



Maltese e-Newsletter



The Journal of the Maltese Diaspora

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21 SEPTEMBER



JUM I-INDIPENDENZA
Independence Day



Malta Independence Day
is held on September 21st.
It is one of a number of Malta's
national holidays celebrating its
independence which also
include Freedom Day
and Republic Day.





Overpopulated Malta like Barcelona, Venice, Pozzallo and Singapore by David Hudson

'We need to learn how to live together... in small overcrowded places, we do not remain very human', says education minister Evarist Bartolo

Malta has turned into a cocktail of metropolises and border towns like Barcelona, Venice, Pozzallo and Singapore, "roiling in a pressure cooker", education minister Evarist Bartolo told an audience of mixed migrant communities.

"When there are humans living in a small overcrowded place, we do not remain very human," Bartolo said of Malta's over-population phenomenon, with 3 million tourists coming to the island, 4,000 new workers every year, immigration from Libya and the EU. "These are already formidable issues in the implications of learning to live together," he said.

Speaking at a conference hosted by the Foundation for Shelter and Support to Migrants, Bartolo pledged better communication with migrant communities, and suggested a network for authorities to meet the migrant community before any crisis point is reached. The director of the Human Rights and Integration Directorate, Silvan Agius, was part of a panel that addressed the integration of migrants in Malta.

"For the first time Malta is taking the Human Rights response to integration. This is something we don't talk enough about," Agius said, adding that Malta had to face up to its own shortcomings. "Teaching migrants English and not Maltese is one example of a bad approach. It's time for a human rights approach."

"We need to win the hearts and minds of those people in positions of power who are not yet convinced that this is something they want to invest time and energy in," Agius told his audience. "Tell us not what we should do but how you want to collaborate with us to make things right."

Amsa Dekna, representing the Libyan community NGO Libico, said there was an influx of university-educated Libyans who were however unable to meet Maltese requirements for work and study, and had moved away to the UK. "Malta is losing so many valuable people because we are unable to include them in the education system," she said.

"Many of the migrants I spoke to want to go back home as soon as everything settles down," she said. "They feel they are continuously on hold here. The reason why they stay here for as long as they do is because they are trapped here because of the barriers they face."

Pakistani Alliance president Prince Aftab echoed Dekna's sentiments. "The nurses that come from Pakistan and the Philippines are not allowed to be considered as having an MQF level 5 education," he said. "Authorities are not accepting their diplomas."

He said that while Malta had a shortage of nurses there were hundreds of qualified migrant nurses and doctors living in Malta. "They are working as carers, not nurses, even though they are qualified. They should be allowed to go through a short course that would help them achieve the status of a registered nurse. After all, we would be helping the health sector considerably."

Bartolo however said one of the weaknesses in Maltese educational culture was the lack of a process to recognised skills without necessarily having the papers to show the qualification. "Recognition of prior learning is an issue for Maltese students as well."

He said universities and colleges in migrants' countries of origin often fail to back up claims of qualifications. But he said Filipino authorities had been informed about Malta's MQF level 5. "There are things that we still need to learn. This is a new reality for us too, it's a learning process."

Speaking to MaltaToday, Bartolo said unskilled migrants also posed a problem. "They are coming of their own accord because they might see opportunities here which they do not have at home. Their relevant skills and whether they find work depends really on the labour market. This is part of the process of market mobility."

The National Literary Agency is working to ensure migrants learn Malta and their children can go to schools in the afternoon to learn English and Maltese.

21 September - Malta Independence Day History

Malta Independence Day celebrates Malta's independence from Britain and the start of the island nation's parliamentary democracy. Prior to 21 September 1964, Malta had been under British rule since the early 1800s. However, after independence in 1964, the British Monarch remained the head of state under the new parliamentary system until Malta became a Republic ten years later. Malta then joined the *Commonwealth of Nations* and has since maintained ties with Britain. Malta Independence Day is held on September 21st. It is one of a number of Malta's national holidays celebrating its independence which also include Freedom Day and Republic Day.

Malta Independence Day Facts & Quotes In 1530, Pope Clement III granted Malta to the Order of St. John who remained on the island until Napoleon Bonaparte invaded in 1798 and expelled the Order.

The British arrived in 1800 and helped the Maltese people oust the French.

The British would then remain on the island until 1974.

Malta uses the Euro currency ever since it joined the European Union in 2004.

Before that the nation used the Maltese Lira.

Over 90% of the Maltese population is Roman Catholic and

the nation is home to some 365 churches. That's 1 church per 1100 people!

Malta Independence Day Top Events and Things to Do Attend the Malta Independence Day celebration at the parliament building and open theatre.

The area represents freedom, democracy and liberty and it is the ideal place to celebrate Malta's independence.

Enjoy a typical Maltese dish. Try Lampuki pie (fish pie), bragioli (beef olives), kapunata (like Ratatouille) or helwa tak-tork (crushed sweet almonds). Attend the Malt Independence Day parade.

Many flags are flown and a full band plays during the parade, which marches throughout the capital city. It is a patriotic display that reinforces Malta's freedom and pride as an independent nation.

History of Malta for everyone

The history of the Maltese Islands is rich and varied. In fact, its 7000 years of history date back to 5200BC and start with the arrival of man.

Subsequent important dates include St Paul's Shipwreck in 60AD, which marked the arrival of Christianity to the Islands, the Great Siege in 1565, Malta gaining Independence from Britain in 1964, becoming a Republic in 1974 and the joining of the European Union in 2004.



PRE-HISTORY Pottery found at Skorba resembles that found in Italy, and suggests that the Maltese islands were first settled in 5200 BC mainly by stone age hunters or farmers who had arrived from the larger island of Sicily. Pottery from the Ghar Dalam phase is similar to pottery found in Agrigento, Sicily. A culture of megalithic temple builders then either supplanted or arose from this early period. During 3500 BC, these people built some of the oldest existing, free-standing structures in the world in the form of the megalithic Ggantija temples on Gozo; other early temples include those at Hagar Qim and Mnajdra.

After 2500 BC, the Maltese Islands were depopulated for several decades until the arrival of a new influx of Bronze Age immigrants, a culture that cremated its dead and introduced smaller megalithic structures called dolmens to Malta.



GREEKS, PHOENICIANS AND ROMANS - At around 700 BC, the Ancient Greeks settled on Malta. A century later, inhabited the area now known as Mdina, and its surrounding town of Rabat, which they called Maleth. The Romans, who also lived in Mdina, referred to it (and the island) as Melita. During the First Punic War of 264 BC, tensions led the Maltese people to rebel against Carthage and turn control of their garrison over to the Roman consul Sempronius. Malta remained loyal to Rome during the Second Punic War.

By 117 AD, the Maltese Islands were a thriving part of the Roman Empire, being promoted to the status of Municipium under Hadrian. Catacombs in Rabat testify to an early Christian community on the islands, and the Acts of the Apostles recount the shipwreck of St Paul and his ministry on the island.

When the Roman Empire split into Eastern and Western divisions in the 4th century, Malta fell under the control of the Greek speaking Byzantine Empire from 395 to 870, which ruled from Constantinople.

THE ARAB PERIOD AND THE MIDDLE AGES - Malta was involved in the Byzantine-Arab Wars, and the conquest of Malta is closely linked with that of Sicily. In 870 AD, following a violent struggle against the occupying Byzantines, the Arab invaders, looted and pillaged the island, destroying the most important buildings, and leaving it practically uninhabited until it was recolonised by the Arabs from Sicily in 1048–49 AD. The Arabs introduced new irrigation, some fruits and cotton and the Siculo-Arabic language was adopted on the island from Sicily: it would eventually evolve into the Maltese language.

The Norman period was productive; Malta became part of the newly formed Kingdom of Sicily which also covered the island of Sicily and the southern half of the Italian Peninsula. The Catholic Church was re-instated as the state religion with Malta under the See of Palermo and some Norman architecture sprung up around Malta especially in its ancient capital Mdina. Malta fell under the rule of the Aragonese in 1282. Relatives of the kings of Aragon ruled the island until 1409, when it passed to the Crown of Aragon.



KNIGHTS OF MALTA AND NAPOLEON In 1530 Emperor Charles V gave the islands to the Knights Hospitaller under the leadership of Frenchman Philippe de Villiers de L'Isle-Adam, Grand Master of the Order, in perpetual lease. These knights, a military religious order now known as the Knights of Malta, had been driven out of Rhodes by the Ottoman Empire in 1522. In 1551, Barbary corsairs enslaved the entire population of the Maltese island Gozo, about 5,000, deporting them to the Barbary coast.

The knights, led by Frenchman Jean Parisot de la Valette, Grand Master of the Order, withstood a siege by the Ottomans in 1565. The knights, with the help of the Maltese, were victorious, and speaking of the battle Voltaire said, "Nothing is better known than the siege of Malta." After the siege they decided to increase Malta's fortifications, particularly in the inner-harbour area, where the new city of Valletta, named in honour of Valette, was built. They also established watchtowers along the coasts – the Wignacourt, Lascaris and de Redin towers – named after the Grand Masters who ordered the work. The Knights' presence on the island saw the completion of many architectural and cultural projects, including the embellishment of Città Vittoriosa, the construction of new cities including Città Rohan and Città Hompesch and the introduction of new academic and social resources. The Knights' reign ended when Napoleon captured Malta on his way to Egypt during the French Revolutionary Wars in 1798. Over the years, the power of the Knights declined and the Order became

unpopular. Napoleon Bonaparte's fleet arrived in 1798, en route to his expedition of Egypt. As a ruse towards the Knights, Napoleon asked for safe harbour to resupply his ships, and then turned his guns against his hosts once safely inside Valletta. Grand Master Hompesch capitulated, and Napoleon entered Malta. After sailing for Egypt, leaving a substantial garrison in Malta, the French forces left behind became unpopular with the Maltese, due particularly to the French forces' hostility towards Catholicism and pilaging of local churches to fund Napoleon's War. The French financial and religious policies angered the Maltese who rebelled, forcing the French to retreat within the city fortifications. Great Britain, along with the Kingdom of Naples and the Kingdom of Sicily, sent ammunition and aid to the Maltese and Britain also sent her navy, which blockaded the islands.

General Claude-Henri Belgrand de Vaubois surrendered his French forces in 1800. Maltese leaders presented the island to Sir Alexander Ball, asking that the island become a British Dominion. The Maltese people created a Declaration of Rights in which they agreed to come "under the protection and sovereignty of the King of the free people, His Majesty the King of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland".

British Empire and World War II - In 1814, as part of the Treaty of Paris, Malta officially became a part of the British Empire and was used as a shipping way-station and fleet headquarters. Malta's position half-way between the Strait of Gibraltar and the Suez Canal proved to be its main asset during these years and it was considered an important stop on the way to India. This was an important trade route for the British and thus, the Maltese people took great advantage of this alliance as several culinary and botanical products were introduced in Malta. In 1919 British troops fired on a rally protesting against new taxes, killing four Maltese men. The event, known as Sette Giugno (Italian for 7 June), is commemorated every year and is one of five National Days.

During World War II, Malta played an important role owing to its proximity to Axis shipping lanes. The bravery of the Maltese people during the second Siege of Malta moved King George VI to award the George Cross to Malta on a collective basis on 15 April 1942 "to bear witness to a heroism and devotion that will long be famous in history".



PRESS RELEASE – ŻANŻAN KELMA MALTESE SPELLING BEE IN SPAZJU KREATTIV, VALLETTA

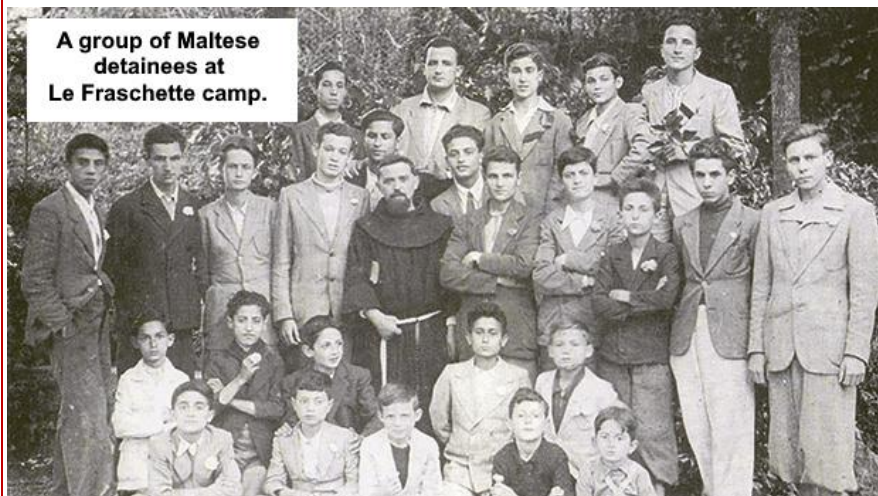
On Wednesday, the 19th of September, Għaqda tal-Malti – Università will be organising its second edition of the Spelling Bee in Maltese in Spazju Kreattiv, Valletta, from 18:00 to 20:00. This will take the form of a competition for children

between 8 and 13 years old, split between two sessions; the first for children who are between 8 and 10 years old, and the second session for children between 11 and 13 years old.

The participants of each session shall be on stage, taking it in turns to spell a given word. If a word is spelled right, the participant is given a point, if not, the word does not go to the next participant, but s/he is given a new word. All the words shall be spontaneous. The first 3 winners in each session shall be given a set of books, sponsored to us by Merlin Publishers, as well as a certificate of participation. So as to ensure that the words are indeed spelled correctly, some members of Għaqda tal-Malti – Università will be with us as jury. The event shall be presented by Malta's favourite duo, Danusan. We encourage the public to apply for this event so that we may promote Maltese in an innovative way. This is an ancillary event, to be followed by the European Day of Languages celebration on the 22nd of September in St Anne's Square in Sliema, between 19:00 and 21:00. In collaboration with the European Commission Representation in Malta and Spazju Kreattiv. **Sephora Francalanza** *President*

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=849154718607815&ref=br_rs.

Last of the 'Tripolini': how 2,000 Maltese were imprisoned in fascist Italy WW2 camps



A group of Maltese detainees at Le Fraschette camp.

A Television Malta documentary has tracked down survivors and children from the over 2,000 Maltese nationals who in 1942 were forcibly removed from Tripoli in Libya, where their families had migrated, to concentration camps in Italy for refusing to renounce their British citizenship.

"My sister was raped by German soldiers," one survivor has told the journalist Mario Xuereb, who travelled to Italy to the Fraschette concentration camp and searched for

documentation on the Maltese, and to Australia where many of the internees later migrated.

"They were told they could regain their liberty by becoming Fascist sympathisers," Xuereb says. "Most of them stayed loyal, but that loyalty was hardly repaid."

A new Television Malta documentary will reveal in stunning detail the extent of the forced internment of the Maltese migrants of Tripoli during World War II, when they were transported en masse to Italian concentration camps under fascist command, and later under Nazi German soldiers.

Mario Xuereb, the journalist who has unearthed the documentation with the names of the internees, travelled to Canada and Australia to meet survivors of the camps, to discover stories of exploitation, death, and the hopelessness of the migrants when they were finally freed by the Allies.

"It is a forgotten story, because the migrants in this saga never returned to Malta: they found nothing waiting for them in Tripoli when they returned, they lost everything, and they had nothing to go back to in Malta. They remained in 'exile'," Xuereb says of his research and encounters with survivors of the Fraschette camp, in Alatri, province of Frosinone in the region of Lazio.

Perhaps one of the most disconcerting parts of the saga of Maltese migrants from Tripoli, is the role played by Carlo Mallia, the former Unione Politica Maltese minister who left Malta to lead the Irredentist Maltese Group during World War II.

By 1911, Tripolitania and the Cyrenaica had been taken under Italian control. Maltese migrants in Tripoli had been long established since the 1800s. "A thriving business community coexisted peacefully with Libyans and Italians at the time," Xuereb says. The Maltese were a community of merchants, shopkeepers, builders, bakers, fishermen, and other business trades. They jealously preserved spoken Maltese. And during the 1911 Italian invasion, the Maltese remained neutral, maintaining good relations with both the Arabs and with the Italians.

But this peaceful coexistence started being undermined as fascist influence in Libya started engaging in a campaign of obstruction, to encourage Maltese subjects to renounced their British citizenship. The Maltese migrants would be monitored by Italian police, occasionally jailed, and even excluded from social functions.

When on 10 June, 1940, Italy entered the war, already several Maltese migrants had been placed under arrest and jailed by the Italian secret police. These were the first security measures undertaken to expel from

Tripoli some 60 Maltese, who were arrested and taken to the prisons in Tripoli. Amongst the first were people like Carmelo Cini, whose son Romeo would later recount in sheer detail the ordeal of the Maltese in the Italian concentration camp of Frascette.

But it was in January 1942 that the relocation of over 2,000 migrants – practically the entire Maltese community – began.



Mario Xuereb meets former Maltese internees and other members of the Tripolini community in Australia – they gather every Wednesday at the Tripoli Social Club in Melbourne

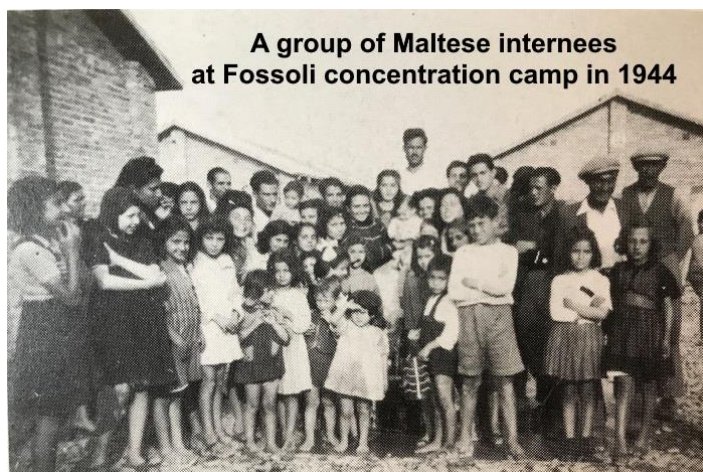
“The Maltese by then were being suspected of not collaborating with the Italians. The Italians were themselves usurping business contracts away from the Maltese, while the Maltese were being accused of spying on the Italians for the British crown. Slowly, slowly groups of migrants were being held under arrest outside Tripoli in concentration

camps, until finally they were all sent to Italy,” Mario Xuereb told MaltaToday.

On 15th January 1942, the entire community was placed under arrest and within two days, women, old people and children were taken to a school building with their suitcases. On the 18th January, the migrants were placed on three merchant ships – the Gino Allegri, the Nino Bixio and the Lerice – and left in very rough seas, passing through a Mediterranean sea that was littered with mines.

The migrants were reunited in Fiuggi, a tourist locality at the top of a mountain range, where they were placed inside the hotel Grande Albergo: the hotel had been closed for years, but taken under the control of the fascist bureaucracy to organise political internees. For days, the migrants were kept under quarantine, before being granted leave to stroll around the village. Some other migrants had been placed in boarding houses at Montecatini Terme and other localities in Tuscany.

According to the account of one survivor, Romeo Cini, the migrants were enjoying a comfortable life in Montecatini and Fiuggi in the days following their arrival in Italy. What they were unaware of, is that “a big concentration camp was being constructed in a valley surrounded by the mountains of the Ciocaria. The locality was in the neighbourhood of the small city of Alatri, at the foot of Fumone, a small village perched at the top of the mountain. The concentration camp was named Le Frascette. At that time, who of us could have imagined that soon we would all end up in that camp?”



A group of Maltese internees at Fossoli concentration camp in 1944

Maltin Internati fl-Italja – Storja Vera (Maltese Internees in Italy – A True Story) is a three-part documentary that reveals the so-far-unknown ordeal of these families during the war away from their place of birth. The first episode will air on Tuesday, September 25, on TVM at 9.30pm. The other two episodes will be broadcast on September 26 and 28.

IIP funds to partly contribute to new accommodation units in central London



The Individual Investor Programme of Malta will partly fund the provision of free accommodation to patients and their relatives travelling to the UK to receive treatment at the Great Ormond Hospital, the government said.

During the last four years, Malta's citizenship by investment applicants opted to help *Puttinu* through financial contributions that reached a total value of €1 million. Added to the €5 million contribution made through the National Development and Social Fund (NDSF), announced by the Prime Minister on Good Friday, these funds will help *Puttinu Cares* acquire premises in London to provide more accommodation units so that relatives of patients would be able to stay close to their loved ones and provide their much-needed support.

As outlined by CEO Rennie Zerafa and Vice-President Angele Cuschieri, *Puttinu Cares* aims to provide around 30 additional apartments in central London so that 80% of the patients that need to go the UK to receive medical assistance would be able to benefit from free accommodation and ease their minds from logistical issues.

Parliamentary Secretary for Reforms, Citizenship and Simplification of Administrative Processes Julia Farrugia Portelli, was in London to attend for the launch of the project which is estimated to cost around €20 million. *Puttinu Cares* shared their plans and invited developers based in the UK to come forward with their proposals. Submissions must reach *Puttinu Cares* by the end of October, following which a committee composed of industry experts headed by the same NGO will evaluate all proposals in hand. The selected bid will be announced at the beginning of 2019 with the aim to finalise the project by latest 2020.

The event was also attended by President of Malta Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca, who gave her full support to this noble cause that is so close to the heart of the Maltese community. The new High Commissioner for Malta in the UK Joseph Cole was also present.

"There is a reality behind the Citizenship by Investment Programme that is making a big difference in the lives of vulnerable people and is helping noble causes, which is hardly known by the public. IIP applicants are helping a lot of NGOs by providing regular financial contributions. To date IIP applicants have made around 600 donations, amounting to €3.6 million, to 99 entities, amongst which are *Puttinu Cares* which have received around €1 million", Parliamentary Secretary Julia Farrugia Portelli announced.

"The Individual Investor Programme is a citizenship by investment programme unlike any other. The main aim is to attract new investment, new talent, and families that genuinely want to become Maltese citizens. This initiative provides the opportunity to understand the Maltese culture and learn all about the traditions that are close to the heart of the Maltese", the Parliamentary Secretary said.

Through this initiative and many others that are happening daily, the citizenship by investment programme is leaving a very positive mark on the lives of the local community.

As usual this is so informative and so full of natural events It is good to be in touch with so many historical stories. I always get hooked on reading this newsletter. Keep up the good work, Frank. Everyone appreciates the amount of knowledge and historical stories that you impart. Keep up the good work. **Irene Cooper Gold Coast. Queensland Australia.**

Dr Charles Galdies Senior Lecturer, Institute of Earth Systems



Dr Charles Galdies is a lecturer with the Division of Environmental Management and Planning of the Institute of Earth Systems. He holds a doctoral degree in Remote Sensing and Geographical Information Systems from the University of Durham (U.K.). Dr Galdies studied ways to improve small-scale weather and ocean forecasting in the central Mediterranean region using novel remote sensing observations of the ocean and the atmosphere. He also has a Master of Science degree in Biology and a BSc in Biology and Chemistry, both from the University of Malta.

Dr Galdies previously served as Chief Meteorological Officer of the Malta Meteorological Office from 2007 to 2011, and Deputy Executive Director of the International Ocean Institute Headquarters. He is the Permanent Representative of the Government of Malta with the World Meteorological Organisation.

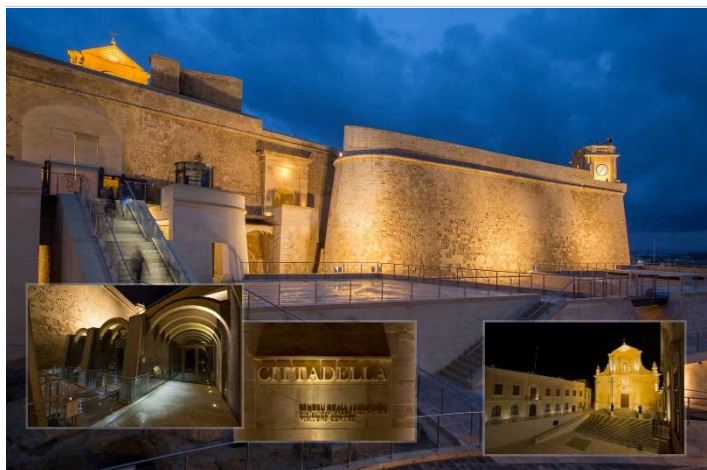
Dr Galdies' expertise focuses on weather and climate, the application of remote sensing for coastal, benthic and terrestrial ecological mapping, as well as environmental data processing and analysis. He has provided consultancy to the Food and Agriculture Organisation, the European Commission, the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and to private companies related to ecology and policy formulation.

Research interests: Weather forecasting and Atmospheric dynamics; Earth observation technology – Oceanic and atmospheric component & Land use cover and coastal water monitoring using medium and high resolution data; Numerical weather prediction – Improvement of initial conditions, Data assimilation, Model verification techniques, Geostatistics, High resolution NWP, High resolution modelling of oceanic surface fluxes; Geographic information system – Geostatistics and spatial analysis, Raster data analysis and image processing; Climate change impact – Long-term climatic changes of physical parameters over the Mediterranean region, Climate data rescue.



RegioStars Awards 2018

Finalist: Rehabilitation and restoration of Cittadella Gozo



Following the commissioning of a masterplan, the Ministry of Gozo has embarked on a project co-financed by the ERDF for the restoration and rehabilitation of the Cittadella based on the recommendations in the masterplan.

The project serves to enhance Gozo's cultural identity, boost the Fort's history and symbolic significance, thus to create a tourist node in the region. This immersive experience links this iconic fort to the historical milestones of the Centre of the Mediterranean and Europe.

Only one month left to vote for the Cittadella to win the prestigious RegioStars Award. To vote, go to http://ec.europa.eu/.../regio-stars-.../finalists_2018/cat5_fin2 and click on the ballot box. It's that simple!

MARIELLE SMITH - South Australia



As a Labor candidate for the Senate at the next Federal Election, Marielle Smith is passionate about representing South Australians. Mrs. Smith was invited as a special guest at the Malta National Day Dinner Dance by the Maltese Guild of South Australia.

Marielle is a professional public policy adviser by background, with diverse experience as an international policy adviser for the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, as an adviser on early childhood education and care to former Minister Kate Ellis MP and as a senior adviser to former Prime Minister Julia Gillard, Chair of the Global Partnership for Education and 'beyondblue'. Marielle holds a Masters of Science with Distinction in Public Policy and Administration from the London School of Economics and a first class honours degree from the Australian National University.

Marielle has a proven record in senior leadership through private and public sector board positions and in her family business. She has also volunteered her time to work with children who had been the victims of forced labour in

West Africa. Marielle lives in Adelaide with her husband and young son.

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The Journal of the Maltese Diaspora



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Malta's Most Haunted Spots - the Ghosts of Malta

These 6 creepy local legends.



VILLA SANS SOUCI – MARSAXLOKK - Constructed by Prof. Pisani in the 1870s, Villa Sans Souci is said to be haunted by a sense of dread. Pisani lived his days in Villa Sans Souci up until his passing, from a prolonged disease, in 1908. The villa was eventually sold by its heirs in 1940 to the Royal Air Force to serve as a base. Once the villa was abandoned, it became a target for vandals and thieves due to its prim architecture. Passers-by report hearing eerie noises being emitted from the villa during the day.

SPLENDID HOTEL – VALLETTA - Splendid Hotel has a quaint story attached to its walls. The hotel is located in Strait Street, a

street which was the pinnacle of prostitution and crime back in the 19th century. The hotel closed its doors in the late 60s due to a grisly murder. A prostitute was found stabbed to death in one of the rooms' bathrooms. The victim's spirit is said to walk the empty hallways of the hotel, haunting curious explorers. nowadays the space is used for art exhibitions by renowned names like comic con.

TELGHA T'ALLA W'OMMU – NAXXAR If you've ever driven across the Maltese islands, you've probably passed through Telgha t'Alla w'Ommu on the way to your destination. Accidents are continuously reported in the ascent. The accidents are associated, by the superstitious, to the wandering spirits that haunt the hill - asking drivers for a lift. The spirits are credited to an undated hit and run that supposedly occurred on the very same hilltop.

VERDALA PALACE – SIĠĠIEW The Verdala Palace is mostly renowned for being the President's Summer residence, but the uncanny know the location for other purposes. The Palace is said to be haunted by the Blue Lady, a woman who supposedly plummeted to her death from a window in the Verdala Palace due to her imminent arranged wedding. The spirit of the woman is seen roaming the palace in the blue dress it perished in from time to time. Visitors of the palace have also reported experiencing supernatural trouble with the doors of the palace.

MANOEL THEATRE - VALLETTA - Manoel Theatre is the pride and joy of the Maltese and happens to be Europe's third oldest functioning theatre. Actors, as well as audience members, have reportedly seen fog emerge from one of the seating boxes. Others have experienced slamming doors and drifting shadowed figures. The spirit is said to be called Rita - a beggar who inhabited the Manoel Theatre in the earlier days. It is said that

Rita fell to her death from one of the theatre's balconies as she fought to save her infant daughter from a stranger's hands.

DAR IX-XJATEN, MELLIEHA - Dar ix-Xjaten was claimed to have been built by the devil in a day (or three - depending on who's narrating the legend). The farmhouse initially served as a horse stable during the Knights' ruling. The farmhouse is said to be the devil's making due to its staircases creating the illusion of protruding horns. What's creepier about the location is that classical music echoes from the house in the evening. The farmhouse is recognised to be a national monument by the Malta Environment and Planning Authority. Don't let these legends scare you off, after all, they're only superstitions.



LI SSUQ TAHT IL-BAHAR jikteb Victor Vella (NSW)

Ahna ta l-Awstralja issa din drajnha li minghajr ma tuza il-Harbour Bridge tbaxxi rasek taghlaq itwieqi.... ghax ma tafx x'jinqala ... u tibqa ghaddej minn taht il-bahar, qisek m'intix int.. Il-Maltin qeghdin jistennew bil-herqa biex jaghmlu dan u bhalissa jekk ma bdewx ihaffru diga xtaqu jaghmlu bhalna biex jaqsmu il-fligu....le mhux bil-vapur imma bil-ferry... imma jghaddu minn taht il-bahar bla goggles u bla maskli. U jibqghu fil-karrozza!

U b'hekk jaqtghu dawk il-queues ta Santa Marija u tal-long weekends u tas-sajf u l-kjus jispicaw fuq il-gzira ta Ghawdex stess.

Meta taqsam il-fligu bil-bahar iva fil-vaganzi iddum ftit izjed imma ghandek cans titla fuq il-ferry, tipparkja l-karrozza li kultant fiha bicca xoghol. Imbaghad tmur tiehu kafe mal-hbieb u tiltaqa u tistenna u tiggosta lil Kemmuna ghaddejja wahedha wahedha fuq in-nahha tal-lemn,... wahedha u izolata, sabiha donnha tfajla li hadd ma jrid jaf biha. Donnha l-fustanija tat-tliet itfal li ma ghamlet xejn b'hajjitha u baqghet ma ipproduciet xejn...hlief xi ftit bebux. Forsi ahjar hekk ghax hi l-oazi ta ftit tal-paci li jserrhek qalb l-eluf ta Malta u issa ta Ghawdex !

Ghax bil-mina issir izjed facli li taqsam il-fligu u xejn xejn Malta tiehu r-ruh ghax tehles minn ftit eluf avolja ghal-ftit. U Ghawdex jintela bin-nies: it-traffiku jizdied, jizied il-hela tal-petrol li jhassar l-ambjent , jintlew u jifgaw il-bajjiet sbieh tar-Ramla l-Hamra , tad-Dwejra u x-Xlendi. Jintilef ukoll il-kwiet u s-solitudni jekk mhux ukoll il-hdura ta-Dahlet Qorrot u d-dahla kennija ta Marsalforn. . Iva jizdied il-kummerc ghal-min ghandu xi petrol station, jew xi restorant jew min jorganizza xi festival. Imma jintilef il-kwiet tac-Cittadella, u l-passeggati fil-kwiet sa Hondoq ir-Rummien jew sa Ras il-Qalgha jew fuq l-irdumijiet ta that l-Gharb b'dik ix-xena sabieha tal-Gebli tal-General li tahsdek x'hin tkun niezel mill-gholja u tahsibha xi huta mostru tillarja fl-ilma.

Nghid ghalija l-isbah haga ta Ghawdex hi l-kwiet u l-l-irhula zghar impercin fuq xi gholja jew imhaxknin ghar-rdoss f'xi wied u kollha imkebbin madwar il-knisja tal-parrocca b'xi erba bis-sidrija u bil-barbetti jittawlu minn tahtha imdawrin ma mejda zghira tonda jistriehe fuq siggijiet tas-saghda u jbillu grizmejjhom b'bela kafe jew tazza imbid ahmar li jimmarka ghax 'home made'. Bil-pjazza imhawra bir-riha ta l-istuffat tal-fenek jew ta l-ghagin il-forn mahmug li jtfahlek l-aptit ghax kollox jinxamm u jtieghem genwin.

Ghax i-sabieh ta Ghawdex bhal kull gzira zghira hu ic-cokon taghha li jickien u jintilef meta ssuq f'karrozza. Wahda mill-isbah tour li ghamilna darba f'Ghawdex kien tour biz-ziemel, ciklem ciklem, f'karrozzin....ghaddejjin bil-mod u maz-zeglig u t-tisfir u z-zaqziq tar-roti mejtin ghal naqra zejt, tinnota in-nies, l-arkitettura u l-iskultura tal-gebla Ghawdxija u tgawdi t-toroq dojoq flimkien ma dawk il-passaggi li huma mibnija u mfasslin minghajr pjani u ordnimhux bhal dawk tal-belt Valletta.

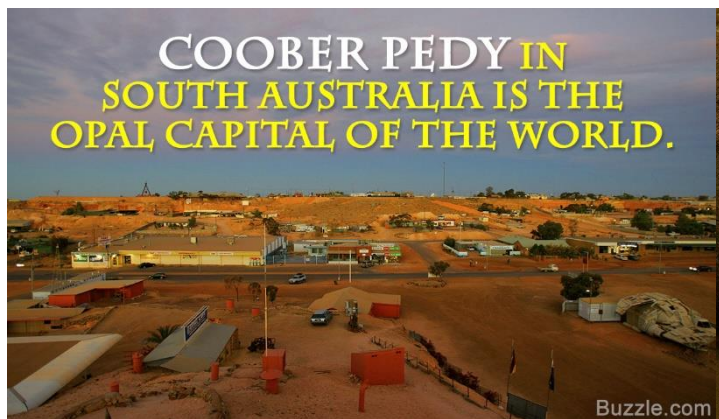
Kieku kont hemm u kont izghar kont niprova niftah business tat-tours in Gozo u nsemmiha "See Gozo on a donkey" bhal ma kien ghamel kittieb Ingliz u imbaghad kiteb il-kteb Travels on a 'Donkey in the Cevennes' (is-Cevennes huma katina ta muntanji fi Franza)

Darba meta konna niccajtaw fuq hekk wiehed qabez u qalli : L-ewwel trid issib il-hmir. U l-iehor qalli malajr, ' don't worry.Hmir insibu....' Ghax kieku b'dan il-progett il-karozzi jibqghu l-Imgarr uituristi jaqbdul il-karettun bil-hmar...ghax hmar kulhadd jaf isuqu.....M'hemmx ghalfejn li L-Unjoni Ewropeja tohrog kteb b'elf pagna bid-direzzjoni 'Kif issuq Hmar.... '

B'hekk tkun tuza *donkey power* li hu hafna orhos mill-petrol u wkoll ghax dak li johrog minn wara l-hmar u ihalli warajh jiswa ta zibel li itejjeb u jkabbar l-ambjent ma jhassrux bhal karozza . U c-cokon tal-gzira jidher ikber minn fuq hmar!

Minn ghandu hmar jiehu ir-ruh Imma min irid ikisser l-ambjent biz-zieda tal-popolazzjoni u jkabbar il-gdid u jkisser l-antik allura zgur li hu favur il-mina. Ghajb li ma jibqghax fiha!!

Experience living underground and feel like you woke up on Mars.

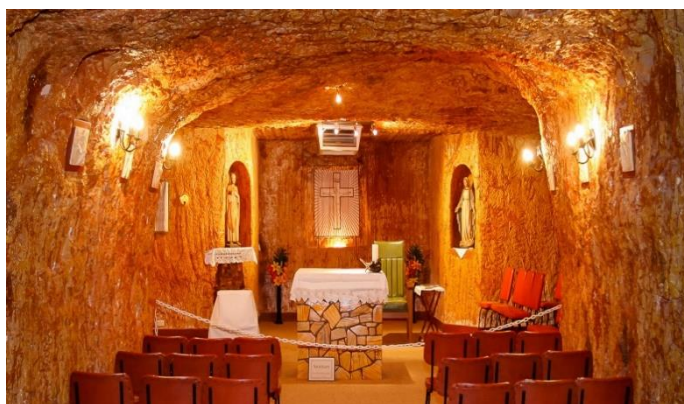
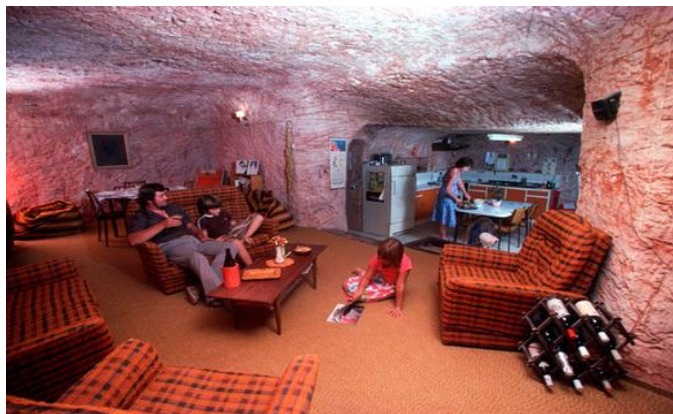


Coober Pedy is unlike anywhere else on (or under) earth. When you first pull into Coober Pedy you might be a bit confused. You'll see the dry, barren desert suddenly become riddled with holes and tall piles of dirt. As you begin to explore Coober Pedy, you'll certainly fall for this quirky town. Man sent a rocket to Mars and astronomers wonder about what the surface would look and feel like. The residents of Coober Pedy already know the answer, and so will you. Walking around Coober Pedy you'll feel unsure if you have travelled on a rocket to Mars (did you know that many movies are filmed here because of it being Mars on Earth? Mad Max III, Red Planet and Ground Zero were all filmed here) or if you have just arrived in a post-apocalyptic wasteland. The locals have a different taste for garden decoration than you may have at home. The cave-dwelling locals have rusty car wrecks in their front yards. Can you think of anywhere more interesting?

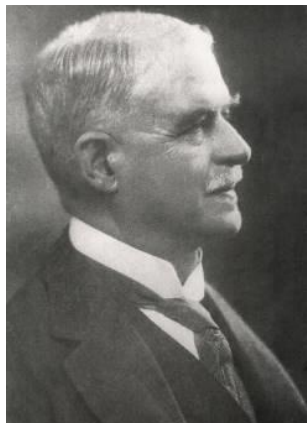
Don't let the thought of living underground turn you off the town. Learn about life underground and how it is used to stay cool and take advantage of natural air-conditioning. As you walk around the town, you'll see random chimneys coming out of ground. That's right, you're walking over roofs of the local people's homes. Whilst in town, learn about the life of the miners in this opal capital of the world.

Watch your step in Coober Pedy; you might fall in an unmarked hole. Don't run and don't walk backwards.

**A restaurant, a normal house and
catholic Church underground**



Lord Gerald Strickland (1924 - 1932)



4th PRIME MINISTER OF MALTA
GOVERNOR OF THE LEEWARD ISLANDS IN THE WEST INDIES (1902-04),
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA (1904-09),
GOVERNOR OF WEST AUSTRALIA (1909-12) AND
GOVERNOR OF NEW SOUTH WALES (1912-17).

Lord Gerald Strickland was born in Valletta on 24th May 1861, son of Walter Strickland and Louisa Bonici Mompalao. Gerald studied in Malta, Britain and Italy. He began to take an active part in Maltese politics at an early age and won the warm praise of Dr. Fortunato Mizzi, whom he even accompanied to London to submit a scheme for a legislative assembly. The result was that the new Constitution of December 1887 was largely based on the joint Strickland-Mizzi

proposals.

In 1887, at the age of 28, he was elected to the Council of Government as representative of the nobility and land proprietors. In 1888 he was nominated Principal Government Secretary, a position he held until 1902. Strickland was created a Companion of the Order of St. Michael and St. George in 1889, for rendering invaluable services during a severe cholera epidemic. He was Governor of the Leeward Islands in the West Indies (1902-04), Tasmania (1904-9), West Australia (1909-12) and New South Wales (1912-17).

On returning to Malta after the grant of self government, Strickland founded the Anglo-Maltese Party in 1921 and after a few months it merged with the Maltese Constitutional Party forming the CP under his leadership. He was Leader of the Opposition (1921-27). In 1924, Lord Strickland won the seat for Lancaster for the Conservatives in the House of Commons.



Gerald Strickland addressing a party meeting.
Photo courtesy of Strickland House

After the 1927 elections, following the so called "compact" alliance with the Labour Party, he had a majority in the Legislative Assembly and became Head of Ministry (the fourth Prime Minister between August 1927 and June 1930). In 1928 he was elevated to the peerage. One of the most important projects of his government was the commencement of building works for St. Luke's Hospital.

During his administration Lord Strickland clashed with the Senate leading to the issue of Letters Patent which curtailed its powers. Concurrently he

clashed with the ecclesiastical authorities which led to the suspension of the Constitution in 1930. Between July 1932 and November 1933 he was once again

Leader of the Opposition and in 1939, after the grant of the new Constitution he became the leader of the elected majority in the Council of Government.

He was an owner and director of Progress Printing Company and The Times of Malta. In 1890 Lord Strickland married Lady Edeline Sackville and they had eight children. In 1926 Gerald Strickland re-married Margarete Hulton. He died at his residence in Villa Bologna, Attard and is buried in the family chapel at the Mdina Cathedral.



BUILDING BRIDGES THROUGH MUSIC

Mewġa Mużika, an interactive musical work curated by the Portuguese group Ondamarela, is taking place at the Mdina Ditch Gardens.

The concept is grounded on cooperation and collaborative work, over several preparative sessions with the participant communities. Based on a sustained

research process, it proposes the composing of original music pieces on the specifics of the various communities involved (its music, its references, its memories, its culture and view of the world).

These communities worked intensively with the maestro, Tim Steiner, to form a big orchestra that shall produce a unique and unrepeatable concert, valuing the cultural and symbolic expressions of those communities. The idea is to involve professional orchestra musicians, amateur musicians and musical communities from the most different and eclectic musical backgrounds.

This project reinforces the idea of any citizen being able to take part in an artistic initiative with huge scale and impact in a structured, rigorous and lucid way, giving light at the same time to local musicians (music schools, brass bands, folk groups, choirs). It also grounds itself on the concept of creating a new community as a means to identify links between different people and to promote the building of bridges, through music. Rooted in cooperation and collaboration, people of all ages and musical backgrounds have taken part in intensive workshops to create a big community orchestra.



Cecilia Sultana de Maria

Cecilia is an ABRSM scholar with master's degree at the Royal College of Music where she studies with Professor Daphne Boden. In 2012 she graduated with first-class honours at the same institution. As a soloist Cecilia has performed at venues including the Houses of Parliament, Westminster Cathedral, Buckingham Palace, St James Piccadilly, Wigmore Hall, Barbican Hall, The World Harp Congress (Amsterdam) and venues in Italy, Spain, France, Australia and Trinidad. Cecilia reached the string finals of BBC Young Musician of the Year in 2008 and was awarded the Walter Todd prize for most promising out of the finalists. Cecilia already played piano and violin when she began playing the harp aged 10.

Cecilia's harp has a fascinating story. Made in Chicago in the 1920's its last owner was a nun who sadly had to sell it when her convent was closed down.

The Gozo Fish Festival: A celebration of Gozitan fish culture



The Gozo Fish Festival in Xaghra returns again next Saturday for the 5th year, and the public are invited to go along to taste the delicious local cuisine – celebrating Gozitan fish culture with seasonal fish dishes.

Traditional Aljotta (Fish Soup), Pasta, Lampuki pies and Grilled Lampuki will be available to try with tokens on sale during the event.

Live entertainment will take place throughout the evening, along with family fun activities. Entrance is free of charge. The Fish Festival, is next Saturday, the 15th of September, from 7.30pm onwards in Nazzarenu Square in Xaghra, Gozo. *Photograph by Alain Salvary*



Website: <https://goo.gl/fh8nm8>

FISH FESTIVAL – MARSAXLOKK, MALTA

Marsaxlokk will be celebrating its prime produce during Fish Fest on Saturday, 22nd September 2018 from 19.00hrs till 23.00hrs. The majority of Malta's fish supplies, including swordfish, tuna, and lampuki, are caught by fishermen from this village. But Fish Fest will not only be about fish - there will also be entertainment for the whole family! A children's corner will be set up along the main promenade.

For more information visit [this Facebook page](#).

Venue - Marsaxlokk

Organiser Marsaxlokk Local Council Phone: +356 21652525





*Kittieba mwielda L-Isla,
ħolqot u pprezentat bosta programmi
fuq ir-Rediffusion u r-radju.*

SERENADES AMIDST THE SIRENS

Lina Brockdorff's autobiographical account of Malta's World War II, has just been published by Horizons Communications. Unlike other books about Malta's wartime ordeal, this book is from the perspective of a young girl growing up as a bewildering world around her seems to fall to pieces. As her father's soothing serenades are drowned out by screeching air raid sirens, only unwavering faith and courage pull her family and country through. Originally published in Maltese as *Sireni u Serenati*, the work won "Best Novel – Non Fiction" prize from the National Book Council of Malta in 2004. It has attracted the attention of a wide audience and has also been serialised and broadcast on several radio stations.

Lina Brockdorff is an accomplished Maltese author, with several published novels and collections of short stories, many of which were also broadcast in Malta and Australia. Her light, and keenly observed writing and her heart-warming sense of humanity have delighted and captivated many readers. "Incredible as it was, our family's story was the story of thousands of others during that eventful and vivid time" stated Lina Brockdorff, "I simply had to put in on record and share it." Horizons Communications are one of Malta's most respected publishing houses. Representing leading established authors, its publications have been awarded numerous *Ktieb tal-Malti* literary prizes in a number of different categories.

Commented David Bezzina, General Manager of Horizons: "We have already published a number of novels by Lina Brockdorff in Maltese, and these have all proven to be very successful. Her wartime autobiography remains, of course, one of her most iconic and timeless works. Now that it is also available in the English language, it can continue to be enjoyed by so many more readers, and not just in Malta."

The book is available from BDL, leading booksellers and from <http://horizons.com.mt>



REMEMBERING WW1 1918

Malta's heaviest single loss during the war - Late in January 1918, news reached Malta "with deepest feelings of mourning pride" that 70 Maltese naval ratings had lost their lives: a German submarine had sunk the armed British steamer Louvain. It was the heaviest loss that Malta had sustained at any one time during the war. A Naval and Dockyard Families Help Society was set up for the purpose of meeting "the distress occasioned by heavy casualty lists among Maltese ratings afloat". Mass for the repose of the souls of the Maltese naval ratings who perished on that occasion was said at the Jesuits' church in Valletta. Mgr Luigi Attard officiated; the vocal and instrumental accompaniment was under the direction of Mro Giuseppe Caruana. It was estimated that during the war Malta's Roll of Honour in the Fleet amounted to some 300 men.

Lt Percival Micallef Eynaud killed in action -- News of Maltese who fell in action continued up to the last months of the war. In March 1918, Lt Percival Micallef Eynaud of the 1st Bn KOMRM, attached to the Royal Munster Fusiliers, fell in Battle of the Western Front at Epehy, France. He volunteered his services for the front in the early part of the war.

On his return from Cyprus he was detailed to the Dardanelles where he experienced hard fighting and was wounded and invalided to Malta. After a protracted convalescence he saw service in Egypt and then on the Western Front, but he was again invalided he was sent to England and attached to a service battalion. Later he re-joined his regiment in France. Lt Micallef Eynaud was the fourth officer of the KOMRM killed in action during the war. His brother, Dr Max Micallef Eynaud, civil surgeon, was attached to the Valletta Military Hospital.

Last Maltese to die in WWI action, perhaps - During the final drive of hostilities in France, the young Maltese Lance Corporal Fortunato Borda paid the supreme sacrifice on the field. He was probably the last Maltese of World War I to die in action. He was serving in a British regiment. Educated at St Aloysius' College, Birkirkara, and at the University of Edinburgh, he joined the Scottish Borderers as a volunteer.



Lt William Parnis awarded the Military Cross Among the gallant band of Maltese officers who were serving at the various fronts with credit to themselves, early in 1918, 2nd Lt William Parnis was awarded the Military Cross "for conspicuous bravery in the field". Lt Parnis had proceeded to England where he volunteered for active service. Having obtained a commission, he was posted to the Buffs, and afterwards transferred to the Machine Gun Corps. He was active on the Western Front for a considerable time. Lt Parnis participated in an extensive move which resulted in the biggest capture of the war. His brother, Lt H. Parnis, was serving on the Western Front with the Royal Army Medical Corps and was mentioned in despatches.

Public prayers for peace with victory As there were prospects of cessation of hostilities in the air, the Church in Malta ordained public prayers for peace with victory. The circular issued by Archbishop Maurus Caruana, OSB, ordained three days – a triduum – of War Intercession Services in all the church of the island. Mgr Caruana further announced that the Cathedral Chapter had made the vow of a solemn procession to be held once only from the Cathedral to the church of Our Lady of the Grotto at Rabat, in the event of the island being spared the horrors of war till the conclusion of hostilities.

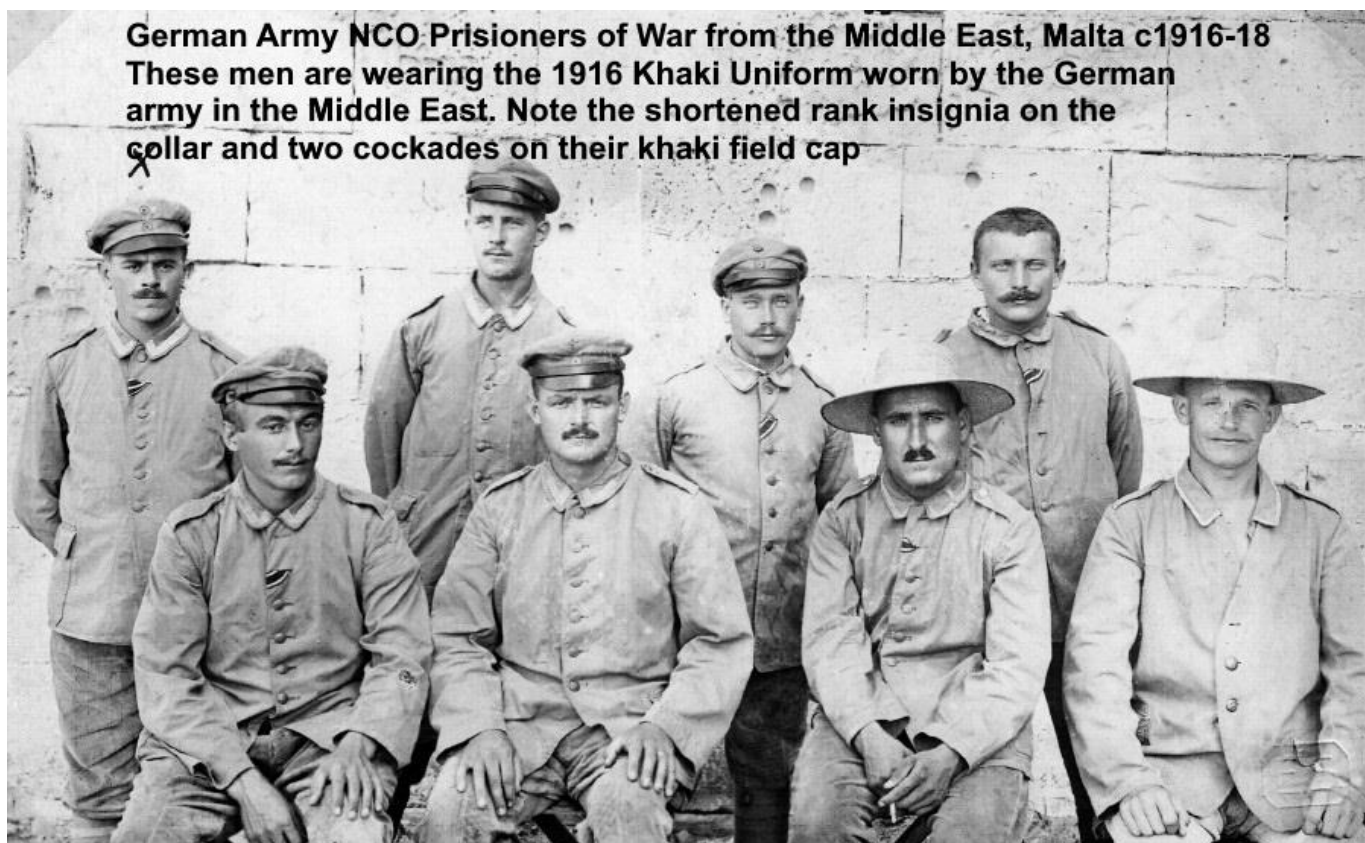


Waldemar Beck killed on British western front - Waldemar Beck, who was serving on the British western front, died of wounds received on the field. He had left Malta for Western Australia in 1912 after having successfully completed his studies at the University of Malta, obtaining the degree of Bachelor of Engineering and Architecture, and the warrant of land surveyor and architect. He filled an important billet but in 1916 he gave it up, and enlisted in the Australian Imperial Force, being attached to a Battalion Fourth Brigade.

Military War Chaplains - During WW1 There were several Maltese military chaplains to the forces serving in Malta or overseas without remuneration. These included Rev. Mgr Can F. Ferris, Mgr Can P. Muscat, Fr Henry Bugeja, Rev. Can Edgar Galea Naudi, Fr J. Darmanin, Fr Alphonus Attard, Fr Anthony Bajada, Fr A. Copperstone, Fr Can. Cauchi, Fr G. M. Consiglio, OSA, Fr J. Verzin, Fr G. Dimech, Rev. Mgr E. Calleja Schembri, Fr Gabriel Bezzina, OP, Fr Richard Borne, Fr Albert Farrugia Bugeja, Rev. Mgr F. Cavendish.

Civil Surgeons and Nurses - A number of civilian medical doctors and nurses were being engaged by government.

The following civil surgeons enrolled for duty with the Royal Army Medical Corp (RAMC R.P.Samut, A.Azzopardi, J.Ellul, P.Boffa, L.Frendo, B.Bonello, R.Balzan, G.Busuttil, S.Ellul Grech, E.Said, E.H.Ferro, G.C.Anastasi, E.Borg, A.Frendo, J.Inglott, A.Paris and M.Micallef Eynaud. Major J. Grech of the RAMC, who was serving at Narrington, was subsequently detailed at the front with the British Expeditionary Force and took charge of the Ambulance of the 5th Cavalry Brigade. Capt B.H.Dunbar Vella of the RAMC, who was stationed at Belfas, later took medical charge of a British infantry regiment in the 5th division.



German Prisoners of War in Malta

This photo shows German Prisoners of War wearing tropical uniforms during their confinement on Malta. Prisoners from various overseas fronts (including Cameroon, German East Africa, Palestine and some of the SMS Emden's crew captured in the Indian Ocean) ended up in Malta as well as Austro-Hungarian and Ottoman Turkish POWs and German civilians interned on the island. The photograph above shows members of the German Schutztruppe and Pascha Expeditions.

The Maltese Diet

While in Malta, eat as the Maltese do.

Some things in life are just simple fact; the sky is blue, the grass is green and Maltese people love food. Perhaps their love for food stems from their vibrant and rich history that we share with so many different cultures, or maybe loving food is just the Mediterranean way. Whatever reason, all we know for sure is that their diet is diverse and distinct.

There are very few items off the food pyramid that the Maltese do not include in their daily diet. With fresh local produce that enables their talented cooks to make a plethora of creative and celebrated dishes, the Maltese diet is a wonder to behold.

While proteins and fruit are staple ingredients, the foundations of many Maltese dishes are built on carbohydrates. Be it pizza, pasta or pastizzi, carbs are an integral component of Maltese dishes. This is not to say that Coeliac and gluten-free diners need to worry, as most dishes are also available as gluten-free from many restaurants.

When we're not consuming carbs, the Maltese love their fresh produce. A typical and well-loved vegetable dish is minestra, a soup that is not just nutritious, but filling too! Speaking of vegetables, fresh local produce is usually prepared as a starter or a side dish in the form of a casserole. In fact, kapunata is a classic side dish that is extremely popular. This being Malta's interpretation of the famous French dish, ratatouille, is a tomato-based sauce that incorporates aubergines, peppers and an assortment of other vegetables.

As for their protein intake, Maltese dishes are usually based on beef, pork, chicken or fish. For instance, some local favourites would have to be bragioli, roast pork or chicken, and beautifully grilled fish. While these different types of meat are absolute staples in their diet, the Maltese also enjoy some atypical meat dishes including rabbit and horsemeat. It may seem out of the ordinary but these two dishes are renowned traditional meals, and are truly delicious in the hands of the best cooks.



TEA OUT OF A GLASS - TE' FIT-TAZZA

If you're strolling along the main street in the town of Mosta (or any of the village squares) you'll see tables on the pavement where sweaty old men are sitting, wearing once-white vests (complete with stains) and thick gold chains around their necks. This is the local *kazin*, the Maltese equivalent of a pub.

Coffee is always served from a teacup, but if you ask for tea, it'll be English breakfast out of a glass. It is typically sweetened by a large teaspoon of sugar, and if you want to be authentic (and aren't concerned about your weight) ask to have it with full-fat condensed milk.



PLAYING BOCCI IN MALTA



The popular game of **Bocci** is played all over the Maltese islands, and the pastime is closely related to the French game of Petanque, English Bowls and the Italian Bocce. Variations of Bocci are played all over Europe and it's believed that the sport has its origins in the Roman period. Migrants from southern Europe who settled in Canada, Australia and The United States took the game with them and it formed an important part of their social scene. Maltese emigrants to Toronto and Melbourne set up

Bocci clubs and these formed the hub of the Maltese communities there, together with band clubs and the Church.

There is a Bocci **club** in almost every village in [Malta](#) and [Gozo](#). These clubs are regulated by Federazzjoni Klabbs Tal-Bocci based in Tarxien. As well as watching or playing Bocci, these clubs are a hive of activity in the bar area, and some Bocci clubs serve snacks and even full meals.

Bocci is played on a **sand-covered smooth surface**, and each team has three players. The jack ball is around the size of a marble and the look like snooker-balls. One team plays with red balls, the other one with blue. The object of the game is to get your team's balls as close to the **jack** as possible. Rules do change and vary from club to club, so it's worth watching a few games before trying your luck.

A particularly popular Bocci club – especially in summer – is [Bugibba Bocci Club](#). Located right on the seafront, this popular venue attracts locals, summer residents and tourists alike. The bar serves a range of very reasonably priced beers, wines and spirits, and there's seating available on a patio overlooking the sea. The club also dishes up some great bar snacks, sandwiches and hot meals and does a decent Sunday Roast.



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Foreign Affairs Minister calls on EU states to 'bridge the divide' with citizens on migration



The Maltese Foreign Affairs Minister, Carmelo Abela, has said that with border control and a better management of migration being a main concern for European citizens, the leaders of the European Union states should strive to bridge the divide in communication with the public on these issues.

This should be done while seeking ways to work together to address the issue in a holistic manner, he said. "It is imperative that the EU recognises that

the discussion on migration should also include the positive human potential of this phenomenon."

Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade Promotion Carmelo Abela was speaking during a panel discussion held as part of the 13th edition of the annual Bled Strategic Forum (BSF) in Slovenia.

The BSF, which is organised by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Slovenia, is an international conference which brings together a diverse set of participants, including heads of state and government, ministers, diplomats, businesspeople, scholars and experts, youth, and media from around the world. The forum focuses on engaging the participants in discussions about, and seeking out-of-the-box solutions, for regional and global challenges. Under the theme 'Bridging the Divide', this year's event took place on 10 and 11 September 2018.

During the panel debate titled , Minister Abela stated that, at the start of the European project, the search for peace and security was the main impetus which brought the participating countries together to work on a common project, which eventually evolved into the EU of today."

Abba Revival in Malta

Fundraising event is in aid of St Paul's Anglican Pro-Cathedral restoration



Early bird tickets for the Abba Tribute night are only available for five more days.

The multi award-winning tribute band Abba Revival will take to the stage at Gianpula Village on November 9 in aid of the Save Valletta's Skyline appeal.

St Paul's Anglican Pro-Cathedral in Valletta is in dire need of restoration and severe problems threaten the stability of the

tower, the spire and the external stonework.

Save Valletta's Skyline Restoration Appeal, which was launched in February 2017, aims to raise €3 million by November 2019, the 175th anniversary of the building of the cathedral.

This 90-minute show features six costume changes and choreographed dance routines. Audiences will be able to dance and singalong to Abba favourites, including Waterloo, Dancing Queen, Mamma Mia and SOS.

DJ Ian Lang will keep the vibe going with a pre- and post-concert party.

Recently voted the UK's 2018 official No.1 Abba tribute act, the Abba Revival stage show has already wowed audiences from Europe to the Middle East, as well as in the original band's homeland of Sweden.

Tickets - without the early bird discounts - start from €37 for a standard ticket, and €69 for a VIP ticket, with early bird discounts available for each.