

## THE JOURNAL OF THE MALTESE DIASPORA

## MALTESE NEWSLETTER

OUR MOTTO: BUILDING BRIDGES

Editor: Frank Scicluna Email: [honconsul@live.com.au](mailto:honconsul@live.com.au)MALTA  
PHILHARMONIC  
ORCHESTRA[www.maltaorchestra.com](http://www.maltaorchestra.com)MALTA PHILARMONIC ORCHESTRA  
Events - September 2016

*We are very excited about our new 2016/2017 Season Programme which will be officially launched next month. In the meantime, here is a sneak preview of our September events. For further information, please visit*

**Cliff Zammit Stevens in Concert**



Maltese tenor, Cliff Zammit Stevens has been described as a "Revelation" by the Daily Express and Opera Magazine proclaims that he "shows exceptional promise. Cliff returns to Malta this year to perform a programme featuring music from Mozart, Verdi, Rossini and Tchaikovsky conducted by Philip Walsh and featuring guest singer Nicola Said.

**Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> September 8.00pm Pjazza Teatru Rjal**

**Rockestra**

Under the musical direction of Sigmund Mifsud and the artistic direction of Pawlu Borg Bonaci, this year's Rockestra will feature an impressive line-up of local artists including Mikaela Attard, Lara Dimech, Xarulu and Ivan Grech. The MPO, along with musicians from the Malta Youth Orchestra will take to the stage to perform rock songs from artists such as Metallica, Ozzy Osbourne, David Bowie, Elton John and many more.

**Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> September 8.00pm Malta Fairs & Convention Centre, Ta Qali**

**Independence Day Concert**

Although commonly found in Malta's many band clubs, instruments such as the tuba, saxophone and euphonium rarely find themselves taking centre stage in symphonic concerts. This concert, conducted by the MPO's Principal Conductor Brian Schembri, will feature concerti written for these instruments and performed by talented Maltese soloists. In addition to the three concerti being performed, the orchestra will also present Joseph Vella's "Rebbieña".

**Wednesday 21 September 8.00 pm Pjazza Teatru Rjal**

## *It did my heart good !*



### Ron Borg – South Australia

It did my heart good to see this Logo on your Newsletter brought a smile to my face, knowing that some Maltese Youth are taking steps to revive a Maltese Youth Club in South Australia. Good on them for having the initiative to re-create something vibrant in our Maltese community here in Adelaide.

I can only say that I will be supporting their initiative with all my heart, and I urge all the Maltese Community in Adelaide to do the same, it is a good and wholesome thing that these youths are venturing to do, and it will be good for the community especially our youth.

I can vividly remember when a similarly enthusiastic group of young people, including myself, did the same in 1965, when with the help of the then Maltese Chaplain, we formed the very successful **South Australian Maltese Youth Club**. It was a hard struggle at first, and we found many obstacles, but our zeal and enthusiasm overcame all the hurdles, and our Youth Club became a Smash Hit! The parents saw that it was a wholesome thing that their youth were involved with and after a while we had some terrific support. Our organized Cabarets, (as they were called then!) with Floorshows, our Barn Dances, Our Car Trials & Treasure Hunts, Our great picnics, Our organized Sport teams in Basketball, Soccer & Billyards, and many other innovative ideas. It was GREAT! With our support, this youth Club can be a real asset to our community, so let us back them up and their own enthusiasm will bring about its success! Here's a couple of photos of the original S.A.M.Y.C. committee.

Photo right: Back; Vic Damato- Fr.F.Briffa- Rose Vella- Vic Azzopardi- Joe Galea- Doris Chetcuti- George Parnis

Front Row ; Ron Borg - Johnny Caruana – Michael Dingli



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Malta and Australia





Mr Francis Tabone former High Commissioner for Malta in Australia

### Use our excellent relationship for mutual prosperity

Throughout the 20th century, Malta's relationship with Australia was dominated by the phenomenon of mass migration to that island continent. indeed, the most reliable data shows that there are more than 200,000 Australians who were either Malta-born or of Maltese origin, representing by far the largest Maltese diaspora in the world.

However, as the Maltese economy developed after independence in the mid-sixties, emigration slowed to a trickle. In the first decade of the 21st century, Malta can boast of a diversified economy centred on tourism, pharmaceuticals, electronics, aircraft servicing, information technology and a host of different service industries, including those related to the education, financial and maritime sectors.

Malta acceded to the European Union in 2004 and the pre and post accession processes have inevitably taken centre stage insofar as Malta's foreign relations are concerned. Nevertheless, Valletta recognises that there are many areas in which Australia and Malta can~ cooperate and I am happy to report that there is now a new sense of commitment to explore and exploit every new business opportunity that arises.

### Key drivers in bilateral trade

Over the past five years, two-way merchandise trade between the two countries was of the order of 65 million. Australian imports into Malta consisted of mainly aircraft parts, specialised marine vessels, cheese, curd and margarine products. Maltese exports to Australia were largely made up of electrical machinery, medicaments and medical instruments.

In recent years, Malta's financial services sector has undergone rapid expansion and one major Australian bank has established a subsidiary in Malta to exploit opportunities in the EU. Other established ventures include a solar-water heating manufacturing plant and a call centre related to aviation markets in Europe. The two countries have signed a number of bilateral agreements that facilitate commerce, including agreements on air services and the avoidance of double taxation. It is clear that there is no lack of opportunities for future Australian and Maltese ventures working together, particularly in the penetration of EU markets.



**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

Find us on  
[facebook.com/malteseyouthsa/](https://www.facebook.com/malteseyouthsa/)

**The Maltese Newsletter**  
Journal of the Maltese Diaspora  
supports the **MALTESEYOUTH SA**





## Wollongong Multicultural Mass

Many cultures, One in Christ Mass was celebrated in Wollongong for Migrant and Refugee Sunday on the 28<sup>th</sup> August, 2016 at the St Francis Xavier Cathedral. The Maltese community was well represented among the many other cultural groups. Lawrence Scerri and Lucy Bonanno processed into the Cathedral with the flag of Malta along with many other nationalities of the diocese. The President of the Maltese centre of the Illawarra Louis Parnis read a prayer of the faithful in Maltese and the Maltese Franciscan Sisters of the Heart of Jesus from the convents of Warrawong and Port Kembla sang a Maltese hymn during Holy Communion.

Bishop Peter the main celebrant along with other ethnic chaplains highlighted the need to be the face of Mercy to migrants and refugees. He said, “offer compassion to those suffering from war, terrorism or poverty.” If we call ourselves true Christians then we cannot ignore the plight of these people.” He also talked about those who are in detention centres on Nauru and Manus island and how these people should be welcomed into the Australian society. The bishop

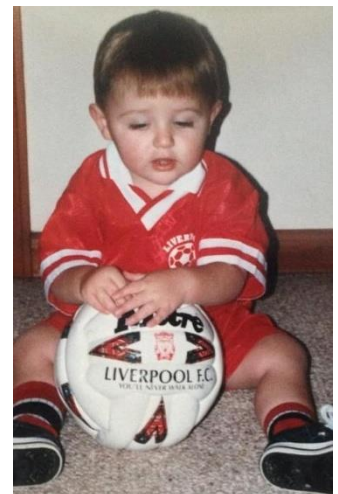
mentioned that we need to humble ourselves to help those vulnerable and less fortunate people; to show them the face of Christ by loving. After the mass there was food sampling from many different nationalities and cultural dances to entertain all at the St Mary Star of the Sea College hall. Photo: Lawrence Scerri and Lucy Bonanno Wollongong Cathedral representing Malta



## Jack William Brimmer

Jack Brimmer was born 3 April 1998. He is an Australian footballer who plays as midfielder in the Liverpool FC Academy, while representing his country in the Australian U-17 side.

Brimmer began to show his skills at the Rowville Sports Academy and with his junior club Nunawading City before joining the FFV NTC program.<sup>[2]</sup> Continuing to impress, Brimmer was in talks of a contract with Melbourne Victory before being spotted by Liverpool FC scout Barry Hunter, and subsequently signed a three-year deal for his childhood team.



Brimmer has featured on numerous occasions for the Australian U-17 side. In September 2014, he scored two goals in a win against Japan, both from free kicks, in the 2014 AFC U-16 Championship.<sup>[4]</sup> He was selected in the Australian squad for the 2015 FIFA U-17 World Cup. Brimmer has been described as an all-action midfielder who is capable of scoring goals, and has a good habit of being in the right place at the right time.

Brimmer is of Maltese ancestry. A boyhood Liverpool fan, he is hoping to make a real impression in the U23s squad during 2016-17.



## THE TOWN OF NAXXAR MALTA

**Naxxar** (Maltese: *In-Naxxar*) is a town in the Northern Region of Malta, with a population of about 13,443 people as of March 2014. The Naxxar Church is dedicated to Our Lady of Victories. The annual village feast is celebrated on 8 September. Naxxar was formerly known for hosting the Maltese International Trade Fair at Maltese International Trade Fair Grounds.

The Naxxar Locality is spread over an area of 11 square kilometres (4 sq mi) and has a population of over eleven thousand persons. The whole locality comprises the Naxxar centre, Sghajtar area, Santa Marija tax-Xagħra, San Pawl tat-Tarġa, Birguma, Magħtab, Salina, Baħar iċ-Ċagħaq and part of Mdliena.

Naxxar is famous for its cart ruts (cart tracks) that curve and twist down the Great Fault escarpment.

It is not easy to determine when Naxxar started to become a village. What is sure is that thousands of years ago, there already existed some form of habitation in Naxxar. This is evidenced by the caves at Tal-Qattara and at Ta' San Brinkaw; megalith remains of the Bronze Age period at Tal-Qadi and at Qaliet Marku; the cart ruts which start at Salina up to it-Tarġa and appear later on near the Ghadira tal-Wej and which are probably of the Bronze Age; Punic tombs at the Naxxar Primary School and it is said also in St George Street and Leli Falzon Street; as well as the Catacombs at Salina and Magħtab.

**Origin of the name:** According to legend and the Bible, the people of Naxxar were amongst the first to help the shipwrecked, including Saint Paul, when the ship he was on went aground on the rocks. For this reason many connect the name Naxxar with Nassar (Nasra) which means 'conversion to Christianity'. The name might alternatively be derived from the Maltese verb "Naxar", which means to hang up clothes. Others insist that the name comes from "Nsara" or "Nazaroei" which means 'those who believe in the teachings of Christ who came from Nazareth and thus "Nozri"'.

Others say that the word Naxxar means 'one who saws, separates or cuts' – it might be worth mentioning that in Naxxar there are a lot of stonemasons. Magri, in his book says that the word naxar comes from "nazar" which in Jewish means "chosen for him" or else "one who keeps to himself". This is because in the vicinity the Arabs had formed a village that they called Hal Muselmiet, which means 'the village of the Muslims'. For this reason the Christians started another village – that of the Christians and so the name of Naxxar.

Although it has never been clearly explained where the name Naxxar originated, it is a clear fact that there is a close tie with the tradition that the people of Naxxar were the first converts to Christianity. In fact the Parish of Naxxar was the first in the Maltese outskirts, after that of the Cathedral (Mdina) and that of Vittoriosa. This is borne out and further evidenced by the village motto – *Prior Credidi* – meaning the First To Believe.

**The parish church:** The Naxxar parish church was one of the ten parishes found to be existing by Bishop De Mello in 1436 and the villages of Mosta and Għargħur were subject to it. De Mello listed it as one of the ten parishes of Malta and it was the first parish dedicated to Our Lady after that of the old cathedral in Mdina. In 1575, the parish of Naxxar had under its control a total of 36 churches – 14 in Naxxar, 5 in Għargħur, 12 in Mosta and 5 in the neighbourhood of these villages. The present church was built between 1616 and 1630 when there were 1200 inhabitants in Naxxar and it was felt that a larger church was needed. The design was made by Tumas Dingli, one of the best architects of the time. The parish priest was Father Gakbu Pace. The choir and the area around it was redesigned in 1691 to the design of Lorenzo Gafà, the same architect who had designed the Mdina cathedral. The parish church was solemnly consecrated by Bishop Alpheran de Bussan on 11 December 1732.

The church has two choirs, the renowned Jubilate Deo choir and its sister children's choir Pueri Cantores Jubilate Deo. The choirs are currently being handled by Christopher Muscat and Daniela Callus respectively. The church also has two transepts and a nave and is 130 feet (40 m) long. The width of the transept is 94 feet (29 m) and the nave 30 feet (9.1 m). The large bell was made by the founder Toni Tanti in 1840 and cost £225. The façade of the church has two clocks, one showing the actual time whilst the other is a painting and shows the time as a quarter to eleven (11.45).

The main painting shows the Birth of Our Lady which is attributed to the school of Mattia Preti (1613-1699) whilst at the side there are two paintings by Stefano Erardi (1650-1733) which show the Flight to Egypt and the Adoration of the Magi. Other paintings which show the Madonna and Child, St Cajetan, St Aloysius Gonzaga, Our Saviour

and Our Lady of Sorrows are the work of the Maltese painter Frangisku Zahra (1680-1765). In the sacristy hangs the antique painting showing Our Lady of the Rosary which was painted on wood by Gio Maria Abela in 1595.

The main door, which is made of bronze, is dated 1913 and is the work of Pio Cellini. The door is made up of four main panels depicting the coat of arms of Our Lady, Patroness of Naxxar; the village coat of arms; the coat of arms of Pope St Pius X and the coat of arms of the family Zammit who were the benefactors of this door. In 1952 this door was dismantled, and renovated and cleaned by the blacksmith Mastru Lucens Agius. The expenses involved were once more paid for by the same family Zammit.

The statue of the Vitorja, which feast is celebrated on 8 September, was imported from Rome whilst the statues of the Good Friday Procession are the work of a Maltese craftsman. Naxxar was one of the first villages which had the statues of the Passion of Our Lord and in fact it is believed that the procession started being held just after 1750. On 9 November 1787, the body of the martyr St Vittorio was brought from the cemetery of St Calepodio of Rome and is found in the altar in the choir. Some of the sculptures and façades were made by Angelo Quatromanni.

**Chapels:** In the larger Naxxar area, there are various country chapels. These include the chapel of the Immaculate Conception which was built in the 18th Century; St Lucy's chapel; the chapel of the Shipwreck of St. Paul situated at San Pawl tat-Tarġa; Church of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist; the chapel of St James the Apostle; Santa Maria tax-Xagħra; the Assumption of the Virgin in Magħtab which was built in the 18th Century; the Annunciation of the Virgin at Salina which was built in the 16th Century; the church of St. Michael the Archangel in Salina; that of St John the Evangelist and that of St Mary of the Angels in Baħar ic-Ċagħaq.

**Fortifications:** The actual area where the village of Naxxar is built offers a natural shelter to its inhabitants. In fact, in early times the village was used to reconnoitre the movements of the enemy.

Because this height has a plain which goes right down to the sea, we find that three forms of defence were built through the ages – those along the sea such as towers, entrenchments, batteries, redoubts and beachposts – as a physical resistance to those attempting to land from the sea; inland defences like pillboxes – to hinder the advance of the enemy if they were successful in landing; and the fortifications on high ground.

## The Battle of Jutland 1916 – 2016

Anthony Zarb Dimech

*31 May marked the centenary of the Battle of Jutland, the most significant naval battle of the First World War. Malta participated through the provision of personnel who were employed as civilian staff on board H.M ships. Some of these men were employed in canteen management and shipchandling activities with renowned Maltese naval contractors such as Baptist Borda & Sons. This Feature puts into perspective and honours the role played by these men who gave up all to serve their country.*



During the centenary the National Archives of the UK are opening up this collection and hosting a variety of events and exhibitions, engaging in key debates and topics from the war. Such activities should provoke the Maltese counterpart of the UK National Archives to jealousy and organise such events to commemorate the Maltese who perished in this great sea battle.

**Malta's Role** - During the First World War, Malta was a centre of activity in supplying the British Empire with thousands of workers at H.M. Dockyard in Malta and overseas by way of Army and Navy personnel. Malta was also a base for the sick and wounded who arrived on the Islands mostly from the Dardanelles and Salonika. It also served as a prisoner of war camp and there was also a small aviation base. The Navies of Britain and France made full use of the harbours.



Malta was also active in the area of communications where, almost all the cables that transited the Mediterranean went through Malta. When Admiral Fisher was commander in chief and based in Malta, he had a private arrangement with the cable companies to receive copies of all diplomatic traffic and he set up a code-breaking cell to read them. A War Room containing a plotting table was established in Admiralty House on Malta, to make use of all the information.

**The great sea battles and the Maltese connection**-In 1915, British and French battleships launched a massive attack on Turkish positions at Cape Helles and Kum Kaleh at the entrance to the Dardanelles, the narrow strait separating Europe from Asia in northwestern Turkey and the only waterway linking the Mediterranean Sea to the Black Sea. The largely unsuccessful Allied efforts to force their way into the Dardanelles continued over two months, including a disastrous attempt on 18 March in which three ships were sunk and three more badly damaged by Turkish mines before the attack had even begun. Over Churchill's protests, the naval attack was called off and a larger land invasion involving 120,000 troops was planned.

**H.M.S. Indefatigable and the Battle of Jutland** - Maltese personnel who perished in this battle were employed as civilians with the Admiralty and were part of the firm Baptist Borda & Sons who were shipchandlers and canteen managers on H.M ships.

It was on 21 July 1916 when the Chief Petty Officers and 1st Class Petty Officers of the *H.M.S. Inflexible* issued a letter commending Baptist Borda & Sons for the zealous way in which Baptist Borda and his staff carried out their job in canteen management and other multifarious duties on the ship (between 1 November 1912 and 1 August 1916) and especially during the Falkland Islands campaign on 8 December 1914, the bombardments at the Dardanelles during 19 February, 4, 5 and 18 March 1915 and the Battle of Jutland between 31 May and 1 June 1916. At least one in four of Maltese Royal Navy personnel who died during the First World War perished outside the Mediterranean, notably at the Battle of Jutland.

During these campaigns, staff employed by Baptist Borda & Sons on service with the Admiralty also perished as shown in the holy pictures presented here. On 31 May 1916, the first day of the Battle of Jutland, Emmanuele Cuschieri, aged 34 perished. He worked with Antonio Borda as writer in the canteen of *H.M.S. Black Prince* (keeping records and other paperwork during the journey). Mr Cuschieri was survived by his wife and children. During the same Battle of Jutland, another Antonio Borda, aged 25 died on the frigate, *H.M.S. Indefatigable*. As the fortunes or misfortunes of war had it, the mother of George Vella, Spira (who was the sister of Antonio Borda) wrote to her brother Antonio lamenting of her son's George death on the *H.M.S. Indefatigable* and told her brother that if he had kept his nephew on the *H.M.S. Inflexible*, instead giving him work on the *H.M.S. Indefatigable*, he would not have perished.



A MALTESE EMBROIDERED SILK TABLECLOTH  
 COMMEMORATING THE BATTLE OF JUTLAND, 1916 the bright-yellow ground inscribed at centre Present from Malta / 31st May 1916 / Present from the War, flanked by Allied flags, the border with eight detailed battleships under steam and comprising Queen Mary; Indefatigable; Trubulant ; Warrior; Black Prince; Defence; Tipperary; and Invincible, the edge trimmed with gold braid and silk tassels.



# Armed Forces in Malta

The **Maritime Squadron of the Armed Forces of Malta** is the naval component of the current Maltese military. The Maritime Squadron has responsibility for the security of Maltese territorial waters, maritime surveillance and law enforcement, as well as search and rescue. It is based at Hay Wharf in Floriana.

The Maritime Squadron was established in November 1970 as the Maritime Troop of the Malta Land Force. Its name changed a number of times:

- Maritime Troop of the Malta Land Force (1970–1971)
- 1st (Maritime) Battery of the Malta Land Force (1971–1973)
- 1st (Maritime) Battery of the Armed Forces of Malta (1973–1980)
- Maritime Squadron of the Armed Forces of Malta (1980–present)

## History

Malta's first navy was built when it was under the Order of Saint John. It was a powerful navy with ships such as the *Santa Anna*. The Order participated in various naval exploits against the Ottoman Empire while based in Malta, most notably the Battle of Lepanto of 1571 and the Battle of the Dardanelles of 1656. In the 17th and early 18th centuries Maltese vessels also went for corsairing expeditions against Muslim ships. Eventually corsairing decreased and the Order was weak and bankrupt, so there was little resistance when Napoleon landed on Malta in 1798. The Order's navy, including the ships of the line *San Zaccharia* and *San Giovanni*, was integrated into the French navy and Malta no longer had its own naval force.

Soon after the British occupied the island, the Mediterranean Fleet of the Royal Navy transferred its base to Malta. Malta became a hub of naval activity due to its harbours and strategic position, and it remained so during the Second World War and until the 1960s. The Mediterranean Fleet was disbanded in 1967, and three years later Malta's first naval force appeared after over 150 years. The Maritime Troop of the Malta Land Force was established in November 1970 and two Swift boats were transferred to Malta from the United States Coast Guard in January 1971. In July 1971 the force was renamed 1st (Maritime) Battery of the Malta Land Force and was based in Senglea. In the 1970s, the number of patrol boats increased as West Germany and Libya gave Malta some of their former customs launches. In 1973 a vessel built at the Malta Drydocks for the Customs Department was taken over by the Maritime Battery.

In 1977, the Battery moved to its present base at Hay Wharf, or *Xatt it-Tiben*. In 1978, the British gave Malta two search and rescue launches, and in 1979 they left Malta completely, handing over all their former responsibilities to the Battery. On 1 April 1980 it was renamed Maritime Squadron of the Armed Forces of Malta, as it is today. In the 1980s and 1990s, Yugoslavia, the United States, Italy gave more vessels to Malta. Malta purchased patrol boats for the first time in 1992, when former East German minesweepers and patrol boats were bought from Germany. The *Swift*, *Kondor* and *Bremse* classes from the 1960s and 1970s were all decommissioned between 2004 and 2012 as new vessels replaced them.

On 18 February 2015 it was announced that the *Emer* class offshore patrol vessel *LÉ Aoife* (P22) would be transferred from the Irish Naval Service as a short term measure pending Malta's purchase of a new OPV. It was commissioned into the AFM on 28 June 2015 as *P62*.<sup>[3]</sup>

A new base for the Maritime Squadron is currently being built, also at Hay Wharf.





## The Irish Government donated Malta a naval ship, instead of selling it (2015)

*Naval staff aboard the Aoife at her decommissioning last month*  
Image: [Defence Forces/Flickr](#)

THE IRISH GOVERNMENT, last year, has donated the decommissioned LÉ AOIFE to Malta to help the Mediterranean country deal with the ongoing refugee crisis in the region.

The vessel was decommissioned from the Naval Service in Waterford in at the end of last month, after 36 years in service.

The Department of Defence had initially planned to sell the ship, as it did with the decommissioned LÉ Emer in 2013 (it reached €320,000 at an auction in Cork).

However, Minister Simon Coveney confirmed that another course of action was being considered, after an approach from Malta.

“Following discussions with my Maltese counterpart, I understand that the Maltese authorities require this ship for their armed forces to patrol the Mediterranean Sea to endeavour to deal with the ongoing difficult refugee crisis in the region,” Coveney said.

“The tragic events in that part of the Mediterranean have underlined the significant challenges which need to be addressed by the international community.”

In [a statement today](#), Coveney confirmed that the transfer of the ship had been formally agreed at a meeting of EU defence ministers in Latvia.

“While the vessel is no longer viable for use in Irish waters it is ideally suited to address a pressing short-term shortfall in the naval capacity of Malta,” he said.

Coveney said that the refugee crisis represented a significant challenge for the EU and that while Ireland wasn’t at the front line of the crisis, the country was pleased to be in a position to support the response.

The two ministers, according to the statement “instructed their officials to deal with the formal modalities of the transfer of ownership of the ship at the earliest opportunity”.

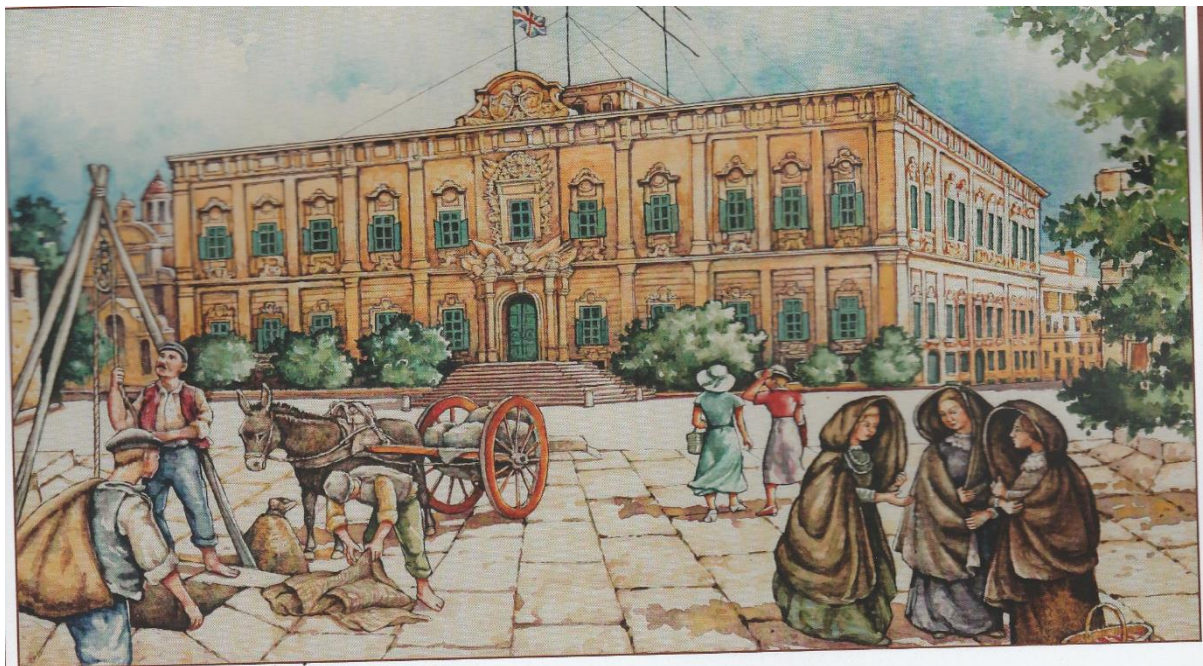
The UNHCR says that almost 3,500 people died trying to cross the Mediterranean Sea to Europe last year. In the latest tragedy – [last week](#) – at least 300 migrants are feared to have drowned – trying to cross from north Africa.

I have a companion, a beagle. (See picture right). His name is Beckham. The love and affection he shows me is quite unbelievable and to me he is everything. People ask me, why called him Beckham? My answer is, what else do you call a handsome Pommy Pup. Cheers all and have a g'day.....

GREG .....IL-Mosti







AUBERGE DE CASTILLE



From the collection of watercolours by Georg Apap (Malta)



# ETNIKA



## TOURING BAND

Some 15 years ago, a small but enthusiastic group of friends on the Mediterranean island of Malta strived to revive the Maltese roots music. The unlikely yet irresistible result was enchanting – music that challenged people's perception of their own musical identity.

\*etnika are all about diversity, which is why their 6-piece band format consists of an unlikely mix of artists and characters that play different instruments. The Maltese flute, oud, biambo, double bass, Flamenco footwork and Maltese lullabies all feature in the band's performances.

- 60 min per festival show
- 90 min per club show
- Touring Company: 6
- Maltese
- Minimum performance area: 6m x 8m x 1.2m

View videos on youtube

**Project Website:** The \*etnika (Touring Band) Facebook  
**PageContact:** etnikamalta@gmail.com

<http://www.maltashowcase.com/showcase/etnika-touring-band/>

## A BIT OF NOSTALGIA



**Solemn entry of the Archbishop Michael Gonzi on a mare into Mdina Cathedral in 1944**





### **DR. ANTON BUTTIGIEG – PRESIDENT, POLITICIAN AND POET**

Born in Qala Gozo on the 19th February 1912, he was educated at the local Government Primary School, the Gozo Seminary, St. Aloysius College Malta and the University of Malta, where he graduated Bachelor of Arts in 1934 and Doctor of Laws in 1940. In 1944 he married Carmen Bezzina and they had three children. In 1953, after her death, he married Connie Scicluna. His poetry seems to reflect the tragedies of the deaths of his first two wives. In 1975 he married Margery Patterson.

Since his University days Dr. Anton Buttigieg also distinguished himself in the field of Maltese literature. He was one of the founding members of the University Students Għaqda tal-ilsien Malti. He was also a Member of the Akkademja tal-Ilsien Malti among many other illustrious writers and in the 1970s he won a multitude of awards and distinctions for his poetry and cultural involvements. From the 1940s through the 1970s he published a great number of collections of poems he had written.

During the WWII he served as Inspector in the Police Force and after that he practiced Law. In 1955 he also served as an acting Magistrate. He was the Law reporter and leading writer of the Times of Malta in the 1940s and the Editor of The Voice of Malta from 1959 to 1970. He embarked on a political career and was first elected to the House of Representatives in the Labour Party in 1955.

He was re-elected in all subsequent elections and held a seat in Parliament up to the time of his resignation in October 1976 to become the second President of the Republic of Malta, a post which he kept till 1981. During his political career he occupied the positions of President, Deputy Leader, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Justice and Parliamentary Affairs within the Malta Labour Party. From the 1950s right through the time of his becoming President of the Republic, he represented Malta abroad as delegate to the Malta Constitutional Conferences in London and was also a representative to the Consultative Assembly in the Council of Europe where he was elected Vice-President.

Dr. Anton Buttigieg was also President of the St. Cajetan Band Club of Hamrun for a number of years and lived in Hamrun. Around 2006 the presidency of the band club was in the hands of his son. Dr. Buttigieg died on the 5th May, 1983. Exactly two years later to the day, a monument for his honour was unveiled at Blata l-Bajda. This is the work of the sculptor Anton Agius and was cast in bronze in Italy by the company Luigi Tommasi of Lucca.



## **SARAH BONNICI AND LUDWIG GALEA**

Ludwig Galea and Sarah Bonnici (photos above) line-up for Mgarr setting of the 2nd Edition of Stage & Proms on the Sea by the Gozo Youth Wind Band. Preparations are in full swing for the 2nd Edition of Stage and Proms on the Sea by The Gozo Youth Wind Band on Friday 9th September, 2016.

The concert will feature pop singers –Ludwig Galea and Sarah Bonnici interpreting various songs from Mamma Mia, Aspects of Love, Chitty Chitty Bang, Evita, Phantom of the Opera, Beauty and the Beast, The Hunchback of Notre Dame amongst others against the perfect backdrop of Mgarr Harbour.

In order to offer something different to the public who will attend this outdoor musical evening, the band are proposing to bring to Gozo a colourful and audience-participating repertoire reminiscent of London West-End shows and evergreen masterpieces from the Proms. The audience will be able to enjoy a variety of excerpts and medleys from musicals and classic encores performed in the BBC Proms Final Night held at The Royal Albert Hall.

Stage and Proms on the Sea (2nd Edition), is taking place on Friday, 9th September, 2016 starting at 8.30pm. Entrance is free of charge (standing), however tickets will be available to purchase, in support of the Gozo Youth Wind Band and Orchestra, for the Premium VIP Designated Seated area, and the price will include a welcome drink, tris of pasta and dessert. The organisers are also dedicating an area accessible for persons with disability. For information and reservations please email: 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. *JM Attard – Victoria Gozo*

**Ghaziz Frank, Grazzi ghal darb'ohra tal-Maltese Newsletter niehu gost naqrrha ghax ikun fiha hafna affarijiet li ma kontx naf bihom jew li saru. Prosit tassew. Lino Vella NSW**

**After each edition we receive hundreds of emails from Malta, Gozo, Australia, USA, Canada and many other countries to thank us for the great service we are rendering to the Maltese Diaspora. It is not possible to answer to everyone. I can assure you that your letters are greatly appreciated and give us encouragement to move forward and produce new Newsletters for your enjoyment and to learn more about our dear homeland – Malta. FL Scicluna**

**Charles J. Farrugia**  
Research Professor  
Magnetospheric/Ionospheric Physics  
Ph.D., University of Bern, Switzerland



Charles Farrugia was born on the island of Malta. He earned a BS from the University of Malta, an MS and a D. Phil. from the University of Bern, Switzerland, and a Diploma in Education from the University of London, England.

Farrugia has carried out space science research at the University of Bern, Switzerland; Imperial College, London, England; NASA/Goddard Space Flight Center, and the University of New Hampshire. His research activity focusses on (i) magnetohydrodynamic flow of the solar wind around the magnetosphere; (ii) processes at the magnetopause and its boundary layers, and their ionospheric and auroral signatures; (iii) magnetosphere-ionosphere coupling using ground-based and space-borne instruments during magnetic conjunctions; (iv) interplanetary planar structures and magnetic clouds; (v) the interaction of the solar wind with the magnetosphere in its various facets including strong forcing during Earth passage of magnetic clouds; (vi) the prediction of strong geomagnetic disturbances from the inner heliosphere as one thrust of space weather. Farrugia published over 200 papers in these areas, including various reviews. He is associate scientist on the soon-to-be-launched STEREO/PLASTIC investigation. Farrugia's research is funded by grants from NASA.

Farrugia is also a professional teacher with many years of teaching experience at various levels in four countries: from high school physics to adult physics education to teaching and tutoring university physics courses. At the University of Malta (1993-1996) he lectured on the Pedagogy of Science. He enjoys working with students and, besides supervising MS and PhD theses, he has also published several papers with undergraduate and graduate students.

Farrugia was a European Space Agency fellow at Imperial College, the University of London (1984-1986). He is a referee of scientific journals, among which are J. Geophys. Res., Geophys. Res. Lett., Annales Geophysicae and articles for AGU monographs. He is also a referee of NASA and NSF proposals.



### **GEORGE BRIMMER – VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA**

George Brimmer has been part of the Bingo group at the Maltese Centre, Parkville, Victoria for over 24 years. He comes from Vermont almost every Friday night and with him and his partner he brings three other persons in his car. In earlier times he was always available to act as the official photographer on various functions including visits from personalities from overseas. (Photo) *Profs Maurice Cauchi, presented the MCCV Community Award to Mr. Brimmer. MCCV Newsletter*



# PLAYING BOCCI IN MALTA



The popular game of Bocci is played all over the Maltese islands, and the pastime is closely related to the French game of Petanque, English Bowls and the Italian Bocce. Variations of Bocci are played all over Europe and it's believed that the sport has its origins in the Roman period. Migrants from southern Europe who settled in Canada, Australia and The United States took the game with them and it formed an important part of their social scene. Maltese emigrants to Toronto and Melbourne set up Bocci clubs and these formed the hub of the Maltese communities there, together with band clubs and the Church.

There is a Bocci club in almost every village in Malta and Gozo. These clubs are regulated by Federazzjoni Klabbs Tal-Bocci based in Tarxien. As well as watching or playing Bocci, these clubs are a hive of activity in the bar area, and some Bocci clubs serve snacks and even full meals.

Bocci is played on a sand-covered smooth surface, and each team has three players. The jack ball is around the size of a marble and the look like snooker-balls. One team plays with red balls, the other one with blue. The object of the game is to get your team's balls as close to the jack as possible. Rules do change and vary from club to club, so it's worth watching a few games before trying your luck.

A particularly popular Bocci club – especially in summer – is Buggibba Bocci Club. Located right on the seafront, this popular venue attracts locals, summer residents and tourists alike. The bar serves a range of very reasonably priced beers, wines and spirits, and there's seating available on a patio overlooking the sea. The club also dishes up some great bar snacks, sandwiches and hot meals and does a decent Sunday Roast.

The Maltese Newsletters are uploaded in the website: <http://www.ozmalta.page4.me/>





## Malta International Airport

Malta International Airport has ranked second in the Best Airport by Region (over 2 million passengers per year) category, according to the 2015 Airport Service Quality (ASQ) Awards.

Airports Council International (ACI) today announced the winners of the 2015 ASQ Awards amongst the 97 European airports surveyed. Malta International Airport shares its achievement with Dublin (25 million passengers/year), Prague (12 m pax) and Zurich (26 m pax).

"This is the ultimate reward for our airport team, being recognized for our commitment to service excellence. These awards encourage us to aim even higher and to realize our vision of becoming the best airport in Europe," said CEO Alan Borg. "In order to achieve our goal, we will continue to invest in our people and in a well-designed and efficient airport. Our Terminal expansion scheduled to commence towards the end of this year will certainly position us one step closer to reaching number one. While accepting this award with pride, I would like to dedicate it to the airport team in its entirety, from our ground handlers to our immigration officers, security guards and airline representatives – this award is for all of us."

"Airports' increasing concentration on ensuring a stellar passenger experience is part of a larger trend," noted Angela Gittens, Director General, ACI World. "Airports have evolved into complex, customer-focused businesses in their own right that in many cases are in competition with each other for passenger traffic. From duty free and restaurants to ambiance, cleanliness, courtesy of staff, amenities, efficiency and more, air travelers are expecting big things from the airports through which they travel. More than anything, ASQ is a way for participants to measure the extent to which they deliver on these expectations."



Competitive Scrabble has existed in Malta since the foundation of the Malta Scrabble Club (MSC) in 1984. To this day, the Club is the only organisation in Malta which is devoted to the competitive playing of Scrabble. The Malta Scrabble Club represents Malta in the World Scrabble Championship.

MSC is a non-profit-making organisation. It is registered with the Kunsill Malti għall-iSport and is a member of WESPA (World English Scrabble Players' Association).

The Malta Scrabble Club has a rich calendar of events. The main event on the domestic front is the National League (NL) whilst the Malta International Scrabble Open (MISO) is open to foreign players.

It was way back in May 1984 that two young ladies by the name of Angele Borg and Catherine Patiniott founded the Club. Angele Andrews (nee Borg) became the first Club President and the Club has never looked back since then. A **Committee**, led by the Club President, is entrusted with the general administration of the Club. The Club's administrative and playing procedures are set forth in the Club **Statute**, revisions to which are decided in the course of the Club's Annual General Meeting.

The Malta Scrabble Club counts over forty active members. Membership is open to all people without discrimination. Members younger than 16 years of age can play in a section for juniors. New members are entitled to refer to lists of two and three-lettered words during play and are exempt from the *points penalty challenge rule*.

Website: <http://www.scrabblemalta.com/en/about-us.htm>

## Voices choir in concert at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, Xlendi



The JP2 Foundation together with the Rector of the Xlendi Church, hosted a choir from the UK – Voices, in a sacred repertoire which took place at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, Xlendi, Gozo on the 25 August..

This event is part of the commemorative events marking the 10th anniversary of the unveiling of the National Monument dedicated to Saint John Paul II.

For more information please send an email on: [jp2foundation@gmail.com](mailto:jp2foundation@gmail.com)





## TIMES OF MALTA

## Ancient kitchen utensils could hold key to archaeological puzzle

The roof of the cave was removed for safety reasons while the archaeologists dug at the site. Photos provided by Dr Dennis Mizzi

Fragments of discarded kitchen utensils could help a team of archaeologists in Galilee, including a Maltese senior lecturer, answer a pivotal question that has troubled researchers for years.

The excavation is taking place not far from Cana, where Jesus is said to have turned into wine the water contained in jars that are similar to those produced in this 2,000-year-old stone factory. "We know that stone utensils started being produced late in the first century before Christ and became popular in the first century after Christ," Dennis Mizzi, senior lecturer in Hebrew and Jewish Studies in the Department of Oriental Studies, told this newspaper.

"Although it is believed that production stopped in the second century, this is disputed by some, who believe they continued to be used later on, so the question remains: when did they stop producing stone utensils? "The reply to this question would answer other questions about Jewish culture and ritual practices during that period." According to Jewish belief, stone, unlike ceramic, was not susceptible to ritual impurity.



Dr Dennis Mizzi of the University of Malta

"In the Torah, we come across accounts of Jewish ritual traditions where anyone accessing the sacred realm had to be in a state of ritual purity. Sources of impurity included a dead body," Dr Mizzi explained.

Maintaining ritual purity was particularly important for priests, who had to serve at the temple, but in the first century, many Jews started to maintain ritual purity in their homes as a sign of piety. This explains the spread of stone vessels in sites of all types throughout Judaea and Galilee.

The fragments of stone bowls and mugs were found in a cave on a site known as Einot Amitai. So far, the researchers have not found stone jars, but these were, of course, part of the same industry. The cave was found some years back, but a comprehensive dig was only launched this August by the Israeli Ariel University and the University of Malta.

The study is being led by Yonatan Adler, of Ariel University. He is assisted by Dr Mizzi, who specialises in ancient Judaism and biblical studies, and is involved in another excavation in Galilee.

While evidence of stone vessel production has been found in other sites in Galilee, this is the first time archaeologists found a quarry and workshop for them. However, they are also coming across the blocks from which such vessels were cut, providing indications of the tools and the ways they were carved.

The roof of the cave was removed for safety reasons while the archaeologists dug at the site. Photos provided by Dr Dennis Mizzi



### IL-KENUR

**Due to the lack of fire-wood ovens  
in centuries past,  
a slow cooking method was used  
to prepare most Maltese dishes.  
Food was placed in earthenware pots  
over a little stone hearth called "kenur"  
which needed constant  
tending and fanning**

28 ta' Awwissu 2016



### Ix-Xagħra titef wieħed mill-ulied denji tagħha

B'soghba kbira r-raħal tax-Xagħra, li għadu kemm kien qed jifraħ bil-Prima Messa tas-Saċerdot novell Mario Curmi (wieħed minn tliet saċerdoti fl-istess familja), għadu kemm titef forsi l-iktar saċerdot anzjan fir-raħal tal-Bambina (kien dalwaqt jagħlaq 92 sena). Qed nirreferi għall-Kan Dun Giljan Refalo Rapa li lura lejn is-sena 1984 konna ġejna maħturin membri tal-Ordni Kavalleresk Unione Cavalleria Christiana Internazionale. Il-ħabib tiegħi Giljan għadda żmien għalliem fl-iskejjel Primarja tal-Gvern u spiċċa anke Kap tal-iskola. Rabba familja u wara l-mewt ta' martu daħal għal pass ieħor fil-ħajja: li jiddedika ħajtu jaħdem fl-għalqa tal-Mulej, u wara snin ta' studju u preparazzjoni kien ġie ordnat saċerdot mill-Isqof Monsinjur Nikol Cauchi. Kien iħobb ħafna l-Malti u mill-pinna tiegħu ħarġu għadd sabiħ ta' poeżiji (ara l-ktieb tiegħi dwar Profili Għawdxin Pubb. KKM). Hareġ fi ktieb ukoll l-istorja tal-Knisja Bażilika tax-Xagħra u jien għadni ngħożż wieħed mill-kotba tiegħu li jiġbor fih numru sabiħ ta' novelli bil-malti. Hdimha wkoll flimkien fuq il-palk tat-Tejatra Astra u dak tal-Azzjoni Kattolika.

vTa sehem ħajja u attiv fil-parroċċa matul is-snin li dam saċerdot; naf biss li ta' kuljum kien iwassal l-Ostja Mqaddsa lil għadd ta' morda u anzjani fi djarhom u kien midħla sew ukoll tal-konfessjunarju. Bil-mini minor il-blu tiegħu min jaf kemm żar familji u sabbar nies li kienu ilhom żmien ma jaraw l-arja ta' barra t-triq! Issa Dun Giljan ħalliena u mar igawdi lill-Hallieq li tant qeda b'imħabba sew bħala missier ta' familja, bħala għalliem u dawn l-aħħar snin bħala wieħed mill-Ministri tiegħu. Bla dubju jibqgħu magħna wkoll il-kitbiet varji tiegħu. Ċert li lill-Bambina li qed inhejju għall-festa tagħha sabha tistennih fil-Bieb tal-Genna biex tlaqqgħu ma' martu u mal-Missier Etern li lilu tant habb u qeda bil-qalb. Kav. Joe M Attard Victoria – Gozo.



## Non-Violence: A Style of Politics for Peace

This is the title of the Message for the 50th World Day of Peace, the fourth of Pope Francis. Violence and Peace are at the origin of two opposite ways to building society.

"The proliferation of hotbeds of violence produces most serious negative social consequences." The Holy Father sums up this situation in the expression: "A Third World War in Pieces." Peace, by contrast, promotes social positive

consequences and it allows the achievement of real progress.

Pope Francis said, "therefore, we should act within what is possible, and negotiate ways of peace even where they seem tortuous and impractical. Thus, non-violence can acquire a more comprehensive and new meaning. It will not only consist of desire, of moral rejection of violence, barriers, destructive impulses, but also of a realistic political method that gives rise to hope."

"Such a political method is based on the primacy of law. If the rights and the equal dignity of every person are safeguarded without any discrimination and distinction, then non-violence, understood as a political method, can constitute a realistic way to overcome arm conflicts. In this perspective, it becomes important to increasingly recognise not the right of force but the force of right."

## THE UGLINESS OF WAR

**Wounded Syrian boy Omran Daqneesh**

whose harrowing image in back of ambulance shocked the world bursts into tears as he is reunited with his mum.

Omran, unfortunately, died few days later.

