



CONSULATE OF MALTA IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA NEWSLETTER

FRANK L SCICLUNA - THE JOURNAL OF THE MALTESE DIASPORA

EMAIL: honconsul@live.com.au

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MALTESE PEOPLE LIVING ABROAD ARE NOT MIGRANTS, BUT COMMUNITIES WITH TIES TO MOTHERLAND – MINISTER



Photo - DOI - Martin Attard

The Council with the Hon George Vella, Minister of Foreign Affairs

The Council of Maltese Living Abroad held its 5th meeting in Malta on the 2 and 3 October 2014 chaired by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Dr. George W. Vella. The Council, made up of representatives from among the Maltese communities living abroad, meets annually to discuss issues pertaining to the Maltese communities in their respective countries.

In his introduction to the meeting Minister Vella welcomed the members sitting on the council and whilst recognising their important role, said that during these two days the meeting will be discussing the concerns put forward, keeping in mind that the aspirations of all the Maltese communities vary according to the country in which they are living. Minister Vella said that he keeps himself updated regularly by various means with the Maltese communities' needs.

Dr. Vella said that the Council has to look forward, and work on a new concept: regarding the Maltese communities living abroad, not as emigrants, but as communities living in a particular country with ties to their country of origin, Malta. This applies more, he said, to the upcoming generation.

Dr. Vella also pointed out that whilst the upcoming generation of Maltese living abroad should not lose their roots, however one has to note that these are more foreign than Maltese. Giving an example on new ways of doing things, he said that maybe one must find a different way how to teach the Maltese language to the upcoming generation, even by giving Maltese lessons in English. This will remind them of their roots and generate interest among them for their country of origin.

Topics for discussion vary from the teaching of the Maltese language to social rights, to voting rights by Maltese living abroad, an interesting subject, said Minister Vella, which needs discussion.



Photo - DOI - Clodagh Farrugia O'Neill

New generations: Maltese expatriates should teach Maltese to their children - Foreign Minister George Vella by Kevin Schembri Orland Thursday, 2 October 2014,

Maltese expats should teach their children Maltese, Foreign Affairs Minister George Vella said, whilst presiding over the opening of the Annual Meeting of the Council for Maltese Living Abroad.

The upcoming generations of Maltese expats, those born in foreign countries, are more foreign than Maltese however they must not lose their roots, he explained. The annual meeting occurs once a year, and Minister Vella explained that he will

address their concerns however asked that all representatives accept what is possible and what is not. Expats in different countries have different needs and view, he said.

The members of the Council: **Dr George Vella** MD MP– Chairperson, **Ms. Rozlyn Scerri**, (Rapporteur), **Dr, Raymond Xerri** Directorate, **Mrs Maria Camilleri Calleja**, Secretary, **Mrs Rosalie Rivett** and **Mr. Bernard Scerri** (UK) **Mrs Carmen Galea** and **Mr Joe Scerri** (Canada), **Dr Larry Zahra** and **Mr Louis Vella** (USA), **Mr Franklin Mamo** (Europe), **Profs Maurice Cauchi**, **Mr. Lawrence Dimech**, **Dr. Gaetano Pace**, **Profs. Stephen Gatt**, **Dr. Edwin Borg Manche** and **Mr Frank Scicluna** (Australia) **Father Alfred Vella** (Malta).

SOME OF THE ISSUES TO BE DEALT WITH AS A MATTER OF URGENCY

- ❖ **A Website of the Council of Maltese Living Abroad will be developed for the Maltese Diaspora to inform the Maltese community overseas of the activities of the council and to serve as a forum for discussion form open to all readers.**
- ❖ **Release of electronic equipment to facilitate the acquisition of a biometric passport to all those Maltese citizens abroad who are suffering hardship to travel thousands of kilometers to process passport applications from limited locations.**
- ❖ **The Introduction of the history of Maltese migration as part of the curriculum in schools in Malta and Gozo.**
- ❖ **The long delay in processing applications for Maltese citizenship will in future be diminished.**
- ❖ **The Maltese Cultural Institute will assist the Maltese living abroad to promote and improve the teaching and learning of the Maltese language and culture and to promote what Malta has to offer to successful businesses to invest in Malta and to serve as a stepping stone to trade with other European countries**



FRANK SCICLUNA AND THE PRESIDENT OF MALTA

**H.E. MARIE-LOUISE COLEIRO PRECA DURING A
COURTESY VISIT OF THE DELEGATES OF**

THE COUNCIL OF MALTESE LIVING ABROAD

3 OCTOBER 2014

STQARRIJA MILL-MINISTERU GHALL-AFFARIJIET BARRANIN

Malta m'għamlet l-ebda ftehim li tissieheb f'xi koalizzjoni

Il-Ministeru għall-Affarijiet Barranin jirreferi għal diversi rapporti fil-media li jgħidu li Malta ngħaqdet ma' xi koalizzjoni mmexxija mill-Istati Uniti tal-Amerika kontra l-Istat Iżlamiku.

Il-Ministeru jikkjarifika li waqt li Malta tirrikonoxxi li l-Istat Iżlamiku huwa ta' theddida mhux biss għall-Iraq, is-Sirja u r-reġjun, iżda wkoll għall-Istati Uniti tal-Amerika u għall-Ewropa, Malta m'għamlet l-ebda ftehim u m'għandha l-ebda impenn (*commitment*) mal-Gvern tal-Istati Uniti tal-Amerika, xi pajjiżi jew organizzazzjonijiet oħra li tissieheb f'xi koalizzjoni ta' dan it-tip.

Fil-fora internazzjonali, bħalma huma l-Kunsill tal-Ministri tal-Affarijiet Barranin tal-Unjoni Ewropea, Malta kkundannat bil-qawwa kollha l-vjolenza tal-Istat Iżlamiku u offriet appoġġ morali u politiku fil-ġlieda kontra l-barbariżmu u t-terroriżmu mwettqa minn din l-organizzazzjoni. In-newtralità ta' Malta għandha l-għan li tinkiseb il-paċi u għaldaqstant Malta ma tistax tkun newtrali jew passiva f'ċirkostanzi bħal dawn.

Malta rrikonoxxiet ukoll l-obbligazzjoni morali li tkun indirizzata s-sitwazzjoni umanitarja li nħolqot bl-azzjonijiet tal-Istat Iżlamiku.

FEAST OF SAINT GEORGE IN TORONTO - CANADA

The committee of the Festa San Gorg Association would like to welcome all of you to the 28 th year celebration of this Festa ta San Gorg. We take great pride in preparing for this celebration knowing how much the community looks forward to and supports this cultural and religious event.

The attendance of each and every one of you to these events that take place in the Maltese Community is of great value to the life of our community.

It also sets a good example and encourages our second and third generations to attend these events with the hope that they will also get involved and carry on our traditions in the years to come.

As immigrants we all have fond memories of the different town or village festa's that are celebrated in Malta every year . With this in mind , we look forward to having all of you in attendance come and share this festive and religious festa spirit with us. We would like to thank all of our sponsors for their generosity and support and also give our best wishes to all of you .

The committee members

President – Philip Abela, **Vice-President** – Joe Scerri, **Treasurer** – George Xuereb, **Directors** – George Scicluna, Frank Apap, Larry Zammit and Richard Baldacchino, **Hon Past President** - Fred Sherri, **Hon Member** - Spedito Falzon

ANGELINA JOLIE LEAVES GOZO FOR QUICK VISIT TO LONDON TO BE HONoured BY QUEEN ELIZABETH



Queen Elizabeth II has honoured campaigning actress Angelina Jolie in a Buckingham Palace ceremony. The actress flew to London from Malta, where she is filming her next production.

The queen made Jolie an honorary dame for her work against sexual violence in war zones and her services to British foreign policy. She received the award Friday during a private meeting with the queen.

The decision to grant it was announced in June when Jolie co-chaired a conference in London aimed at curbing war-related sexual violence. She worked closely with former British Foreign Minister William Hague on that conference. The 39-year-old Jolie has drawn praise from many world figures for her work on behalf of refugees and victims of sexual violence. Jolie recently married longtime partner Brad Pitt and starred in the film "Maleficent." The couple are currently filming *By the Sea*, a film directed by Jolie, in Gozo.

MALTESE FILM IN RACE FOR OSCARS



Director hails milestone for local films

Maltese film *Simshar* has been accepted for consideration in the upcoming edition of the Oscars.

The local production is among 83 films which have made it into the race for the category of Best Foreign Film in the 87th edition of the Academy Awards.

Widely touted as the most prestigious of cinematic accolades, no Maltese film has ever been in the running for one of the coveted golden statuettes before.

The semi-fictional film, inspired by the tragedy which struck

a Maltese fishing boat bearing the same name back in 2008, is fused with the irregular migration saga in the Mediterranean.

The vessel exploded while out at sea, killing four, but the chain of events has remained shrouded in mystery. While its crew of four and a young boy survived the initial blast, all eventually succumbed to the sea and the scorching sun except one, Simon Bugeja, who was rescued after an intensive search operation.

Rebecca Cremona, who co-wrote and directed the production, told *Times of Malta*, the inclusion of the film was a milestone for the local industry.

"To be in the running for these awards one has to meet a lot of very high standards. This is the first time a Maltese production has been accepted and it is a big deal for the local industry," she said. For the Academy Awards, countries have to submit entries in the hope of having the titles shortlisted. Final submissions are then voted upon in a final round.

The Maltese language film was submitted by a local committee, which included the Malta Film Commission and several other government entities. But, for the film to be accepted the country has to meet a strict set of criteria.

"To be in the running, the submitting country has to meet specifications from the financial structure of the local industry, technical specifications.

"This is particularly hard on new countries," Ms Cremona said, adding that a number of first-time countries had not been accepted for this year's awards. Malta's acceptance will inevitably mark the beginning of an intense promotional campaign for the film in the US.

"We will have to head to the US and start promoting the film, holding screenings and question and answer sessions, to try to generate awareness," she said.

Aimed at a worldwide audience, Simshar was shot in Maltese and English and stars Maltese and foreign actors, including Tunisian award-winning Lotfi Abdelli, playing the lead role of Simon Bugeja. The award is presented annually by the Academy to a feature-length motion picture produced outside the US that contains primarily non-English dialogue.

FINAL YEAR CONTEMPORARY DANCE TOUR – INFORMAL PERFORMANCE IN GOZO

The second cohort of third year students of the full time undergraduate programme in Dance Studies at the University of Malta embarks on their final year tour. It is an important part of the programme that students acquire experience both in the practical/performance and theoretical aspects of Dance.



In Gozo, the students will be giving an informal performance sharing with questions and answers, which starts at 11.00am, at the Sports Complex in Victoria, entrance is free of charge.

The final year tour enables students to engage with contemporary dance makers and new choreographers in performances that use a variety of spaces and models (from traditional theatre venues to informal spaces for lecture demonstrations). This year, choreographies include contemporary dance works by Francesca Tranter (Malta), Sara Accettura (Italy), Nico Monaco (Holland), Mavin Khoo (UK)

and former graduate Valentina Azzopardi (Malta). Lighting design is by Moritz Zavan. There will also be performances in Malta, which are as follows:

16 & 17 NOV: MITP, University of Malta (Old University, Valletta) 8pm; 5 Euro, 27 NOV: Auditorio La Vallisa, Bari, Italy 7pm & 9pm; 10 euros, 7 DEC: St. Aloysius College, B'Kara 8pm; 8 Euros

ORDER OF MALTA - THE ANCIENT LANGUES OF THE KNIGHTS

In the early 14th century, with the acquisition of Rhodes and other islands of the archipelago, the Order of St. John took on the features of a State. Governed by the Grand Master and by the Council, the Order minted its own money and maintained diplomatic relations with other States. New knights came to Rhodes from all over Europe and it was natural for them to associate with those who spoke their language and shared their traditions.

The Order's Chapter General, meeting in Montpellier in 1319, resolved to group the hospitallers according to homogenous language systems, the so-called "Langues" or Tongues. Each of these included Priors or Grand Priors, Bailiwicks and Commanderies. The Langues do not follow the pattern of national states but rather the national-linguistic identities of western Europe.



The flags of the ancient Langues in the stamps issued by the Magistral Post Office.

Langue of Provence, Langue of Auvergne, Langue of France (top).

Langue of Italy and Langue of Aragon (centre).

Langue of England, Langue of Germany, Langue of Castille (bottom).

MALTA NATIONAL AQUARIUM

The Malta National Aquarium is one of the leading visitor attractions in Malta. Besides the tanks housing an impressive collection of fish species, the Malta National Aquarium comprises also the Cafe del Mar reef club, a landscaped belvedere, a cute merchandise outlet and outstanding catering facilities all set within an idyllic location .

Educational The Malta National Aquarium teamed up with the iLearn Biology Team to prepare high level educational programmes in line with the new Maltese National curriculum. This new concept of interactive teaching will eventually help change the traditional way of learning.

Environmental Our aim is to be the leading entity for the preservation of the marine life and its environment. We will do this by instilling a sense of environmental responsibility in our visitors and members of staff. We will practise what we preach and will therefore fully respect the environment throughout our operations. We will do so also by embellishing Qawra point whilst protecting its picturesque natural surroundings.



La Nave Bistro, the restaurant of the Malta National Aquarium, is open daily for lunch and dinner. It offers a delightful array of favourite dishes including pizza, pasta and burger dishes. All food, including our mouth-watering desserts, is prepared on site by our award-winning chefs. The restaurant is located on the ground floor level, under the iconic Starfish dome that houses the Malta National Aquarium. Diners can choose to eat inside or outside on the patio and still enjoy the unparalleled views of St. Paul's Islands.

We accept bookings for large groups and for special events. We also accept bookings for children's parties. For further information and for bookings for groups of more than

twenty kindly send an email on info@aquarium.com.mt WEBSITE: <http://www.aquarium.com.mt/>



The Malta National Aquarium project is spread over approximately 20,000 square meters and comprises a public aquarium, a public landscaped belvedere at promenade level, a multi storey car park, facilities for local dive schools, catering facilities including a beach club, a merchandise outlet and a tourist information kiosk.

The public aquarium has 26 display tanks with, amongst others, Mediterranean fish, including fish

commonly found in Maltese waters together with replicas of historical artefacts that one can find in the seas around the Maltese islands.

The main tank of the aquarium houses species from the Indian Ocean, including eight black tip sharks, horn sharks, rays, eels and other exotic species. The main tank is approximately 12 meters in diameter and has a walk-through tunnel that allows visitors to experience the fish at a much closer range.

All tanks are expertly themed to replicate the underwater environment. Additional features of the public aquarium include a class room facility, interpretation, touch pools, a temporary exhibition space, veterinary and quarantine facilities, etc.

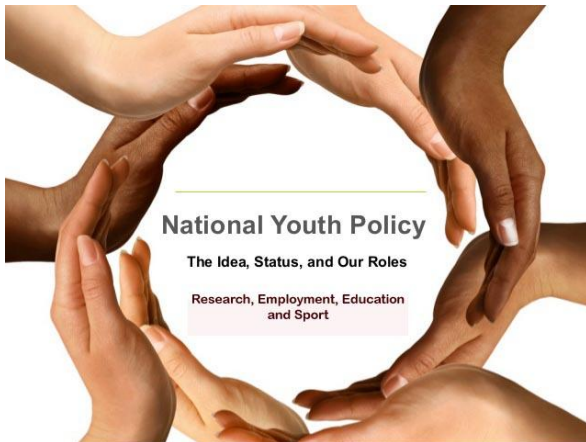
The national aquarium is in an iconic curved shell structure in the form of a starfish. The adjacent promenade provides additional recreation facilities for pedestrians including a children's play area. The Malta National Aquarium has a car park with a capacity for 140 cars.

Our Location: The Malta National Aquarium is situated in the northeast of the island in a town called Qawra which forms part of St. Pauls bay. In this touristic hotspot one can find many Hotels, bars, restaurants and a casino all forming part of the unique resort location in the Maltese Islands. Qawra is also the site of one of the many towers built by the [Knights of St. John](#). [Qawra Tower](#) is now a restaurant. Qawra is also well known as the "touristy" area of Malta due to the many bars, restaurants. Casinos and clubs are also a major part of this small town.

LITTLE RED PLAYS TO CAPACITY AUDIENCES IN GOZO PERFORMANCES



Little Red, the play written by Maria Theuma, was played to capacity audiences when it was performed recently in the St Ursula Hall at the Gozo Citadel. The piece is a dark and emotional roller-coaster and a very personal interpretation of the well known Grimm's fairy tale. The powerful performances by Julia Camilleri as Red and Marion Sayers as Grandmother were of high intensity with no holds barred. They were accompanied by the strong and splendid, though silent wolf entities, played by Abi Adeyomi and Joseph Muscat. Set and costume design by Luke Azzopardi, with Graphics by Adrian Abela, the show was directed by Rob Ricards. There is a high probability that the production will travel to Dublin in the summer.



MALTA – NATIONAL YOUTH POLICY

The 2005 Council of Europe report **Youth Policy in Malta** provides some background on life for young people in Malta:

In many respects Malta is a traditional Roman Catholic society in which faith, family and community constitute the main points of reference for the overwhelming majority of the population. It is a warm and cohesive society that certainly appears to care deeply for its young people... Unlike many other European countries, young people's delayed transition to independent living is not perceived as a major problem in Malta. Most young

people are content to remain living at home until their late twenties, and parents appear happy to accommodate them.

Despite the undoubtedly supportive nature of local parish life, there is a downside that cannot be ignored. There are two main areas in which young people in Malta seem to be disadvantaged: in terms of establishing their own autonomy and, in the more closely observed neighbourhoods, at least, asserting individual difference. Establishing youth autonomy in a society still characterized by deeply paternalistic reflexes is no simple matter. Even in those cases where the public authorities make genuine efforts to extend participation rights, many young people seem uncomfortable with going against the grain of cultural traditions and opt, instead, to defer to traditional authority. The assertion of difference in an apparently monocultural society, meanwhile, is also problematic for some young people. Close communities are usually wonderfully nurturing places in which to grow up, but they can also sometimes be stiflingly judgmental.



The 2014 youth study **Mirrors and Windows: Maltese Young People's Perception of Themselves, Their Families, Communities and Society** found that:

Young people are, in general, well behaved and law-abiding, with strong relationships with their parents and siblings. They are motivated, concerned with and supportive of others and display a need and a desire to communicate and foster human relationships. They are for the most part happy, healthy and well-educated, respectful and tolerant, religious and spiritual. They are positive and optimistic about their future. In material terms, most live at home, have computers/laptops, mobile phones and access to the internet

and spend half their money on recreation, shopping and travel.

Young people see independent decision making and the changing relationship with their parents as the most important features of emerging adulthood. Inter-personal and sexual relationships are also seen by them as important indicators. While tolerant in their views on what constitutes a family, they are less so when it comes to same sex couples. While interested and participative in religion, and somewhat less so in politics, they are less attracted by institutionalized religion and politics. The growing importance and omnipresence of communication technology – the internet and mobile phones – in young people's lives is most noticeable. Conversely, voluntary and community work, cultural and artistic pursuits and sporting activities are not as common as might be generally thought or desired. These are not only challenges but also opportunities for all those who work for and with young people and in particular: parents, teachers, youth workers, social workers and career guidance officers, priests and those in the religious life, and politicians.

DRAFT OF NATIONAL YOUTH POLICY LAUNCHED

Parliamentary Secretary for Youth Chris Agius emphasises the importance of integrating youth in society.



Tim Attard Montalto 9 July 2014,



Chris Agius inaugurating 'Unfurl Sails'.

A national youth policy has been drafted by government and is now in its preliminary phase of consultation, Parliamentary Secretary for Youth Chris Agius announced.

The policy focuses on the needs of youngsters aged 13 to 30, focusing on the five-year period between 2015 and 2020.

It aims to improve the access, means, participation, integration and inclusion of youngsters in

society, through sectors like work and education, whilst allowing for a diverse demographic. "This government believes in the country's youth and believes that they should be given every opportunity, as well as the tools to succeed, as their contribution strengthens society," Said said.

"Youngsters should be the fulcrum for every society, primarily because of their creativity and their, at times, alternative views on life. These factors can only help the country's economic cycle gain in strength."

Explaining that the draft policy will soon be presented for consultation to the relevant stakeholders such as the political parties, various ministries, the Church, non-governmental youth agencies and government ones, as well as the general public, the parliamentary secretary spoke of the importance of an inclusive national politics for youngsters. "This can only transpire if tangible results are offered to youths, families and communities so that they can benefit from this style of politics," he said. " Meanwhile, Miriam Teuma, Chairperson of the committee undertaking the policy, said that the document focused on three issues.

"We analysed the current state of youngsters in Malta, their development over time and the difference in their lifestyle trends," she said. "We also compared these results to similar studies carried out across the European Union."

Teuma explained that one cannot draft a national youth policy without first having a clear idea of what state the country's demographics are in.



WHO ARE MAYC?

MAYC (Maltese-Australians' Youth Committee) is a group of nine enthused Maltese-Australians that have a strong sense of pride in their heritage and culture, and seek to share this with the Maltese diaspora community, ensuring that its richness and vitality lives on for future generations. With the ageing Maltese community - not only in Australia, but around the world - the longevity of Maltese diaspora culture appears to be facing a very real crisis: there are no young people to step up into leadership roles of existing Maltese communities.

WHAT IS MAYC DOING ABOUT THIS?

One of the ways in which we are seeking to combat these issues and ensure the vitality of Maltese diaspora culture is by sending MAYC delegates to the upcoming Convention for Maltese Living Abroad, being held in Valetta, Malta, in April 2015. This convention is held every five years, and is run by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Malta. In affiliation with La Valette Social Centre and the Council for Maltese Living Abroad (CMLA), youth delegates from MAYC have been chosen to represent Maltese diaspora interests at this international convention, marking a great opportunity to promote and address our concerns and passion for our heritage and identity. This convention invites Maltese diaspora from all over the world to gather in Malta and discuss pertinent issues that affect our national and international identity, and strategies that seek to promote the survival of our culture in diaspora contexts. MAYC sees this as a rare and valuable opportunity to showcase and promote our Maltese-Australian youth to other Maltese youth from all over the world. Further, it allows Maltese-Australian youth to connect with the existing international Maltese community, and ensure its continuity in future generations. This is in keeping with our vision to keep everything about Malta alive forever!

HOW YOU CAN HELP

To achieve this goal, we are appealing to the wider Maltese community of Australia and beyond - whoever is in a position to assist us in our cause. Over the coming months, we will be organising our first fundraising event, which will also serve as MAYC's official launch. All funds raised at this event will go towards reducing the cost of sending our youth delegates to Malta in 2015. We welcome anyone who is interested in supporting us in any way possible.

For more information please visit and like our Facebook page:
<http://www.facebook.com/maycnsw>
 or contact us by email on maycnsw@outlook.com



INFORMAZZJONI DWAR IL-KOR L-GĦANJA TAL-POPLU.



Il-Kor L-Għanja tal-Poplu gie iffurmat f'Mejju tal-2013 bil-għan li kull min jixtieq jitharreġ fit-teorija tal-mużika li tista' tgħinnu fil-kant, u jitharreġ fil-kant bħala kor, ikun jista' jieħu dawn il-lezzjonijiet mingħajr ħlas. L-għan prinċipali hu li kull min jattendi, jieħu gost filwaqt li jitgħallim u jkollu diversi opportunitajiet fejn ikanta kanzunetti antiki u popolari Maltin f'diversi attivitajiet li jiġu organizzati madwar il-gżejjer Maltin. F'Settembru 2013 dan il-kor tella' il-musical "Malta Tagħna Art Twelidna" li kien twil siegħa b'10 kanzunetti mill-aktar popolari Maltin.

Il-Kor irrekordja diversi kanzunetti u ħa sehem fil-festival L-Għanja tal-Poplu 2014, fil-Festa Frawli fl-Imġarr; Festa Tfal f'Ta' Qali, Irkottafest f'Hal-Kirkop, fl-Imnarja fil-Buskett; f'Lejla Sajfija f'San Tumas Wied il-Għajn; f'zewġ serati organizzati minn Vers Agħtini; fil-maratona ta' Puttinu fejn marru b'mod volontarju, u fuq programmi tar-radju.

Għaxar membri minn dan il-kor qegħdin bħal issa jippreparaw produzzjoni oħra dwar it-tieġ Malti fil-passat ikkomparat ma' tieġ tal-preżent u din il-produzzjoni tinkludi sitt kanzunetti Maltin. Proġett ieħor li se jkun qed jaħdmu fuqu fil-jiem li ġejjin huwa priedka tal-Milied mużikali li se ssir fil-Knisja ta' San Ġakbu il-Belt fl-20 ta' Diċembru fuq kliem u mużika tal-Professor Manwel Mifsud.



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Contact Carol Brown on: 0413024932 or via

Email: carolcbrown58@gmail.com

Check us out on FaceBook!

MDINA EXPERIENCE



Before the Knights of Malta turned up on these shores, defeated the invading Ottoman armada at the Great Siege and built Valletta, the capital city on this island was Mdina. So, clearly this is a place with a long and interesting history; one you can find out all about at the Mdina Experience.

Today, Mdina is known as the 'Silent City', mainly because no cars, excluding those of the residents, are allowed to pass through the gates. However, it's also because of its calm and relaxed atmosphere and it's remote position at the top of a whacking great big hill! However, there is much more to Mdina than simply being 'quiet'!

This becomes all too apparent before you get much of the way into the 30-minute audio-visual presentation that is the Mdina Experience – a short film that treats you to an insight into the amazing story of this intriguing little place.

The city itself can trace its origins back beyond 4,000 years. It is a charming, unique, relaxing and interesting place to explore, with its ancient walled streets and its mix of medieval and Baroque architecture.

It is thought the Phoenicians inhabited Mdina in around 700BC, then, while Malta was under the rule of the Roman Empire, the Roman Governor built his palace in Mdina.

Tradition also says that the apostle St Paul lived in the city after his shipwreck on the islands. But it was the Normans who first surrounded the city with thick defensive fortifications and widened the moat.

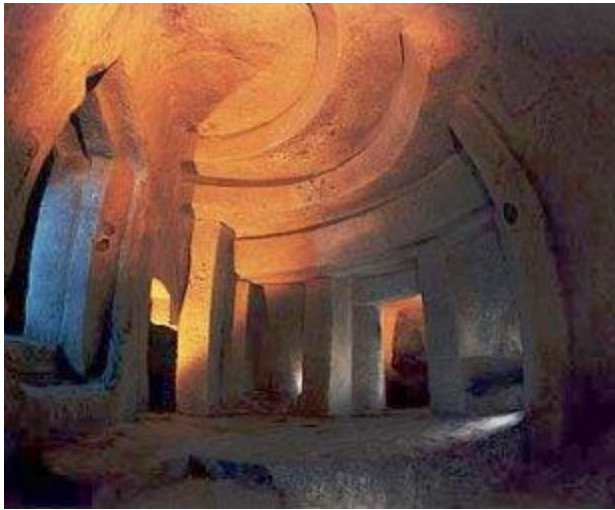
When the Knights of Malta came on the scene in 1530, Mdina hosted the public ceremony in which their leaders, the Grand Masters, swore an oath to protect the Maltese Islands. They made good on that promise in 1565 when the Ottomans, the same people that had forced the Knights to flee their previous island home on Rhodes, attempted to take the Maltese Islands. The bloody battle that ensued became known as the Great Siege, the 40,000-strong Ottoman force was sent packing never to return and the Mediterranean remained a Christian stronghold.

After a strong earthquake in 1693, ruined Mdina was rebuilt in the Baroque style – as was most of eastern Sicily, which suffered the same seismic fate. The city has had various names over the centuries, but the one which best describes it is probably 'Citta' Notabile', which means the noble city, as it has always been the home of noble families whose palaces line its narrow, streets even today.

The Mdina Experience's commentary is available in Maltese, English, French, German, Italian, Dutch, Danish, Spanish, Swedish, Norwegian, Russian and Japanese. It boasts modern theatre technology with high-resolution digital projection systems, as well as state-of-the-art sound and lighting.

The attraction is located in a lovely medieval building, which also houses a cafe (allowing you to indulge in some delicious cakes after the presentation if you like) and a souvenir shop, so you can take home a little piece of Mdina with you. The Mdina Experience is open from Monday to Friday from 10.30am to 4.00pm. Tickets cost €6 for adults and €3 for children. Mdina is easy to find by car because as the former capital, it is very well signposted. There are also numerous and regular bus services to the former capital.

HAL SAFLIENI HYPOGEUM



A short break on this compact but very bijoux isle will be enough to convince you that it's a great place to be. It doesn't take a genius to work that one out! People have been attracted to these sun-drenched shores for thousands of years and undeniable proof of that comes in the shape of the many pre-historic temple sites to be found on the Maltese Islands.

Each of these sites is special in their own way but some would argue the most special of all is the Hal Saflieni Hypogeum. This translates literally as *underground cavity*, which quite accurately describes it but doesn't come close to doing it any justice. What the name doesn't tell you is that this happens to be the only prehistoric temple known to man that is underground.

The Hypogeum consists of 500 sq metres of halls, chambers, and passages dating back to around 3600 BC. That is officially

old! But it's not just the age of the place that makes it so noteworthy, nor is it the fact that when it was unearthed, by accident, nor even the fact that the remains of more than 7,000 people were discovered within.

Nope, the most eyebrow-raising thing about the Hypogeum is its condition, because in spite of its vast age, its subterranean position meant it was protected from the elements for all those centuries. In essence, it is superbly well preserved.

This unique monument is on the UNESCO World Heritage list and was accidentally discovered by a stonemason in 1902. Imagine his surprise when the chisel-happy chappy chipping away unwittingly stumbled on what would later be hailed as 'one of the greatest remaining structures from pre-history!' What would result from that the tap on his chisel was a treasure trove of pottery, personal ornaments, small carved animals and larger figurines, not to mention the many thousand entombed corpses. It sounds like the plot of an Indiana Jones film!

But that was pretty much how it happened apart from responsibility for the excavations was passed on not to Dr I Jones but to Jesuit priest Father SJ Magri and later to Professor Themis Zammit. These archaeologists must have felt like kids in a sweetshop as they trawled through a subterranean complex consisting of three levels of rock-cut chambers of diverse shapes and sizes. The upper level, dated at 3600 to 3300 BC opens up into a large hollow with a central passage and burial chambers flanking it on either side. One of these chambers still contains original burial deposits.

Various smoothly finished chambers meticulously carved using just flint and stone tools make up the middle level. These are slightly later in construction from 3300–3000 BC. Inside are spiral paintings in red ochre and several important rooms, including the Main Room, the Holy of Holies, and the Oracle Room.

The latter, one of the smallest side chambers, has the peculiarity of producing a powerful echo. Curiously, a man's voice echoes whereas a woman's does not! The bottom and most recent level 3150–2500 BC was probably used for storage. This is a truly fascinating view into a long bygone age and if you fancy becoming Indiana Jones for the day you'd be advised to book well in advance as only about 80 people per day are allowed in.

Visitors enter on daily guided tours from 9am to 4pm. Admission is €20 for adults, €15 for students and OAPs and €12 for children aged six to 11. Under 6s are not allowed in. Last minute spaces, if there are any available, are sold at €25 each from the National Museum of Fine Arts. To drive to the Hal Saflieni Hypogeum head for Paola



"The Shelter" - Charity Concert in aid of Vulnerable People in Malta

Chris and Moira, Billy Lee, The Voyage plus Special Guest a belly dancer Caramella and her student Performed at Black Gold, Sliema.

The African Development Organization, a non-governmental organization based in Malta organized a charity concert to raise funds for Father Adriano's shelter for poor, elderly, socially excluded people.

Alex P. M. Pasmans, the chairman of the NGO, said he was very impressed with the important work Father Adriano is doing to support and change the lives of many of the most vulnerable people in Maltese community. He said: "We have many social projects in Africa and we are pleased to provide assistance to The Shelter here in Malta with the support of funding from organizations and events like this, The Shelter can expand and help more people in need. To learn more visit www.ado-ngo.com

Iconic Maltese Duo "Chris and Moira", a Rising Star of Alternative Rock Music - Billy Lee, Top Ten Radio Charts Band - "The Voyage" plus Special Guest a belly dancer Caramella and her students guarantee to make the evening exciting and memorable. Specially for that occasion, on the cosy tables outside you can enjoy an original fruity Shisha, and get a chance to win "Thrill me" album by Malta's favourite classic rock band FIRE!

MIGRATION MUSEUM - Dar l-Emigrant', Castille Place Valletta VLT 1062 MALTA.

People of Maltese origin can be found almost everywhere in the world but mainly in the main destinations where European emigration started as from the middle of the 19th century, including in Northern Africa, England, France, Spain, Turkey, Australia, Canada, the US and South America. The size of the Maltese Diaspora living in these countries and others is estimated to be much greater than the population of the Maltese Islands. The goal of this project is to create a Migration Museum as a primary attraction to both visitors to Malta (especially the several thousands of ex-Maltese migrants or their descendants) as well as local residents, given that almost all families in Malta have in some way or other been affected over the years by the phenomenon of migration. It will depict the status of Malta over the past 200 years, explain the existence of Maltese people who left, and their links to Malta with Maltese communities overseas. It will also record how emigration started and developed and how the communities of Maltese emigrants integrated in the various countries of adoption and what they contributed to these places.

Another aim of the museum is to enable the Maltese in Malta and the Maltese communities abroad to better understand the reality of the phenomenon of migration and the value of social inclusion. The council appeals to anyone who could offer migration related material to the museum for the history of Maltese emigration to be fully represented to contact the council. It is also interested in hearing from anyone who can offer personal services or provide financial assistance. Tel: (+356) 21222644

Or contact the Director – Father Alfred Vella Email: fravella@onvol.net

FATHER ALRED VALERIAN MERCIECA - BOLIVIA SOUTH AMERICA MALTA! SO SMALL, SO BEAUTIFUL! SO FAR YET SO NEAR AND DEAR TO MY HEART!



This is Fr. Alfred Valerian Mercieca writing from Bolivia. Have been a Carmelite Missionary working in South America for 36 years, spending most of the time in the Republic of Bolivia. Yet I have worked too in neighboring Peru in the early sixties, Brasil in the late seventies and later helped in the Republic of Columbia, before coming back again to La Paz, Bolivia, where again, I have been living for the last 10 years.

Although I have been living in this continent for a lifetime now, far away from my country, right in the middle of the Andes Mountains, at an altitude of twelve thousand feet above sea level, I wonder what were the plans of the good Lord for me, to share my little existence, so far away from my country, with these beautiful people.

Reminiscences of Malta? Of course, they do come. And many! When? Precisely when I feel exhausted and tired, after a hard-long-day of work. Since I left Malta for the missions in Bolivia at a very young age,(24), memories of a happy childhood and adolescence take hold of my inner self.

Although I hail from St.Venera, I enjoyed going to my school at Hamrun. I still cherish with nostalgia the month of May in school, whenever I remember all of us singing "Fil-Hlewwa ta Mejju", first thing before entering into our respective classrooms....

Christmas Mass at midnight at St. Venera little old church, was a tiny bit of Heaven on earth, I'll never forget. I did not understand latin, then, but I loved and enjoyed every piece of the liturgy.

Who would tell me then, that someday in the future, I would be one of those Carmelite Fathers, who would give the mass myself for poverty stricken children and marginated poeple in Bolivia, Peru, Brasil and Colombia? It was in the northeast of Brasil, one Christmas night, where I passed all night on the road, driving an old open Willys, hopping from one Chapel to another, to say Mass for saintly people, all them waiting for the father, to have their Christmas mass too. After attending four mission stations in a row, the last mission station to have mass was after 2 o'clock in the morning!

The street where I was born..and grew up? All the neighbours where one nice big family; we children, all good friends. "Let's play cowboys. Today, you're the horse, I'm the cowboy.." The day after, we would make it to the fields, overlooking Msida Valley to catch butterflies. Yes, I still cannot forget my jumping over rocks and looking for "narcis" to take back home with me and put them before the statue of Our Lady...

Summertime! Somewhere after supper, many families used to share praying the Rosary together, while everybody kept sitting enjoying the nights peace and breeze, in front of their respective house.

And what about our maltese beaches! Bolivia lost the coast to neighboring Chile, a hundred years ago. We are a landlocked country. So we see no sea at all. Lake Titicaca, the highest navigable lake on earth, is two hours away from where I live, and it lies at 3.800 meters above sea level. Its greenish-blue cristal waters remind me of our beautiful Mediterranean, but it is cold all year round, the temperature being always low, and it makes it difficult for the body to

support. Swimming and enjoying our incomparable maltese beaches in summer afternoons at the Exiles, is what I miss most.

What a peaceful sensation is mine, when I dream of walking in short sleeves, around Sliema Promenade, chatting all the way with some friend of mine. I mention this, because in La Paz, Capital city of Bolivia, you always have to wear heavy underwear and jumpers, as if it were winter all year round.

My work in Bolivia has been different, according to the local church's needs during my stay over here. Been a Pastor for a long time, and after finishing building the local parish church, I was asked by the Archbishop to take over the Coordination of Christian Base Communities.

After five years as Coordinator, I felt I was called by the Lord to work for a Bolivian Carmelite Community, and thus build the foundations of the Carmelite Order in Bolivia, this time with local carmelite vocations.

For this end, we have been living through donations and alms of friends the Lord sends us on the way. Until now we have been able to survive. More young people like the project and have asked us to take them in whenever our budget can make ends meets. My work then, is actually, formation work. We have already two professed bolivian carmelite brothers who are studying Theology at the Catholic University. Another one is a Pre-novice, and is doing his Pre-University preparations.

Simultaneously, I am supporting two foreign Missionary Congregations of Women Religious, helping them to put their roots in Bolivia. One is Peruvian and the other one is Italian. Of course, I have been a spiritual counsellor of the Congregation of Good Shepherd for over twenty years



THE JOURNAL THAT LINKS THE MALTESE DIASPORA



NEWS FROM THE ORDER OF MALTA

COOPERATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST WAS DISCUSSED DURING THE MEETING BETWEEN THE CZECH MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND THE GRAND CHANCELLOR



An agreement to provide medical aid to the Palestinian population was signed

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic, Lubomir Zaoralek, received today in the Czernin Palace, seat of the Foreign Ministry in Prague, the Grand Chancellor of the Sovereign Order of Malta Albrecht Boeselager, accompanied by the Grand Hospitaller, Dominique de La Rochefoucauld-Montbel. During the meeting the current tragic humanitarian emergencies taking place were discussed, in particular those in the Middle East. The Minister and the Grand Chancellor expressed deep concern regarding the ongoing war in Syria and Iraq with its spill over effects on the surrounding countries, Lebanon, Turkey and Jordan.



LAMPEDUSA A YEAR LATER: THE COMMITMENT OF THE ORDER OF MALTA IN AN INTERVIEW WITH VATICAN RADIO

A year after the immigrant boat tragedy in Lampedusa on 3rd October 2013 the Director of the Order of Malta's Italian Relief Corps, Mauro Casinghini, outlined the recent interventions of the relief corps in this area and its future commitment, in light of the end of Mare Nostrum's operations in which Order of Malta medics participate.



FRA' MATTHEW FESTING AND ABDOU DIOUF FOCUS ON THE GREAT HUMANITARIAN EMERGENCIES

Fra' Matthew Festing, Grand Master of the Sovereign Order of Malta, received Abdou Diouf, Secretary General of the International Organization of La Francophonie, today in Rome. Their talks focused on the agreement signed in Paris last May establishing a reference framework for cooperation between La Francophonie and the Order of Malta in their relative areas of competence for peace, democracy and human rights and particularly with regards to preventing conflicts, mediating in crisis

situations and promoting human rights.



HUNGARY: MEDICAL CARE FOR FAMILIES ISOLATED BY POVERTY

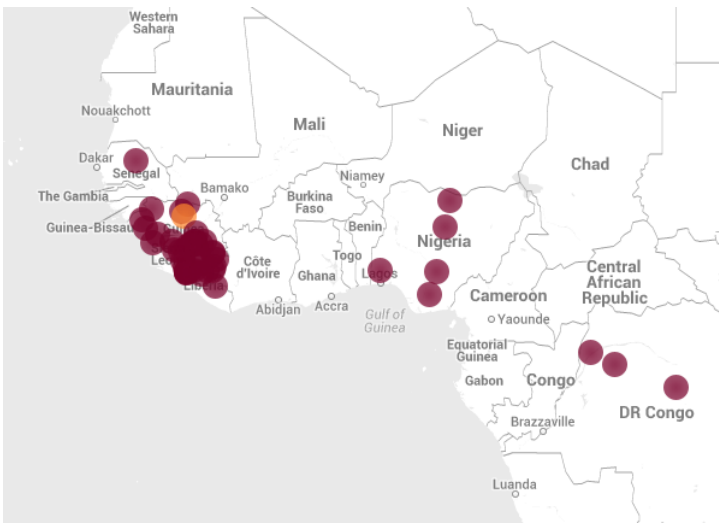
Across Hungary the Order of Malta's Charity Service (MMSz) is sending its doctors to isolated communities living in great poverty. In the Roma settlement of Monor, southeast of Budapest, a third of residents suffer from high blood pressure, many are in urgent need of dental treatment and between 15-20% of children are visually impaired. Every week MMSz medics visit remote areas of Hungary providing families with basic

health care, focusing in particular on eyesight. In the last year over 1,200 people across the country – and in neighbouring regions outside of Hungary – have received care.



LIBERIA: THE ORDER OF MALTA SENDS MEDICAL SUPPLIES FOR THE EBOLA EMERGENCY

According to the latest figures the virus has killed 1,900 people in west Africa



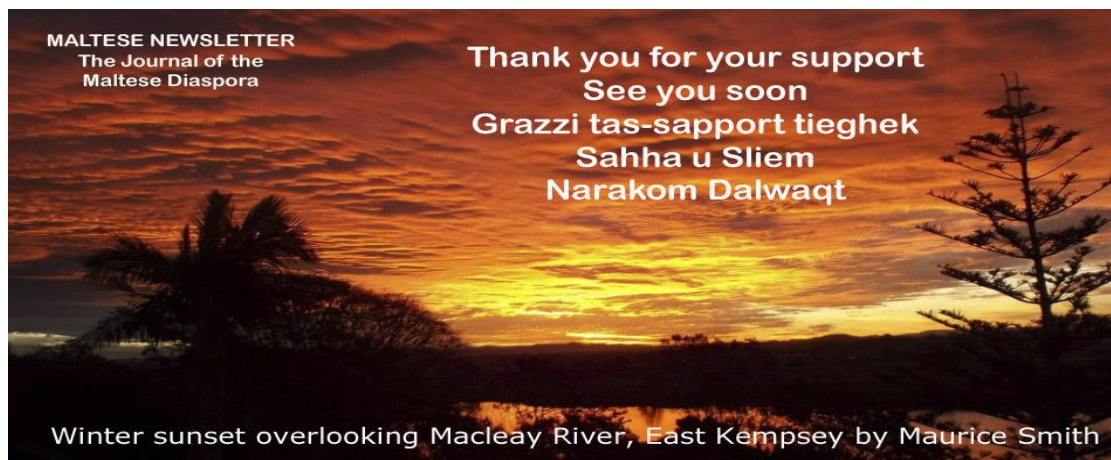
The Sovereign Order of Malta's Ebola kit containing medicines and healthcare products arrived in Monrovia, Liberia on 2 September last. The kit mainly consists of supplies for the protection and hygiene of the local population and medical personnel in hospitals and healthcare products for patients, including tests and medicines, water purification tablets, disinfectants, soap, surgical gauze and thermometers.

This consignment is financed by the Global Fund for Forgotten People (the Order of Malta's special agency which raises funds for its humanitarian projects) and implemented by the Ordre de Malte France. The relative agreements were made during a meeting held in Rome at the end of July between the two Liberian ambassadors to Italy and to the Sovereign Order of Malta and the Grand Hospitaller Dominique de la Rochefoucauld-Montbel.

"This initial consignment is a confirmation of the productive cooperation with the Government of Monrovia, which is taking every step to fight the Ebola virus," said the Order of Malta's ambassador to Liberia, Pier Luigi Nardis. "We're now planning to send further aid to deal with a health and humanitarian situation that is becoming more urgent every day".

A month since the alarm launched by the World Health Organization on 8 August last, which defined it a 'public health emergency of international concern', the situation in the affected countries remains extremely serious. Even in Monrovia, the capital of Liberia, there is a shortage of hospital beds as the number of patients continues to rise. It is calculated that in west Africa the virus has hit 3,500 people, of whom 1,900 have died. Again according to the World Health Organization, as many as twenty thousand people could be affected before the epidemic is completely stamped out.

The Sovereign Order of Malta has been working in the Republic of Liberia for some years now, supporting the Ganta leprosarium, on the border with Guinea, run by the sisters of the Congregation of the Consolata. Humanitarian activities have been stepped up over the last years thanks to the signature in 2011 of a Health Cooperation Agreement between the Republic of Liberia and the Sovereign Order of Malta. Thanks to the cooperation with the national government, the Order of Malta's French association manages clinics, programmes for early diagnosis and awareness-raising campaigns also in Guinea Conakry where experts claim that Ebola first broke out in early 2014 to then spread to other countries.



MALTESE NEWSLETTER
The Journal of the
Maltese Diaspora

Thank you for your support
See you soon
Grazzi tas-sapport tieghek
Sahha u Sliem
Narakom Dalwaqt

Winter sunset overlooking Macleay River, East Kempsey by Maurice Smith