



MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER

Journal of the Maltese Diaspora

Building Bridges between individuals and communities



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📍 Mosta Dome Malta
📷 Josef Awad Photography



Mosta at its best for Santa Marija feast - 15 August

Considering Malta's size, the volume and diversity of cultural activity is exceptional and unique

DR. TONIO PORTUGHESE WRITES ABOUT OUR JOURNAL



Dear Frank, Heartfelt congratulations and appreciation for your relentless efforts to keep all of us regularly updated with a wide spectrum of information and socio-cultural features that continue to capture the various aspects of Maltese realities, Your regular contribution encompasses information of major interest to our Maltese communities in Australia and local readers all keen to stay updated with what happens down under. This Maltese Journal is undoubtedly an effective tool in this projection of valuable information and safeguarding of our traditions, heritage, folklore and culture that distinguish all Maltese. As soon as I receive this journal I immediately open it and really enjoy the rich updates and highly informative features.

As Chairman of PBS I assure you of our unwavering commitment, Shortly our first researched documentaries on the 7 giugno key events and their impact on Malta's constitutional evolution will be complemented by English sub-titles to facilitate as well the protection of the value of our distinct Maltese language heritage amongst the Maltese diaspora. With my best wishes and deep thanks for your sterling work,

Tonio Portuguese

Chairman, Board of Directors, Public Broadcasting Services Ltd, Malta



(Photo): PBS Malta Chairman Dott. Tonio Portuguese in a cordial meeting with His Holiness Pope Francis at the Vatican discussing the fundamental role of public service media in the development and enrichment of positive values . Tonio Portuguese was invited by RAI Radiotelevisione Italiana and the Holy See to attend this special event to represent Malta's national audiovisual organization.



OUR AIM
Is to strengthen
the ties between
Malta and its
Diaspora.



Juncker: 'Malta is defending European values'

Outgoing EU Commission president honoured with national medal [Denise Grech](#)

Outgoing European Commission president Jean Claude Juncker being decorated by President George Vella. Photo: Jonathan Borg

Outgoing European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker on

Tuesday said Malta was "truly defending European values" such as the fight against corruption, rule of law and press freedom.

He was speaking as he was awarded the Honorary Membership of the National Order of Merit in the Grade of Companion with Star at the Palace in Valletta. "Malta is defending truly European values that I would like to pay tribute to today," he said. "They are values that must always be protected and never be taken for granted. they define who we are as people," he added. "This means the respect for the rule of law, the fight against corruption and freedom of the press. These are non-negotiable European values," Mr Juncker said.

He also reminisced about his Maltese friends, recalling his meetings with "Lawrence" - presumably former Prime Minister Lawrence Gonzi. Mr Juncker also praised Malta's solidarity in issues such as migration.

I'm proud of what we achieved together- Jean-Claude Juncker

"It cannot be that the small countries take the hit but each time you do it because that is who you are," he said, praising Prime Minister Joseph Muscat for promoting EU values,

"I'm proud of what we achieved together," he said. "We have saved lives," Mr Juncker added.

Mr Juncker encouraged more sustainable investments in the country's economy. He also praised the country for its openness in embracing new emerging economies. Speaking after Mr Juncker, President George Vella touted the benefits of EU membership.

EU membership assisted governments in safeguarding national interest and European ones, he said.

He heaped praise on various initiatives created under Juncker's leadership, such as the internal investment plan and the adoption of the Paris climate agreement.



L-ARĊIDJOĊESI TA' MALTA UFFICJU KOMUNIKAZZJONI

PROGETT GHALL-ANZJANI BID-DIMENSJA

Ghadd ta' studenti mill-Fakultà tal-Ambjent Mibni mill-Università ta' Malta pprezentaw diversi proposti biex isir gnien għall-pazjenti bid-dimensja fid-dar tal-anzjani tal-Knisja 'Casa Leone' f'San Giljan. L-ghan ta' dan il-progett kien li l-istudenti jidentifikaw il-htigijiet tal-anzjani u kif l-ispazji miftuha jistghu jtejbu l-hajja tal-individwu fil-qasam tas-sahha mentali u d-dimensja. Dawn il-proposti saru taht is-supervizzjoni

tal-Perit Alexia Mercieca bil-kollaborazzjoni tad-Direttorat tad-Djar tal-Knisja għall-Anzjani.

Fil-messagg tieghu waqt il-prezentazzjoni, l-Isqof Awziljarju Joseph Galea-Curmi qal li l-persuni li jbatu bid-dimensja jisthoqqilhom kull imhabba u rispettt daqs kull bniedem iehor. Fahhar il-mod li bih l-istudenti tal-arkitettura poggew il-htigijiet tal-anzjani bid-dimensja fic-centru tar-ricerka tagghom. Qal li b'hekk il-persuna u r-rispett lejn id-dinjità taghha jibqghu dejjem fic-centru tal-hidma taghna. L-Isqof Galea-Curmi awgura li dan ikun principju li jmexxina fil-kura li tinghata lill-anzjani fis-socjetà Maltija.

Għal din il-prezentazzjoni attendew id-Delegat tal-Arcisqof ghas-Segretarjat Hidma Socjali Mons. Charles Cordina, id-Dekan tal-Fakultà l-Professur Alex Torpiano, il-Perit Alexia Mercieca u l-Professur Charles Scerri.

Celebrating 6 years online
Maltese eNewsletter



PRESS RELEASE

Miss Malta 2020 applications are now open

Miss Malta is a trademarked pageant rich in history, and over the last 55 years, it developed into a national treasure. Kersten Borg is proud to play a leading role in the future of Miss Malta and to usher it into the modern era.

Miss Malta has always represented our country the best possible way, there is a great demand to keep this pageant up to the high caliber for which it is known. In no uncertain words, Kersten will do just that while also keeping everything fresh and exciting. Application forms are open. You can receive your application form by sending email to **MissMaltaofficial@gmail.com**

Those who will fill up the form, Miss Malta management will get back to you and plan an audition interview. Miss Malta will exclusively give an opportunity to compete in foreign beauty

pageant experience for the top 3 Finalists. Miss Malta title winner. Miss Republic of Malta title winner. Miss Tourism of Malta title winner. Event organized by "BORG PROMOTIONS" company Thanks! Miss Malta Management Mr. Kersten Borg - Managing Director and proprietor of Miss Malta; Ms Jeanette Bezzina new member Director, Mr. Gary Briffa Director; Mr. Mharv'z Napoles - Catwalk teacher, Q&A and motivational speaker, mentor of Miss Malta.

Title holder of Miss Malta : Alexia Pauline Tabone. Miss Malta 2020 will be held between the end of January 2020 and beginning of February 2020. This beauty pageant is going to be aired on live Television and live streamed on Miss Malta official Facebook page. Three winners will be announced on the grand final: Miss Malta, Miss Republic of Malta, Miss Tourism of Malta

Message from the National Archivist Dr Charles J Farrugia



The 9th of June was the International Archives Day. This is the message from the National Archivist of Malta for this occasion

June 9 was a special celebration for archivists and records managers worldwide. We celebrate the International Archives Day. This celebration provides us with an opportunity to highlight the unique role of archives and to share our experiences in recordkeeping and archival practice. Archives are the memory of nations and societies; they provide the foundation for our identities and are a key element of the information society.

This year was a special one for the National Archives of Malta as we were responsible for eight international archives-related meetings that convened in Malta as part of the events of the EU Presidency. Now that we are almost at the end of the country's Presidency, I must say that we are proud that a large number of specialists from the archives domain visited Malta and discussed issues that affect the present and future of our archives. Issues such as data protection, e-archiving and the influence the sector can exert in European institutions were top on the agenda.

This year's International Archives Day theme is "Archives. Citizenship and Interculturalism", highlighting the archives' valuable contribution to society in promoting civic commitment, understanding and meaning through our cultural and social heritages.

May I take this occasion to thank all archivists and volunteers who work in this domain not only at the National Archives but in the various archival treasures that we have around Malta.



The new record was measured in the southern village of Gallargues-le-Montueux. Before this year the previous record was 44.1C during a heatwave in 2003 that killed thousands.

Health Minister Agnès Buzyn warned that "everyone is at risk". France's weather service has issued an unprecedented red alert for four areas. Those are all in the south, but most of the country remains on orange alert, the second-highest level.

Meteorologists say hot air drawn in from northern Africa is responsible, caused by high pressure over central Europe and a storm stalling over the Atlantic.

In Gallargues-le-Montueux, Mayor Freddy Cerda said the record was something the village had to "put up with".

"We have to put up with this climate, and that's what the future holds for us, don't forget. The south of France is going to become tropical," he said.

Hundreds of schools were closed on Friday and water restrictions were in place.

Meteorologist Etienne Kapikian tweeted a map showing temperatures had risen above 40C for much of southern France. The French weather service said temperatures of between 37C and 41C were expected across most of France on Saturday.

Swaths of the continent are experiencing extreme heat. Germany, France, Poland and the Czech Republic have all recorded their highest-ever June temperatures.

In Spain firefighters have been battling Catalonia's worst wildfires in 20 years. Eight provinces are on red alert while temperatures are expected to rise above 42C in many areas. The Italian ministry of health has reported emergency levels of heat in 16 cities.

Loss of life

Several people are believed to have lost their lives as a result of the extreme temperatures,

HEATWAVE IN EUROPE

including two who died from suspected heatstroke in Spain.

One, a 17-year-old farm worker in Córdoba, went into convulsions after cooling down in the farm swimming pool, while an 80-year-old man died on a street in the northern city of Valladolid.

In France, Prime Minister Edouard Philippe said a drowning was taking place every day and warned that the heat was making people "take risks".

On Thursday a 33-year-old roofer died after being taken ill as he worked on a building site in the western city of Rennes, where the temperature was 35C in the shade.

A six-year-old Syrian child was also in a serious condition after being thrown into the air by the force of a water jet from a fire hydrant that had been opened by residents in Saint Denis, north of Paris. Ms Buzyn urged the public to avoid "risky behaviour" like leaving children in cars or jogging outside in the middle of the day.

In the UK, police warned people of the dangers of cooling off in rivers and lakes after a 12-year-old girl drowned in the River Irwell in Greater Manchester.

Is climate change to blame?



WELCOME TO THE NEW CONSUL- GENERAL FOR MALTA

The new Consul General of Malta to Canada, Dr Raymond C. Xerri, made his first visit to St Paul

The Apostle Church Maltese-Canadian Parish, Toronto, Ontario on Sunday, July 28, and participated at the 10:30 am Mass. Following Mass the parishioners had some moments of fellowship at the parish hall. On the same day the parish gave a big welcome to the new Associate Pastor, Fr Ivano Burdian MSSP. Fr. Mario Micallef MSSP

Public flogging for eating cheese on 'holy' day in Malta



The Criminal Proceedings of the Inquisition throw interesting light on the consumption of milk and other dairy products by the inhabitants of the Maltese islands. Cheese, butter and other dairy products formed part of the common fare of several people. However, these milk products were also prepared in different shapes and sizes to meet the palates of the more sophisticated consumers.

The Inquisitor's kitchen was equipped with the necessary equipment to prepare cheese as a condiment. The overwhelming influence of religion existing at the time generated rigid food patterns. Days were divided between *giorni di magro* and *giorni di grasso*. Milk, cheese and butter, together with eggs, meat and any animal produce, could only be consumed during the *giorni di grasso* namely Tuesdays, Thursdays, Sundays and Catholic festivities. Unless having a special medical concession, or if finding oneself in an emergency, the consumption of dairies was not allowed on Mondays, Wednesdays, Saturdays, on the eve of major Catholic festivities, and throughout Lent and Advent.

In 1637, things turned sour for Giovanne Cassar, Antonio Calayro, and Vincenzo Bezzula, who while carrying out a spiritual sentence for eating cheese, salami and ham fried in butter and grated over with cheese during Lent, were once again found guilty of consuming dairies in a matter of days. Their repeat offence, peppered with lies that implied a special inquisitorial permission to consume such food during Lent, cost them the bitter sanction of public flogging and two years rowing on galleys!

Milk-related culture underwent significant change in the 20th century when the authorities invested a lot of energy in educating the Maltese to consume pasteurised milk. However, such developments were met with significant resistance. (Times of Malta)



FEEL THE MAGIC OF MUSICAL THEATRE

Kav Joe M Attard Victoria - Ghawdex

Spettaklu mużikali mill-aqwa sar nhar is-Sibt fil-ghaxija fi Pjazza Sant Wistin Victoria bis-sehem tal-Malta Concert Orchestra, il-Chorus Urbanus flimkien mas-solisti tiegħu Hilda Grima, Yvonne Galea, Ruth Portelli, Fabian Galea, Mario Portelli, Maria Cassar, Antonella Rapa, Geore Borg, Karl Joseph Buhagiar, Janelle Rapa u Riden Glinofria, u l-Urbanus Junior Choir bis-solisti żgħar tiegħu Kristen Grima, Gabriel Grech, Nina Debono, Andreas Refalo, Kurt Theuma Xerri, Krista Mercieca, Hannah Vella u Shaniah Portelli taħt id-direzzjoni ta' Maureen Zerafa u bil-pateċipazzjoni taż-żeffiena tas-Centre Stage Dance Academy taħt id-direzzjoni ta' Natalie Sciortino. Id-Direttur Mużikali kien Mro Dr John Galea. L-udjenza sabiha li attendiet f'Misraħ Sant Wistin setgħet tgawdi diversi siltiet popolari minn għadd ta' Musicals magħrufa li kienu jinkludu Annie, Miss Saigon, Evita, Cats, West Side Story, Oliver, Sound of Music, Les Miserables, Phantom of the Opera, Oliver u Prince of Egypt. Mal-udjenza sabiha li attendiet kien hemm ukoll il-Ministru għal Ghawdex, u xi membri Parlamentari Ghawdxin li lkoll kellhom kliem ta'tifhir għal wieħed minn tliet kunċerti li għandhom imhejjija l-Chorus Urbanus Productions. Fil-fatt il-Preżentatriċi brava Amanda Ciappara Mizzi ħabbret ukoll waqt din is-serata sajjija li fit-18 ta' Awwissu quddiem is-Santwarju tal-Madonna ta' Pinu l-Chorus Urbanus se jkun qed jeseqgwi l-Akathistos, Innu Marjan tal-Knisja Griega li kien inqaleb għall-Malti mill-Isqof Mons Nikol Cauchi b'mużika originali ta' Mro Dr John Galea. Kulhadd huwa mistieden għal din l-okkażjoni sabiha fis-Sena Marjana fuq iz-zuntier tas-Santwarju ta' Pinu fit-8.30pm. L-appuntament ta' wara mal-Chorus Urbanus Productions se jkun il-Ħadd 6 ta' Ottubru għall-ispettaklu Feel the Classics u iktar tard, imbagħad, il-Ħadd 15 ta' Diċembru għall-ispettaklu annwali tal-Milied Magic of Christmas. Ċert li kull min ser jattendi mhux ser jiddispaċih.

The Inquisitor's Palace in Birgu – Malta

Where the Inquisition tortured blasphemers



Considered as an architectural gem, this majestic building, the Inquisitor's Palace, was the official residence of Mgr Pietro Dusina, the first general inquisitor and apostolic delegate of the Maltese Islands, when he arrived in Malta in 1574. Successive inquisitors who resided in this palace, left their traces behind in the adaptations which they did to the building. Acting as a centre of power in its days of glory, the palace still holds the sophisticated ambience of the piano nobile and the cultivated refinement of the private

quarters.

The role of the Inquisitor was to ensure that the Maltese citizens did not get contaminated by non-catholic influences. In the 16th century, this was the Protestant doctrines spreading through Europe; in the 17th, it was the influence, seen to affect women in particular, of the many Muslim slaves who were purported to use magic and sorcery; in the 18th, when the Inquisition was declining, it busied itself with a perceived increase of blasphemy, bigamy, and apostasy to Islam.



The Holy Office Tribunal

On the other hand, the preserved austere setting of the Holy Office Tribunal, the prison complex and the torture chamber, reminisce a time when many shared a dark abiding fear of religious heresy. Meanwhile, the historic reconstructions of the domestic kitchen area offer a lighter note as they open a window on the cuisine customs of that period.

With the Inquisition over, similar palaces in other countries were treated with contempt and were abandoned and left to be eaten up

by the ravages of time. Others ended up as victims of the anti-reactionary power which was unleashed by the French Revolution.

Thankfully, throughout its five centuries of history, the local Inquisitor's Palace always hosted high-ranking officials which represented the main powers on the island, who therefore ensured its survival. Fate then saved this palace from the severe bombings of the area during World War II.

A visit to this building is an opportunity to explore one of the very few surviving Inquisitor's palaces which still awaken memories of a tormented phase in the history of the Church. None such surviving palaces in the rest of the world are accessible to the public.

The Inquisitor's Palace also hosts within it the National Museum of Ethnography which exhibits permanent displays on Malta's religious traditions as consolidated by the Inquisition.

In Malta, if you do not look up, you miss the most wonderful sights and buildings.



L-ISQOF AWZILJARI JOSEPH GALEA-CURMI JILTAQA MAL-MISSJUNARJI MALTIN

**ARCHDIOCESE
OF MALTA**

L-Isqof Awziljarju Joseph Galea-Curmi Itaq' ma' missjunarji Maltin li jwettqu hidma pastorali f'diversi pajjizi madwar id-dinja u li bhalissa jinsabu Malta. Ghal din il-laqgħa li saret f'Dar l-Emigrant, il-Belt Valletta, attendew sacerdoti djocesani, religjużi u lajci li jahdmu fil-Pakistan, il-Brazil, il-Filippini, l-Amerika ta' Fuq, l-Awstralja,



il-Kenja, il-Georgia u l-Perù. Il-missjunarji qasmu l-esperjenzi u l-isfidi li jiltaqgħu magħhom fil-pajjizi tat-tielet dinja fosthom il-faqar, in-nuqqas ta' opportunitajiet ta' edukazzjoni u ta' facilitajiet sanitarji u medici. Dawk li jghixu f'pajjizi żviluppati tkellmu dwar ir-realtà tas-solitudni u l-bzonn li tingħata aktar attenzjoni lill-htigijiet tal-familja. Fost il-missjunarji lajci kien hemm familja ta' disa' persuni li ilhom fil-missjoni fl-Olanda għal dawn l-aħħar 25 sena.

L-Isqof Galea-Curmi rringrazzja lill-missjunarji Maltin tax-xogħol li qed iwettqu f'isem il-Knisja Kattolika. Qal li l-kontribut tagħhom jixhed il-gid li jsir mill-Knisja fil-hajja tan-nies u li hafna drabi jibqa' mistur. L-Isqof zied jghid li l-hidma tagħhom tagħmel gieh lill-Knisja f'Malta. Il-laqgħa kienet organizzata mill-Kummissjoni Emigranti flimkien mal-Ufficcju Missjunarju. Ufficcju Komunikazzjoni

Monsignor Joseph Galea-Curmi, Auxiliary Bishop



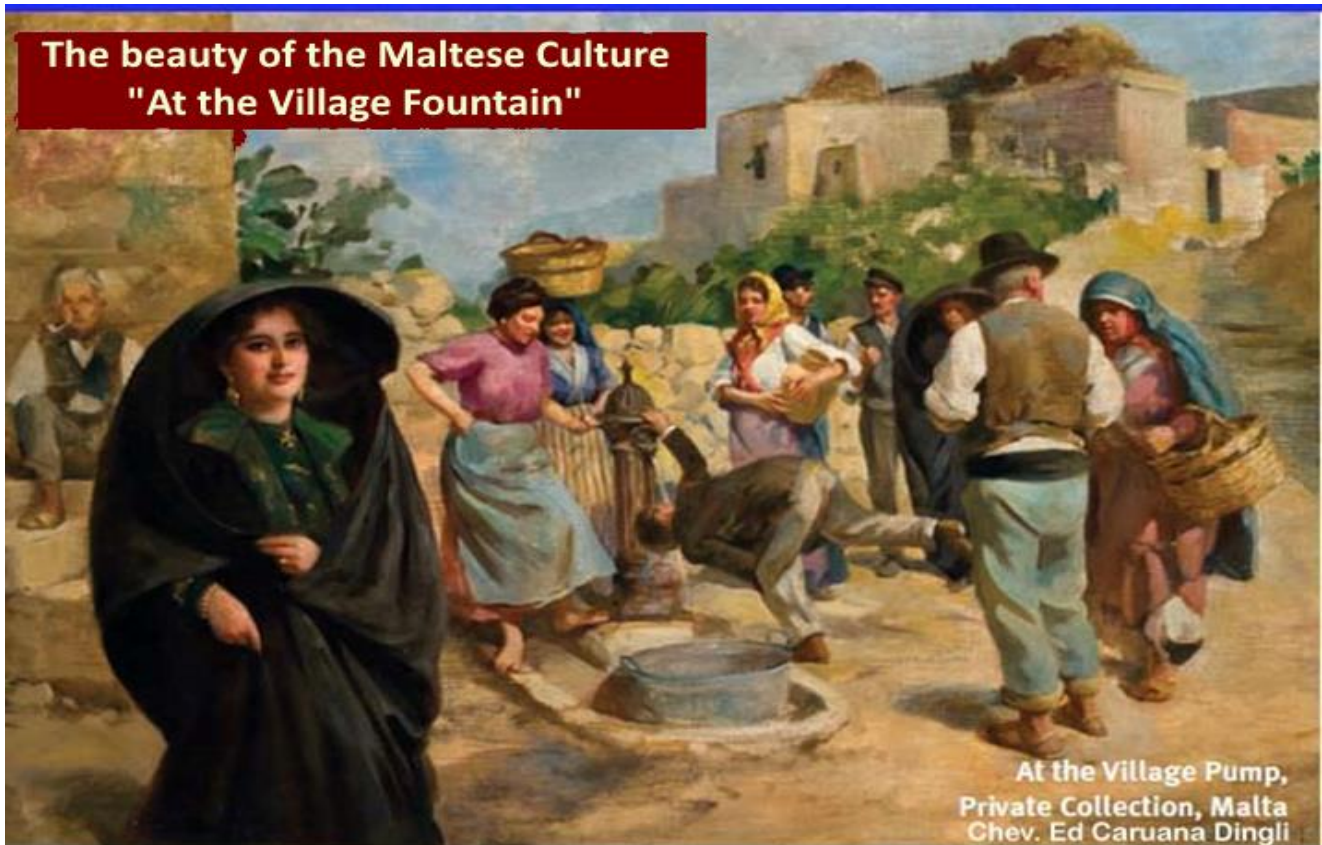
Monsignor Joseph Galea-Curmi, was born of the late Paul and Josette née Mifsud Bonnici, in Birkirkara, on 1 January 1964, and is the third of six children. Mgr Galea-Curmi was educated at Stella Maris School, Ħal Balzan, at the Secondary School of St Paul's Missionary College, Rabat, and at St Aloysius College (Sixth Form), Birkirkara. He entered the Archbishop's Seminary in 1982. After completing his studies and a Licentiate in Sacred Theology at the Faculty of Theology, he was ordained to the Roman Catholic priesthood by the Archbishop of Malta, Monsignor Joseph Mercieca, on 5 July 1991. Monsignor Galea-Curmi was sent to further his studies at the Pontifical Lateran University in Rome and obtained a doctorate in Pastoral Theology in 1998. His doctoral thesis was entitled

"The Diocesan Synod as a Pastoral Event. A Study of the Post-Conciliar Understanding of the Diocesan Synod".

After his studies in Rome, Monsignor Galea-Curmi was appointed assistant to the Pastoral Secretary of the Archdiocese of Malta and lecturer in Pastoral Theology at the University of Malta, where he lectures till today. He was also the coordinator of the Archdiocesan Synod held between 1999 and 2003. In 2005 he was appointed board member of the Diocesan Institute for Pastoral Formation, and ecclesiastical assistant of the *Centesimus Annus Pro Pontifice* Foundation (Malta) since 2008, till today.

In 2015, Archbishop Charles J. Scicluna appointed Monsignor Galea-Curmi Vicar General of the Archdiocese of Malta and Canon of the Cathedral Chapter. He carries out pastoral ministry at the Parish of the Annunciation in Ħal Balzan.

The beauty of the Maltese Culture "At the Village Fountain"



At the Village Pump,
Private Collection, Malta
Chev. Ed Caruana Dingli

"Women's dresses were very much in tune with the fashion followed in Britain, France and Italy at the time. Malta was then a British colony and thus these influences infiltrated easily. Women in the upper classes of society were eager to shed their traditional dress in exchange for the new foreign trends being brought to the island.

The elite, who frequented British social circles, soon began to discard their traditional headgear, the ghonnella (a form of hooded cloak), for fashionable English hats and bonnets, adapted to the new hairstyles, and also followed British fashion in dress. English dresses were in fact, quickly and ably copied by Maltese dressmakers. The situation among the popular classes was entirely different though. Clothing was simply a matter of need, practicality and comfort.

Village people are depicted wearing pretty much the same thing.

Men wore baggy trousers and flannel shirts, as well as waistcoats. Additionally, a colourful terha was wrapped around the waist as a belt, but also held small objects. The horga, carried over the shoulder, was often made from striped woven cotton and folded into a pouch at each end. Meanwhile, women donned long skirts, aprons, scarves and very often, the traditional ghonnella."

OUR AUSTRALIAN/MALTESE READERS SEND THEIR GREETING FROM DOWNUNDER



STRANGE THINGS ABOUT MALTA you ought to know

Melanie Drury

Every country's people have their quirks. The Maltese are special because they have many. Here are some of the most likely you'll stumble across explained.

Locals constantly complain about Malta, but get aggressively patriotic if a foreigner does

The same man who was complaining about the government or the weather a moment earlier will quickly set you straight and inform you that you can "go back to your country if you don't like it" if you're a foreigner and complain about the exact same things.

The Maltese complain as a matter of habit. They rank 22nd out of 156 countries in the [World Happiness Report](#) and if you lived in Malta, you'd struggle to believe that. Deep down, the Maltese are mostly content – they have a lot going for them after all. But the bonding with the empathic next person that comes from sharing woes is hard to shake out of the Maltese cultural makeup. This might explain why the locals don't take Maltese complaints very seriously, but get really upset if a foreigner criticizes Malta or anything Maltese.

Same patriots will carcade loudly after the general elections and football wins of other countries alike.

Carcades take to the streets at the first indication of the result of the general elections, before the official result is even announced! During the World Cup, daily carcades bear various locals waving flags for Italy, England, Brazil, you name it.

The Maltese are passionate. They are also loyal to a fault, whether it is to the family-inherited political party or to football itself – if Malta's not competing, we just pick some other nation to support as intensely as if it were our own. Who cares about being a patriot when football and celebrations are at stake? The notion of a modest acceptance of victory is completely foreign to Malta. Why on earth would anyone give up an opportunity to party? Instead, pile into a car covered in flags and drive slowly along Malta streets honking constantly while yelling taunts at the losers hiding indoors. It's just more fun that way.

The village festa is a 'religious feast' that is anything but religious

Teens awash with beer halt the brass band and refuse to budge until it plays their favourite tune. Respectable locals are out in their best attire, enjoying the street stalls, village gossip and fireworks. And band club members yell poetic taunts at the members of the rival band club in the village. Holy what?

Even the saints go to war during the so-called religious feasts, such as St Dominic and St Lawrence in Birgu or St Sebastian and St George in Qormi. Or their fans, to be precise. The rivalry between two parishes of the same village is even more intense than that with the neighbouring town. Poetry is even written in the name of taunting and upsetting a rival while you flaunt that your *festa* is 'the best.' Fuelled by that desire, *festas* just keep getting bigger and louder every year. If love and charity prevail in the day-to-day, they are thrown out of the window on the day of the *festa* in exchange for this rather strange display of devotion. I did say the Maltese are loyal to a fault.

True religious fervour during Easter and Christmas

Men in Ku Klux Klan-like outfits drag chains and carry wooden crosses through the streets on Good Friday. On Easter Sunday, devouts run with the statue of the Risen Christ through the same streets. Christmas brings life-sized nativity scenes (presepu), some comprising an entire 'nativity village', such as 'Bethlehem' in Gozo.

Marry the Maltese passion and love of partying and celebrating with religious faith and you have an extremely colourful practice of the Catholic faith in Malta. Almost every religious feast features the carrying of statues of saints through the village streets, complete with elaborate costumes, banners, flags and accompanying brass band to set the mood to sombre or celebratory, as the case may be. If street processions are not due, the Maltese set to work on creating elaborate displays, perhaps a form of service to the community to please the Lord? Deep down, we know that these flamboyant practices have pagan roots, but they are widely accepted as the passionate expression of Catholicism in Malta.

those things that baffles even Maltese people, but they do it anyway because their granny did.



Restoration works on Bidnija church inaugurated

Report: Ruth Castillo

In Bidnija, EU fund sponsored restoration works on the outside of the church were finally inaugurated today, to mark the feast of the Holy Family. In the homily that followed during the celebration of mass, Auxiliary Bishop Joseph Galea Curmi recalled Daphne Caruana Galizia, who was a part of the Bidnija community.

Restoration works on the exterior of the Bidnija church, which have been ongoing for six months, were completed in time for the feast of the Holy

Family celebrated by the community of this rural hamlet which falls under the parish of Mosta. The restoration was inaugurated by Auxiliary Bishop Joseph Galea Curmi.

Restoration was carried out on the front and sides of the church, as well as the parvis, the bell tower and the facade and this included works to make the church parvis more accessible with ramps. This is the first time the church – which was designed by Salvatore Zahra – has undergone restoration since it was built in 1920. The restoration was carried out with an investment of around € 85,000, most of it funded by the European Union.

Bishop Galea Curmi said that the Church was committed to taking care of its heritage. He added that the project served as a reminder about the importance of taking care of our country's heritage and safeguarding it for generations to come.

Parliamentary Secretary for European Funds, Aaron Farrugia, said the Curia received two million euros from European funds for various restoration and conservation projects. He said that European funds will allow for an investment in historical and religious heritage which is part of the identity of the Maltese and Gozitan people.

After the inauguration, the Auxiliary Bishop celebrated Mass. In his homily he said that until some time ago, Bidnija was associated with a peaceful and serene place until a member of its community – Daphne Caruana Galizia – was murdered here, a little way down from the church. He referred to this as a great stain, which would be an even greater stain if those who gave orders for her murder are not found. He alluded to the restoration works carried out on the church and said that the life of this person could never be restored.



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Free - Non-Political - Bilingual

The magazine that builds bridges between
Maltese all over the world

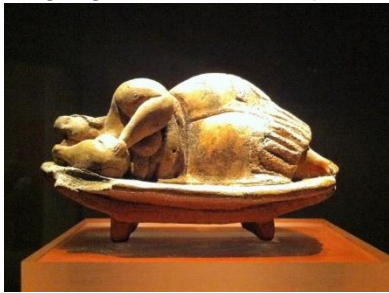
Maltese living abroad estimated at 900,000



Strange Artifacts from Malta

Jaunting Jen

We know many things about history, but what we don't know outweighs what we think we know. Throughout my travels, I have come not only to embrace, but to seek out history's mysteries. If your eyes and your mind are open you can find mysteries whenever and wherever you travel. Malta is one of those places where the mysteries are too numerous to count, and the culture is too rich to understand in just a few days. Out of the hundreds of unique sites and artifacts found throughout Malta, seven are highlighted below that pose more questions than answers.



The Sleeping Lady of Malta was discovered on the lower floor of the Hypogeum of Hal-Saflieni.

The Sleeping Lady is 5,000 years old. When you stop for a moment to pause and think about that span of time, that figure is remarkable. More questions remain about the Sleeping Lady than have been answered. Does she represent death? Meditation? Sleep? Why was she created? What was her purpose? Was she an offering to the Gods? The Hypogeum of Hal-Saflieni is an underground chamber and a place of deep spiritual significance. Recent evidence indicates that the underground chambers in the Hypogeum were specifically carved to achieve acoustic frequencies that induce a meditative state.



The calendar of Mnajdra

How did a culture over 6,000 years ago track the equinoxes? We don't know, but they left behind a snapshot of their work on a megalithic stone at the temple of Mnajdra at Qrendi. How were the equinoxes tracked and recorded? Why were they tracked? Who was in charge of tracking such events? Mnajdra is considered one of the oldest religious sites in the world. This UNESCO

World Heritage Site is one of the only archaeological sites in Malta that is protected by a tent. I was annoyed at first, that the views of such an amazing place were obscured by a white tent. Upon closer examination however, it is obvious that these intricate carvings would eventually disappear if left exposed to the elements of wind and water.



The Phoenician Face (1500 – 300 BCE)

This is an uncommon find in Malta. No one knows exactly what it was used for or what it represents. Is it a crude image of a long dead Phoenician? Is it a figurative representation of death? In the Phoenician world some images are meant to ward off death, could this be such an image? Or are the tightly slit eyes and mouth meant to prevent death from getting in?



Miniature Temple from the Hagar Qim group

This limestone sculpture is the oldest representation of a temple in the world. It is from the Hagar Qim group in Malta and dates to about 3300 BCE. We know that this tiny temple is a true architectural rendering of the some of the larger megalithic structures in Malta. What we don't know is why it was made. Is it a kind of draft for a life-size model? Is it an offering for the Gods? Is it a child's toy?

WORKING TOGETHER - RESPECTING AND HELPING EACH OTHER
That's the art of building bridges and legacy to our children

Treasures tells unique story of the Order of St John



A crystal eight-pointed cross, given to Grandmaster Jean de Valette by Pope Pius V in recognition of his victory during the Great Siege of Malta, is among the items displayed in a new book that tells the story of the Order of St John.

Lionel Jarvis, Prior of the Priory of England and the Islands of the Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem, holding the book Treasures. Photo: Matthew Mirabelli

The cross is inscribed with the words *unus decem millia vicit* – one conquers ten thousand – in reference to the grandmaster having led the troops of the Order of St John in repelling the Ottoman forces, resulting in a victory that would change the course of history.

It is one of the objects documented in Treasures – Faith, Care, Valour, a beautifully illustrated book filled with detailed images that help bring to life the collection within Museum of the Order of St John in the UK.

The book tells the stories behind each object, revealing the people who held them and championed the Order's values: Pro Fide, Pro Utilitate Hominum – For the Faith, In the Service of Humanity.

The objects featured range from coins, medals and busts to paintings and diaries filled with powerful testimonies of St John Ambulance volunteers.



The engraved crystal eight-pointed cross was a diplomatic gift to Grandmaster Jean de Valette from Pope Pius V.

“The museum has a unique collection, which tells the story of the medieval Knights Hospitaller, and also the story of the Order's 19th century revival in England and its reinvention as a global health charity. Treasures aims to tell this story in an accessible and engaging way, using selected objects from the museum's collection to weave a narrative that explores unifying themes of faith, care, and valour across the 900-year history of the Order of St John,” author Tom Foakes, who is also museum director, said.

Treasures follows three over-arching themes of faith, care and valour, and while these themes may be interpreted in different ways as the Order has transformed, each remain a constant throughout the narrative.

“As an organisation with a Christian foundation, the faith-based mission of St John today continues, while embracing those of all denominations and none. The care given to sick pilgrims in 11th century Jerusalem, inspires the humanitarian work of St John as a 21st century global health charity. And the valour that characterised the ancient religious military Order is reinterpreted in the bravery of the St John volunteers who provide vital medical assistance today, often in situations of extreme danger,” he adds.

Lionel Jarvis, Prior of the Priory of England and the Islands of the Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem, agrees.

“One of the successes of this nearly 1,000 years of history, is that the values of the Order have endured throughout history. Whether that was in the very early days defending Christianity, or undertaking other healthcare and humanitarian works... Those representing the Order have adapted to do what is best for society at the time.



Left: The helmet is engraved with the Ayatul Kursi, the Verse of the Throne, which is taken from the Quran. When recited it is believed that the wearer will be under the protection of God. Right: A bust of Grandmaster Jean de Valette.

“Because caring for the sick and the poor has always been fundamental,” he said.

As time passed, the Order improved and adapted to what was needed, said Dr Jarvis, adding: “In England we teach First Aid but are now moving more to expand our support to communities. But in some of the African countries we provide support to mothers and children during childbirth. In Malta there’s a rescue service and first aid training. We do what is most suited to the country – it’s a continuum of adapting,” he said as he commented about the stellar work of the Maltese branch and urged the public to support the work of the Order.

Treasures can be bought through the museum website.



57 Maltese scouts in World Scout Jamboree

A group of 57 Maltese scouts is in West Virginia for the 24th World Scout Jamboree in North America. They have joined 45,000 people from around the world for the adventure, one of the world’s largest outdoor events for young people.

This is the 24th - and largest - World Scout Jamboree, grouping scouts from 150 countries. The event was started by Lord Baden Powell in 1920 and world jamborees are now held every four years.

The Malta contingent is made up of 41 Participants (14 to 17 year olds), five Unit Leaders, eight International Service Team members and four Contingent Management Team members. They are headed by Timmy Cutugno.

The group left on Sunday and will be at the jamboree until August 2.

The scouts will take part in educational activities that promote peace, cross-cultural understanding, and leadership skills for life.

The theme of “Unlock a New World” will inspire scouts to become active citizens and create a more sustainable world by learning about global issues such as climate change and gender inequality. Through activities that range from zip-lining and hiking to public speaking and leadership workshops, young people will develop skills to help them thrive in a rapidly changing world.

“The Jamboree is an extraordinary opportunity for young people to connect and learn from each other, while celebrating the diversity and unity of our global Movement of over 50 million strong,” said Ahmad Alhendawi, Secretary General of the World Organization of the Scout Movement.

“Through activities that engage young people in leadership training and dialogue about the peace and sustainability of our planet, the Jamboree is enabling young people to become active global citizens who are creating positive change in communities around the world.” <https://www.2019wsj.org/>



Lost a part of what he worked for in 35 years in New Zealand

Report: Ruth Castillo

During the 50s and 60s and at the beginning of the 70s, hundreds of Maltese migrated for a new life in Australia. They included George Spiteri from Żejtun.

From Australia he travelled to New Zealand where he had a family and a business. Eight years ago, he experienced one of the worst earthquakes that struck Christchurch.

From a fishmonger at the Valletta Market, George Spiteri built a successful business in Christchurch, New Zealand.

He recounts that his life changed at the beginning of the 70s when at the age of 24 he migrated to Australia. Four years later he settled in New Zealand where he opened various cafeteria, restaurants and even hotels and had a family of three children.

Spiteri recounts the earthquake which struck the centre of Christchurch in 2001....suddenly he lost a part of what he built in 35 years. He says that many residents of Christchurch have not yet fully recovered from the tremor that left 185 people dead.

As a video footage filmed by a CVC crew shows after the 'quake, one of Spiteri's hotels was badly damaged.

"Buildings fell on each other, mine was in the middle, and I was trapped inside. I was released from the eight floor through a crane. It is not a funny thing, I mean sometimes one dreams and when you get hit, I say am I still alive?."

Mr Spiteri's other hotel, The George, is near Hagley Park in the town's periphery and suffered no damages.

His connection with Malta remained strong, recalling that his first son, who was born in Christchurch was baptised at the Żejtun church; his daughter was born in The Netherlands and was baptised at San Ġirġor church, as was his youngest son. George Spiteri said he visits Malta every year.



New Maltese passport more secure with new technology, difficult to be falsified

Work is progressing on the production of the new Maltese passport. De La Rue company has completed the pre-production phase printing of the polycarbonate bio-page, on which the personal details of the

passport's owner will be safely kept.

During a visit to the company's building, Parliamentary Secretary Julia Farrugia Portelli said that advanced technology will make the Maltese passport safer and among the first in Europe to use this technology. She stated that with these characteristics, it will be more difficult that the Maltese passport is falsified.

The new passport will start being issued towards the end of this year, with the existing ones in circulation will remain valid for travelling up to their expiry date.



Television Malta is a terrestrial television network in Malta operated by the national broadcaster, Public Broadcasting Services.

Sister channel: [TVM2](#)

Languages: Maltese, English

<https://www.tvn.com.mt/en/>



“God gave me the talent of folk-singing, l-ghana”

Report: Glen Falzon

A four-year old boy from Fgura is successfully following his father's

talent of Maltese folk-singing, known as *ghana spirtu pront*. Lydon Agius told TVM that God gave him this talent of folk-singing and he is thrilled when he joins well-known *ghannejja*.

TVM watched a Lydon's folk-singing session at a Żabbar bar. At first sight, one thinks that Lydon is reading...however this four year old boy is at his best in the *spirtu pront* folk-singing. Lydon has been folk-singing for the past year and he does not intend to stop. His competitor of the day was Jimmy Pawney, a veteran of this traditional folklore which is waning in popularity.

Whilst listening to his son singing, Joe Agius is convinced that Lydon will be a first-class folk singer. “I don't see otherwise; it is a nice hobby. Of course, I want him to succeed”.



PHOTO: DOI - Omar Camilleri

PBS working towards ensuring that documentaries are all subtitled in the English language

During the presentation of the documentary “Culhat al Belt” to the President of Malta George Vella, PBS Chairman Dott. Tonio Portuguese said that historical documentaries that were made in recent years would be provided with English subtitles to appeal to a wider audience.

Mr Portuguese said that this was being done because of the increased demand among grandchildren of Maltese emigrants around the world, who despite no longer speaking Maltese, have a strong interest in the island's history and culture. He also noted a strong interest in the history of Malta by foreign audiences who look for content on the website www.tvm.com.mt

Among the documentaries that will undergo this process are “Maltin Internati fl-Italja”, “Maltin f'Izmir” u “L-Assedju”, all TVM productions.

President of Malta George Vella expressed his appreciation for the collective effort and joint ventures between various public bodies in the production of the historical documentary “Culhat al Belt” broadcast on TVM last June. This documentary, which deals with the Sette Giugno events, was written and presented by journalist Mario Xuereb and co-produced by FCN, the National Archives and Heritage Malta. The President also noted that the documentary “Maltin Internati fl-Italja”, broadcast in September 2018, investigated and touched upon an important story for the first time, which in Malta was unknown.

Present among the delegation that visited the President was PBS CEO Charles Dalli, Deputy Chief Executive Edmund Tabone, PBS Archives Manager Ray Libreri, and FCN representative Lino Farrugia who also contributed to the production of the documentary “Culhat al Belt”.

Assistant Commissioner Joe Cassar named new Southern Region Commander



NSW Southern Region Commander, Assistant Commissioner Joe Cassar.

A well-known face is making his way back to the NSW Police Southern Region Command, with Assistant Commissioner Joe Cassar named as the new commander.

NSW Police Force Deputy Commissioner Gary Worboys has announced Assistant Commissioner Cassar's appointment, returning to areas such as Shoalhaven and Wollongong where he has previously been commander.

The Southern Region Command takes in a huge area from Wollongong in the north to the Victorian border in the south.

It includes local regions South Coast and Lake Illawarra along with Monaro,

Murrumbidgee, Murray River, Riverina and the Hume police districts.

Assistant Commissioner Cassar joined the NSW Police Force in 1987 and was initially stationed in Goulburn and Wollongong, performing general duties.

He achieved his detective designation in 1992 and has worked in both local criminal investigations and specialist criminal investigations, including the Homicide Squad, Drugs Squad and Child Abuse Squad.

He was promoted to Inspector in 2005 at the Eastern Beaches Local Area Command and in 2008 played a pivotal role in the establishment of the Alcohol Licensing Enforcement Command.

NSW Southern Region Commander, Assistant Commissioner Joe Cassar

Assistant Commissioner Cassar was promoted to Superintendent in 2011 and spent time at the Cabramatta, Shoalhaven and Wollongong Local Area Commands before joining the Capability, Performance and Youth Command as Assistant Commissioner in 2017.

Assistant Commissioner Cassar said his time at Wollongong and what is now the South Coast Police District gave him a great exposure to the issues facing regional NSW.

"I certainly have an appreciation of how diverse the Southern Region Command is," he said.

"I am really excited about the prospect of returning to the region and making a positive impact on the local community."

He said one of his main focuses will be on ensuring his people are match fit.

"We will have a strong focus on capability and performance throughout the entire region," he said.

"We need to make sure we have the best people in place to tackle emerging crimes and ensure the safety of our community."

He took command of Southern Region on July 1.

His appointment comes the same week as the announcement of nine new officers for the South Coast Police District over the next 12 months, including one specialist child protection register officer.

Further north and five new officers will also be joining the Lake Illawarra Local Area Command, as part of the first allocation of the NSW Liberals and Nationals \$583 million investment in extra police assigned to local stations and specialist areas to protect communities and fight crime.



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For more information contact Annemarie on 0405 126 444
or email georgecrossfalcons@gmail.com

Find us on  For updates and event information
www.facebook.com/georgecrossfalcons



Welcome to www.kreattivita.org

Spazju Kreattiv is a programme of creative arts and culture events that take place primarily across Malta and Gozo. Established by Fondazzjoni Kreattivita in the year 2000, our

home is in St James Cavalier, Valletta, a 16th century fort converted into the National Centre for Creativity. We host a range of exhibition spaces, a cinema, a theatre in-the-round, an artist in residence programme, and operate a number of festivals, including ŽiguŽajg and VIVA (Valletta International Visual Arts Festival).

The Spazju Kreattiv Programme is led by artistic director Toni Sant and developed by a team of programme, operations and technical staff. The Programme is composed through a combination of projects and events submitted through an open call and from others specifically created, commissioned or co-produced with us. For more information about collaborating with us, please drop in on one of our regular IKKREA sessions where you can meet one of our programmes coordinators.

Programme Strands

The Spazju Kreattiv program is divided into a number of strands – although many events may fall under more than one.



Performing Arts Theatre, dance and music are the foremost performing arts in the Spazju Kreattiv programme. We regularly host live theatre and music events in the Spazju Kreattiv Theatre and in other spaces in the building.



Film The Spazju Kreattiv Cinema features a range of international and local art house films, including Academy Award winners and nominees. We also screen international seasons of music, theatre and dance, including live and encore screenings of National Theatre, Royal Shakespeare Company, Bolshoi Ballet and Met Opera productions.



Visual Arts Our gallery and studio spaces permanently host a range of free visual art exhibitions and projects, including video art, installation art, painting, photography, and project expositions and info spaces.



Ideas The Ideas strand comprises a broad range of workshops, discussions, research projects, conferences and other development events relating to the local creative sector. These events are aimed at a range of ages and levels of knowledge.



Children and Young People We programme a wide range of events and workshops for Children and Young People, including organising the annual ŽiguŽajg festival.



Artists' Residency The Artists' Residency programme is based on the concept of cultural immersion. Residences are hosted in order to enrich cultural diversity within the national creative scene, facilitating local and international artists to collaborate and produce inclusive works rooted in community and collective growth.



Prickly Pear Liqueur

it comes from a spiky cactus.

This jewel-toned Sicilian and Maltese specialty is so sweet, it's hard to believe it comes from a spiky cactus.

The jewel-red liquid gleams from rows of glass bottles, almost blood-colored fading to a deep maroon. This entrancing nectar is one of the Mediterranean's most unique liqueurs, and it comes from an unlikely

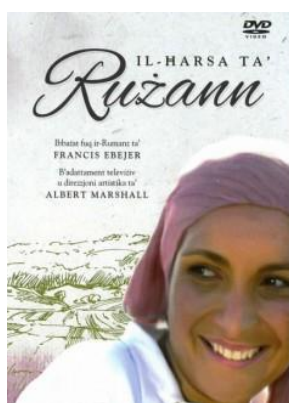
source: the prickly pear, also known as the cactus fruit. Traditionally made in Sicily, where it's called *liquore da fico d'india*, and Malta, where it's called *bajtra*, the liqueur is syrupy in texture with a flavor reminiscent of honeydew melon and an alcoholic kick.

The prickly pear's hue isn't the only colorful thing about it. Known scientifically as *Opuntia ficus indica* (or *fico d'india* in Italian), the fruit's name literally translates to "fig of India." It's neither a fig nor from India. In reality, prickly pear, like most cacti, comes from the Western hemisphere and is native to the Southwestern United States and Mexico, where it continues to be a staple food. Transplanted to the Mediterranean after the Columbian exchange, the gnarly limbs of prickly pear cacti now lord over Sicilian and Maltese landscapes, forming organic fences between neighboring fields.

These deceptively thorny plants yield lush fruits. In Sicily, the cacti produce smaller fruits in August, which are culled to make way for a second crop of larger, fatter fruits that burst into ripeness by autumn. As an homage to their size, and presumably also to the painful spikes that cover them, Sicilians refer to this second crop by the delicate moniker *bastardoni*, meaning (you guessed it) "big bastards." These rotund bastards are then harvested, peeled, fermented, and eventually transformed into the iconic liqueur.

Those not lucky enough to be in Sicily or Malta can find prickly pear liqueur online or in Mediterranean specialty stores. Ambitious at-home cooks can also buy the fruit and make their own versions. Prickly pear liqueur is traditionally consumed cold, in dainty glasses, with an after-dinner *panna cotta* or soft cheese. It's also best consumed overlooking the turquoise Mediterranean, but even if you don't have seaside real estate, the flavor of this iconic liqueur is sure to transport you.

Sicilian and Maltese people believe prickly pears to have medicinal and skincare benefits. While it's unclear whether these medicinal properties translate to prickly pear liqueur, one cannot ignore the unusually long lifespan of some Sicilians.



IL-HARSA TA' RUZANN

huwa l-aħħar rumanz li Francis Ebejer ippubblika f'ħajtu. Dan ir-rumanzett, li kien ġie ppubblikat għall-ewwel darba fl-1985, huwa l-uniku wieħed li Ebejer kiteb bil-Malti. Ir-rumanz iseħħ fl-isfond tal-iżvilupp soċjali u politiku li seħħ f'Malta mill-1844, meta jibda r-rumanz, sa tmiemu, f'xi żmien bejn l-1974 u l-bidu tas-snin tmenin, meta nkiteb.

L-istorja tibda bil-laqqgħa ta' wieħed Baruni jismu Mark-Antonin, mill-Imdina, mat-tfajla Ruzann, bint il-bdiwa u hi nnifisha ħaddiema tar-raba'. Ruzann toħroġ tqila u mikejja li l-Baruni jkun jixtieq jiżżewwiha, hi ma taċċettax għax taf li fis-soċjetà li kienu għixu fiha – Malta ta' nofs is-seklu dsatax – żwieġ bejn raġel nobbli u mara bidwija ma seta' jiġi aċċettat qatt, u kien jispiċċa jkisser soċjalment lill-maħbub tagħha, il-Baruni. Għalhekk, minkejja l-imħabba tagħha għall-Baruni, tiddeċiedi li trabbi t-tarbija waħidha u ma tikxef qatt min kien il-missier. Ir-rumanz isegwi dak li jiġi mid-dixxendenti ta' Ruzann mill-bidu umli ta' binha Karmenu, imrobbi bla missier, sal-emnċipazzjoni permezz tal-edukazzjoni li bil-mod il-mod tibda tidhol fil-familja tagħha minkejja diffikultajiet kbar. Dan kollu jseħħ taht l-għajnejn protettivi ta' Ruzann, li tibqa' tħares fuq id-dixxendenti tagħha għal ħafna, ħafna snin wara mewtha. B'addament u direzzjoni artistika ta' ALBERT MARSHALL



LUCIANO PAVAROTTI

Dates and Times:

Thursday, 15 August, 2019, 6pm

Tuesday, 20 August, 2019, 7.30pm

Friday, 23 August, 2019, 7.30pm

Wednesday, 28 August, 2019, 7.30pm

Sunday, 8 September, 2019, 6.00pm

Venue: Spazju Kreattiv Cinema **Price:** €7 / €6 (Cinema Club Members)

In his latest documentary, two-time Academy Award-winning director Ron Howard celebrates the life of the beloved opera star Luciano Pavarotti, who sold over 100 million records in his lifetime.

The 1990 World Cup in Italy was the moment opera left the elite and hit the masses. Opera star Pavarotti joined fellow tenors Placido

Domingo and Jose Carreras onstage in Rome watched by millions around the world. Their powerful rendition of "Nessun Dorma" lives on as one of the most popular and famous pieces of music the world has ever heard, and Pavarotti realised his long held dream of bringing opera into the mainstream.

Ron Howard takes an intimate approach in telling Pavarotti's story, going beyond the iconic public figure to reveal the man himself. Thanks to a partnership with Decca Records and through unique access to the Pavarotti family archives, home videos, behind the scenes footage and extensive live music footage, we see Pavarotti's personal story emerge: from his humble beginnings in Northern Italy through to global superstardom. We travel the world with Pavarotti. We get to know the great tenor as a husband and father, a committed philanthropist, as well as a fragile artist who had a complex relationship with his own unique talents and unprecedented success.



Photo - MGOZ - George Scerri

Documentary Culhat al Belt presented to the Gozo Ministry

The part played by Gozo in Malta's Constitutional journey in 1921 and the tragic death of Joseph Bajada from Xaghra at the 7 Giugno riots were remembered during a ceremony where Minister for Gozo, Dr Justyne Caruana was presented with four documentaries from the PBS News Centre.

PBS chairman Tonio Portuguese pointed out how Joseph Bajada symbolised thousands of Gozitans who came over to Malta to apply to emigrate – a social reality which was captured thanks to the research carried out by journalist Mario Xuereb. The documentary serves to strengthen the public service broadcasting's commitment to protecting Malta and Gozo's social, historical and political heritage.

Minister Dr Justyne Caruana spoke about Gozo's role over the years which saw the islands emerged from colonialism to Malta becoming a free and sovereign country. The Ministry for Gozo will rightfully join in the national celebrations of the centenary from the achievement of the first Constitutional National Assembly in 1921.



18 ta' Awwissu DISKUSSIONI <i>Is University a Myth?</i> The case for literature Post: The Undercroft, Valletta Min: 8pm	20 ta' Awwissu DISKUSSIONI <i>(Not) Maintaining the Status Quo</i> Post: Valletta Contemporary, Valletta Min: 8pm	21 ta' Awwissu PALK HIELES <i>IL-JIELI FIL-FORTI</i> Post: Forti Sant'Jermu Min: 8pm	22-24 ta' Awwissu IL-JIELI FIL-FORTI Post: Forti Sant'Jermu Min: 8pm
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IC-CIPPITATU GAME OF THE PAST



One of the earliest games in Malta was Ic-Cippitatu. This game was popular with both young and old alike and was quite an attraction especially during feasts and other outdoor activities. It was a common sight during Resurrection Sunday when the winner could win a Maltese figolla. The Cippitatu was a Teetotum with four-sides, each side of which indicated how much the player loses or wins. Among the prizes were marbles and beads. The word Cippitatu is a Maltese rendering of the Latin Accipe Totum (take all) because one of the rules of the game was that the winner would have a clean sweep of the prize. The person organising the game would go round using a dish under his arm and the teetotum in hand. Usually gamers would pay one penny or a half-penny to play.



LA VALLETE SOCIAL CENTRE BLACKTOWN NSW

La Valette Kitchen at the Social Centre is under NEW MANAGEMENT from the 1st August 2019. Charlie brings with him nearly 30 years of experience in kitchen management. In addition to the traditional Maltese dishes at La Valette, Charlie introduces some other popular dishes enjoyed by others wherever he has been. Charlie takes orders for special functions at the Centre including Wakes, Birthdays, Christenings and Weddings.



MALTESE COMMUNITY COUNCIL OF VICTORIA INC.

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MCCV qed jilqa' applikazzjonijiet għall-pożizzjoni ta' għalliem/a part-time tal-lingwa Maltija, fil-binja tagħhom f'14 Watt Street, Sunshine, Victoria.

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Friday 6th September - 7:00pm
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Please bring a Plate of Food

FESTA DINNER & CELEBRATION
Saturday 7th September - 7:00pm
North Mackay Bowls Club
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There is a lot of interest in people learning **Maltese** in the **Sunshine area**. If you and/or your children are interested to learn our language Contact the MCCV on 412 115 919

GEORGE CROSS FALCONS COMMUNITY CENTRE INC.
ILLAWARRA NSW
Concert of the year
Rocking Eddie Curmi Band and Charles Camilleri



Everyone had a great fun



Mr Louis Parnis with the Lord Mayor Gordon Bradbery

On the 18 March 2019, the committee and members of the Maltese Falcon Community Centre Cringila were left shaken after two masked intruders robbed them of their hard-earned cash during a brazen and opportunistic attack. Two volunteer ladies fainted.

The next day Eddie Curmi of the 'Rockin Eddie Curmi Band' and Charlie Camilleri asked the president to hold a concert to raise funds against the loss the association suffered.

On the 27 July 2019, the Concert was held and around 310 attended to support. The good news that it was organised as a family night was some 20 young kids and babies were in attendance.

The Lord Mayor of Wollongong Gordon Bradbery during his speech thanked the committee and volunteers for their contribution in the Illawarra region and thanking Louis Parnis for bringing us all together. The committee members and volunteers dedicated their precious time to organise such an excellent concert and everyone who attended had a magnificent social evening, dancing, good food and great music. We also thank the sponsors for donating prizes for the raffle.

The South Coast Maltese community transition in the last 14 years under the helm of the president of the club Mr. Louis Parnis meant that the Community is still alive and vibrant and the future looks bright

Here is what Elizabeth Walker, an attendee of the event, wrote on *Facebook*: "Thanks to all the wonderful volunteers and helpers. Our fundraising event went off with a bang. A very big thank you to all the support our Community Centre gave us, without your amazing support the night would not have been such a great success. Last, but not least by any means, a very big 'thank you' to our President, Louis Parnis, whose hard



work and dedication to the Maltese Community of Illawarra region never ceases to amaze me and all the people who know him. A BIG "VIVA" TO THE MALTESE OF ILLAWARRA, LET'S KEEP IT GOING with [Louis Parnis.](#)"



Report: Daphne Cassar

The catacombs at Ta' Bistra located at Targa Gap are the largest complex of burial chambers that have been found to date and that are not in the Rabat area in Malta and probably formed part of an even larger complex of chambers.

Heritage Malta official David Cardona said that the Paleochristian catacombs had probably been dug vertically so as to look down toward St Paul's Bay, probably in the 4th Century AD.

Cardona said the catacombs were primarily a cemetery and involved a number of burial rituals and also include special tables that were used for ritual feasts to commemorate the funeral and the whole area probably remained in use up to the 8th Century AD.

David Cardona is a research specialist of Phoenician sites as well as Roman and mediaeval and said the catacombs site has a length of 90 metres and consists of 57 graves distributed over 16 chambers. He said that although the catacombs had been documented in 1880, serious investigations were only carried out in 1933 by Captain Charles Zammit because at the

time they were in danger of being demolished for the construction of a road leading to Burmarrad.

He said that over the years the site had been considerably damaged as a result of a farm having been built on it and further damages caused because the catacombs were probably used as a bomb shelter during World War II.

David Cardona said the site has a valuable archaeological heritage because it is near a road that was used by travelers from the Roman city of Melitae to Salina Port and thus highlights the high activity in the zone at the time. The catacombs are among the few that have not been dumped on during the years.

The Ta' Bistra Catacombs form part of a chain of projects financed by the EU for archaeological excavations, documentation and preservation together with the setting of a suitable structure to protect the archaeological remains.

The public will be enabled to explore these catacombs on 15th September during an activity to be organised by Heritage Malta to project greater awareness of the heritage site.

Chev. Charles Figallo OSJ OAM

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



Charles Figallo, of Maltese parents, founded Basetec Services in 1999 and has built the company from the ground up, serving as Chief Executive Officer for 20 years. Charles has over 40 years of business operating experience, as well as an extensive knowledge of composite materials and corrosion protection, having worked in the industry since his teenage years. Charles is heavily involved in various business and community organisations in Adelaide and was notably awarded the Order of Australia

Medal for services to business and community.





Report: Ruth Amaira

The brazier's trade is in its twilight years. Malta's last remaining brazier, however, is still young, and as far as he is concerned, this trade is literally his life. He inherited the trade from his father, and speaking to TVM, he thanked all those involved, particularly artists, as they are the ones who are keeping this trade alive.

The brazier's trade is not an easy one. It is still sought out to this very day, particularly by artists creating works in bronze. There is only one brazier left, however – Chris Chetcuti, who was taught the trade by his father and followed in his footsteps.

"I don't have any workmates to keep me company and to share my feelings when I'm working. And not everyone understands when I speak about a difficult casting or shaping."

The forms in plaster, the rubber, the molten wax... the molten bronze is poured into the forms and goes straight into a hot oven. Part of the process of a brazier's work, so that after detailed work, the design in the plaster comes out in the bronze. Rain or shine, summer or winter, the temperature near the forge where the bronze is melted and the oven where the form takes shape is always very high. The biggest challenge for Chris is the size of the work he would be tackling. When the forms are big in size and have to be split up, and one

Malta's last remaining brazier describes this trade as his life

has to rely on the experience of those in the trade.

"On an island like Malta, when I am the only one remaining to carry out this trade, it's not easy to find others who can understand you and help quickly when you most need them."

Chris recalls his father's memory, and treasures the time he spent working with him, until his father died at the relatively young age of 58 in March. Chris learnt the trade from his father, who was also a sculptor, and Chris will always remember their biggest project, the monument to Grand Master La Vallette in Valletta which had been designed by his father.

"Because of the fine detail in certain parts of his robes, it was important for us to pay particular attention to the casting, to ensure a perfect finish."

At the age of 31, Chris ruminates about the biggest work he would like to handle.

"I would like to cast a complete horse, actual size, which would be cast in one piece, at one go. It had been done years ago. It would be a great challenge for me to have an opportunity to do it." The forge in Chris Chetcuti's foundry symbolises an enormous flame he holds for this passion which has become his career, and although he is the last remaining brazier, he believes he can progress to ensure the brazier's trade will not end, at least for now

Find us on Facebook and Twitter and also at the
Malta Migration Museum - Valletta
Maltese/Canadian Archives - Toronto Canada



VCA
VALLETTA
CULTURAL
AGENCY

mesa
MALTA EMPLOYEES SPORTS ASSOCIATION

**VALLETTA
5K
RACE**

The Malta Employees Sports Association (MESA) in collaboration with the Valletta Cultural Agency (VCA) and the Valletta Local Council will be organising a 5 kilometre road race in Valletta.

8 AUGUST

The race starts 8pm from Castille Square and finishes at Freedom Square in front of Parliament Building.

Valletta Cultural Agency announces 5K run around Valletta. A 5-kilometre run will be taking place in Valletta on the 8th of August 2019.

The run starts in front of the Auberge de Castille at 8pm, and finishes at Freedom Square, in front of the Parliament Building. Workers from Government departments and entities as well as private entities are encouraged to participate.

Details were announced at a press conference held this morning by the Valletta Cultural Agency, which is organising this run in collaboration with the Malta Employees Sports Association (MESA) and the Valletta Local Council.

The event launched today promotes physical activity for a healthier lifestyle. This will not be the last activity of the sort for the Valletta Cultural Agency. This will be MESA's third 5K race this year. Earlier this year, MESA organised 5K races in Gozo as well as in Ta' Qali. This will be the first time that MESA is organising a race in Valletta.

Thank you



We thank all our readers of the Maltese Diaspora who are supporting our journal



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IL-VITORJA

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We encourage our South Australian readers to attend this special annual dinner dance and together we celebrate

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Excellent food, great entertainment and good company