hadd 25 ta' Frar f'La Vallette Social Centre, 175 Walters Road Blacktown mis-2pm sas-6pm.

Il-qlieg kollu ghad-Dar Tal-Providenza Malta.

Jiehdu sehem Joe Galea, Stacey Saliba minn Adelaide, Alee, Martin Vella, The Vella Sisters u l-Kor ta l-Ghaqda Kulturali.

Se jkolna l-Lucky Envelopes fejn tista tirbah trip mil-Breakaway Travel u naturalment ic-Chocolate Wheel.

Donazjoni tad-dhul huwa biss \$10 u tfal ta' taht 15 il-sena b'xejn!

**Ghall-Biljetti cemplu lil Agnes u Greg Caruana 96266753 jew Jim Borg 96367767**

Ikel u xorb mill kcina fejn tkun miftuha minn nofs in-Nhar. Ahsbu kmieni ghal biljetti.



\*\*\*\*\*

## **Friends of Divine Providence House Group NSW Australia** **HBIEB TAD-DAR TAL-PROVIDENZA (NSW)**

**Id-Dar tal-Providenza**  
Homes of Persons with Disabilities

The Group was founded in October 2011 with the aim of raising funds for Id-Dar tal-Providenza, Malta. The current structure is as follows:

- Mr Jim Borg, Co-ordinator/Treasurer and Ms Marisa Previtera, Secretary
- The Friends of Providence House is the official Ambassador to Id-Dar tal-Providenza in New South Wales, Australia. The Friends of Providence House Group have already organised a European Tour Marathon in June 2012. The Group also intends to continue to organise tours and other activities in order to raise future funds for this organisation. Any person who may wish to obtain further details or wishes to make a donation should contact:

**The Co-ordinator, Jim Borg on Tel: +61 029367767 • Mob: +61 418825591**

We can also be contacted on Email: [foph@bigpond.com](mailto:foph@bigpond.com)

## **Maltese in Toronto chronicling their story in a museum**

**The place once hosted between 6,000 to 8,000 first-and second-generation Maltese**



**Fr. Emanuel  
Parnis MSCP  
Parish Priest  
St. Paul the  
Apostle Maltese-  
Canadian Parish  
Church**

The museum houses documents, photos and objects that chronicle the history of Maltese migrants in Toronto and across Canada.

As the number of first- and second-generation Maltese in Toronto dwindles, the community there is chronicling their story for posterity in a museum that has just opened its doors to the public.

The museum, in the St Paul the Apostle Church complex on Toronto's Dundas Street West already exhibits fossils and old artefacts, such as Roman coins donated by Maltese migrants. There are also several photos, documents and recordings of the first Maltese migrants in Canada.



**Museum Curator - Richard  
Cumbo**

**Photo Mark Zammit Cordina**

Mr Cumbo's family emigrated from Sliema when he was aged just three, and he only visited the island for the first time back in 1968. For years, he had been dreaming of the ideal country to live in, and when he stepped foot on the island, it ticked all the right boxes.

He immediately fell in love with the island and came back at every opportunity.

Mr Cumbo actually planned on returning for good in 1969, but although he made the trip, the uncle he was meant to stay with passed away suddenly, so he had to return to Toronto.

Nowadays, it is impossible for him to move to Malta since all his children and grandchildren live in Canada.



Following his first trip, in 1971 he started volunteering with the Maltese Canadian Society of Toronto, which was founded in 1922 and is the oldest active Maltese club on the North American continent.

"If it weren't for that club, there would not have been a St Paul the Apostle Church complex. The club members were so committed that during World War II, under the Malta relief fund, the society collected hundreds of thousands of dollars for the Maltese in Malta."

***Maltese migrants departing for Toronto from Valletta in August, 1952.***

Fr Raymond Falzon OFM, who was part of the Franciscan community that took care of the St Paul the Apostle parish, started collecting artefacts from migrants in the late 1980s. However, the museum was only opened to the public by Fr Manuel Parnis this year.

Asked about the significance of the Maltese community in the neighbourhood known as the Junction in west Toronto, Mr Cumbo explained that the place once hosted between 6,000 to 8,000 first-and second-generation Maltese.

At that point in time, it was the highest concentration of Maltese in one place outside of Malta. But the number has now decreased to a couple of thousand.

Over the years, the area has also hosted several bakeries, but nowadays there is only one Maltese bakery. Meanwhile, the number of clubs there has decreased from around nine to just two: the Maltese Canadian Society of Toronto and the Melita Soccer Club.



*One of the many old photos in the museum showing early Maltese migrants living in the Junction neighbourhood. Seen here is the Micallef family around 1923.*

A third organisation – the Malta Band Club – has moved out of the area. However, there is still a community keen on Maltese culture in the Junction, and a group of around a dozen people are currently learning the Maltese language under the tutorship of Carmen Galea. Ms Galea believes that more than a lack of enthusiasm, the decrease in the number of people who help to organise cultural activities is a result of the busy lives that people lead nowadays.

Log on to [www.saint-paul-maltese.com](http://www.saint-paul-maltese.com) for more information.



***The float created by the Maltese-Canadian Society of Toronto at Toronto's centennial celebration in 1934. The float won first prize.***



## Californian Highway Patrol (CHP) Officer Killed in Christmas Eve Freeway Crash



Officer Andrew Camilleri Sr. was killed when an impaired driver swerved off the road and slammed into his patrol vehicle.

**BOB EGELKO DECEMBER 26, 2017**

**SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE**

**Officer Andrew Camilleri Sr.**

### *CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL*

HAYWARD, California -- A California Highway Patrol officer, just hours from getting off duty and going home to open Christmas presents with his wife and three young children, was killed when an impaired driver swerved off the road and slammed into his patrol vehicle, which was parked near an on-ramp to Interstate 880 in Hayward, the CHP said Monday.

Andrew Camilleri Sr., 33, of Tracy, a CHP officer for a year and a half, was killed in the crash at 11:20 p.m. on Christmas Eve, CHP officials said. His partner, Officer Jonathan Velasquez, was treated at a hospital for lacerations and released Monday, said Sgt. Rob Nacke, a CHP spokesman.

"Today is not a holiday for the Highway Patrol. Today is about a tragic loss of one of our own, one by the name of Andrew Camilleri, who we will consider a hero now and forever," CHP Assistant Chief Ernest Sanchez said at a news conference Monday in Hayward.

Sanchez said the driver who hit the officers, a 22-year-old Hayward man, was hospitalized with serious injuries. He is suspected of driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs, specifically marijuana. The driver's name has not been released.

"I come to you with a broken heart, but also anger," Sanchez said. "This person chose to drive while under the influence of alcohol and also drugs, and this needs to stop."

The two officers were assigned to a "maximum enforcement" Christmas Eve patrol for drunken drivers and speeders and were parked on the shoulder of southbound I-880 near the Winton Avenue on-ramp when a red Cadillac moving at a high rate of speed drifted off the roadway and struck their vehicle from behind, Sanchez said.

Sanchez said both officers were sitting in the patrol vehicle with their seat belts on. Velasquez was in the driver's seat, while Camilleri was in the front passenger seat.

"The impact was so severe that it turned a utility vehicle into a very small compact vehicle," Sanchez said. "So it kind of gives you an idea of the speeds that were involved."

He said he had to notify Camilleri's wife, Rosanna, of her husband's death. The couple have a 12-year-old daughter and two sons, ages 2 and 6.

"The children were expecting their father to come home and help open Christmas presents," Sanchez said. He said the driver responsible for the fatality will face serious felony charges when he is released from the hospital.

"This individual was coming home from a party and obviously had too much to drink and maybe too much to smoke," Sanchez said. "We have enough evidence and enough statements that have been made today to allow us to charge this individual."

Camilleri, whose family migrated to San Francisco from Mosta, Malta, joined the Highway Patrol in August 2016 and graduated from the CHP Academy on March 3, the patrol said. He was assigned to the Hayward area office.

He grew up in the Tracy area and graduated in 2002 from West High School in Tracy, according to an article published in April in the Tracy Press. While in high school he participated in the CHP Tracy office's Explorer Program for students interested in law enforcement careers.

He worked for 13 years for Clark Pest Control in the Tracy area before finally realizing his dream of becoming a member of the CHP.

"Andrew was drawn to this profession due to his courage, his integrity and his desire to serve," said Capt. Tim Pearson, commander of the CHP Hayward area office. "Andrew was a great man who loved his job, who loved his family."

## Fr Noel's Faith in his Maltese Community

By Jordan Grantham, 14 December 2017 Catholic Outlook – Diocese of Paramatta NSW



Fr Noel Bianco MSSP is a priest of the Missionary Society of St Paul, a religious order founded by Mgr Joseph De Piro in 1910.

Fr Noel grew up in a traditional Maltese family as one of 12 children, and had a brother (deceased at 40) who was also a diocesan priest. "I joined the Missionary Society of St Paul in 1969," Fr Noel reflected.

"I was sent here (to Australia) from Malta in 1973 and I studied and worked in Melbourne for 34 years," he said. Ministry in Malta, Rome and America followed this.

Fr Noel finds great satisfaction in his Maltese Chaplaincy including pastoral work, and Masses, be they christenings, weddings, requiems or memorials. For him, they are moments of evangelisation.

"I am happy to be the pastor of 47,000 Maltese passport holders in the Western suburbs (of Sydney), apart from the others without a passport," Fr Noel boasted.

The charism of the Missionary Society of St Paul takes inspiration from the arrival of St Paul the Apostle who was shipwrecked on Malta.

The seas have also spread the Maltese diaspora far and wide, from the Mediterranean to the Middle East, Australia, Canada and the United States. Mgr Joseph de Piro founded his order as a Missionary Society. One of its aims is to provide assistance and pastoral leadership to the community of these migrants in the difficulty of starting new lives and practicing the Faith in new lands. This was not understood in Rome at first but the founder insisted that this was important with the main aim of evangelisation in mission countries.

Like Mgr de Piro, Fr Noel feels sorrow for the decline of faith in Australian parishes, compared to earlier decades. "It distresses me a fair bit what I see happening in some of our parishes," Fr Noel said. "I want to have the smell of the sheep, so I believe in home visiting in the evenings, which has been the traditional way of doing pastoral work in Australia, when the priest was the hero of the Catholic community," he said.

He finds hope in new movements within the Catholic Church, such as the Neo-Catechumenal Way.

"I have been walking in the Neo-Catechumenal Way for 20 years and I find great nourishment and richness and generous support in the brothers and sisters."

Evangelisation is more important than preserving the present structures of the Church, Fr Noel said.

Re-evangelisation is also a distinctive part of the charism for the Paulist Missionaries.

The idea of being missionaries to an already Catholic people was not common in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century but now has a widespread appreciation in terms of Pope St John Paul II's 'New Evangelisation'.

The members of the Missionary Society of St Paul were amongst the pioneers who helped the Maltese in Australia and their work has flourished since Mgr de Piro's dream was realised, with the arrival of Fr Augustine Grech MSSP in Australia in 1948.





# NOSTALGIA

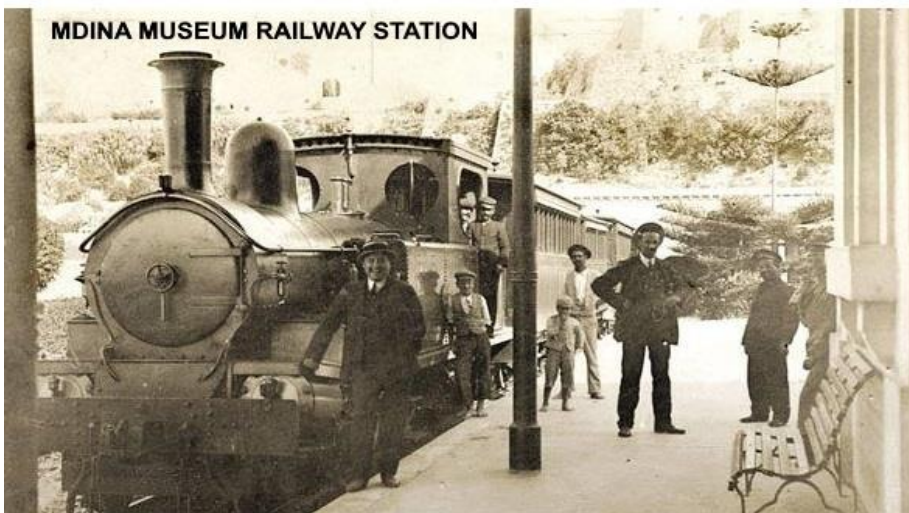


LACE MAKING IN MALTA (1930)

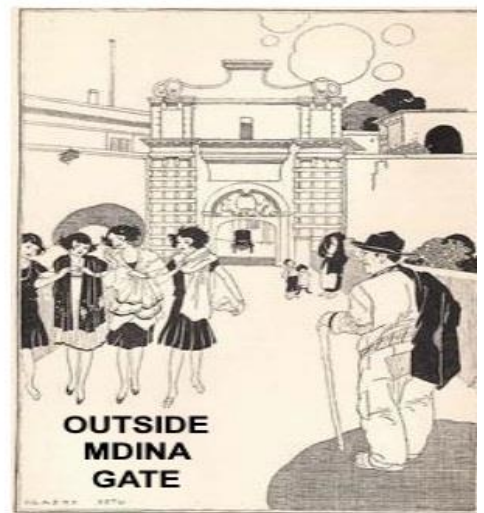


PLAYING IZ-ZAQQ  
EARLY BAGPIPE

MEMORJA, Arġivju Orali u Awdjoviziv  
ARKIVII NAZZJONALI TA' MALTA



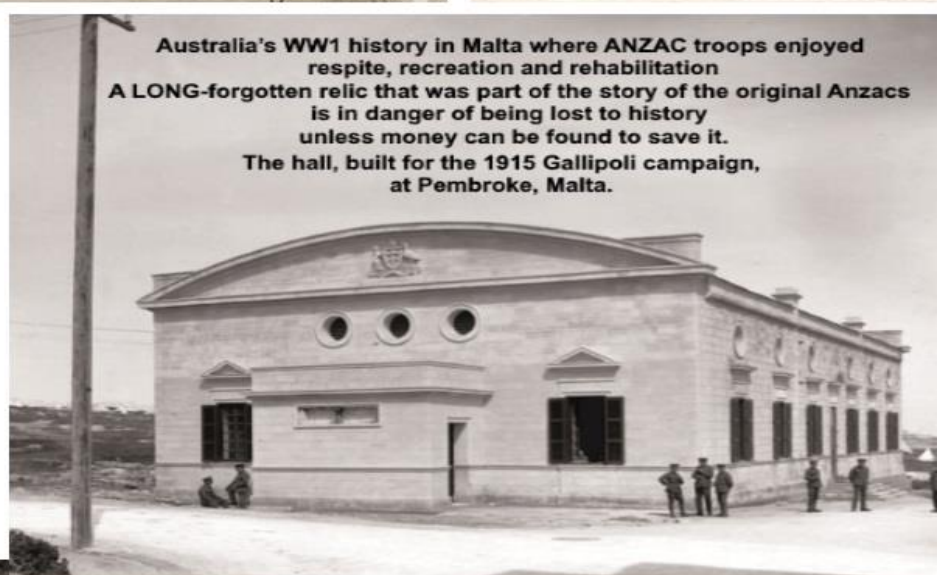
MDINA MUSEUM RAILWAY STATION



OUTSIDE  
MDINA  
GATE



MALTESE COSTUME - GHONNELLA



Australia's WW1 history in Malta where ANZAC troops enjoyed respite, recreation and rehabilitation  
A LONG-forgotten relic that was part of the story of the original Anzacs is in danger of being lost to history unless money can be found to save it.  
The hall, built for the 1915 Gallipoli campaign, at Pembroke, Malta.