



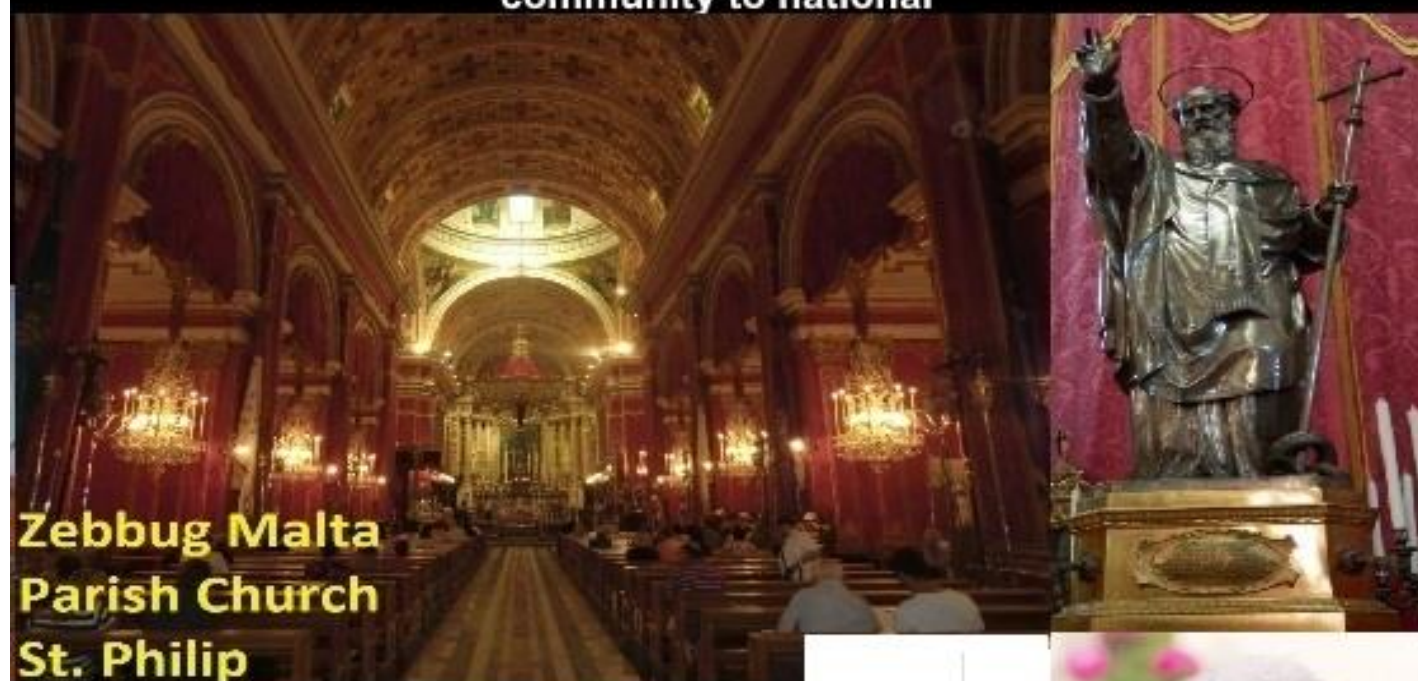
MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER

The Journal of the Maltese Diaspora

Editor: Frank L Scicluna OAM Contact: maltesejournal@gmail.com



It's NAIDOC Week from 8 – 15 July and festivities are being held across the country to celebrate the culture and accomplishments of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. This year's theme 'Because of Her, We Can!' shines a light on the crucial role women play as role models and influencers at a variety of levels from community to national



**Zebbug Malta
Parish Church
St. Philip**

Bishop-Elect Charles Gauci will be ordained as Bishop of the Diocese of Darwin, Australia on September 26, 2018 at 7.00pm at St. Mary's Star of the Sea Cathedral, Dawrin



**MESSAGE TO THE READERS OF THE MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER****Father Charles Gauci****Bishop-elect of the Diocese of Darwin**

My dear Maltese friends ,

We have so much to be thankful for in our heritage. We have strong family values , a wonderful history , a people noted for their hospitality and human warmth and of course our many centuries of Christian Catholic faith which is so imprinted in our ' dena ' .

Our people have contributed greatly to the on-going development of Australia. Australia is my home but I am a Maltese Australian and proud of it .

I was born at Floriana baptised at Msida did my first communion at Hamrun and my confirmation at Valletta . I lived at Pieta and Hamrun . Mum is from Paola and dad from Hamrun . My grandparents are from Rabat ,Luqa , Floriana and Imqaba , so you see I am from all over Malta !! I came to Australia when I was 13 days old .

I have enjoyed my 41 years of ministry as a priest and have been blessed with countless meaningful connections with people .

God has now called me to this new ministry in Darwin and the Northern Territory. I need many prayers so that I can serve God and His people .

I encourage all of us to value the gift of our Christian heritage and to develop a close relationship although Jesus The Way The Truth and The Life , God bless you all .

Fr Charles Gauci





South Australian Thai cave rescue doctor hailed a hero

AS TEARS of relief and joy flowed at the conclusion to the Thai cave rescue that enthralled the world, hero Australian doctor Richard Harris soon learned the tragic news of his father's death.

MedSTAR Director of Clinical Services Dr Andrew Pearce on Wednesday confirmed Dr Harris, known as Harry, had endured a "tumultuous week with highs and lows".

The doctor's father, James (Jim) Harris, a renowned former vascular surgeon and senior consultant at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, had died.

"It is with great sadness that I confirm that Harry's dad passed away last night a short time after the successful rescue operation in Thailand," he said.

Dr Harris after the Thai rescue mission was completed. Picture: Office of the Minister of Foreign Affairs. "I have spoken with Harry. This is clearly a time of grief for the Harris family, magnified by the physical and emotional demands of being part of this week's highly complex and ultimately successful rescue operation."

The 53-year-old South Australian anaesthetist and experienced cave diver swam into the cave with a Thai medical team to triage the 12 members of the Wild Boars soccer team along with their coach who became trapped in the Tham Luang cave system on June 23.

He administered a sedative to each of the boys before they left the ledge where they sheltered inside the mountain cave ahead of the 1.7km swim to the surface to help alleviate panic.

Dr Pearce said the SA Ambulance Service was incredibly proud of Dr Harris.

"We are delighted that Harry and the boys are safe and that he was able to play such a remarkable role in the Australian response," Dr Pearce said.

"Harry is a quiet and kind man who did not think twice about offering his support on this mission.

"He will be coming home soon and taking some well-earned time off to be with his family. He has asked that the family's privacy is respected at this time."

James Harris was born in Renmark and met his wife, Marion, during his post graduate surgical training at a hospital at Leamington Spa in the UK.

They had three children together — Amanda, Christina and Richard.

Peter Harbison, his best friend for 80 years and best man at his wedding, said James hadn't been in the best of health with heart issues, but was aware of his son being in Thailand helping the rescue of the soccer team.

"He was a brilliant vascular surgeon who loved his racing, golf and fishing and he was a very popular man," he said. "We had a good bit of fun during our time together ... and he had a great life."

His son, Dr Harris, was one of 19 Australians who helped during the massive international rescue effort, along with defence force personnel, six Australian Federal Police divers and a crew of support staff including a psychologist, a chaplain and an interpreter.

The first four boys and their coach were escorted from the cave on Tuesday night — 18 days after they

first became trapped. They joined their eight teammates at Chiang Rai Hospital where they are expected to be kept for observation for a week.

Dr Harris (centre) with the team of Thai doctors and two DFAT workers soon after the mission was completed. Picture: Office of the Minister of Foreign Affairs.

South Australian Opposition leader Peter Malinauskas paid his condolences to the Adelaide anaesthetist and said the entire state was proud of his service.

"Our condolences to Adelaide anaesthetist Dr Richard Harris and his family on the passing of his father, at a time when the world celebrates good news for families of 12 young boys in Thailand," a statement read.

"We thank Dr Harris for his extraordinary contribution to this week's rescue of the boys and their coach from flooded mountain caves in extreme and dangerous circumstances."



“Fr Charles - a hard-working man close to the community” – Fr Josef Mifsud

NEWSBOOK - Nicole Borg



(left) John Micallef from Preca Community of South Australia and bishop-elect Fr Charles Gauci

Fr Charles Gauci is known for his passion for being close to the community and works to provide them with all they need in their Catholic life.

This is what Fr Josef Mifsud, parish priest of San Ġużepp church in Birkirkara, said when asked about his experience with Fr Charles, whom the Pope appointed as Bishop of the Darwin Diocese in Australia.

Fr Josef explained how he first met Fr Charles, as a seminarist. He was sent to make a pastoral experience with him. Alongside Fr Joseph were Fr Glenn Buhagiar, Fr Ronnie Zammit, Fr Anton

D'Amato and Fr Leonard Mintoff.

Together they spent 6-months in this pastoral experience. He said that Fr Charles not only managed two parishes, but also worked in schools, with youths and with the community.

He explained that Fr Charles took the initiative to celebrate mass at youth-friendly times, while he held a special bond with the M.U.S.E.U.M society.

Fr Charles moved to Australia with his family when he was 13 years-old. However, Fr Joseph said Fr Charles was still brought up to love the Maltese culture and he could hence understand him and the other Maltese seminarians who went to his parish to gain experience.

Dear Mr. Scicluna, Firstly, may I say, once again, how much we enjoy receiving and reading your most interesting Maltese Newsletter. It is a wonderful way for our Priory members to keep in touch and continue to be informed about all that is happening both in Malta and here in our own Maltese community.

I am writing to let you know that we are very pleased and honoured to have the Grand Commander of our Order, HE Bailiff Paul Borg OSJ visiting South Australia in August from Malta. We will be having a Cocktail Party at the Naval, Military and Air Force Club at 6pm on August 22nd which will serve as a commemoration of the Siege of Malta and a welcome to our special guest. The Grand Commander will be the guest speaker on this occasion

Chev. Hon. David Wotton AM CJSJ

Prior of the South Australia

Order of St John of Jerusalem, Knights Hospitaller.



THE WRITING ON THE WALL ART BY PRISONERS WILL BE PRESENTED ALONGSIDE WRITING ON THE WALL, AN INSTALLATION BY HANK WILLIS THOMAS AND BAZ DREISINGER.

This installation is made from essays,



University of
South Australia

poems, letters, stories, diagrams and notes written by individuals in prison around the world, from America and Australia to Brazil, Norway and Uganda. The Writing on the Wall is about giving voice to the voiceless and humanizing a deeply de-humanized population. It represents a kind of modern-day hieroglyphics, projecting a hidden world into a very public space and allowing a

people too often spoken of and for—by politicians and a punishment-hungry public—to speak for themselves, in the most intimate of ways. It is a tribute to the power of the pen, a deliberate verbal intrusion and an assertion that some words need very much to be seen in order to be heard. Indeed the writing is not just on the wall but on the floor, on every inch of the installation space, such that the viewer, unable to look away, is compelled to confront a crisis: global mass incarceration.

ART BY PRISONERS



Photo: Art by Prisoners producer Jeremy Ryder says a record number of prisoners have contributed this year. (ABC News: Nicola Gage)

KERRY PACKER CIVIC GALLERY EXHIBITION – ADELAIDE, SOUTH AUSTRALIA

EXHIBITION DATES: MONDAY 6 AUGUST - FRIDAY 31 AUGUST

Featuring selected works created within South Australia's adult prisons, Art by Prisoners allows prisoners' artwork to escape temporarily and go on show to the public. The prisoners are anonymous but this exhibition will reveal fragments of their lives both within and beyond prison,

allowing us to see prisoners not as objects, but as human subjects.

Rather than ask what the men and women in this exhibition have done, it asks instead what they are capable of and what they might become. Reintegration requires offenders to accept society but it also requires society to accept ex-offenders. This exhibition allows us to rehearse this idea. Come and vote for your favourite artwork and leave messages for participants as a way of encouraging and supporting their creative development and aspirations. Over the past 12 years the prisoner population in SA has soared by 67%. This exhibition invites us to reflect on the prison system, on who, how many and at what cost we punish people

TWO MALTESE CARDINALS



PROSPER GRECH – Prospero Grech is a Maltese Augustinian friar, who co-founded the Institutum Patristicum Augustinianum in Rome and was created a cardinal on 18 February 2012. He was appointed deacon of the Church of St. Maria Goretti. Born Stanley Grech at Vittoriosa, Malta, on 23 December 1925, joining the Augustinian Order in 1943, he was ordained to the priesthood at the Basilica of Saint John Lateran in Rome in 1950. Prior to being ordained to the priesthood in 1950, while Malta was under siege during the Second World War, marks Priory, Rabat, Malta, and theology in St. Monicas College, Rome. Grech conducted research in Semitic languages at the universities of Oxford, in 1959,

Father Grech was appointed lecturer at the Augustinian Theological College, Rabat. He also served as secretary at the Vatican Vicariate and professor at the Augustine Institute, during his time in Rome one of his duties included dressing Pope John XXIII and Paul VI for liturgical functions. In addition, during the 1963 Papal conclave, he was asked to hear Giovanni Battista Montinis confession a couple of hours prior to his election as Pope Paul VI. Agostino Trapè, Grech founded the Institutum Patristicum Augustinianum attached to the Lateran University in Rome and he is a member of the Societas Studiorum Novi Testamenti, and member of the Pontifical Biblical Commission. Grech lectured for over thirty years at the Pontifical Biblical Institute in Rome on hermeneutics and he was professor of Biblical Theology at the Lateran University in Rome, Counsellor to the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith and Secretary of the Maltese Augustinian province.

He was also appointed Apostolic Visitor for seminaries in India, Grech has authored various articles and publications and has presented lectures on the Bible, hermeneutics and patristics. He organised or took part in various meetings both locally and internationally on the same subjects and he has lectured at the Accademia dei Lincei in Rome and at the Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche and collaborated with the Enciclopedia Italiana Treccani. On 13 December 2011, he was appointed a Companion of the National Order of Merit of the Republic of Malta, Pope Benedict XVI announced on 6 January 2012, that he would create Father Grech a cardinal, together with 21 others, on 18 February 2012. He is the first augustinian cardinal after 111 years, Grech took the episcopal motto In te Domine speravi. On 9 February, he led the mass of the eve of the Feast of the Shipwreck of St. Paul, in the Church of St. Paul, Valletta. On 10 February he returned to Rome, where he was created cardinal in the consistory of 18 February 2012 and was created Cardinal-Deacon of Santa Maria Goretti. He delivered the opening meditation at the 2013 conclave, but was never an elector because he became cardinal after reaching age 80



FABRIZIO SCEBERRAS TESTAFERRATA – Fabrizio Sceberras Testaferrata was a Maltese Cardinal of the Catholic Church. He served as Bishop of Senigallia from 1818 until his death in 1843, Testaferrata was born in Valletta, Malta on 1 April 1757. He was ordained as a priest in 1802 at the age of 44 and that year he was appointed titular Archbishop of Berytus and was consecrated to the episcopate by Cardinal Giuseppe Doria Pamphili on the 21 of December 1802. In 1803, he was appointed Apostolic Nuncio to Switzerland and served until 1815 when he was chosen as Secretary of the Congregation of Bishops and Regulars. He was elevated to Cardinal In Pectore in 1816 and made Cardinal-Priest of Santa Pudenziana in 1818 and was the first ever Maltese to receive that title and that same year, on April 6, he was appointed as the ordinary of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Senigallia in Italy. He died on 3 August 1843 and was buried in the Cathedral of Senigallia

The Hamrun Name and Territory:



A (Cars) pre or during World War I picture taken of HAMRUN

John Scerri

By the late 1700s, in front of Bailiff Blacas palace across the road from St. Paul square, there existed a popular tavern belonging to Gamri (John Mary) Zammit nicknamed **Il-Hamrun**. This leads us to the most probable conjecture that the town took its name from the family nickname which by the way was still in existence up to the beginning of the 20th century. At this time there were other names for other areas of territory, which would one day form the town of Hamrun. The part bordering Birkirkara was known as St. Joseph because of a small

St. Joseph church that existed there, while the hill was known as Atocia or Tas-Samra because of the dark complexion of the Madonna on the icon in the church there. Furthermore there was the part called Ta' Braxia which was down by Pieta, but as is obvious, the name Hamrun prevailed, not after some disagreements among the villagers.

Documents of the first elections held in Malta, show that the part of Hamrun called *Casale San Giuseppe* or 'village of St. Joseph' which was partly in Birkirkara and partly in Qormi territory, was amalgamated with Blata l-Bajda which actually was part of Floriana, and later on Atocia hill was added, all under the name of Casale San Giuseppe. The Government Gazette was still calling the village *Casale San Giuseppe* in 15th May 1888 but the electoral register of the 2nd June of the same year started calling it **Hamrun** once and for all ending the inconsistency of names. It is interesting to check out how the population of Hamrun evolved from the latter part of the 1800s, that is from when it was officially constituted into a village up to our times. There is a reason behind each fluctuation of the numbers but here it is important to mention the motto that Hamrun took from the start, that is *Propera Augesco* meaning *Quickly do I grow*. A very fitting phrase, which Hamrun honoured because in its first fifty years as a parish, it expanded to about five times the population it started with. *Please see lists at the end of this chapter*. Indeed, the beginnings of the history of Hamrun are entwined in the building of its Parish Church. At this time, about 1878, all we find is little more than 4 chapels, 2 palaces and about 100 houses on the main street.

Legend of Tas-sikkina - Many translate this as *Cutthroats*, but a more literal translation is closer to *Knife wielders* and this nickname was attached to the people of Hamrun many years ago. Some say that this came about with the birth of the soccer team **Hamrun Spartans** since way back then, they were regarded as bullies, thus the nickname seemed appropriate.

However, a more interesting explanation has been handed down from one generation to the next and this one, makes perfect sense and takes us back not only to the creation of Hamrun Spartans but even before Hamrun was ever known by its name. This throws us back to the last years of the Knights of Malta, therefore prior to 1798. Now one may ask, how does Hamrun or, Casal San Giuseppe as it was formerly known as, figure into the history of the Knights?

There are two reasons why Hamrun was important to the Knights. One was because the Aqueduct the Knights built ran from the Rabat area through Hamrun and onward to Valletta, and two, because the Knights had constructed a lookout fort on the hill known as tas-Samra which very conveniently overlooks Marsa Harbour and thus the Knights were able to watch for invaders and other intruders. To this day the evidence of these structures is very much visible but there are other invisible features connected to the transportation of water from the central part of Malta to its capital city, since

underground, there exist a number of cisterns which it is believed, provided water storage for when the island ran into draught periods which invariably happened every hot Summer.

A third and lesser-known reason for Hamrun importance to the Knights was the fact that the Knights had built a series of stores which housed their gunpowder provisions. It is not very clear why they chose an area which lies between Blata l-Bajda and the central part of Hamrun in order to build such storage facilities. One reason would probably be that since Hamrun was a sparsely populated hamlet at the time, such explosive stock would produce minimal damage if something went wrong and the magazines blew up. Another reason would perhaps be that the structures were not be readily identifiable to the enemy had an invasion taken place because they were located in the middle (then) of open fields, probably camouflaged by trees and growth. A third possibility would have been that in the event of invasion and the Knights being besieged behind the Valletta Bastions and likewise in Vittoriosa, the locals who knew where to find provisions, would have been able to fight the invaders from the rear and spring a nasty surprise on them. Towards the end of the rule of the Knights, and the threat of invasion becoming somewhat diminished (in their own mind), these stores were abandoned and were left empty.

It is also believed that intruders from the South of Sicily often found their way to the Island, as were regular traders some of whom preferred to stay. Oddly enough, these empty stores provided much needed shelter for these *irregular immigrants*. It was spacious, clean, somewhat remote and above all, free. Over the years they grew in number and formed a small community of their own. For their own protection, they remained fairly isolated and had to invent ways to keep some of their traditions and at the same time provide themselves with some entertainment.

One way of celebrating the weekend was to hold a traditional dance where various members of this small community could have some fun bearing in mind that they did not openly join the mainstream in case the authorities discovered their irregular stay in Malta and be shipped out back to Sicily, or worse. Part of this traditional dance involved the wielding of small stilettos, which they wore in their socks, waving them in the air and back to their sheaths, presumably without cutting themselves.

As it turned out this form of entertainment caught the eye of some Hamrun inhabitants and probably to the authorities as well, but since these Sicilians posed no security problem and caused the inhabitants no harm, they were left to cope with their meager existence without hindrance. In fact such a dance was apparently quite a spectacle and although it was supposed to be a secret, soon word spread around the island. It was known that every Saturday evening, the celebration took place. In order to protect them, they were never referred to as *the Sicilians* in case it became a dare to the authorities who would then be forced to act.

Instead they were referred to as **Tas-Sikkina** referring to the use of the small knife they used in the dance. People started to talk and often invited others to join them and when asked where they were going, they would say that they are going to (Hamrun) see the knife wielders (tas-Sikkina). Thus, when they said that they were going to see tas-sikkina, they were automatically implying that they were going to Hamrun or Casal San Giuseppe.

The nickname stuck and as the population of Casal San Giuseppe grew and when it eventually became known as Hamrun, it was transferred to the inhabitants of that town even after the disappearance of the Sicilians (probably through assimilation), and lives to this day. The present Hamrun residents sometimes take offence by being dubbed as Tas-Sikkina since they feel that the nickname has long worn out its usefulness, but it will probably stick forever. **Joe Martinelli**

We apologise to our many readers who were offended by a word in our last newsletter which escaped the eyes of our proof-reader. This is the first that has happened, and we can assure it will be the last.

Another apology to our enthusiastic correspondent RON BORG whose surname was misspelt as Bord.

You see friends to err is human



"The Malta Bake Shop — that building is 100-plus years old — and there is a story of a community there."

A condo under construction beside the Malta Bake Shop in The Junction neighbourhood in Toronto, Ontario, June 25, 2018. Tyler Anderson / National Post

(Little) Malta Bake Shop vs. Toronto developers: The

story of a mom-and-pop bakery that didn't sell

DAN BROCK nationalpost.com

Antoinette Buttigieg is petite, has big brown eyes and, according to her husband, Charlie, the indomitable spirit of a "tiger." But, on a Saturday morning, not long ago, Antoinette felt more like someone's prey than a predator. The Buttigiegs own Malta Bake Shop, a mom-and-pop outfit on Toronto's Dundas Street West, which they purchased in 1983. The Maltese immigrants serve tasty Maltese fare — cheese-filled pastizzis, pasta-and-meat crammed timpanas, honey rings, piping hot espresso — and more.

Before Charlie and Antoinette took over the shop it was already a bakery and, before that, it had been a Maltese-owned shoe store and, before that, in the 1920s, a Maltese grocery and magnet for Maltese newcomers to Canada; a tiny outpost, far from the ex-pats Mediterranean archipelago, where they socialized, argued over politics, shared news, found work, played bocce and built a community known today as Little Malta.

"The Maltese have been here since the 1920s," Antoinette says. "This building has a history."



Customers wave goodbye to friends at Malta Bake Shop in The Junction neighbourhood in Toronto, Ontario, June 25, 2018. Tyler Anderson / National Post

Meanwhile, the two addresses to the west were once home to a travel agency and a pizza joint, with tenants upstairs, until a developer snapped them up with ambitions of transforming the site into nine new townhouses with rooftop terraces, high efficiency interior lighting, contemporary Italian Lube kitchens, soaker tubs, parking and a million-dollar asking price. The developer also had ambitions for the bake shop.

"He offered us a million dollars for the bakery and a million dollars for the house next door, which we also own — so two million dollars," Antoinette says.

What can get overlooked, in the ongoing Toronto real estate narrative of skyrocketing home prices, is a parallel yarn about a city's disappearing past; about old Macedonian shoe repair guys, Italian barbers, Polish delis and, yes, mom-and-pop Maltese bakeries, getting pushed out of a gentrifying area, either because of the owners' advanced age, a dwindling customer base or a lucrative offer to sell. Progress comes and local

history goes, and in a big city on a development bender, Malta Bake Shop could have been the next departure.

But a curious thing happened instead: Charlie and Antoinette turned down the two million.

“What are we going to do if we sell, we’re not young — but we’re not old — and this shop has been 40-years of our lives,” Antoinette says. “For me, it is not a job. I feel like the shop is more like our living room and our customers, they are like family.

“What would we do without our family?”

With that, the Buttigiegas got back to baking. When Antoinette is at work, which is practically every day of the year except Christmas and New Year’s, she wears a brown hairnet and a white uniform with a red name tag. Charlie wears a matching outfit, save for his hairnet, which is black. The couple met in Malta in 1977 — in a cemetery. Antoinette was grieving her dead grandmother and a priest dispatched Charlie to open the cemetery gates. Charlie fumbled with the lock. Antoinette steadied his hand. Three months later they were married.

“I love my wife for so many things,” Charlie says. “We argue, too, but, you know, the older people in Malta, they might not have had much education, but they had all these sayings and her father used to say to me, “If the water doesn’t get rough sometimes — it stinks.”

Charlie and Antoinette raised four children with the bakery as the focal point of family life. Antoinette was baking when she went into labour with their youngest daughter, Ivy, and returned to work within a week of giving birth. Josef, the eldest, is a stem cell researcher at the University of Regina. He remembers doing his homework at the shop, taking breaks to make pastizzis — and sleeping over as a family during the Easter holidays.

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Charlie Buttigiegat examines pastizzi at Malta Bake Shop in The Junction neighbourhood in Toronto, Ontario, June 25, 2018. Tyler Anderson / National Post

“It is hard to explain, but it was awesome,” he says, adding he was thrilled his parents didn’t sell and, had they wanted to, he would have attempted to rally his three younger siblings — all teachers in Ontario — to try and save the business.

“Do we want to build up condominiums in Toronto? For sure, by all means. But if you start tearing down places with a significant heritage — what do you stand for — do you just forget about the past?”

Don’t get the wrong idea: Charlie and Antoinette, both in their early 60s, aren’t just hanging on because of a building’s heritage. They make decent money. Several years ago they started selling frozen boxes of pastizzi to grocery stores around Southern Ontario to nourish a widening diaspora of second- and third-generation Maltese-Canadians (and non-Maltese), with a hankering for a taste of their forebears’ home. Frozen sales now represent the bulk of the business.



Paul Tanti, 88, has been a patron for years of the Malta Bake in Toronto, Ontario, June 25, 2018. Tyler Anderson / National Post

But the bakery persists as a physical-draw for the Maltese. Both as an emblem of the past — the interior décor features maps and photos of Malta, a shrine to the island's patron saint, red and white tables and chairs (the Maltese flag is red and white) — and a gathering place in the present for aging Maltese men and women, who chatter away in their native tongue over coffee and pastizzis. Marie-bulk of the business.

Paul Tanti, 88, has been a patron for years of the Malta Bake in Toronto, Ontario, June 25, 2018. Tyler Anderson / National Post

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At 5 p.m. on a Tuesday the door to the shop opens and in walks Reno Ellul, a 79-year-old retired tailor, his 78-year-old wife, Helen, and their daughter, Carmen. Reno landed in Canada — and the bakery soon after — in 1967. He and Helen live in northeast Toronto, but will drive across town every few weeks for a meal — ravioli and meat sauce on this trip — and to restock their supply of pastizzis.

"You can smell the garlic," Helen observes.

"We don't live in this area," says Reno. "But we come back to it, because it's a small part of Malta — it reminds us of home. On Sunday mornings after mass you can't get a seat in here, because it's all Maltese."

Charlie Buttigieg passes a wall dedicated to regular customers who passed away. Tyler Anderson / National Post

When a regular customer dies, Charlie adds their photograph to a memorial display downstairs, beneath a framed message: "To all our deceased customers: May you rest and peace." He will also light a candle and place a rose on the dead person's table — the regulars all have regular spots — for 24 hours because, as he says, when someone is gone you can feel their absence.

And, for now, the little bakery in Little Malta isn't going anywhere despite the construction project looming next door. "I have two herniated discs, so I do have some pain," Charlie says. "But for us to close the shop, it would be like losing one of our children."

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RICHARD GAUCI IN THE ROYAL NAVY



By Godwin Gauci - Adelaide, South Australia



Richard Gauci, my father joined the British Royal Navy at the age of sixteen with many more other Maltese men. They were taken to the naval ship base Portsmouth, England to do their basic training and after a few years they were assigned to a ship. Richard with some of the other Maltese were put on the frigate **HMS SURPRISE**, where they spent some time doing hands on training and assigned to their relevant tasks. The ship carries over two hundred men.

There was much tension brewing between England and Germany for quite some time and in 1938 the prime minister of England, Mr. Winston Churchill went to war. German troops with heavy artillery marched down through Europe and invaded France. In Italy, Mussolini agreed to join Hitler and the Italian troops joined Germany in the war. The British Royal Navy was deployed in the Mediterranean and war came to Malta just as hard as the rest of the world, if not more.

German and Italian bombers would fly over and bombard Malta to stop British spitfires from taking off to fight, and the Maltese people would rebuild the runways. Many buildings were destroyed and people died. There were many ship convoys sailed to Malta but the u-boats would torpedo them and only a few would make it through. The Maltese were not receiving any food or medicine supplies and people were starving.

As the war intensified, more ships were built for the royal navy. They built more battleships, to transport troops into Europe to fight the enemy and fast moving destroyers to attack the German u-boats that were destroying the convoys in the Mediterranean.

Richard was reassigned to the destroyer **HMS TIGER**. A much bigger ship than the frigate and also very manoeuvrable. These ships did most of the fighting around Europe. There are over three hundred men on a destroyer manning the four inch guns man handling the bombs. Richard was assigned to the galley and the mess hall feeding all the crew at breakfast, lunch and dinner. There was no set time for consuming food as the men are on different shift work doing all task of work twenty four hours around the clock.



The war ended in nineteen forty five and Malta was beginning to rebuild. Rubble was moved by hand and workers cleaning up and restoring houses, farmland ploughed with seeds for food.



Richard spent several years on the **HMS TIGER**. After nine years assignment, you are dismissed from the navy and Richard went back home to his family. He looked at work on the island, but he was not happy with what he saw so he re-enlisted back into the navy for another nine years. He was assigned to the destroyer **HMS LION**, a sister ship to the tiger. He did the same as before cooking with several colleagues for hundreds of men all hours of the day.



HMS LION

In the early fifties Richard was reassigned to the battleship HMS BIRMINGHAM and took charge of the galley with more colleagues and more sailors to feed. Over four hundred sailors.

In nineteen fifty six a British movie company asked the royal navy if they can make a movie using the battleship HMS BIRMINGHAM. The navy agreed, but we will modify it. They added an extra chimney in the middle of the ship, modified a life boat to accommodate the baby, repainted a large section of it and was renamed HMS CUNNINGHAM. Then filming began. "The Baby And The Battleship" Starring John Mills and Richard Attenborough. The [Royal Navy](#) provided a significant amount of cooperation with sequences filmed aboard [HMS Birmingham](#) and in [Malta](#)

The story goes, a sailor has to smuggle a baby aboard his ship when he is left in charge of the infant brother of an Italian girl who is dating one of his crew mates. Trying to keep the infant a secret from the officers becomes trickier as more and more of the crew join in the effort to keep the youngster fed and watered.



Richard and his navy colleagues had to scrub the galley and especially one of the large cooking pots were the baby was hidden in. While filming was taking place on the battleship, Richard and his colleagues would go on shore and prepare the food for the sailors. Here the men are peeling and cooking potatoes. The HMS BIRMINGHAM was the flag ship of the British fleet in the Mediterranean and many a time Richard and his colleagues would prepare exotic meals for the Admiralty and high ranking officers.

There have also been some visits from the Royals and Parliamentarian guests. While filming on the battleship, Richard and the whole crew meet and spend time talking to the stars. Richard had spent more than two decades in the Royal navy and when his father died, he left with and honouree discharge with some distinguished medals.



The Medals - 1939 – 1945 star, the African star, the 1939 – 1945 King George VI medal, the Queen Elizabeth II long service and Good Behaviour Medal.

The crew of the HMS BIRMINGHAM 1956 - RICHARD GAUCI is the sixth on the top row from the left.



SMOM RECEPTION MARKS PATRON SAINT'S FEAST DAY

President Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca delivering her speech during the reception in the presence of Prince Augusto Ruffo di Calabria. Photos: Frans Micallef/Photocity



Princess Michael of Kent and Ambassador Anthony Miceli Demajo. Elizabeth Cremona is seen in the background



SMOM

A reception to commemorate the feast day of the patron saint of the **SOVEREIGN MILITARY ORDER OF MALTA** was recently hosted by the Ambassador of the Order, Prince Augusto Ruffo di Calabria, and his wife Princess Tana de Windisch Graetz.

The reception, attended by 400 prominent foreign personalities from the entrepreneurial world as well as the aristocracy, was held at the end of a weekend of fundraising events organised by the Sovereign Order and supported by Tiffany & Co.

During his speech Prince Augusto Ruffo said he was committed not only to strengthening relations between Malta and the Order but also to promoting the beautiful island and its varied patrimony, as well as that of its monuments and landmarks.

Among the distinguished guests were President Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca, Archbishop Emeritus Paul Cremona, Chief Justice Joseph Azzopardi and various members of the bench, MPs, including Evarist Bartolo, Deo DeBattista and the Leader of the Opposition Adrian Delia, various ambassadors and members of the Maltese Association of the Order led by their president, Marchesino Daniel de Petri Testaferrata.

The Prince and Princess Michael of Kent, who participated in the fundraising weekend, were also present. At the reception, they were entertained to Neapolitan music accompaniment by the Italian folk group Scialapopolo.

MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER
The Journal of the
Maltese Diaspora



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previous issues?
No worries!!!!**



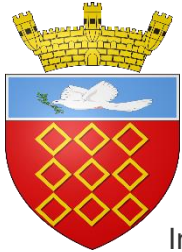
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ABOUT TOWN: ZEBBUG (MALTA)

One of the oldest towns in Malta oozes charm on every street corner, and is also the proud birthplace of several key cultural and historical figures. - Adriana Bishop

A BRIEF HISTORY OF ZEBBUG



Zebbug may not feature on traditional guide books as it doesn't have any museums or attractions in the traditional sense. Zebbug, whose name means olives in Maltese (in reference to the large olive groves that once grew there), was as important as both Mdina and Valletta during the time of the Knights of St John, so much so that Grand Master Emmanuel de Rohan-Polduc elevated it to the status of a city, and granted it the grand title of *Citta Rohan* in 1777.

In gratitude, the residents promised to build two triumphal arches in de Rohan's honour. However, due to technical difficulties, only half the promise was maintained, and only one arch was constructed at a cost of 1,000 scudi funded entirely by the residents and the parish church. Sadly, de Rohan did not live to see his arch completed, but it still stands proudly today, marking the entrance to the town's historic centre.



It is a testament to the town's ancient heritage that an archway built in the late 18th century would be nicknamed "the new gateway" (*il-Bieb il-Gdid*) by residents - and with good reason too! Zebbug is one of the oldest towns in Malta, born out of the merger of three communities that developed during the Arab occupation (870 - 1090), namely Hal Dwin, Hal Muxi and Hal Mula. Walking through the archway and up the avenue leads you directly to the heart of the town dominated by the parish church, which is dedicated to St Philip of Agira. The current church was built between 1599 and 1632, but stands on the site of a

previous, smaller church dating back to 1380.

A UNIQUE PARISH CHURCH



The church boasts a magnificent titular painting by the 17th century knight-artist Lucas Garnier, possibly the most important artist working in Malta between Caravaggio and Mattia Preti. It also features two spectacular murals by great 18th century painter of the Favray school Francesco Zahra, considered by most to be his best works. Other treasures include works of art by Guido Reni and Zebbug-born sculptor Antonio Sciortino.

But the *piece de resistance* is the titular statue of St Philip. Where other parishes have their patron saint statues carved out of

wood, the Zebbug residents upped the ante. In 1860 they managed to collect so much money between them that they decided to make the statue entirely out of solid silver. The stunning work of art was created by sculptor Luigi Fontana in 1864, and ranks as the most beautiful statue of its kind on the island. When it was completed, it was taken to the Vatican, where it was blessed by Pope Pius IX.

EXPLORE THE SURROUNDINGS

After feasting your eyes on the treasures of the church, catch your breath with some refreshments at one of the local cafes for a spot of people-watching in the town square, or pop into one of the three

band clubs for a cheap and cheerful snack. Then, meander down the picturesque alleyways of the old town to appreciate why houses of character are called thus. It's an architectural feast for the senses that will make you dream of relocating right there and then. Look out for the countless religious niches on the street corners and see if you can spot the windmill. Hint: there are no sails anymore, but the tell-tale round tower still stands above the square base.

If you're interested in still more religious architecture, Zebbug has no fewer than 13 chapels dotted around the city and the countryside just beyond the main road, mostly built in the 17th and 18th centuries, with the oldest one, dedicated to St Roque, built as far back as 1593.

In order to continue understanding Zebbug's importance in the island's history, we definitely recommend a visit to the Museum of Archaeology in Valletta - look out for pottery artefacts from the 'Zebbug phase'. The area yielded a kind of prehistoric pottery which had not been seen before. These archaeological findings were discovered in tombs in an area known as Ta' Trapna, and a scattering of Punic and Phoenician tombs were also found, together with a small number of cart ruts and other remains.

CLAIMS TO FAME

Today, Zebbug is home to the French Ambassador in what was known as Palazzo Manduca, directly behind the church. But Zebbug's connection with the French goes back to the French occupation of Malta (1798 - 1800) when the town was regarded as a Francophile community. The story goes that while local churches were being plundered for their riches in order to fund Napoleon's campaign, the Zebbug residents managed to save their church's treasures by throwing the church doors wide open, thus tricking the French into thinking there was nothing worth stealing there. In fact, the quick thinking residents had already hidden all the church's gold and silver iconography, and when the French saw the open doors, they kept on going.

Zebbug got its 15 minutes of fame on the silver screen when it featured in the 1928 silent movie *The Marquis of Bolibar* directed by Walter Summer and starring 1920s and 30s film icon Elissa Landi. Up to 1,000 Maltese extras took part in the film, in what was only one of the first ever feature films to be shot in Malta. In the film, Zebbug (and Mdina) doubled up as a Spanish town in 1812 during Napoleon's peninsular campaign.

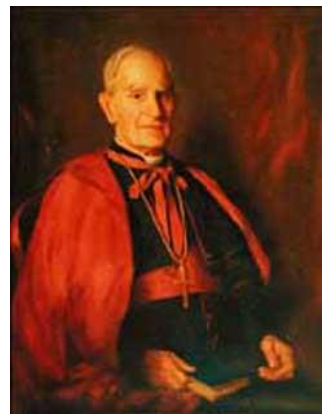
HOME OF THE GREATS



Mikiel Anton Vassalli

Before leaving Zebbug, stop to admire the monument to **Mikiel Anton Vassalli** (1764 - 1829) perched on the roundabout in front of the De Rohan arch, another masterpiece by celebrated sculptor Anton Agius. One of Zebbug's most famous sons, Vassalli was a writer, philosopher and linguist who published important books about the Maltese language "purifying" it of Italian influences and reviving it as a national language.

Finally, Zebbug was also the birthplace of Malta's national poet **Dun Karm Psaila** (1871 - 1961) who penned the Maltese national anthem. In fact, the house where he was born still stands today in the heart of the city. Other prominent sons of Zebbug



Dun Karm Psaila



Nicolo Isouard

include **composer Nicolo Isouard**, the 18th century Maltese patriot **Dun Mikiel Scerri** who was executed in 1799 for his involvement in an unsuccessful revolt to overthrow the French, and Bishop **Francesco Saverio Caruana**, who was the commander of the Zebbug and Siggiewi battalions during the French revolt.



*Bishop Francesco
Caruana*

**Solemn Feast of the Assumption
of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Saturday 18th August 2018
Starts 2.00 p.m.**

Rosary Procession, Holy Mass and Benediction
Presentation of Children to Our Lady

Register to receive A commemorative certificate signed by the Vicar General

**Eucharistic Celebration led by
Mgr. Greg Bennett MS STL VG
Vicar General for the Archdiocese of Melbourne**

Music Ministry by Bernadette Dique & Friends

This Concelebrated Thanksgiving Mass
will mark the occasion of the **Diamond
Jubilee of the Ordination to the Priesthood**
of

Mgr. Benedict Camilleri

made a servant of the Church by God on 13. 4. 1958

So... Come and Celebrate with us

Mary, our Heavenly Mother awaits your visit

Afternoon Tea and light refreshment will be
served in the Pilgrim's hall then after

OUR LADY TA PINU SHRINE

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15 Flanagans Drive, Bacchus Marsh
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We are pleased to announce that
the Vicar General of the
Archdiocese of Melbourne, Msgr
Greg Bennett will be leading the
service at our Thanksgiving Mass.
SO SAVE the DATE!!! Saturday
18th August 2018

This Eucharistic Thanksgiving
Celebration features:

The traditional Blessing of Children
and at the end of mass, each child
will be presented with a
commemorative certificate signed by
the Vicar General

**This celebration also marks the
Diamond Jubilee of the ordination
to priesthood of Msgr Benedict
Camilleri, current Director and
Founder of Ta Pinu Shrine
Australalia. He was ordained 13th
April 1958.**

A commemorative decade Rosary
will be presented to each family
attending the service

Join us for prayer, fellowship and
learning as we are drawn to Jesus
through Mary.



**The Maltese Community
Council of Victoria**

Wishes to advise that it organising
A Cocktail Party

To Celebrate the 60th Anniversary
Of the establishment of the MCCV in 1958
On Saturday the 21st July 2018 at 7.00pm.

At the Maltese Community Centre 477 Royal Parade, Parkville.

Community Awards for 2017 will also be presented.

If you wish to attend, please ring the MCCV on 9387 8922

And ask for Irene, Rita Pullicino, or Joe Stafrace for your reservation.

Your attendance on this occasion will be appreciated
and provide an opportunity to meet old friends.

Donation \$25.00 Dress Code – Cocktail / Smart Casual

Mass at 6.00pm will be held at St Paul's Chapel, Parkville on the day.

ST. PAUL'S BAY

COAT OF ARMS

The wavy blue lines (blazoned fess wavy) upon the silver field are often used in heraldry to represent water; in this case the bay of St. Paul. The viper, which is rarely used as a heraldic device in Malta, is strongly attributed this saint who is said to have been shipwrecked on a small island in the bay:

Paul gathered a pile of brushwood and, as he put it on the fire, a viper, driven out by the heat, fastened itself on his hand [...] But Paul shook the snake off into the fire and suffered no ill effects. (Acts 28, v. 3-6)

Like the viper, the sword also serves as a symbol of St. Paul. It indicates the manner of his martyrdom, which in his case was beheading by the sword.



ARALDIKA
MALTA

araldikamalta.org

TAS-SLIEMA

COAT OF ARMS

Sliema is at the entrance of a harbour, where a statue of Our Lady stood to greet mariners and travellers into a safe haven. This is the reason why this town bears its name, *Sliem* being the Maltese word for 'peace'.

Through the efforts of Mgr. Dr. Luigi Fernandez LL.D., the Parish Church of Stella Maris (Our Lady Star of the Sea) was the first Church to be built in Sliema. Our Lady represented the bright star leading seafarers safely into the harbour, which serves as the reason why a star (four pointed mullet) may be found on Sliema's coat of arms.

Blazon - *Per pale Argent and Gules a mullet of four points counterchanged.*

Motto - *Celer ad Oras Surgo (hastily from the coast arisen).*



ARALDIKA
MALTA



araldikamalta.org



Try your hand at mosaics with Mary Portelli in Marsalforn event

BY GOZO NEWS · JULY 8, 2018

Later this month there will be the opportunity to try your hand at mosaic work at an event taking place in Marsalforn.

Marsal Muzajk, will be returning for the third year – last year it attracted hundreds of passers-by of all ages helped out on mosaic tiles.

This popular event is organised by Mary Portelli of Gozo Mosaic, with the collaboration of the Culture Office and Gozo College.

Mary is inviting everyone to drop by and join her and students from the Gozo College in making mosaic panel tiles for a public stairs, which will eventually be used in the renovation of public stairs in Marsalforn. Marsal Muzajk is taking place in Triq il-Port, Marsalforn, on Saturday, the 21st of July starting at 8.00pm until 11.00pm.



Riflessi Sajfin 2018: Share your talent with the public

The 27th edition of Riflessi Sajfin, is being hosted by the OASI Foundation next month in Marsalforn.

This year the 3-hour festival of entertainment for all the family will be staged at Triq il-Plejjū – which runs along the end of the main car park in Marsalforn – on Saturday, the 4th of August from 8pm onwards.

Applications are now open for anyone who has the talent to sing or dance and would like to share it with the public. To book your place

please call OASI on 21563333 during office hours



NAAFI outlet at Castile Valletta - Malta



A PICTURE SAYS A THOUSAND WORDS



VILLA BOLOGNA - ATTARD

Villa Bologna was commissioned by Fabrizio Grech in 1745, at the height of the Baroque period in Malta. It is contemporary with the Auberge de Castille in Valletta and the Selmun Palace in Mellieħa. At the time, Malta was in the hands of the Sovereign Military Order of St John and ruled over by the Portuguese Grand Master Manoel Pinto de Vilhena. Fabrizio Grech occupied the powerful position of 'Uditore' or legal adviser. He became one of the Grand

Master's closest confidantes and accumulated great wealth.

His daughter, Maria Teresa, married Nicola Perdicomati Bologna, eldest son of the first Count de La Catena. When the marriage was announced society mocked the Uditore for having wealth but no class and not even a decent family home. Not one to be snubbed, Fabrizio Grech built Villa Bologna to give to his daughter as a wedding present. He certainly succeeded: classified as a Grade 1 National Monument, Villa Bologna is as impressive now as it must have been when it was built in the 1740s. The main villa and Baroque garden date from this early period. The second important phase in the development of Villa Bologna came in the 1920's. By then Villa Bologna had been inherited by Lord Strickland, one of Malta's first Prime Ministers and a dominant figure in Maltese politics in the first half of the 20th century. A descendant of Nicola Perdicomati Bologna through his mother's line, Strickland's first wife, Lady Edeline, died in 1915 and in 1926 he married Margaret Hulton, an English publishing heiress. She became the second Lady Strickland and spent her time between Sizergh Castle in England, her house in Holland Park in London and Villa Bologna in Malta. She was a very keen gardener and immediately set about designing a new garden at the back of the villa. Inspired by Villa Frere in Malta and La Mortola in Italy, these 'new gardens' are a magical combination of Italian elegance and English restraint.

With the addition of these new gardens, Villa Bologna more than doubled in size and now also incorporated an old farm at the far end of the garden which became the stable block where Lady Strickland kept her racehorses. The entire estate was surrounded by a high crenellated wall where narrow ramparts are interrupted by turrets and watchtowers. This iconic crenellated façade of Villa Bologna stretches half way down San Anton Street, from the American Ambassador's residence to the President's Kitchen Garden. The Villa is now the home of Gerald de Trafford, Lord Strickland's grandson. In 2009 his son, Jasper de Trafford, moved back to Malta to take over the management of the estate.

Visiting Villa Bologna - Since opening its door to the public earlier this year, Villa Bologna has become a popular destination for garden lovers and tourists with an interest in Malta's rich cultural history. Entrance to the gardens is through the pottery shop, housed in the Villa's old stables at the far end of the garden (next door to San Anton Palace). This is Malta's oldest working pottery where every piece is hand-made and hand painted. From the shop visitors can pick up a booklet with a map and information on the history of the Villa and the colourful characters who lived there, including Lord Strickland, one of Malta's early Prime Ministers, and his politician daughter Mabel Strickland who ran Malta's leading newspaper for half a century.

Once within the Villa's walls you will discover a world far removed from the bustle of Malta's tourist traffic. Take your time wandering through the Villa's sprawling gardens through centuries-old citrus orchards and past majestic fountains and luscious lawns. Discover the vegetable garden, cactus garden and sunken pond or delve underground into the family's private air raid shelter, hewn from the rock on the eve of the World War II. Villa Bologna is located in the historic village of Attard, in the geographic centre of Malta. It can be reached very easily by public transport or by the 'hop on hop off' tourist buses. The Villa is in San Anton Street, across the road from the Presidential Palace of San Anton and adjacent to the President's Kitchen Garden. <http://old.culturemalta.org/57/87/Villa-Bologna>

Interesting Places at Dingli



Traditional music and costumes add life to the mediaeval site of is-Simblija

Is-Simblija is a medieval holding composed of a number of partly hewn caves, a number of man-made structures including a chapel, and a variety of irrigation systems. The restoration was funded through the ARAMIS project (Arab Mills and Irrigation Systems in the Mediterranean Basin) which is part of the Raphael programme of the European Union. Work was undertaken by the Works Department and on completion the site was passed on to FWA, which is now responsible for its maintenance. FWA volunteer Joseph Magro contributed an important role in this project along with Professors Mario Buhagiar, Alain Blondy and Paul Saliba, archaeologist within the Restoration Unit of the Works Division.

In the sixteenth century the tenement at *Simblija* was a *viridarium* in the possession of the physician and popular hero Joseph Callus who in 1561 was convicted of high treason and condemned to death. As a result this property was confiscated and came to form part of the Grand Master's estates. It was administered by the *Veneranda Assemblea* of Conventual Chaplains, hence the name "*tas-Simblija*" which could very well be a corruption of the original term. The site contains a number of natural caves in which farmers would have lived and a chapel dedicated to St. Nicholas (desecrated in 1575 by the Apostolic delegate Mgr. Duzina). One of the larger caves is known to have served as a *centimo* (animal drawn mill). In the vicinity there is a kitchen in a state of ruin. The importance of the site is also connected with early forms of water irrigation - *Sienja tal-Miexi* - (rotating wheels driven by blindfolded beasts). The beasts normally resided in an adjacent cave. The mill was still in use up to the early 20th century.

The location of this site has not changed much over the years. It is still an idyllic one with lush green and peaceful scenery. FWA intends to keep this site as it is although regularly maintained.

DINGLI - Dingli (or Had-Dingli) is a village on the west coast of Malta, with a population of 3,400 persons, 13 kilometres from the capital Valletta and two kilometres from the nearest city, Rabat. The village lies on a plateau some 250 metres above sea level, which is the highest point of Malta. The area provides not only open sea views over the tiny, uninhabited isle of Filfla, but also an excellent vantage point over Malta. From the cliffs there are views inland of nearby Buskett Gardens and Verdala Palace. The countryside here is ideal for walking.



St. Domenica Church fell under the jurisdiction of the Mdina Cathedral until it was declared a parish prior to 1436. A 1531 letter from Rome had nominated Matteo de Surdo as the new Parish Priest for the Church. In 1624 when Grand Master De Paule divided the island into districts, Dingli was joined to Hal Tartarni as one village. The present church of Santa Domenica is *juspatronatus* and was built in 1669 by the Inguanez family, in the back garden of a house called *Djar il-Bniet* - House for the Girls. It is located on *Triq il-Ghajj*. This church had a cemetery for unbaptized babies. The chapel was recently restored by the Baron and Baroness Carmel Apap Bologna of Mdina.

ROMAN BATHS AT TA' BANDLU



Roman Baths were revealed in a location close to Misrah Suffara, called Ta' Baldu, probably a corruption of the name Teobald. They were first mentioned by Dr A. Caruana in 1882. (The site is characterized by two oblong farmhouses possibly dating to the 17th century.) Both farmhouses are typical of vernacular architecture and are found within a rural setting that has until 2004 remained mostly unchanged for the past 300 hundred years. Close to the farmhouses are a number of rubble walls, some of exceptional workmanship and soaring up to 5m in height.

Within the ridge beneath the farmhouses are a number of differently sized caves. Amongst these a rock-cut chamber believed to have served as a bathing place during the Early-modern period, and another larger cave containing water reservoirs, the date '1629' inscribed on one of the rock walls, a stone table and benches, and a Roman olive crusher (trapetum). The presence of this trapetum implies the existence of a Roman rustic villa in the vicinity. Between 1664 and 1665, a German traveler called Schellinkx described and published an illustration of the afore-mentioned features, which are still extant on site, though their conservation in-situ has now become under threat owing to the ongoing development taking place without any regard to permit requirements and best practice in conservation. The second farmhouse is being restored according to planning permit conditions and approved restoration method statement.

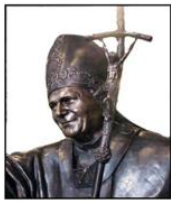


UNDERGROUND WW2 SHELTERS

Dingli is a locality with a number of underground World War II shelters. Located away from bombardment hot spots, thousands of refugees fled to Dingli. There are 13 shelters that were probably hewn by the government for the people. Complex number seven is found in one of the grounds of St Nicholas College, in Dingli's Primary School. It was cleaned by the local council and number of volunteers led by Camilleri.

Mario

Clive Sammut and Godwin Hampton donated a number of war-related artefacts to be exhibited in the shelter. An open day was organised during Jum Had-Dingli 2008 and amongst the war exhibits on site, one could admire part of an aeroplane, a cannon, a rifle, a motorbike and gas masks amongst other exhibits. The shelter was excavated after Italy had declared war on Great Britain, on the 10th June 1940. It was closed after the war and had remained untouched for over five decades. Source: www.dingli.gov.mt



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Region of GOZO

Republic of MALTA (E.U.)

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Press Release

The Amery Hill School Choir and Band from the UK will be performing a concert in three different venues in Malta and Gozo; Monday 16th July 2018 a concert will take place in Gozo at the locality of Ta' Sannat, starting at 20.00hrs on the church terrace. This event is being sponsored by the Ta' Sannat Local Council.

On Wednesday 18th July the choir and band will performing in Malta at the locality of Paola starting at 20.00hrs on the church terrace.



Information about the Amery Hill School Amery Hill School is a secondary school in Alton Hampshire, holding about 1000 students from 11-16 age. Since 2009, the Department of Music developed the opportunities for students to experience a variety of music and extracurricular. The Department was awarded a special recognition from Hampshire Music Service for the music department and more recently have been awarded Music Mark for the department.

The Department of Music offers a variety of instrumental and vocal groups which rehearse on a weekly basis creating a term's concert. Also the Department do some

competitions and local events with various groups. In recent years they have won the Farnham Festival and Basingstoke Arts Festival with the Choir. The Amery Hill School Music Department have been on tour four times in Holland, Spain and New York taking instrumentalists and choirs to showcase their work.

A small group of 33 students contains those in the choir, boys choir and instrumentalists from the small woodwind groups (Tutti Fluttie, Wacky Wind and Liquorice Sticks). From this they have developed a new tour vocal group and a small tour woodwind group just for tour.

They sing anything from traditional such as Kyrie and Adiemus to more feel easy songs such as Down By the Riverside, This Little Light of Mine, Wimoweh and Stand By Me. The woodwind group play a mixture of classical known tunes with a twist or upbeat jazzy themes to film music. Ghostbusters, Mixed Bag of Boogie, Send in the Clowns to especially composed piece by a student.

First Maltese fiction reader specifically created for people with dyslexia

Series tells the story of wizards and witches in a Maltese town

Flying on a broomstick is not as easy as it looks. You need to have a knack for it, position your legs and arms in a certain way, practice and practice some more. Of course, it can be very stressful if you belong to the Ta' Petut family, a brilliant long-time family of wizards, respected for their great sense of duty towards the community.

It is even more frustrating if your mother and your nanna are whiz at whizzing around on their broomstick. Sigh. This is the life of Pinzett, a trainee witch who lives with her mother and grandmother and her pet cat in Naxxar.

But one day, things change. Sam, a neighbour boy, who comes from a non-magical family, leaves a secret message for her. Rebus, the wicked wizard is planning on destroying all the Petuts. Oh no! Will her magical powers be enough to save her family? Will Sam, with his smart human skills help her?

Is-Shaħar ta' Petut is a brand new series about wizards and witches living side by side with mortals in a Maltese town, and the magical adventures they get up to. *Għand Rebus Total* is the first book in the series by Malta's bestselling author Clare Azzopardi.

Is-Shaħar ta' Petut, illustrated by Merlin's recent find, Deandra Scicluna, is in full colour throughout. It is perfectly levelled for children just starting to acquire confidence in reading: short chapters, engaging story and memorable characters. The book was featured on the *Times of Malta* as it is the first Maltese fiction reader for children with a font designed specifically for people with dyslexia. International scientists have now created Easy Reading, a font backed by extensive research and testimonials from foreign children's publishers.

Merlin Publishers lost no time in adopting it for this enchanting story aimed at children aged between seven and nine. *Is-Shaħar ta' Petut* is published in flexi-binding, making it more durable for summer days by the beach.

www.merlinpublishers.com

