

## THE JOURNAL OF THE MALTESE DIASPORA

## MALTESE NEWSLETTER

OUR MOTTO: BUILDING BRIDGES

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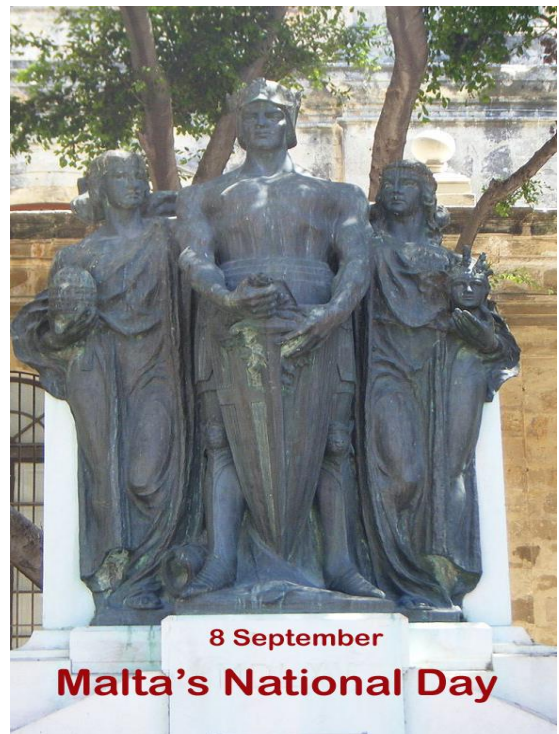
## 8 September - Il-Vitorja

## One of the most important national holidays in Malta

**Il-Vitorja** (meaning Victory Day) is one of five national holidays in Malta. It is celebrated on the 8th of September and commemorates important events for the Maltese Islands.

The events that are commemorated on this day are the:

- Victory of the **Great Siege of Malta** by the Knights of Malta and the Maltese people on the Ottoman Empire. This happened in 1565.
- Victories **against the Italians**. These victories occurred during the Second World War, specifically in 1943.
- The Maltese people's **rebellion against French troops** in Malta which happened in September 1800.
- The 8th of September also has a religious significance since it is connected to the **nativity of Mary** (this day is remembered universally by the Catholic Church). Religious feasts are in fact celebrated in Senglea, Mellieha, Naxxar and Xaghra on this special day.



**Victory Day Celebrations and Events** - Celebrations on Victory Day include the **laying of wreaths** at Fort St. Angelo (Vittoriosa) and on the Great Siege of Malta monument in Valletta.

*(Picture above) Great Siege of Malta monument located in Republic Street in Valletta*

In the afternoon, thousands of people head to the Grand Harbour to watch and follow the **traditional Regatta races**. Races usually start at around 2.00pm. These boat races are very competitive and participants would have been preparing and training for them all year long.

If you're visiting Malta around this time and love boat races, then the Vitorja Regatta races are a definite must see for you!

In the evening *Misraħ l-Assedju* in the capital of Malta, Valletta is usually transformed into a cultural centre of **musical and literature performances**.



## OUR LADY QUEEN OF VICTORIES

Archbishop of Melbourne Mgr. Denis J. Hart

I am delighted to join you on this Malta's national day, so dear to the hearts of the Maltese people. Like you, I come to express my devotion to Our Lady on the Feast of her Nativity, to commemorate the great moments in Malta's history when Our Lady has strengthened and interceded for the people of Malta, and to pay tribute to the Maltese spirit. The Maltese are indeed a missionary people. They have carried their proud traditions and their great love for Our Lord and his Mother over the seas, bringing them here to us in Melbourne. You enrich the spiritual life of our Archdiocese with this great celebration today and I am privileged to join you in honouring il bambina, Our Lady of Victory.

Our Lady has been with the people of Malta in their deepest sorrows and in their greatest joys. Under the title of Our Lady of Victory the Maltese people acknowledge Mary's intercession in 1565 when their island was threatened by invasion and again throughout the Second World War when the people of Malta withstood siege and the threat of total defeat. Faith in God and in the prayers of his Mother — Queen of Victory and Queen of Peace — supported the heroic Maltese effort in the past. It supports the Maltese still, wherever they are.

I know that for many of you must be filled with memories of the place of your birth, or of your parents' birth. The celebrations in Malta bind together whole communities in an acknowledgment of their identity and of their love of Mary. But here in Melbourne too we can take part fully in today's feast. Indeed, by bringing your national feast day to Melbourne you make it our feast day. It is a day when all of us can learn a little about your island home — and can learn too from your great devotion to the Blessed Virgin. Mary never ceases to pray for her children and wherever we find Mary we find the Lord. She is with him now in heaven and this victory of Our Lord and Our Lady over death is greater even than the victories she won for the people of Malta in past days.

So our thoughts turn to Catholic Malta and to Catholic Maltese wherever they are. On his historic visit to Malta last year the Holy Father said: 'I shall not forget the people of Malta.' We pray today with Pope John Paul that the Maltese, and all God's people, will grow in their attachment to Our Lady. And as her sons and daughters, may we all come home to Mary and to her divine Son on that great day when the Lord will make his victory complete..

### *Stedina - Festa tal-Vitorja f'Sydney*

**Il-Fathers Maltin jixtiequ jistiednu lill-Kommunita Maltija ghall-festa tradizzjonali tal-Vittorja, nhar il-Hadd 11 ta' Settembru 2016.**

**Fis-2.30 p.m. tibda l-purcissjoni fejn jinghad ir-Ruzarju, wara tibda l-quddiesa kkoncelebrata fil-Kattidral ta' St Mary College Street Sydney.**

**Il-Predikatur, ser ikun Rev Fr Dominic Sultana**

**Dawk il-familji li ghandom xi tfal jew zghazagh li jkun jridu jilbsu kostum Malti jew tal-precett, biex jimxu fil-purcissjoni fil-Kattidral, ghandom icemplu lil Antoinette Mascari 9899 1938 jew 0438 639 986**

**Grazzi lil kull min dejjem attenda ghal din il-festa.**

**Fr Tarcisio Micallef MSSP** Chaplain for the Maltese Community in the Archdiocese of Sydney.

## Il-veterani tal-aħħar gwerra jzommu l-appuntament mal-Konvoj ta' Sta Marija – minn Doris Zammit, MALTA



**Din is-sena 2016 jaħbat is-74 anniversarju minn dik il-ġrajja ta' niket u tama li tnizzlet bid-dmugħ ta' ferħ fl-istorja ta' pajjiżna meta l-Madonna għal darb'ohra salvat lil Malta mill-ġuħ u t-traġedji tal-gwerra.** Kien nhar it-13 ta' Awwissu tal-1942, meta tlieta mill-erbatax-il vapur tal-Konvoj irnexxielhom jidhlu fil-port il-kbir. Imbagħad nhar il-15 ta' Awwissu 1942, waslu bil-mod fil-Port il-Kbir it-tankers l-aktar li baqgħu magħrufa l-*Brisbane Star* u l-*Ohio*, l-aktar tanker li kien milqut bil-bombi. Minkejja dan, l-*Ohio* xorta rnexxielu jidhlo fil-Port u jgħib l-ikel u l-petrol li kellhom bżonn il-Maltin. Permezz ta' dan il-Konvoj il-Maltin rnexxielhom ma jcedux għall-ghadu.

Ma jistax jonqos li l-Maltin ferħu ħafna dakinhar li daħal dan il-Konvoj fil-Port il-Kbir u ħargu jittawlu minn fuq is-swar tal-Belt biex jifirhu u jxejru lil dawn il-vapuri deħlin fi gżiritna. Huma ħassew li t-talb tagħhom kien fl-aħħar instema'. Għall-Maltin dan kien jum memorabbli u billi l-15 ta' Awwissu kienet taħbat il-festa tat-Tluġħ is-sema tal-Madonna, dan il-Konvoj baqa' magħruf bħala **l-Konvoj ta' Santa Marija** uffiċjalment magħruf ukoll bl-isem tal-kodiċi tiegħu Operation Pedestal. M'għandix dubju li l-Maltin jafu li l-1945 il-gwerra giet fi tmiemha.

**Ritratt: Doris Zammit u Chrales Coleiro waqt ic-ceremonja Lejla ta' Tifkira** Għaldaqstant nhar il-Ħamis, 11 ta' Awwissu, quddiem il-Knisja Ta' Liesse fil-Belt Valletta, saret commemorazzjoni li fakkret din il-ġrajja taħt il-patroċinju tal-

Ecċellenza tagħha, l-President ta' Malta, Marie Louise Coleiro Preca. Din il-Lejla ta' Tifkira, giet organizzata mill-Appostolat tal-Baħar, u l-kappillan tal-Knisja ta' Liesse fil-Belt Valletta u tal-Freeport, Fr Joe Borg, b'kollaborazzjoni u s-sehem tant apprezzat tal-Veterani tal-Aħħar Gwerra – il-“World War II Veterans” u Malta Command WW11 Living History Group. Barra l-Eċċ. Tagħha l-President ta' Malta fost il-mistiednin għal din il-kommemorazzjoni, attendew ukoll rappreżentanti tal-Gvern, u entitajiet oħra, membri tal-Korp Diplomatiku, l-Assoċjazzjoni tal-Veterani tal-Gwerra u l-pubbliku in ġenerali.

Il-programm kien jinkludi diversi temi li jfakkruna f'din il-ġrajja, fosthom it-tqegħid tal-fjuri fuq il-mafkar li hemm fil-pjazza quddiem il-knisja ta' Liesse minn diversi rappreżentanti tal-gvern u tal-korp diplomatiku u entitajiet oħra wara li żewġ kadets fuq *patrol boat* li tkun ankrata ftit 'barra mill-moll tefgħu kuruna tal-fjuri fil-baħar f'isem l-appostolat tal-baħar biex jiġu mfakkra dawk li mietu fuq il-baħar waqt il-qadi ta' dmirijiethom.

Saret ukoll iċ-ċerimonja tradizzjonali li fethet bil-Gun Salute, bil-kortesija tal-Malta Command WWII Living History Group, *Il-Last Post*, u *r-Reveille* minn membri tal-Forzi Armati ta' Malta u tkantaw xi innijiet li daħhluna aktar fl-ispirtu ta' din it-tifkira.

**Dar għas-sapport spiritwali u materjali lill-baħrin** Intant il-qofol ta' din iċ-ċerimonja kienet ukoll l-inawgurazzjoni u tberik tad-dar il-ġdida li giet restawrata u modernizzata u li qed isservi bħala ċ-Ċentru Nazzjonali għall-Appostolat tal-Baħar u li se tkun magħrufa bħala Dar M.V.Moor, imsemmija għall-bastiment li għereq fit-8 ta' April 1941, meta ħabat ma' mina. Mid-29 baħri Malti li kien hemm fuqu kien baħri wieħed biss, il-buġhaddas Toni Mercieca li salva.



## Maltese Newsletter 131 Doris Zammit - Malta

Edizzjoni mimlija daqs bajda, interessanti bħal dejjem u informattiva ħafna. Meta naqra dwar xi Maltin f'xi pajjiżi madwar id-dinja, jiġuni ħafna memorji u nostalgija għall-programmi li kont intella' fuq Television Malta dwar il-Maltin li jgħixu madwar id-dinja. Kif taf Frank, jien stajt ntella' programmi dwar Maltin madwar id-dinja kollha barra mill-Awstralja għax hemmhekk kin hemm programm ieħor.

Fost il-pajjiżi fejn mort u intervistajt lill-Maltin, kien hemm il-Kanada (u illum qed naqra dwar Larry Attard, li kont intervistajtu), u mhux Toronto biss imma sa Powel River, Vancouver u Nova Scotia. Żort l-Amerika, il-Brażil, il-Greċja (b'mod speċjali f'Korfu fejn iltqajt u intervistajt lis-sorijiet Maltin, u anke lill-Isqof ta' dioxidenza Maltija kif ukoll lill-konslu ta' Korfu li wkoll huwa ta' dioxidenza Maltija - fil-ħarġa tal-lum hemm ukoll dwar l-ewwel Maltin hemmhekk), New Zealand, Franza, Tuneżija, Ruma, u l-Ingilterra.

Kien diġà kelli preparamenti lesti u kuntatti ma' Maltin f'Ġibiltà, u f'Valenzja fi Spanja, imma s-sensiela Baqgħu Maltin qatt ma reġgħet rat id-dawl.

Barra minhekk illum qed naqra storja dwar Agnese minn Ғal Qormi li kienu magħrufa bħala tal-Aringu. Forsi lil Agnese ma nafhiex, imma niftakar sew lill-pittur, u lil ... li kienu jgħidulu t-Tram għax jgħidu li kien laqtu t-tram meta kien għadu jaħdem f'Malta u anke niftakar lil Melita.

Incidentalment il-familja tal-Aringu kienu joqgħodu żewġ bibien 'l fuq mid-dar tagħna (fi Triq San Bastjan). Fil-fatt il-bejt tagħna u tal-Aringu huma ma' xulxin. Illum id-dar tal-familja tal-Aringu, hija ħanut, is-Sunflower Stationery. Imbagħad tgħid kjif jiġu l-kumbinazzjonijiet!!

Prosit tat-tagħrif li għaddejtilna u tal-memorji sbieh li ġibtli.

## L-INNU MALTI



**Lil din l-art ħelwa, l-Omm li tatna isimha,  
 Ғares, Mulej, kif dejjem Int ħarist:  
 Ftakar li lilha bil-oħla dawl libbist.  
 Agħti, kbir Alla, id-dehen lil min jaħkimha,  
 Rodd il-ħniena lis-sid, saħħa 'l-ħaddiem:  
 Seddaq il-għaqda fil-Maltin u s-sliem.**

## Maltese Buses: A trip down memory lane



The 2nd of July 2011 was the last working day of the traditional **Maltese buses**. What looked like something that would never happen, "suddenly" materialized!

*Birgit Daiminger shared these stunning pictures of a typical classic Maltese bus*

### Remembering ...

- the beautifully hand painted "**welcome aboard**" signs at the bus entrance.
- the stickers, statues, photos, rosary beads, a horn (or two, one can never be too careful with the evil eye), small curtains ... these were all part of the "furniture" in the **driver's cabin**! And yes a statue of St. Mary right next to a mini poster of a famous topless model can co-exist ... they definitely did on Malta buses anyway!
- bus drivers can have **pets** too! Usually a bird in a tiny cage placed strategically somewhere in the driver's cabin, so the driver can hear the bird sing ... whether the bird actually ever opened its mouth (or beak in this case) is an entirely different story!
- the untouchable **jammed windows** ... try to open these windows and you die (at least that's the message that one could see in some of the drivers' eyes if you made the slightest attempt at opening them!)
- the **music** ... anything from the latest summer hits to the driver's favourite festa marches or football anthems.
- impromptu **refueling stops** or wait for it ... a quick **pastizzi stop** where the driver suddenly stops the bus, jumps out of the cabin and disappears ... only to come back a couple of minutes later with half a dozen pastizzi! All this while the bus is still in service.
- the fascinating ability of some of the passengers to suddenly go deaf and ignore the driver completely when he yells "**Full Up!**" ... this resulting in the driver yelling even more, this time round like a mere madman "I said FULL UP!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!"
- and perhaps the No. 1 shocker ... in summer, some bus drivers used to drive their bus **barefoot**!

**Thank you dear old Maltese buses ... we still miss your charm, quirkiness and bright vivid colours terribly!** <http://www.maltabulb.com/maltese-buses.html>



*Image from flickr.com*

**The Maltese still love outdoor living especially on a hot summer evening**

## Passing Out Parade for 72 new soldiers



The Armed Forces of Malta ceremoniously welcomed seventy two new soldiers following a successful four month recruitment program. The seventy two recruits include nine females and ten Gozitans.

Eighty one recruits commenced their military experience in April, following a call for enlistment, as published in the Government Gazette on the 19th June 2015.

The seventy two successful recruits proudly displayed the skills they learned throughout

their recruitment programme during the Passing Out Parade. In his speech, Commander of the Armed Forces of Malta, Brigadier Jeffrey Curmi praised the work conducted by AFM training staff, without whom, this could have never been a success.

Over the past months, the AFM invested significantly in training its personnel enabling further career advancements in the AFM. He also thanked the recruits for their dedication and perseverance and also thanked their families and friends for their support.

Before being given the privilege to train as recruits, all candidates who applied underwent an extensive filtering process consisting of a physical fitness assessment, an interview and a complete medical examination. Those chosen underwent an intensive recruitment regime consisting of eighteen weeks of basic military training.

The Passing Out Parade signifies the attainment of the required standard necessary to prepare each soldier for the demands of military life. Training School staff, under the guidance of the Training Branch and the fourth Regiment, put all recruits through numerous tests to evaluate the strength of character, team spirit, motivation and determination.

All recruits went through extensive training in weapon handling skills, marksmanship and ceremonial drill, first aid and map reading and various other subjects. Military Law, International Humanitarian Law, Military Ethos, Radio Voice Procedure and various other life skills were also taught. They will now be posted to the various units of the AFM according to the exigencies of the service, whether on land, at sea or in the air.

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**MALTESE NEWSLETTER**

The Journal of the Maltese Diaspora



Preserved at the Malta Migration Museum  
and on [www.ozmalta.page4.me](http://www.ozmalta.page4.me)

## Eat Like a Local with this Delicious 'Ftira' Recipe

Written by Sabine on 14 July 2016 The Maltese **Ftira** is something that the Maltese hold dearly as part of their history and culture. A disc-shaped semi-flat bread made with flour, water and salt is reminiscent of a ciabatta in both texture and taste, but is uniquely different at the same time. The Maltese **ftira** makes for a simple, fast and delicious snack, especially when filled with the right fresh ingredients. If you're thinking of booking flights to Malta and want to experience the island like a local then a **ftira** sandwich is a must-try!



**Ftira**, like most simple bread foods around the world, takes its origins from the working people hundreds of years ago who made the most of the resources they had. Most towns and villages in Malta had a communal oven at the time where everyone from the area would bake their breads. The communal ovens may have been lost through the ages but the delectable **ftira** bread that was made there certainly hasn't.

The process involved in making a **ftira** sandwich can be quite time-consuming, especially if you want to make it from scratch. Luckily though, every bakery you come across on the island will sell it. All you need to do is fill it with traditional Maltese fillings, and like most things in life, it's what's on the inside that counts. In Malta, the most typical

**ftira** sandwich is that of **hobz biż-żejt**, which literally translates to "bread with oil" but it is so much more than just that.

To make **hobz biż-żejt**:

- First, take the **ftira**, slice it in half and dip the slices in olive oil until they are covered in a generous coating of oil. Maltese olive oil is some of the best in the world so don't be tempted to eat it as is!
- Next, you'll need fresh tomatoes. Slice the tomatoes in half and rub the cut side over the bread until it's red.
- Sprinkle to taste with sea salt and pepper
- After this you can add anything that tickles your fancy. Typically, ingredients such as pickled capers, ripe olives, tuna, and pickled onion are added.
- An abundance of other ingredients such as sundried tomatoes and lettuce can also be added.
- Every locality has its own preferences so be creative and come up with something that appeals to you. And there you have it: an easy, delicious snack that you can enjoy wherever you are – perfect for a day at the beach!

# OUR LADY OF VICTORIES

## HORSLEY PARK

# PARISH FEAST

## SUNDAY 18th

## SEPTEMBER 2016



2PM - PROCESSION  
3PM - FEAST MASS  
4PM - FESTIVAL

DANCE GROUP N-E-S-T PERFORMING LIVE

RIDES | FIREWORKS | BBQ | WOODFIRE PIZZA

ENTERTAINMENT | CAKES | HOT CHIPS

CAR SHOW | PASTA | CHOCOLATE WHEEL

STALLS | YOUTH SOCCER MATCH

## Joe Zammit Cordina: the only Maltese in the Midnight Express credits, who spoke Maltese instead of Turkish



"It's an American game. Baseball." The Customs scene notorious with the Maltese.

"What's this?" asks the gruff customs officer as he rummages through a brown leather satchel. The traveller, beads of sweat glistening on his face, tells him that the circular piece of plastic the officer has taken out of his bag is a Frisbee. The official remains perplexed by the object. Gesturing to his co-worker, Frisbee still in hand, he seeks further clarification.

"It's an American game. Baseball," explains his colleague. And at this the customs official is satisfied, leaving the passenger free to board his flight. Taken from the Oscar-winning *Midnight Express*, this exchange unfolds between Brad Davis as Billy Hayes and two Maltese actors, **Joe Zammit Cordina** and **George Portelli**, both of whom play nameless customs officers in this airport scene.

For most Maltese people, this is probably one of the most notorious moments in cinema and perhaps remains within the national consciousness due mainly to its sheer incongruity: not only are these Maltese actors speaking their own language in a big-budget foreign feature film that doesn't have any subtitles, but according to the logic of the narrative, they are meant to be speaking Turkish.

Much has been written elsewhere about the representation of the Turkish people in *Midnight Express*. There's no use adding to the debate. But an element of on-location shooting that is often neglected can serve a variety of functions when incorporated into a film's text. In relation to *Midnight Express*, Joe Zammit Cordina was one of Malta's first casting agents for film and television.

"We're not just talking about local film and TV," says his nephew Henry Zammit Cordina, of *Hbieb* and *Għedewwa* fame. "In the 1960s and 1970s, there were many foreign productions that used Malta as a location, and my uncle was the obvious choice when it came to casting, because he was the only one on the island who provided this service."

The actor, who passed away in 2004, was integral to the casting process on *Midnight Express* through Malta Talent Artistes. While Sir Alan Parker maintains that he chose every extra individually, filtering hundreds of Polaroids of applicants, it was Mr Zammit Cordina who helped secure many of the individuals in the film. Many of the extras cast were from the Valletta area.

Besides assisting in the casting process, Mr Zammit Cordina was an actor in his own right. Any Maltese cineaste will recall his Frisbee scene. According to his nephew, Mr Zammit Cordina was originally meant to say his lines in Turkish. "He spent a long time memorising his lines. He spent 12 hours on set waiting for his scene to be filmed. Before they started to shoot, my uncle blanked out completely and couldn't remember his lines."

Curiously, his nephew adds, years later Mr Zammit Cordina could recite his lines in Turkish as they were meant to have been. "But at that moment he blanked, and Alan Parker said, 'Don't worry Joe. Just say it in Maltese. No one will understand anyway.'" Luckily there are some of us who do, and for the Maltese out there, this scene provides much light relief in a dark film.



## HISTORY AND ORIGIN OF THE MCAST

### The Malta Council for Science and Technology



The origins of the building that hosts MCST dates back to the 1675 when Fra Giovanni Bichi, had bought a piece of land and built a Villa for his own use, after his retirement. The plan of the villa was designed by the then celebrated architect Lorenzo Gafa' of Vittoriosa. Unfortunately, Giovanni Bichi did not survive to see the place finished and the villa passed into the possession of his nephew the Knight Fra Mario Bichi. On the latter's demise in 1712, the "garden and palace of Sso. Salvatore" was purchased by Bailiff Fra Giovanni Sigismondo Count of Schaesberg. The property again reverted to the Bichi's in

1718 when it was occupied by another Fra Giovanni Bichi. By the time of his death in 1740, the estate had become known as Villa Bichi, later distorted to Villa Bighi. It actually appears that the first person to refer to the place as Bighi instead of Bichi was Sir Alexander Ball in 1799.

When the French invaded Malta in 1798, Villa Bichi is said to have been occupied for a short while by Napoleon Bonaparte; however, there is no written evidence that the French General ever stayed there. Nonetheless, owing to the rising of the Maltese against the French and the latter's blockade inside the fortifications of Valletta and the Three Cities, the Villa was abandoned and much of its woodwork was carried away by the insurgents.

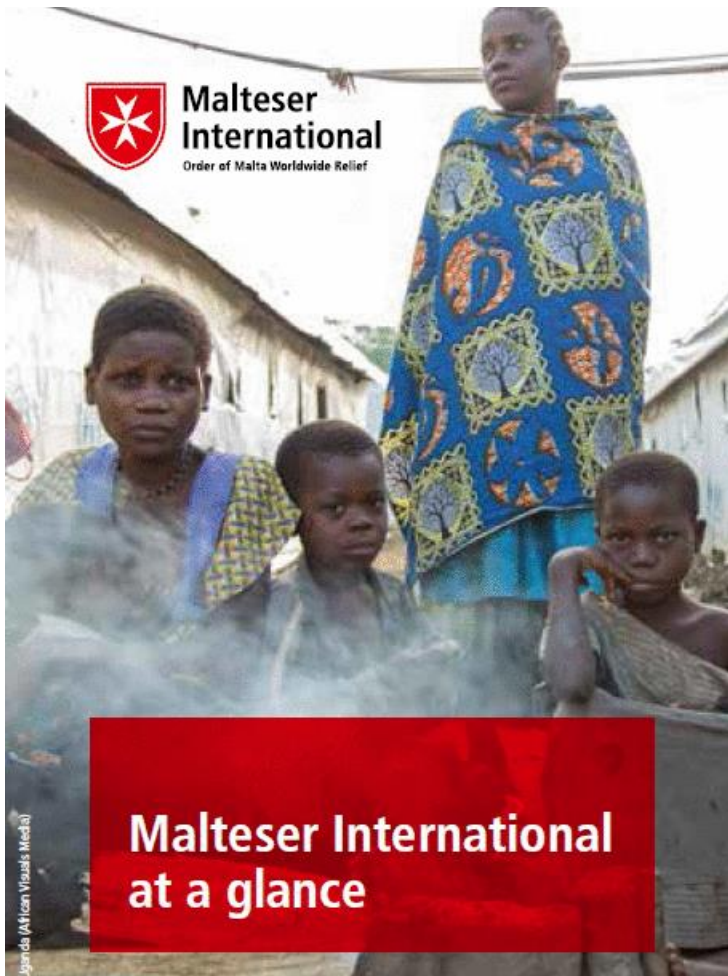
When Great Britain assumed the protection of these islands in 1800, the Villa passed into the hands of the Civil Government, the property being let out to private individuals on a yearly basis. In 1827 King George IV gave permission to the Admiralty so that a hospital could be then constructed for the fleet's requirements and the site was taken over. On March 23rd, 1830, when Major General Fred Cavendish Ponsoby was Governor of Malta, Vice Admiral Sir P. Malcolm laid the foundation stone of the new hospital at Bighi. It is difficult to sort out with certainty who did what at Bighi but the combined efforts of Sir George Whitmore, Salvatore Xerri and Gaetano Xerri and perhaps others have produced a very pleasing ensemble which has now graced the Grand Harbour for over a century and a half.

During the Second World War, the Hospital was well within the target area of the heavy bombing since it was surrounded by military establishments. A number of its buildings were damaged or destroyed, including the x-ray theatre, the East and West Wings, the Villa and the Cot Lift from the Bighi Jetty to the Hospital. In September 1970, Bighi Hospital had its doors shut for the last time. In 1977 the ex-Senglea Trade School occupied the East Wing and the Villa, while the other parts were occupied by a secondary school.

In 1980 a new road complex was constructed passing from Kalkara through Villa Portelli's gardens up through the Bighi site and down to Rinella. In 1984 the Villa was abandoned due to dangerous ceilings and the Trade School was moved to the West Wing. Other buildings in the Hospital complex, and the extensive gardens, were demolished or lost when the Housing estate to the south was built in the 1980's. In 2010 the then government encouraged the transformation of the West Wing, Zymotic, Cot Lift, Chaplin's House and Mental Ward into a national interaction Science Centre. Known as ESPLORA, the center is expected to open for the general public in 2016. The villa itself continues to house the offices of the Malta Council for Science and Technology since 2002.

## MALTESER INTERNATIONAL

### 60 YEARS OF HUMANITARIAN RELIEF



#### ***Our Vision: A life in health and dignity for all***

We are the worldwide humanitarian relief agency of the **Sovereign Order of Malta**. Our mandate is to provide relief and recovery during and following conflicts and disasters. We are primarily active in the field of health, in which we have almost 60 years of continuous experience.

Christian values and humanitarian principles form the foundations of our work: bringing aid to people regardless of their religion, background, or political convictions at over **100 Projects** in more than **20 countries**.

**Our approach** We provide **emergency relief** in crises such as natural disasters, epidemics, or armed conflicts. During acute crises, teams from Malteser International are on the ground as soon as possible to provide emergency medical care, and ensure the supply of food and other essential aid materials as needed. From the very beginning, the rebuilding and recovery of the affected area is one of our essential considerations. Wherever possible, we also provide transitional aid and assistance to reduce the risk of future disasters - remaining present long-term at

the scene of more protracted crises.

**Offering solutions for the future** Supporting the health of the person in an integrated way is the central aim of our work. We aim not just to treat patients, but also to tackle the root causes of sickness in their environment. We do this by establishing functioning medical structures, and protecting health by ensuring people have access to adequate nutrition, as well as water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH). This integrated approach also encompasses providing measures to improve the mental health of people affected by the trauma of conflict and disaster.

Climate change, armed conflict, population displacement, and poverty all work together to make the modern world an increasingly complex environment for humanitarian aid. As an aid organization, we have the challenge of developing new and sustainable solutions to help people in need. We take a holistic approach to our work: seeking to strengthen the resilience of people in especially vulnerable regions against future crises. Accordingly, Disaster Risk Reduction plays a central role in our projects.

**FIREWORKS IN MOSTA** ; In the Newsletter 131 it was reported that Noel Galea was the mastermind and manufacturer of the big set fireworks set piece in Rotunda Square. We have been notified that the name of the person concerned is Noel Gauci. Editor

## With its roots firmly in folklore and religion, the Maltese Islands celebrate a long history of dependence entwined with modernisation.



Over the past half century, this little **Mediterranean** island, freshly self-determining after a long history of colonisation and dependence, achieved a great deal in the way of modernisation. Much of the progress was achieved at break-neck speed, including an advanced infrastructure, well-developed industries like financial services, IT, and others. While much of this may come as a surprise to first time visitors, this transformation has

not eliminated the core elements of **Malta's** cultural identity – **its customs and traditions**.

Largely rooted in rural folklore and religion, Maltese customs are still clearly visible in everyday life, most notably, the village festa. This celebration of the local village's patron saint started over five centuries ago, during the reign of the Knights of St. John, and till today, brings with it a colourful cacophony of Mediterranean boisterousness. Possibly the most well known is the Feast of St. Peter and St. Paul, or Mnarja. This highlight of the cultural calendar is celebrated in the wooded area of Buskett, and features animal and agricultural displays, traditionally cooked rabbit, and għana – a traditional type of Maltese music.

Traditional life starts early on in Malta. The vast majority of babies are still baptised into the Roman Catholic faith, and this celebration usually involves a not so intimate gathering with family, friends, and of course, food. Shortly after, usually on a child's first birthday, the Maltese practise a little-known tradition called the il-quċċija, which involves the child crawling towards a collection of objects while family and friends encourage the child to pick something. The tradition dictates that the selected object is representative of the child's future career. Objects typically include rosary beads, indicating an ecclesiastical calling, a hardboiled egg, symbolising prosperity, as well as more modern inclusions such as a calculator symbolising a career in finance.

Other religious sacraments are celebrated with the same gusto, including the First Holy Communion, which sees the child dressed in flamboyant, angel-like attire and is always followed by a party in the child's honour. This celebration is closely followed the sacrament of Confirmation, which has a similar celebratory style.

Weddings are a big affair in Malta. In fact, the Island has recently started including wedding tourism as part of its offering to visitors. However, the traditional Maltese wedding is still alive and kicking. Although there have been some modifications throughout the years, the core concepts are still practised: ceremonies are almost always held in a church while celebrations are held afterwards, usually in wedding halls or one of the Islands' many gardens. The bride and groom distribute small trinkets or presents as a sign of thanks and as a small memento for their guests. Food is a major part of the celebrations, and in particular, sweets. Maltese weddings almost always feature perlini – a candy coated almond sweet of Sicilian origin..

## The President of Malta Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca receives Dmitry Ishkhanov



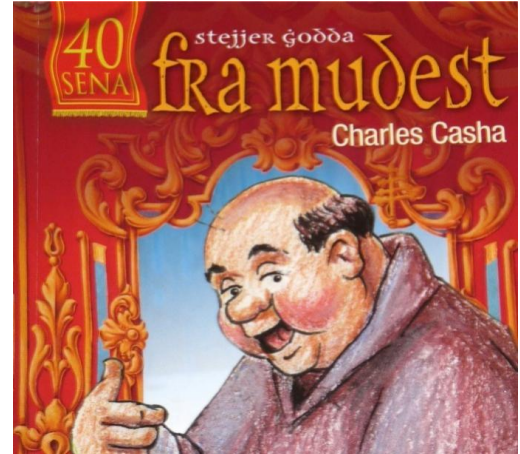
The President of Malta Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca receives Dmitry Ishkhanov, an 11-year-old pianist, on a courtesy call at San Anton Palace. Having moved to Malta together with his family in 2008, Dmitry is currently furthering his studies in Germany. In May Dmitry Ishkhanov performed in a recital at San Anton Palace.

## The Beloved literary friar Fra Mudest

***The bumbling monk Fra Mudest – whom many will remember from Charles Casha's children's stories is nearly 50 years old and his creator remains proud of his contribution to Maltese children's literature.***



Charles Casha - who first gave birth to the Fra Mudest character in a 1967 edition of the magazine Children's Own - flags up the genteel element of the Fra Mudest stories as one of the reasons why the character has remained a cross-generational favourite amongst Maltese readers.



"According to what many readers have told me, the simplicity and humour found in the stories appeals to all: young and old. But principally, it's the character himself who seems to have struck a chord in people's hearts," Casha said.

The genesis of the character was both personal, and accidental. Drawing on his own experience of witnessing friars going around the Maltese islands - "quite a few years back, these friars were a common sight in Malta and Gozo, going around the village asking of alms" - Casha dreamt up the character after the editor of Children's Own tasked him with creating a story based on the name 'Fra Mudest'.

"It was a one-story commission, originally, and the name was supplied by the editor. I was given carte blanche as to how the character and the story were to develop. Instinctively, since I was born and raised in Marsa - where there was a community of monks - I based the characters on what was familiar to me." Casha's Fra endeared himself to readers thanks to his humble and well-meaning - though often accident-prone - manner.

Most of the stories hinge on harmless incidents and misunderstandings. In one story, for example, Fra Mudest gets into a panic because he misunderstands an Irish visitor to the convent when he says that 'the cock is dead' - understanding the accented speech to mean 'the cook is dead'. In another, the Fra accidentally drops some food on the Pirjol's new habit, and promises to wash it by the evening.

But matters are only made worse when Fra Mudest burns the habit as he's ironing it - and his solution only leads to more trouble after he tries to replace the damaged outfit with another that was left behind by another monk, but that proves to be too short.

Asked whether he believes the Fra Mudest stories remain relevant both to children nowadays, and in light of recent developments in the publishing industry, Casha - who has won five awards during his five-decade career - suggested that perhaps, it is the nostalgic nature of the stories that helps them survive throughout changing cultural attitudes and literary trends.

"The stories themselves illustrate life in a small community, which is something that children today are not that familiar with, and so they provide a similar effect to reading a fairy tale. On the other hand, I've often seen children bring over a tattered copy of Fra Mudest which used to belong to their parents. It seems that quite a lot of people hang on to books they loved in their childhood..."

University lecturer and President of the National Book Council of Malta Gorg Mallia described Fra Mudest as heralding in "the birth of modern literature for Maltese children", and attributed the stories' popularity to their genteel milieu - which he compares to the post-war writings of the British author PG Wodehouse, whose characters (Jeeves and Wooster being his most popular) similarly appear to be stuck in a nostalgic era free of any real danger save for minor social embarrassment.

"Fra Mudest follows the traditional gahan character, who is a staple of Maltese folk writings," Mallia said, citing George Zammit's Wenzu u Rozi and Trevor Zahra's Kuncett u Marinton as worthy counterparts.

"I think that Fra Mudest came at a seminal time in the inception of children's literature in Malta and, coupled with the fact that Charles Casha has a good way with prose, the character struck a chord and has remained an iconic presence in that genre," Mallia said, while adding that "the Maltese also like a good laugh, and the more undemanding the reason for the laughter, the better."

I have spent many hours looking around this website ([www.ozmalta.page4.me](http://www.ozmalta.page4.me)) . I'm an Aussie but my Grandfather was Maltese so I guess that means that my roots are in Malta. I found the website very informative and the history amazing. Well done and thank you. And thank you also for the interesting Maltese Newsletter. Regards     Beverley O'Grady O'Grady     Sent from my iPad



## **Britney Spears and her Maltese Connection**

**Ethnicity: English, along with 1/16th Maltese, and small amounts of Scottish, Scots-Irish (Northern Irish), Irish, French, and Welsh**

Britney Spears is an American pop singer-songwriter, dancer, and actress. She is the daughter of Lynne Irene (Bridges) and James Parnell "Jamie" Spears. She is the sister of actress and singer Jamie Lynn Spears. Britney was married to dancer, rapper, model, and actor Kevin Federline.

Britney's maternal grandmother was an English war bride, and one of Britney's maternal great-great-grandfathers was Maltese. Most of the rest of Britney's recent ancestors were American-born, with most of her roots being English, along with Scottish, Scots-Irish (Northern Irish), Irish, French, and Welsh, all of them distant or remote to various degrees..Britney's maternal grandmother was Lilian Irene Portell (the daughter of George Anthony Portelli/Portell and Lilian Esther Lewis). Britney's grandmother Lilian was born in Barkham Road, Tottenham. George was the son of Edward Richard Portelli, who was from Malta, and of Alice Taylor. Lilian was the daughter of James Lewis and Esther Moss. Britney's Maltese great-great-grandfather Edward was the son of Antonio Portelli; it is possible that Edward was of Italian ancestry, like many people on Malta



## Kevin James Borg Swedish Idol

(born 9 June 1986, Floriana, Malta) is a Maltese pop singer who lives and works in Sweden. Borg rose to musical fame as the winner of the fifth series of the Swedish singing competition *Idol* in 2008. He was the third male winner and the first in the show's history to be born outside of Sweden, having moved there exactly one year before he was declared winner.

*Borg was born and raised in Floriana, Malta. He discovered his love for singing as a child when he performed the lead role in the school musical Oliver. His collaboration with composer Jason Cassar led him to participate twice in both the Maltese selection for Eurovision Song Contest and the Malta International TV Song Festival (2006-07). He was a resident singer in the television programme Kalamita (2006-07). Borg has performed with noted Maltese singers Claudia Faniello and Olivia Lewis. **Borg was an footballer, playing for Floriana FC. His grandfather, Lolly De Battista, was the first Maltese footballer to win the Footballer of the Year Award.***

**Idol 2008** In December 2007, Borg moved to Arvidsjaur, Sweden to live with his Swedish girlfriend. In autumn 2008, he auditioned for the fifth season of the Swedish singing contest *Idol*. Although he made it through to the final 12 live finals, Borg was not originally among the competition's front-runners. However, his strong performances caused a rapid growth in his popularity with viewers week by week. After making it to the final 2 and performing at Stockholm's Globen Arena before a live audience of 16,000 people, Borg was declared the fifth Swedish *Idol* on 12 December 2008, defeating Alice Svensson. Throughout the live finals, Borg had never fallen into the bottom three contestants

On 4 March 2009 Borg officially released his album *The Beginning* in Sweden. The album reached no. 3 in the charts in Sweden and was certified gold. Borg also released his second single from the album, entitled *Street Lights*. The single reached no. 10 in Sweden. The album was originally slated for release in February, but since Borg was at that time working on his music video for *Street Lights* the album was pushed back by a week. Borg made a nationwide tour in the spring and summer of 2009 in Sweden. In November 2012 Borg's music single "Christmas Time" placed No. one on Malta's iTunes chart.

He has widened his career as a songwriter/producer having written and produced the hit song Mental Breaker for the [South Korea]n K-Pop group, Block B. The song written by Borg and Marcos Ubeda made it all the way to No 10 on Billboard and other charts. Borg participated again in the Maltese national selection for the Eurovision Song Contest 2013 in Malmo with the song "Needing You", which he wrote and produced together with Simon Gribbe, Danne Attlerud, Thomas Thornholm and Michael Clauss, coming in second place. Borg also wrote and composed the song "Storyline" co-written with Gribbe and Aidan O'Connor.



Maltese Youth SA  
invites you for a  
TRIVIA NIGHT  
on 17 September 2016  
at the Parish Hall  
Henley Beach ROAD, LOCKLEYS SA  
For booking or further information  
Contact: Tessa 0410 890 225 or  
Stacey 0431 419 852

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The Maltese Newsletter  
Journal of the Maltese Diaspora  
supports the MALTESE YOUTH SA

*Every language is the most important language of the world - to its speakers...*

## WATCH YOUR LANGUAGE IT'S DYING

The world's 6004 languages are dying off quickly and up to half of them will probably become extinct during the next century, experts predict. "I call this a catastrophe - the rate of loss of mankind's linguistic diversity," said Michael Krauss of the University of Alaska.

The forces conspiring against native tongues now seem to be largely electronic. Satellite television, cellular telephones and the Internet all let people speak to each other instantly all over the world. However, linguists urge the preservation of small languages as second, or even third, languages, rather than allowing them to be swallowed up by English, Arabic, Spanish, Chinese and other major languages. We should care. The world will be less interesting, less beautiful. It is said that in prehistoric times, humans probably spoke between 10,000 and 15,000 languages. This is now down to about 6000 and dropping fast.

### LISA DARMANIN AND JASON WATERHOUSE



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### Australia wins silver medal

**Rio de Janeiro:** Australia lost a sailing gold medal by one point when a desperate gamble by Argentina at the start of the Macra 17 gold medal sailing race paid off. Australians Jason Waterhouse and Lisa Darmanin celebrate winning the silver medal in the Nacra 17 Mixed class on Day 11 of the Rio 2016 Olympic Games. *Photo: Getty Images*

The pair have been sailing together for eight years, having claimed their first overseas medal together in 2009 winning the ISAF Youth Worlds in Buzios, Brazil. They both grew up on Sydney's Northern Beaches and currently train at Middle Harbour Sailing Club. 2015 was a successful year for Darmanin and Waterhouse, winning the Rio Test Event and finishing second at the World Championships. Darmanin was also named Australian female sailor of the year in 2015. She used to compete in Poetry Eisteddfods (and brought a few trophies home too) Her heritage is 50% Maltese and 50% English, she can almost speak French.



The Maltese  
Contingent at the  
Olympic Games  
Rio2016  
Brazil

# L-ILSIEN MALTI

miktuba minn Malti

Għeżiež ħbieb,

Mela ftit taż-żmien ilu kont qed nitkellem ma' persuna mlaħħqa sew u skużat ruħha talli l-ittrejjiet tiktibhomli dejjem bl-Ingliż, flok bil-Malti. Skużat ruħha għax hasbet li qed tonqosni mir-rispett, imma spjegatli li hi tħossu *handicap* (din hija l-kelma li użat) kbir li ma tafx tikteb bil-Malti.

Fis-sew, niltaqa' ma' ħafna nies kompetenti fis-sugġetti tagħhom u mlaħħqin sew, iżda li, b'xorti ħażina, meta jiġu biex jiktbu xi kitba żgħira bil-Malti, imqar nota qasira, jiktbuha bl-Ingliż għax jaħsbu li jaqgħu għaċ-ċajt jekk meta jiktbu bil-Malti jiehdu xi żball.

Issa ngħiduha kif inhi, il-Malti sa ftit taż-żmien ilu ma kienx mgħallem bħalma jintgħallmu l-ilsna tat-twelid, u b'xorti ħażina kien jintgħallem qisu lsien barrani.

Il-persuna li semmejt qabel spjegatli li meta kienet għadha tifla tal-iskola, kienu jgħallmuhom il-Malti darba fil-gimgha: nhar ta' Gimgha fl-aħħar lezzjoni. U biex tagħqad, f'nofs il-lezzjoni kienet issir bħal *assembly* qasira ... Tistgħu tobsru x'lezzjoni kienet issir!

Jien niftakar li, fl-iskola fejn kont, kienu jgħallmuna kollox bl-Ingliż, u mnalla li għall-Malti inzerajt għalliema tajbin ħafna għax kieku llum...

Dun Karm, li bħal daż-żmien f'Ottubru nfakkru t-twelid u l-mewt tiegħu, ukoll għadda minnha din l-istorja. Biżżejjed ngħidu li sa qabel l-1912 kien jikteb bit-Taljan biss, għax bit-Taljan biss kienu jgħallmuhom u t-Taljan kien għadu l-ilsien uffiċjali. Huwa kiteb l-ewwel poeżija bil-Malti meta kellu 41 sena, imbagħad ma reġa' lura qatt.

Id-diskors fuq kemm jiswja l-Malti ma jfissirx li rridu nbarru l-Ingliż. Anzi, dan l-ilsien internazzjonali għandna bżonnu, u miegħu għandna bżonn ilsna oħra bħall-Franċiż, l-Germaniż u l-Ispanjol. Imma lsienna dejjem jiġi fuq quddiem, u mal-Maltin għandna dejjem nibqgħu nikteb u nitkellmu bil-Malti.

## STAGE AND PROMS ON THE SEA

By The Gozo Youth Wind Band

Friday 9<sup>th</sup> September, 2016 @ 8.30p.m. – Mgarr Marina, Mgarr, Gozo



Following the successful production of the 9<sup>th</sup> Edition of Opera vs Pop Under the Stars by The Gozo Youth Orchestra held on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> August, 2016 at the Ministry for Gozo's Courtyard in Victoria, Gozo, it is now the sister ensemble's turn – The Gozo Youth Wind Band – to present a spectacular

concert titled Stage and Proms on the Sea. Youth musicians hailing from all over Gozo augmented with foreign and Maltese musicians are currently in full swing preparing the 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition of Stage and Proms on the Sea. Stage and Proms on the Sea is reminiscent of London West-End shows and evergreen masterpieces from the Proms. The audience will be able to enjoy a galore of excerpts and medleys from musicals as also classic encores performed in Proms Final Night held at the Royal Albert Hall.

Stage and Proms on the Sea will be held **Friday 9<sup>th</sup> September, 2016** at 8.30 p.m. at the Mgarr Marina, Mgarr, Gozo. Free Entrance (Standing). Optional Premium VIP Designated Seated Area including Welcome Drink and Food available strictly by reservation. Info and reservation: 7942 1611, 9942 1611, [gozowindbandorchestra@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:gozowindbandorchestra@yahoo.co.uk)

This event is being held in collaboration with: Ministry for Gozo, Parliamentary Secretariat for Rights of Persons with Disability and Active Ageing, MTA, J. Portelli Projects, Gozo Culture and Information Office, Coca Cola, Visit Gozo and Mgarr Marina.



**Submitted by Sara**

Well, it's been a little longer since my last blog post because of getting behind from being gone on the islands of Malta, but I will at least be doing two posts about my journey! :-)) I went for spring break with two of my friends from Krakow, Kamila and Anna. Malta very much impressed all of us, and I of course took hundreds...well maybe thousands, of pics, so another thing that took awhile was picking a relatively small selection of photos for the blog - shots that turned out ok and together portrayed best what I experienced on my Mediterranean getaway.

I actually took tons and tons of shots of just views down the streets - there were magnificent and curious, narrow lanes at every turn in Malta's villages and cities, and some of them were also dramatic and steep like the second pic below that was taken in the hilly capital of Valletta. I am always interested in the architecture that is unique to different places, and the cute, colorful rectangular window boxes that I saw all over the Maltese islands star in many of my photos.

A lot of the architectural styles seemed very Italian as well, but Malta is only 55 miles from Sicily, so that makes sense! From afar, the urban areas reminded me of Greece, with a sea of white/light buildings with balconies dominating the view. The landscape was a mixture of desert and tropics, with cacti and palms trees, succulent plants and tiny geckos all sharing the land. Oh, and there were also cats everywhere, but strays in Malta are well taken care of, as we were told, and it was noticeable by how healthy and clean most of them looked. I guess a new program is underway to spay and neuter some of them too. I loved having so many cats around though, as they are fun to snap pix of, haha, especially when they weren't shy!

This mixture of elements and the sheer beauty combined with thousands of years of human history on the islands gave the whole place a feel of being right inside an old fable or even a

blockbuster movie. Despite having certain resemblances to other places, Malta was really like nowhere I had ever seen before, and I was happy about that!

The areas that my friends and I visited were Sliema (where we stayed for the first part of the trip), St. Julian's, the capital city of Valletta, Gzira and the former capital village of Mdina. The last few days were spent on the northern island of Gozo, one of Malta's three main/inhabited islands. I will be writing about that and posting photos from there in the post after this one. Since Malta is not a big place and everywhere can be accessed in no more than 2-3 hours, it makes getting around very simple, especially with the great public transit system.

I would love to go back to Malta again sometime very soon! It felt very homey and comfortable there while at the same time exotic and tropical. One of the official languages is English (along with Maltese), but English seems to dominate, so that made things nice and easy for me! The Euro is also used (Malta is in the European Union), and while I didn't necessarily like that because of the weaker dollar, it was something else familiar to me since I have used it several times before.

## **Dr Klown to start spreading smiles at Gozo Children's Hospital**

**by Gozo News - August 18, 2016**

Dr Klown has announced that as from September 2016, it will start spreading smiles at the Gozo General Hospital children's ward. Dr. Klown is a non-governmental organisation dedicated to provide clown doctor services.

The management of the Gozo General Hospital welcomed the news and also gave its thanks to Dr Klown for the recent donation of two adult size beds to GGH.

The beds were installed at the Paediatric Ward and will be used by the immediate relatives of children receiving inpatient medical care. This will offer comfort and space to rest for parents or guardians assisting their children.



A number of beds were also presented to the Paediatric Wards at Mater Dei, and these donations in Malta and Gozo were made possible through Project 20-20-20, when Chris Mamo, who is an Anglo/Maltese personal trainer, in collaboration with Dr. Klown, earlier this year ran 20 Marathons on 20 consecutive days to raise money for 20 beds.

As part of their expansion in Gozo, Dr Klown are looking for new clown doctors who live in Gozo! If you're interested, then please message them on their facebook page – Dr Klown and they will provide all the necessary

information.

Clown doctors visit children in their beds, or stay with them while they are having treatment. They 'play with the moment' and improvise around each child's situation and interests. Kids are encouraged to join in. Sometimes they just feel like watching. Families and staff are included in the fun.



Dear family and Friends



The birth of Blessed Virgin Mary will be honoured by three special events to be held at the Shrine during the month of September:  
The feast of Our Lady of Vailankanni (Mother of Good Health) is one of them  
You are kindly invited to join with them for the Feast Mass on Sunday 11th Sept 2016 from 1:30PM God Bless

**Msgr Benedict Camilleri**

Director Ta Pinu Shrine BACCHUS MARSH, VICTORIA

This is the 16th Year WE unite again as one Marian Family to celebrate this Great Feast Honoring our Heavenly Mother on Sunday 11th Sept 2016.

There are coaches arranged from different locations, please contact in advance to book your seats. Details on flyer attached.

Every year we find there is an increase in the number of devotees attending this Celebration, so try and use the bus services which will minimize traffic on top of the hill.

The service starts at 1:30PM. You are welcome to come in advance and visit the various Shrines of Mother Mary built by different Nationalities on the hill.

This year being the Year of Mercy, if you have not walked through the Door of Mercy for plenary indulgence this is a great opportunity to walk through the Door of Mercy on top of the Hill.

We will have 3 to 4 priest celebrating mass and hearing confessions. Please prepare yourself and attend confession. We are looking forward to a Spirit filled and Blessed Service.

God Bless you and your Family.

For further information contact Garnet Jacob 9740 8328 / 0411 286 428

## 22 ta' Awwissu 2016 Victoria Il-Ħbieb Isejhu – is-600 ħarġa

Xahar wara xahar, anki f'Awwissu għadha kemm waslitli d-dar ħarġa oħra tal-fuljett Il-Ħbieb Isejhu maħruġ mill-Qasam tas-Subien tal-Museum fin-Nadur. U din irrid ngħid hija ħarġa speċjali għax hija s-600 ħarġa u għeluq il-50 sena li ilha toħroġ bla ma taqta' kull xahar u tasalli regularment id-dar bla ma qatt talbuni xejn tagħha. Naqrah b'dehwa kbira hekk kif jasalli u dejjem insib x'nitgħallim u xi jferraħni għax il-Bord editorjali jinqeda bi stejjer, rakkonti u anedotti li bihom inqeda Esopu biex jgħallim lin-nies ta' żmien u lilna llum, kif ukoll l-Imghallim Divin meta għadda minn parabola għall-oħra biex iwassal il-messaġġ tiegħu. Maż-żmien ħafna minn dan il-materjal ingabar f'ħames volumi b'mijiet ta' stejjer u dawn is-soċi jinsabu fi proċess li jippublikaw is-sitt volum li b'kollox se jkun għabru tliet elef storja li jien tant insib utli meta mmur inkellem xi miġemgħa jew niftaħ fommi minn fuq ir-radio. Ngħid għalija kien il-ħabib tiegħi Anton Mercieca li għal żmien twil kien is-Superjur ħabrieqi ta' dan il-Qasam li għamilni familjari ma' din il-pubblikazzjoni li tassew tiswa mitqulu deheb u li miegħu għaddejt ftit mill-isbaħ snin ta' ħajti meta kont naħdem fiċ-Ċentru tal-Eżamijiet f'Għawdex. Fejn ħalla s-Sur Mercieca illum insibu lis-Sur Joe Camilleri li wkoll qed jagħti iktar minn sehmu biex dan il-Qasam jissokta fit-triq tat-tagħlim lil tant tfal u zghazagh għax bħal Fundatur San Gorg Preci, Joe Camilleri jemmen li t-tagħlim hu l-għajn ta' kull ġid! Kav Joe M Attard – Victoria Għawdex

## MALTA SUMMER CARNIVAL

Many might still consider the event totally unseasonal, but St Paul's Bay is in full swing this weekend to celebrate the summer carnival. The Malta Summer Carnival celebrations are organised by Arts Council Malta with the support of the Valletta 2018 Foundation, the Malta Tourism Authority, and the local councils of St Paul's Bay and Marsaskala.



The event kicked off beneath the main square of Buġibba with the traditional Ġostra during which the competitors climb a greased pole over the sea in an attempt to grab the flag stuck to the end of it. This evening's defile starts from the parking area located at Triq il-Port Ruman, passing from Tourist Street and along the promenade. The parade includes 11 floats, created specifically for this event.

The Malta Summer Carnival aims to give tourists a taste of the carnival tradition, while promoting Maltese culture and history, St Paul's Bay mayor Graziella Galea said. Times of Malta



**FEAST OF ST. VENERA- HIGH STREET** submitted by George Brimmer during his recent his visit to Malta – July 2016