

## **SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT FOR MALTESE CITIZENS LIVING IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA**



**Do you need your Maltese passport  
Do you want to renew your Maltese Passport**

**The Consul-on-the-move will be in Adelaide on  
Friday and Saturday 8 and 9 July with the biometric  
equipment**

**For further details and to make an appointment  
Contact the Consul of Malta in South Australia**

**Frank Scicluna on**

**Tel: 8269 2948 Mobile: 0422 438 288**

**Email: [honconsul@live.com.au](mailto:honconsul@live.com.au)**

**or**

**MALTA HIGH COMMISSION (CANBERRA)**

**Tel: (02) 6290 1724 Email [highcommission.canberra@gov.mt](mailto:highcommission.canberra@gov.mt)**

**As soon as possible**

# THE JOURNAL OF THE MALTESE DIASPORA

## MALTESE NEWSLETTER



BUILDING BRIDGES BETWEEN MALTESE ALL OVER THE WORLD



### Consul-on-the-Move: Project launched to assist Maltese living abroad

The Minister for Foreign Affairs, Dr George W. Vella launched the project Consul-on-the-Move, a project which will facilitate the collection of passport applications for Maltese living abroad and which will also enable the Maltese communities abroad to avail themselves of all

Consular services normally found at Embassies and Consular Offices, in localities nearer to them. Minister Vella said that five Consular Offices will be participating in this five-year pilot programme; Toronto, Washington, London, Rome and Melbourne.

The Ministry for Foreign Affairs saw the need to work on this programme after the introduction of biometric passports, for which the applicant has to personally visit an Embassy or a Consular Office for biometric data to be collected. The Minister explained that, this was resulting in an inconvenience for the Maltese living abroad, especially elderly applicants, as they had to travel long distances to submit their applications in one of the Maltese Consular Offices, with added costs for travel, lodging, and other expenses. This project is being launched after an agreement was reached with the Passport Office in Malta to enable this 'mobile service' to take off. All applications will carry an extra payment of €100. Several visits by the participating Consular Offices have been scheduled, particularly in regions with a high concentration of Maltese. These visits will be advertised on all forms of media which are popular and used by the Maltese Communities abroad. Consuls will also be visiting on Saturdays for more productive sessions and so that more applicants would be reached.

Minister Vella said that after a period of two years, the programme will be reviewed for its viability – which may lead to more Embassies and Consular Offices being added to the five already chosen. Minister for Foreign Affairs, Dr George W. Vella said that this project will not only serve to gather passport applications, but applicants can also take the opportunity to avail themselves of all Consular services normally found at each and every Embassy and Consular Office.

*Abela*

*Photograph:DOI/Kevin*

#### CALENDAR OF SCHEDULED VISITS 2016

Adelaide 8 and 9 July

San Francisco 8 and 9 July

Edinburgh 13 and 14 April

Tasmania and New Zealand 5 -6 August

Vancouver 9 September

Edmonton 13 September

Catania 30 September

Montreal 30 September

St John's 3 October

Detriot 14 and 15 October

Cairns 18 – 19 November

Cardiff 12-and 13 October





**President Marie Louise Coleiro Preca and the Hon George Vella with the delegates of the Council of Maltese Living Abroad at the presidential Gardens Attard**

**PRESS RELEASE ISSUED BY THE MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS: Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr George W. Vella addresses the Annual Meeting of the Council for the Maltese Living Abroad**

Minister for Foreign Affairs, Dr George W. Vella, opened the 7th meeting of the Council for the Maltese Living Abroad, which meeting is being organized on 5 and 6 May 2016. The Minister, is also the Chairman for the said Council, welcomed the Councillors and other attendees underlining the event as an important tool for further enhancing the Council's endeavours and efforts in promoting the interests of Maltese Communities overseas.

The Council for the Maltese Living Abroad is composed of 15 Councillors with each Councillor representing the Maltese Community residing in foreign countries. Such communities are primarily located in Australia, USA, Canada, United Kingdom, Belgium and others. Indeed, ACT XX of 2011, which provides for the establishment of this Council, claims that the overall objective of the Council is that of representing the Maltese Communities overseas by highlighting their interests and raising awareness of their needs with the authorities in Malta. As part of their activities, Councillors are required to meet annually in Malta to discuss and formulate proposals to the concerned local entity. Among other topics on the agenda, Councillors will be discussing the following issues:

- The Consul on the Move Project
- The impact of planning laws on Maltese Living Abroad
- Methods to enhance the relationship between the Council For Maltese Living Abroad and the Maltese Associations Abroad
- A digital platform for the teaching of the Maltese language in foreign countries
- The preservation of Maltese culture within Maltese communities overseas

# MALTESE-AMERICAN SOCIAL CLUB

A Short History of the Maltese-American Social Club of San Francisco  
By Abraham Vella and Mona Vella-Nicholas



Towards the end of November 1929, thirty-five Maltese residents of San Francisco met to discuss the establishment of a Colonial Club. A committee was given the task of finding suitable premises for a meeting place. In January 1930, they rented the ground floor of a house at 1648 Oakdale Avenue, San Francisco. That same month, a committee selected the first officers of the club: F. Grech, President; C. Fenech, Vice-President; E. Micallef, Secretary; J. Azzopardi, Treasurer; C. Scicluna, Assistant Secretary; and R. Deguara, Assistant Treasurer. Hence, the "Maltese Club of San Francisco" was given birth.

Very soon after, the "Melita Soccer Football Team" decided to join the Maltese Club, doubling the Club's membership. In 1932, the "Sons of Malta Soccer Team", as the Club's team was now called, won the Redmen Convention trophy in Santa Cruz. Other Club members who were musically talented organized a jazz band which played at dances and picnics and even gave concerts. This "San Francisco Maltese Band" even played for the welcome of Archbishop Edward Hanna at his dedication of the St. Paul of the Shipwreck Church auditorium. A dramatic company was also formed under Club auspices. This group put on plays in Maltese for the entertainment of the Club's members and their families.

The Club's activities encouraged many other Maltese to enroll, so bigger premises became an indispensable necessity. In June 1931, the committee rented the large building at 1789 Oakdale Avenue, a former church. The Club eventually bought the property, which remained its headquarters until 1995, when the Oakdale building was sold and the Club's present premises at 924 El Camino Real in South San Francisco became the Club's new home.

Although the soccer team and dramatic group no longer exist, the Club continues to be a source of entertainment and community to new generations of Maltese-Americans. Dinner-dances, casino trips, children's Christmas parties, and other events draw members and guests from all over the Bay Area to the Club. With the addition of women as full-fledged members in the 1990's, mystery trips, bingo nights, pot-luck dinners, and knitting groups have been added to the list of the Club activities. In addition, a Melitensia library has been added, providing books, music, and films on a variety of aspects of Maltese history and culture.



The Club celebrated its 50th anniversary at its Oakdale premises in San Francisco in May 1979. Joseph Grech, Jr. was president at the time. San Francisco Mayor Dianne Feinstein was the guest of honor. Twenty-five years later, led by President Joseph Tanti, the Club celebrated the biggest event it has ever had. This 75th anniversary celebration was held on October 2, 2004 at the South San Francisco Convention Center and featured the Nicolo Isouard Band of Mosta. One can only guess how a new generation of Maltese-Americans will celebrate the Club's 100th anniversary in 2029!



# 1 May 1941: Heavy Increase in Night Raids on Malta

## World war 2



### RAID SUMMARY APRIL 1941

No of air raid alerts 90 (including 25 night raids)  
 Days without air raid alerts 4  
 Total time under alert 69 hours 51 mins  
 Average length of alert 46.5 mins  
 Civilians killed by enemy action 62  
 Civilians injured 112  
 Enemy aircraft destroyed by anti-aircraft guns  
 Day: 1 probable

Night: 2 confirmed, 1 probable

The total civilian casualties and damage from 11 June 1940 to 30 April 1941:

Killed 274 (145 men, 66 women, 63 children u16)

Seriously injured 204 (91 men, 81 women, 32 children u16)

Buildings wholly or partly destroyed 1901

### MALTA HQ REVIEWS APRIL 1941

The month was notable for greatly increased air activity by German aircraft at night, partly due to the arrival in Malta of a convoy and war vessels. There was also a heavy increase in night attacks, both bombing and mine-laying, largely as a result of warships stationed in Grand Harbour and Marsamxetto. On 21 April heavy bombing of Grand Harbour and the Dockyard area began, gradually increasing in tenacity towards the end of the month. Systematic mining of the approaches to Grand Harbour were also carried out.

Four particular enemy tactics became noticeable during night raids:

- They were usually preceded by one aircraft on a meteorological flight;
- The first aircraft usually crossed the whole length of the Island from west to east at a great height to force the searchlights to illuminate;
- The increased use of flares;
- On two or three occasions a flashing light could be seen about ten miles north of Grand Harbour at sea level. This is thought to have been a submarine giving landfall guidance to aircraft on nights with no moon. The Navy despatched a trawler after the second such appearance.

There were 42 reconnaissance or offensive patrols in the vicinity of the Island triggering the air alarm, as well as others for which the alert was not sounded. Reconnaissance was usually carried out by a single JU 88 bomber while the escort circled off the coast of the Island. The escort rarely crossed the coast except when in superior numbers and on specific offensive patrol. Two daylight and one night dive machine-gun attacks took place: on Luqa aerodrome and Marsaxlokk Bay during daylight and on St Paul's Bay at night.

At the beginning of the month the policy was adopted of sending Malta fighters up on moonless nights, as well as on nights when the moon was up. The policy was not successful and was quickly discontinued. Searchlights were employed on 15 nights and obtained 47 illuminations. The firing of predicted barrages at night has been discontinued in favour of immediate barrage procedures. This has been employed on approximately 140 occasions and has undoubtedly had a deterrent effect on the enemy, causing them to divert from their apparent objective.

AIR RAIDS DAWN 1 MAY TO DAWN 2 MAY 1941



## HARRY AND MARY BUGEJA OF ADELAIDE CELEBRATE THEIR 80<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY

As **Mary and Harry Bugeja** enjoyed the celebrations to mark their 80th birthdays - Harry March 19 and Mary March 30 1936 - they would be justifiably proud of their 58 years of happy family life and community involvement - and dancing.

Harry was born in Hamrun, about 10 kilometers from Malta's capital of Valletta. Mary was born in Fleur-de-Lys, about 15 kilometers from Valletta.

Harry comes from a family of 11 boys and two girls, the eldest and youngest being 20 years apart.

After primary school Harry attended a private college, St Albert The Great College before transferring to a technical college where he gained a certificate in maritime engineering. Instead of going to sea he worked as a fitter and turner with the Royal Electrical & Mechanical Engineers.

After her school years, Mary graduated as a primary school teacher. She taught at the Qormi Primary School until they married.

Mary and Harry met when they were both 17 while they were in their final year at their schools when Harry's father bought a house in Fleur-de-Lys which was just across the road from Mary's family.

One Sunday morning Harry was walking with his girlfriend at the time who was a friend of Mary's and introduced them. "It was love at first sight", Harry said.

Their romance continued for two years under strict supervision with brothers and sisters accompanying them when they went to Sunday film matinees and family members in the room when they met at their parents' homes.

After those two years Harry plucked up courage to ask Mary's parents for her hand in marriage. They then endured a two-year engagement under the same strictness as Mary was not allowed to marry until she was 21.

Finding it difficult to obtain the type of accommodation they wanted, one day Harry asked Mary: "How about we migrate to Australia?", where four of Harry's brothers and an uncle had migrated before them. Mary promptly replied: "Wherever you go I'll go". They made arrangements to migrate while still single.

They were married on the morning of 15 September 1957 in a ceremony at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church in Fleur-de-Lys followed by an elaborate reception at a big villa surrounded by gardens attended by about 1000 guests including business friends of Mary's father.

Harry said it was like a cocktail party with guests mingling while waiters served drinks and food on silver trays.

It was about 3pm when Harry's father tapped him on the shoulder and said it was time for them to change in readiness to leave for their honeymoon on Gozo Island.

They only had a week on the island as they needed to return home to reorganise their migration application following their marriage.

They left for Australia 15 days after their wedding on October 1 on the MV Aurelia via Port Said, Aden and Fremantle to Melbourne - a somewhat interesting experience.

The migration authorities separated the men and women into four berth cabins so newlyweds Mary and Harry could not sleep in the same cabin. However, although each cabin had a toilet, the showers were shared between two cabins. The shower became Mary and Harry's almost secret rendezvous or one of the two cabins while the rest were away.

On board Mary was able to make good use of her teaching skill by teaching English to the migrants, who came from about about 11 nationals.

They travelled from Melbourne to Adelaide by train, The Overland, which Harry described as "dog-boxes, wooden carriages, like a Western movie."

They lived with Harry's uncle until they built their own house in Beverley. Harry worked as a toolmaker at General Motors Holdens Woodville for 17 years. Mary worked as a primary school teacher at Port Adelaide.

They then planned a six-month family holiday in Malta which lasted five years. Harry became general manager of the plastic injection moulding company Toly Products. Mary cared for their children, **Grace, Josette, Adrian and Veronica.**



*Family gathering after Josette and Adrian had given a background account of the family. They are (from left) granddaughter Mariah, daughter Veronica, son Adrian, granddaughter Sonia, Harry and Mary, daughters Grace and Josette and granddaughter Hannah..*

**H**arry and Mary celebrated their 80th birthdays on April 16 with a dance party attended by family members, close friends and dancers at the Chandelier.

Harry partnered his granddaughter Hannah for the first dance of the evening and were soon joined by others.

Daughter Josette and their son Adrian presented the background to the family.

A magnificent smorgasbord supper was served in the small ballroom which was set with tables for eight. Desserts and the cake were served during a break in dancing later in the evening.

As a pleasing gesture Harry invited John and Hazel van der Veecken to take to the floor to honour their 56th wedding anniversary.

In lieu of gifts Harry reported that \$315 were donated which will go to St David's Tea Tree Gully Parish

Harry thanked those who attended and the many people who helped with the party including Bruce and Jenefer Robertson for the music, sons-in-law Richard and George, the photographer, Grace's partner Geoff, Jackie and Jim and Chris and Terry. They returned to Adelaide in 1978 with the addition of a son, Jeffrey, joining their three daughters and one son.

Harry started work at Simpson Pope as a part of a engineering team which coordinated changes to the company's products, including washing machine, dryers and dishwashers. He retired in 1995.

Involvement with the Maltese community in South Australia occupied much of Harry's time away from work. He was appointed president, secretary and treasurer of several community clubs and was president of Enfield Soccer Club from 1973 to 1978 and a committee member of the South Australian Soccer Federation 2nd Division Management Committee.

For five years he was president of the Maltese Community Council of South Australia, the umbrella body for all the Maltese Community Clubs which represent the Maltese Community of SA. Harry was also treasurer of the Multicultural Communities Council of SA, which represented all the ethnic groups of SA . The work of the council included discussion about the future and needs of each community.

Harry said he had the opportunity to meet many people who supported the work including Prime Ministers, premiers, politicians and mayors.

Their dancing days started in Malta when they were both 19. Dances were held for school teachers, of which Mary was one. When Mary and Harry went they didn't know how to dance and had to sit out until it was time to leave as Mary had to be home by a certain time.

Harry got hold of a dance book, cut out feet shapes in paper which he placed on the floor and instructed Mary and her sister where to place their feet. "One, two, clutch'er" he would say. Harry recalls dance organisers were very strict.

### Ad multos annos from THE MALTESE NEWSLETTER



# MALTA, GALLIPOLI AND AN AUSTRALIAN COUNTRY TOWN CALLED YASS (NSW) 1915



Private Roy Howard Denning landed at Gallipoli on 25 April 1915. He was wounded on 16 June and sent to Malta to recuperate, where he wrote to his mother describing his experiences at the landing - *I was justified in being proud of being an Australian.*

[Letter, Private Roy Howard Denning, 213, 1st Field Company Engineers, Malta, 23 July 1915, to his mother, YDHS has recently published the full twelve page letter from Roy Denning: *My dear mother: a letter from a soldier after Gallipoli*, Jane Nauta, Yass, 1998]

**Roy Denning** was born at Marulan, New South Wales. The family moved to Yass, and Roy attended the Yass District School. He was working for the Clyde Engineering Company, Sydney, when, on 7 September 1914, he joined the AIF. Private Roy Denning landed in Gallipoli on 25 April 1915 and served there until he received a severe gunshot wound in the back on 16 June.

He was evacuated to Pembroke Camp in Malta four days later and after his recovery; he went on to fight on the Western Front until the end of the war.

By 1918, Roy's war weariness was evident from this diary entry. *Digging trenches through forest, God give me back the day joined this blood-sucking unit who are never satisfied.*

[Diary, Private Roy Howard Denning, 1918, France. This diary is in a private collection]

In October 1918, because he was an original Anzac, Private Roy Denning received the so-called 'Anzac leave', and he was on the high seas when war ended on 11 November. Roy Denning's family did not live in Yass during the war and he never returned there himself to work. The town, however, for commemorative purposes, claimed him as one of their own and his name is on the Yass Honour Roll at the Soldiers' Memorial Hall and on the Yass District School Honour Roll.

As Roy recovered from his wound in Malta in 1915, he had much time to think about what he had seen in Gallipoli. He wrote at least two letters to his mother on that subject, the second of which has survived. It is a remarkable document. Roy was one of the first Yass men to land in Gallipoli and his description.



## MALTA AND THE ANZACS THE NURSE OF THE MEDITERRANEAN

A COMMEMORATIVE OF THE ANZAC CENTENARY  
1914-18 2014-18

A MAGNIFICENT COMMEMORATIVE BOOK OF THE ANZAC  
CENTENARY 1914-14 2014-18

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**Contact: Frank L Scicluna on [honconsul@live.com.au](mailto:honconsul@live.com.au)**



## ANZAC CENTENARY 1914 - 1918

**ALL GAVE SOME - SOME GAVE ALL**

**WE REMEMBER THE SACRIFICE, CONTRIBUTION AND COURAGE OF ALL  
THOSE WHO WERE INVOLVED IN THE FIRST WORLD WAR AND ANZAC**

Between 2014 and 2018, Australia and New Zealand commemorate the Anzac Centenary, marking 100 years since the nations' involvement in the First World War.

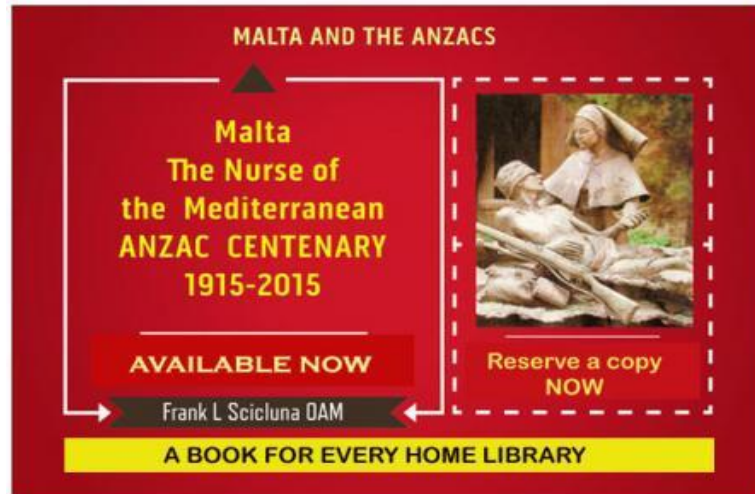
The First World War was one of the most significant events of the 20th Century, claiming the lives of more than 16 million people across the globe.

Even now, almost 100 year on, we are all connected to the Anzac Centenary (2014 – 2018) through our own family history, the heritage of our local communities or the lasting impact it left on generations of Australians and New Zealanders.

From the Declaration of War, to the various bloody battles and surrenders, and finally to the armistice and the global impact left in its wake, every detail has been recorded in hundreds, if not thousands, of books.

During the Anzac Centenary, we remember not only the original Anzacs who served at Gallipoli and the Western Front, but commemorate more than a century of service by Australian and New Zealand servicemen and women.

The publication, *Malta, the Nurse of the Mediterranean*, is a compelling account of Malta's involvement in World War I. Even the little island of Malta, just in the middle of the Mediterranean Sea, played an important part during the First World War so much so that it earned the title of The Nurse of the Mediterranean.



## FROM GHONNELLA TO HOTPANTS

What would our **ancestors** say about the way we dress today?

Back when I was child and I still lived in Scotland, my mother would always make it a point to tell me stories about Malta and its history. She would explain the importance of the Great Siege of 1565, how Malta was considered to be 'the nurse of the Mediterranean' during WWI, and how her grandmother used to wear the **ghonnella** – or as some people may refer to it, the *faldetta*.

Since then, **traditional** Maltese clothes have always fascinated me, particularly the ones worn by the general population rather than the nobility. The first thing that always hits me when looking at photos and drawings from the past, it's easy for us to think of our ancestors' clothing as **costumes**.



Seriously, what were they thinking when they designed the *ghonnella*? It looks absolutely bizarre. And why would men wear a colourful beanie-like hat made out of wool? Or the **terħa** – a girdle/belt?

Take the *ghonnella*, for example. Its sail-like structure helped capture the **breeze** during Malta's unforgiving summers. Its design also allowed for it to fit closer to the wearer should they want it to, providing more warmth in the winter. It was actually a genial invention and garment. Plus, can you imagine how **exotic** our streets must have looked with women billowing in them?



And that weird-shaped hat that hung down the back of our forefathers' heads? That was for warmth in the winter. It's easy to forget that just 100 years ago, many people didn't have **electricity** or **gas heaters**. Their bedding was also quite Spartan – no goose-feather duvets or electric blankets. And can you imagine working in the field in the midst of winter?

Most of these things went out of fashion after the **war**, however – a time of unprecedented



change for the Maltese, with greater influence from the outside world, independence and the advent of television and other technology.

That has slowly shifted us to today's fashions, and while you may still spot a **nanna** wearing a scarf over her head, most women wouldn't dream of wearing one nowadays. And that's not all; better pay and a decline in the church's influence has also got us to wear bolder outfits.

Would our ancestors approve of them? Hardly, but they'd have probably worn the same thing if they lived in this day and age! ***Which fashions do you prefer? Today's or those of yesteryear?***

**Writes James Stewart** on April 12, 2016 [www.even.com.mt](http://www.even.com.mt)

**READ AND ENJOY THIS NEWSLETTER. PASS IT ON TO YOUR RELATIVES AND FRIENDS**

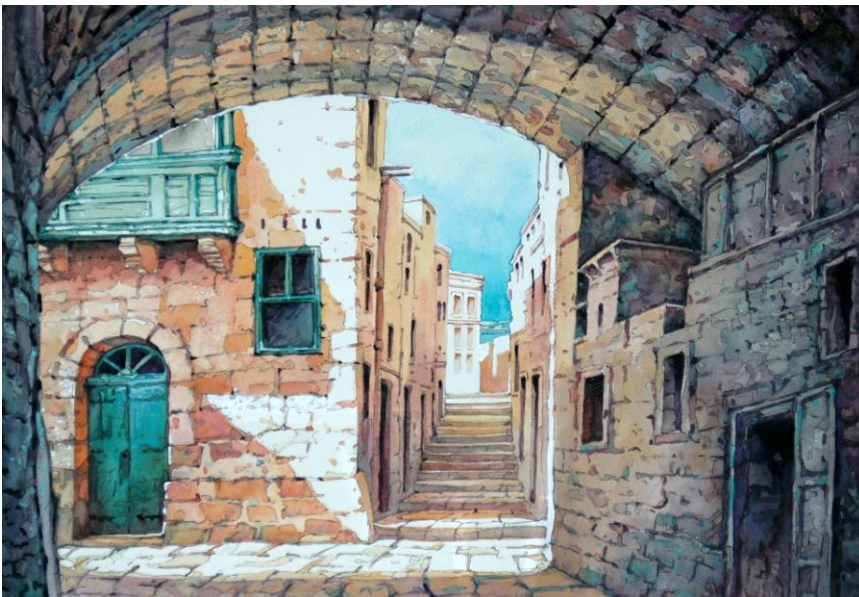
## MEETING GEORGE APAP

### a landscape artist



During my visit to Malta in May I had the privilege and honour to meet George Apap a landscape artist, who depicts the local scenery with a certain fantasy and poetic licence though retaining the actuality and reality of our vernacular topography. 'I find the Maltese landscape fascinating, no matter the season. I love our rural villages, the wayside chapels, the rubble walls and the rocky beaches that offer excellent material for a good composition. I also love the sun drenched walls, the contrast of light and shadow and that particular soft light that caresses the sky in early evening'.

This is the best reflection by George Apap that sums up his vision perfectly. He will answer questions from the floor regarding his vision, concept, and career. He will also elaborate about approach and technique.



In a riot of colours of sun-drenched stone and rocks George paints with certain effortlessness as he is madly in love with our countryside and urban built-up areas. He also has a sharp eye for skies and cloud formations, for the limpid sea, for terraced fields, for rubble walls and overhanging prickly-pear bushes, for the isolated chapel, farmstead and stable.

He paints with a child-like joy, with fantasy and pleasure that transforms our landscape into a poetic and lyrical paeon that in a subtle manner with fine conditioning condemns the speculator who ravishes and rapes our dear land. His romantic vision is simple yet sensual and warm but convincing and effective.

George was born in Gozo in 1945. His family is very artistic. They all paint or play musical instruments. His early childhood memories are of Sunday afternoon competitions organized for the family to judge who was the best landscape painter.



His father would evaluate the result and choose a winner who was rewarded with an extra helping of the pudding that same evening. The emulation and agonal element stimulated a keen interest in the arts especially painting and music.

When he came to Malta in 1964 he attended evening lessons in Art and he was guided by well-known artists that included: Harry Alden, Esprit Barthet and Carmelo Mangion. He started teaching Art at Government Schools and after forty-two years of teaching he retired and is dedicating all his time to painting. He goes for long walks and does a lot of sketches in situ of what is left of our countryside.

His favourite medium is watercolour. But he also paints in oil and acrylics. He has exhibited in various collective exhibitions both locally and abroad and he has organized eight personal exhibitions in various venues including St. James Cavalier and the Museum of Fine Arts in Valletta. His pictures are often simple compositions of little quaint nooks and corners that once painted become impressive landmarks.



## The stuff that legends are made of

**Joseph Camilleri: Ġabra ta' Legġendi, Wise Owl Publications, 2010, 64pp. €6.99**

The word 'legend' is one of those words which unfortunately has for many in today's fame-obsessed age lost its original exotic meaning.

As a child, on hearing this word, I would immediately get a dreamy look in my eyes as castles, ogres, dwarves and other mythical creatures sprang to mind.

I know my mind was colonised with these images from British lore but these were the only legends I could find to read at the time.

Fortunately, I grew up in a story-telling community which in the summer evenings used to meet outside our homes among the adults' chairs and the children's adventurous play acting.

There was one particular woman who had such a natural gift for narrating stories that silence would fall since all listeners felt pity for the Mosta bride, was petrified in the darkness of Hassan's cave, and together went on other exciting exploits.

These stories raised a strange sense of nostalgia for things we had not really experienced but which seemed thrilling enough to make us want them to be true.

It was with the same yearning that I picked up Joseph Camilleri's Ġabra ta' Legġendi, which promised to take me back not only to these tales' past but also to my innocent childhood days.

Legends are obviously stories which, according to folklore expert Guze Cassar Pullicino, spring from people's fantasy. It is not important whether these legends have in reality happened or not. What is important is these narratives are connected with a situation or character which is real. In fact, this is what distinguishes legends from fables.

Although fables too are entirely made up, they are not connected with reality, although they reflect it. Such anecdotes call for a suspension of belief and what is interesting about them is the creative imagination involved in spinning a stirring tale.

Many legends have in fact come down through generations by word of mouth as they were retold by adults to the young ones. Such 'loose' repetition has indeed led to variations on the original stories but this too is of interest as it divulges how people's outlook on life changes through the ages.

In fact, such legends present a good anthropological study of any society as at their core they have the main people's beliefs and fears. Camilleri's book is divided into various parts which present a cross-section of the Maltese psyche.

Some of the stories deal with the roots of the Maltese population which give very imaginative possibilities of how the first people came to these islands.

According to Camilleri, there are stories stemming from Tripoli, Tunisia, Algeria and Morocco that have left great influence on the Maltese legends, which might indicate that our origins can be traced back to any of these countries.

Moreover, the importance of religion for these islands is evident in the many sections dedicated to stories which tend to revolve either around statues representing Christ, Our Lady and other saints.

Obviously, there could not but be a whole batch of anecdotes dedicated to St Paul and the fact that he brought the Roman Catholic religion to our shores.

Another section deals with stories connected to the historical figure of Count Roger and his famous flag which many believe inspired the Maltese flag.

It is understandable that since Malta is an island, many of these tales also deal with the sea. It is interesting that some stories tend to change even from village to village and that some tend to be localised to particular villages rather than connected with general Maltese history. What is important is that from each legend a moral message is derived.



## I. Valletta Football Club

is a [Maltese football](#) club based in [Valletta](#), the capital city of [Malta](#).

Valletta Football Club was founded in 1943, as a merger of *Valletta Prestons*, *Valletta St. Paul's* and the extinct *Valletta United* which had won two league championships before [World War II](#). Valletta also have a futsal team which participates in Malta's top futsal league.

### History

There is no clear evidence on when Valletta F.C. started, hence the fact that Valletta possessed two clubs at that era. The foundation of Valletta F.C. was laid with the creation of the Valletta United team. Valletta United was known as the 'team of the square' since the club was located in St. George's Square. Valletta United represented the city from 1904 to 1932.

The city of Valletta in Malta has a long footballing history, between 1886 and 1919 at some point or another, around fourteen teams had competed representing the city. Amongst these early teams included the popular *Boys Empire League*, *Valletta College*, *St. George's Square*, *Dockyard Albion* and *Malta Athletic Club*.

A very important early step in the history of the current club, was the founding of **Valletta United Football Club** in 1903 by local youngsters. Despite their enthusiasm for the game which had been brought to the island by the [British](#), the youngsters had a rough start with limited supplies. They cut their white trousers into long shorts and dyed their shirts into that of the club colours (brown, with yellow sleeves) for their uniforms.

*The Ditch* at [Porte des Bombes](#), which itself had been the scene of the first ever recorded Maltese football match in 1886, was chosen to host Valletta United's first match on 9 January 1904.<sup>[1]</sup> United faced off against a team from the *Collegiate School* and won 1–0 with a strike from a forward named L. Agius. The full Valletta United team that day included,<sup>[1]</sup>

M.H. Laferla ( <a href="#">Captain</a> )	E. Vella	C. Vella	V. Camilleri
P. Ferrante	L. Agius	V. Casolani	L. Castaldi
E. Galea	L. Preziosi	R. Vadala	

The club soon found a more permanent home at *St. George's Square*, just opposite the [Grandmaster's Palace in Valletta](#); they gained the nickname "the team of the square" because of this. Valletta first gained silverware during the 1914–15 season, when they won both the *Cousis Shield* and the [Maltese League](#) championship, it was only the fifth season the league had been competed in Malta.

Much of Maltese football was dominated by [Floriana](#) and [Sliema Wanderers](#) up until the [Second World War](#), Valletta attempted to upset the status quo several times; they won the *Cousis Shield* for the second

time in 1920–21 and finished as runners-up in the Maltese League during both 1925–26 and 1926–27. During their last ever season, Valletta United upset the two main clubs in Malta of the time, by winning the Maltese League in 1931–32, however they did not enter the following season.

Although Sliema and Floriana dominated the local scene in those times, by winning these trophies it was Valletta United that started to break into this monopoly and induce greater competition. Valletta United were very active in the Championship of the first division and in fact played 97 games.

During the period that Valletta United played within the [Malta Football Association](#) (i.e. from 1909 to 1932), Valletta United won the championship in 1931–32. However, for some reason in the following season, Valletta United disappeared from the football scene and thus the monopoly of Sliema and Floriana football clubs recommenced.

The hope of the first trophy in the in 7 years was a huge thought running through Valletta fans in the summer of 2007. Valletta spent a lot of money in the transfer market and expectations were high. Valletta began the season in the worst possible fashion, with a 3–2 defeat to Eternal rivals, Floriana. Valletta's poor start continued with a 1–1 draw against [Hibernians](#), defeat to Sliema, a 0–0 draw with [Hamrun Spartans](#) and Msida respectively. However, eventually Valletta hit good form with a 1–0 win over Birkirkara, a 7–0 trashing over champions [Marsaxlokk](#) and they gained revenge over Floriana with a 4–0 win on the 8 December. After wins over Msida, Mqabba, Hamrun, Sliema and Marsaxlokk the club showed its winning pedigree. Valletta headed to the final round of the season on a high note.

Valletta won their 19th Premier League title after Marsaxlokk failed to beat Birkirkara on Saturday 3 May after a very successful Championship Pool campaign. However, with the title in the bag the long unbeaten streak soon came to an end, and the season ended with a number of defeats. The team also failed to reach the U\*Bet F.A. Trophy 2008 final, after losing 4–2 to rivals [Birkirkara](#) in the semi final. But except for the early stages and the post-championship games, Valletta had been the most consistent side.

Valletta FC were crowned champions for the 23rd time in their history in 2016 evening after Hibernians succumbed to a 2-1 defeat against Birkirkara.

## **Air Malta assists the Malta Association of the Sovereign Military Order of St. John of Malta**



Air Malta has been engaged to operate again dedicated flights for the Malta Association of the Sovereign Military Order of St. John for its annual pilgrimage to Lourdes, in France.

A total of 320 passengers made up of the official contingent of the Knights and Dames of the Order, together with a group of patients travelled to Lourdes assisted by many volunteers and carers.

This trip marks the annual congregation of the Knights of the Order who converge at Lourdes from all over the world. The Malta Association of the Sovereign Military Order of St. John organizes such a



pilgrimage every year on the first weekend of May, and Air Malta provides the necessary uplift by means of dedicated direct charter flights from Malta to Lourdes and back.

Air Malta has for many years supported such organizations like the Malta Association of the Sovereign Military Order of St. John with transportation needs for these important annual pilgrimages, in accordance with their mission. On such occasions, Air Malta and its staff and crews take special care to look after passengers with special needs, and to provide the maximum care and attention during the flight journey to and back to Malta.

The Malta Association of the Sovereign Military Order of St John of Jerusalem is one of the oldest institutions of Western and Christian civilization. It is a lay religious Order, traditionally of military, chivalrous, and of noble nature, but devoted to the exercise of Christian virtue and charity. The Knights of Malta are distinguished by their commitment through voluntary work to reaching their spiritual perfection within the Church and to expending their energies serving the poor and the sick.

"For some, this trip is a one-time experience that would help to alleviate some of the stress and pressures that they experience in their daily routine. Over many years, Air Malta, conscious and proud of its social role as the airline of the Maltese islands, has been at the forefront to organize various trips to Lourdes for many organizations like the Sovereign Military Order of Malta. As a national airline, we take great pride in offering our care and resources to such organizations", commented Mr Joseph Galea - Deputy Chief Commercial Officer of Air Malta.

Both Air Malta and the Malta Association of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta have a long-standing relationship to work together and to convey the best support to vulnerable people from the local community. Air Malta is proud to feature the eight-pointed Maltese cross on its aircraft livery, the same cross borne by the Knights of Malta, that symbolize the spirit of hospitality and social responsibility towards the Maltese community. Sarah Carabott

It is always my pleasure to receive your newsletter. I relax with a cup of coffee reading the journal from cover to cover in my study. Every article in the paper is very interesting and informative. Please, keep up the good work for the sake of all the Maltese living in Malta and all over the world. Thank you!! Joseph Ebejer - Australia

## Bronze Age structures found in Qormi



A water well unearthed during excavations in the Tal-Istabal area of Qormi. The works are being monitored by the Superintendence of Cultural Heritage. Photos: Matthew Mirabelli

Civilisations dating to the Bronze Age have left their mark on a site in Qormi which is being excavated and

could be turned into a retirement complex and sports facilities.

The site, in the area known as Tal-Istabal off the Marsa park-and-ride facility, has been undergoing an archaeological investigation since



December, following Mepa's approval of a planning control application.

Such an application is submitted to request changes to the local plan, street alignment and zoning, among others.

The proposal to change the use of the site to that of a retirement complex, sports facilities, and parking area was granted in 2013.

A spokesman for the planning authority said the application was approved with a number of conditions, one of which requires the Superintendence of Cultural Heritage to be consulted before the submission of a planning application and also during its processing.

#### **The view from inside.**

The superintendence is therefore carrying out an archaeological assessment of the entire footprint of the proposed development, and the archaeological evaluation and analysis of the results is still underway. Superintendent Anthony Pace told this newspaper that so far, the investigation had revealed that the area was heavily transformed in the later period of the Order of St John. "At the time, this area was extensively quarried and transformed into field terraces.

"This historic quarrying cut through and damaged a number of older archaeological remains.

"The remains include some Bronze Age cart ruts, as well as masonry remains and a rock-cut tomb from the Roman period," Dr Pace said.

The superintendence is completing its assessment and will eventually recommend how to best protect the remains.

## **AUSTRALIAN ELECTION 2016**

OPINION by [Annabel Crabb](#)



**PHOTO:** [Neither Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull nor Opposition Leader Bill Shorten has led a federal election campaign before.](#) (Getty Images: Don Arnold/Matt King)

***A former banker will campaign against the unions and a former unionist will campaign against the banks. There's an uncanny symmetry to Election 2016 right down to the perfectly balanced polls.***

It's on. The poor old Australian electorate, subjected to unspeakable switcheroos and short-sheetings these last nine years, will - thanks to the Senate's rejection of the ABCC bills last night - be forced back to the ballot box on July 2.

Malcolm Turnbull, a former banker, will spend the next few weeks campaigning for a higher degree of accountability for unions.

Bill Shorten, a former unionist, will campaign for a higher degree of accountability for banks. Neither of them has ever done this before; led a federal election campaign, that is. And each of their political parties has - in the past six years - knocked off one leader to be replaced by another who was in turn knocked off by the first guy again.

These elements impart a certain uncanny symmetry to the whole contest, enhanced by the metronomic insistence with which the published polls returned this week to a scrupulously-balanced 50/50.

No-one in their right mind thinks 75 days is a reasonable length of time for an election campaign. And yet, this is the price Malcolm Turnbull has elected to pay for the privilege of fighting an election campaign around something on which he and his whole party agree - the wickedness of the Construction Mining Forestry Energy Union - rather than the undulating and scenic range of issues on which Malcolm Turnbull's views drive some other people in his party absolutely crazy.

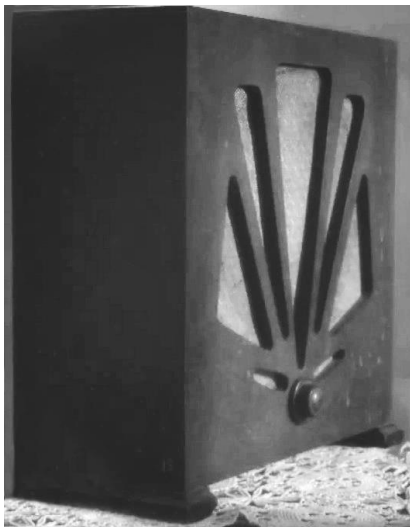
The rest of the campaign platform is a deliciously blank slate for the Government. All they really have for sure so far is that there needs to be a really big and arresting idea, that doesn't cost anything or scare the bejesus out of anyone, and that they really must ensure that all bold plans are outlined before the election rather than after so as to avoid the horrible fates of former promise-breaking governments. Labor, on the other hand, has rolled out a bunch of policies that conventional wisdom would immediately identify as surefire vote losers: A tax increase on ciggies! A kick in the goolies to negative gearing! The return of carbon pricing!

Which rather invites the question: How is it that Bill Shorten, a not especially popular leader, can preside over such policies and not yet have been pecked to death from within, yet Malcolm Turnbull – specifically selected by many as the Coalition's actual messiah – cannot even benignly preside over a schools' anti-bullying program introduced by someone else entirely without estranging some rump or other?

Political campaigns, in the end, come down to discipline. The extent to which a smaller group of highly-informed people is prepared, uncomplainingly, to endorse a certain course of action will go a long way toward informing the responses of the broader electorate.

And discipline is one area in which this contest starts out asymmetrically.

**DEAR Frank, Thank you for all that you do for the community. Your work and sheer dedication are priceless. Good to hear that you are going to Malta. We wish you a safe trip, a restful holiday .You sure deserve it. May God bless you and watch over you. Best regards. Frank, Carmen and family Testa**



## nostalgia REDIFFUSION IN MALTA

In 1935, radio broadcasting began in Malta by a company called Rediffusion (Malta) Limited, which had been given the power and authority by the Government of Malta to operate sponsored radio programmes as well as ordinary commercial radio programmes. The station: Rediffusion Radio was initially launched, with the aim of countering Fascist propaganda from Italy. It had been given a complete monopoly of broadcasting of news, features, music and entertainment to about **50,000** subscribers.

In February 1960 the Government of Malta issued a statement on the future of television and sound broadcasting, saying that Malta should have its own television service as soon as it could be introduced.

The Governor of Malta entered into discussions with Rediffusion Malta, Ltd., with a view to negotiating an agreement with them for the provision of a television service and the continuation of sound broadcasting in Malta and Gozo. This meant the Government decided that the firm which already had a monopoly of sound broadcasting was also to be given a monopoly for television broadcasting. Rediffusion Malta was to have the sole right of presenting news, views, entertainment, either on sound radio or television to the people of Malta.

Rediffusion Malta made available for sponsorship a wide variety of transcribed programmes, featuring top-line stars, from the finest production houses in Britain, America, Canada, and Australia. They were available to British advertisers from approximately £2 15s. 0d. (£2 . 75) net per quarter hour and pro rata. They



clearly enjoyed the benefits of radio sponsorship and made a lot of money out of it.

Television sets were a very expensive luxury to the Maltese and radio was still the dominant form of entertainment well into the 1970's. In 1975 broadcasting services passed under the control of the State after decades of being a monopoly in the hands of Rediffusion. Public Broadcasting Services Limited (PBS) subsequently acquired a controlling interest in both Radio and Television broadcasting in Malta.



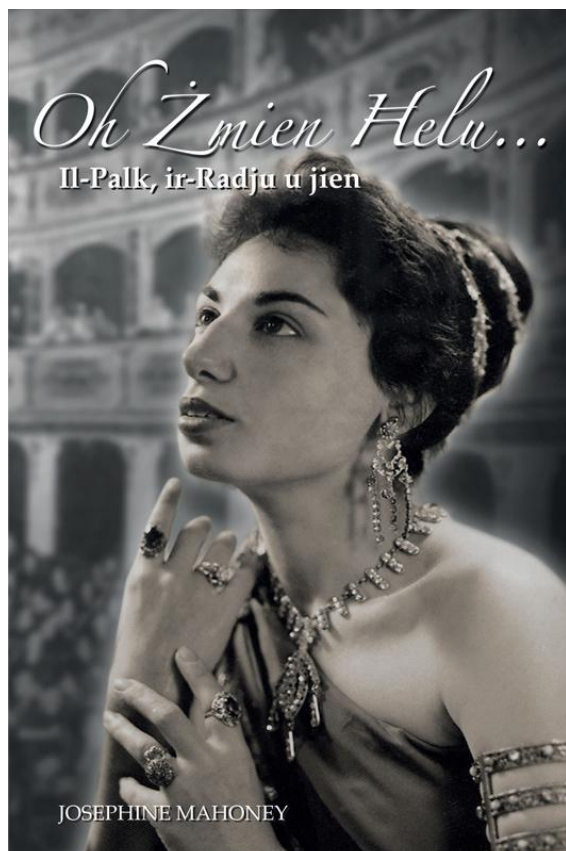
### IL-FAMUZA ATTRICI JOSEPHINE MAHONEY

Josephine Farrugia xebba Mahoney, twieldet l-Isla fis-6 t'Ottubru, 1932. Bint Patrick Mahoney u Mary Vella, it-tieni wild minn sitt ahwa. Bdiet il-karriera dramatika fl-1947 fuq ir-Rediffusion. Fl-1949 telgħet għall-ewwel darba fuq il-palk wara li damet biex ipperswadiet lil missierha biex iħalliha tibda din il-karriera. Minn dak in-nhar baqgħet sejra.

Barra minn fuq il-palk ħadet sehem ukoll f'għadd sabiħ ta' radjudrammi, programmi fuq ir-Rediffusion u wara fuq Radju Malta; aktar tard impjegat ruħha bħala 'announcer' fejn damet għal ħamsa u għoxrin sena. Ħadet sehem ukoll f'għadd ta' sensiliet li deħru fuq it-televizjoni.

Wara karriera ta' 62 sena, Josephine għadha attiva sal-lum, għalkemm b'ċerta riserva.

## Fuq il-Ktieb – OH ZMIEN HELU



### SINOPSIS

*F'dan il-ktieb tajt ħarsa ħafifa ta' kif kienet ix-xena ta' divertiment hawn Malta fis-snin li trabbejt jien. Dan ġara bejn l-aħħar tas-snin Erbgħin sas-snin Elfejn. Tajt ħarsa lejn il-postijiet ta' divertiment u kif dawn setgħu kienu li influwenzawni biex nibda din il-karriera. Il-poplu kien imxennaq għal ftit divertiment wara dawk is-snin kollha ta' gwerra li għaddejna minnhom u għalhekk kienu jattendu bi ħġarhom għal dawn is-serati.*

*U filwaqt li għaddejja b'dawn id-tifkiriet nirrakkonta fuq fuq kif għaddejt dawn is-snin kollha fix-xena teatrali.*

*Id-drammi li konna naħdmu fiż-żmien tal-Ħamsinijiet u is-Sittinijiet fil-biċċa l-kbira tagħhom kienu jitqassmu hekk: Prologu, sitta jew seba' atti u Epilogu. Jien ħsibt li nqassam dan il-ktieb bl-istess mod. Bdejt b-Prologu bħala d-daħla u kull att qassamtu fuq għaxar snin, per eżempju s-snin Erbgħin għaqqadtu mal-Ħamsinijiet għax tlett snin kull ma kien hemm ta' l-Erbgħinijiet u wara iddedikajt kull att għal għaxar snin tas-Sittin, Sebghin eċ.*

*Barra dan, f'kull att tajt ħarsa lejn il-palk, ir-radju u t-*

televiżjoni. Bdejt billi mort lura lejn żmien il-Kavallieri, pinzellata ħafifa biex naraw kif nibtet id-drama f'pajjiżna. Semmejt ħafna postijiet ta' divertiment fosthom *Ix-Chalet*, *ir-Rockyval*, *Strada Stretta*, *Café Premier*, *il-Vernon* u oħrajn kif ukoll *I-Opra* u *ċ-Ċinema*. Ma dan kollu għaddejja il-karriera tiegħi u tal-familja tiegħi fuq il-Palk.

Fir-ritratt ta' quddiem tal-ktieb tidher Josephine Mahoney fil-parti ta' Claudia Procula, fuq sfond tat-Teatru Manoel. Disinn tal-qoxra fuq idea originali ta' Patrick Farrugia.

## MUSIC STUDENTS GRADUATE AT THE MALTA SOCIETY OF ARTS

LCM EXAMINER, MR HUGH SUTTON, PRESENTING A STUDENT DIPLOMA.

Forty-five students have recently graduated from the **London College of Music** at a ceremony held at the **Malta Society of Arts** in Valletta.

The graduands were awarded **Diploma certificates** in a variety of music subjects from the international examinations board, which offers graded and diploma qualifications in music, drama and communication. The graduation ceremony was attended by the students themselves, their teachers, as well as their families and friends. The evening took place at the imposing building of the Malta Society of Arts within the **Palazzo de la Salle**, which happens to be the same venue where students sit for the LCM exams throughout the month of May.



The MSA has been the local representative of the LCM for the past 90 years, and is a long-standing partner of the music college, which is renowned for its excellence and innovation. Before the certificates were handed out, the attendees were treated to a programme of musical performances, which included works from composers like **Piazzolla** performed by a clarinet student and **Prokofiev, Brahms** and **Liszt** performed by piano students.

*Image: MSA President, Perit Adrian Mamo, presenting a student Diploma.* After the performances, the evening proceeded with a

short speech by the newly-elected President of the Malta Society of Arts, **Perit Adrian Mamo**, followed by the handing out of the certificates and a few words by the examiner from the LCM, **Mr Hugh Sutton**.



The Diploma certificates were awarded for a wide range of instrument performance, including pianoforte, violin, clarinet, flute, bass trombone and trumpet. Certificates in Theory of Music and Composition were also given out to several students.

*Image: The Graduates at Palazzo de La Salle in Valletta. The evening was compèred by **Marika Azzopardi**, a member of the MSA's committee.*



## FESTA RIZZI 2016

The second edition of **Festa Rizzi** will return through the organisation of **Ta' Xbiex Local Council** on the **11th June** at the **Yacht Marina** parking area from **6pm** onwards.

This festival aims to celebrate the local sea urchin and seafood produce, where crustacean lovers can gather to enjoy both traditional and contemporary dishes prepared by 6 different kitchens and chefs, including the launch of the **sea urchin pizza**. The event will also feature a traditional crafts section, a childrens' play area and other forms of entertainment.

Ta' Xbiex Mayor **Max Zammit** remarked, "After last year's success and massive attendance, we felt the importance of investing in such an event by improving the product and service being offered, in order to make this festival ideal for families and people of all ages. One will be impressed with the variety of dishes and delicacies that will be prepared fresh on the day, all in line with the environment protection act." **ENTRANCE IS FREE.**



