



MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER

The Journal of the Maltese Diaspora

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L-IMNARJA
29 JUNE

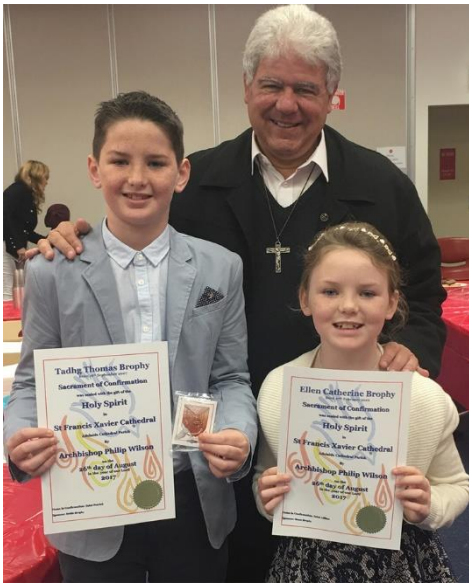
This feast marks an important event in the calendar of Maltese popular customs and traditions. It is a country harvest and folk festival as well as a religious holiday.

It dates back even further than the arrival of the Knights of St John in 1530.

The festival is named L-Imnarja, a corruption of the Italian 'Luminara' and means festival of light. It is named after the bonfires that used to light up the festivities in the towns of Mdina and Rabat.



Adelaide Maltese priest nominated Bishop of Darwin Diocese in Australia



A Maltese priest who migrated to Australia with his family has been nominated as the Bishop of Darwin, in Australia.

The Vatican announced that Pope Francis has accepted the resignation of Bishop Daniel Eugene Hurley and nominated as his replacement Father Charles Victor Emmanuel Gauci.

Fr Gauci was born in Malta in 1952 and in 1964 left for Australia with his family. In 1971 he entered the Adelaide Seminary and was ordained a priest in 1977. He served in the Adelaide archdiocese and was a Spiritual Director for a great number of parishes as well as being a Member in Adelaide's Youth Council.

L-IMNARJA FEAST OF SAINT PETER AND SAINT PAUL

The Feast of Mnarja, or I-Imnarja (pronounced *lim-nar-ya*) is one of the most important dates on the Maltese cultural calendar. Officially, it is a national festival dedicated to the feast of Saints Peter and St. Paul. In fact its roots can be traced back to the pagan Roman feast of *Luminaria* (literally, "the illumination"), when the early summer night of June 29 was illuminated by torches and bonfires. A national feast since the rule of the Knights, Mnarja is a traditional Maltese festival of food, religion and music. The festivities still commence today with the reading of the "*bandu*", an official governmental announcement, which has been read on this day in Malta since the 16th century. Originally, Mnarja was celebrated outside St. Paul's Grotto, in the north of Malta; however, by 1613 the focus of the festivities had shifted to the Cathedral of St. Paul, in Mdina, and featured torchlight processions, the firing of 100 petards, horse races, and races for men, boys and slaves. Modern Mnarja festivals take place in and around the woodlands of Buskett just outside the town of Rabat. It is said that under the Knights, this was the one day in the year when the Maltese were allowed to hunt and eat wild rabbit, which was otherwise reserved for the hunting pleasures of the Knights. The close connection between Mnarja and rabbit stew (Maltese: "*fenkata*") remains strong today. In 1854 British governor William Reid launched an agricultural show at Buskett which is still being held today. The farmers' exhibition is still a seminal part of the Mnarja festivities today.

Mnarja today is one of the few occasions when participants may hear traditional Maltese "għana". Traditionally, grooms would promise to take their newly- or recently-wed brides to Mnarja during the first of year of marriage and, for luck, many of the brides would attend in their full wedding gown and veil, although this custom has long since disappeared from the Islands.

It is a festival - It officially falls on June 29th, but celebrations start on June 28th, making it a whole festival characterised by folk music and agrarian exhibitions. Just like any other *festa*, L-Imnarja is tied to culinary traditions, meaning that food and drink are part and parcel of the celebrations, with the main dish being rabbit stew. However, L-Imnarja is also celebrated in Nadur, here in the *festa* style typical of village feasts.

A long-established tradition - Dating back to the Knights of St John, L-Imnarja is said to be one of the oldest feasts celebrated on the islands. This celebration, that is centuries old, encapsulates the real spirit of a rural Malta. The agrarian exhibition, which has helped to extend the feast to an exhibition and is held in Buskett, dates back to 1854.

Horses and Donkeys are Part of the Mix Too - Horse and donkey races are held in Triq it-Tigrija (hence its name) just underneath Saqqajja Hill and outside Mdina's bastions. A trophy-banner presented to the winners, according to the respective categories they participate in, is called *il-palju*. In the times of the Order, the Grand Master himself used to hand out these colourful, brocade trophies from *il-logġa tal-Palju* built in 1696 by Adrien de Wignacourt. The building on your left when going up the Saqqajja Hill is actually the lodge from where the Grand Master used to watch the races, which in olden times featured boys, men and slaves too.



We have learnt that Father Charles Gauci, the administrator of the Catholic Cathedral of Adelaide was appointed bishop of Darwin by Pope Francis – more next issue



It remains a Religious Feast - L-Imnarja is a predominantly cultural tradition, but ultimately it remains a religious feast commemorating St Peter, the first Pope, and St Paul, considered to be an apostle. Mass and processions with the participation of the Metropolitan Capital and the Archbishop take place on June 28th and 29th in Mdina, specifically at the Metropolitan Cathedral of St Paul.

This year's Imnarja is organised by the Rural Festivities Unit within the Parliamentary Secretariat for Agriculture, Fisheries and Animal Rights. Arts Council and the Agrarian Soc are collaborating. L-Imnarja is also celebrated in Nadur, in the *festa* style typical of the village feasts. The Feast of St Peter & St Paul in Nadur is also celebrated alongside the Imnarja festivities. One of Gozo's most spectacular feasts is celebrated on June 29th in Nadur. Thousands of people gather in the main streets of Gozo's biggest village and celebrate the feast of St Peter and St Paul.

Official celebrations start a week before the actual feast day. Band marches and activities targeted for all sections of society make up a very busy week prior to the big day. Wherever you are in Nadur, you can notice foreign flags flying on top of private houses. The US, Canadian, Australian and British flags clearly highlight Western ties and show signs of returning immigrants. Nadur is indeed one of the most localities in Malta with a long tradition of immigration.



Posted by Margaret Ullrich **REMEMBER THE MALTESE-CANADIANS OF THE 40S**

Stone Castle Women - Archival Data

Six Maltese girls enjoy a summer day on the beach of Lake Huron outside the iconic "Stone Castle" in Lexington, Michigan.

At the top of the picture is Eileen Saliba. Far left: Carmen Camilleri, Center-top: Mary Ann Sapiano, Center-middle: Anna Camilleri, Right: Mary Camilleri, Front: Rose Borg Cassar.

The "Stone Castle" is one of many cottages built in Lexington by Maltese immigrants as summer homes. It's all-stone design and intricate rooms are still admired today. Lexington became a "little Malta" of sorts in the summer with so many Maltese families living in close proximity to each other and the shores of Lake Huron.

Source: Joseph Brincat Photograph date: 1941

Citation: "Stone Castle Women," Maltese American Benevolent Society, Inc. Digital Archive, accessed *today's date*,



Maltese-American band Ser Xerri releases debut EP

Photo: Brett Wilshe

The Hype, a three-song collection, is Maltese-American band Ser Xerri's first release, coming less than one year since the group was founded by singer Ser Xerri. Though the album is very distinctly born from the personalities of Ser Xerri, an attentive listener can pick out a myriad of bands that seem to have influenced the songwriting.

There are distinct flavors of Parliament Funkadelic, Phish, Red Hot Chili Peppers, and Frank Zappa, mixed with the quirky humour that makes Ser Xerri distinctive. The title track, *The Hype*, combines a driving and bouncy groove with fun and memorable lyrics that will have you singing. The next track, *Sympathetic Response*, might've been a hit in the 1990s, and somehow playfully alludes to the body's anatomical responses to anxiety with an unlikely catchy chorus. The album's closer, *Applegate Mountain*, showcases what Ser Xerri's sound, with all the guitars playing a unison melody. Engineered and mastered by Keith Kenny, *The Hype* is available for streaming and download at www.SerXerri.com and all major platforms. The band is made up of Ser Xerri, Brandon Broderick, Ryan Lesinski and Tyler Chiara. Sunday Times of Malta 17-06-201

Independence Day, also referred to as the Fourth of July or July Fourth, is a federal holiday in the



United States commemorating the adoption of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776. The Continental Congress declared that the thirteen American colonies regarded themselves as a new nation, the United States of America, and were no longer part of the British Empire. The Congress actually voted to declare independence two days earlier, on July 2.

Independence Day is commonly associated with fireworks, parades, barbecues, carnivals, fairs, picnics, concerts, baseball games, family reunions, and political speeches and ceremonies, in addition to various other public and private events celebrating the history, government, and traditions of the United States. Independence Day is the National Day of the United States.

H A P P Y I N D E P E N D E N C E D A Y T O A L L O U R A M E R I C A N R E A D E R S

Għażiż Frank, X'memorji sbieħ tqanqalli din il-"Maltese E-Newsletter" tiegħek! Veru li konna għadna kemm hriġna minn żmien ikraħ tal-gwerra, imma konna zgħazagħ u għalina d-dinja kienet biss ġnien mimli bil-ward bla xewk! Grazzi Frank u tislijiet! Lina Brockdorff (Malta)

Dear Frank, Another fantastic publication, especially enjoyed reading on page 8 about my 2nd cousin Prof. David Plowman (his mother and my nanna were sisters), it's already 5 years since Davids passing. He was a real gentleman, down to earth a truly wonderful person. His many and well deserved commendations and tributes were in recognition of the excellence in his field of studies. David has a wonderful wife Cathy, two children Emily and Michael and grandchildren. His brothers still live in Western Australia. Thank you for maintaining his memory, he is still sadly missed but will always be remembered. With best regards, Richard Cumbo

Dear Frank, I read with interest the article about harvesting sea salt in Malta. You might like to know that the Vassallo's family (Adelaide) harvested salt at Delimara. Jack attends every Friday the Maltese Seniors gathering at Kilburn. He still has vivid memories of his early years working the family 's lease at Delimara. Many thanks for the great work you are doing. Sincerely yours. Vincent Zammit.

My comment will be that this old building should be restored as it was once on the picture, it will be a big shame to let it go to ruins and after more than a hundred years it should have been restored ages ago to a useful refuge place, gallery, museum etc etc. Jane Galea, President of the Monash Maltese Seniors Social Group

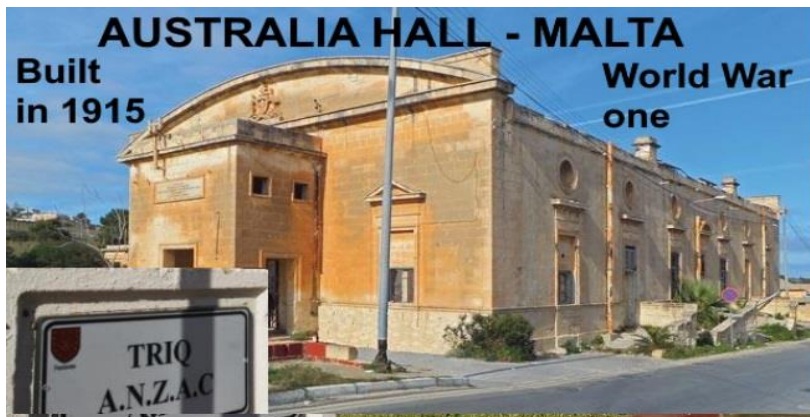
I have commented on this subject before. I think that it is a shame that this building is left to rot away. As an (X) service man myself I would like it to be restored and turned into a Museum in memory of the many injured who were treated there and those that died. I also believe that the Maltese Government should push the British, New Zealand and Australian Government for the cost of bringing this building back to life. Might even get the E.U. to share the cost. Shared by many the cost will be small, and, in my opinion, it will be money well spent. Lest we forget, we say. Now let us prove it. Henry Berry

Thank you for asking for my comments regarding the situation on the Australia Hall in Malta. What a great shame it would be to a shame to lose this building. A restoration project is well overdue. Best regards. Christopher Abdilla – Adelaide

The Maltese government should be ashamed for this great hall to be left Without restoring as a lot of visitors will have this hall on the must see and when these visitors see that shambles you can imagine what they say. I say to the Maltese and Australian governments wake up and do something about this hall of memoirs. Thank You Frank Kind Regards. Andrew Borg

I wonder what our children and grandchildren will say when this historical ANZAC building will be demolished. The only memories will be th few pictures on the newspapers and the internet. I encourage all the Maltese, Australian and New Zealanders to raise their voice and don't let developers built multistorey building instead. Let's make this campaign strong enough and be heard before it is too late. Alfred Attard, John Meilaq and Tony Farrugia – Victoria





The former Australia Hall is crying out to be restored and rehabilitated to a use which would serve the needs of the local community. This begs the question as to how long all we will continue to close our eyes to this shambolic situation. We will be keen to see whether the ANZAC traditions in Malta are as well respected as the Maltese community is respected in Australia and New Zealand.



Please, help our campaign to preserve this ANZAC historical monument of World War One. Send us your comments of support. Heritage groups and Malta, Australian and New Zealand Governments should unite for the first time to save the nation's war memorial – AUSTRALIA HALL IN MALTA.

If care about this important issue and want to help send us a comment of support!!!

**SO FAR WE RECEIVED
OVER 300 LETTERS OF
SUPPORT**

" To Whom It May Concern: This AUSTRALIA HALL entity which was built in 1915, is in real dire straights. It is in need of urgent repairs. Successive governments have closed their eyes to this memorable EYESORE. It is of a great Historical Value, it tells a magnificent story, and here we are still arguing the point if it needs to be renovated or not. Why do Politics and Partisan Political approach have to raise its head yet again? Once it is returned to its former self, it could serve for multiple needs to all local communities. Wake up Maltese everywhere, we have already lost a lot of our Heritage, do not let another one fall by the wayside. Percy Eugenio Cartwright Jnr. Mt Warrigal NSW Shellharbour City Australia.

I feel ashamed to see such a historic building deteriorating so much. I thought that during the centenary commemoration of World War 1 when Australia hall was built those who are in charge will either rebuild this monument or turn it into an Australia/New Zealand Museum. Tessie and Anton Agius.

The future generations will condemn us if we don't speak out and lose this historical monument that was built by the British to the Australian and New Zealand soldiers in Malta. We implore those who are in authority to do something about it and stop the vandalism of the hall (what's left of it. Please, let all of us unite and SAVE THE AUSTRALIA HALL. Joe Camilleri NSW

We support Australia Hall. Take care of it. Paul and Salvina Vella – Melbourne, Australia

I support your plea to the Maltese government to preserve Australia Hall which is a historical site. Sincerely Victor Pullicino

MORE LETTERS – NEXT ISSUE

ORDER OF MALTA


**The Holy Family
Hospital in Bethlehem
Palestine**

Joint project across the Order of Malta, under the operational responsibilities of the French Association of the Order, the hospital provides the population of Bethlehem and its surrounding area with an indispensable service, offering the only possible place for women of the region to give birth under good medical conditions. Since 1990 more than 75,000 babies have been born in the hospital. Its primary objective is to offer high-quality maternity care to all women, regardless of

race, religion, culture or social condition.



American and European specialists have confirmed that the hospital operates according to an excellent western European standard. Because of the continuing unstable political and the very tight economic situation, the need for the hospital services has increased.

Palestine has no national health care system and therefore the hospital's operating costs are sustained by the Order of Malta. Patients are asked to pay what they can afford. The cost is established on the base of an assessment of the patient's socio-economic situation. For those unable to pay, charges are

reduced or waived.

The heavy financial burden is borne by the French Association, with help from the National Associations of Germany, USA, Ireland and Switzerland and by the European Union. Recently the "Holy Family Hospital Foundation" – an organisation created by American members of the Order – has raised funds that have provided an important contribution to ensure the hospital's continuing operation.

Statistics for the Holy Family Hospital

The Hospital is run by a highly qualified staff of 140, including:

11 specialists, and 10 resident doctors;

68 nurses;

11 paramedical staff;

40 administration and other support staff;

since February 1990, over 75,000 deliveries;

The only hospital in Palestine recognised by the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RCOG), London, for training doctors;

4,200 deliveries in the year 2017;

Over 30,000 outpatient consultations and examinations per year.

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Hompesch Gate at Zabbar restored



PHOTO: DOI - Omar Camilleri

The Hompesch Gate restoration project was inaugurated by Justice and Culture Minister Owen Bonnici.

Works on the Zabbar monument began in October 2017. One of the main concerns related to the structural movement, which had occurred through the years in various areas as attested by the presence of structural cracks running along the jambs and intrados of the arch, the sagging of the arch voussoirs on the East elevation, the dislodging and

displacement of individual stone blocks, and the fracturing of others.

Structural consolidation interventions carried out during the present restoration project varied and included lime-based grout injection into the thickness of the arch, the stitching of cracks through epoxy/lime injection and the insertion of carbon fibre rods, localised partial dismantling and reinstatement of dislodged stone blocks, and limited replacement of fractured stone blocks.

Restoration works were then extended to include the removal of, amongst others, superfluous metal fixtures, cables, wiring, the cleaning of accumulated dirt deposits from the stone surface, the removal of cement-based plasters and pointing, the superficial consolidation of the stone fabric, and the repointing of open mortar joints.

The project was carried out by the Restoration Directorate within the Ministry for Justice, Culture and Local Government, under the 'Restoration Works Scheme for Local Councils' (2017). It was completed in May of this year.

"Hompesch Gate is a significant monument for Ғаз-Ғаббар as well as for our country. The completion of the restoration of such a landmark is a clear example that as a Government, we are committed to preserving our monuments and sites, especially those which carry historical significance that defines our past—the foundation which has provided us with such a rich cultural legacy. Through these projects, we are strengthening our cultural product", culture minister Owen Bonnici said during the inauguration.

Parliamentary Secretary for Local Government and Communities Silvio Parnis said Hompesh Gate is an important historical heritage site, both for the locality of Ғаз-Ғаббар as well as for our country, therefore it is imperative that we protect it.

Hompesch Gate was built in 1801, on the initiative of the people of Ғаз-Ғаббар to honour Grand Master John Ferdinand Von Hompesch zu Bolheim, who, in 1797, had declared Ғаз-Ғаббар a city, giving it the title of Citta Gratosae Hompesch. The gate, with a single arched opening, was built in neoclassical style with its East and West elevations having different architectural treatments. The historical importance of the gate is corroborated by its inclusion in the national Antiquities List of 1925, its scheduling as a Grade 1 national monument, and its inclusion in the National Inventory of the Cultural Property of the Maltese Islands.



MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER

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BUILDING BRIDGES BETWEEN COMMUNITIES

A nation's culture resides in the heart, mind and soul of its people

Joseph Galea Curmi - new Auxiliary Bishop



Pope Francis has appointed Monsignor Joseph Galea-Curmi as Auxiliary Bishop of Malta, nominating him Titular Bishop of Cebardes.

As Auxiliary Bishop, Mgr Galea-Curmi, 54, will be the closest collaborator and advisor of Archbishop Charles J. Scicluna with leadership responsibilities in the Curia and in diocesan pastoral ministry.

Mgr Joseph Galea Curmi, who served as Vicar General of the Archdiocese of Malta for the past three years, is set to serve as the new Auxiliary Bishop

Shakespeare's 'As you like it' at San Anton Gardens

80 years since their first Shakespeare at San Anton gardens, MADC's annual outdoor production will return between 13 and 22 July, directed by Philip Leone-Ganado



"All the world's a stage" according to Shakespeare's classic play *As you like it*, which is particularly apt as MADC is set to once again transform San Anton Gardens into a unique open-air theatre.

Telling the story of lovers Rosalind and Orlando, who are forced into exile in the Forest of Arden and become entangled in a beguiling game of love, lust and mistaken identity, *As you like it* is one of Bard's funniest and most moving romantic comedies, with coming-of-age themes that are as relevant today as when it was first performed.

This year's MADC production will take on a contemporary setting that director Philip Leone-Ganado feels will make the most of the backdrop of the gardens. "The play moves from the stark, oppressive world of a modern royal court to the free and joyous expanse of a forest festival. For a play with such an iconic and evocative backdrop as the Forest of Arden, there really is no better place to perform it than San Anton Gardens in summer, which provides a perfect fit for the forest's magic and splendour."

As you like it will feature a stellar local cast of fresh faces alongside experienced, established actors, including Chris Dingli, Stephen Oliver, Jonathan Dunn, Steffie Thake, Roberta Cefai, Chiara Hyzler, Gianni Selvaggi, Michael Mangion, Rambert Attard, Maxine Brimmer, Becky D'Ugo, Joe Depasquale and Daniel Formosa. While remaining faithful to Shakespeare's original plot and characters, the actors will be playing different roles as the story moves between the play's two worlds, while the music will also be updated with contemporary elements.

Celebrating 80 years since the first production of the same play by MADC at San Anton, *As you like it* continues Malta Amateur Dramatic Club's long-standing tradition of producing an annual Shakespeare play in the Gardens. "We are thrilled to be returning, yet again, to San Anton Gardens with another Shakespeare production," says MADC artistic director Marylu Coppini. "For MADC to be producing the same Shakespeare play, in the same venue, some 80 years after the Club first did so, is an important milestone both in our history and for its acting members, who every year turn a public garden into an open-air theatre of 21st century quality."

As you like it will be performed at San Anton Gardens in Attard between 13 and 22 July. Further information and tickets are available online at www.madc.com.mt

REV HENRY GEORGE BONAVIA HUNT FRSE FRAS FLS (1847–1917)

<https://www.revolvvy.com/main/index.php?s=Henry+George+Bonavia+Hunt>



Rev Bonavia Hunt was the founder of the Trinity College of Music in London, one of the London conservatoires of music and an International Examining Institutions.

Life - He was a British subject born on 30 July 1847 in Valletta, Malta, the son of William Hunt, who was engaged there as both private secretary and lay vicar to the Bishop of Jerusalem. His mother was Marietta Bonavia, a local woman. His paternal grandfather, also William Hunt, born 1790 in Sutton, Suffolk, was a brush maker.

Hunt was ordained in the Church of England in 1878. At first he was a curate in Surrey and later became warden of Trinity College. He was then Curate of St James Piccadilly in London. He then began lecturing in the History of Music at London University. His final role was as Rector of Burgess Hill School, a girls school in Sussex.

He was educated privately then studied Music firstly at Christ Church College in Oxford University (graduating BA) then the University of Dublin where he gained

In 1886, he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh for his contributions to musical education. His proposers were William Garden Blaikie, John Stuart Blackie, Hugh Macmillan and William Durham. He died on 27 September 1917.

He is buried with his wife, Madeline (1853-1937), in the churchyard of St John the Evangelist in Burgess Hill. His ghost was said to haunt the original college at Mandeville Place until its relocation to Greenwich.

Family Name - His surname was originally Hunt; Bonavia was a family name that was inserted as a forename as it had been his mother's maiden name. Henry Hunt's mother, originally Marietta, but later Mary, was Maltese and the daughter of a doctor of Italian extraction. Hunt became known in later times as Bonavia-Hunt and by the time his son, the Revd Noel Aubrey Bonavia-Hunt (b. 1883), was writing vast quantities on the subject of the organ and organ building between 1910 and 1960, the family name was firmly established as "Bonavia-Hunt". Another member of the family, D. A. Bonavia-Hunt (a daughter) was an author and her work is still in print.



Trinity College of Music - London

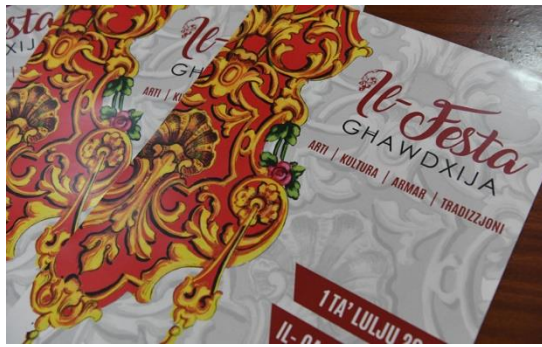
Bonavia Hunt's memory

The old buildings of the Trinity College of Music, 11 - 13 Mandeville Place, W1, is a place where a traditional yarn endures, involving the ghost of The Rev'd H G B Hunt being sighted on the 1st floor corridor, such was his involvement in the place for so long. Sadly, he is long past living memory, or even memory of living memory, for even the most senior of the grand old men and women who stand in the ranks of Trinity's distinguished retired professors, cannot remember anyone who remembered him. A portrait of The Rev'd H.G. Bonavia Hunt, used to hang in a strange garrett at the top of old Trinity College of Music, London, fittingly it was home to one of the college organs.

Those who have gained either their fine musical education or those who are employed at Trinity, and indeed those who have benefitted from the work of the college in any way, may thank The Rev'd Henry G. B. Hunt for the Trinity College of Music, London and for Trinity College London, the international exams board.

Thank you for such a wonderful journal which is read, saved and appreciated by thousands of readers all over the world. You keep the Maltese communities jelled and informed them what is happening in Malta and in may parts of the globe. My God bless you and bless your good work you are doing for us. Charles Falzon - USA

Il-Festa Ghawdxija – Showcasing traditional Gozitan village feasts



BY [GOZO NEWS](#) · Il-Festa Ghawdxija – A feast with a difference, is being held in the main square of Qala, on Sunday, the 1st of July.

This special event, which is being held for the first time, is being organised by Ghaqda Brijju San Guzepp – Qala, in collaboration with the Ministry for Gozo and is taking place just when the festive season is in full swing in Gozo.

Minister for Gozo Justyne Caruana, said that this activity brings together various groups from different villages across the island, to collectively celebrate Gozitan feasts from the different cultural aspects that unite us together. Dr Caruana added that this feast event, will be recognition and give thanks, to the hundreds of volunteers who work tirelessly on every village feast.

She stressed that voluntary work is the backbone of every feast organised in our country, and that we should all be grateful to these people who sacrifice a lot of time to continue to raise the level of the feasts for their respective parishes.

The Minister for Gozo also praised the initiative and pledged the support of the Ministry for this activity, which she said will continue to grow year after year.

Mayor of Qala Paul Buttigieg, explained that the Council had believed in the idea which had been put forward by the organisers and offered any assistance for this new event for Gozo, and the picturesque village of Qala.

Christian Mifsud, one of the organisers of this activity, invited anyone who cares about traditional festivals and culture in this country to attend this manifestation of art, culture and tradition of a typical Gozitan feast. In this event all elements of a usual feast will be showcased by the different groups; band marches, fireworks, street decorations, traditional food and much more.

The event has also been organised so as not to interfere with any other village feast, as Sunday, the 1st of July is a weekend free of feasts in Gozo.

This Gozo Feast with a difference will take place between 9: 00am and 1: 00pm. For the full [programme please see here](#). Photograph: MGOZ/George Scerr



The Kappillan at Gozo Summer Book Festival

Il-Kappillan ta' Malta – will be exhibited by SKS Publishers at this week's [Gozo Summer Book Festival](#). Wistin Born's Maltese translation of Nicholas Monsarrat's The Kappillan of Malta

The book was written by Monsarrat in Gozo and published worldwide in 1973. The novel narrates a striking story of courageous love during Malta and Gozo's worse moments of World War II. This story also conveys a powerful message intended to hearten anyone going through difficult times.

Other books being exhibited by the same publishers will include novels, short stories by the best known Maltese and Gozitan authors including contemporary authors Alfred Sant, Frans Sammut, J.J Camilleri, Pawlu Xuereb, Lino Spiteri, Guze' Chetcuti, Karmenu Vassallo, and Mikiel Anton Vassalli, Juann Mamo, Guze' Bonnici, Guze' Ellul Mercer, Guze' Orlando, Gino Muscat Azzopardi and Ivo Muscat Azzopardi.

The Summer Book Festival opens this Friday and continues on Saturday at the Exhibition Hall, Ministry for Gozo, St Francis Square, Victoria, from 10am till 1pm and 4pm till 7pm on both days. Entrance is free. SKS Publishers said that its exhibited books will be selling at a very discounted prices starting from €2. Just a very friendly reminder if you have not already purchased tickets not to leave it to late. We would love for you to joins us to celebrate, American Independence Day on the Fourth of July. Let's all join with our American Families and Friends in celebrating such an important event.



US INDEPENDENCE DAY

Date: - **Wednesday, July 4, 2018**

Time:- **6:00pm for 6:30pm – 10.30 pm**

Venue: - **Belgian Beer Cafe, 5 Riverside Quay, Southbank, Melbourne**

Tickets: - **Members: \$35.00pp or \$60.00 for two.**

Non-Members: \$40.00 or \$70.00 for two.

Including Great food (American and other Canapes), First drink on us.... Drinks at Bar Prices. Joins for what will be a fun night: Trivia - Test your knowledge on the USA – Prizes to Win!

Click here for Tickets: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/july-4-americas-independence-day-tickets-47140029096>. Password: 4July2018 Or download payment form attached.

RSVP: Please by no later than Thursday June 29, 2017 (for catering) to Sam CJ Muscat

samcjm@bigpond.com or give me a call on 0419 381 479

Would be great if you could join us for what will be a fun evening

Sam CJ Muscat JP

President

Australian American Association (Vic)

"To foster friendship and understanding between the people of Australia and the United States of America"



22 Maltese youngsters receive the Duke of Edinburgh International Gold Award

The Gold Award has been awarded to 22 young people who successfully completed the five stages in The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award. The ceremony was held at San Anton Palace and the awarded were presented by

President Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca, and Kenneth de Martino, Chairman of the Award.

The distinguished award offers an exciting self-development programme equipping participants with life skills to make a difference to themselves, their communities and the world around them. The activities involve adventure, physical recreation, human skills and community service, as well as residential experiences.

President Coleiro Preca praised the young awardees for their commitment and perseverance in completing the challenges in the programme. Mr de Martino congratulated the young people on joining the "ever-growing family of Gold Award Holders in Malta" and commended them for their efforts to trigger change in the practical way. The Award has, over the years, continued to increase in both numbers and popularity thanks to the devoted leaders and helpers who volunteer their time and energy to assist our youths to further develop their skills and abilities.

The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award is the world's foremost youth achievement award, running in over 130 countries and territories. It was founded in 1956 by Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, in conjunction with revolutionary German educationalist Kurt Hahn.



Maltese Community Council of Victoria, Inc.

Serving the Maltese community in Victoria, Australia since 1958

The Maltese Community Council of Victoria

Wishes to advise that it has organised

A Cocktail Party to Celebrate the 60th Anniversary

Of the establishment of the MCCV in 1958

On Saturday the 21st July 2018 at 7.00pm.

At the Maltese Community Centre - 477 Royal Parade, Parkville.

Community Awards for 2017 will also be presented.

If you wish to attend, please ring the MCCV on 9387 8922

And ask for Irene, Rita Pullicino, or Joe Stafrace for your reservation.

Your attendance on this occasion is appreciated and provide an opportunity to meet friends.

Donation \$25.00 Dress Code – Cocktail / Smart Casual

Mass at 6.00pm will be held at St Paul's Chapel, Parkville on the day.



VIVA SANTA MARIJA

GROUP SANTA MARIJA OF SYDNEY

Are celebrating the feast of the Assumption on

Sunday the 5th August 2018

at the La Valette Social Centre, Blacktown

At 3.00 pm, Festa mass will be concelebrated by

Fr Tarcisio Micallef and Fr Noel Bianco mssp

Accompanied by the choir of the Maltese Cultural Assoc of NSW

After the mass, a procession will be held

by the statue of Santa Marija, followed by

the Rosary and Marian hymns played by the O.L.Q.P. band

Entertainment by Charlie Muscat & Wayne Place

Our special guest Natasha Tatarinof

Bring your family and friends,

so that we can celebrate our Festa together

Remember, that the club will be open from 1.00 in the afternoon

where you can purchase Maltese traditional food.



Holy Mass in Maltese in Victoria - Australia

30 June 2018 at 6 pm at St Paul's Chapel 467-477 Royal Parade Parkville VIC 3052

1 July 2018 at 8 am at St Paul's Catholic Church 230 Sunshine Avenue Kealba VIC 3021

6 July 2018 at 6:30pm at St Paul's Church 200 Glengala Road Sunshine West VIC 3020

We thank all our readers for their continuous support

Massimo Ellul From Wikipedia



Massimo Ellul is a Maltese businessman and active in the voluntary organisational field.^[1]

Ellul is the chief executive of a group of companies in the marketing and management consultancy field operating in Malta, Manchester, Edinburgh, Sicily and Dubai,^{[2][3][4][5]} He specialised his studies in marketing and management in Malta, the UK and the US and is an alumnus of the Judge Business School of the University of Cambridge. He was also an elected official of the Executive Committee of the European Forum for Urban Security

^[6] under the aegis of the Council of Europe and represents Malta in the European Disability Forum ^[7] and the European Union of Supported Employment ^[8]. In Scotland, Dr. Ellul was very much involved with the Friends of Rosslyn [Chapel], and has lectured extensively in the region.. He was admitted as Liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Marketors of the City of London and in 2005 was granted the Freedom of the City of London ^{[10] [11]} .

He is a published author in Malta, the US and the UK on subjects varying from medieval and modern history to social independent living. Some of his books have been translated into other languages, including Russian and Hungarian.

He occupied various posts in the Labour Party, including Secretary of the Youth Commission, International Secretary of the Young Socialists, President of the Young Students' Movement, Assistant General Secretary and Assistant Education Secretary of the Malta Labour Party. Throughout his political career, he chaired a number of important party committees and was responsible for extensive mass events in Malta. He was a Parliamentary Candidate for the Malta general elections of 1996 and 1998.,

In 2002, he was appointed as Chancellor of the Grand Priory of the Mediterranean of the Hospitaller Order of Saint Lazarus of Jerusalem and is the Chairman of the Saint Lazarus Foundation.^[18] In 2008, he was appointed as the Grand Chancellor of the Hospitaller Order of Saint Lazarus of Jerusalem.^[19] Ellul was elected as the Honorary Secretary of the Malta Federation of Organizations and Persons with Disability (MFOPD) ^[20] and Vice President of the Malta Association of Supported Employment.

Massimo Ellul was also the Chairman of the annual Malta International Folk Festival,^[22] and sits on/consults the board of directors of various firms and organisations in Malta, England, Scotland, Sicily and Dubai. In Malta, his management firm was instrumental in projecting a number of innovative firsts,^[23] including the management and promotion of international arena bands on the island, exporting and managing Maltese talent, the promotion of live music and the innovative use of marketing tools such as billboarding.

His firm has been solicited on various occasions to give marketing and management consultancy services to a number of government ministries and entities in regions as diverse as Malta, Dubai, Al Ain, Hungary, Slovenia, the Sultanate of Oman, the United Kingdom and others. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts and a Companion of the Institute of Sales & Marketing Management, amongst other international institutions.



MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER

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Dwardu Ellul

Minn Wikipedija, l-enciklopedija l-ħielsa



Dwardu Ellul (1894 – 1983) kien diplomatiku, politiku, umanista u poeta Malti. F'Malta hu l-aktar magħruf għall-parti li ħa fin-negozjati mal-Gvern Ingliż dwar is-sehem li kellha tiegħu Malta mill-Marshall Aid. Ellul huwa wkoll magħruf għax-xejra anti-klerikali tiegħu. Fuq ix-xena internazzjonali, Ellul kien involut fil-konferenzi tal-paċi ta' Brussell, Konferenza ta' Pariġi, Milan u Ġinevra (1919–1922) bħala s-segretarju għar-relazzjonijiet barranin fil-League of Nations Union, Londra. Fl-1946 irċieva l-ordni *Chevalier de la Légion d'honneur* mill-gvern Franciż.

Hajja

Dwardu Ellul twieled il-belt Valletta fl-1894. Ommu mietet meta kien għadu tifel ta' sitt snin. Hemm żar l-iskola elementari u attenda wkoll żewġ klassijiet tal-iskola sekondarja, qabel ma kompli u temm l-iskola sekondarja fil-belt ta' Turin, l-Italja. Fl-1913, kiseb il-*Licenzia Ginnasiale* u kompli bl-istudji superjuri għal sentejn oħra.

Fl-1915, bħala ċittadin tal-Imperu Ingliż, Ellul kellu imur lura Malta minħabba diżgwid politiku bejn ir-Renju Unit u l-Italja. Għall-ewwel, qala' l-għajxien tiegħu bħala għalliem privat tat-Taljan u l-Latin, u bħala

skrivan ma' negozjant żgħir. Minħabba li ma setax jilħaq jgħix b'dan ix-xogħol, daħal bħala skrivan temporanju fid-dockyard (N.S.O dpt.). Ftit wara ġie trasferit għal Moudros (Dardanelli) fejn għal aktar minn sena ħadem fl-uffiċċju tal-Assistent N.S.O. fuq il-*flagship* tal-flotta Ingliża tal-Mediterran tal-Lvant qabel ma reġa' ġie trasferit lura lejn Malta.

Fl-1917, waqt li fuq il-kontinent kienet għadha għaddejja l-Ewwel Gwerra Dinjija, Ellul siefer lejn Marsilja u kiseb passaġġ lejn Pariġi. Hemmhekk, fl-ambaxxata Ingliża ngaġġa suldat u ntbaġġat l-Ingilterra biex jitharreg fl-armata. Ta servizz fi Franza, fil-Belġju u fil-Ġermanja (Army of Occupation) qabel ma ġie iddisċarġjat f'Diċembru, 1919 bi grad ta' surġent.

Sa l-1922 kien Assistent tas-segretarju għar-relazzjonijiet barranin fil-League of Nations Union ta' Londra: hawn fost dmirijiet oħra kien segretarju ta' delegazzjonijiet Ingliži f'Konferenzi Internazzjonali ta' Brussell, Pariġi, Milan u Ġinevra. F'funzjoni oħra, Ellul ġie maħtur segretarju tal-kunsill Amministrativ ta' l'*Institut français de Londres* li kien affiljat ma' l-Università ta' Pariġi u (Sorbonne) u ma l-Università ta' Lille. F'dan ir-Rwol irċieva id-dekorazzjonijiet ta' *officier d'Académie* (1935) u ta' *Officier de l'Instruction Publique* (1939). L-aħħar medalja ġiet mgħoddija minn idejn il-President ta' Franza, (en) Albert Lebrun. L-akbar unur mill-Gvern Franciż kien il-kisba tal-ordni *Chevalier de la Légion d'honneur* (1946).

Dwardu Ellul kien ukoll attiv fil-politika Ingliża u Maltija. F'Londra kien kunsillier fil-gvern lokali ta' Paddington (en) Paddington waqt li fil-politika Maltija ħa l-kariga ta' rappreżentant tal-Malta Labour Party. Fl-Ingilterra kien laħaq kummissarju ġenerali ta' Malta f'Londra (1948-49 u 1955-58).

Dwardu Ellul irtira Malta għal kollox fl-1965 minħabba raġunijiet ta' saħħa. Għal xi żmien kien attiv fil-politika bil-Partit Anti-Klerikali, partit li ġie mibdi minnu nnifsu, li iżda ma kellu ebda suċċess. Wara mewtu, triq fil-villaġġ tax-Xgħajra, fejn Ellul kellu propjetà zgħira u fejn kien jgħaddi x-xhur tas-sajf, ġiet imsemmija għali. Dan ix-xogħol mibgħat minn Joseph Montenegro



MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER
Journal of the Maltese Living in Malta and Abroad
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CARMELO FABRI – FIRST SETTLER IN ADELAIDE - 1885



I am writing regarding some information I have found regarding an early Maltese settler in South Australia. He was Carmelo Fabri born 1842. I have found referenced in a few places the fact that he was hungry and destitute and in fact died in the Adelaide Destitute Asylum in 1885, and that a Maltese gentlemen had met him in Adeladie and was attempting to contact family back in Malta to assist.

Wondering if there is any information held on attempts to contact his family (and who his family were) in Malta and any outcomes.

The this information can be found at <http://backtomalta.blogspot.com/2013/04/maltese-in-south-australia-by-frank-l.html>

By Frank L. Scicluna - The first Maltese to arrive in Australia was a convict Felice Pace. He arrive in Sydney in 1810 together with a group of prisoners from England and Ireland. Antonio Azzopardi was the first free settler and he set foot in Australia in 1837.

A Maltese Franciscan priest, Fr Ambrose Cassar, migrated to Australia together with a group of 61 labourers and 9 stowaways in 1881. They attempted to settle in Queensland to work on sugar cane farms but their plan was unsuccessful as the conditions were extreme.

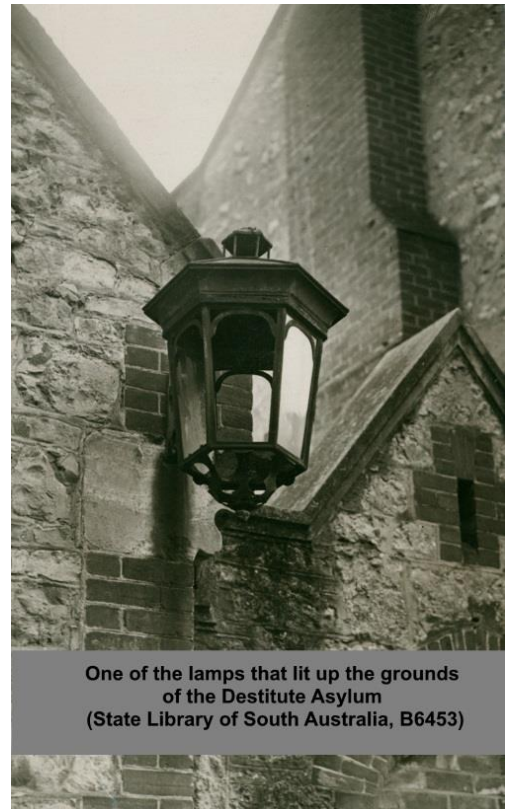
We do not know who was the first Maltese to settle in South Australia. However, Francesco De Cesare, a Maltese scholar who travelled across Australia during the 1880s, recorded a very interesting but sad story of Adelaide's first Maltese he encountered. His name was C. Fabri and his occupation was a land surveyor. Decesare stated in his work Reports Upon the Unsuitability of the British Colonies in Australia as a Field Maltese Emigration that he met Fabri who at that time was employed by the government as a draughtsman. Unfortunately, he was retrenched due to economic measures taken by the government. To survive he had to sell his professional instruments and books. His health deteriorated so much that he finished up in Adelaide's Destitute Asylum where he eventually died.

There is also reference on <https://ozmalta.page4.me/99.html> and it is these paragraphs I am clinging to! - However, they say, that they have kept him already long enough and that they could not keep him any longer; and moreover, that they had offered him an employment at seven shillings a day, which he refused. I asked what that employment was; and when I was told that it was a manual one, for carrying earth in a wheel barrow, I remarked that it was not expected that a professional man would adapt himself to such work. In fact, when questioned by me, Fabri said that he would die of starvation rather than humiliate himself to that degree.

As the Government were not authorised to pay his passage to Malta and send him back to his country, and even if they were disposed to do that for him, serious objections might arise against their action, in as much as it would be a bad precedent, which might be cited on other occasions. I agreed with them to keep him at the Asylum till I arrive at Malta, report the case to the Government or the family of Fabri, who live at Vittoriosa, would send the necessary amount for paying his passage to Malta.

I beg therefore to submit this matter to the consideration of the Government in order that, if they think proper, the necessary steps may be taken as to enable him to return to Malta.

Apart from potentially the first Maltese in South Australia, I am tracking this due to the strong possibility that Carmelo was in fact my great, great grandfather. I have an extract from his marriage in 1864 at which time



One of the lamps that lit up the grounds of the Destitute Asylum (State Library of South Australia, B6453)

he was 22 years old. This makes him born on 1842 which matches the birth year of the Carmelo who died in the Adelaide Destitute Asylum.

I am therefore seeking any further information/leads possible in my searching. Ideally I am trying to ascertain whether the Carmelo in Adelaide is in fact the Carmelo who married Maria Carmela Mamo-Belmonte in Cospicua. I can forward the documents if that assists. The details of his parents are on the extract also. I know my Carmelo had two sons - Alfonse (my Great grandfather) and Salvatore. Alfonse left the Royal Navy in 1888, apparently his wish, obtained a passport to come to Australia in July 1888. Alfonse was born Dec 1 1865 in Vittoriosa, according to the marriage info of Carmelo, he was also born in Vittoriosa.

Hoping there is some information around the Maltese Officials/Community in Adelaide still!

Many thanks, Tania van Riel

Xaghra Fig Festival: Figs, culinary talent and entertainment

Next weekend, the hilltop village of Xaghra will be holding the Xaghra Fig Festival. Taking place over two days, Victory Square in Xaghra will celebrate figs and culinary talent – combined with musical entertainment for all ages.



Launched by the Xaghra Local Council, this ninth edition is taking place on Saturday, the 30th of June and Sunday, the 1st of July, as part of Ficusnet, a European network of fig-producing towns and villages.

Present for today's announcement were Gozo Minister Justyne Caruana, Parliamentary Secretary Clint Camilleri and Xaghra Mayor Mr. Joe Cordina.

Dr Caruana said that the Ministry for Gozo is the leading sponsor for this event which has been organised by the Council.

She added that similar thematic activities held over the past months have led to economic growth and an increase in the number of tourists visiting the island.

She thanked the Local Council headed by Mayor Joe Cordina, and the hardworking team involved in the organisation, as well as Parliamentary Secretary for Agriculture, Fisheries and Animal Rights Clint Camilleri.

The Parliamentary Secretary said he hoped that the work of the Xaghra Local Council, together with other initiatives taken by non-governmental organisations, will help to overcome the many problems affecting the fig tree and its fruit, which is so enjoyed by the Maltese and Gozitan people.

Mayor Joe Cordina said that each edition of this festival has proved to be a success by providing innovation and new content each year.

Xaghra village, he said, is synonymous with this festival, and thanked all those who have played a part in its organisation. Mayor Cordina went on to invite the public to attend the events of the 2-day festival.

The entertainment on Saturday evening in Victory Square will be Hilltop Rock – Rock Classics, As Never Before, from 8.30pm to 1.00am.

Then on Sunday, also in Victory Square, it is the turn of – Lejla Tina – when visitors will be able to enjoy a happy helping of culinary delight, dance steeped in tradition and music, plus much more, aimed at all the family. from 6.30pm to 11.30pm.

To keep up to date with all the events, please follow the Xaghra Fig Festival [facebook page](#)



Just a very friendly reminder if you have not already purchased tickets not to leave it to late. We would love for you to joins us to celebrate, American Independence Day on the Fourth of July. Let's all join with our American Families and Friends in celebrating such an important event.

Date: - Wednesday, July 4, 2018

Time:- 6:00pm for 6:30pm – 10.30 pm

Venue: - Belgian Beer Cafe, 5 Riverside Quay, Southbank, Melbourne

Tickets: - Members: \$35.00pp or \$60.00 for two.

Non-Members: \$40.00 or \$70.00 for two.

Including Great food (American and other Canapes), First drink on us.... Drinks at Bar Prices. Joins for what will be a fun night: Trivia - Test your knowledge on the USA – Prizes to Win!

Click here for Tickets: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/july-4-americas-independence-day-tickets-47140029096>. Password: 4July2018 Or download payment form attached.

RSVP: Please by no later than Thursday June 29, 2017 (for catering) to Sam CJ Muscat

samcjm@bigpond.com or give me a call on 0419 381 479

Would be great if you could join us for what will be a fun evening

Sam CJ Muscat JP

President

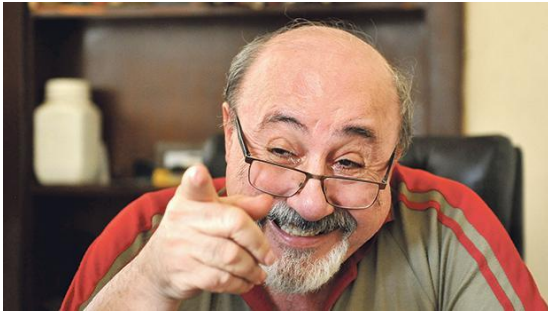
Australian American Association (Vic)



"To foster friendship and understanding between the people of Australia and the United States of America"

THE WHOLE ISLAND OF MALTA





The art of cigar making

Joseph Dougall: “When I felt the tobacco grown in Sierra Leone, it was love at first sight. I immediately liked the smell, the texture.” Inset: The traditional Maltese cheroot cigars made out of tobacco grown in Sierra Leone. Photos: Chris Sant Fournier

Joseph Dougall, a seventh generation family member of a company that makes traditional Maltese cheroot cigars, tells **Simonne Pace** how he took over the business at a young age, his

strong connections with Africa and his passion for the art of cultivating tobacco.

If you've always seen the tobacco industry as a closed and male domain, then think again.

The industry has always been dominated by women, says Joseph Dougall, who runs Dougall Tobacco, a factory in Tarxien that manufactures Maltese cigars from tobacco grown in Sierra Leone.

Dougall inherited the factory – a business that has been running in the family for seven generations – from his great-grandfather Carmel Sciberras, who had set up the company in the 1850s.

“My great-grandfather started selling chewing and pipe tobacco from a tray outside the dockyard,” says Dougall, 67, who also serves as honorary consul for Sierra Leone in Malta.

At the time, when ships entered port, they docked with riches on board – but once they left, Malta would slump back into poverty. In a bid to encourage domestic production, the colonial office brought over Swiss Italians to teach the Maltese the art of making cigars by hand.

“My great-grandfather was one of the pioneers who succeeded in this art. They were so happy with his performance that he was given a stock of free tobacco by the colonial office to start his own business.”

As the trade grew, the tobacco industry continued to flourish, seeing about 1,500 people in employment in Malta at the time and targeting not only the local market but also North Africa and southern Europe.

Sciberras employed a good number of people who worked long hours, six days a week. These were mostly women who took their babies along with them to the workplace.

“Women were dexterous and patient, two qualities my great-grandfather looked out for,” says Dougall.

His grandmother, the eldest of the Sciberras children, was the one who kept the factory running.

“When she got married, she left her father's business to set up her own little venture. She was responsible for production, so she gave what she produced to her father to sell, acting as a sub-contractor. My grandmother was an enterprising woman. When she died, my father took over.”

Dougall Tobacco kept going strong, through both world wars. It started off in Senglea, moved to Cospicua, then to Żebbuġ, Tarxien, close to Paola, and back to Tarxien again, from where it still operates today.

“Cultivating tobacco is an art,” says Dougall, who has been in the business for almost 50 years and travelled all over Africa, gaining experience and learning tricks of the trade.

When ships entered port, they docked with riches on board – but once they left, Malta would slump back into poverty

“When you crossbreed seeds, you end up with a different product. Taste changes too, as this does not originate from just the fire-curing process but also from blending seeds when you crossbreed them.”

Having studied agronomy and grown tobacco in Sierra Leone and in various other parts of Africa, Dougall reminisces about the day he took American seeds and planted them in Sierra Leone for the first time.

“I was ecstatic. We chose areas where the land was still virgin, so our tobacco is grown in the most natural way, without fertilisers and chemicals. My tobacco has a speciality: it is smoked, like smoked fish or smoked meat. We cure it with fire,” he explains as he holds stacks of boxes filled with the traditional Maltese cheroot cigars with a butterfly emblem, since they are known as ‘Tal-Farfett’.

“Timber creates a difference in taste. If you're using oak, it is semi-sour and pungent. If you're using fruit timber, the taste turns mellow-sweet. The connotations of a cigar are similar to wine.”

Just like Maltese farmers are contracted to grow potatoes for the Dutch market, Dougall contracts farmers in Sierra Leone to grow the tobacco he uses to make his cigars.

Having exported to Germany, Holland, the UK and Romania in the past, Dougall's factory now produces just under a million cigars a year. Some are exported and the rest are sold in Malta. His company reached its peak in 1995, when it produced over two million cigars.

“Our product is a regional product manufactured locally according to an old Dougall tradition,” says the entrepreneur, who touched Sierra Leone tobacco for the first time during a visit to Hamburg.

“An international company had taken me to inspect tobacco coming from all parts of the world. Huge bundles of tobacco were stored in a large warehouse. I touched various ones, smelt them and burnt pieces, learning from a guide where and how they were grown, and in which season. When I felt the tobacco grown in Sierra Leone, it was love at first sight. I immediately liked the smell, its texture.”

Since that day, Dougall has visited Africa regularly and built a strong relationship with the farming community in Sierra Leone.

"The farmers grow the tobacco for us and we sponsor them by giving them the seeds, fertiliser and food during the growing season. After we get the tobacco, it is graded by seasonal female workers in Sierra Leone leaf by leaf. So even in Sierra Leone, the industry is mostly dominated by women," he says.

"When you spend time in the bush sleeping and eating with farmers, you learn a lot. My experiences in Africa have taught me the art of survival."

FOLK SONGS AND MUSIC FROM MALTA

GEORGE BONAVIA

GEORGE BONA VIA, your host and commentator on International Rendezvous came to Canada from Malta In 1948 and since coming here he has worked to establish bridges of understanding among different racial and nationality groups in Canada. Being a journalist and broadcaster in Malta he has made use of these talents to further worthwhile activities in his new country.

GEORGE had only been here a short time when he began to work on a book - "Canada . . . Land of Hope and Prosperity" which was published in 1951, followed by "Workers in Canada" published by the Malta Government In 1961. He has written two more books: "In Canada Now . . . Thoughts and Events" and "Canada From an Unknown Country to a Great Nation." George has also contributed to the Encyclo!edia Canadiana. He writes regularly to newspapers in Malta and has his own radio programme In Malta "With George Bonavia In Canada" produced here In co-operation with the International Service of the CBC.

GEORGE Is the editor and publisher of the "Malta News," and in 1961 published "The Citizen's News," a monthly newspaper for all ethnic groups.

MODERN SONG "MAHBUBA KEKINA" POPULAR SONG "TAL-KARAWETT" - These two songs originated among the Maltese emigrants in Toronto. Carmen Sapiano came to Canada in 1948 and settled in Toronto where he met Joe Xuereb, and formed a group to entertain at Maltese gatherings. Carmen Sapiano was at that time recording programmes for the Malta Redifussion, and it was on these programmes that these songs were first heard, about 10 years ago .

. The first song (Band 11) was written by Carmen . Sapiano and put to music by Joe Xuereb. It is a love song - MY DEAR CATHERINE ... "Mahbuba Kekina". The other one (Band 12), is about a peanut vendor, a popular figure on the Maltese scene.

IL-PARATA - Kuntradanza Maltija. Carnival or Madri Gras is ushered in Malta by the "Parata" - an ancient Maltese sword-dance commemorating the victory of the Maltese over the Turks in 1565. It consists of groups of " young men dressed in gay ribbons and armed with wooden swords forming two circles representing the Turks and the Christians. At the end of the dance a young girl symbolising Malta is carried high on the shoulders - - as a sign of victory. The dance is directed by the leader who, blowing a whistle, gives the orders.

XALATA GHAL SAN PAWL IL-BAHAR - It used to be quite a sight before the automobiles, to see groups riding on a horse cart going for a picnic to the many beaches in Malta, especially on such holidays as "L-Imnarja" or "Lapsi". As the group rides to their destination, they sing happily accompanied by guitars and accordions or concertinas. Here in this number the group is going to St. Paul Bay. It is interpreted by Emmanuele Cilia and Carlo Cardona.

MAL TESE DRINKING SONG - In many villages, the corner wine shop was the place where many of the village singers gather and to the strains of the guitar they pour out one song after another. At intervals, the audience present stands them a drink as an encouragement' and the wine heightens the vigour of their song. In this song a toast is offered to Bacchus, the ancient god of wine: "Let's drink and be happy". One after each other they accept the invitation and each gives praise to the drink. At the end the group joins in the refrain: "Long live the wine, for it is the drink that makes us happy, and makes us forget all the heavy burdens of life".

SONG ON THE GUITAR - GHANA "Iz:zaqqieq" - The subjects of Maltese folk-songs vary according to circumstances, and this one it is in the nature of a satire upon the faults of the character of the one "That eats too much", hence the Maltese name "Iz -zaqqieq".



MUSIC TO A MONASTERY

Inspired by true events, *Il-Ħanina Maddalena* (The Merciful Magdalene) tells the story of three verginelle who join the monastery of St Mary

Magdalene in Valletta. The musical features more than 50 artists, including singers Chiara, Amber, Leontine and Dorothy Bezzina.



Il-Ħanina Maddalena will premiere in July as part of the Malta International Arts Festival. A new Maltese musical telling the story of the Magdalene Sisters of Valletta will premiere in July as part of the Malta International Arts Festival.

Il-Ħanina Maddalena (The Merciful Magdalene), which is inspired by true events, is set in the 18th century and follows the story of three verginelle who join Valletta's monastery of St Mary Magdalene.

Today, the tiny chapel in Merchants Street, Valletta, is one of the few remaining reminders of this order, which inspired the story behind the musical. Written by Simon Bartolo and Loranne Vella and with music by Dominic Galea, *Il-Ħanina Maddalena* will feature more than 50 artists, including singers Chiara, Amber, Leontine and Dorothy Bezzina. It is directed by Josette Ciappara, with choreography by Dorian Mallia and Diane Portelli.

This musical is part of the Malta International Arts Festival and was commissioned by Valletta 2018 and Festivals Malta. It is supported by PBS Malta, the Malta Film Commission and the Valletta Local Council.

Il-Ħanina Maddalena will premiere on July 18 at Pjazza Teatru Rjal, Valletta. More performances will follow on July 20 to 22 and 25 to 29. Tickets are available at www.ilhanina.com.

For more information, call on 2339 7000.



<https://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20180626/community/music-to-a-monastery.682827>



Traditional agricultural fair attracts large crowds in Nadur

Last week, Nadur village has been buzzing with activity during the two-day Wirja Agrarja – Agricultural Fair, held as part of the celebrations for the feast of Imnarja. The fair was organised this year by the Nadur Local Council and the Parliamentary Secretariat for Agriculture, Fisheries and Animal Rights.

The activities on Saturday evening and this morning were in and around I-Arcipriet Martin Camilleri Square. The perfect weather attracted large crowds to the fair, enjoying a “feast” for the eyes, with a variety of activities and events to entertain them from the past and the present. These included an exhibition of local farm products, livestock, crafts, artisans, antique farming tools, traditional ghana, as well as Gozitan food and wine tasting. There was a blessing of pets on Sunday morning by the village Archpriest Mons. Jimmy Xerri, with a parade of horses and ponies.

Photographs by Alain Salvar

Kangaroo halts Australian league soccer match



CANBERRA, June 25 — A kangaroo became the latest social media sensation after invading a soccer pitch just two kilometres from Parliament House in Canberra on Sunday.

The woman's premier league soccer match was stopped for almost 20 minutes as the kangaroo jumped fences, sprinted the length of the pitch and laid down in the penalty box.

Players, spectators and staff watched in amazement as the large great eastern kangaroo entered the field of play after half

time in the National Premier League match between Canberra Football Club and Belconnen United Blue Devils in the Australian Capital Territory.

Now the roo's antics have made headlines around the world after the video went viral on social media.

The footage was captured on a live stream for Australian broadcaster, Bar TV Sports.

“Oh dear. We're getting close,” said commentator Russ Gibbs when the kangaroo disappeared to the side of a building.

“We're obviously trying to do the best thing for the kangaroo without hurting it ... and he's out of the gate and he's gone!”

While sightings of kangaroos in Canberra are far from rare, Gibbs said it was unusual for the animal to find its way onto an enclosed oval and made it even more difficult to remove it.

After chasing the kangaroo on foot and gently rolling footballs towards it, ground staff slowly drove towards the creature in a van.

The kangaroo, which entertained supporters by pretending to play goalkeeper, is believed to have leapt onto the playing arena from the stands in the exclusive Canberra suburb of Deakin.

After several false starts, it was eventually directed away to safety for play to resume.



Two women dream and rebuild their lives in Malta, despite obstacles faced

Joanna Demarco

On International Women's Day, a day allocated to celebrating women and raising awareness about their rights, The Malta Independent, together with UNHCR Malta, meet up with two

women who, after fleeing war and conflict, are rebuilding their lives and marching ahead, despite the challenges of a new community. Eman and Maram face various obstacles, including discrimination, yet still get on with their days. Head held high, make-up carefully applied, and hijab neatly placed, they are seeking to improve their lives and those of their family members, and make the world a better place. Eman stands in the middle of her newly-relocated hair and make-up salon in Hamrun. She has moved merely a stone's throw away from her previous shop, but this one is better; more light, more space, and more customers, hopefully. Back in Libya she built a career around journalism and design, but here in Malta, she is looking to pursue a career linked with another passion of hers; 'making people feel beautiful', as she puts it. Her shop is for women only, a space where clients can chit-chat and talk about personal issues in a welcoming environment, whilst getting their hair or make-up done. What makes it even more special is that it is the only one of its kind within the locality.

We ask her what she likes about her profession. "Many, many things," she replies, with the help of a translator. Her body language presents her as confident and head-strong. She laughs out loudly frequently; that type of laugh which makes you laugh, even when you do not understand the joke. "I'll tell you, (when a customer) comes to my salon and changes her style, and she starts to feel happy about that, you know, this makes me really happy as well. When I see this happiness in the eyes of my customer I feel really happy and proud of myself!"

She is close to fluent in Maltese, but the translator is there so that Eman, a Libyan national, can express herself more comfortably in her mother tongue.

Eman has been living in Malta since 2015 and has, like many other refugees and migrants here, lived through a beginning which was tough. Migrant Women Association Malta helped make Eman's experience in Malta better, as she found herself meeting people who she can relate to, making her feel less alone in her circumstances where it was hard to get up on her own two feet and fit in the society she found herself in. Her salon feels like home for the Arab community, who enjoy a sense of familiarity in visiting Eman's shop. "This was a strong point for me," she said. "(The clients say) that we feel like we're in our homeland." Eman has Maltese clients too. Some are surprised at her knowledge of the Maltese language, which Eman claims to have learnt in merely three months, by mingling with elderly locals. She believes that her Maltese clients choose her services because of a natural hair treatment done within Arabic culture, which is not so common in Malta.



Worth Noting

- **THE HIJAB** is a scarf that covers the head and neck, but leaves the face uncovered – it is representative of the principle of modesty required by the Qur'an. Muslim women are required to observe wearing the Hijab in front of any man they could theoretically marry.
- **THE NIQAB** is a veil for the face that leaves

the area around the eyes clear. It is most common in the Arab countries of the Persian Gulf such as Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, Oman, and the UAE. It is also common in Pakistan.

- **THE BURQA** is the most concealing of all Islamic veils - it covers the entire face and body, leaving just a mesh screen to see through. It is worn over the usual daily clothing and removed when the woman returns to the household, out of the view of men that are not their husbands, fathers, brothers, uncles, sons and grandsons.