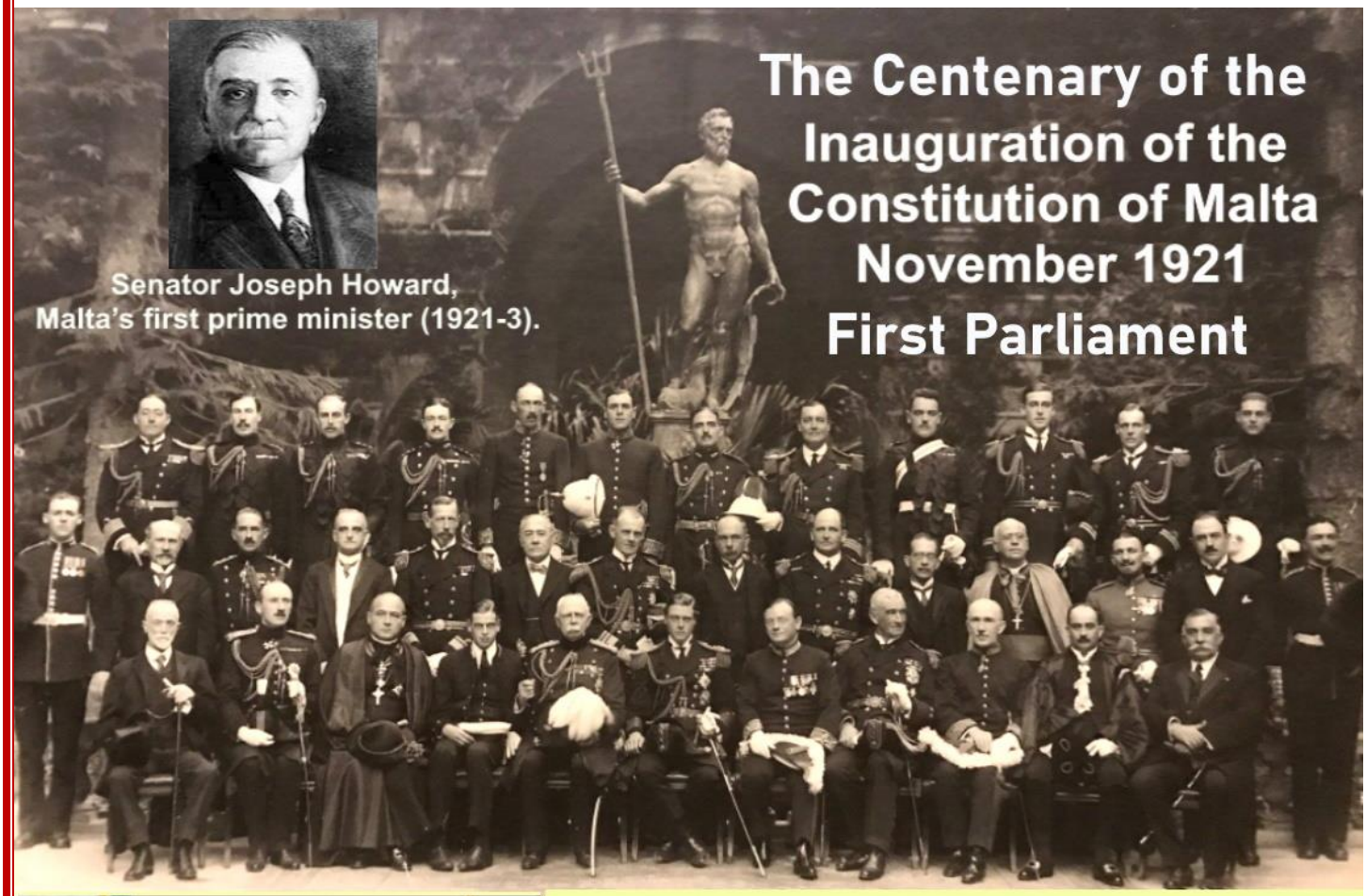
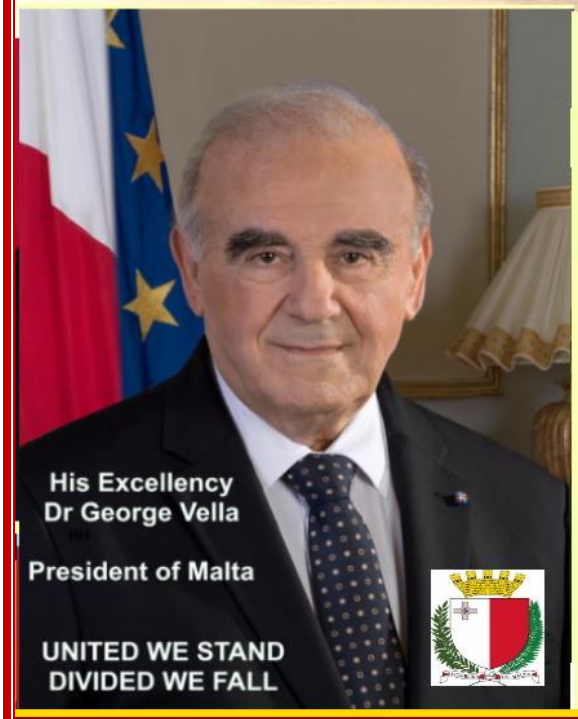
MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER 390 September 2021



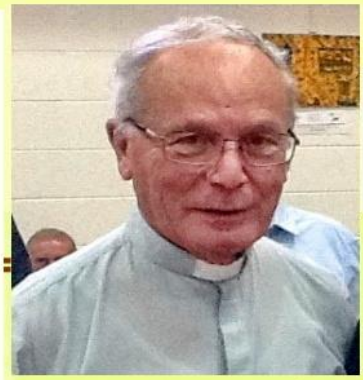


Maltese eNewsletter

JOURNAL OF THE MALTESE LIVING ABROAD

Editor: Frank Scicluna OAM MQR

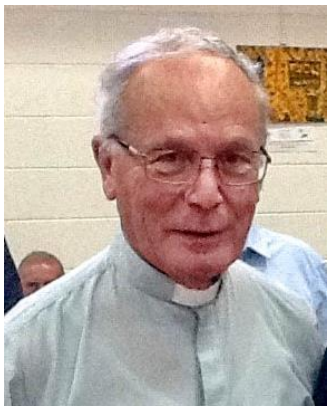
THE MALTESE OWN BAND
Victoria - Australia



Fr. Tarcisio Micallef
mssp Sydney NSW

Società Filarmonica Nazionale La Valette

Kburin b'dak li ghadda b'impenn ghal li ġej



Fr. Tarcisio Micallef

THE FEAST OF OUR LADY QUEEN OF VICTORIES IN SYDNEY NSW

Dear Friends In the first issue of the 'LINK,' Fr John, our Provincial Superior, said that this newsletter aims to share with you information about our various ministries. Among our various ministries in Australia we reach out to members of the Maltese community. Within this community there has been a tradition of celebrating the feast of the Nativity of Mary, also known among as Our Lady of Victories, a feast that is very close to the hearts of these migrants.

This feast is celebrated annually on the second Sunday of September at St Mary's Cathedral, Sydney. Obviously, both last year and this year we have been unable to celebrate this feast due to the health restrictions caused by the COVID pandemic. This feast is celebrated to commemorate and thank God for the birth of Our Lady. Celebrating a birthday always brings happiness to the one celebrating and to her family and friends. On 8 September the Maltese also celebrate the end of the Great Siege of 1565, when the Knights defeated the forces of the Ottoman Empire. Every time we commemorate the birthday of Our Lady, we can confidently hope for great peace in our heart.

The Maltese have always turned to Our Lady in difficult times to intercede to her Son Jesus on their behalf. The statue of Our Lady, which is taken to the Cathedral each year for this celebration, was blessed by Cardinal Gilroy on 14 July 1963. During the year the statue is housed in our chapel at 19-21 Stanley Street Sydney, in a niche which can be admired both by people who visit the chapel and also by anyone walking past De Piro House.Paulist Missionaries Australia—follow us on web (aust.paulistmissionaries.org), Facebook (facebook.com/ msspaustralia), Instagram (instagram.com/mssp.aus). Contact details: missions@mssp.org.au / 0429 145 569.

A tax deductible receipt can be provided for your donation upon request. The celebration begins with the procession with the statue of Our Lady. During the procession the Rosary is prayed accompanied by the choir. The Knights of Malta and

Throwback - when Charmaine and her cousins took part in the procession of the feast of Our Lady of Victories in 1994 at St Mary's Cathedral in Sydney..

children dressed in traditional costumes, lead the congregation around the cathedral. At the conclusion of the procession Eucharist is celebrated. Nowadays, for the benefit of the younger members of our community, most of whom neither understand nor speak Maltese fluently, Mass is celebrated both in Maltese and in English. nn

The celebration is always attended by a large crowd and many come from distant rural areas by coaches. For many this is also a moment of building the community among these migrants. We are very grateful for the many volunteers who provide light refreshments at the conclusion of the celebration. The senior members of the Maltese community are still grateful that we Paulist Missionaries can accompany them in the daily struggles and express grateful for the pastoral care they receive from their chaplain with whom they can communicate in their native language. The Australian Church and community is grateful for the great contributions of the Maltese migrants over the years.

Fr Tarcisio Micallef mssp Migrant Chaplain in NSW

‘Ma konniex nafu x’inhi Malta u issa ma nistgħux inneħħuha minn moħħna’ www.one.com.mt/

L-ewwel film Malti li għamel isem fil-festival internazzjonali tal-films Sundance u saħħar tant, illi issa, udjenzi internazzjonali qed jisperaw għal aktar films Maltin fis-suq.

Il-film Luzzu issa qed jissemma wkoll għall-Premju Ewropew għall-Films, u jlaqqana ma’ Jesmark, sajjied li biex ikun jista’ jmantni lill-familja, dar għall-black market tal-ħut biex ikollu qligħ.

Ma’ ONE News, id-Direttur tal-film Alex Camilleri, imrobbi l-Istati Uniti, spjega s-sinifikat li film lokali u indipendenti jintwera barra minn Malta.

Huwa qalilna, ***“We were the first Maltese film to play there and we won an award for Jesmark’s acting. I grew up in the States and often feel like the first and last Maltese person people there will meet, especially in the middle of the US. We knew the film would be, for many people, the first Maltese film people will see.”***

Mistoqsi dwar kummenti li spikkaw mill-barranin dwar Luzzu, Camilleri qal hekk: ***“I think the most common response that we saw, from many, was “I never even knew what Malta is, and now I can’t get this place out of my mind”. The film seems to have launched people’s imagination and people are even Googling.”***

Iltqajna wkoll ma’ Jesmark Scicluna, sajjied Malti li huwa l-protagonist tal-film, li magħna stqarr is-sodisfazzjon li ntefa’ dawl fuq din is-sengħa Maltija.

"Divided we will fall" President Vella

www.tvm.com.mt

President of Malta George Vella has appealed for unity in the country and urged the Maltese and Gozitans to be respectful to one other despite the differences that may exist and will continue to exist between us.

He made this appeal in Naxxar during an annual event, on the Sunday before the feast of Victory Day, in which the Local Council, all Naxxar societies and associations come together to present their donations for the Community Chest Fund to the same President of Malta.

The event takes place at the headquarters of one of the local associations and this year it was held at the Labour Party local centre. "To come to a political party club, and see the variety of opinions, even of those who do not agree politically with that club, is very gratifying," said the President.

The President said that it was important to respect one another even if we do not all agree and he praised the Naxxar community for conveying this message. President Vella criticized today's tendency of attacking each other online and making allegations in the hope that some mud would stick.

"That's not politics. We are civilized enough, capable enough, we have enough know-how to act as civilized people. We must not assume that everyone is corrupt or that we are not capable as a nation, that everyone is bought and that strings are being pulled everywhere, all the time."

He pointed out that there was an air of toxicity which he called "sick/ infected", and that we could no longer work in this environment and warned that this situation was crushing to those who are trying to work with honesty and sincerity to try to bring about unity and to move forward, while also discouraging young people from being interested in being active in politics.

"In our smallness, if we are divided, we lose our strength and fall. Apart from the fact that the more we do not value ourselves, the less we will be respected by outsiders,"said the President.

In Naxxar, the President, who was accompanied by Mrs. Vella and the Chairperson of the Administrative Board of the Community Chest Fund Marlene Mizzi, was welcomed by the local Mayor Anna Marie Muscat Fenech Adami and the President of the Labour Party club, Dominic Chircop.

POPE HOLDS MALTA IN HIGH REGARD – GEORGE VELLA

President George Vella admitted being surprised by Pope Francis' humility and modesty ahead of the pontiff's visit to the Maltese islands.

Speaking to **Newsbook.com.mt** editor Fr Joe Borg on Newsbook Q&A, Vella said "without wanting to sound disrespectful, his unimposing demeanour almost makes you forget that you've met the pope."

Vella went on to recount how on one occasion, the Holy See informed the Maltese delegation that the meeting with the Pope would be moved forward by five minutes.

"As soon as we got there, the Pope greeted me in the corridor to apologise for moving the meeting forward by five minutes…we sat down and spoke about everything under the sun, including his upbringing and how strict his mother was."

Pope states once more that he will visit Malta

The President added that during the lenghty meeting he got the drift of the Pope's plans for th Maltese bishops because "he thinks the world of them." Indeed in October 2020, former Gozo Bishop Mario Grech was named cardinal following the prestigious appointment as secretary-general of the Synod of Bishops. Vella said that Pope Francis does not only hold the Maltese bishops in high regard but also the country. "I don't want to in any way minimise the privilege and memory of being granted so much time to meet the Pope, during which we spoke about Malta's problems… he loves Malta dearly and he thinks very highly of us."

Asked whether the Pope upcoming visit could aid his efforts to unite the country, Vella said "the seed only grows if the soil is fertile. If there is no will, a thousand popes can visit and nothing will change… we first need to lay the ground and ensure it is fertile."

Francis may visit Malta at the end of November but no dates have been confirmed yet. This week, the Pope expressed his desire to visit Malta and a spokesperson from the Maltese Church told this newsroom that the date of Francis' Apostolic Journey to Malta will be announced once it has been confirmed. The Pope was meant to visit Malta in May last year, however these plans were disrupted by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Beyond Light – Visual Non-Visual Network
Appeal to all Maltese Living Abroad

Dear Mr Scicluna Greetings to you from Malta. Our Maltese Blind members wishes to get in contact with Maltese Blind Persons living in Australia and other countries. We would indeed be thankful for your help in this matter.
visualnonvisualnetwork.org Please contact: farrugia23rd@gmail.com
0035699994242 - WhatsApp

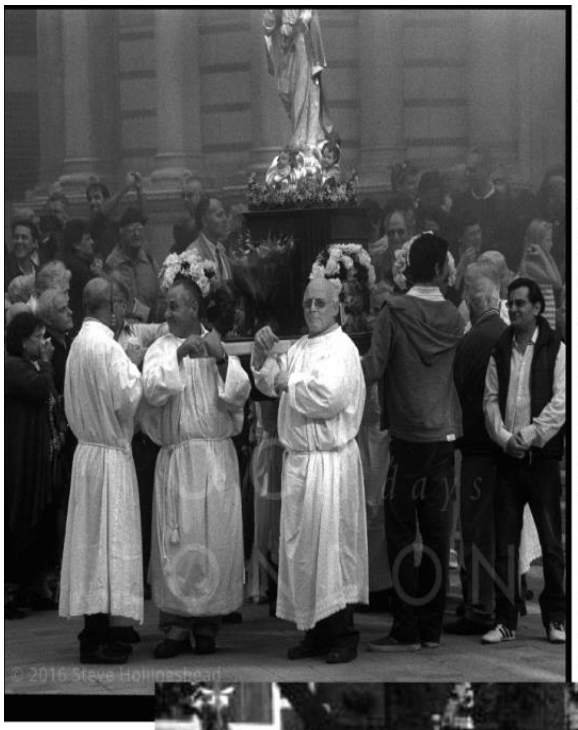
BEYOND LIGHT-VISUAL NON-VISUAL NETWORK is A Non-Profit Organization made up of a group of various NGOs with the same objectives, These All Provide Information And Referrals About Living With Visual Impairment and all work to help blind people become independent. This network also allows for third parties or other organisations to sponsor, join not one but all the network affiliates with the same causes leading to a brighter future for all their associated members. The Visual And Non Visual Network started as an initiative back in the late 1980s. to date, it continues evolving with ongoing projects and research. the former state minister and Member Of Parliament, Noel Farrugia, organised a Board of a number of Sighted And Non-Sighted Constituency volunteers to experience sports events together. These included Torball, Tandem Cycling, Judo and Swimming, Chess Also Played an important part of the activity, practiced by visually impaired or non-sighted persons from all over Malta. this was very revolutionary and visionary for its time, especially for Europe. in the late '90s, Torball Association for the blind was officially registered and has led many initiatives for both local and central government to raise awareness and assist visually impaired citizens with their day to day integration into community.

OUR VISION To promote the needs, interests and aspirations of the visually impaired as a unified network working toward the same goals and objectives.

MISSION Our mission is to help the visually impaired help themselves by acquiring new skills and gaining self-reliance to cope with the integration into society.

OBJECTIVES

- to promote the unified welfare of the visually impaired in the Republic of Malta
- to facilitate and encourage greater participation of the visually impaired in the administration of their affairs and activities and in the management of the associations
- to work towards the abolition of architectural, attitudinal, social, cultural, educational, employment and any other barriers that prevent the total integration and equal treatment of the visually impaired in the community
- to encourage eye-care and safety and research in the prevention and cure of blindness and related diseases
- to gather support locally and abroad in creating a unified world network
- to do any or all such other things as are incidental or conducive to the attainment of the above objectives and that includes the appeal for funds in aid of the visually impaired.



LONDON IN COMMON CALENDAR

MALTESE CELEBRATE

Let's get this out of the way first: a citizen of Malta is a Maltese, not a Malteser. Nor is he/she a horribly cute small animal.

Right, that's sorted then. Apparently, the most recent census has over 30,000 Maltese residents in the United Kingdom, which isn't that much under 10% of the island's total population. And, positioned as it is not far south of Sicily, it's not surprising that the Roman Catholic faith runs pretty strong in their community wherever they are.

So, here we are at one of the few architectural gems in the fairly grim neighbourhood around Victoria Station for their annual Independence day celebrations which, following a service in the Cathedral, (and some Chinese firecrackers in the courtyard for some reason) and, serenaded by a brass band from Wokingham, a procession of good Maltese folk – some in national costume – carry banners and a statue of 'Il Bambina' down Victoria Street towards a chapel in Westferry Road.

Anyway, *here*'re Peter Marshall's photos from another year and here is the band playing at a different event.

Meanwhile, this being the Late Summer Festival Frenzy, the Thames Festival is in full swing, with Southwark Bridge closed off for *Feast on the Bridge* and an opportunity to make hay (ho ho) and to take out your frustrations on any innocent with a bike who just happens to be passing

ADVERTISE YOUR COMMUNITY'S EVENTS FREE OF CHARGE

We don't charge you if you advertise in our journal

We don't publish this journal for profit. IT'S FREE

,EVENTS IN SEPTEMBER

September - Malta International Airshow

Held annually each September at the Malta International Airport, the Malta International Airshow is one of Malta's biggest outdoor events. Military jets belonging to air forces from all around the world roar through the sky as people on the ground mingle with friendly pilots at the static display featuring both military and commercial aircraft.

Aerobatics teams who have visited in recent years include the British Red Arrows, the Italian Frecce Tricolori and the Swiss PC-7 aerobatic team.

September - Qormi Bread Festival

The town of Qormi is famous for its tradition of bread-making. Residents of the town often boast of making the best *ħobż tal-Malti* (Maltese bread) on the island.

During the Bread Festival visitors can take tours around Qormi's many bakeries. The air is filled with the smell of freshly-baked bread and the sound of traditional Maltese folk music.

September - The Regatta Water Festival

8th September or Victory Day is the day allocated to celebrate the end of the Great Siege in 1565 and the end of the French occupation of Malta in 1800. This day is also used to commemorate the end of the Fascist regime in Italy in 1943 which brought to an end the Italian bombardment of the Maltese islands. What better way to celebrate than with the Grand Harbour Regatta where local oarsmen pitch their impressive skills against eachother. Teams from the towns that border Grand Harbour such as Valletta, Vittoriosa, Senglea, Cospicua, Kalkara, Marsaxlokk and Marsa, participate in a number of exciting races, cheered on crowds of enthusiastic supporters.

In recent years the Malta Power Boat Association and the Royal Malta Yacht Club have begun holding other activities and competitions during the same week and The Regatta Water Festival now includes other events such as jet ski displays and traditional pageants.

September - Żejt iż-Żejtun

The word *żejt* in Maltese means oil and in Arabic means the fruit of the olive. At the rear of St Catherine's Church in Żejtun is a stone press demonstrating just how important the oil of the olive is to the town. So in September each year olive coloured flags are flown in Żejtun in celebration of another harvest together with red flags honouring their patron St Catherine. The city is pedestrianised and the celebrations begin in true Maltese style with bands, stages, food and culture. The local people dress up in the costumes of gentle folk, farmers and Grand Masters of times gone by. Sample the newly harvested olive oil by dipping it in the delicious crusty Maltese bread.. Traditional artisans such as weavers and basket are also present to demonstrate their ancient skills.

Hello Frank Thank you for your continued support and dedication to the Maltese Community around the Globe and more. I thoroughly enjoy reading your newsletter. It brings back many good memories, and of course it updates me on what is going on in various part of the world where Maltese Community is active. Thank you again, and God Bless you for your work and dedication. Regards Susan Schembri British Columbia Canada

Thank you Mr Scicluna for this wonderful journal. I look forward to receiving it in my email inbox. Some articles evoke a lovely nostalgic feeling with beautiful memories whilst some teach me something new about my second island home. I share it with my Aussie friends from time to time as they are so curious about this island of which I am so proud. For all of this, I thank you however I am most deeply appreciative because your journal has helped keep Malta alive & well in our minds & hearts whilst we cannot visit. Hope that changes soon & hope you continue your great work for many years to come! Regards Margaret Spiteri Greenvale, Victoria, Australia.

MARSA SELECTED AS LOCALITY OF CULTURE 2022

Marsa has been selected as the locality of culture for 2022, Local Government Minister Jose Herrera announced.

"This is another electoral pledge being enacted, for there to be a yearly cultural programme within a locality selected to be the locality of culture," he said.

Minister Herrera said that after evaluating every submitted application, Marsa was chosen, and the local council will be allocated up to €200,000 to implement the proposed cultural programme during 2022. This programme, he said, should serve as a tool to promote the cultural heritage of localities.

"The government is committed to the regeneration of Marsa. This fund must serve as a beginning of a series of opportunities, where the Marsa residents will strengthen their cultural identity."

Marsa Mayor Josef Azzopardi said that arts, photography and sculpture will form part of the programme, and exhibitions where established and new local artists will show their capabilities in areas around the locality will be held. Other activities, including musical ones, will also take place.

The programme, the mayor said, is aimed at all the Marsa community and will involve children, youths, adults and the elderly.

Consulate General of the Republic of Malta to Canada

MALTESE CANADIAN COMMUNITY NEWS

Consulate General of Malta to Canada presents book donation to Malta Band Club Library

The Consulate General of Malta to Canada has recently donated books and educational materials to the Library of the Malta Band Club situated in Mississagua and is the only such Maltese Band in Canada.

The 200 books and educational materials are primarily publications, exercise textbooks, CDs, colouring books, lithographs, CDs and DVDs to learn the Maltese language, the history of the Maltese Islands, Malta and Gozo's Diaspora worldwide, publications about Malta, Gozo, education, commerce, archaeology, culture and religion.

The Consulate General of Malta to Canada compiled these publications from an array of Malta Government Ministries, agencies, institutions, banks, chambers and companies. Mostly donated by Heritage Malta, the University of Malta, Arts Council Malta, Malta Enterprise, the Malta Films Commission and the Ministry for Foreign & European Affairs.

While presenting the donation to the Malta Band Club President, Mr Anthony Vella, the Consul General of Malta to Canada, Dr Raymond C. Xerri encourage the committee to use these publications and educational materials to attract, teach and transmit Malta's rich identity, heritage, culture and history.

"Go ahead and entice Maltese Canadian youths to want to learn of their origins and ancestry - Malta and Gozo can open new doors of opportunities, a whole new world for Maltese Canadian youths in areas of education, commerce and entrepreneurship where their dreams can be realised."

President Vella thanked Dr Xerri for this donation and all the initiative he is taken to bring together the Maltese Canadian community, especially the youth.

MALTESE CANADIAN COMMUNITY EVENTS

Car Show at the Malta Band Club

The Consul General of Malta to Canada attended the second Car Show of the season organised by the Maltese Canadian Cruisers in conjunction with the Malta Band Club.

Consul General Dr Xerri met with mostly Maltese and Gozitan participants and was informed with the annual calendar of events and passion most members have for caring for their vintage cars and exhibiting them, by President Ganni Borg of Maltese Canadian Cruisers.

Dr Xerri expressed his interest in attending such future events to meet more Maltese and Gozitan members. The next such Car Show is scheduled for Sunday, September 12th at the same venue

The philharmonic society was founded by Pawlu Darmanin in 1874, exactly on 19 October, and was originally set up to form a band to participate in Valletta's the Feast of St Paul.

Maestro Luigi Carabott was the society's first band conductor, and the band club held its first public performance at the Manoel Theatre in May 1875. Its first band march was held in July 1875 at the Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel. The band club today also offers tuition to young musicians.

The band club won the best International Band award in 1927 in Como, Italy. Former Prime Minister George Borg Oliver had served as the Society's President for the 30 years between 1950 and 1980. The current President is Charles Camilleri, a well-known Valletta-born businessman who has been at the helm of the Society for the past four years.

The Society's premises are at the upper part of Republic Street. An imposing Palazzo, the premises previously known as Manchester House, and are spread on three floors. Whilst the ground floor foyer hosts two competition-sized billiards and snooker tables, and a bar and restaurant, the First floor is dedicated exclusively to the Society's members. The Archives Room holds one of the largest band and classical music score collections, all passionately taken care of by the Society's Archivist.

The Members' Reading Lounge is adorned with historical photos of the Society's committees, Presidents and Bandmasters. A large imposing painting of Grand Master la Valette dominates the room. Painted in 1884 by an unknown artist, it has been restored by

The Art Boutique. The Committee Room and the formal Sitting Room house the Society's Trophy cabinets, precious artefacts of historical importance and relics.

The grand Murano chandeliers adorn the painted ceilings. Various activities, highlighting the rich history of the Society, its achievements and more importantly its future plans to transform the premises into an interactive Museum. The recent embellishment and restoration work carried out by the Society have given a new look to the Club. The premises are the first publicly accessible palazzo as soon as one enters Republic Street. The Maltese and tourists who walk in to have a look at this magnificent palace all express their surprise about the hidden gems within these walls. It is imperative to conserve this rich history and present it to todays and future generations. In the palace there is also a restaurant.

KULL PASS JGHODD 25 VOLUNTIERA SE JIMXU L-CAMINO DE SANTIAGO B'RISQ FONDAZZJONI SEBH

Għadd ta' voluntiera mill-grupp Caminiamo l-ġimgħa d-dieħla se jagħmlu l-Pellegrinaġġ ta' San Ġakbu magħruf bħala l-Camino de Santiago fi Spanja. Id-donazzjonijiet miġbura se jmorru b'risq l-entità tal-Knisja Fondazzjoni Sebħ, biex tkun tista' tiftaħ ċentru terapewtiku f'Santa Venera li se jgħin lit-tfal, l-adolexxenti u n-nisa li joqgħodu f'waħda mir-residenzi tal-fondazzjoni.

Il-motto tal-pellegrinaġġ ta' din is-sena hu 'Kull Pass Jgħodd' b'riferiment għall-mixja nnifisha kif ukoll għal kull pass żgħir 'il quddiem li jsir waqt it-terapija. Il-mixja-pellegrinaġġ bdiet b'quddiesa mmexxija mill-Isqof Awżiljarju Joseph Galea-Curmi, fil-knisja ta' San Ġużepp Ħaddiem fix-Xemxija, u li għaliha attendew ukoll 25 parteċipant li fl-10 ta' Settembru li ġej se jibdew il-vjaġġ lejn Spanja.

Waqt il-quddiesa, l-Isqof Awżiljarju rringrazzja lil Alla għal din il-ħidma ta' volontarjat għaliex permezz tal-pellegrinaġġ f'Santiago de Compostela u permezz ta' attivitajiet oħra li jsiru matul is-sena, il-grupp Caminiamo jgħin il-ħidma li Fondazzjoni Sebħ tagħmel b'risq is-soċjetà Maltija. Huwa awgura li dan il-pellegrinaġġ li qed jagħmlu b'tant ġenerożità jservi ta' ġid għall-parteċipanti nfushom kif ukoll għall-ħidma favur il-proxxmu. Il-pellegrinaġġ tal-Camino de Santiago se jdum għaxart ijiem u jintemm fil-Katidral ta' San Ġakbu f'Galizja fi Spanja.

Il-25 voluntiera mistennija jimxu madwar 265 kilometru. Fondazzjoni Sebħ tmexxi erbat idjar residenzjali għal tfal u żgħażagħ u toffrilhom ambjent sigur ta' trobbija u ta' mħabba. Fondazzjoni Sebħ tmexxi wkoll xelter tat-tieni stadju li ġie inawgurat f'Mejju li għadda u li qed jilqa' nisa u lil uliedhom li esperjenzaw xi tip ta' vjolenza, fosthom vjolenza domestika, traffikar tal-bnedmin, prostituzzjoni sfurzata kif ukoll abort sfurzat.

Il-fondazzjoni toffri wkoll servizz ta' ħidma soċjali ta' prevenzjoni u sapport fil-komunità fil-Ħamrun u l-Marsa. Kull min jixtieq jgħin lil Fondazzjoni Sebħ jista' jibgħat imejl fuq info@sebh.mt jew iċempel fuq 22470900

Dear Frank, Every time I read your Maltese Living abroad, I marvel myself, how you manage to put ALL these wonderful news. May God continue to bless you in your work.
Fr. Norbert Bonavia mssp (Malta)

I hope you and your family are doing well. We are still in lockdown however reading your newsletter every week helps me forget about the restrictions we have to follow. Keep up the good work. Take care and stay safe. Warm regards Cecilia Borg (Sydney)

The Maltese Journal is absolutely fantastic! What a lot of items and events! Thank you so much for keeping us in touch. Sahha u grazzi! Georgina & Reg Scillio (Melbourne)

AN AUSTRALIAN/MALTESE MONUMENT AND MALTA'S CHEQUERED HISTORY & LEADERS

Oreste Aquilina

Oreste L Aquilina

After three years of hard work, my book has been published. The Covid-19 has not been helpful nor has my Advanced Macular Degeneration!

My Book is Over 500 pages with some 225,000 words and many colour photos of important events and people. The book is a mine of information and is a must read for second and third generation Maltese/Australians particularly those attending Maltese language classes.

This is a limited edition, and an invitation is being extended to a small number of people whom I have included in the book in some form or other, either as a result of interactions during my involvement in the 20 associations I have worked with since the late sixties, or through some personal anecdotes. The book is a frank and honest look reliving my personal memoirs of community work - a 30 years-plus review. **This includes a detailed timeline related to the inception and completion of the Australian** Maltese Bicentennial Commemorative Memorial at Civic Park, Pendel Hill, N.S.W. I was appointed on a voluntary basis by the Maltese Community Council of N.S.W. as Chairman of the sub-Committee which was formed to build this Memorial to commemorate the Bicentenary of the Australian Nation.

Some of the chapters I wrote in the book cover aspects of Maltese-Australian Associations and the Maltese community in Australia, and include: Maltese Australian memorial for the aged (MAMA), the Maltese Community Council of NSW, United Council of Immigrants (UCI) and the Maltese Language Classes, the Good Neighbour Council & the Ethnic Community Council, Maltese RSL sub-branch and ANZAC day march (*some Maltese ex-services personnel…Mr. Salvu Attard…Mr. Virgilio Zammit O.B.E, Mr. James Joseph (Jimmy) Magro, Private Charles Aquilina Nx50713, Mr. Salvatore Victor Aquilina, Mr. Joseph Grech, Mr. Joseph Glanville M.M, Mr. Anthony D'Anastasi),* the Cittadini (citizens) group, Saint Nicholas Festa committee, *Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish Band* now The Maltese Festival Band, the Association of Lyceum Past Students, La Valette Social Centre, "Castel Felice" re-union, my subtitling work with SBS TV and radio broadcasting, and the various choirs in which I took part as a tenor 1.

The history section includes a chronology of events in Maltese History and covers the rule and legacy of the Order of St John of Jerusalem, of Rhodes and of Malta, the French occupation, Malta under British rule, the outbreak of World War I, Australia Hall at Pembroke in Malta, Malta during WWII & Siggiewi deaths, Pearl Harbour and Darwin bombing and the Malta Convoys

AN AUSTRALIAN/MALTESE MONUMENT & MALTA'S CHEQUERED HISTORY & LEADERS

Personal memoirs of community work, leading to and following the inception and completion of the 1988 Australian Maltese Bicentennial Commemorative Monument at Civic Park Pendle Hill, N.S.W.

This book with memorable pictures, also sequences significant episodes in Maltese History, including WW1 and WW2 and current political history with references to Australian events.

A must read for second and third generations Maltese-Australians

IF YOU WISH TO HAVE MORE DETAILS ABOUT THE BOOK PLEASE EMAIL:
oresteaquilina1@optusnet.com.au
TO OBTAIN A COPY OF THE BOOK PLEASE SEND A CHEQUE TO THE AUTHOR FOR $59 TO COVER THE COST OF THE BOOK OF $45 PLUS POSTAGE OF $14 WITHIN AUSTRALIA
ADDRESS TO: POST OFFICE BOX 1767,
WARRIEWOOD SQUARE,
WARRIEWOOD N.S.W. 2102
OR ORDER BY ELECTRONIC FUNDS TRANSFER :
(ANZ Bank Account: Oreste L. Aquilina 012349 153324717)

Ix-Xafra tad-Destin Imdina 1565

Author: Michael Cini

Publishing House: www.horizons.com.mt

This historic novel blends together romance with battle, honour and glory during the times which revolve around the Great Siege of Malta of 1565. It sets off with a ferocious pirate attack on a remote hamlet in the middle of the night, where everyone is dragged away and taken as a slave. Well actually, not everyone!

That is because, a child who at the time was only seven years old, manages to escape only by miracle, and survives. However, he never manages to rid himself of the frantic desire to seek revenge over his family's Saracen assailants.

When he grows up, he starts to engage in military training and enrols in the Maħras, the corps which used to guard the Maltese shores against pirate attacks. And later on, as a brave and daring fighter in the Maltese Dejma militia, he finds himself right on the front line of battle when the Ottoman Empire lays siege upon Malta to annihilate once and for all, the Hospitaller Knights of the Order of St. John.

At this point, it is very important to highlight the fact that, this novel aims to present to the reader the unique opportunity to look at The Great Siege from a different angle. The traditional novels tend to focus on the events which took place in the Grand Harbour arena. But this time, *Ix-Xafra tad-Destin – L-Imdina 1565* looks at the Great Siege through the eyes of Mdina. Consequently, the main characters are the inhabitants of Mdina and the surrounding villages and hamlets such as Rabat, Ħal Bajjada, Ħad-Dingli, Ħal Tartarni, Mġarr, Ħal Dragu, Mosta, Ħal Pessa, Naxxar, Ħal Bordi, Ħaż-Żebbuġ, Ħal Muxi, Ħal Qdieri and the surrounding areas. They did seek refuge, but they were also the combatants who were ready to defend the Old Capital's weak walls, and bravely attacked the ravaging Turkish parties.

This is because, the Order's main Cavalry detachment which was based in Mdina, although heavily outnumbered by the Turkish troops, ventured to assist its brethren in the harbour area. At great peril, it sallied out regularly to perform the lionhearted task of harassing, attacking and wreaking havoc on Turkish positions, and engaging in numerous deadly skirmishes against roaming scouting parties. Furthermore, Mdina was also responsible for the line of communication which was daringly maintained between Malta and Sicily throughout the Siege, so that finally the relief forces could arrive safely to fight off the Turks.

As such, it is evidently clear that even Mdina played a very important part during the course of the Siege. But how many of us know of all this, and do appreciate the effort? Can we percieve the fears which the people taking shelter in this crowded City were really going through? Do we actually realise that Mdina's contribution was also instrumental towards the defeat of the Ottoman army? And most of all, is it fair that Mdina doesn't ever seem to share any credit in the victory of the Great Siege of Malta of 1565?

Notwithstanding all this, however, it is very important for the reader to keep in mind that, although the novel blends in well with the events which were actually taking place, the balance never tilts towards any boring historic text book. History is pleasantly skimmed and recounted in a most flowing and adventurous manner. So much so that the reader should enjoy roaming along Mdina's bastions, and will surely become allured to venture through its underground secret passages. One may also come across his own surname, which could have been written and pronounced quite differently in those days. Similarly, it might be easy to pick up the cheerful notes of a flejguta, a żummara, and the sweet sound of a żaqq. And as the galloping Cavalry horses speed along, one will surely be passing through the various hamlets which were inhabited at the time, but are nowadays forgotten since they have been absorbed by the larger villages.

Following the success achieved by his first novel *Preżenza – Inti Temmen fil-Ħares?,* the author has once again chosen to write this novel in the first person with short chapters, specifically to help the reader become better acquainted with the characters and with the flow of events. As the story starts to unfold, the reader immediately feels as if he/she is taking part in this glorious adventure, with the urge to discover even further what will be taking place next. Moreover, besides the excitement in battle, this intense novel also features a lustful and passionate love story between two young lovers within the Mdina walls, which makes it even more difficult for the reader to put the book down.

Ix-Xafra tad-Destin – L-Imdina 1565 aims to entertain readers who love historic novels, romantic adventures and whoever wishes to pick an action packed account which keeps one glued to the very last pages. Furthermore, it is important to note that besides the exciting story in itself, the author also had in mind to present to the reader a rich literary experience. As such, it is garnished with various expressions, idioms as well as proverbs which are commonly used in the Maltese language, for anyone who seeks to enjoy reading a good book in Maltese.

This is Michael Cini's second book. In his first novel *Preżenza – Inti Temmen fil-Ħares? (Horizons, 2014)* the author brings the reader face to face with the ghost of a mother, who cannot yet rest in peace before someone uncovers how her young child had mysteriously disappeared many years before. A novel which was re-printed twice as a best-seller. On the 450th anniversary of the Great Siege of Malta, his second novel *Ix-Xafra tad-Destin – L-Imdina 1565 (Horizons, 2015)* leads the reader through the gates of history to join the Mdina cavalry, and take part in a romantic adventure during the Great Siege. While on a totally different note from the previous two, his third novel *Skjava...fil-ktajjen tal-imħabba (Horizons, 2016)* exposes the reader to a sensual and erotic love story. An intimate relationship fuelled by emotional intrigue which, in order to survive, has to overcome unfaithfulness, domestic abuse... and lustful temptations! This novel was printed again in 2020 as a best-seller. Then in 2017 to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the arrival of the Santa Marija Convoy, this author published *Konvoj – Il-Ġrajja Li Naf Jiena Biss! (Horizons, 2017),* also re-printed as a best-seller in 2021. This is another historic novel which blends together romance with the historic events that took place all along this perilous journey. A journey featuring love, courage and victory which set sail from Scotland during which brave men and gallant heroes manage to save Malta from surrendering to the enemy, as they miraculously bring in vital supplies to the Grand Harbour. Cini's fifth novel *L-Ewwel Preżenza – L-Imħabba tal-Ħares ma Tmut Qatt (Horizons, 2018)* is the prequel to his first novel *Preżenza*, issued on the 220th anniversary of Napoleon's invasion of Malta. It recounts the story of a young French soldier who falls in love with a beautiful Maltese farmgirl. But because he was murdered before he had fully enjoyed his girlfriend's love, his soul could not rest in peace. So much so that he remains entrapped between this life and the next, close to her to protect, provide and even love and caress her. But is it possible for such a beautiful girl like her to remain without a human lover for the rest of her life? Then in 2019 during the 100th anniversary of the Sette Giugno riots, Cini published his sixth novel *Eroj – Imħabba u Qlubija fis-Sette Giugno (Horizons, 2019)*. Another historic novel where the reader is among the angry crowds waving the red and white flag during the protests, and intrigued by a love story between two lovers from different social classes. While confronting rifles and sharp bayonettes in the loud and troubled streets of Valletta, the reader also discovers the mysterious underground secret passages which lie beneath this magnificent city.

WE GLADLY WELCOME CONTRIBUTIONS FROM OUR READERS. THAT'S HOW WE KEEP GOING.

YOUR SUPPORT IS GREATLY APPRECIATED.

Michael Cini was born in Ħamrun, grew up in Balzan and St Paul's Bay, and lives in Mosta. He is a qualified Draughtsman, and today occupies the position of Senior Principal. He studied Arabic to understand better the Semitic roots of the Maltese language. In the course of his career he also studied at the University of Malta, where he graduated in Public Administration and as a Proof-reader in the Maltese language. At this point in time, he started writing novels to contribute towards Maltese literature. His love for the mother language and also his deep interest in Maltese history help him to interweave historic novels.

THE 1955 "GHALLIS TOWER" MURDER

Toninu Aquilina

Toninu Aquilina was murdered 66 years ago.

Catherine and Toninu Aquilina on their wedding day.

On February 24, 1955 Toninu Aquilina, 35 years old and an employee of the Malta Millers Association, went missing. That morning he had gone on his routine trip to the National Bank of Malta in Republic Street, Valletta, to deposit cash and cheques. But he never reached the bank. On March 9, 1955, his corpse was discovered by members of the Civil Defence on a training exercise near the Għallis Tower at Baħar iċ-Ċagħaq. His body was found in a well. He had been shot in the neck and had an internal lesion on his right thigh likely made by a syringe.

A year later, a bank cashier was found guilty of the murder and condemned to life imprisonment. But due to various amnesties, he left prison after eight years.

THE GHALLIS TOWER TRAGEDY

Gunshot Wound in Aquilina's Skull

.***The story as reported on Times of Malta in 1955***

Catherine and Toninu had two daughters, Vivienne and Maria. After the murder Mrs Aquilina focused her energy on taking care of Maria, who had Down Syndrome. Vivienne spent most of the time bouncing from one relative to another. It was decided to send her to St Monica boarding school in Mosta to ensure a stable upbringing.

Back then Vivienne could only go home once a month and her mother visited every Sunday. At the school she picked up a passion for music and piano, through Sister Beniamina Portelli and Mro Victor Zammit who were her salvation during those difficult times.

Meanwhile, their mother remarried and had twin daughters. But two years into the marriage, Vivienne's stepfather got sick with an illness that dragged on for nine years – when he passed away. Her mother fell into a depression, and Vivienne, who moved back home when she was 15, helped raise her two stepsisters, one of who had a heart condition, and gave private piano lessons to earn money for the family as the only bread winner.

Meanwhile, Vivienne met Walter Gambin. The couple moved their wedding plans forward so they could travel together to the UK to accompany Vivienne's stepsister who had to undergo heart surgery. She was 20 when she married Walter, and the couple went on to have three children – Robert, Steve and Alexandra – and four grandchildren.

Ghallis Tower where the body was found

Eventually, as her twin sisters grew and moved out, her mother lived alone. Then, in 1997, after suffering a heart attack, her mother moved in with Vivienne and her family, giving the two women the long-awaited opportunity to bond.

They spent their lives looking after each other. They never spoke about the tragic murder of Toninu. but her mother did talk a lot about her husband and how they met and how happy they were together.

Vivienne's father was a clerk from Valletta and her mother was the daughter of a farmer from Gudja. Even though she did not know how to write, her mother was polite and intelligent, having been raised by her uncle who was a priest serving at St Paul church in Valletta.

When Catherine was 18, her uncle passed away and she moved back with her parents, where she was expected to work the fields. Since she was the only surviving child of 13 siblings – from her father's two marriages – he did not want her to marry. But fate had different plans. Friends from Sliema invited Catherine to join them at a friend's wedding, at the Corinthia Hotel in Attard, to matchmake her with a certain Toninu Aquilina – who she married when she was 32 years old.

NOSTALGIA - What happened to the antiporta?

Six creatives get together for an ongoing artistic project in an attempt to answer the question.

Overlooked are the stories that the Maltese townhouse once framed through the gaze of its 'antiporta'. A vehicle for interaction between the residents of a house and the pavement-walkers, this hung space held many an encounter.

With a simple nod, perhaps a smile, on a Sunday morning through the glass panes of these doors, or beyond a glorious afternoon glow on the floor of the 'intrata', these doors allowed for daily performances in the most fleeting of moments.

With the gentle ring of its bell and the low drop for its handle, the antiporta held a number of cues for social encounters. As its involvement in our architecture fades, with it so do the behaviours it implied and the social interactions it allowed.

This is at the heart of a research project being conducted by six local creatives, commissioned by Chris Briffa Architects for Time Space Existence, an exhibition that was part of this year's Architecture Biennale in Venice, and which was the topic of the discussion last week at its closing event at Spazju Kreattiv, Valletta.

An installation carrying sentiments and anecdotes about this architectural feature had been presented in Venice for six months earlier this year. This, after a period of conversation between team members about what it was that resonated most about the antiporta.

Their investigation among locals was invested in the exposure of different nostalgic attachments people had to their experience of the antiporta over time. It simultaneously included a call for locals to contribute to a compendium of images of antiporti which contributors would come across.

This ongoing effort is an attempt at curating a collection of these eroding enclosures, to sum up the varying ways this same hung space has been interpreted. Uploads include the original wooden antiporti; more recent aluminium alternatives; ones with clear glass panes; others with coloured glazing; some that are more translucent; and others that hide the inside with bizzilla (lace) behind their shiny surfaces.

The Instagram account @antiporta_cba collects the many faces of this architectural feature and ways it is being presented contemporarily. This effort to collect imagery is ongoing and the public is invited to send in contributions using the hashtag #antiporta on instagram.

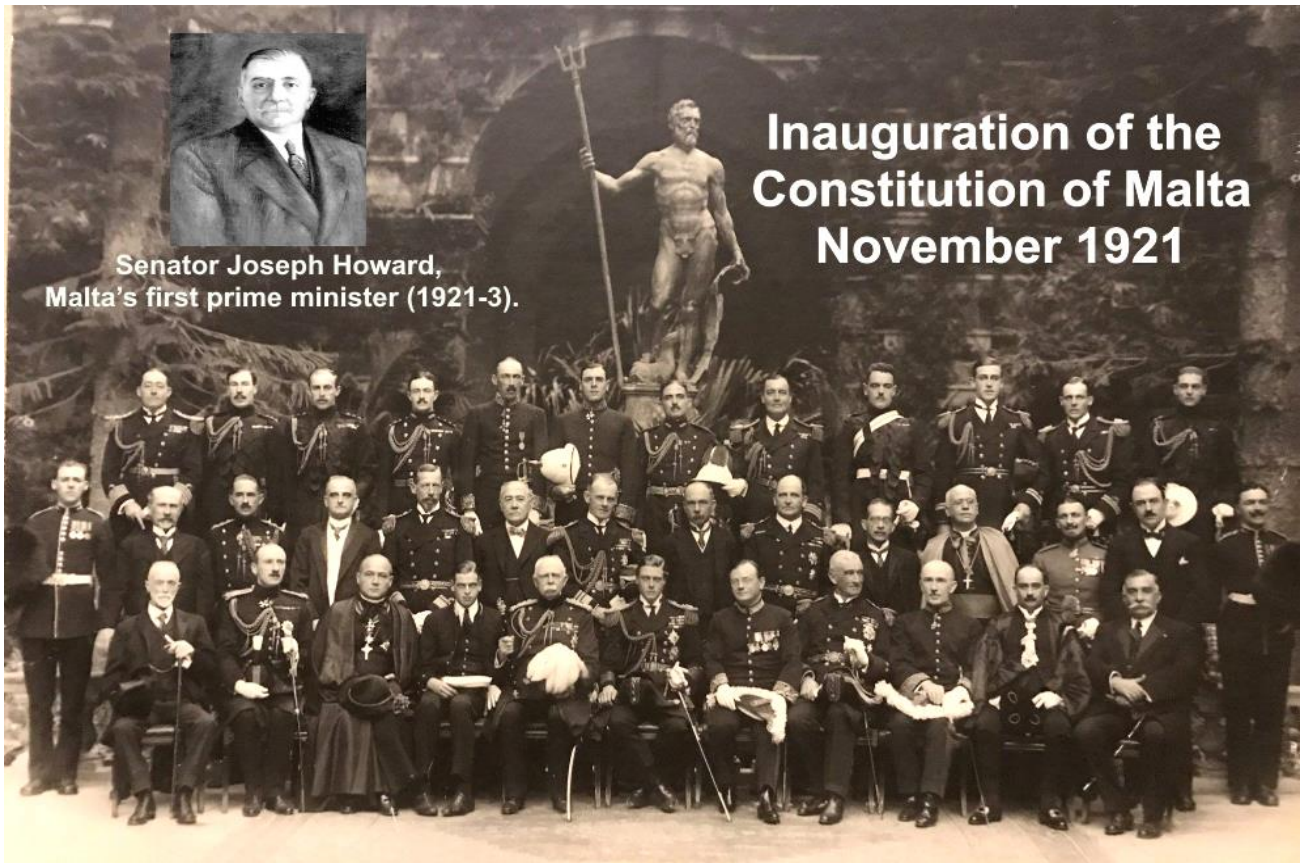
The project has now been set up at Spazju Kreattiv. This second installation serves to bring the exported experience of the antiporta back to our shores to rekindle the conversation that was started at Palazzo Mora earlier last year.

In many respects, the project is a microcosm of a greater desire the team has for local architecture practice to preserve more, to incubate a greater sense of respect and to progress with greater sensitivity; to embrace development and attempt the future without compromising too much of what we've inherited, or of what we belong to.

This is about an architectural discourse motivated by the state of things around us: What has happened to the antiporta? What

does this transition say about who we are today? Where is our architecture heading?
The event which took place last Thursday at Spazju Kreattiv consisted of a short, informal conversation about the findings of the research and the process of the six-month project among the members of the Antiporta team and other contributors.
Led by Perit Chris Briffa, the team brings together Andrew Borg Wirth as curator, photographer and artist David Zammit, curator and researcher Lisa Gwen, Louise Spokes as project manager and architect Katrina Galea. Antiporta is part of the Valletta 2018 European Capital of Culture Cultural Programme (Valletta Design Cluster), and the Spazju Kreattiv programme. The project is supported by the Project Support Grant, Malta Arts Fund – Arts Council Malta.
(140, Old Mint Street),

FIRST MALTA CONSTITUTION - NOVEMBER 1, 1921



1 November 1921 - Prince of Wales with some Senators and other dignitaries. Inauguration of the new Constitution of Malta

(Back Row) – Capt Dudley North, Capt H.F.S. Law, Capt Hon P.W. Legh, Capt M.N.T. Gubbins, Mr G.F. de Montmorency, Sir Geoffrey Thomas, Major V.C. Micallef, Surg Cdr A.C. Newport, Lieut Hon B.A. Ogilvy, Lieut Lord Louis Mountbatten, Lt M.O.D. Ellwood, Lieut J. Brookes.

(Middle Row) – Unidentified Guardman, The Hon Prof C. Mifsud, Col A.F. U. Green, The Hon E. Arrigo, Rear Admiral B.H.F. Barttelot, The Hon Dr Max Debono, Vice Admiral Sir Lionel Halsey, Mr E. Rooth, Rear Admiral Sir Richard Webb, The Hon Caruana Gatto, The Hon Mgr Canon F. Ferris, Grp Capt C.R. Samson, The Hon Dr Ugo P. Mifsud and an unidentified Guardsman.

(Front Row) – Sir Filippo Sciberras, The Rt Hon The Earl of Cromer, HG the Archbishop of Malta (Caruana), HRH Duke of York, H.E. Field Marshal Lord Plumer, HRH The Prince of Wales, Col L.S. Amery, Admiral Sir John De Robeck, His Hon W.C.F. Roberston, His Hon Sir Michael Refalo and The Hon J. Howard. Captions courtesy of Peter Agius, MVH MVH

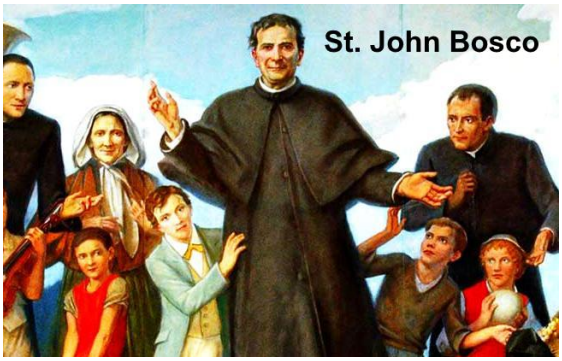
HOW WAS MALTA LIKE 100 YEARS AGO 1921

THE SERVANT OF GOD, MGR. JOSEPH DE PIRO was totally dedicated to the Church in Malta, but he also contributed greatly towards the socio-political-economic aspect of his country. He did this in a special way by his participation in the National Assembly and its Commission between 1918 and 1921; Joseph De Piro was heavily involved in the discussions about the place of Religion and the Language(s) in the 1921 Constitution for Malta. He did this because he was convinced that the Catholic Religion was entrenched in the hearts and minds of the Maltese people and he was as much sure that their Language(s) formed an intrinsic part of their culture. Although Joseph De Piro never used these words, we can be assured of his conviction that the Roman Catholic Apostolic Religion and the Language(s) were an integral part of the Maltese identity; they were engraved in the DNA of the Maltese people. The Servant of God was never opposed to the freedom of religion and never suggested that other Christian denominations should not be allowed to practice their beliefs. Also, while accepting that the Italian and English languages could be used in Parliament, he insisted that members of Parliament who preferred to speak Maltese, had the right to do so. - Tony Sciberras mssp Mario Zammit Satariano mssp 30th April 2021 The Centenary of the Proclamation of the Malta Constitution

Here is a glimpse of the how Malta was like in 1921 – hundred years ago.

- Malta got its first autonomous government 100 years ago, a time when a railway and trams still operated and Valletta housed more than 22,000 people.
- In 1921, Malta's and Gozo's population stood at 212,258, which grew to 215,437 when British military families were included.
- There were 153 men and only three women attending university and the average wage for someone working in the trade and manufacture sector amounted to £90 per year.
- In that year, Britain spent almost half-a-million Sterling for the military protection of Malta.
- The country was served by five daily newspapers and no less than nine weekly publications.
- Valletta was home to 22,392 people, a far cry from the 5,891 who call the capital home today. Sliema had a population of 14,362, while Bormla had 11,536 residents. These three localities alone accounted for 23% of people living in Malta back then.
- The Hamrun-Marsa-Santa Venera were considered as one with a combined population of 17,182. Gozo had a population of 22,561.
- Marsaxlokk was written as Marsascirocco, Mqabba as Micabiba, Naxxar as Naxaro and Mdina referred to as Notabile.
- The population figures show that there were 7,688 births in 1921, including 350 still-born babies. This contrasts with the 4,523 babies born last year (2020) to a much larger population.
- Malta registered 4,833 deaths in 1921 and 1,306 marriages.
- Statistics for immigration show that 100 years ago 4,007 Maltese returned to live in Malta from abroad while 2,606 emigrated to other countries.
- A general election to elect members of the legislative assembly took place on 18 and 19 October, a Tuesday and Wednesday.
- The data shows that there were 27,104 eligible voters of which 20,634 voted. Suffrage was limited to men and the single transferable vote system was used.
- The Roman Catholic Church had 210,000 followers and 353 churches around Malta and Gozo; two cathedrals, 46 parochial churches, two vice parochial churches and 260 other churches in Malta; and one cathedral, 13 parochial churches and 29 other churches in Gozo.

- Protestant denominations had around 2,000 followers with churches in Valletta and Sliema.
- The Greek-orthodox Church had around 200 followers with a church in Valletta, while the number of Jews was insignificant, although they had a place of worship in Valletta.
- The university campus in Msida is today a sprawling village with almost 12,000 students but 100 years ago the student population at university was a meagre 176, of which only three were women.
  Education appears to have had little importance beyond the elementary school years.
- Farming may be a declining job today, but in 1921 there were 16,270 employed in agriculture and their average rate of wage was £54 per year.
- Manufacture employed 29,074 people, while another 20,340 earned a living in commerce. The average yearly wage in these two sectors stood at £90. Rates for domestic service were a meagre £18 per year.
- And in a pre-decimal system a barrel of 196lb (equivalent to 89kg) of flour would retail at an average of £1 17s. and 4d. (one pound 17 shillings and four pence).
- A pound of fresh butter from New Zealand would cost two shillings and four pence, while salted butter from Ireland would cost three shillings.
- A gallon (4.5Lit.) of milk would retail at an average of £8, while a dozen Maltese eggs would cost one shilling and six pence. Imported eggs would cost less at one shilling and two pence. Buying 'horned cattle' would set you back by £30.
- .Like most of the British colonies, Malta also had a lock hospital to treat people suffering from sexually-transmitted diseases. The Blue Book shows that in 1921, a lock hospital was situated in Luqa, a section of the old people's home in what is now known as St Vincent de Paul. According to the description accompanying the entry, the hospital had an average of 44 'inmates' and was used for the 'treatment of prostitutes suffering from venereal disease'. The same grounds also housed a hospital for male and female lepers.
- A list of hospitals shows that the main hospital, known as Central Hospital, was in Floriana, while the Seamen's Hospital was situated in St Julian's, where Zammit Clapp now stands.
- Other hospitals included the Santo Spirtito Hospital in Mdina, Connaught Hospital, also in Mdina where the Vilhena Palace stands, and Manoel Hospital in Sliema, more popularly known as the Lazzaretto on Manoel Island, which used to house patients with infectious diseases.
- Gozo had a general hospital, which included a wing for contagious diseases.
- Records show that 255 people were hospitalised with typhoid fever in 1921, including 30 who eventually died.
- At Connaught Hospital, 233 patients were admitted with pulmonary tuberculosis of which 64 died.
- At Manoel Hospital, 418 patients were receiving treatment for scabies, an itchy skin condition caused by a tiny burrowing mite.
- What is today Mount Carmel Hospital, already existed 100 years ago when it was referred to as a lunatic asylum. There were 811 patients in the lunatic asylum in 1921, of which 175 were admitted in that year.**n**
- Roads were divided into 1st class and 2nd class with the former deemed to be suitable for motor traffic and the latter suitable for horse drawn traffic. The 1921 records show that Malta had 350km of 1st class roads and 167km of 2nd class roads. In Gozo, 84km were suitable for motor traffic, while 16km were deemed to be 2nd class roads. This means that across both islands, the road network suitable for cars amounted to 434km. Malta today has almost 3,000km of paved roads.
- At the time there were 265 cars and 151 motorcycles. The roads were also used by 37 privately-owned buses operated along six routes and 63 touring cars used for hire.
  But whereas cars were still a novelty back then, Malta had a train and trams servicing the main population centres. The railway, owned and operated by government, ran from Valletta and its construction had until then amounted to £58,562. The records show that passenger receipts amounted to £12,165.
  There were also three tramways owned and operated by Macartney McElroy & Coy. Limited. The lines from Birkirkara, Cospicua and Żebbuġ all led to Valletta.



The Wandering Salesian Oratory – DON BOSCO

In the 1840s the slums of Turin were overrun by the poverty that resulted inevitably from sweatshop factories with their hazardous machinery, child labour, and starvation wages. Walking through these slums, Don Bosco came face to face with his mission. As he visited the prisons with Father Cafasso, the conviction of his vocation seemed to shout within him: *"These boys are not bad. Take care of them before they fall into crime--that is your task!"*

With his heart full of trust in his Lady and his pockets empty, Don Bosco courageously took up the work. From then on, it was only *"Give me souls--the souls of young people."*

Don Bosco called his weekly band of ragged young people *"the Oratory,"* a term which to his mind suggested prayer and organized recreation. In the beginning it was a floating thing, its membership growing daily in large proportions. There was no one place to meet because in those troublesome times people were afraid of a large group of working boys and besides, who relishes the uproar of some 200 boys enjoying a day's freedom from the imprisonment of a factory?

Every Sunday they would meet in a different place, a city church, a cemetery chapel, or an empty lot. Don Bosco would hear their confessions and say Mass for them. An hour of religious instruction would follow, plain, simple talks coming from the heart and embodying the solid truths of the faith. Then the priest would take his band of ragged boys into the country for an all-day outing of games. A final talk would close the *"Oratory day,"* and the tired bunch would trail into Turin, scattering to their homes along the way.

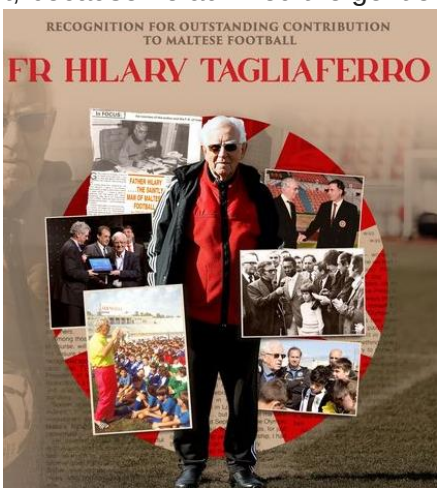
During the week, Don Bosco used to tour the city shops, checking on his boys, making sure they had not forgotten his instructions to work hard and work well.

Those were heroic times, *"those pioneer days,"* the saint used to call them. *"Days of strenuous work they were, a shiftless existence that threatened to collapse any Sunday, a bankrupt enterprise with no capital, and very little funds."* Besides this, the city leaders, worried by the new cries of *"freedom for the working classes,"* eyed Don Bosco's boys as a dangerous, half-baked army of the children of the people, headed by an ambitious priest. Actually this tired, penniless priest sought only a chance to bring God's peace and order to the hearts of restless youth.

In 1846 the first ray of hope broke through the clouds. Don Bosco bought an empty lot and a dilapidated shed in an underdeveloped section of Turin called *"Valdocco."* True, next door was a saloon and across the street a hotel of shady reputation--but what did it matter? The Oratory ground was sacred, for as he later learned in a *"dream,"* it was the burial ground of the Martyrs of Turin.

With a roof over his head, Don Bosco knew that his Lady had set the permanent basis of his work.

The shed he dug deeper and converted into a chapel, with a tiny anteroom, and every Sunday 500 boys managed quite miraculously to squeeze into it for Mass. *"The Oratory of St. Francis de Sales,"* he called it, because he admired the gentle holiness of this great saint.



The location of the shed-chapel can still be seen today--the tiny nucleus of a worldwide organization that began in poverty with our Lady's blessing.

Malta Football Association - 1900-2021

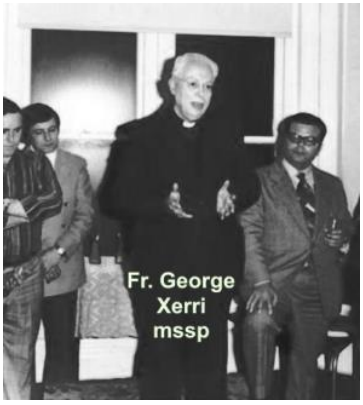
The Malta Football Association presented a momento to FR HILARY TAGLIAFERRO for his outstanding contribution to Maltese football upon his retirement from official football commitments

The Youth Football Association was the brainchild of Fr Hilary in which he served as President since its formation until June 2021.

THANK YOU Fr Hilary

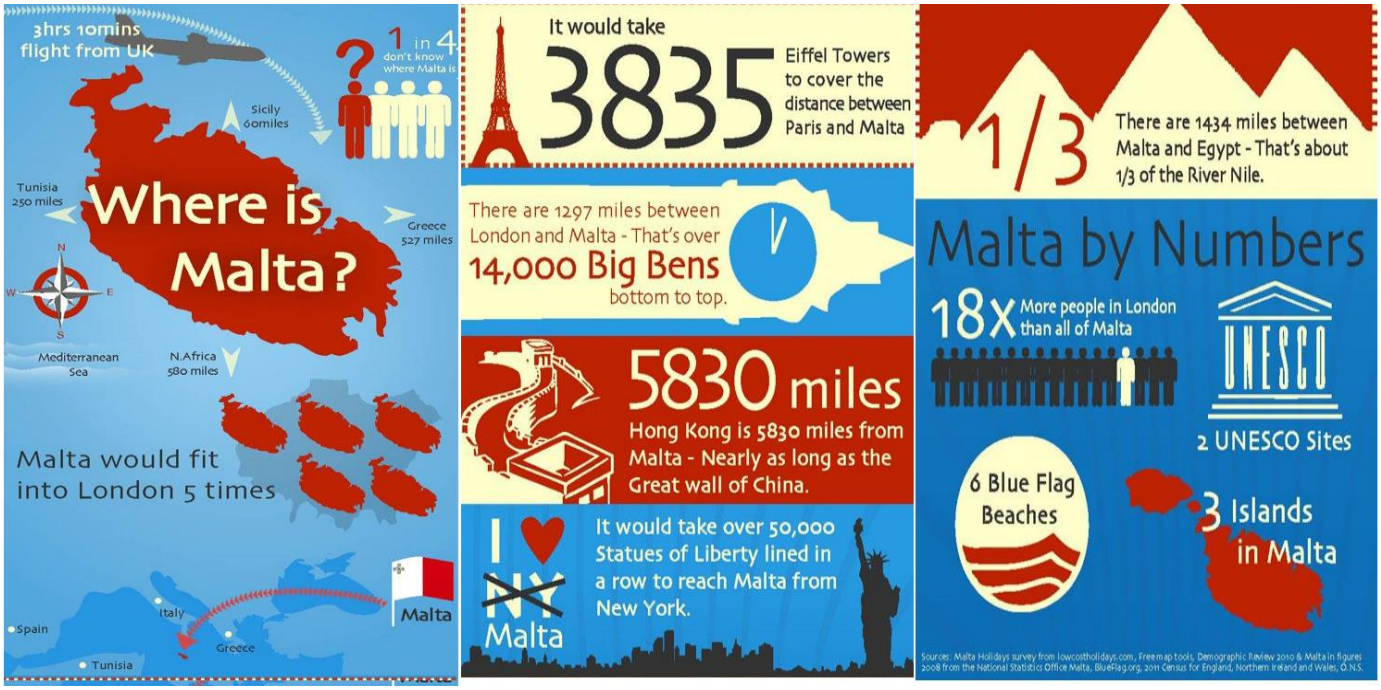
The Maltese Own Band & the 8th September.

The 8th of September is an important date for the Maltese Community as it celebrates the victories of the Three Great Sieges of Malta by the Maltese people and is celebrated with the feast of Our Lady of Victories (Il-Vittorja /Il-Bambina). It is also a very special date for The Maltese Own Band Philharmonic Society Inc.



In 1977 the band was formed by our founder (the late) Joe Muscat at the request of (the late) Fr. George Xerri to celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Victories (Il-Vittoria) in Melbourne. The Maltese Own Band has been proud to continue to present the Maltese tradition of Marches and "Innus'" for the Maltese feast Associations and their relevant feasts for the past 44 Years. This feast is organised by the Reskeon Maltese Assoc. on behalf of the Missionary Society of St, Paul.

We are disappointed that for the last two years we and the Victorian Maltese community have not been able to celebrate this most important feast in our Maltese Culture due to the Covid 19 Pandemic and restrictions. We look forward with hopefulness that we will be able to celebrate this feast next year with the importance that it has, especially for The Maltese Own band as it will be an important part of celebrating our 45th Anniversary.



Due to the health restrictions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic several social, cultural and religious events organised by our Maltese communities had to be cancelled or postponed. We keep you updated.

Heritage Malta celebrates start of autumn at Mnajdra

Heritage Malta The Autumn Equinox, heralding the start of a new season, will be celebrated with guided tours organised by Heritage Malta at Mnajdra on the 21st and the 22nd of September.
Opposite the main entrance of prehistoric Mnajdra, a doorway flanked by two large blocks covered in small drilled holes marks the place where a curious occurrence happens at the start of every new season.
As the sun rises on the first day of spring and autumn (the Equinoxes) and the first day of summer and winter (the Solstices), its rays align perfectly and light up specific parts of this passageway. Although it is not clear whether these orientations were intentional, they are so systematic that this is very probable.
In prehistoric agricultural societies, observation of the motion of the stars, the moon and the sun was closely related to the changing seasons and times of planting and harvesting crops.
Heritage Malta On the 21st and 22nd September, Heritage Malta invites you to experience first-hand this millennia-old phenomenon at the megalithic site of Mnajdra, part of a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
During each guided tour, visitors will see the first rays of the rising sun light up the central passage in the South building, just as it did in the site's heyday over 5000 years ago.
A tour will also be given of the surrounding Natura 2000 site and the Central and East buildings at Mnajdra. Complimentary coffee and snacks will be offered to participants before the tour.
In order to guarantee that all visitors get to observe this phenomenon whilst respecting social distancing measures, only a limited number of tickets are available for this event.
21st September and **22nd September**
Participants for these events are to meet at 6.15am outside the Ħaġar Qim and Mnajdra Visitor Centre.
Attendees must wear a face mask and respect social distancing measures.
This content was supplied by Heritage Malta **https://heritagemalta.org/**

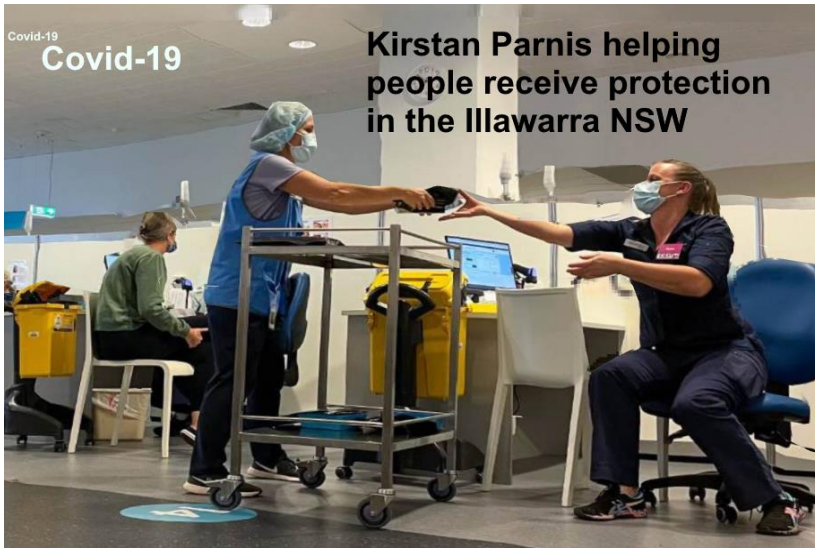
Moviment Qawmien Letterarju (1970s)
Bilwieqfa: Dennis Aguis, Albert Marshall, Frank Galea, Vanni Riolo, Mario Bezzina, Carmel Attard.
Bilqiegħda mix-xellug: Oreste Calleja, Ritchie Vella, Oliver Friggieri, Frans Sammut, Vincezno M. Pellegrin

Akkademja tal-Malti (2004-2005)
Bilwieqfa: Trevor Żahra, Anthony Sammut, Inġ. Maurice Mifsud Bonnici, Rev. Victor Xuereb, Joseph P. Borg
Bilqiegħda mix-xellug: Oreste Calleja, Lina Brockdorff, Dr Bernard Micallef, George Farrugia, Dr Josette Attard

PBS TVM

TVM NEWS+

New logos for PBS, TVM and TVMNEWS+
The Public Broadcasting Services has a new logo.
And a new schedule of programmes,
to start from the last week of September,
will introduce televiewers with
new logos for its television stations:
Television Malta, and TVM news + which will replace TVM2



IF YOU HAVE A STORY TO TELL, SHARE IT WITH OTHERS - SEND IT TO US

I HAVE BEEN PUBLISHING THIS JOURNAL FOR 8 YEARS AND IS DELVERED EVERY WEEK TO YOU ABSOLUTELY FREE. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEND ME A DONATION, CONTACT ME AND I WILL GIVE YOU ALL THE DETAILS. A RECEIPT AND A CERTIFICATE WILL BE FORWARDED TO YOU. THANK YOU