MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER 372 **May 2021**

Maltese e-Newsletter

Journal of Maltese Living Abroad

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Mary Saliba Art Display at the Once Upon a Time Exhibition at the Black Diomond Gallery in Port Adelaide

Jum l-Omm

Five-storey hotel proposed on Saqqajja hill in Rabat

The project is set to have a considerable visual impact on Saqqaja hill due to the increase in building density created by the new hotel

by **James Debono** www.maltatoday.com.mt

Saqqajja hill in Rabat

A massive five-star hotel with 110 guest-rooms built over five terraced floors is being proposed on the area presently occupied by the Tattingers club and a number of adjacent properties in Rabat.

The 5,549 sq.m area is presently characterised by two-storey properties now earmarked for demolition. An extensive undeveloped site which lies outside development boundaries between these properties and Mdina is earmarked for landscaping and a swimming pool.

The project is set to have a considerable visual impact on Saqqaja hill due to the increase in building density created by the new hotel. But the development will be terraced along the slope of the hill in a way that the hotel will not exceed the height of older buildings located on top of Saqqajja hill.

The Saqqajja hill hotel as proposed

The application which impacts on an urban conservation area also foresees the felling of some trees and alterations to existing rubble walls.

Applicant Jeffrey Cutajar has declared full ownership of the site earmarked for the hotel development. The Tattingers club closed its doors seven months ago after 25 years in operation.

An application presented last year for the construction of offices instead of the neighbouring Rainbow apartments block has now been dropped. A restaurant instead of a showroom was approved in the same block in 2015.

As presented the application does not foresee any excavations under the existing buildings or the creation of new parking facilities.

DO YOU KNOW 'JESUS'?

Hello Frank, in my early days in Australia many people that I came across used to ask me if I knew Jesus. I used to be shopping in Adelaide and I get asked the same question. As my surname is Zammit it transpired that on HMAS Sydney during the 1950's they had a canteen manager whose name was Zammit. Apparently, every second word that he spoke was 'Jesus' hence the nickname that he acquired. I was told that once when stationed in the Mediterranean the ship entered Malta and his wife and a great number of his kids went on board. Apparently, he was a very well-liked person because of the fine way that he treated his customers. Alas I could never find out anything else about this guy. Do you know anyone that was serving on HMAS SYDNEY. **V.Zammit**

Hope you and all your family are well. We just had an enjoyable 10 days in Victoria for a Victoria State Futsal Championships which our son Anthony organised as head of Futsal Victoria. While there I had the opportunity to help out as Referee coach and mentor in the four day tournament. I also played the trumpet at the Brijju for the Tarxien Social club's annual feast of the Annunzjata on the Saturday social feast night and also spent four more days enjoying Anthony, his wife Domini and our three grandsons whom we haven't seen for 16 months due to the Covid 19 pandemic. Just want to say "Thank You" for another interesting newsletter and I look forward to it. Kind regards Raymond and Rita Grima and family

The Football Victoria State Futsal Championships is the marquee event in the Victorian Futsal calendar.

Held between 12-14 April 2021, the event brought together all Futsal clubs and centres across Victoria to crown the state champion in each age group, from Under 8 through to Open Men and Women.

The FV State Futsal Championships was an opportunity for FV to identify talented players, coaches and referees that will go on to represent Victoria at the 2022 Football Australia National Futsal Championships.

Head of Futsal Anthony Grima is excited for Football Victoria to officially launch a new era for Futsal in Victoria through the event.

"There's no better opportunity to bring the Victorian Futsal community together for such a terrific event as the Football Victoria State Futsal Championships," he said.

"There are many amazing and dedicated individuals at the heart of the Futsal family here in Victoria. We are reaching out to all Futsal clubs, centres, referees, coaches and administrators to help us deliver something

Anthony Grima moves into the newly-created position of Head of Futsal at Football Victoria, in addition to his existing role of Head of Commercial.

really special for the community, as we celebrate three fantastic days in April".

"We also extend an invitation to our friends in Futsal across other states and territories to come across to Victoria and help us showcase this great game of ours," Grima said.

The 2021 Football Victoria State Futsal Championships is open to all Futsal clubs and Futsal Centres in both metropolitan Melbourne and regional Victoria. Interstate clubs are also invited to participate.

We are proud of our achievers
If you are an achiever we would like to hear from you

Maltese living in Australia Facebook _ Tony Bonnici

My Mum called to remind me that today which marks 57 years since my family and me arrived in Melbourne after sailing from Malta on the Roma... We arrived in Fremantle on 28 April and then on to Station Pier, Port Melbourne.
Me, my Mum, Dad, my Dad's parents, his younger sister, his brother and his wife, and three of my cousins all arrived on 2 May 1964. Proud of what we built, proud of where we came from.

Maltese living in Australia.

La Valette Social Centre Blacktown NSW

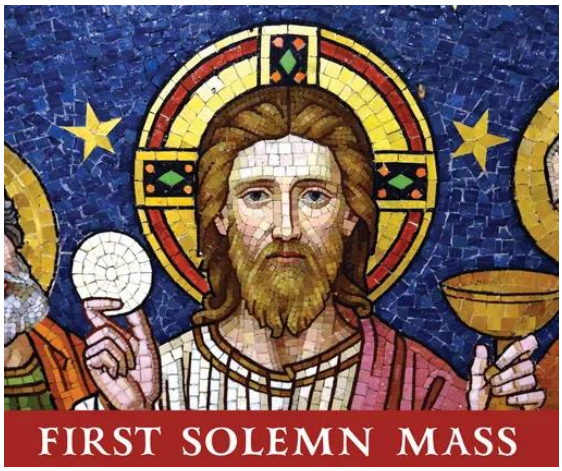
La Valette Knights FC Information Night

from our correspondent in Sydney

On Friday 30th April 2021, a football information night was held at the La Valette Social Centre.
The night was to provide members and guests an update on the possibility of commencing football teams within the Centre from 2022.
The night was opened by the president of the club Godfrey Sultana, who provided some interesting information on the club and its involvement with Football back in the 60s and 70s. Godfrey was thankful that Stephen Micallef, Mark Tanti and Anthony Theuma were working hard to establish football teams to entice younger Australian/Maltese to the Centre.

Proposed Name and Logo

Stephen Micallef provided an update on why football was needed, when and what teams they were considering, and location/home ground. He confirmed that an application was submitted to the Blacktown District Football Soccer Association and was hoping confirmation would be received in June or July 2021 if La Valette will be able to field teams in 2022. Team Name – La Valette Knights FC
Anthony Theuma discussed the logo and colours and how they came about. And what a professional logo it is.
Mark Tanti confirmed the importance of financial support and sponsorship and that packages would be available in the coming months. Also spoke about sourcing players from the local and outside areas.
The meeting was closed thanking all those who attended and to continue to spread the word about this new venture for the club.



Lill-Patri Etienne
F'Jum L-Ewwel Quddiesa Tiegħu
2 ta' Mejju 2021

Bil-ferħ ilqajt l-istedina
Li għamilli l-Gwardjan
Sabiex nikteb xi ftit versi
Lil dal-Patri Franġiskan

Illi wara illi thejja
Fis-Seminarju tal-Għawdxin
Issa qed jieħu l-Quddiesa –
Kemm ixxennaq għal dal-ħin!

Patri Etienne issa mżejjen
Bl-Ordni Sagri tal-Mulej
U lilu sa jibda jniżżel
Fuq l-artal għaż-żmien li ġej

Bih ifejjaq u jferraħ
Lil dawk illi jersqu lejh
U jirċievu l-Ostja Mqaddsa
Minn qiegħ il-palma ta' jdejh!

'.....es Sacerdos in aeternum'
Qed nismagħhom ikantawlek,
Knisja mżejna, nies ferħana,
Ma' dawn familjari, ħbiebek!

Li min jaf kemm sahru w talbu
Biex illum jarawk qassis,
Magħhom jifraħ l-Ordni kollu
Int tiegħu l-iben l-għażiż.

Ma' dawn kollha jien ningħaqad
Biex nixtieqlek paċi w ġid;
Tehda qatt ixxandar 'l Alla
Għajn ta' tama, tiegħek Sid!

Int sirt wieħed mill-ħaddiema
Ġewwa l-għalqa tal-Mulej,
Terraq fuq il-passi tiegħu
Agħmlu tiegħek il-mexxej.

Darek, ħutek, il-familja
Huma n-nies tad-dinja kollha
Lilhom ħobbhom, farraġ, agħder
Idħol dejjem qalb il-folla.

O Marija Immakulata
Patruna tal-Franġiskani
Itfa' ħarstek fuq dan l-iben
U fil-grazzja agħmlu għani.

Int O fqajjar ta' Assisi
Li tbegħidt minn kull kburija
Seddaq lil dal-ġuvni twajjeb
Agħmlu xempju ta' rġulija.

Biex flimkien ma' ħutu l-oħra
Iżomm fit-triq tal-bżulija
Kif għexha l-Qaddis ta' Padua
Kollha hena u tjubija.

Nitolbok Mulej f'din l-għodwa
Itfa' ħarstek fuq dan l-Ordni
Kompli saħħu, kompli kattru
La tħallihx jisfa' iktar orfni.

Minn għadd kbir ta' tfal u żgħażagħ
Li ta' Franġisku jaqbdu t-triq
Biex ikomplu jwasslu iktar
Għadd t'erwieħ għand il-Ħallieq.

Għażiż raheb ta' Franġisku
Nixtieqlek saħħa ta' plier;
Dawn l-awguri mill-qalb ilqa'
Ġejjin m'għand il-Kavallier!

Kav Joe M Attard
Rabat – Għawdex
Mejju 2021

Niftakru lill-ommijiet taghna – hajjin u mejtin

illum tista tghid f'kull pajjiz fid-dinja qed jiccelbra Jum l-Omm "Mother's Day". Ghalija dan il-jum huwa wiehed mil l-aqwa festi li ghandna fid-dinja. Disgrazzjatalment hafna drabi ma nazzprezzawx xi tfisser ghalina ommna qabel ma nitilfuha bhall ma grali jie. Kemm hu iffurtunat min ghad ghandu lil ommu hajja. Kemm huma imberkin dawn li meta isejhula Ma u hi twegibhom, kif jinzel bhall balzmu dak il-lehen hlejju taghha. Bis-sincerita' kollha nghid li ommna hija kollox ghalina ghalkemm il-missier ghandu jrwol importanti fill-familja,l-omm tisboq fuq kollox.

Kienet hi li garritna ghall disa' xhur f'gufha ,f'diversi drabi b'detriment ghall sahhitha u meta twelidna laqetna f'diraghjha u sqitna l-halib bnin taghha. Omma taghna tibqa maghna tul-hajjitna kollha. Kienet hi li wizintna u ghallmitna biex naghmlu l-ewwel passi fill-hajja taghna , kienet hi li meta bkejna minnhabba xi haga lijkun gralna li hadnitna maghha u sabbritna. L-omm thobb lil ulieda mhux ghaliex huma ghorrief jew bravi jew sbieh ,l-omm thobbna ghax sempliciment ahna ulieda , u issa ippermettuli jnsemmi dan il-fatt : personalment jien twelidt fill-gwerra li ghaddiet gewwa Malta fejn min hu ta' l-eta' tieghi jaf li gieli kien hemm perjodu li kellna noqqas ta ikell u affarijiet essenzjali ..Mela darba accidentalment smajt lil ommi tirrakkonta dwar min xiex ghaddiet matul il-gwerra ,smajta tghid lil wahda girien taghna li gieli kella torqod bill-guh biex titma lilna ,u meta missieri kien sintendi jghejdilha biex tiekol hi, ,kienet tghejdlu "le kula int ghax ghada trid tmur ghax xoghol u starrett li mhux l-ewwel darba li kienet ma tkunx tista torqod ,ghax l-istonku taghha jkun vojt.u wara pawsa ,smajta tghid lil il-gara taghha ; "x'naghmel ?? uliedi u l-familja jigi qabli…u fuq kollox" U X'hini l-karba taghna meta jkunu miguwin *Ajma, Ma*, meta niehdu qaghta, meta naqaw u jnwegghu dejjem nitolbu l-ghajnuna ta' oomna.

L-omm hija l-gabra tal-Familja ,bhall ma jghejdu l-antenati taghna hija l-qroqqa li tigbor lil flieles taghha.L-OMM hija dik il-krejatura li tifimna u li b'bewsa bnina taghha taf tfarragna , il-qalb li dejjem tkun maghna b'mod specjali matul is-sieghat ta dwejjaq…min ? daqsa jista jifhem u jaghder lil ulieda .il-Papa Franciscu jghid li l-imhabba tal-omm hija medicina specjali ghal l-individwalizmu svrenat li jghezizti madwarna llum. U hawn ta min jiftakar f'dawk l-ommijiet anzjani li jinsabu l-isptarijiet ,jew fid-djar tal-anzjani li disgrazzjatament gieli jghaddu gimghat u xhur biex uliedhom imurru jarawhom ,ghax bill-hajja mghaggla tal-lum ,dawn jirragunaw li basta ghandhom rashom mistrieha li hemm min jiehu hsiebhom ,allura mhix problema li dawn l-imsieken huma lonely u qalbhom maqsuma u ghadxcana biex jarawhom,..

Din l-imsejkna ommna ,wara is-sagrificcji li tkun ghamlet ghall ulieda,thossa minsija u imwarrba minn ulieda stess . U wara kollox min bhali tilef lil ommu l-ghaziza l-memorja taghha igibilna memorji sbieh u ta farag,u jien nghid li dawn l-imberkin ommijiet bhall ma habbewna u ghamlu sagrificcji ghalina meta kienu maghna ,hekk ukoll mhux se jinsewna issa li qedin igawdu hena ta dejjem.

Imma ahna minn naha taghna ahna huwa d-dover taghna li ma ninsewhomx u nitolbu ghalihom. Emmnuni li niehu pjacir meta fill-"Mother's DAY nisma lin-nisa ta uliedi li jmorru u jiehdu bukket fjuri fuq il-qabar t'ommom. Issa f'din il-gurnata importanti ma nistghu ma nsemmux lil Ommna Vergni Marija li tishoqq kull fohrija u imhabba. mela awguri lil OMMIJIET U nanniet kolla li ghadhom maghna lil dawk li bhall tieghi u ta marti .li marru jiltghaqu mal-mulej ,li jien cert li qedin fl-hena ta dejjem nghidilhom zommu il-harsa taghkom fuqna.HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY

I am so old that I remember parents naming their children Marija, Giuzeppi, Karmenu, Tonina u Kalcidon – J.Zerafa

Saturday Sessions

May 15, 12:00 PM – 11:59 PM EDT

The Maltese Center, 27-20 Hoyt Avenue South, Astoria, NEW YORK, USA

Another Saturday Session is coming - enjoy our spacious outdoor blooming "garden" with a cold drink, good company, and music... under the sun or the stars!

A big thank you to our members and volunteers who continue to help and support the Center with their time, talent, and donations. These efforts keep our Maltese presence and identity going strong here in New York.. MERHBA to our new members and thank you to those who have renewed their memberships

Msida Bastion Historic Cemetery and Garden – Malta

www.myguidemalta.com/

Might sound spooky to have a cemetery as a garden... but this is exactly what it is and certainly worth a visit. The place is impeccably taken care of and has a truly peaceful atmosphere to it. The garden is also the resting place of Mikiel Anton Vassalli (father of the Maltese language)

Previously known as the Msida Bastion Cemetery and later as the Msida Bastion Garden of Rest, what is now known as the Msida Bastion Historic Garden is a tranquil, Protestant cemetery located in a sunken garden on St Philip's Bastion in Floriana, just outside the capital Valletta.

As you enter the garden the first thing you notice is the beautiful view overlooking Pieta` Creek and Yacht Marina. Take a pleasant walk around large green open spaces and appreciate the indigenous and exotic trees dating 200 or so years ago. Although the place is scattered with marble headstones and statues as one would expect of an old cemetery, the place is far from eery, but rather peaceful and serene.

The cemetery operated for half a century from 1806, with records showing at least 528 people buried here. Those buried were predominantly Britons who were associated with the armed forces and civil administration, but other non-Catholics were also buried here. A very famous Maltese figure, the great Mikiel Anton Vassalli (1764 - 1829), known as the father of the Maltese language, was a Catholic but was buried here because he fell out with Unfortunately the place fell into serious neglect in the decades following its closure, and many of the grave inscriptions became indecipherable. The place was hit by bombs in World War II and the trees and undergrowth were left for decades to grow unrestrained, causing further damage.

In 1983 interest was revived to clear the area, and by 1988 it began to be restored, with works being completed in 1993. The restoration of Msida Bastion Historic Garden by Din l-Art Helwa, in collaboration with the Ministries of the Environment and Agriculture and the British High Commission, was awarded a Silver Medal by Europa Nostra in 2002, the first such award to be received in Malta.

The first section of the cemetery-cum-garden was officially opened in September 1995, and in 2004 a Museum of Maltese Burial Practices was opened in the building adjacent to the garden. The garden is open to the public on Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday, and the first Sunday of every month, from 9.30am till Noon.

Maltese man who contracted Covid-19 in India died

The Maltese man who contracted Covid-19 while he was in India with his wife to finalise details for the adoption of a baby girl has passed away.

The Health Ministry confirmed in a statement on Friday that the 47-year-old, who was expected to arrive in Malta on an air ambulance tonight, had passed away.

The man has now been identified as notary Ivan Barbara. He was in India with his wife to finalise the adoption of a baby girl from the country.

He developed complications only minutes before boarding the aircraft, and died minutes after being transferred onto the plane.

The couple contracted Covid-19 while they were making final arrangements to return to Malta, and the man's condition took a turn for the worse last week, with doctors considering putting him in an induced coma at one point.

His condition had improved slightly, but the situation remained serious – especially as Indian hospitals run out of oxygen to use for ventilators. The man was at the Manavta Hospital outside New Delhi. He was set to be flown to Malta on an air ambulance contracted from France which is equipped with a ventilator.

Greta Thunberg is a Swedish climate activist.

Why you should listen

In August 2018, Greta Thunberg started a school strike for the climate outside the Swedish Parliament that has since spread all over the world and now involves over 100,000 schoolchildren. The movement is now called Fridays For Future.

Thunberg has spoken at climate rallies in Stockholm, Helsinki, Brussels and London. In December 2018 she attended the United Nations COP24 in Katowice, Poland, where she addressed the Secretary-General and made a plenary speech that went viral and was shared many million times around the globe. In January 2019, she was invited to the World Economic Forum in Davos where her speeches again made a worldwide impact.

Thunberg tries to live a low-carbon life. Therefore she is vegan, and she doesn't fly. In 2019, *TIME* magazine named her Person of the Year as well as one of the world's 100 most influential people.

This Maltese Journal is archived at the MALTA MIGRATION MUSEUM - Valletta Maltese-Canadian Museume - Toronto, several schools and libraries websites; ozmalta.com., Maltese Community Council of Victoria Ministry for Foreign and European Affairs, Maltese Clubs in Australia, NZ, UK and USA Aged Care Facilities and FACEBOOK. Subscribe now- maltesejournal@gmail.com

I love this journal so much that I print it every week and give it to my grandparents who are in a nursing home and they share it with some of the other residents. Albert Sammut

Men's Mental Health evening

Prof. Stephen Gatt of the Order of Malta discussing suicide Prevention strategies with Stuart O'Neill, author of 'Just ONE Reason'

38 guests attended the Lake Conjola Bowling Club on Saturday evening for a Men's Mental Health evening, co-hosted by the Order of Malta and the Shoalhaven Rising from the Ashes centre.
The event brought together men from the community, impacted by the bushfires. Guests enjoyed a meal and talks from guest speakers.
Dr Tad Tietze, a psychiatrist who currently works at Shellharbour hospital and is responsible for psychiatric crisis response for acute presentations to the Emergency Department, was one of the guest speakers. Tad spoke wonderfully to the crowd about the need for men to look after their mental health and the importance of sharing their feelings and concerns with a trusted friend.
The second speaker of the evening was Stuart O'Neill, author of the best-selling book "Just One Reason" – a personal account of his battle with depression and suicidal thoughts on the breakdown of a relationship. Stuart spoke from the heart and captivated the audience with his honesty and openness. Stuart's message supported that of Tad's, encouraging men to stop and seek help if needed. Stuart provided all who attended the evening with a copy of his book. Both speakers waited around at the end of the night to talk to the gathered audience and this was greatly appreciated.
Finally, Stephen Chinnock, a local poet from Conjola recited one of the poems that he had written since the fires. Stephen spoke about the importance to have an outlet to express your feelings, and how his had been through the art of his poetry. The evening concluded with a few speeches of thanks, and hours of conversation amongst the crowd and speakers.

Thank you to everyone who supported this event. The evening was a great success and was very much appreciated by the community members who attended.

ABBOTT WMM GLOBAL MARATHON INCANADA 2 MAY 2021 – joseph camilleri

Maltese Canadian athlete Joseph Camilleri, better known as Joe Crazy Legs in the running community, once again proved that at 71 years of age he is still a force to be reckoned with, finishing in 3:23:02.

The Abbott World Marathon Majors organised a Global Marathon on May 1 & 2. Participants could run this marathon anywhere worldwide and had to record their time on a GPS (Global Positioning System) device, and submit their results electronically. Joseph chose the Flightpath around the Victoria International Airport in British Columbia, Canada for his challenge. This course is a traffic free path, and to complete the marathon distance of 42.2 km Joseph had to run 4.5 loops of this route.

His time of 3:23:02, which is also a PB (personal best) time of close to 3 minutes over his previous marathon in 2019, placed Joseph second overall in his Age Category out of 18 runners and just as impressive placed 197th Overall out of 1,094 runners worldwide in the open category. Since this was a Masters race, all runners were 40 years and older.

With this performance Joseph is invited to the Masters World Championships in 2022, for which the location has yet to be announced.

Joseph originally hails from Hamrun but has been living in Canada since 1972. Joseph has made it a tradition to fly the Maltese flag along with the Canadian flag at all major races.

We thank all our correspondents in Malta, Gozo, Canada, Australia, USA and UK. Without your help we would not be able to continue to publish this popular journal. You are invited to join the family.

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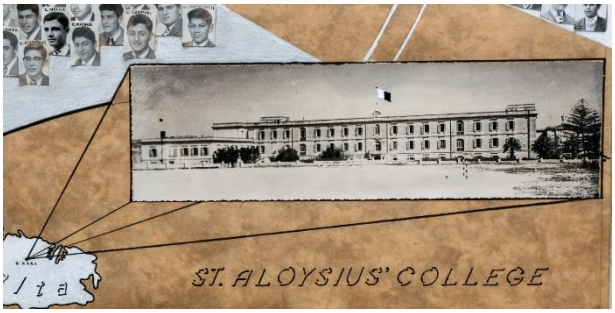
MALTESE CANADIAN COMMUNITY NEWS

The Maltese eNewsletter - The Journal of the Maltese Diaspora'
The Maltese eNewsletter - The Journal of the Maltese Diaspora is published every week and can be obtained by emailing the editor Frank L. Scicluna on maltesejournal@gmail.com
Copies can be obtained from the Consulate General of the Republic of Malta to Canada, Malta Bake Shop, the Malta Band Club, from Theresa Bugelli in the Durham Region and other places.



A Concise History of St. Aloysius College – Malta

https://staloysius.edu.mt

In October 1907, the Jesuits, at the request of Pope Saint Pius X, founded St. Aloysius College at Birkirkara, in the building which presently houses the Secondary school. It was originally built in 1896 to house young Jesuits in their formative years, however, in 1905 the novices and other scholastics were transferred to Sicily and the building remained vacant for a while.

8th October 1907 saw the College open for the first time, with 64 boarders, 56 day boys and 30 externs. Today, the student population is just over 1500.

For over a century, through the service of generations of Jesuits and lay teachers, the College has educated thousands of students, in preparation for their immersion into society as men and women for others, in the spirit of St Ignatius of Loyola.

The College has a long and interesting history that reflects the changes in our world over the past 100 years. During World War II, almost three quarters of the College was 'requisitioned' by the Medical and Health Department to be used as a hospital. Further turbulent times in the 1970s and 1980s saw the school struggle successfully for its survival.

Constant development has taken place at the College over the years, and we continue to be pioneers in the integral, inclusive and formative education of students in Malta.

The main College building houses the Secondary School, with a population of over 500 students from Forms 1 to 5. The Sixth Form building, inaugurated in 1991, caters to over 500 students. A Primary School was added to our College in 2008, and as from September 2018, we had our first intake of girls at primary level, marking the start of coeducation throughout the College.

With sport being an integral part of the education of our students, St Aloysius College has extensive state-of-the-art sports grounds. The outer sports ground is also home to the Sports Complex, inaugurated in 1997, which houses a *fully-equipped gymnasium and indoor sports pavilion*. In recent years the inner grounds were completely upgraded to offer further hi-tech sports pitches and outdoor play zones.

The Theatre Hall at the College was built by contributions primarily from Old Boys and was inaugurated on 7th December 1928. The marble was paid by the Noble Marquis John Scicluna, an Old Boy of the College. This hall was the *first concrete building in Malta* and has an unsupported double concrete roof with artistic decorations by Sicilian labourers. With drama, dance, music and song having always featured in the College curriculum, today the theatre sees regular student productions of very high standard.

From its early years, the College has had its own Church, dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Though mostly used by the College student population, the Church is open to the public for Mass at 6.15pm on Saturdays. On Sundays there are weekly Masses at 8.00am in Maltese and 9.30am in English.

Various Catholic youth groups thrived over the years, some going strong to this day – *The Solidality of Our Lady, CYLO (Catholic Youth Leaders Organisation), CLC (Christina Life Communities) and EYM (Eucharistic Youth Movement),* to name but a few.

The St Aloysius College Scout Troop dates back to October 1916 and was one of the first Scout groups in Malta. It organises many scouting activities throughout the year including holiday camps and the Wednesday weekly meeting. Its headquarters are situated in Triq il-Ferrovija l-Qadima, B'Kara.

Dynamic and forward-looking, St Aloysius College continues to grow as one of Malta's most successful and well-loved educational institutions.

2021 Youth Camp on the Gold Coast – Expressions of Interest now being taken!

For over thirty years, The Order of Malta has held Youth Summer Camps across the globe, and for the first time in September 2021, the Australian Association is set to host the Asia-Pacific Region Youth Camp on the **Gold Coast from 19th - 24th September.** Each camp is designed for young people with physical or intellectual disabilities (aged 18 - 35), to join with their personal carers, as well as young volunteers, to enjoy a range of activities, meet new friends, broaden their horizons, and most importantly, have fun!This year's camp will be based at the Gold Coast Performance Centre, a state-of-the-art sports and accommodation facility.

Thanks to the generosity of our members and supporters, the Order of Malta will be providing for all guests, carers and volunteers, free of charge:

- Group transfers to/from Brisbane Airport and Brisbane CBD
- Five night's accommodation
- All meals
- All activities and entry fees. Activities include visits to theme parks, cultural activities, live performances, music and dancing, sports events, team building and the traditional Christopher Cup croquet tournament

The Order of Malta welcomes **expressions of interest** for participation in the camp

- from any young person (aged 18 - 35) with physical and/or intellectual disability, accompanied by a carer,
- the relevant carers (must be 18 years old or older)
- from young (at heart) volunteers, to assist guests and carers at the camp. (must be 18 years old or older)

Please complete the **online form** if you wish to lodge an application to attend the camp as a guest, carer or volunteer. One form is needed for each participant. Feel free to pass this email on to others you feel might like to participate in the camp.

Applications close on the 22nd May 2021, with invitations for limited positions to be released on the 31st May.

Current COVID-19 restrictions are limiting positions, and the number of available places will be regularly reviewed in adherence to updated Queensland Health guidelines and rules. Additionally, all applications will be subject to the approval of The Order of Malta's medical assessment team.

We are excitedly looking forward to providing to our guests one of the best experiences of their lives and hope you are able to participate!

For information visit; https://www.orderofmalta.org.au/2021-youth-camp-on-the-gold-coast-expressions-of-interest-now-being-taken/

Funderija Artistika Joseph Chetcuti

www.facebook.com/thepeopleofmalta

We are a bronze art foundry in the Maltese Islands.

Funderija Artistika Chetcuti was founded, in 1990, by Joseph Chetcuti. The foundry started it's life in a small house garage where Joseph designed and created most of the tools needed himself. The principles he used back than where the foundation for this foundry, that is to create the highest quality bronzes. WIth these principles in mind Joseph moved on to create most of the bronzes, some of which are Joseph's own sculptures, found in the Maltese Islands.

Later on Joseph's son, Christopher, joined him at the foundry. He is now taking over most of the technical work at the foundry, introducing new materials and techniques. He also introduced an original in-house alloy and a variety of new patinas. Joseph is still at the foundry concentrating on creating new sculptures. A lot has changed on the outside since the beginning but the principles are the same as ever.

Our goal is to create the highest quality bronzes from sculptures.

"I took over after my father, who passed away two years ago. The foundry is named after him - Funderija Artistika Joseph Chetcuti . It is probably the only foundry left in Malta. My father learnt the foundry craft during a scholarship in Florence, Italy, where he went to learn sculpture. Joseph's artistic studies were focused on anatomy and portraiture. When he returned back to Malta, he wanted to make his wish come true and open a foundry. In the past he used to attend the School of Art and the Polytechnic. He was a sculpture understudy with Censu Apap. He continued to work on wooden sculptures. But one of his aims as soon as he returned from Florence was to also work with bronze. The first commission he worked on was in connection with the Sette Giugno statue found at the Addolorata. His most important work throughout his career was the monument to Jean de la Valette in Valletta.

I remember helping my father during the summer. Perhaps at first it was grudgingly but over time it became a pleasure. Throughout University I was working here part-time and it felt like suddenly I was inspired and wanted to explore this line of work. I recall well my uncle's words telling me: "My son, you need to find something you are covetous of ." Today, my work is that of a bronzesmith, which includes a number of elements and covers many trades. The sculptor brings his work in chalk (or any other material). From then follows the process of the lost wax technique. The most demanding work is the casting, whilst the most creative part is the application of the patina.

There are moments while I am working where I think of my father. I am building on what he instructed and taught me. I am now looking into the foundry's future, so that I can improve my relationship with the artistic community, and built a space for innovation in sculpture. I believe that everyone can be an artist. It depends on how hard one is willing to work and commit themselves to develop.

In the thirteen years I have been coming here I have rarely complained. The level of satisfaction is high, especially when you see your finished work and know that your client / artist is happy with what you have created." – Christopher Chetcuti

Malta and Canada have a lot in common new heritage series

D NEWS

Malta and Canada have always enjoyed an excellent relationship based on trust, cooperation and people to people friendship. Both countries are home to thousands of Maltese Canadians and Canadian Maltese who live in one, and some that live in both countries. The Consul General of the Republic of Malta to Canada, Dr Raymond Xerri, during the Covid-19 lockdowns, besides the normal workload from home, took to the pen, to write about the fascinating, uniqueness and the commonalities between Malta and Canada.

He explained that most of the statistics comparing the two countries are radically different, for example, The Maltese Islands fit into Canada's territories 31,597 times, whilst Malta's population is just over half a million and Canada's is nearly 38 million.

Dr Xerri also pointed out that, whilst Malta has no large lakes, rivers, forests, mountains or volcanoes, Canada has 563 lakes, 8,500 rivers, 2.4 million square kilometres of forest, 21,324 mountains and 21 volcanoes. Canada has 20% of the world's fresh water – Malta has none. "Physically, both countries cannot be more different."

Despite these differences, Malta and Canada still have a lot in common, especially people to people contact, he said.

Beginning with the commonalities, Consul General Dr Xerri decided to start a series of informative and educational leaflets, entitled, Maltese-Canadian Heritage Series, specifically earmarked for Maltese Canadians everywhere to learn about their very rich heritage in both countries.

The first leaflet is entitled – Malta and Canada have a lot in common. Written and illustrated with vivid pictures from Gozo and Malta accompanying each entry, Dr Xerri said that "it's perfect for students of all ages, adults and will interest the minds of the adult generation too."

Copies of this leaflet will be available at the office of the Consulate General of the Republic of Malta to Canada, sent to all new Maltese citizens and at all Maltese outlets.

To view a copy of the leaflet online – Malta and Canada have a lot in common – please click here.

www,foreignandeu.gov.mt/en/Embassies/Cg_Toronto/Documents/Leaflet%20-%20Malta%20and%20Canada%20have%20alot%20in%20common.pdf

Stamp marks 200th anniversary death of Napoléon Bonaparte

The 200th anniversary from the Death of Napoléon Bonaparte is to be commemorated by MaltaPost with the issue of a miniature sheet bearing one stamp.

The French military leader is widely recognised as one of the greatest strategists and finest commanders in history. He conquered and controlled most of Europe.

In 1798 he took control of the Maltese Islands ending the 268-year-long presence of the Knights Hospitaller in Malta.

The stamp within the miniature sheet measures 49mm x 40.5mm, with a comb perforation of 14.2 x 14.2 and bearing the Maltese Cross watermark.

The miniature sheet itself measures 120mm x 80mm and was produced in the offset process by Printex Ltd. The issue, designed by MaltaPost, consists of 20,000 miniature sheets with each sheet bearing a value of €5.00.

This stamp will be available from all post offices in Gozo and Malta Gozo as from the date of issue, Wednesday, the 5th of May.

Orders may be placed online at www.maltaphilately.com or by mail from the Philatelic Bureau, MaltaPost p.l.c. 305, Qormi Road, Marsa, MTP 1001; Telephone: 2596 1740, e-mail: info@maltaphilately.com

THE SIEGE AND THE TAKING OF MALTA

MALTA AND THE KNIGHTS HOSPITALLER OF ST JOHN

Any discussion of the 1798 taking of Malta, the subsequent siege and liberation must begin bearing in mind the two fundamental events of the ten years immediately preceding the annexation of Malta to France. First, on 30 July 1791, the powers that were declared the denationalisation of every French citizen affiliated to a chivalric order established outside France. Now Malta since the early Middle Ages had been the home of the Knight of Malta, a chivalric order of which by 1789 two thirds were French… and exceedingly wealthy. Second, on 19 September 1792, the Legislative body met to put the wealthy domains (or 'Commanderies' as they were called) of these men at the disposal of the nation. At one fell swoop the Order of Malta lost half of its revenue. This caused a definitive rupture between Malta and France.

FRANCE GONE, OTHER NATIONS BECOME INTERESTED Nor were other nations slow in coming forward to the aid of this small island so well situated with regard to trade with the Levant, plumb in the centre of the Mediterranean. Britain with its naval base on Minorca offered its 'protection'. The Tsar Paul I offered final assistance to the Order, raising money from Polish 'Commanderies' and founded the Grand Priory of Russia (1797). Austria too with its position in the Adriatic and its privileged relationship with Naples had designs upon the Mediterranean – perhaps even the Grand-Master Hompesch was pro-Austrian.

THE DIRECTORY DECIDES TO TAKE MALTA It was in this context that on 26 May 1797 Napoleon suggested to the Directory the conquest of Malta. The island, it appeared to him, was an important pawn in the projected Mediterranean strategy, whose final aim was to use Egypt as a stepping stone to reach and destroy British interest in India.

THE INVASION On 9 June, the gigantic Egyptian invasion fleet (numbering about 50,000 men), commanded by Admiral Brueys, in effect set siege on Malta. As a result of the passivity of the inhabitants and the few troops available to Grand-Master Hompesch (332 knights, 3,600 men in the harbour and about 13,000 militia men from the countryside around), the siege was not to be more than more than a few cannonades. On the morning of the 10th, French forces attacked simultaneously at four different spots. Desaix, after securing Marsaxlokk Bay, was to cross the Cottonera lines and if possible take on of the principal gates of Valetta by assault. Vaubois, the future governor of the island during the two year siege, was to land with his men on the coast stretching between Sliema and Qawra Point, to move in land and take Mdina and the surrounding villages. D'Hilliers was instructed to take St Paul's and Mellieha Bays and to advance to Mdina and the Madliena Heights. Finally Reynier was to occupy the poorly-defended island of Gozo. By the afternoon all apart from the Grand and Marsamxett Harbours and Fort St Lucian were in French hands. On 12th, the Hompech capitulated.

MODERNITY FOR FEUDAL MALTa In the six days which followed the surrender and the departure of Bonaparte for Egypt, a civil code was laid down for Malta. Slavery was abolished and all Turkish slaves were freed. All feudal rights and privileges were abolished. A new administration was created with a Government Commission, twelve municipalities were formed. Alongside these twelve judges were nominated. Public finance administration was arranged. Public education was organised along principles laid down by Bonaparte himself, providing for primary and secondary education. Fifteen primary schools were founded and the university was replaced by an 'Ecole centrale' in which there were eight chairs, all very scientific in outlook: notably, arithmetic and stereometry, algebra and stereotomy, geometry and astronomy, mechanics and physics, navigation, chemistry. Furthermore sixty children, aged 9-14, from Malta's richest families were to be sent to Paris to be educated in 'colleges' in France.

THE SIEGE OF TWO YEARS

But after Bonaparte's departure Vaubois was left in charge, and things began to go wrong for the French. Acceptance of the French on Malta was by no means unanimous. There were guerrilla attacks by the locals. Then three weeks after Bonaparte's departure there was the insurrection of 2 September 1798. Encouraged by British victory at the battle of the Nile, the mob broke up a sale of gold and silver items, tapestries and sacred objects designed to raised money for the French authorities. The Maltese officials who were to run the sale retired to Valetta. On the afternoon of the same day, Masson the commander of Mdina was involved in an exchange of insults with a mob in Rabat. He was murdered on the spot and his corpse was thrown out of a window. At dawn on the following day Mdina was captured by insurgents. French reinforcements for Rabat numbering 250 men were routed. The gunpowder magazine in Cottonera were seized, Gozo was overrun. By 4 September the French forces in Malta and nearly 40,000 city dwellers were corralled behind the long walls protecting the Grand and Marsamxett Harbours., the rest of the country was in the hands of the Maltese rebels. Requests to help rid Malta of the French were sent to Ferdinand the King of the Two Sicilies and to Nelson. Nelson proved to be more forthcoming by sending a Portuguese squadron of four ships of the line and two frigates under the command of Marquis Pinto-Guedes de Nizza Reale. The blockade had begun. In October 1798 Nizza Reale was replaced by captain Alexander Ball and he was to keep it up for the following two years. The only break in this apparent stalemate was when the French on the small island of Gozo surrendered with full military honours on 28 October. Similarly two ships managed to break the blockade. All in all Vaubois's resistance to the siege was tenacious and noble. By a combination of expelling locals, extracting forced loans from wealthy Maltese and rationing supplies and ammunition, Vaubois managed to withstand two years on rations for only seven months. It was only on 5 September, 1800, with the last crumb of bread gone, that he reluctantly capitulated to the British navy.

AFTERMATH Despite attempts to return Malta to the knights, the island was to remain under British control forming – along with Minorca – central points for the British navy in the Mediterranean, and providing launch bases for the expeditions against Egypt (1801) and the Ionian islands (1809-1814). It was also used as a trade counter for goods from the Orient, providing a source of contraband against the continental system. Malta was to remain British as result of the treaty of Paris, 30 May 1814. But in the minds of the Maltese people the resistance to the occupying French was to remain as one of the most glorious pages in their long and eventful history.

www.napoleon.org

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A Junkers Ju 88 crash at Għajn Tuffieħa 1941

On the evening of April 29, 1941, a formation of nine Ju 88s bombers of III/ (Kampf)/Lehrgeschwader 1 took off from Sicily. Their orders were to attack cruisers and destroyers spotted in Malta's Grand Harbour by reconnaissance aircraft previously that day.

German intelligence was spot on. The previous evening, the Fifth Destroyer Flotilla, consisting of six destroyers, had entered the Grand Harbour to join the light cruiser Gloucester in port. The bombers were escorted by BF 109s Messerschmitt fighters of 7./JG26 led by the famous German ace Joachim Müncheberg.

At 6.37pm, for the fourth time that day, the air raid sirens in Malta started wailing. Seventeen Hawker Hurricanes of 261 Squadron were scrambled to intercept the oncoming aircraft. The Ju 88s spread out in three formations to bomb their targets.

Pilot Officer Tony Rippon who, together with Pilot Officer Joe Hall attacked the damaged Ju 88 and shot it down. Photo: Anthony Rogers

The Hurricanes dove to attack while the German Bf 109s swooped in to defend their charges. The usual melee ensued, with the anti-aircraft (AA) defences and the guns of the ships in harbour joining in. Oberleutnant Müncheberg claimed a Hurricane shot down, as did Ernst Laube although, in reality, none of the British fighters were lost. But one of the German bombers was in trouble.

Pilot Officer Tony Rippon and Pilot Officer Joe Hall attacked and claimed the Ju 88 was shot down. The remaining crewmen hastily abandoned their aircraft which was last seen heading towards the sea. The four German airmen all landed safely by parachute. One was captured at Pembroke Ranges and the other three ended up in the sea and were later picked up.

JUNKERS JU 88 The twin-engined Junkers Ju 88 was designed by Junkers Flugzeug und Motorenwerke (JFM) in the 1930s to be a versatile combat aircraft performing a variety of different functions. The Ju 88 was originally built to be a *Schnellbomber* (fast bomber), capable of delivering a payload while outrunning contemporary fighter planes, but many different variants were built and the Ju 88 also served as a dive bomber, night fighter, torpedo bomber and reconnaissance aircraft.

During the Second World War, Malta – at the time still a British colony – was the only allied base between Gibraltar and Alexandria in Egypt, and consequently became a prime target for Axis bombers, particularly during the North Africa Campaign which lasted between 1940 and 1943.
In what became known as the Siege of Malta, Axis forces attempted to seize control of Malta through a sustained bombing campaign. When the first raids by the Italian Air Force commenced, the Allied air defence consisted of twelve obsolete Gloster Sea Gladiators – six of which were still in their shipping crates. The first strike aircraft to reach the island were actually twelve Fairey Swordfish, which landed at Malta's Hal Far airbase after escaping the south of France.

Divers approaching the rear of the aircraft (Photo: Dave Gration/University of Malta)

The remains of the cockpit with its forward-mounted machine gun (Photo: Dave Gration/University of Malta)
When the Luftwaffe arrived in January 1941, squadrons of Junkers Ju 88 bombers and dive bombers, accompanied by Messerschmitt BF-109 fighters, joined the relentless bombing campaign. Allied reinforcements came to Malta's defence, eventually numbering over 600 fighters and bombers. In November 1942, thanks in part to the arrival of a large contingent of Spitfires on the island, the Axis forces were forced to withdraw, although air raids would continue until July 1943.
The loss of ships, aircraft and lives around Malta was immense. 27 Allied ships, 38 submarines and 433 aircraft were destroyed, but the Axis forces were decimated. It is estimated that more than 2,000 Axis aircraft and 2,300 ships were destroyed during the Siege of Malta. It is thought that these losses were instrumental in the success of the Allied campaign in North Africa.
The remains of this Ju 88 were discovered at a depth of 55m outside Salina Bay in 2009, probably shot down by flak over its target or as the result of a dogfight. The tail section is separated from the fuselage but the wreck is otherwise well preserved, with the forward-mounted machine gun still in place at the front of the cockpit.
www.visitmalta.com/en/info/ju88

The wrecks featured in this series have been declared to be Archaeological Zones in the Sea by the Cultural Heritage Act of Maltese law, and it must be remembered that most are also war graves. As such, the wrecks can only be dived through dive centres approved and registered with the Underwater Cultural Heritage Unit of Heritage Malta, and protective measures to prevent unauthorised diving are strictly enforced. For more information, the original UCHU reports and a complete list of approved dive operators, visit the **Heritage Malta Historic Wreck** pages at **www.visitmalta.com**.

St. Paul the Apostle Church Maltese-Canadian Community Parish 3224 Dundas Street West, Toronto, Ontario M6P

From the Parish Bulletin
PAYER IN TIME OF COVIS-19

Gracious God, you who are the author of all life, and who desire the well-being of all people, during these dark days of Covid 19, increase in us, respect and reverence for all human life. Grant restored health to the sick, comfort and hope to the dying, strength to family members, friends, relatives, clergy and volunteers, renewed energy to hospital workers, PSWs, nurses and doctors, and perseverance to all in the health care professions. Grant wisdom to scientists for the development of effective and moral vaccines, discernment and right judgment for legislators, aid to the discouraged, poor and vulnerable, courage and justice for front-line workers, and keep always in our minds the vision of the true common good of all the world. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. - Bishop Robert Kasun CSB Auxiliary Bishop Central Region Archdiocese of Toronto

Malta-Based Athlete Completes 1,266-Kilometre Marathon Challenge To Raise Funds For Puttinu Cares

By Yannick Pace
https;//lovinmalta.com

Malta-based Scottish athlete Drew Lang has completed a grueling 1,266-kilometre running challenge in which he ran 30 marathons in 30 days to raise funds for children battling cancer.
Lang, 55, ran 42.2 kilometres every day last month in a challenge inspired by his wife's own battle with the disease.
"I couldn't sleep last night. It's all starting to sink in," he told Lovin Malta after having made Maltese sporting history.
He said he was especially proud of having managed to complete the challenge despite not being a marathon runner. "When I was a champion runner I was running in the 5-10 kilometre range…I'm proud because not everyone believed I could do it since I wasn't an experienced marathon runner."
Besides raising money for Puttinu Cares, Lang said he also wanted to inspire others to become more active. "The atmosphere was great throughout. It was really great having people come and join in and run with me and tell me that I've inspired them. That's what it's all about, a real win-win situation."
Asked how much he's managed to collect from the challenge, Lang said it was too early to tell since some people had donated directly to Puttinu Cares but he said he hoped it would be somewhere in the region of €30,000.
Lang is a seasoned runner, having won the Gozo half-marathon eleven times – seven of which came on consecutive years. He has also represented Malta in international running competitions, but this challenge was by far his hardest.
"At my peak, I was running 200 kilometres a week," he said of his training regimen.
Asked whether at any point he had doubted whether he'd manage to finish, Lang said he did. "That's why it was a challenge," he said, adding that he had never run such a challenge in the past.
The inspiration behind Lang's feat was his wife's own cancer diagnosis back in 2011. "I would go with her to the hospital for treatment and I'd see other patients there all battling the disease. I decided I wanted to do something to help."
The challenge was originally meant to take place in 2012 but plans had to be shelved. Then COVID-19 came about and Lang found himself with more time on his hands.
"I told my wife, this would be the ideal time to train for the challenge and that's what I did."
Lang, who in 2018 started the 5K Fitness Challenge, has now earned a well-deserved break as he starts his road to recovery.
The challenge is an event organized and held each Saturday and is motivating beginners to start running under his guidance in order to improve their fitness while also setting their own challenge.
"I'm going to take a month off. No running for a month," he said. Though, he said, he'll still do some cycling to keep active.

We are proud of our Maltese Achievers
The Journal of Maltese Living Abroad
connecting communities
around the world

Thanks to all contributors
If you have a story to tell
Share it with others

We're a Maltese art studio intrigued by the mix of local aesthetic and identity

We are based in Malta, and over the past years, we have been studying forms and visual elements that define the Maltese identity, culture & aesthetic. Unique modern design portraying some of the best Maltese aesthetics. Visit our shop in Manwel Dimech Street, Sliema or online: https://shop.tefittazza.com Te fit-Tazza was founded in 2015 by Andrew Farrugia & Craig Macdonald, two bosom buddies with a penchant for design and all things beautiful.

Working within the travel industry over the past five years, Andrew nurtured a deep appreciation for various subliminal features, relatively unnoticeable to the average eye. Add the fact that our islands are graced with so many hidden gems and hey presto – the perfect potpourri was there for the taking.

Craig's interest in design started early on in his teens when he first discovered street art and illustration. This would serve him well while developing a successful career in advertising and marketing – a passionate crusade (labour of love) that flowered into his latest project - Te fit-Tazza, a project that typifies his passion for design and all the things that define Malta and its dependencies.

The Maltese islands boast a wealth of identity, evident to the eye in how we act and we interact and, to an extent, how we present ourselves both socially and visually. It would be fair to state that this abundance of distinction may be rooted in a strong sense of tradition, pride and patriotism.

For our first series, our aim is to capture and document these attributes in the form of minimalist depictions. Taking away as much detail from our subjects as is possible, whilst keeping the subject instantly recognisable. www.facebook.com/tefittazza/ Find us on Instagram & Twitter

In September 2016, for the first time in the history of the Church in Korea, 11 Knights and Dames were invested during the Mass celebrated by Cardinal Andrew Yeom Soo-Jung, archbishop of Seoul and the principal chaplain of the Order of Malta Korea at Myeong-Dong Cathedral in Seoul. Members from Australia, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Malta, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, United Kingdom and the United States participated in the Investiture as a part of the Order's sixth Asia Pacific Regional Conference.

Matthew Lee of the Federal Association has traveled many times to Korea, first to explore the possibility of establishing the Order of Malta in Korea, and then to help develop it. Initially, he gained the enthusiastic support of Cardinal Yeom and of his predecessor Cardinal Nicholas Jeong. The turning point came when Yongmaan Park, a prominent Korean Catholic businessman and philanthropist, accepted Lee's invitation to lead the effort. Park was installed as the first president of the Order in Korea in 2015. The Federal Association has had an important role in the birth of the Order in Korea. When Lee asked the association's then-president, Paul McNamara, for help, he was invited to join its delegation to the Regional Conference of the Americas of the Order of Malta in Lima, Peru in 2011. There, McNamara provided Lee with important advice and introduced him to the delegates from the Grand Magistry.

Evarist Bartolo narrates the Legend of the Farmhouse the Devil Built

*by **Marcus Grant** _ http://maltainsideout.com/*

Evalist Bartolo - As a child, I lived with my grandmother and aunt near the sanctuary in Mellieha in one of the row of troglodyte houses with the bedroom and the kitchen in caves. Only the sitting room was constructed at the mouth of the cave and provided the simple façade of the house.

The devils were all around me as a child. Our grandmother made sure we knew that. Every summer evening, enjoying the fresh breeze, we all gathered outside on the pavement and street after sunset, and after dozing for 15 minutes through the rosary, I would wake up wide eyed to listen to her telling us what used to happen a long time ago in Mellieha.

At night I used to cover my head with the sheet to try not to see the flickering red light cast across the walls by the slow paraffin cooker on which a coffee pot was put to brew slowly all night for the morning. I was sure that the red light was coming from a crack in the rock and I was even surer that the crack led to hell, deep within the earth and from which any moment a devil might come to take me away.

I had seen the picture of the death of the bad man: a desperate man was looking down to the right corner of the room where he lay dying and a devil was coming out of the ground to take him away. “Because he lived a bad life” my grandmother told me over and over again.

I became even more alarmed when one evening she decided to tell us about the farmhouse that the devils built overnight on the edge of Mellieha: in the valley on your way down to Mellieha Bay the devils had decided to build a farmhouse. They built it in a night with huge blocks of stones. I did not dare ask why the devils had decided to take up farming in Mellieha. I simply decided that there was no way I would walk to that part of the village to check for myself the builders’ craftsdevilship.

I could see the devils working hard at night, cutting the big boulders, carrying them on their shoulders and building the farmhouse. I had no doubts whatsoever that the devils which looked like black and red lizards walking upright on their hind legs, dragging their long tail behind them, were very strong and could do whatever they liked, including building a large farmhouse in a night, after all they regularly dragged millions of sinners to hell where they roasted them and plunged sharp tridents into them.

So I never dared walk to the valley to see this farmhouse. I did not even know where it was exactly. Years later I chanced upon it as a teenager walking with my family when one of my sisters yelled at seeing a huge bale of straw approaching slowly over the hill. She was sure that the wizened old farmer was in fact one of the devils who had built the farmhouse and was now carrying that straw out of the silent farmhouse in the valley. Even that day I kept away from the farmhouse and decided to look at it safely from the other side of the valley.

I could understand perfectly what I read years later in Leonard Mahoney’s ‘5000 Years of Architecture in Malta’: “Superstitious farmers who tilled their lands in the vicinity never dreamt of making a closer acquaintance and so, protected by its name as much as by its solitude, it had stood unmolested for many years.” Is it a hunting lodge or a cow house? What did this building serve for? Who built it? Even Leonard Mahoney fails to answer these questions. “The food troughs (or mangers) are enormous and very high from the floor; evidence, as the local folk point out, that the (devil) owner of this farmhouse kept enormous (devil?) cows.”

He concedes: “But mystery wraps this building. There are no armorial bearings, or inscriptions, or even graffiti …to throw light on its original purpose or use.”

My grandmother might have been right after all and while I look at the solid windowless building on my way to Mellieha Bay I have yet to visit the place and enter it.

IR-RAZZETT TAX-XITAN

The Devil's Farmhouse, also known in Maltese as **Ir-Razzett tax-Xitan**, and officially as **Ir-Razzett Tax-Xjaten** is an 18th-century farmhouse in Mellieha, Malta. The farmhouse features two unconnected buildings. The original scope for the buildings were to function as stables and a horse-riding school (Cavalerizza).

At one point the buildings were converted into farmhouses between different farmers, and the buildings underwent some structural changes. A national Maltese myth claims that it was built by the devil, a tale from which it derives its historic name. It is a national monument and in a dilapidated state.

The Devil's Farmhouse was built in the 18th century[4] during the rule of the Knights Hospitallers to be used as a horse stable. It is found in an area known as Ta' Randa very close to L-Ghar ta' Zamberat (Zamberat's Cave). The farmhouse stands away from urban development in isolation. Attributed to the farmhouse is a Maltese myth that the farmhouse was built by the devil (or devils) in one day (or three days).[3][7][8] The only architectural feature that gives the impression of relating to demonic icons are the two enclosed staircases, that lead to the roof of the stable, which are suggested to appear as two horns.

There is also a traditional carnival song (or poem) that mentions Ta' Randa (where the farm is) and the devil. The song (or poem) named Il-Karnival goes to say as the following:
Għax illum il-Karnival Għax il-festa tax-xitan Ix-xitan irid ikanta Għandu denbu daqs ta' Randa.
Very roughly translated, this text announces the feast of the devil at the site.

Architecture The building has a simple and modest vernacular architecture,[11] with slit windows, that function as ventilators, and waterspouts. It has no inscriptions or symbols to shed further information about its use apart from some roman numbers (i.e. I, II, III) that were inscribed when it was converted to a farmhouse. These are found on the walls and woods, and record the sale of products (different types of vegetables) of farmers with lack of education.[5] The features of the building are good examples of Maltese traditional architecture that include, roofs built with limestone slabs and animal feeding mangers. Despite the conversion to a farmhouse the building clearly does not resemble to be originally built to be used as such as it is not a traditional Maltese farm building.[5] This and the position of the mangers (feed-trough) prove that the building was built for horses. These characteristics may suggest that the building may have been a cow farm. The high roof of one of the buildings still prove that it was unlikely to be built originally as a cow farm, but it may be speculative to say that at one point it had been so.

It features two separate unconnected buildings, which may have been built during different periods. At the site, within the front of the farmhouse, stand two traditional giren which are built for bird hunting.[5] The building was used as a hunting lodge] and as a horse-riding school (Cavalerizza) by the knights to keep their horses inside. Other later additions inside the building are the wooden beams that were introduced to support the limestone slabs. The farmhouse is in a dilapidated state and is in need of restoration. Some of the roofs already collapsed while other are expected to collapse unless intervention takes place.

Cultural Heritage The farmhouse is a national monument of architectonical significance. The Malta Environment and Planning Authority (MEPA) has scheduled it as grade 1 national monument, that protects it from being demolished, altered or further developed but allowing the reconstruction of damaged parts.[2] The building is listed as part of the National Inventory of the Cultural Property of the Maltese Islands (NICPMI).

MOUTH-WATERING DESSERTS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

EGYPTIAN BASBOUSA By Amira Georgy

Especially popular in Egypt, this Middle Eastern cake is made with fine semolina, sugar, and butter. Once it comes out of the oven, the basbousa is soaked in a LEMON syrup, typically rosewater, but also orange blossom water or lemon. The name basbousa means "just a kiss" in Arabic, referring to the sweet flavour that lingers on your lips after each bite.

Ingredients

- **2½ cups** coarse semolina
- **90 g** (1 cup) desiccated coconut
- **220 g** (1 cup) caster sugar
- **75 g** (½ cup) self-raising flour
- **200 g** thick yoghurt
- **200 g** unsalted butter, melted
- **1 tsp** vanilla extract
- **25–30 g** blanched almonds
- milk, if needed

Syrup

- **330 g** (1½ cups) sugar
- **250 m l**(1 cup) water
- **1 tsp** lemon juice
- **1 tsp** rosewater

Instructions

Preheat the oven to 190°C. Mix the semolina, coconut, sugar, flour, yoghurt, melted butter and vanilla in a bowl. If the mixture seems too thick, add a little milk, but it should still be fairly stiff. Spread the mixture with your hands into a buttered 30 cm x 25 cm x 5 cm baking tray. Cut it into diamond shapes, pressing hard. Place an almond in the centre of each diamond. Bake for 35–40 minutes or until golden brown.

Meanwhile, make the syrup. Place the sugar and water in a saucepan and bring to the boil, stirring until the sugar dissolves. Simmer for 5 minutes without stirring. Stir in the lemon juice and rosewater and remove from the heat. Leave to cool. Pour the syrup over the cake while the cake is still hot. Cool to serve.

Cook's notes *Oven temperatures are for conventional; if using fan-forced (convection), reduce the temperature by 20˚C. | We use Australian tablespoons and cups: 1 teaspoon equals 5 ml; 1 tablespoon equals 20 ml; 1 cup equals 250 ml. | All herbs are fresh (unless specified) and cups are lightly packed. | All vegetables are medium size and peeled, unless specified. | All eggs are 55-60 g, unless specified. Photo by Benito Martin.*

ST VINCENT DE PAUL LONG-TERM CARE FACILITY, IN LUQA - MALTA

St Vincent de Paule Long-Term Care Facility has been set up some 80 years ago with the aim of providing the best possible physiotherapy services and other services related to various areas related to the wellbeing of the elderly. We not only provide services but are also a centre of information for older persons, carers (professionals and otherwise) as well as students, wherever they are residing.

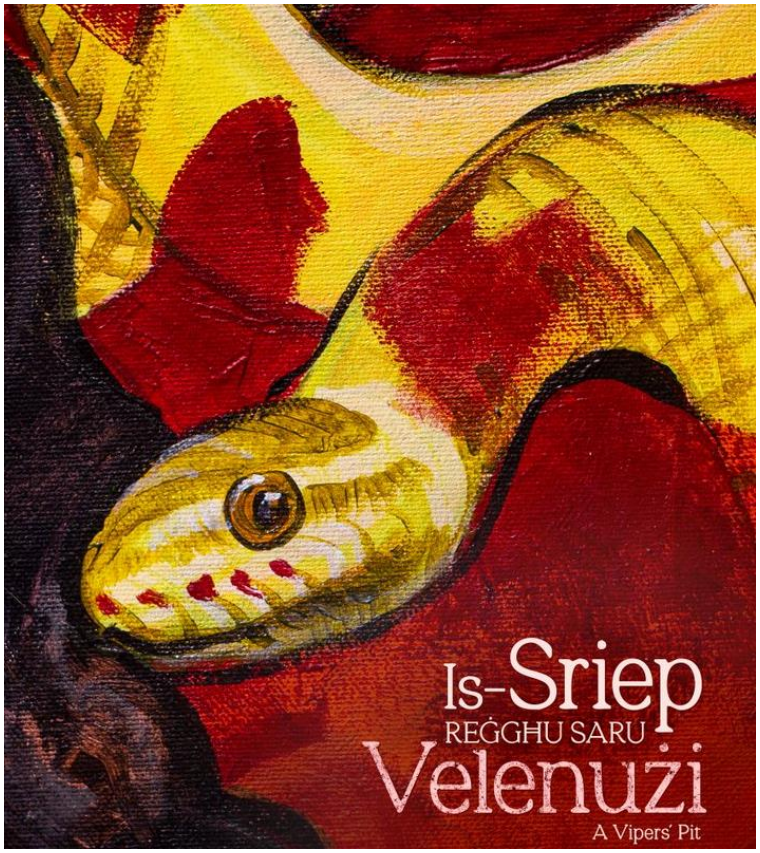
We offer inpatient services for our residents as well as to those elderly persons who are admitted for respite at St Vincent de Paule Long-Term Care Facility. Our outpatient services cater not only for the elderly but also to our own staff members. For this outpatient service, the doctor's referral is required and transport will be readily available.

The physiotherapists at St Vincent de Paule put the residents' needs at the centre of all their interventions in order to effectively help them to live with long-term Read More

Contact Details

St Vincent De Paul Long-Term Care Facility - Triq l-Ingiered , Luqa Malta LQA 3301 21 224 461 *shamik.sheth@gov.mt www.svpr.gov.mt*

A heartfelt thanks to our group of young doctors for their exceptional care during the peak of the pandemic. Good luck in your journey #Dr Sophie #Dr Martina #Dr Clarissa #Dr Ria #Dr Onye #Dr Mercy #Dr David #Dr Mark #Dr Mathias # Dr Josef #Dr Leon #Dr Paride #Dr Boye #Dr Justin



Award-winning Vella Gera novel 'Sriep...' set to hit cinemas later this year

The film is an adaptation of Alex Vella Gera's award-winning novel Is-Sriep Reġgħu Saru Velenużi by **Laura Calleja**

The first feature film adaptation of the award-winning Maltese novel *A Vipers' Pit* (Is-Sriep Reġgħu Saru Velenużi) is set to hit cinema screens later this year.

Set in 1984 and 2012, the film treads the line between political thriller and family drama as it takes a hard look at the decades-old relationships between big business and politics in Malta, a combination that can lead to deadly consequences. At its centre is a fictional assassination attempt on former prime minister Dom Mintoff's life and the impact the conspiracy has on an inter-generational web of characters.

The film was funded through a collaboration between the National Book Council, Shadeena Entertainment Ltd and Splash Screen Entertainment. Spearheaded by Shadeena Entertainment's Martin Bonnici, the project was the winner of the inaugural NBC Film Adaptation Fund in 2019.

The production brought together over 50 talented artists and technicians from Malta with the support of a number of Cypriot talents. With a budget of approximately €250,000, the film had to make its way through the pandemic, shooting under strict conditions in the summer of 2020 with remote post-production work throughout the Autumn and Winter seasons.

Martin Bonnici, Producer, Director and Cinematographer of the film, adds 'No debut feature film is easy, but restrictions placed on the production due to the ongoing pandemic did make things more daunting at times. However, thanks to the National Book Council support, our dedicated and talented team and supporters like Neriku Catering and MaltaBrew, we managed to put together a product we are extremely proud of.'

The adaptation process kicked off in 2017 with Teodor Reljić and Martin Bonnici working to turn the novel into a story fit for the screen. Initially slated for a spring 2021 release, the film currently awaits the lifting of COVID-19 restrictions to launch in local cinemas as it starts its festival journey.

Shadeena Entertainment is a Maltese company established in 2010, working on developing and producing original content, the production of commercials, and renting of film-making equipment to independent filmmakers. Over the years, it has produced over a dozen short films and co-produced a mini-series with Sajjetta Ltd. 'Is-Sriep Reġgħu Saru Velenużi' is the company's first feature film production.

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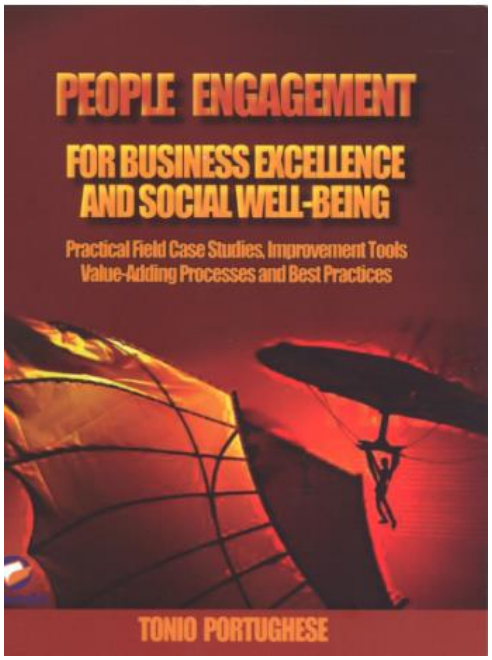

INGEGNERE PASQUALE PISTORIO

Tonio Portughese.

This year 2021 marks the 40th anniversary of the start-up in Kirkop,Malta of the Italian semiconductor company SGS-Ates.

This investment was spearheaded by Ingegnere Pasquale Pistorio who was recruited by the then President of IRI, Prof Romano Prodi. Mr Pistorio left his top post as Vice President with Motorola to return to Italy. In the mid seventies he had led the Motorola working

team in the negotiations with the Maltese Govermment for a large industrial plant but those discussions had failed.

On joining SGS in 1980 he reactivated discussions with the Malta Govt to consider opening an offshore plant in the Mediterranean outside the Italian mainland. At the time I was managing the Italian desk at the Malta Development Corporation in charge of economic relations with Italy and I facilitated all the discussions - political, financial and infrastructural.

Mr Pistorio and Ing Ennio Filauro (Managing Director of the new SGS Malta company enticed me to join SGS management in kickstarting an industrial operation in the ex GIE plant in Kirkop.

We succeeded in finalising negotiations with the Govt and the MDC.

In March 1981 the first batch of Versawatt TO220 power devices was produced and exported to Italian customers followed by other aggressive ramp-ups in production output for exports.

Mr Pistorio had great faith in Malta's vocation for manufacturing excellence and his vision led to massive investments and regular growth of this operation that had started with 30 employees myself employee no 1 and entrusted with Human Resources Development and the external relations with the Malta Govt and other financial,social and industrial institutions.

As a nation we owe a lot to Ing Pistorio. He was decorated with the Republic's National Order of Merit and received an Honoris Causa degree in Science by the University of Malta. Best regards and thanks to all.

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We would like to thank all the readers who sent a donation to help us producing this Maltese Journal

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