



MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER

The Journal of the Maltese Diaspora



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It's time to have some fun at
one of the 75 village
festivals in Malta
over summer.

Enjoy



Photo: Nicky Grech



VALLETTA - EUROPEAN CAPITAL OF CULTURE





The 2018 Malta International Fireworks Festival

Fireworks viewed from the "Bejt" at Marsaxlokk

Ron Borg writes from Malta

organized by the Ministry of Tourism took place on Sat 21st at Xaghra -Gozo, Fri 27th at Marsaxlokk, and the final on 30th April at Valetta. This years Festival was chosen on the theme, **"Where Fire And Culture Meet"**.

On Friday, along with my wife, I was lucky enough to witness this beautiful spectacle in Marsaxlokk, from a great vantage spot on the roof top (**Fuq il- bejt**) of our apartment at Duncan's Guest House, which overlooks the bay of Marsaxlokk in the foreground littered with the colorful boats (**Luzzu**) on the water, and the **Dellimara** hillside in the background where the pyrotechnics are set off. The Marsaxlokk esplanade was littered with people enjoying their meals and refreshments and many just enjoying the festive stroll with friends along the promenade lit up with bright festoon lighting, while the local **"Banda-Il Madonna Ta Pompei"**, paraded along the street entertaining the crowd of some three thousand locals and tourists, playing jubilant Maltese Marches. Before long, the sky was set alight by the brilliant fireworks by Martarello (Italy) , and St. Mary Fireworks (HalGhaxaq Malta).

It was a fantastic spectacle. The Grand Final fireworks will be held at the Grand Harbour in Valetta on Mon 30th April. This Festival attracts pyrotechnic competitors from many countries from all over the world, and the 2017 winners were; 1st-Pyro Italy, 2nd- Santa Marija Malta, 3rd- Makalu Fireworks from the Czech Republic. **"Brava Malta" !!!!!!!**



More than half of Maltese population listens to radio every day

The latest Broadcasting Authority survey found that during February, radio listeners spent an average of 2.99 hours every day following their favourite radio station

71.8% of the Maltese population listens to radio regularly according the latest Broadcasting Authority survey

Almost three-quarters of the Maltese population – 71.8% - listens to radio regularly, with 51.4% tuning in everyday and a further 20.4% listening to radio once a week, according to the latest Broadcasting Authority survey.

The survey was held during the month of February among 1,240 respondents aged 12 years and over. It found that listeners spent an average of 2.99 hours every day following their favourite radio station, 12 minutes more than the last survey in October 2017.

77.3% of those aged 50 and over said they listened to radio while only 54.8% of those aged 12-20 said the same. The survey found that in general, radio listeners tended to listen to one particular radio station, with Bay Radio attracting the largest number of listeners at 22.31%, followed by ONE Radio (17.75%) and Radju Malta (10.13%).

ONE Radio however registered the greatest share of air-time at 26.66%, followed by Bay Radio (16.22%) and Radju Malta (10.46%).

Respondents were also asked about their television-watching habits, with the majority of respondents stating that local and foreign news was their favourite type of programme.

In fact, 27.2% of respondents said they enjoyed watching the news the most, followed by 17.3% who said they watched local drama and 12.6% who said they enjoyed watching discussion and current affairs programmes.

66.0% said they watched television through a paid subscription, while 10.8% said they used internet-based services. 4.6% said they followed free-to-air platforms.

TVM attracted the largest amount of television viewers at 35.63% followed by ONE (17.18%), Net TV (9.97%) and TVM2 (2.36%).

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About IDENTITY MALTA

<https://identitymalta.com/>

The mission of Identity Malta is to execute the functions and duties of the Public administration in matters relating to passports, identity documents,

work and residence permits for expatriates, land registration and registration of public deeds, acts of civil status and individual investment programmes.

The Agency shall be a body corporate having a distinct legal personality and shall be capable, subject to the provisions of this Agreement, of entering into contracts, of acquiring holding and disposing of any property for the purpose of its functions of suing and being sued and of doing all such things and entering into all such transactions as are incidental or conducive to the exercise or performance of its functions under this Agreement.

The functions and responsibilities of the Agency shall be:

(a)Citizenship, residence permits, work permits and other administrative matters related to expatriates.

(b)Passports

(c) Identity cards and other identity documents

(d)Acts of civil status

(e)Land registration and registration of public deeds

(f) Individual investment programmes for expatriates or for the persons who acquire Maltese citizenship, including the administration of funds deriving from such programmes.

(g)Such other matters which are ancillary, incidental or consequential to the matters stipulated in paragraphs (a) to (f) as the Minister may from time to time determine:

Acquisition of Maltese Citizenship by birth

When Malta became an Independent State on 21st September 1964, the Independence Constitution established who should become a citizen of Malta automatically by birth. As a result of the changes in the citizenship laws which took place in the year 2000, as from 10th February 2000 the relative provisions are now to be found in the Maltese Citizenship Act (Cap 188).

Did I automatically become a citizen of Malta with Malta's Independence?

You acquired Maltese citizenship with Malta's Independence only if:

- you were born in Malta before 21st September 1964 and at least one of your parents was also born in Malta;

OR

- you were born abroad but your father and a paternal grandparent were both born in Malta;

AND

- until 20th September 1964 you were still a citizen of the United Kingdom and Colonies.

Did I acquire Maltese citizenship by birth after 21st September 1964?

You acquired Maltese citizenship at birth if:

- you were born in Malta on or after 21st September 1964 but before 1st August 1989 (unless your parents were both non-Maltese and your father enjoyed diplomatic immunity in which case this does not apply);

OR

- you were born abroad on or after 21st September 1964 but before 1st August 1989, and when you were born, your father was a citizen of Malta by Birth in Malta, by Registration or by Naturalization.

Who becomes a citizen of Malta by birth as from 1st August 1989?

As from 1st August 1989, a person becomes a Maltese citizen if:

- he/she was born in Malta and at the time of his/her birth, his/her father or mother was a citizen of Malta or a person who enjoys freedom of movement, that is, a person born in Malta (of a parent likewise born in Malta if born before 21st September 1964) who ceased to be a citizen of Malta after emigrating;

OR

- he/she was born abroad and at the time of his/her birth, his/her father or mother was a citizen of Malta by Birth in Malta, by Registration or by Naturalization.

If I retained the citizenship of another country on 21st September 1964, or if I acquired another citizenship at birth or during my minority, what steps should I have taken to safeguard my Maltese citizenship?

- If you were an adult on 21st September 1964 you should have renounced any other citizenship held by you by not later than 20th September 1967. If you failed to do so, you ceased to be a citizen of Malta as from the following day.
- If, on your eighteenth birthday, you were a citizen of Malta and a citizen of another country, you had to renounce your other citizenship before your nineteenth birthday in order to retain your Maltese citizenship. **This applied to those persons who were nineteen (19) years of age before the 10th February 2000.**

Has my position changed as a result of the year 2000 amendments to the citizenship laws?

In view of the amendments made to the Maltese Citizenship Act, which became effective as from 10 February 2000, if you:

- became a citizen of Malta on 21st September 1964 or at birth;
- subsequently lost Maltese citizenship;

AND

- have resided outside Malta for an aggregate period of at least six years, then you have re-acquired Maltese citizenship **automatically**. If, however, you do not qualify for the automatic re-acquisition of Maltese citizenship (because you did not spend six years abroad or because you were previously a citizen of Malta by registration or by naturalization) then you may reacquire such citizenship by applying to be registered as a citizen of Malta. (See leaflet on registration as a citizen of Malta).

If you were a minor on 10th February 2000, or if you were then over 18 years of age but had not yet attained your 19th birthday, and was in possession of another citizenship, apart from your Maltese citizenship, you may hold both citizenships indefinitely.

The Sovereign Military Order of Malta - Canadian Association

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Order of Malta Presents Award to Johanitter Sub-Commander

Toronto, 17/03/2018 *At the Toronto Region's annual Advent Retreat Botho Baron von Bose, Delegate of the Canadian Sub-Commandery of the Johanitter Order, was presented the Cross of Officer pro Merito Melitensi by the Canadian Order of Malta's President, Roman Ciecwierz. This medal is awarded to recipients who have brought honour to the Sovereign Military Order of Malta and who have promoted our Christian values and charity to our Lords the sick and the poor. In that*

regard, Baron von Bose has been an outstanding example of living our core mission and values. His Leadership has been instrumental in fostering a strong a strong spirit of cooperation and camaraderie between the two Orders in Canada that has endured for decades.

Changing of the Guards



Our Correspondent RON BORG

Having enjoyed watching the “Changing Of The Guards” in England, I was eager to see the one in Malta while I was here on holidays. Every last Friday of the month, the Changing of the Guard Ceremony takes place at St. George’s Square in Valetta, so last Friday being ideal weather, along with my wife Agnes, we headed off to see it. Although the Square was cordoned off with bollards and lots of people right around, we were able to find a

good vantage spot facing the Palace.

No sooner it was 10:30 am, we could hear the sound of the band of the Armed Forces of Malta, approaching as they marched down Republic street playing brilliant British Marches, and then entered St. Georges Square with their instruments glistening in the sun, and impeccable Black uniforms complete with their White Pitt Helmets.



No sooner they had finished their march around the ground, they positioned themselves with their back to the Main Guard, where the ‘New Guard Squad’ marched out to the center of the Square, in readiness to replace the “Old Guard Squad” which marched out from the Palace Valletta. The Band struck up while the Commander in charge of the ‘Old Guards’ officially handed over the ‘Key to the

Palace’ to Commander of the ‘New Guards’, and then marched off to retire his guards. Immediately afterwards the ‘New Guard’ commander shouted the order and his guards marched proudly into the Palace.

Following that ceremonial exchange, the Band conducted an exacting marching display after which captivates the appreciative audience which responds with a loud applause. In a stationary position the band played a most solemn version of the Maltese National Anthem, and afterwards followed with a bright march around the Square before exiting out onto Republic Street.

Needless to say, once the barricades around the Square were taken down, a hoard of enthusiastic tourists rushed in to take their photos next standing to the two guards that were on sentry duty!

What a brilliant exhibition by the Soldiers and the Band of the Armed Forces of Malta!

King Henry VIII and Malta



It seems little is known in Maltese history of the fact that the deed of donation of Malta to the Knights in 1530, at present on display at an exhibition on Charles V of Spain at the National Library in Valletta (May 30), would not have been published, and the Knights would not have settled in Malta, had it not been for the intervention of King Henry III of England.

When the Knights of St John were defeated at Rhodes in 1522 they travelled to Rome to seek the help of Pope Adrian VI. Knowing that his predecessor Pope Leo X had bestowed the title "Defender of the Faith" on King Henry VIII, Henry's assistance was sought and he was asked to use his influence with Charles V of Spain in finding a new country for the Knights to live in.

Charles V was then in alliance with Henry VIII against the French and Henry's first wife at that time was Cathenne of Aragon, the aunt of Charles V.

Henry VIII, wishing to please Pope Adrian, sent a letter dated January 8, 1523 to Grand Master L'Isle Adam in which he expressed his interest in the welfare of the Order, and saying that he had written to Charles V to persuade him to give the "Island of Malta" to the Order of St John.

It would seem this was the first time Malta was mentioned during negotiations when trying to find a country for the Order. Correspondence continued between Grand Master L'Isle Adam and Henry VII as, by another letter dated January 10, 1526, Henry referred to the Order's property in England.

At this time Pope Clement VII was facing difficulties and in fact Charles's mutinous troops marched into Rome and plundered the city which went down in history as the Sacking of Rome.



During this period of unrest between Charles V and Pope Clement VII, Grand Master L'Isle Adam decided to visit England to discuss further with Henry VIII about Malta becoming the new home for the Order.

The talks were not, however, completed until peace was restored with Pope Clement VII, which came about in February 1530. It was only then that Charles V granted Malta to the Order, on March 24, 1530. The treaty was confirmed on July 21, 1530.

After L'Isle Adam arrived in Malta on October 26, 1530, Henry VIII, no doubt

happy and satisfied with the outcome, by a letter dated November 22, 1530, congratulated the Grand Master and the Order.

Henry's congratulations were short lived, however, as he suppressed the Order of St John in England in 1540 though the formal confiscation of its possessions followed under Elizabeth in 1559. This does show, however, that without King Henry VIII's intervention, it is unlikely the Knights of St John would have set foot in Malta. Brian N. Tarpey.



Tislima lin-Nanniet

Illum jiena xtaqt insellem
 Lin-Nanniet tagħna l-Maltin
 U ngħidilhom sabiex jimxu
 Fuq Sant'Anna w San Ġwakkin!

Illi kienu n-nanniet hienja
 Ta' Gesu' helu bambin
 Li binthom il-Vergni mbierka
 Welldet għalina l-bnedmin!

Jiena ċert dil-koppja helwa
 Kienet l-iktar ixxurtjata
 Żgur li f'Anna, il-Patrijarka
 Sab maż-żmien l-aqwa kunjata.

Li flimkien ma' Ġwakkin tagħha
 Hadet hsieb lill-bambin ċkejken
 Biex Gużeppe l-hobża jaqla'
 Mill-ħanut tiegħu msejken!

In-nanniet ta' Malta w Ghawdex
 Bħal Sant' Anna w San Ġwakkin
 Min jaf kemm paċenzja jiehdu
 Bit-tfal t'uliedhom ċkejknin!

Wara li fis-snin mghoddija
 Rabbew qabel lil uliedhom
 U min jaf x'tbatija ġarrbu
 U fis-skiet x'għamlu għalihom!

Issa illi kibru sewwa
 Jiehdu hsieb it-tfal tat-tfal
 U bl-akbar paċenzja jgħaddu
 Bl-akbar għozza sigħat twal.

Biex ulied dawn it-tfal tagħhom
 Johorġu għax-xogħol tal-jum
 U bil-għaraq minn ta' gbinhom
 L-għaxja jgħibu ta' kuljum!

Nitolbuk Mulej Missierna
 Bierek lil dawn in-nanniet
 U żejjinhom b'għomor hieni
 Biex fihom jafdaw l-ulied

Kav. J. M. Attard'
Rabat Ghawde



Catholic Indians participate in religious celebration at Mosta Oratory

Melvic Zammit

During last weekend, around 600 Catholics from India, many of whom work

in the health sector in Malta, participated at a religious celebration at the Oratory 'Qalb ta' Gesu' in Mosta. The Catholic Indians community, who hail from the state of Kerala, have ancient catholic roots, known as the Syro-Malabar.

At this time of the year, the Catholic community of Indians in Malta, meet to celebrate Mass with their maternal language and the community's rites.

Thomas Varghese, an active member of the community, said that from scores of members, the community has grown to around six hundred and started meeting once a week, instead of once a month to celebrate the Eucharist.

"We came here to work actually. We left our family and faith behind. Back home we had to go to church every Sunday – you don't miss the church unless there is real emergency."

Fr Binoj Mulavarick, spiritual director of the community, stated that although they still don't have a fixed place where to meet, the Catholic Indians are grateful to the ecclesiastical authorities who provide them with a place where to celebrate Mass with their language.

Fr Binoj Mulavarick added "They work in same hospital, they live together – so actually know each other but the connecting bond between them is the holy mass; adoration prayer. The Indian culture has got a very spiritual heritage so as a Catholic they cannot loose Sunday mass."

The Catholic community of Syro-Malabar has more than 4.6 million members. The Syro-Malabar church was originated from the evangelic teaching of Apostle St Thomas.

Following Mass celebrated by the community's Bishop Stephen Chirpanath at the Mosta 'Qalb ta' Gesu' Oratory, a food festival was organised for the occasion. Digson Sani said: "We are preparing a Kerala Dish – it's called Porolta. It's one of the famous dished in our place – and we're preparing it for six hundred people."

A cultural activity was also held with the participation of children, youths and adults, which included traditional dancing and singing.

MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER The Journal of the Maltese Diaspora

*All Maltese should be proud of their country, its past and traditions.
No other small country can boast of such a rich history, and of a cultural fabric
which makes these islands one of the most interesting and beautiful places on Earth.*



Read and enjoy this wonderful journal of all the Maltese living in Malta and those living abroad. It's free, bilingual and non-political.

To start receiving the journal regularly contact:
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Members of the Maltese-Canadian Society of Toronto and the Maltese Legion of Detroit during 1945 Malta Day celebrations in old St. Paul's Hall, Toronto

MALTESE OF TORONTO AND DETROIT

Most Maltese immigrants came to the United States during the first decades of the 20th century after the discharge of skilled workers from the Royal British Dockyard in 1919 following the end of World War I. More than 1,300 Maltese came to the United States in the first quarter of 1920. Many people found work in the automobile industry, and with about 5,000 residents, Detroit had the largest Maltese population in the United States. Maltese in Detroit focuses on the many people of Maltese descent who made their homes in Detroit's Corktown area. By the mid-1920s, it is believed that more than 15,000 Maltese had settled in the United States. After World War II, the Maltese government launched a program to pay passage for Maltese willing to immigrate and remain abroad for at least two years. By the mid-1990s, an estimated more than 70,000 Maltese immigrants and descendants were living in the United States, with the largest single community in Detroit and its surrounding suburbs.

Diane Gale Andreassi was born in Detroit to Rita (Borg) and James Gale. Andreassi's mother was from Sliema, Malta, and her father, James, was born and raised in Mosta, Malta. Both of them immigrated to Detroit and met in the city's Corktown community, where they were married and started their family; with that, her father changed his name from Galea to Gale. The Images of America series celebrates the history of neighborhoods, towns, and cities across the country. Using archival photographs, each title presents the distinctive stories from the past that shape the character of the community today. Arcadia is proud to play a part in the preservation of local heritage, making history available to all.



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Cyprus under The Knights Templars



The Knights Templars formed one of the three great military orders of knighthood, founded in the twelfth century to protect the pilgrims who flocked to Jerusalem after the First Crusade. At the head of the order was the Master of the Temple at Jerusalem until 1291, when, on the fall of the Latin kingdom, the headquarters of the order moved to Cyprus.

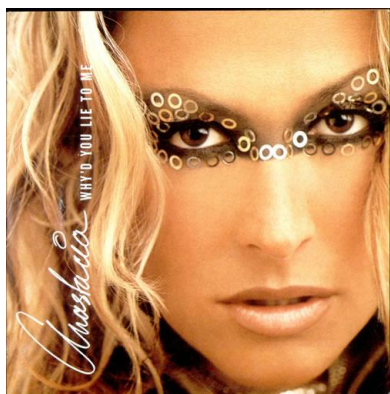
In 1128 the rule of the order was sanctioned by the Council of Troyes. In a few years, the order was established in almost every kingdom of Latin Christendom, each establishment being richly endowed with lands by kings and princes and with the gifts of grateful pilgrims. Spiritual privileges were granted by the Popes. As defenders of the Church, the Templars were exempted from payment of tithes and gradually became free from the jurisdiction of the diocesan bishops, owning spiritual allegiance to the Pope alone. The result was that scarce twenty-five years after its foundation the order was at open feud with the bishops and clergy. But, protected by the Pope and endowed with great wealth, the Position of the Templars was secure so long as the crusading spirit lasted in Europe.



It was with the support of the Templars that, on the death of Baldwin V, Sybilla and Guy de Lusignan were crowned at Jerusalem, without the knowledge or consent of the barons of the realm. The rule of the Templars in Cyprus was marked by great severity and they quickly incurred the hatred of the Cypriots by their harsh exactions. At length, in despair at their treatment and seeing that Templars were few in number, the islanders determined to attempt a general massacre of the knights on Easter Day, 1192. The Templars became aware of the plot and took refuge in their stronghold at Nicosia, since they were too few to meet the insurgents in the open. They offered to leave the island if their lives were spared, but as this offer was rejected, they determined to fight rather than to be starved into submission.

Sallying into the streets at dawn, they took the Cypriots unawares and slaughtered great numbers, sparing neither age nor sex. The rebellion was crushed, but the Templars felt unable to hold Cyprus by force and they therefore asked Richard to take back their purchase. This he agreed to do, and the Templars retired to Syria, retaining, however, some of their possessions in Cyprus.

Meanwhile Sybilla, the hereditary queen of Jerusalem, had died and the opposition to the rule of Guy, her husband, increased. The crusaders determined to elect a new king, and their choice fell on Richard's nephew, Henri, count of Champagne, who with the consent of his uncle, was elected king of Jerusalem. Guy de Lusignan thus lost the crown of Jerusalem, but as he had originally come from Richard's duchy of Aquitaine and had long been a vassal of the English king, Richard offered him the sovereignty of Cyprus in compensation for the loss of his kingdom. It is uncertain, however, whether Cyprus was transferred to him as a free gift or on the same terms as the island had been sold to the Templars. It is probable that Guy undertook the debt, but it is unlikely that he ever PAID IT.



ANASTACIA – EVOLUTION

Singer touring with new album *Evolution* performing in Malta

Pop legend Anastacia the voice behind massive hits like *I'm Outta Love* and *Left Outside Alone* will be performing in Malta on June 6.

Organised by NnG Promotions, Anastacia will be performing at the MFCC in Ta' Qali.

Anastacia is one of the most recognisable voices in the pop scene and is celebrating her seventh album *Evolution* with the new tour.

With over 30 million records sold worldwide, Anastacia's performance in Malta, falling on the eve of a public holiday, forms part of her Europe-wide tour that started this month.

Recorded in Stockholm with executive producer Anders Bagge (Celine Dion, Janet Jackson, Madonna) and his Bagpipe Studios team, *Evolution* marks a return for the Anastacia of old - captivating rock numbers alternating with catchy pop songs and moving ballads, dominated by her immediately-recognisable soulful voice.

Speaking about the new tour, Anastacia said: "I am so excited to be coming back to Europe. I recorded the album whilst I was on the road touring the *Ultimate Collection* and I'm really looking forward to sharing these songs with my fans."

Home-grown sister-duo The New Victorians will open for the multi-platinum artist.

Anastacia had previously duetted with tenor Joseph Calleja in 2015.

Tickets go on sale on Friday from www.showshappening.com



Professor Godfrey Baldacchino lectures in Grenada, West Indies

Professor Godfrey Baldacchino delivered a series of six lectures on Island Brands, Food and Tourism, at the T.A. Marryshow Community College (TAMCC), the only indigenous tertiary education institution in the small island state of Grenada, West Indies, with a resident population of 105,000.

The visit and lectures were kindly coordinated by Dr John Telesford, Deputy Dean of the School of Continuing Education at the College (right, in photo, with Prof. Baldacchino on left) and approved by Dr Jeffrey Britton, TAMCC Principal.

While located in the Caribbean, Grenada is remarkably similar to Malta in a number of respects: A former British Colony, it is composed of three inhabited islands - Grenada, Carriacou and Petite Martinique - with a total land area of 320 square kilometers. People drive on the left and English is a language of formal conversation. The smaller islands of Carriacou and Petite Martinique have their own Minister in the national government (elected in 2013). Opportunities for collaboration between TAMCC and the University of Malta have been explored; these include the possibility of suitably qualified Grenadian nationals applying for any of 3 scholarships related to master's degree level courses meant to assist in building capacity in climate change management. These are being offered by the Government of Malta at the University of Malta, starting October 2017.



Angelo Xuereb is EY's Malta Entrepreneur of the Year

Shane Hunter wins EY's Rising Star Award
Angelo Xuereb, Chairman of AX Holdings, has won the second edition of EY's Malta Entrepreneur of the Year™ award. This June, Angelo Xuereb shall travel to Monaco representing Malta to compete in EY's World Entrepreneur of the Year™ award together

with business leaders from more than 60 countries. Previous winners in Monaco have included trail-blazing entrepreneurs from a wide range of enterprises such as Amazon, Cirque du Soleil and LinkedIn.

Shane Hunter from **AquaBioTech Group** won this year's EY's Rising Star award and he shall also be attending the Monaco event in June. Ronald Attard, EY Malta's Managing Partner said: *"For the second year running, EY's Malta Entrepreneur of the Year™ award has attracted some exceptionally strong nominations from very different sectors. This further highlights the diversity that does exist in Malta's economy, something we should all be proud of, and continue to nurture. While congratulating Mr Xuereb and Mr Hunter on their awards, I would like to once again thank all the participants, and the independent panel of judges, who have contributed to making this event a success once again."*

Apart from the winners, the other short listed finalists were Matthew Borg from Studio Moda Group, Zak Borg and Benji Borg from ANCHOVY., David Felice, David Drago and Konrad Buhagiar from Architecture Project, Alex Mifsud from Ixaris, Frank Salt from Frank Salt Real Estate, Joseph Sultana and Dr John Abela from Ascent Software, and Marlon Grech from Thynk Software.

Argotti Gardens inaugurated following €2.4m facelift



Floriana Botanical gardens renovated

A much-loved botanical garden in Floriana has received a €2.4 million facelift, with bastions and stone fountains restored, new tiling and irrigation systems and much-improved lighting. The renovated Argotti Gardens were inaugurated by Prime Minister Joseph Muscat in a ceremony held on Friday evening. Works to improve the gardens and their surroundings [began in 2016](#), when bastions started being restored, with repairs to the gardens themselves starting 12 months ago.

[READ: Origins and history of Argotti Gardens](#)

Argotti Gardens date back to the mid-19th century, when experts transferred a botanical garden set up at the Maglio Gardens first to Villa Sarria, and then to Argotti.

The public section of the garden was opened in 1974. Today, as well as a public garden, it serves as a base of conservation projects and the propagation of rare plant species.

"Gardens such as these make our towns and villages better places to live," Dr Muscat said as he encouraged local councils to identify more public spaces which could do with sprucing up.

Environment Minister Jose Herrera thanked all those who contributed to the restoration works, including the Parks Directorate, Wasteserv, Restoration Directorate and botanists at the University of Malta, who care for the botanical garden. In the Botanical Gardens you will find also the ANZAC Memorial.



April 28, 2018, **CURRENT AFFAIRS**

Special philatelic stamp for consecration of Mount Carmel Basilica

Posted On March 28, 2018 - Updated 28 March, 2018 1:58pm

On the occasion of the consecration of the Basilica of Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Valletta, MaltaPost will be using a special stamp on Wednesday, 4 April, at the Castille Postal Branch in Valletta. The special stamp can be ordered from the Philatelic Bureau, MaltaPost p.l.c., 305 Qormi Road, Marsa MTP 1001, or online on www.maltaphilately.com



Mark Micallef Perconte © 2018
Ilwien il-Festi Maltin



THE CARMELITE BASILICA IN VALLETTA BAZILIKA TAL-MADONNA TAL-KARMNU

The church of Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Valletta was declared a basilica in 1895. Much of it was rebuilt because of war damage, with the works being completed in the 1970s. Its dome now dominates Valletta's skyline. It is part of the UNESCO World Heritage Site, which includes the entire city of Valletta, and is one of the most famous churches and main tourist attractions of Valletta.

President in Canada to meet Maltese community

Report: Brandon Pisani

President Marie Louise Coleiro Preca is currently on a visit to Canada where she will meet with the Maltese community, which in Toronto Ontario counts around 40,000. The President's visit was initially planned to start in Detroit in the United States, however due to constitutional engagements in Malta she could not be there and the Maltese community met with Mr Edgar Preca and Foreign Affairs Minister Carmelo Abela.

During the first day of the Maltese delegation visit in the United States, Minister Carmelo Abela told TVM that it is important that the generation of Maltese who migrated to other countries are kept informed about Malta. "Migrants' children who left years ago, some of whom maybe have never visited Malta; therefore the link with Malta is missing. Therefore we need to strengthen this link and these are descendants of Maltese, however we consider them Maltese", the Minister said.

This view was also expressed by Anne Acho Tartoni, an 18-year old youth who was selected as Miss Malta for the United States and Canada. Her relatives were among the first Maltese who migrated from Malta to Detroit in 1885 and although they left Malta, they never forgot the history and culture of Malta.

Miss Malta of Michigan state, Anne Acho Tartoni, said "I love to talk to my grandparents and relatives who where from Malta and just hearing their stories and being with them. So just being able to be with real people rather than on the phone googeling, its important to be with them."

In Detroit, the Maltese delegation visited the Maltese American Benevolent Society, the oldest Maltese society in the Corktown area, and the Maltese American Community Club in Dearborn. Minister Carmelo Abela and Mr Edgar Preca also met with Maltese migrants in the Maltese United Society Club of Windsor Ontario and the Maltese Club of London Ontario.

The Maltese delegation's visit continues in Toronto where President Coleiro Preca will join the delegation. Since taking office, the President has expressed her wish to visit various Maltese communities in the U.S. and Canada. Apart from Toronto, the President will also visit Vancouver and then San Francisco in California.

The Late Ellul, Joseph S. (1920-2011) was a retired Maltese schoolteacher who lived in Zurrieq near the ancient temple of Hagar Qim. As an amateur archaeologist he was of the opinion that



Malta was part of Atlantis and that it was Noah's Flood that inundated many of Malta's prehistoric monuments, some of which are still submerged. Ellul's family had been caretakers of the nearby ruins of Hagar Qim for many years, so he rightly claimed to have an intimate knowledge of the monument. He, together with Paulino Zammaro shared the idea that the collapse of a land bridge between Gibraltar and Morocco caused extensive flooding in the Mediterranean. Ellul related how the megalithic ruins of Hagar Qim were once dated to around 10000 BC by a British archaeologist, whom he surmised to be the renowned V. Gordon Childe. In his book^[289] Ellul put forward his

argument for a catastrophic flood originating in the western Mediterranean and being of such speed and size that it caused severe damage to Hagar Qim. Since the temple is over 400 feet above sea level he concludes that this must have been the result of the breaching of an isthmus in the region of Gibraltar.

The only other possible cause might be a giant tsunami, which I have never heard suggested by anyone, although Charles Savona Ventura has written of a tsunami that was observed on Gozo in 1692 following a destructive earthquake, which are rare in the area. The sea receded about one mile before rushing back to add to the seismic damage. Unfortunately the height of the tsunami is not recorded but would have far less than the 130 meters of Hagar Qim.

Even if there had been no such land bridge, the lowering of sea levels with the onset of the last Ice Age would undoubtedly have resulted in Malta having a more extensive landmass that would have been flooded by the subsequent melting of the glaciers but not in the catastrophic manner indicated by the physical evidence. Sadly, Joseph died in the early hours of March 28th, 2011. Excerpts from Ellul's book are available in English on the Internet.



The Architecture of Malta

Malta's architectural landmarks form a journey through the islands' exciting past as each building – from the prehistoric temples to the grand Baroque churches - is a "witness in stone" keeping history alive.

The Maltese temple structures are amongst the earliest such constructions in the world, long before the Pyramids of Egypt. Built between c.3500 and 2500 BC, the temples reflect, and

were part of, a period of great artistic and architectural development in Malta and Gozo. Whether over-ground or underground, as is the case with the Hypogeum, it is very hard to imagine how primitive man could have set such huge boulders in place with only the crudest tools, and in fact the temple in Gozo came to be known as 'Ġgantija' – as it was thought to have been built by giants.



The Phoenician and Punic period in Malta is another important point in the islands' architectural development. The most important monument that survives from this period is the famous Temple of Astarte, located in an area known as Tas-Silġ, outside Marsaxlokk.

The Roman period introduced highly decorative mosaic floors, marble colonnades and classical statues, remnants of which are beautifully preserved in the Domus Romana, a town house originally located almost

at the centre of the Roman town of Melite. An important example of a typical rustic Roman house was unearthed at San Pawl Milqi, Burmarrad. Another large villa complex still being excavated outside Zejtun is a fine example of the architectural sophistication introduced to Malta by the Romans.

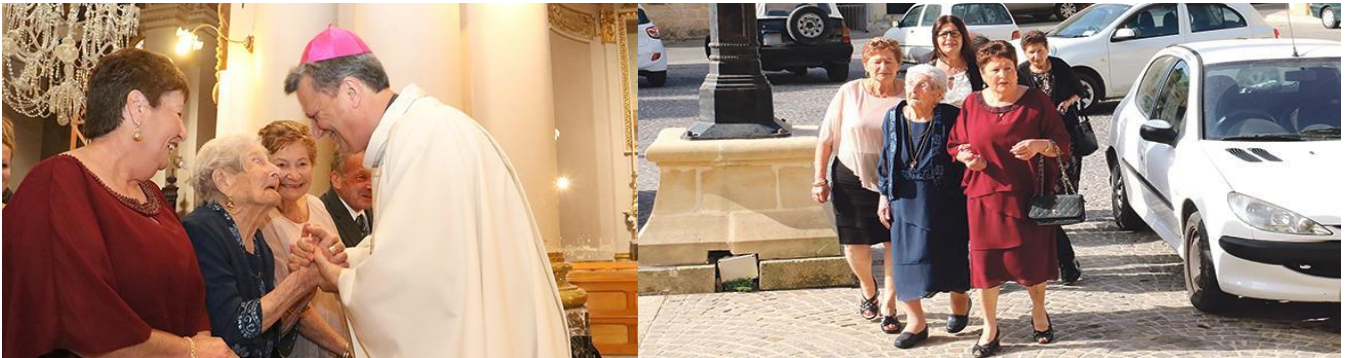
The Early-Christian and Byzantine period is important for the large complex of underground cemeteries, known as catacombs or hypogea. The majority of these burial grounds were discovered in the Rabat area, outside the limits of the Roman Melite. The catacombs were used by Christians, Jews and pagans. The most important complexes that have survived here are those dedicated to St. Paul and St. Agatha.

Not much of Malta's Medieval architecture has survived time, modernising redevelopment and the Messina earthquake of 1693 which destroyed many of Mdina's medieval structures. Still, features of 'Norman architecture' may be seen in surviving grand houses built in the 'Chiaromonte' style imported from Sicily, while traces of this style may be seen in the pointed door-frames and windows of humbler Mdina homes. Several wayside chapels found in Malta's countryside date back to this period. However, the Baroque style was destined to have the most enduring impact on Maltese art and architecture.

Malta faced a turning-point in its architectural history when the Knights of St. John occupied the islands in 1530. For the first time ever, European building styles were introduced on a grand scale in Malta. With the help of Italian engineers and architects, the Order of St. John founded today's capital Valletta in 1566 and built the impressive fortifications around the Grand Harbour.

Today's architecture in Malta has had mixed success due to inconsistent standards and streetscapes. The preference for low buildings made of Maltese limestone which gives buildings their typical honey colour is giving way to new materials, colours and heights. The conversion of old buildings to be used for different purposes is a positive development, even extended to the Knights' fortifications, as seen at the Fortifications Interpretation Centre, an interactive museum on fortress-building within Valletta's bastions.

At 102, this great-great grandmother is still minding her own business



Not many live beyond a hundred years, and Carmena Vella was so excited that she woke up at 2am, grateful to have made it to her 102nd yesterday.

The first thing that the woman from Qala, Gozo, did when she woke up was thank God for her longevity, just a few hours before fellow Gozitans from neighbouring villages headed over to celebrate the centenarian's birthday.

Ms Vella told the *Times of Malta* on her 100th birthday that the formula for peaceful longevity is to mind your own business, be content with what you have and pray for everyone.

And to make it beyond that?

"God's grace... I also had something else that kept me going: my family," the mother-of-nine, grandmother of 24, great-grandmother of 35 and great-great-grandmother of one said yesterday.

Caring for her relatives and taking an interest in family affairs ensures that she always has something to look forward to, she said.

The 102-year-old is known for the rosary beads that she carries everywhere, and they were the first thing she reached for when she woke up yesterday at 2am.

She even makes sure that whatever she is wearing has a side pocket in which she can keep the beads.

Ms Vella has lived through two world wars and also saw Malta gain independence. War taught her many lessons, mainly to appreciate what she has.

She lost her sight due to a medical condition some 40 years ago, but remains "sharp", and her family still seek her advice, some relatives told *Times of Malta*.

Carmena Vella (centre) on her way to church with relatives yesterday.



Young Maltese stuns Britain's Got Talent

Young Maltese singer Amy Marie Borg has stunned Britain's Got Talent auditions, overcoming nervousness to receive several standing ovations.

Borg, who has just turned 16 and has family in Manchester, has also appeared in the Junior Eurovision Song Contest and has been singing for three years. She effortlessly performed Nella Fantasia. 'The contestant left judges visibly shocked with her vocals, with them not expecting it

after seeing how nervous she was' OK! reported.

Manny's story: kidnapped, trafficked to Australia at 14



He had a son in 1968, Christopher, who was put up for adoption while he was away on a crayfish boat and who he was reunited with weeks ago after 47 years, thanks to a program on adoption on Channel Seven.

Manny also has been reunited with his late mother after 35 years, and with his brothers. Take a deep breath and strap yourself in for an extraordinary story.

Manny was born in 1946 in Malta. His parents had been married before and had six children between them, but both their partners had died.

They married and had eight more children, with Manny one of them. "So there were 14 of us, but the other six were grown up and had moved on," Manny recalls. "Around about 1956 the Catholic Church was taking children from parents and putting them in institutions, saying they were helping the kids.

"But what they were doing was trafficking children and sending them to Australia.

"Myself and my three other brothers were taken and put in an institution." Manny says he would run away from the institution in Malta regularly during the week before seeing his parents on weekends.

One day in 1960 he was grabbed from his aunt's house by a priest and along with his brothers Ray, 10, Michael, 11, and Peter, 16, placed on a ship called the Flaminia bound for Australia.

"Before they took us, three police officers handcuffed my father and took him away. My mother came to the dockyard and I could see her crying from the top of the ship," Manny says. "We didn't even get to say goodbye.

"We did about 28 days on the boat and we were escorted by a priest and another guy.

"When we got to Australia we were taken to Fremantle and they put us in a big shed where a man and a woman took us to Castledare, an institution run by the Catholics.

"Next day they transferred us to Tardun, about a six-hour drive away, which is an agricultural farm where they had 200,000 acres. "My youngest brother stayed in Castledare for eight weeks before they transferred him to Tardun.

HARD LIFE: The character lines in Manny Ellul's face speak of his trials and tribulations. Now Paramount Pictures want to make a film on him. "My real name in Malta is Leli and my dad said to me before I left to look after my brothers because I was the most aggressive of them all and they were very quiet.

"My father cared about his family, so he put the job onto me. I did about three weeks of schooling and was put to work in Tardun with around 60 others. They introduced me to the dairy and I'd go and milk the cows by hand. Then they brought the machines in... and we had to put the milk in 10 gallon urns. Two of us had to lift them and put them in the back of a ute. We had to crush oats to feed the cows with.

"Then they introduced me to the piggery. I chopped wood, did boiler work and all kinds of farm work.

"We were told what to do by the Congregation of Christian Brothers and we did it. Not one working boy got paid. It was slave labour."

Manny was at Tardun until he was 17 and copped floggings and says he was "sexually abused by the Brothers and the older kids".

He told the QT of one instance of being abused by a notorious sexual abuser along with two other children.

"We couldn't speak English and I did confess to a Maltese priest about what happened, and he told the Brother that abused me and I copped a flogging," he says.

When he left the Tardun institution Manny said the Brothers got him a job on a farm where he worked for 12 months without pay.

He then left when he was 18 and moved to Geraldton where he secured a job on a 40 foot crayfish boat. He met a girl named Ivy Wood and lived with her parents for 18 months where he continued in the crayfish trade and was away for months on end. His partner fell pregnant and the couple had a pact that if it was a boy they would call him Christopher John.

"I went away on the boat and when I came back she had disappeared," Manny says.

"She had the baby at a nunnery in Subiaco, six and a half hours drive away. Someone took her there, and in those days the Catholics would take the children off unmarried mothers.

"The baby was taken and put up for adoption and his name was changed. I never saw Ivy again but I looked for her and wanted answers."

Manny worked on a farm, in the mines and abattoirs, and for the electricity board. He married and had four children, divorced, and had five more children with his second wife.

Manny then met current wife Lyn and they married in 2006. He always thought about his lost son, but the chances of ever finding him became more remote as the years ticked by.

LOST SON FOUND: Manny Ellul discovered his son Christopher (with beard) after 47 years of searching. Christopher, who lives in Perth, is pictured with his two sons and grandson. Then came the breakthrough.

"My wife and I were sitting on the couch watching Sunday Night on Channel Seven and they had a program on adoption," he beams.

"They put an adoption site up and I said to my wife, 'Why don't we have a look and see if we can find Chris'.

"It only took her a couple of seconds and he was on the site under the name of Christopher John Wood, looking for his mum.



"He'd left his number so I phoned him and said, 'I know your mother', because he had mentioned on the site that she was in Geraldton and the year he was born was 1968."

Christopher sent Manny his photo by text and when he saw it he was gobsmacked. "I said, 'Oh...my...God. It is me all over'.

"I was speechless. I went numb." Lyn was also emotional due to her own involvement in helping Manny with his search. "Chris is the splitting image of Manny, with a beard. Manny cried and I cried," she says.

"I've been looking for years for him. I've even applied overseas to look for him on sites." Manny's son had been told he was adopted when he was 10.

"He told me that he ran wild and got himself in a bit of trouble," Manny says. "But now he has three children and two grandkids." Christopher is trying to get some funds together to fly to Brisbane from Perth to meet Manny for the first time. He only lives a few kilometres from Manny's brother Ray.

Manny and Lyn are also both now trying to contact Ivy for Christopher's sake.

Manny incredibly reunited with his mother 20 years ago after buying a book on the Ellul family.

He didn't think she was still alive. I was told my mother and my father were dead, and they were told the ship went down and we all drowned," Manny says. But I did get to see my mother again in 1995.

"I bought a book on the family tree of the Elluls and I found the only guy in England with the name Nazzareno (Reni) Ellul in England, and I got my ex-wife to write to him and explain who I was and who my mother and siblings were.

"He sent me a letter back with his number saying, 'I am your brother'. I phoned him and there were lots of tears."

Manny, who reunited with Nazzareno in England in a story that was covered by a local newspaper, discovered that his father had passed away in 1989 but his mum was still living in Malta.

"So I went to see my mum in a nursing home in Malta, but I kept it a secret," he says.

PROUD PARENTS: The late Nazzareth and Concetta Ellul thought their son Manny and three of his brothers had died on the way to Australia in 1960. Manny reunited with his mum in Malta in 1995 with tears of joy.



"My mother is a very religious person and she was with her rosary beads. I walked through this corridor where all the old ladies were sitting in the sun.

"She stood up and said, 'There is my son Leli'. She recognised me straight away and I broke down in tears.

"She said to me, 'I used to write to you all the time, then they told us you were dead'. A priest told her. I went to see her again in 1997 and she had diabetic sores on her legs and I put all the ointment on her legs.

"I said 'I will come and see you again soon' but she said 'I won't be here', and

she passed away in 1998.

Manny's sister Maria was only six months old when he left Malta and he also got to see her.

The injustice of his life story, and that of many others, has seen Manny fighting a class action case against the Christian Brothers in the United States with allegations of human trafficking and child slave labour by the order in Australia.

The case ran from 2009 to December last year and is famous in the US and known as 'the Ellul case'.

But due to a legal precedent in the US it was thrown out recently after a long and bitter battle because the Congregation of Christian Brothers argued that they never existed in Australia or ran institutions, and therefore had never done anything wrong.

Manny's lawyer Adrian Joel says the Royal Commission into Institutional Child Sexual Abuse knows about this but to date have kept such claims secret. Getting the Christian Brothers to take responsibility for what happened to Manny has hit many brick walls. "I confirm that I lodged a serious formal complaint with the Australian Federal Police about the evidence given by the Christian Brothers and the evidence allegedly suppressed by the Royal Commission," Mr Joel says.

"The AFP informed me that seeing the Congregation of the Christian Brothers appeared to be telling the truth in Australia - even though it was the opposite of what they said in a New York Court - the Royal Commission was only interested in this version of events and would not consider any other."

Manny, whose story has received interest from Paramount Pictures with the view to making a film about it, will continue his fight against the Congregation. "I am angry for myself and angry for thousands of other victims," he says. "What they did stuffed up my family.

by jgould THE QUEENSLAND TIMES - 2015



Upper Barrakka reverts to the French period of Malta's history

Posted On April 28, 2018 - Updated 28 April, 2018 5:19pm

Report: Maria Muscat

The Upper Barrakka Garden in Valletta was transformed into a scene 220 years ago when the French fleet under the command of General Napoleon Bonaparte entered the Grand Harbour. About 80 people from around

Europe and Canada came to Malta wearing period costumes to enact the event.

A Maltese group welcomed other groups from around Europe and Canada that also share the passion and nostalgia of the times of the French Revolution, a revolution that brought about great and important changes in European history. The group was coordinated by Martin Degiorgio.

Degiorgio said the clothing they wear is not just picked out at random but based on research of the clothes worn 220 years ago.

The Upper Barrakka Garden was also prominent at the time when Napoleon stayed in Malta for a few days. The Malta group dramatising the French period in Malta now has a history that dates back over the last 20 years during which costumes and French traditions have been analysed.



The mission of the Maltese Heritage Association is to recognize and promote the traditions and culture of the Maltese-American community in the San Francisco Bay Area. We



host, participate and contribute to cultural and community events and charitable organizations in an effort to provide the San Francisco Bay Area community and beyond with a greater understanding of the contributions, history, and values of the Maltese people.

Front Row: Mary Schembri Griggi, Carmen Vella Orton, Debbie Gatt Ghiglieri

2nd Row: Julie Orton, Frank Gonzales, Gina Deguara Gonzales, Theresa Schembri Menjivar, Rose Marie

Busuttil Garcia, Louis Vella

Missing Team Member: Michaela Azzopardi

Presidential Gala honoring Her Excellency Marie Louise Coleiro Preca

Date: Saturday, May 5, 2018

Place: Grand Ballroom, Pullman San Francisco Bay Hotel
223 Twin Dolphin Drive, Redwood Shores

Time: No Host Cocktails 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m., Banquet 7:00 p.m.

Download the invitation and reception card below for details.



HAL QORMI THE VILLAGE OF QORMI

by [Melisande Aquilina](#)

Found in the Southern region of [Malta](#), Qormi is recognised as the Maltese capital of bread-making and boasts the largest number of bakeries in the country. Although today, Qormi is the third largest locality in Malta, it actually started to grow and prosper during the middle ages, mostly thanks to its proximity to the Grand Harbour and its central location.

Before the Order of the Knights of Saint John built its own bakery in Valletta, it was Qormi which supplied most of the bread supplies on the island. At that time, the village thrived on its mule-driven flour-mills and was known as Casal Fornaro or Hal Fornaro, that is, the 'Baker's Village'. In 1743, the Grand Master Manuel Pinto de Fonseca elevated the village of Qormi to official city status, whereby it became known with the name of 'Citta' Pinto'. Today, the popular name is Hal Qormi.

Apart from bread-making, other traditional occupations are associated with Qormi's location. Being so close to the horse race track at Marsa, there have always been several blacksmiths and carriage makers in the area, and to this day, many Qriema are horse owners. In older times, Qormi was also actually a port town, since the waters of the Grand Harbour at the time extended further inland. Through the 15th century in fact, Qormi was the only harbour town, besides Birgu, and its limits included the entire Xiberras (Xebb ir-Ras) promontory, on which Valletta and Floriana now stand. Qormi would still be a port town, had not the waters of the Grand Harbour receded.



Qormi hosts one of the oldest parishes in Malta. The present church is the third to be built on the same site, in honour of Saint George. In the 17th century, the church Saint George coordinated a parish that was served by no less than 22 little churches. The parish church of Saint George and its museum contain several works of art, especially paintings, in fact the titular painting has been attributed to Mattia Preti. The religious fervour of Qormi can also be gauged by the elaborate niches and religious statues of which almost 300 can be found along the streets of the city.

In 1813, Qormi was hard hit by a cholera epidemic during which they turned to Saint Sebastian, who is known as the Saint Protector and Patron Saint of people ill from the plague. By 1814, the plague was gone, together with one-sixth of

Qormi's population. In 1815, the survivors erected a statue to the saint, and in 1880-90 they built a church beside it. The faith directed towards Saint Sebastian propelled Qormi into creating a second parish, which was established in 1936. The current church was too small to serve at the time, and another more lavish Romanesque church was built near Pinto's Loggia after the Second World War. This was the first church in Malta to use a table altar, allowing the priest to face the congregation.

The two parishes organise many events throughout the year, most notably Easter is celebrated with a jovial procession by both parishes, and Saint George is also very well-renowned for its particular Good Friday pageant, featuring actors dressed in Jewish garb. There are of course, two parish festi, as well as three local band clubs. The feast of Saint George is celebrated in June, while the feast of Saint Sebastian takes place in July, and is greeted by parishioners sporting the colour green.

Qormi is quite well-known for its fireworks and colourful band programmes. As of 2007, it also hosts the yearly national event known as 'Lejl f'Casal Fornaro', which continues to be very popular with all Maltese. The city also holds an annual wine festival, as well as a Malta National Spring Festival.



**FOOTBALL
FEDERATION
VICTORIA**

Maltese/Australian boy going to Russia to represent Australia at the Football 4 Friendship World Championships



Australia, 24 April 2018 – The 2018 Football for Friendship (F4F) programme is transforming a FIFA World Cup dream into reality for two Aussie youngsters, Luca Selby Durso and Noah Borg who have been selected to fly to Russia on an all expenses paid trip to represent Australia at the F4F programme.

Taking place in Moscow, Russia on 8-15 June ahead of the 2018 FIFA World Cup, F4F is an annual International Children's social programme organized by Gazprom, an international company supporting global social projects and setting new standards in relation to social policy. The aim of the programme is

to promote essential values embodied by football with the younger generation such as respect for other cultures and nationalities as well as equality.

Selby Durso will represent Australia as a Player while **Noah Borg** will attend as a Young Journalist, giving the country even more presence ahead of the 2018 FIFA World Cup. They will join other 12-year-old football players and journalists from 211 countries and regions to participate in the 8-day programme.



"I am passionate about football and would love to play for the Socceroos one day. It is a dream to represent Australia and visit Russia to see the World Cup," said Durso. Meanwhile, Borg said: *"The nine values of the program - friendship, equality, fairness, health, peace, devotion, victory, traditions and honour - mean a lot to me. It doesn't matter where you come from or what you can do, we are all equal and we should treat everyone the same and with respect."*

A total of 32 International Teams of Friendship will compete at the Football for Friendship World Championship on 12 June 2018. In the days leading up to the tournament, each player will be trained by Young Coaches who are football players ranging between 14 to 16 years of age from various countries. The Championship and training sessions will form the majority of the programme in addition to the Sixth International Football for Friendship Children's Forum. The forum will see participants discussing how to promote the programme's core values of friendship, equality, fairness, health, peace, devotion, victory, traditions and honour. The programme concludes with all F4F participants attending the opening match of the FIFA World Cup on 14 June 2018 as hosts Russia take on Saudi Arabia at Luzhniki Stadium in Moscow.

Football for Friendship is supported by FIFA, UEFA, the International Olympic Committee and football federations and leading clubs around the world. More than 5,000 media outlets worldwide will cover the programme, which is considered a unique educational programme by the United Nations. Keep up to date with the journey by following the Earth is a ball blog at www.ffv.org.au – **Anthony Grima**

CONGRATULATIONS AND WELL DONE, SELBY AND NOAH

Gozo will be celebrating Europe Day in the Villa Rundle on Sunday



A Family Day at the Villa Rundle Gardens in Victoria, is being held to celebrate Europe Day, which is commemorated on the 9th of May every year.

The Gozo celebrations to mark this occasion are this Sunday, the 6th of May, organised by the European Commission Representation in Malta, in collaboration with the Europe Direct Information Centre – Victoria, Gozo.

It will be a day full of fun and cultural activities for the whole family, which will include fun and cultural activities, with performances by various dance groups and DCapitals Band.

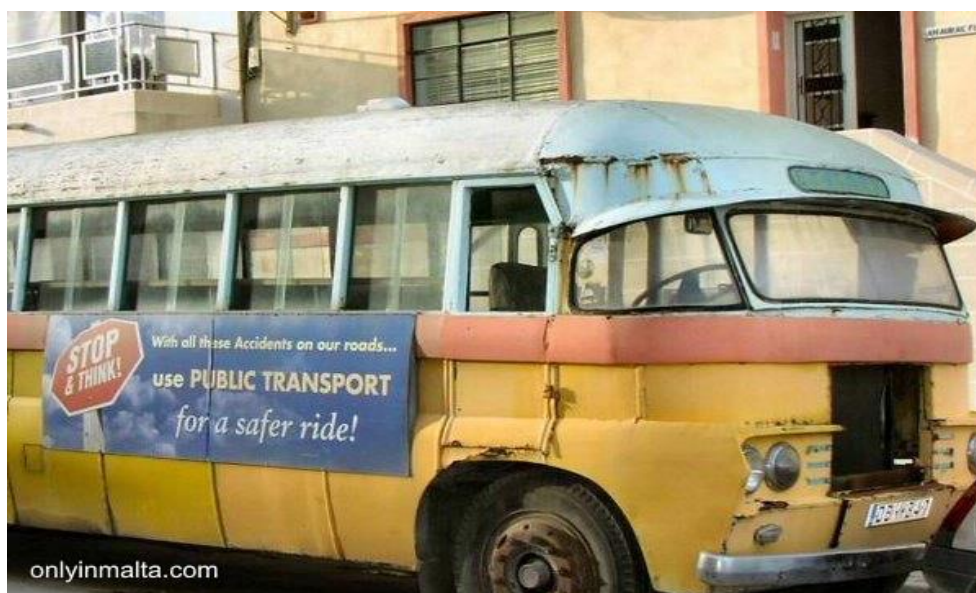
Other attractions during the afternoon include a bouncy castle, mega slide, carousel, balloon modelling, face/hand painting, crafts, food tasting by the Institute of Tourism, stalls games and much more, as well as various stands providing information on the EU and its member states.

EUPA will be organising an Erasmus Pong for all the families to learn more about what the Erasmus+ programme offers in a fun way. Those interested in participating can organise a group with a maximum of 4 participants and forward participants' details to communications.eupa@gov.mt. The winning teams will be awarded a gift. Everyone is invited to go along and join in the fun and celebrations between 2pm and 6pm, entrance is free

of charge.

Europe Day on the 9th of May marks the anniversary of the 'Schuman declaration,' and is an important date for all Europeans in celebration of peace and unity in Europe. At a speech in Paris in 1950, Robert Schuman, the then French foreign minister, set out his idea for a new form of political cooperation in Europe, which would make war between Europe's nations a thing of the past.

His vision was to create a European institution that would manage pooled coal and steel production. A treaty creating such a body was signed just under a year later. Schuman's proposal is considered to be the beginning of what is now the European Union. **Photographs from last year's Europe Day celebrations in Gozo** gozonew.com



**DON'T MISS
THE NEXT
EDITION
MOTHER'S
DAY
SPECIAL**

JUM L-OMM