



JOURNAL FOR MALTESE AROUND THE WORLD

MALTESE E-NEWSLETTEREditor: Frank Scicluna OAM MQR JP Email: maltesejournal@gmail.com.
Former Honorary Consul for Malta in South Australia

CRINGILA - NSW



Stained Glass Window at the George Cross Falcons Community Centre

Murals at the Maltese Community Centre, Royal Parade, Parkville, Victoria

**THE PRIDE AND JOY OF THE MALTESE DIASPORA** Ruth WalshMARGARET STAPLES BY EMVIN CREMONA
Malta: a childhood under siege
Linda Peek



**Fr. Augustine
Lape from
Kenya
speaks
Maltese**

THE WONDERFUL FR AUGUSTINE LAPE A KENYAN PRIEST INTERVIEWED ON RTK103

Fr. Augustine became a priest with the help of several Maltese benefactors, mainly from Żabbar and St. Paul's Bay. When he came to Malta to meet one of them, Michael Montebello from Zejtun, he discovered that he had unfortunately passed away.

Fr Augustine was one of the guests during the BTW program on RTK103 in which foreign people who took the initiative to learn the Maltese language took part. Fr. Lape has been a priest for 20 years, and first came to Malta in 2000.

Nowadays he celebrates Mass and hear confessions in Maltese at the Parish church of Christ the King in

Paola and works closely with young people and really speaks Maltese well!

It was the benefactor from Zabbar Laurenza Azzopardi, known as *tal-Fjuri*, who taught him Maltese. He explained that he learned this at home, not in a school, when she would ask him to read the Gospel of the day and Sunday to her and he would always read and learn.

He mentioned how the Kenyan Swahili language is very similar to Maltese because 40% of it is Semitic, therefore he found it easier to learn Maltese, but the Gozitan dialect is much harder! It is interesting that in Swahili the numbers are read the opposite way. He is studying at the University of Malta and is visiting several schools where he is preaching.

He really likes Gozo and mentioned Ta' Pinu Sanctuary, Nadur and even the feast of St. Peter and Paul! He also spoke about the feasts and the help of Dun Ġużepp Sultana who always spoke to him in Maltese while he was a seminarian in Malta. He said that the Maltese are kind-hearted and have sometimes helped him even when he lost his way.

"What you give them is what they give back" replied Fr Augustine when asked if he had ever been discriminated against but he said that he had never had this experience, in fact the Maltese smile at him.

He said that people are surprised when he goes shopping and speaks to them in Maltese, but they enjoy it very much and end up talking to him as if he was a local. His father helped him to follow the vocation of priesthood although when he was younger, he wanted to become a pilot to travel the world and he still ended up traveling the world! He had even gone to Australia and met the Maltese of Melbourne. He would like to continue to bring Jesus with his smile.

Every Saturday at 7.30pm in Paola he celebrates Mass in English. Fr Augustine also spoke about media pressures, the presence of Catholics in the Church and how we can pay more attention to the needs of young people. He loves to pray the St. George's Prayer, "Thank you, Lord God, and forgive me, Lord God," and when I asked him about his favourite Maltese food, he mentioned pastizzi for breakfast, and spaghetti with rabbit sauce!

WE WOULD LIKE TO WRITE THE WHOLE NEWSLETTER IN MALTESE, BUT MOST OF OUR READERS DO NOT READ MALTESE BECAUSE THEY ARE LIVING MAINLY IN ENGLISH-SPEAKING COUNTRIES AND HAVE BEEN LIVING AWAY FROM MALTA FOR MANY YEARS OR BORN OVERSEAS.



KNISJA LI THARES B'TAMA U HNIENA ASSEMBLEA DJOČESANA L-Arcidjocesi Ta' Malta laqqgħet l-



assemblea djočesana annwali li matulha
nġhata rendikont tal-ħidma tal-Knisja f'Malta fil-kuntest
tal-proċess ta' tiġdid ekkleżjali 'Knisja Wahda, Vjaġġ
Wieħed', kif ukoll it-tnejjija għall-Ġublew tat-Tama li se jiġi
ċelebrat is-sena d-dieħla.

Fid-diskors tiegħu, l-Arċisqof Charles Scicluna tkellem fuq il-prijoritajiet tal-ħidma tal-Knisja f'Malta u fuq kif qed twieġeb għall-ħtiġijiet tas-soċjetà, fosthom permezz tad-djar tat-tfal u l-anzjani, il-ftuħ ta' ċentri tal-komunità, is-sapport fil-kura paljattiva, l-ġhajna lil min hu bil-ġuħ, u l-promozzjoni ta' żvilupp u empowerment għat-tfal u zġhażagħ b'diżabbiltà. Sahaq ukoll li l-Knisja f'Malta hi impenjata tkun ta' eżempju fl-amministrazzjoni finanzjarja, u fil-kura tal-patrimonju uman u kulturali.

Bi preparazzjoni għall-Ġublew tat-Tama, l-Arċisqof qal li dan se jdawwal il-ħidma u l-prijoritajiet tal-Knisja f'Malta. "Is-Sena Mqaddsa hija żmien biex nieqfu u nġhidu grazzi għall-ħafna barkiet li għandna. Matul is-sekli, il-Knisja f'Malta kienet qrib il-poplu. L-ethos tagħha ta' kura u tmexxija hu għajna ta' tama u direzzjoni għall-poplu tagħna. Id-dmir tagħna huwa li niżguraw li dan tassew jibqa' jsir."

Mons. Arċisqof tkellem ukoll dwar iż-żewġ esperjenzi importanti fil-Vatikan: iż-żjara *Ad limina* li l-Isqfijiet ta' Malta u Ghawdex kellhom f'Mejju li għadda li ntemmet b'laqgħa mal-Papa Frangisku, u s-Sinodu tal-Isqfijiet li sar f'Ottubru li għadda.

Fl-Assemblea, l-Isqof Joseph Galea-Curmi qal li matul is-sena li ġejja, il-Knisja trid taħdem sabiex "l-istrutturi ta' konsultazzjoni u parteċipazzjoni fil-Knisja f'Malta, li huma ħafna, jissaħħu biex jistgħu jilhqnu aktar l-ġhanijiet tagħhom. Tibqa' dejjem ta' sfida kbira għall-Knisja li nġhaqqdu flimkien il-parteċipazzjoni u l-kreattività mal-unità, mal-armonija, fid-direzzjoni u fil-ħidma."

Dwar ir-raba' atteġġjament tal-proċess ekkleżjali 'Knisja Wahda, Vjaġġ Wieħed: Knisja li Toħroġ', Prof. Nadia Delicata, id-Delegat għall-Evangelizzazzjoni, tat rendikont ta' dak li sar mill-Knisja fl-aħħar sena. Semmiet uħud mill-esperjenzi u r-riflessjonijiet tan-nies li pparteċipaw fis-16-il konverżazzjoni spiritwali li saru matul is-sajf. Kulhadd kien mistieden għal dawn il-laqqgħat sabiex il-Knisja tifhem aħjar x'inhuma r-realtajiet, il-ħsibijiet, il-weġġgħat u x-xewqat għall-Knisja biex verament tkun Knisja li tisma', li tilqa', li takkumpanja, u li toħroġ.

Matul l-Assemblea, DISCERN ippreżenta studju li sar fi ħdan l-Arcidjocesi ta' Malta dwar ix-xogħol li sar mill-Knisja Maltija man-nies li sabu ruħhom f'sitwazzjoni ta' vulnerabbiltà fl-2023.

Waqt l-Assemblea tnediet il-website gublew.mt bid-dettalji ewlenin tal-Ġublew tat-Tama f'Malta. Liam Farrugia, id-Direttur tal-Uffiċċju tal-Preżenza Diġitali tal-Arcidjocesi, semma wħud miċ-ċelebrazzjonijiet liturġiċi, l-attivitajiet djočesani u pelligrinaggi li se jiġu organizzati f'Malta matul is-sena tal-Ġublew.

Madwar 280 parteċipant attendew fiżikament jew virtwalment għall-Assemblea Djočesana li saret fuq jumejn fis-sala taċ-Ċentru Animazzjoni u Komunikazzjoni (ĊAK) f'Birkirkara.



**SERATA KOMMEMORATTIVA U TNEDIJA TAL-ĦARĠA SPEĊJALI TA’
IL-MALTI BL-ATTI TAL-KONFERENZA
AĦNA ĠEJNA MILL-ĠENNA – L-ISPIRITUALITÀ FIL-ĦAJJA U
L-KITBA TA’ OLIVER FRIGGIERI**

Nhar il-Ħamis, 21 ta’ Novembru 2024 l-Akkademja tal-Malti fakkret lill-Prof. Oliver Friggieri fir-raba’ anniversarju minn mewtu (21.11.2020). Din il-pubblikazzjoni tiġbor fiha l-atti tal-konferenza preżentati fil-Kunvent tal-Karmelitani fl-Imdina, li kienet ġiet organizzata mid-Dipartiment tal-Malti tal-Università ta’ Malta flimkien mal-Akkademja tal-Malti u l-Istitut Karmelitan fil-5 ta’ Marzu 2020. F’din il-konferenza, bit-tema “Aĥna ġejna mill-Ġenna” taw sehemhom seba’ kelliema li ħarsu mill-qrib lejn l-ispiritwalità fil-kitbiet tal-Prof. Friggieri u f’haġtu.

Din is-serata mużiko-letterarja tinkludi qari ta’ poeżiji minn Mario u Nathalie Micallef u Marceline Galea flimkien ma’ interventi mużikali minn Vince Fabri u Diane Micallef. Rev. Dr Jonathan Farrugia għamel kummentarju qasir dwar il-pubblikazzjoni msemmija hawn fuq.

Fi tmiem is-serata, wara d-diskors tal-President ta’ Malta, Dr George Farrugia, il-President tal-Akkademja, ippreżenta kopja tal-ħarġa speċjali ta’ *Il-Malti* lill-Eċċellenza Tagħha Dr Myriam Spiteri Debono.

**Konferenza f’għeluq il-100 sena mill-pubblikazzjoni
tat-*Tagħrif fuq il-Kitba Maltija***

F’għeluq il-100 sena mill-pubblikazzjoni tat-*Tagħrif fuq il-Kitba Maltija*, l-Akkademja tal-Malti stiednet numru ta’ kelliema biex jgħaddulna l-fehmiet tagħhom dwar dan il-manwal importanti li fuqu hi msejsa l-ortografija Maltija.

L-interventi tal-kelliema iffokaw fuq aspetti differenti marbuta mat-*Tagħrif*, mill-ħarsa storika li wasslet għall-istandardizzar tal-kitba bil-Malti, sal-prinċipji ewlenin li fuqhom inbnew ir-regoli miġbura f’dan il-manwal. Huma ddiskussutew wkoll l-aġġornamenti li saru fih matul is-snin u r-reazzjonijiet li kien hemm għalihom.

Din il-Konferenza saretr nhar **is-Sibt, 30 ta’ Novembru fiċ-Ċentru tal-Konferenzi f’Dar il-Ħanin Samaritan, Santa Venera, mit-8.30 am sas-1.00 pm** u kienet ta’ tinteress kbir għall-awturi, għalliema, studenti, qarreja tal-provi, u lil dawk kollha li għandhom għal qalbhom l-ilsien Malti.

IL-KUNSILL TAL-AKKADEMJA (2023-2025)

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[georgecrossfalcons.com](#) Free Entrance

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Cringila Centre Museum tells the story of the Maltese immigrants arriving in Australia in the early 50's post WW2.

The Museum started with the first huge Mural placed in the front of the building around eleven years ago to showcase assimilation by painting the Wollongong harbor and the



Malta harbor showing the Maltese families arriving in Cringila to start a new life in another country.

The painting is a story and the many visiting Cringila tell us the painting is quite unique. The Mural was hanged outside during the 65th year anniversary and that's when we decided to commission a Migration Statue made from steel. This Steel Monument is at the entrance of the building and shows a typical family in the 50's the father with a luggage, mother and mostly first-born child in Malta. In the 40s and 50s people could only travel by ship, so we build the face of a ship with the anchor showcase the famous Maltese cross.

As time evolved, we commissioned more expensive Murals to fill the inside of the hall and the walls now surrounded showcasing places of interest in Malta. We also commissioned a stain glass window that lights up showing a typical town in Malta. One will also find full replica of two Knights of Malta, where many kids are fascinated when seeing them for the first time.

In conclusion at the end of the tour one can visit the Anzac Memorial located at the back of the property, remembering the Maltese Immigrants that fought and died during WW1 with the Australian Army. We hope you visit us at ther museum in Cringila and gain an understanding of Malta a small island in the middle of the Mediterranean and the history of early Maltese immigrants, their hardships and achievements..



GEORGE N BUSUTTIL **EX- HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR MALTA** **IN AUSTRALIA DIES AT 85**

WE are deeply sorry to inform our readers that GEORGE N BUSUTTIL passed away on November 28, 2024 at Mater Dei Hospital. He was born in Attard and lived in Mosta.

Mr Busuttill was born on 3d April 1939 and he studied at the Lyceum in Malta and at the R.A.F. University College in Cranwell, Lincolnshire, U.K. In 1957 he was awarded an R.A.F. Officer Cadetship in the General Duties (Flying) Branch as a Navigator.

Mr Busuttill was an ex-High Commissioner for Malta in Australia. He leaves to mourn his loss his dear wife, Vera; his beloved daughters, Lucianne and her partner Henrik, Elaine and her husband Edmund; his grandchildren Gabriel, Timothy, Samuel, Malcolm, and Carl, their respective wives and partners, his great-grandchildren and his sisters Yvonne and Isabelle.

A mass to celebrate his life will be held at Attard parish church on Wednesday, December 4, at 9am followed by interment in the family grave at Santa Marija Addolorata Cemetery.

In November 1991 Mr Busuttill took up his appointment as Malta's resident High Commissioner in Canberra, in 1992. He was appointed non-resident High Commissioner to New Zealand and in 1995 non-resident Ambassador to the Philippines. Mr Busuttill was appointed Dean of the Diplomatic Corps in Canberra in March 1997. During his stay in Australia he encouraged the teaching of Maltese language and introduced with the co-operation of the Ministry of Education Short Term Scholarships in Malta for second and third generation Maltese Australians.

He returned to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in March 1999 and was Chairman of the Organising Committee of the Migrants Convention held in Malta in January, 2000.

THE MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER
Journal of Maltese Living Abroad

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The Maltese Aged Care Association (SA) Inc. (MACASA) was founded in 1994 with the intent of establishing ethno-specific aged care services for our Maltese elderly in South Australia. The development of MACASA over the years has been rewarding, and at times very challenging. Here is a brief look at its achievements.



MACASA
Maltese Aged Care
Association of
South Australia

HISTORY OF MACASA

In 1994, A GROUP OF MALTESE volunteers recognised the need for some form of residential care for our Maltese elderly. A committee met on a regular basis and incorporated our Association under our present name.



In 1995, this new group undertook a survey of 100 Maltese families in South Australia who were interviewed in their own homes. An extensive list of questions was put to these people regarding their health. This survey presented an opportunity for **MACASA** members to speak directly to the community's older people and discuss their needs with them. It also was an opportunity to inform them about the activities

of **MACASA**, and to supply them with information about aged care services that were currently available to them plus possible future options.

The results from the survey identified the need for help at home, and help with Maltese meals, transport and Residential Care. **MACASA** members volunteered their time for this since no financial assistance was received specifically to conduct this survey.

Home-delivered or Frozen Pick-up Meals

In 1998, funding was made available to provide a culturally-appropriate meals service. Thanks to the survey previously conducted, we knew where the majority of the elderly Maltese were located, and we were able to plan our kitchen in a central area. In collaboration with the Maltese Guild of SA, we opened our first kitchen in Beverley at the Maltese Cultural Centre in the Western area. As this was a new venture for us, it was no easy task. It was thanks to the resilience and persistence of Charles Bezzina, our Maltese cook at the time, and MACASA that we managed to deliver this service.

Over time, the demand for Maltese meals grew. In 2003, due to further expansion of the Meals Service, it was necessary to look for a bigger kitchen. After moving to the RSL facility in West Croydon, we eventually relocated our Office and Kitchen to:

Cheltenham Community Centre 62 Stroud Street North Cheltenham SOUTH AUSTRALIA

CHAIRMAN OF MACASA BOARD Christian Wickham

Our current Services Manager works with a dedicated group of volunteers who deliver the meals and other services to our clients. In the 2021 financial year we served over 20,000 meals. That's an average of 386 meals per week.

Hot meals are delivered fresh daily from Monday to Friday in certain areas. For many people who would like meals but live outside our delivery areas, we have developed a Frozen Meals Program. This program is also available Monday to Friday, and any number of meals can be picked up from our facility either on a weekly, fortnightly or monthly basis.



THE ROLE OF MACASA

The role of **MACASA** is to:

- *Initiate and develop services for our Maltese elderly & wider community,*
- *Refer clients to relevant services,*
- *Ensure that information is appropriately given out through the Maltese media and wider community, community clubs, etc.,*

Assist in the ongoing monitoring and assessment of services, and

Most of all we ensure that these services are culturally- and linguistically-appropriate.

As you can see at **MACASA**, we are constantly planning and monitoring all services to continue improving and expanding, particularly seeking where we can develop new services that meet the needs of our community.

The evolution of **MACASA** since 1994 has been beyond our expectations; we are proud of our achievements. The foundations have been well-laid, and we can only look to the future now.

Source: www.malteseagedcare.org.au/#



FRIENDS OF VALLETTA
City of Chichester - Valletta Capital of Malta



You are warmly invited to attend our next talk
At Chichester City Council Chamber, also on Zoom,
At 1500hrs (1600hrs Malta time), Saturday 7 December 2024

Speaker: Jo Tyndale-Biscoe presents

Recent Restorations in the Gardens of Villa Frere

Prior registration required, click [HERE](#)

Published on behalf of Graham Pound, Chairman, Friends of Valletta

www.friendsofvalletta.org Email: gpound@bigcrouchers.co.uk

Jo Tyndale-Biscoe knows well the story of this historic lost garden, having written a book on it. It is being restored by the Friends of Villa Frere in collaboration with Heritage Malta.

Friends of Valletta are proud to aid this ongoing restoration project.

Registrants are asked to donate £5 or 5 euro. All proceeds go towards restoration of Villa Frere.



THE SLAVES' CONSPIRACY ADMINISTER POISONED COFFEE TO THE GRAND MASTER



Heritage Malta together with Taste History are pleased to invite you to a **fascinating panel discussion** by Dr Noel Buttigieg, Nathaniel Cutajar, Liam Gauci and Kenneth Cassar titled *Coffee: history, archaeology, trade and high treason*, followed by **coffee and sweet delights prepared by Taste History according to locally researched period recipes.**

This event will be held at the Inquisitor's Palace on **Tuesday 3rd December, starting**

at 18:30. It forms part of the outreach programme linked to the temporary exhibition 'Betrayal and Vengeance: The Slaves' Conspiracy of 1749 in 19 Historic Drawings', **running at the Inquisitor's Palace until 31st March 2025.**

HISTORY Evidence indicates how the Maltese acquired a taste to consume coffee, a drink whose origin in Malta was culturally associated mainly with the Muslim slave community. Despite a feeling of mutual suspicion, the Maltese and the 'infidel' shared their cultural experiences, including coffee brewing and drinking. Dr Noel Buttigieg will shed light on Malta's experience of this 'sensory revolution'.

ARCHAEOLOGY Coffee is an ideal 'object' to portray the ambivalent relationship between Hospitaller Malta and the Ottoman Levant - on one level implacable enemies, but also commercial and cultural partners. **Archaeology provides us with novel insights into this culture of coffee drinking under the Knights and its impact on Maltese society of the period. Particularly striking is the range of materials and aesthetics employed to create vessels specifically dedicated to the drinking of coffee - Chinese porcelain, Turkish frit-ware, European maiolica, European porcelain, silverware, and others.** Archaeological discoveries combined with archival research can help reconstruct aspects of this sophisticated coffee culture. To this end, Nathaniel Cutajar shall review two case studies - the Grand Master's Palace and the Inquisitor's Palace - two key 'palaces' involved in the Slaves' Uprising, but also two key sites of coffee consumption in 17th and 18th century Malta.

TRADE Liam Gauci will discuss and bring forward new insights into the importation of coffee on the island. How it came about, from where it arrived, and how it was used by the numerous ships in the harbour. The influence of coffee was everywhere to be seen. **Ships were called after coffee, such as the Dutch ship 'The Coffee Tree'.** Ships were also distinguished by their cargo, at times even qualified by the grade of coffee they carried, such as the French ship carrying Mocha coffee to distinguish it from the normal coffee usually traded in the harbour. **Coffee held a special place in 18th century Malta, and its connection to the sea is something to consider.**

HIGH TREASON



It is curious to think of coffee's role in the 1749 failed slaves' conspiracy as reflective of a reality of complete betrayal. The slave's community in Malta was a very active one, having an important economic function. Most of those directly implicated in the plot, and consequently executed, had formed part of the Grand Master's Palace retinue. These involved some of Pinto's most favoured and trusted domestics, including his sedan chair carriers, kitchen assistants, tableware assistants and personal valets, who at one point, **according to the conspiracy plans, were to administer poisoned coffee to the Grand Master before**

deciding instead to stab him with a dagger. Kenneth Cassar will briefly illustrate how coffee, the Muslim drink introduced by slaves in Catholic Malta, succeeded in winning the favour of Knights and Maltese alike, and was in 1749 the drink chosen by Mustafà Pasha and the Muslim community to overthrow the Catholic Hospitaller state.

After the four short presentations in English, time will be allocated for questions and general discussion, following which Taste History will be serving a *rin fresco* consisting of coffee a la Domenico Magri from 1655, and sweet delights from a recipe book dating to 1748.

The event will be held in the Cardinals' Hall, on the upper floor of the Inquisitor's Palace, which is reached by a staircase. Lifts are not available, so access may be challenging for persons with mobility issues.

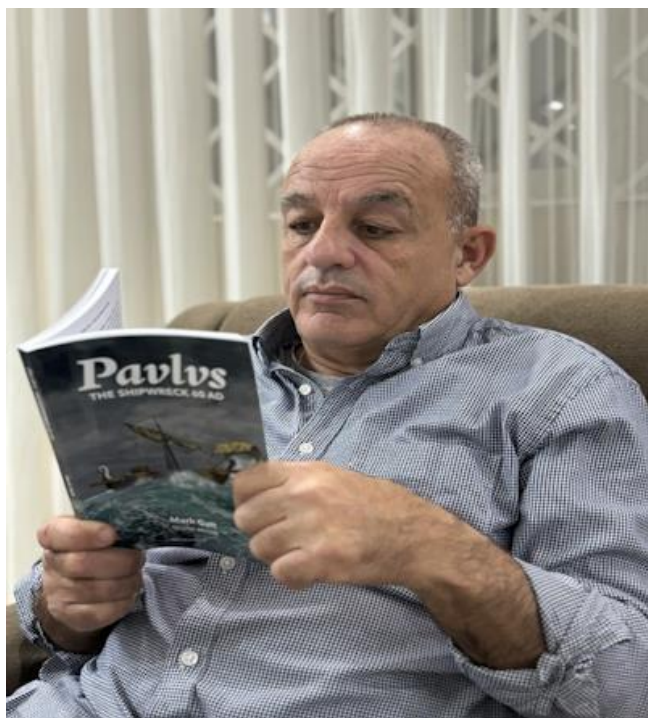
Tickets for the lecture, priced at €10, may be purchased here [Store - Heritage Malta](#) or at any Heritage Malta museum or site. All proceeds will support the museum's upkeep and outreach projects.

THE COUNCIL AND THE JOURNAL

LAST MONTH THE COUNCIL FOR MALTESE LIVING ABROAD HELD THE ANNUAL MEETING IN MALTA. WE EXPECT TO READ A REPORT OF THE SESSIONS WHICH TOOK PLACE DURING THIS IMPORTANT MEETING.

WE BELIEVE THAT THE MALTESE GOVERNMENT ESTABLISHED THIS COUNCIL (CMLA) 13 YEARS AGO TO BE THE MOUTHPIECE OF ALL THE MALTESE LIVING ABROAD. MANY POSITIVE RESULTS WERE ACHIEVED IN THE PAST. PLEASE, DEAR EDITOR, KEEP US INFORMED AND UPDATED BECAUSE WE STILL NEED TO RESOLVE IMMINENT PROBLEMS WHICH WE ARE STILL FACING. WE NEED THE CMLA AND THIS JOURNAL TO REPRESENT US, HELP US AND BE OUR VOICE. KEEP IN MIND THAT THE FUTURE OF MANY MALTESE COMMUNITIES OVERSEAS IS NOT SO BRIGHT. ACT NOW BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE. SOON MOST OF THE MALTESE ASSOCIATIONS AROUND THE WORLD BE GONE.

Charles Camilleri - Canada



MARK GATT GĦADDAS LI NZERTA ĦABAT MA' ANKRA F'QIEGĦ IL-BAĦAR AKTARX TAX-XINI TA' SAN PAWL

minn Ramona Portelli

Il-personalita li tkellimt miegħu llum kont diġa nafu minn qabel u diġa kont naf bir-riċerki interessanti li kien għamel, u anke bil-ktieb li kien ippubblika. Qed nirreferi għal Mark Gatt. Joqgħod il-Qawra u sa ftit xhur ilu kellu hanut tal-fjuri. Issa hareġ bil-pensjoni. Għamel tletin

sena voluntier fil-Protezzjoni Ċivili. Ihobb l-iScuba Diving u għadu jmur jogħdos regolari. Ihobb jgħum, l-iktar biex jagħmel eżerċizzju fiżiku, u jaqra. Involut fil-volantarjat fil-knisja fejn ta' kuljum imiss ma' każijiet soċjali. Jiddeskrivi lilu nnifsu bħala persuna li m'għandux kwiet. Involut f'ħafna affarijiet u jipprova jleħhaq ma' kollox.

Dan l-aħħar Mark ippubblika ktieb li jismu PAVLVS the Shipwreck 60 AD, iżda Fulton Books tal-Amerka prefer li jsejnhulu PAULUS the Shipwreck 60 AD. Filfatt meta Mark ippubblikah hawn Malta kien jaf li l-qarrej Malti jifhem li l-V fil-Latin tinqara W u allura l-ktieb jifthem PAWLWS. "Izda l-pubblikaturi Amerikani ssuġerewli li jinkiteb PAULUS biex min ikun qed iffittex il-ktieb *online* ikun jista' jsibu faċilment. U jien qbilt magħhom. Izda kelli biċċa xogħol kbira meta l-pubblikaturi Amerikani qalbu l-Ingliš f'*American English*. Ħassejt li peres li aħna l-Maltin niktbu Ingliš Brittaniku, allura kelli nerġa neditja t-text kollu f'Ingliš *Anglo-English* jew *English English*", beda jgħidli Mark.

Ta' min jgħid li Mark ilu jodgħos erbgħin sena fl-ibħra ta' dawn il-gzejjer tagħna. Kien beda jogħdos wara li kellu *sports injury* u ma setgħex jibqa nipprattika l-isport favorit tiegħu bl-istess impenn. "Inzerta li ħabib kbir tiegħi dak iż-żmien, Reno Portelli, Alla jtih il-glorja tal-ġenna, kellu l-istess *injury*. Iddeċidejna flimkien li ngħatuha għal baħar. Komplejt nogħdos ukoll fil-Protezzjoni Ċivili u ġieli kont involut fi tfittix għal nies mitlufa fil-baħar".

Kompla jgħidli li kien hemm żmien meta kien jitpaxxa bil-ħut fil-baħar. Illum iktar għandu ċans jiltaqa ma' xi borża tal-plastik jew bott tal-birra, milli xi ħuta. Biex ma nsemmux il-ħmieġ mill-irziezet tal-ħut. Izda l-fond xorta għad fadallu l-faxxinu tiegħu. Jixtieq biss li ġenerazjonijiet futuri jkun jistgħu jgawduh ukoll. **Kien sab ankra ta' żmien ir-Rumani**

Ta' min isemmi, li lura għas-sena 2005, Mark kien qed todgħos is-Salina f'qiegħ ta' 36 metru, fejn kien sab ankra ta' żmien ir-Rumani, li possibilmment hija waħda mill-ankri li kellu x-xini li kien fuqu San Pawl. Ħallejt f'idejh sabiex jelabora aktar. "Ħadd ma jista' jgħid b'ċertezza li xi ankra jew artifatt ieħor żgur ġej mill-bastiment li missierna San Pawl kien fuqu. Izda l-fatt li l-ankra għandha żewġ allat Egizzjani fuqha hija sinifikanti għax mill-Atti tal-Appostli nafu li San Pawl kien fuq bastiment Egizzjan li jgħorr il-qamħ u mhux fuq wiehed Ruman kif bosta jaħsbu. Barra minn hekk,

L-ankra kienet f'post fejn ħamsin sena ilu nstabet l-ikbar ankra li qatt instabet fid-dinja tal-perjodu Ruman. Id-daqs tal-ankri li nstabu barra mis-Salina huma ikbar mill-ankri li nstabu f'postijiet oħra mal-kosta tagħna. Wieħed irid jiftakar li dan kien bastiment kbir ħafna għax kif qalilna San Luqa fl-Atti, kien hemm 276 ruħ abbord, u li tefgħu 4 ankri mill-poppa. Il-Q.T. Papa Benedittu XVI, li kien studjuż kbir u kien jieħu nteress fl-arkejologija, ukoll ħaseb li l-ankra bl-allat Eġizzjani fuqha kienet sejba sinifikanti, tant li meta ġie Malta, talab li jkun jista jispezzjona din l-ankra", stqarr miegħi Mark.

Staqsejtu x'hajru jikteb u jippublika l-ktieb tiegħu. "Nibda biex ngħid li jien ma nqisx ruħi bħala awtur. Ma għandi l-ebda pretenzjoni li jien xi Hemingway jew xi Friggieri! Jien sempliciment għaddas li nzerta ħabat ma' ankra f'qiegħ il-baħar u meta bdejt nirriċerka din is-sejba ħassejt l-obbligu li nippublika r-riċerka tiegħi. Speċjalment ħassejt il-ħtieġa li l-qarrej ikun jaf b'skoperta oħra li jien wasalt għaliha mir-riċerka tiegħi, cioè' kif bastiment li salpa mill-Vant ta' Malta u nqabad fi Grigalata spicċa Malta u mhux kif bassru l-baħrin fil-Libya? Risposta fil-ktieb!"

Jirrilassa kompletament u jinsa t-taħbit tad-dinja meta jmur jodgħos

Mark stqarr miegħi li jhossu jirrilassa kompletament u jinsa t-taħbit tad-dinja meta jmur jodgħos. "F'dak il-baħar bla qies ninduna biċ-ċokon tiegħi. Nisma biss in-nifs li niġbed mir-regolatur u l-bżieżaq ħierġin il-fuq lejn wiċċ il-baħar li jfakkruni fil-vulnerabilità' tiegħi. F'dak l-ambjent inhoss lil Alla miexi hdejja, joħodli l-piż minn fuq dahri u joħodni fejn jien għandi nqas kontroll tal-ġrajjet. Fejn hemm il-ġmiel infinit tal-holqien tiegħu, u fejn żball jista malajr joħodni fl-infinita".

Mark jixtieq li jkompli jgħix ħajja trankwilla, li jkompli jagħti servizz lil min hu fil-bżonn – Djakonija. Sakemm Alla jtih is-saħħa, li jibqa jogħodos u jgħum u li jkompli jgawdi lin-neputijiet u lil uliedu. Hawn Malta l-ktieb PAVLVS The Shipwreck 60 AD jinsab għal bejgħ mill-Mużew ta' Wignacourt, Rabat; Malta Aquarium, Qawra; u l-ħwienet tal-Agenda Bookshops. Online wieħed jista jordna PAULUS The Shipwreck 60 AD mis-siti ta' Amazon, Fulton Books, Barnes & Noble u Kindle.

Fl-aħħarnett stedintu jgħaddi messaggġ għall-qarrejja ta' din il-gazzetta. "Għandna baħar sabiħ, iżda li l-eġoiżmu u nuqqas ta' għarfien qed jeqirduh. Ejjew nibżgħu għall-ambjent kollu, inkluż dak marrittimu. Gawduh b'risponsabilità' u għarfien. Ftakru li l-baħar hu tagħna lkoll. Ftakru wkoll li l-baħar jikkmanda – irrispettah u jgħatik l-ikbar pjaċir, injoraħ u jibilak f'ħakka t'għajn!", temm jgħid.

Ghaziz Frank, Il-Paci mieghek.

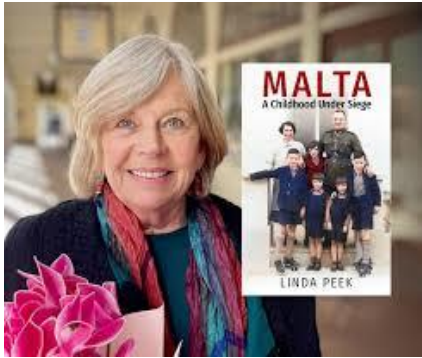
Nirringrazzjak tax-xogħol u l-pacenzja li tiehu biex tibagħtilna l-Maltese Newsletter.

Barra li hi ta' nformazzjoni u tagħlim biex insaħhu l-ghaqda tagħna ma Malta, hija wkoll mezz ta' apostolate għax qed izzom l-Maltin maqudin u kuntent. Kompli sejjer Frank. Alla ipattilek ta' dan il-gid li qed tagħmel f'din i-dinja u aktar fl-oħra. Ta' spiss nitlob għalik.

Fr Manuel Adami MSSP (Malta)

A BIG thank you for your Newsletter from South Africa. My father was one of the few Maltese that came to South Africa. Your Newsletter brings many memories, which I pass on to my children. Keep up the good work. Regards Ronald Andrews – South Africa

Which journal for Maltese living abroad is well read, loved, respected and shared by thousands of readers? No doubt it must be the Maltese e-newsletter that has infiltrated and entered the clubs, homes and offices of Maltese & Gozitan nationals, who keenly await the arrival of each publication on a bi-weekly basis. and which is so efficiently run and directed by Frank and his many friends. G.S.Navarra



Linda Peek is flying to Melbourne to give an Author Talk on her book Malta:

**A CHILDHOOD UNDER SIEGE, ON SUNDAY
8 DECEMBER 2024**

**AT 1.00 PM AT THE CAROLINE SPRINGS
GEORGE CROSS FOOTBALL CLUB,
46 CITY VISTA CT, FRASER RISE, VICTORIA**

A booking link for this event can be found here:

<https://woodlandspublishing.au/malta-a-childhood-under-siege/>

For media enquiries please contact linda@peek.net.au

Linda launched the book in Canberra at the Maltese High Commission in March and in May at the Lascaris War Rooms in Valletta. She has since spoken at the Maltese Community Council of NSW, a number of public libraries and a couple of Maltese senior groups organised by Marisa Previtera and Miriam Friggieri. The Saturday before last Ms Peek spoke at the Australian Maritime Museum in Darling Harbour, NSW. Below – some of the photos in the book



Sam and Hilda Mary, wedding day,
14 April 1926, aged 26 and 32.



The Staples sisters in Malta circa 1942
Margaret (13), Daphne and Joan (11).



Margaret and Ken on their wedding day,
13 January 1951.



Ed, Joan, Sam,
Margaret,
Hilda Mary,
Daphne, Pat,
Hong Kong
circa 1935.



Sam Staples
in uniform,
Malta 1940



Ed, Pat, Margaret, Joan and Daphne,
Hong Kong circa 1935.

Malta's Sanctuary of the Assumption of Childbirth and Liberation of Qormi



In the past, at Qormi there were ten chapels dedicated to the Assumption, but today we find only five. **Undoubtedly, the small church of Santa Marija Tal-Ħlas (the Assumption of Childbirth and Liberation)—on its own in a quiet area and the solitude of the Qormi countryside between Qormi and Żebbuġ on the outskirts of Wied is-Sewda—is the best-known of all the chapels of Qormi.** The area is also known as *Tal- Ħlas*, proving the ancient connection with the *Madonna tal-Ħlas*. The word ‘*ħlas*’ in Maltese can have several meanings: the most common being

‘childbirth’, but it can also mean liberation from slavery. Here, tradition steps in, saying that the name originates from the sound beating that the Aragonese gave the Saracen pirates which liberated our Islands from their frequent predatory raids.

We must remember that many Maltese were abducted by Muslim raiders to be sold in the slave markets of Tunis and Algiers. Relatives of the victims made every sacrifice to locate their loved ones to ransom them.

As the Maltese always turn to their Heavenly Mother for help, even in these sorts of calamities, they prayed to Mary to assist them in raising the ransom money, hence the words ‘*ħlas*’ (in this case it would also mean payment) and ‘liberation.’

The proper and official dedication of this chapel is to *the Assumption of Our Lady*. No one has—as yet—established what connection, if any, existed between childbirth and this particular devotion to Our Lady. However, we are on sure ground when we say that for the past several centuries, the popular devotion of the chapel is that of ‘Our Lady of Childbirth.’

And that is why so many parents visit the church to present their newly-born child to Our Lady. **Indeed, pregnant women have invoked help and assistance from Mary, Mother of God and of all humankind. New mothers bring their babies to the shrine to present them to the Blessed Virgin, a truly special devotion to the Virgin’s Divine Maternity.**

Ever since its construction, the chapel was the devotional centre of the country people of the entire area; and its geographical position—halfway in the route from Vittoriosa to Mdina—made it a resting place for both the people living in the harbor area and for those residing in the ancient capital and Rabat.

Adjacent to the church there was a small cemetery which people from all over the islands used to visit. Legend has it that a holy hermit who lived in the vicinity of this cemetery had spent his entire life praying for the repose of the dead.

It is traditionally held that the first Church dedicated to *Santa Marija tal-Ħlas* was built around the end of the fifteenth century. At the time the Maltese Islands formed part of the King’s royal demesne.

It seems that in the mid-sixteenth century, the church was in a very bad state and, in 1560, the Knight of Saint John and Treasurer of the Order, Fra Christopher Le Boulleur de Montgauldri,

decided to rebuild the church. Montgauldri was known to be very devoted to the Blessed Virgin. He also paid for the old titular painting: a depiction of the Madonna on clouds with Saint Paul and Saint John the Baptist (Patron of the Order) standing and looking upwards on either side. The painting also shows his coat-of-arms, and the year when it was executed (1573).

This painting is of great artistic value but, nowadays, it is kept in the Collegiate Parish Church of St. George the Martyr of Qormi. **Before going at sea on the vessels of the Order, Montgauldri used to visit Tal-Ħlas and pray to the Madonna for protection.** And, on his return, off he went again to thank Her for bringing him back safe and sound. All Apostolic delegates visiting this church throughout the centuries remarked that Tal-Ħlas enjoyed a widespread devotion.

Votive offerings show the deep trust the Maltese have in the Blessed Virgin, especially in times of crisis and national calamities. They are immortal reminders to Marian devotion in the Maltese Islands throughout the centuries.

The sacristy of the Santa Marija Tal-Ħlas Church is full of such offerings, both ancient and recent. These witness extraordinary graces granted by the Blessed Virgin, related to healing from illness, being saved from accidents at sea, and safe childbirth.

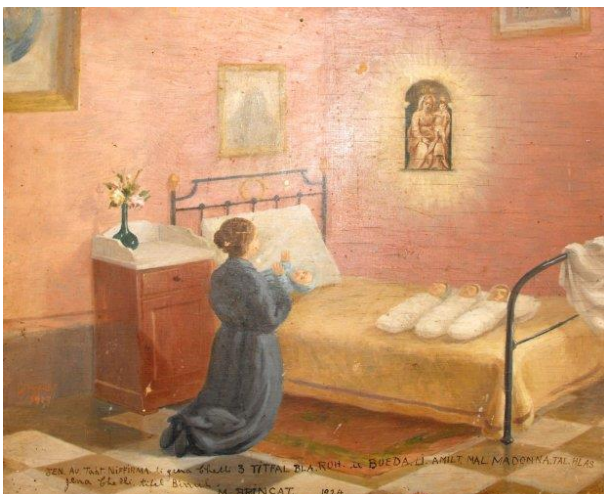
We even find baby clothes sent from Canada as part of a pledge. This shows that the church is still very popular among women expecting a child. Some votive paintings have the signature of great

painters, indeed, at Tal-Ħlas one of the paintings is by Anton Inglott.

Courtesy of Michael Buhagiar

These paintings also prove the interventions of Our Lady to help women facing difficulties during pregnancy. For instance, the adjoining votive painting was offered by a certain M. Brincat, in 1924, for having saved her fourth new-born, after losing three others.

The *Madonna tal-Ħlas* church houses many paintings, some of which are of great artistic value. Apart from the old titular painting, paid for by Montgauldri, now housed in the Collegiate Parish Church of Saint George the Martyr of Qormi, we also



find the new titular painting dedicated to the Assumption. Once erroneously attributed to Francesco Zahra (1710-1773), research has shown this attribution to be incorrect. The authorship of the painting is unknown although it has now been ascertained that it was imported from Rome in c.1729, the date inscribed at the bottom of the titular painting where there is also an undecipherable name, very probably belonging to the artist.

The walls of Tal-Ħlas are also covered with several historical graffiti. **In front of the parvis one finds a beautiful stone statue of the Assumption of Our Lady. It was sculpted by Vincenzo Decandia in 1867 and has an inscription affixed to its high but finely constructed plinth which records that on the 8th January 1868 Bishop Gaetano Pace Forno granted a 40 days' indulgence to whomever recites an Ave Maria in front of the statue.**

The feast of the Assumption is still celebrated nowadays, with Holy Mass in the morning and a fair in the evening. During this Mass newly-born babes are presented to the Madonna, and all those who had presented their babies during that year are invited to this celebration.

Special thanks to Dr. Joseph Grima, historian and expert in Marian devotion in the town of Qormi, for contributions to this article.



Talba lill-Immakulata

Din is-sena, o Marija,
xtaqt ninqeda b'dawn il-vrus
kif Diċembru jinsab maghna
u warajna l-ksieh isus...

u naghmillek talba żghira
ghan-nom tal-komunità
li madwarek hawn tingabar
u thobbok bis-serjetà.

Li ma kienx hekk, dan il-maqdes
żgur li hawnhekk ma telax,
imma għax niesna lilek habbet
x'se taghmillu, ma baqax!

Inti mbagħad lilu żzejjen
u tibdlu f'Ġenna tal-Art;
timlieh fwieha, taghmlu jixbah
għnien mimli b'kull tip ta' ward.

U fil-jiem tal-Festa tiegħek
ifur bl-aqwa melodija
li *Tal-Vers* mar jikkomponi
tul is-snin hienja u bikrija.

Biex ikomplu jkabbru l-Festa
ghandna wkoll grupp tal-Armar
li sejjer is-sena kollha
bla waqfien u tant stinkar

sabiex beltna huwa jlibbes
bl-aqwa drapp, statwi u dwal;
ma jonqsux tlielaq tal-bhejjem
għaž-żwiemel, bghula u xi hmar!

Tal-Istilla jiġu jdoqqu
fost il-ferh u l-isparar,
dejjem jekk is-sema jiftah –
ma jkollniex xi temp mill-agħar.

Halli issa għat-talba niġi
li dis-sena xtaqt naghmillek:
la ssoddx widnejk għal talbi,
għażiża Omm, ara jfettillek!

Nibda billi hawn quddiemek
nitlobok għall-Patrijiet
illi ssibhom biex jaqduna
f'tal-jiem kollha l-hinijiet.

Bierek ukoll lil tant helpers
illi jagħtu daqqa t'id
bla ma xejn jistennew lura,
b'rieda soda tal-hadid.

Hares lill-benefatturi
li ġidhom mhux tagħhom biss,
imma dejjem lesti jghinu
meta jkun lilhom imiss!

O Marija Immakulata,
la tinsix il-morda tagħna;
lilhom bierek, farraġ, fejjaq,
u mill-mard lilna skansana.

Għad-dell ta' mantarek kennen
żgħažagh, tfal, adulti, xjuħ,
aġhti 'l kull kategorija
ir-rih l'ghandhom bżonn fil-qluġh

biex ikomplu 'l quddiem miexja
fit-triq ta' Ibnek Ġesù
illi bata u miet għalina –
allahares ma kienx Hu!

Meta fuq l-ispallejn toħroġ
biex iddur mat-toroq tagħna,
harstek itfa' fuqna kollha
u tiqafx, le, tindukrana.

'Tina l-grazzja illi ntemmu
fuq saqajna din is-sena;
jalla nibdew ohra ġdida
mimlija b'kull risq u hena!

Evviva l-Immakulata –
qatt kien hawn fid-dinja bħalha!

*Il-Kav. Joe M. Attard
Victoria Ghawdex - 2024*

A WOMAN FROM QORMI TURNS 106 AND LIVING IN SYDNEY

Agnes Borg, who was born in Qormi, Malta, has been living in Australia since 1964. She just turned 106. Agnes was born on November 26, 1918.



She has been suffering from dementia since 2005. Agnes had ten children. They were all born in Sliema. The youngest is Mariza. She is the one who is still looking after her mother.

Agnes was only six when the family emigrated to Australia. However, in 1968, Agnes lost her husband, and she raised her children alone. Agnes visited Malta several times over the years to see her siblings.

The last time she had a holiday in Malta was in 1989. Due to her health situation, it was very difficult for her to save up enough money to be able to come back to Malta.

Despite her dementia Agnes used to say the rosary in Maltese. She lives with her daughter, Mariza, in Sydney. Mariza moved to St Clair when she got married in 1982 and arranged for her mother to build a house next to her. In 1986 Agnes sold the house in Smithfield NSW where she had lived for 20 years.

The mother lived with Mariza for about a year until the house could be completed.

In 2009 Mariza had to quit her job so she could look after her mother. "It's not the first time she forgets that this is her home, and her mind tells her that her home is the one with her parents in Qormi," says Mariza.

St. Thérèse, the Little Flower, desired to be at the very heart of God and to do even the smallest



things with great love. What profound advice this is! How much time and energy we waste brooding and worrying. We dwell on grievances, feeling let down or ignored. Why do we so easily forget how deeply, infinitely loved and valued we already are? It is natural to have an initial reaction when we are hurt—this is part of being human. However, lingering too long in that pain becomes a waste of energy, a distraction from healthy spirituality, and an obstacle to our growth in God's grace.

St. Thérèse teaches us the power of letting go. She invites us to focus on love as the driving force behind all we do and to hand over our pain to God. She warns against the unhelpful brooding that can pull us away from spiritual growth. Forgiveness is liberating. I have heard it said that holding onto anger is like "adding insult to injury" or punishing ourselves for someone else's wrongdoing.

In the Night Prayer of the Church, St. Paul reminds us in Ephesians 4:26-27: "*Do not let the sun go down on your anger, and do not give the devil a foothold.*" We are not alone in our struggles. Nothing—not even our weaknesses—can separate us from the love of God made visible in Christ Jesus, our Lord. May we learn to let go, forgive, and place our trust in the boundless love of God.

QASSATAT TAL-IRKOTTA JEW TAL-PIZELLI U NCOVA



(Ricotta or Peas)

Similar to another Maltese delicacy known as *pastizzi*, qassatat is a delicious pastry filled with a variety of different ingredients, even though ricotta cheese is the most popular choice. These pastries are so popular that they are one of the most consumed street food items on Malta.

The dough consists of flour, butter or olive oil, eggs, salt, and water, while the ricotta filling may be additionally enriched with raisins, onions, or fava beans. Apart from ricotta, other varieties of qassatat

include ingredients such as spinach, capers, peas, olives, and anchovies.

Serves: **10-20**

Ingredients 500g marrowfat peas 100g [Spanish onions](#), finely diced
100g [carrots](#), finely diced 1kg [puff pastry](#), shop bought 1vegetable stock cube
2teaspoons [mild curry powder](#) 1teaspoon [ground black pepper](#) 1teaspoon [salt](#)
25g [butter](#) 1egg, for glazing 50ml [olive oil](#) 2liters [water](#) (for cooking)

DIRECTIONS

1. If you use dried peas soak them overnight, rinse and drain.
2. In a large pan add the olive oil and soften the diced onion and carrot.
3. add the curry powder, pepper and salt mix in well. You may add also a tin or jar of anchovies
4. add the peas, stock cube and top up with hot water covering the peas by a good inch or so. Mix in well and bring to the boil for a minute.
5. Turn down to a low simmer and cook out for a good few hours, stir occasionally until soft, thick and mushy.
6. add the knob of butter and mix in well, then remove from the heat and allow to fully cool.
7. Using premade (shop bought, pre rolled for total ease) puff pastry place about 2-3 tablespoons of the cold mix in a sausage shape down one side of a 4x4 inch square of pastry, roll up into a sausage shape (stick the edge with some beaten egg mix if you need to).
8. Brush the finished rolls with beaten egg and bake in the oven until golden (follow packet instructions, should be about 180-200C for about 15-30 minutes depending on oven).
9. Serve hot or cold.

**IF YOU WOULD LIKE YOUR FAVOURITE RECIPE TO BE
PUBLISHED HERE LET US KNOW OR SEND IT TO US**

'Patricia' Maltese Bus Conversion in UK



Johnny Vegas: Carry on Glamping

The beauty that is the Maltese bus began its journey from Malta in March 2019, on a ferry to Catania. The bus unfortunately went through quite a traumatic time during its journey, suffering through storms, engine failure, and a ship fire! Finally it arrived in the UK August 2019, and needed a lot more work than Johnny initially envisaged.. Johnny brought the bus to our workshop where we began restoration under a tight deadline!

The original panelling of the bus needed replacing, to which the parts were later recycled and used as furniture for the campsite! As shown in the photos below, the bus was stripped right back to the shell, and new panels were fabricated to look just like the originals. The bus has been powdercoated and signwritten with traditional Maltese Bus designs. And a beautiful 'Patricia' painted across the front, as an homage to Johnny's late mother who sadly passed before seeing the finishing touches of the project.



The restoration project ended with a stunning result, but not only did we work on the external side of the bus; we also converted the inside into a glamping space of dreams! Equipped with a living space, bedroom, bathroom/shower and kitchen, the bus is the perfect space for winding down and relaxing in the beautiful countryside of North Yorkshire, where Patricia sat with a field of other brilliant glamping vehicle conversions!

All in all, the bus has been burnt in a fire, stripped back to its shell, reconstructed, welded, fabricated, powder coated.. you name it! Johnny

was so pleased with the result, and the bus was sold out within 1 hour of holiday bookings going live! The vehicle is now located in the North West Museum of Road Transport.

The Result The stunning 'Patricia' was a great success within Johnny's Channel 4 project, sitting in the Glampsite, 'Field of Dreams' in North Yorkshire, and has now been moved to the North West Museum of Road Transport.

Thanks for your donation

WE NEED HELP TO CONTINUE PRODUCING THE MALTESE JOURNAL

**My bank details are Bank Commonwealth (Australia)
BSB - 065106 ACC - 00502597
Name - Frank Scicluna**



Gozo Region to Host Region of Culture 2025

By [Darren Paul Cassar](#)

The Gozo Regional Council proudly announces the island's designation as the Region of Culture for 2025. Building on Gozo's rich heritage and creative potential, the year-long

programme will celebrate the island's unique identity through a multidisciplinary exploration of traditional and contemporary practices.

During a press conference on Friday 22nd November, the Hon. Alison Zerafa Civelli, Parliamentary Secretary for Local Government, and the Gozo Region President Dr. Samuel Azzopardi launched the year. Dr Azzopardi remarked, ***"The Region of Culture for Gozo is an opportunity to celebrate our island's remarkable talent while providing a platform and space for emerging artists to shine."***

The Region of Culture 2025 will spotlight diverse cultural and creative disciplines, including heritage, dance, music, theatre, visual arts, cinema, literature, architecture, and gastronomy. Through a dynamic blend of initiatives, the programme will honour Gozo's past while inspiring dialogue about its future, fostering connections between local and international audiences.

At the heart of the programme's vision is empowering emerging talent, fostering collaborations between Local Councils and stakeholders, and creating accessible and inclusive cultural experiences. The initiative aims to strengthen existing partnerships and establish new networks, broadening Gozo's cultural reach while promoting sustainable artistic practices and environmental responsibility.

The 2025 programme will also serve as a stepping stone towards major future milestones, including Gozo's designation as the [European Region of Gastronomy in 2026](#) and its ongoing bid for the European Capital of Culture 2031. The initiative seeks to establish a vibrant and lasting legacy for the region's cultural and creative sectors by building on existing events and elevating cultural assets.

The Region of Culture initiative, launched in 2022 by the Directorate of Local Government and the Local Councils Association, rotates among Malta's six regions, showcasing their distinct heritage and creativity. Following the successful programmes in the Southern Region (2023) and Eastern Region (2024), Gozo is now poised to craft its own year-long celebration of arts, innovation, and community engagement.

For more information and updates on the Gozo Region of Culture 2025, stay tuned to our channels or contact the Gozo Regional Council

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ASK WHAT YOU CAN DO FOR YOUR JOURNAL**