



MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER

The Journal of the Maltese Diaspora

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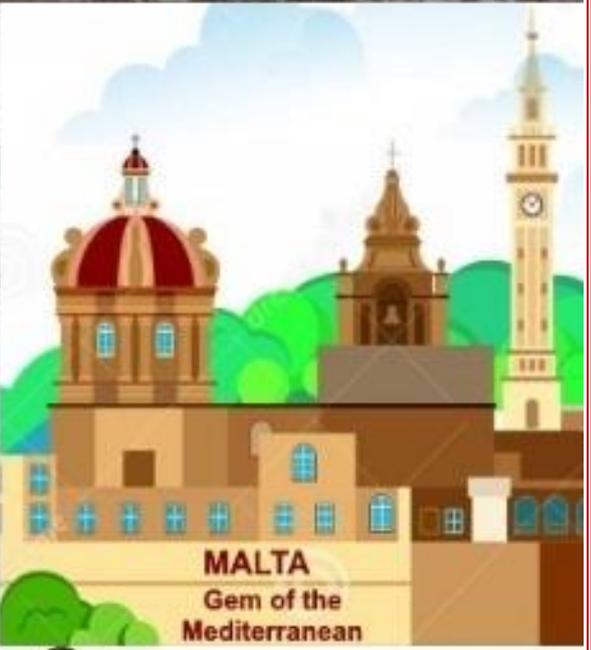


**Kingsgate - pre-WW2
Valletta - Malta**



Hello, all readers
of this journal
MERHBA

Il-Karrozzin



MALTA
Gem of the
Mediterranean

Sweet Memories

Pope Francis appoints Adelaide's Fr Charles Gauci as the seventh Bishop of Darwin



Bishop-elect Charles Gauci

Pope Francis has appointed Fr Charles Gauci, administrator of St Francis Xavier's Cathedral in Adelaide, as the seventh Bishop of Darwin.

Fr Gauci was born into a faith-filled family in Malta and arrived in Australia as a 13-year-old. He was ordained for Adelaide in 1977 and has served in parishes across the Archdiocese. He has also held a number of archdiocesan leadership roles, including as chairman of the Council of Priests.

Australian Catholic Bishops Conference president Archbishop Mark Coleridge welcomed the appointment, announced 27 June, saying he will be "a great gift to the Church in Darwin with all its challenges and also a good addition to the Bishops Conference".

Known for his deep spirituality and commitment to evangelisation, Fr Charles has served as a pastor in parishes, a school chaplain, spiritual director and retreat leader, Archbishop Coleridge said.

The bishops' conference reports that Fr Gauci was born into a faith-filled family in Malta and arrived in Australia as a 13-year old.

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Fr Gauci said he was introduced to the life of the Diocese of Darwin and the faith of the community there when he was invited to lead a retreat for the priests of the diocese about three years ago.

He said he was full of admiration for the work they do, "often in very isolated areas where there are none of the comforts and conveniences of suburban life".

He hopes to visit the diocese (which takes in almost all of the Northern Territory) as soon as possible so he can meet its people and speak with Bishop Eugene Hurley, who has served in Darwin for the past 11 years and as a bishop for almost 20 years.

"Bishop Eugene is a great man; I'm humbled to succeed him. He will help me understand the diocese, its communities and ministries. With that knowledge and discerning what God is asking of me, I will seek to fulfil the task now entrusted to me," he said.

"I look forward to continuing to learn from all the people of God as their fellow traveller."

In announcing the appointment, Pope Francis also accepted Bishop Hurley's resignation.

Bishop Hurley will serve as Apostolic Administrator of the Diocese until Bishop-elect Gauci's ordination, a date for which has not yet been confirmed.

AUSTRALIA HALL IN MALTA



forces left the island in 1979.

which is situated in the corner of Alamein and ANZAC streets, Pembroke opened on January 16, 1916, with enough room to accommodate 2,000 people for stage productions, dances and other events. A library and reading room were later added, and after the war, in 1921, a projector was installed so that the venue could be used as a cinema. Providing soldiers with lighthearted entertainment was a big part of the care that Malta offered to the ANZACS. Even after World War One drew to a close, Australia Hall remained a major entertainment centre until British



But the years that followed were not so kind on the historic structure. Having passed into Maltese government ownership, the historic building was closed and became increasingly neglected. It was eventually gutted by fire in 1998, just two years after being formally recognised as a Grade 2 National Monument.

The derelict, fire-ravaged Australia Hall was controversially sold in 2014 into private hands, and last year it was reported that Australia's High Commissioner to Malta, Jane Lambert, was pushing for the century-old venue's restoration. With only walls

remaining, renovation would cost millions of euros and require in-depth planning. But as an important part of Australia's national heritage, many are hopeful that a solution can soon be found.

We received a huge response to our campaign to save this century old historic building. Hundreds of letters of support were sent. We are alerting the concerned authorities about this vandalism and we were hoping when Australia, New Zealand and Malta were commemorating the CENTENARY OF ANZAC SPIRIT these three countries would start the process of restoring this monument. But, unfortunately, nothing has eventuated, and we believe this building will disappear altogether without trace.



**IF YOU CARE
JOIN US IN
TRYING TO
PRESERVE THIS
ANZAC
MONUMENT IN
MALTA
- SEND US
EMAILS, LETTERS,
COMMENTS**

Beach Volley in the City



Stuck in the city but want to feel the sand under your feet? The Algida Valletta Beach Volley in the City will see 50 tonnes of sand and an inflatable pop-up court set up in St George's Square

This morning's launch of the Algida Valletta Beach Volley in the City. (Photo: Valletta 2018)

The iconic St George's Square in Valletta will be celebrating summer by hosting a beach volleyball tournament for the first time ever for Valletta 2018.

The square, surrounded by the Grandmaster's Palace, the Main Guard, and other key landmarks, will be transformed into a virtual beach volleyball court for The Algida Valletta Beach Volley in the City between the 17 and the 22 of July 2018.

An arena filled with a staggering 50 tonnes of sand and an inflatable pop-up court will be set up in the middle of the square for this event, which spans over six days.

This innovative attraction in the heart of the city will see a national beach volleyball tournament featuring top Maltese and international teams.

Volleyball demonstrations and fun games will also take place, with the participation of some of Malta's popular presenters and TV personalities. An event for children will be held during the weekend, where they will be introduced to volleyball by professional coaches.

Although this is the first time that this concept is materialising in Malta, it has worked with spectacular results in major cities all over the world including Rome, Milan, Berlin, and New York.

The Algida Valletta Beach Volley in the City, which forms part of the Valletta 2018 Cultural Programme, aims at promoting volleyball as a sport as well as the importance of an active lifestyle. By promoting physical activity and encouraging people to engage in sports, this event will become another part of Valletta 2018's legacy.

This event is being organized by the Valletta Volleyball Club in collaboration with the Valletta 2018 Foundation, supported by the Malta Tourism Authority, Sportmalta, the Malta Volleyball Association the Maltese Olympic Committee and Algida. Entrance is free.

CENTRAL COAST SANTA MARIA FEAST DAY

ST MARY'S FEAST will be celebrated **ON SUNDAY - 12TH August 2018.**
at Mary Mackillop Church, Corner Minnesota and Sparks Roads, Woongarah, NSW.

Mass start at 3.00pm followed by the Procession at 4.00pm.

TUGGERAH LAKES SHOW BRASS BAND will participate

After Procession there will be Benediction.

Tuggerah lakes brass band will entertain the congregation

Fireworks commence at 6.00pm.

tea coffee and drinks will be sold downstairs.

Sunny Maltese confectionary will also be there selling his goods.

and B.B.Q. and Pastizzi will be on sale

For more information please contact Charlie Scicluna on 0404194020

Sunday, July 12, 2015, 00:01 by Eddie Attard

LEHEN SEWWA

“Jien Maltija” – P.C.F. Agius

Il-Hadd, 7 ta' Marzu, 1945, fl-Empire Stadium, fil-Gżira, kienet qiegħda tintlagħab partita football bejn it-team Malti u it-team Jugoslav Hajduk. Meta ntemmet il-logħba, tkanta l-God Save the King u l-Innu Nazzjonali Jugoslav, iżda ma tkantax l-Innu Malti. Il-poplu Malti, li kien qed jattendi għal dik il-logħba mportanti, ħass li dak in-nuqqas kien insult lin-Nazzjon Malti, u imqanqal minn sens patrijottiku qawwi, qam f'daqqa waħda u beda jkanta għalenija u vuci waħda, l-Innu Nazzjonali Malti – **Lil Din l-Art Helwa.**

Dik kienet stqarrija pubblika ta' poplu tas-sens patrijottiku li kellu jhegġeġf'qalbu. Din kienet xena ta' għaqda ta' poplu li Malta qatt ma kienet għadha rat bħalha. It-Tabib poeta Rużar Briffa ħass li dik il-ġrajja importanti fl-istorja ta' pajjiżna kellu jirreġistרה b'poeżija qasira mqanqla minn patrijottizmu kbir u kiteb hekk:

**Il-kotra qamet f'daqqa – u għajtet:
Jien Maltija, Miskin minn ikasbarni – miskin min jidħaq bija.
Il-kotra qamet f'daqqa u semmgħet mal-irjeh,
l-innu ta' Malta tagħna – u l-lehen kien rebbieh.**

Imma dak kien żmien meta l-poplu Malti u Għawdxi kien poplu magħqud, poplu wieħed, poplu li kien jemmen bis-sħiħ li kienu l-valuri nsara li jgħaqqduh u jagħmlu minnu poplu ta' principji sodi, poplu nazzjonali. Dak kien żmien meta l-poplu Malti kien jemmen tassew li kienet il-Fidi Nisranija l tgħaqqdu tqawwih u toħorgu dejjem rebbieh fil-ġrajjet imqanqla tal-istorja ta' Gżiritna. Illum il-poplu Malti m'għadux aktar magħqud il-maġġoranza tal-Maltin m'għadhomx jemmnu fil-valuri Nsara li jgħaqqduhom qalb waħda u m'għadhomx jemmnu aktar b'ruħhom Illum parti kbira mill-poplu Malti u Għawdxi jemnu biss fi flushom, fi bwiethom, fil-miljuni ta' fondi li qed jiġu minn barra minn Malta u jemmnu biss f'kemm hi f'saħħitha l-ekonomija, nazzjonali bla ma jifhemu din xi tfigħer u kif qed jintefqu l-flus. U min kien fqir baqa' fqir. U qed jiġi mwbbel biex jemmen li kollox sejjer tajjeb, ħlief dak li hu l-aktar essenzjali għall-bniedem biex jgħix b'dinjità.

Grupp Santa Marija - Sydney

Il-Grupp Santa Marija bhal snin ohra

qegħdin jorgannizaw il-festa ta **Marija Assunta**

Nhar il-Hadd 5 ta' Awwissu 2018

fic-Centru Malti ta La Valette, gewwa Blacktown.

Il-program tal-festa jibda b'quddiesa fit-tlieta ta wara nofsinhar (3.00 pm)

Ic-celebrant huwa Fr.Tarcisio Micallef mssp mghejjun minn chaplan

Fr. Noel Bianco mssp. bis-sehem tal-kor ta' l-għaqda kulturali

Wara l-quddiesa toħrog il-purcissjoni bil-vara artistika ta Santa Marija li se tkun
akkumpanjata bir-recta tar-ruzarju u
innjet Marjani.mill-banda O.L.Q.P.

**Se jkun hemm divertiment minn Charlie Muscat ; Wayne Place flimkien mal- Vella
SiSTERS u l-mistiedna specjali Nathia Tatarinof**

Il-klabb se jkun miftuh mis-1.00 pm il quddiem fejn tistghu tixtru
ikel u xorb Malti

After 145 years, Corradino's longest prison term surpassed

Governor Sir Patrick Grant, who granted a pardon to John Naylor.



Until recently, the longest term of an inmate in Maltese prisons since 1800 was that of John Naylor of the 88th Regiment of Foot, The Connought Rangers, who was imprisoned for 26 years and 360 days.

On March 6, 1843, William Martin, a doctor and inspector general of the Royal Navy hospital, was killed when he was boarding a boat in Dockyard Creek. Martin had just left Sir John Lewis when a rifle shot penetrated his torso and tore his right lung and part of his intestine. Fatally wounded, he fell into the sea, and although he was brought to shore soon afterwards, he died about 40 minutes later.

The shot had been fired by Irish private Naylor, who was 30 at the time. Earlier that morning, during the routine inspection, Naylor was reported by a sergeant of the same regiment for insubordination.

The sergeant's reprimand had hurt Naylor's feelings and deeply disturbed him. Indeed he was also heard telling some soldiers he had been humiliated by the sergeant and that he wanted to kill him.

This strange behaviour continued in the barrack's mess, and when he left he carried a rifle with him and proceeded to the quay. When Naylor spotted Martin, the red mist descended and he shot him, but there was no doubt he intended to shoot the sergeant not the doctor.

When Naylor was arrested, he offered no resistance and he was later charged with wilful homicide. During his detention prior to the trial, the accused was examined by medical experts appointed by the prosecution who certified that the accused was responsible for the act.

However, during the trial on April 3, 1843, the defence counsel brought a medical expert who testified that Naylor was a psychopath. It was also said that Naylor did not know whom he had shot until his arrest. In his address to the jury, Sir Ignazio Gavino Bonavia, the presiding judge, reminded the jurors that they ought to know that a man is presumed to be sane, until the contrary be proved to the satisfaction of the court.

Naylor was found guilty with a six to one verdict (at that time the jury consisted of seven jurors) and he was sentenced to life imprisonment and chained with leg irons. He was released and allowed to return to Ireland by a warrant of the Governor of Malta, Sir Patrick Grant, on March 1, 1870, after spending 27 years in Valletta Great Prison and later at Corradino prison.

The offender, who already committed four murders, is a serious menace to Maltese society and this surely necessitates that he be given a substantially long jail term- Mr Justice Joseph Galea Debono

Naylor's term in prison was lately surpassed by that of Mohsen Mosbah Bin Brahim and Ben Ali Wahid Ben Hassine, two Tunisians who have been imprisoned since February 20, 1988. After about four years in preventive custody the two Tunisians were each given a life sentence after pleading guilty to killing four men, namely, Peter James Rhead at Ta' Xbiex on February 12, 1988, George Cucciardi on the same night, Alfred Darmanin and Frenchman Levarlet Guillaume Andrè Michel. The last two murders were committed on February 18, 1988.

On March 29, 2000, Mosbah escaped from prison and after stealing a car in Paola he broke into an apartment. On May 22, 2006, he pleaded guilty in the criminal court to the crime, to the possession of a weapon and resisting arrest when he was being taken in police custody.

Originally, Mosbah had also been charged with escaping from prison but this charge was dropped after a Constitutional Court ruled that his fundamental rights had been breached because he had already been tried and punished for the escape by the prison's disciplinary board.

Before passing a six-year prison sentence, Mr Justice Joseph Galea Debono said: "This is a manifest case where the offender, who already committed four murders apart from other serious offences, and who already escaped from jail three times, is a serious menace to Maltese society and this surely necessitates that he be given a substantially long jail term."

Mosbah is not the only prisoner with a life sentence and a concurrent prison sentence. In 2010, Silvio Mangion was jailed for life after a jury found him guilty of the murder of Rozina Zammit, 54, who was stabbed in her home in Safi in 1984.

Prior to this sentence, Mangion had received a 21-year imprisonment for the murder of Frenç Cassar and the attempted murder of the victim's sister on August 18, 1998. Moreover, Mangion has been accused of stabbing to death Maria Stella Magrin at her home in Cospicua on October 30, 1986, and the case is still sub-judice.

Andy Calleja is another inmate sentenced to life imprisonment with a concurrent prison sentence. In June 2004 Calleja was jailed for life after admitting in the Criminal Court to murdering Police Constable Roger Debattista. In October 2014 and November 2014, Calleja received further prison sentences after admitting in court to being in possession of drugs.

In 1971, Parliament voted to abolish the death penalty from the Criminal Code. Before the promulgation of the Criminal Code in 1854, the death penalty or life sentences were also given for those found guilty of grievous bodily harm or theft aggravated by violence.

After the 1971 Criminal Code amendments, imprisonment for life became the maximum sentence that can be imposed by the Criminal Court on anyone who, after a trial, is found guilty of wilful homicide irrespective of the number of victims mentioned in the bill of indictment.

In some countries two or more consecutive life sentences may be given in one trial for multiple murders. The 1971 reform also included the court's recommendation on passing the sentence of imprisonment for life. Section 493 of the Criminal Code states: "After sentencing any person to imprisonment for life, the court may recommend in writing to the Prime Minister within 24 hours the minimum period which in its view should elapse before the prisoner is released from prison. Such recommendation shall be made available to the person sentenced, and a copy thereof shall be kept by the registrar."

Moreover, "it shall be lawful for any judge, who sat in a trial, to recommend to the President of Malta, for pardon or mitigation of punishment any person sentenced by making for this purpose a report in writing stating the reason for such recommendation".

Since the abolition of the death penalty, 18 men and one woman were given a life sentence after found guilty by a jury or pleaded guilty to wilful homicide



Furthermore, "where at any time before the constitution of the jury the accused declares himself guilty and for the fact admitted by the accused there is established the punishment of imprisonment for life, the court may, instead of the said punishment, impose the punishment of imprisonment for a term from 18 to 30 years. It shall be lawful for the court to award a sentence of imprisonment for a term of not less than 12 years in lieu of the punishment of imprisonment for life if, in establishing a fact involving the latter punishment, the jury shall not have been unanimous".

One of the divisions of the prison.

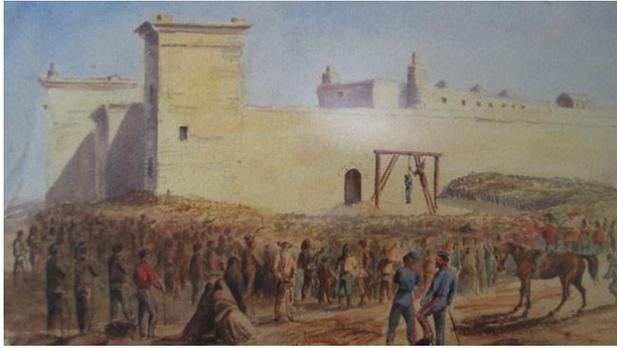
Since the abolition of the death penalty, 18 men and one woman were given a life sentence after found guilty by a jury or pleaded guilty to wilful homicide. However, the Court of Criminal Appeal has changed the life sentence in three cases.

Between 1800 and 1837 all those found guilty of wilful homicide were sentenced to death. However, some death sentences were commuted to life imprisonment. The first prisoners who benefited from this prerogative of mercy were Salvu Grech and Ġanni Magri in 1807.

The previous year, Grech and Magri, together with Giovanni Scerri and Ġużeppi Camilleri, murdered a priest during a robbery in Naxxar. Scerri and Camilleri were executed and Grech and Magri were told they had been reprieved a few minutes before their scheduled execution. Since 1800, 25 convicts had their death sentence commuted to life imprisonment.

In May 1838 Angelo Farrugia was given a life sentence after he was found guilty of killing Joseph Barbara of Żejtun. Farrugia was released in 1858 after a special amnesty; however, he failed to reform himself. In June 1860 Farrugia was hanged for killing a police constable.

The youngest person ever sentenced to life in prison since 1800 was Toni Cutajar. In 1838, at the age of 12, he was caught stealing from the sanctuary of the Immaculate Conception in Qala. When he was released after nine years he went to Turkey, and in 1848 he was extradited to Malta for killing Paolo Stella, a Maltese emigrant. Cutajar received another life sentence for this crime; however, in August 1867 he escaped from Corradino prison and managed to leave the island. To date Cutajar is the only Maltese convict who received two separate life sentences.



The execution of Anġlu Farrugia in 1860 outside Corradino Prison, a watercolour painting by Edward Hovell Thurlow. Photo courtesy of Dr Albert Ganado

Until three decades ago, thanks to the 17 amnesties granted between 1814 and 1987, together with remissions and the several pardons, prisoners with life sentences have obtained early release after a reduction of their prison sentence. The amnesty given after the constitutional changes in January 1987 not

only gave a month deduction from each year of the prison sentence, but those imprisoned for life had their sentence reduced to 20 years.

Certain pardons by governors of Malta were more gracious than the amnesties. In June 1937, Governor Sir Charles Bonham-Carter commuted Karmena Abdilla's death penalty to life imprisonment, and four years later she was paroled and released from Corradino prison.

A prison cell in the 1850 building.



In March 1937, the woman was found guilty of inciting her 15-year-old son to kill Ġużeppi Debattista in Hamrun. The boy fired at Debattista at point-blank range, and although the bullet was removed during an operation, Debattista died the following day.

The number of prisoners serving life sentence in Corradino prison who died in prison, whether actually in prison or in hospital, is seven. Franġisku Farrugia, aged 37, sentenced for life in 1894, died in 1896 due to nervous exhaustion. His prison term was the shortest one since 1850.

The longest term of such imprisonment was that of Joseph Harrington, who died on September 2, 2014. Harrington was imprisoned for life after he was found guilty of murdering Sylvia King in April 1993. He had been held in preventive custody and later

imprisoned at Corradino for 21 years and four months.

Harrington's prison term surpassed that of Salvu Vella, who died while being treated in Mount Carmel Hospital in October 1911, aged 65. Vella was being treated for his psychiatric problems. In 1894 he was sentenced for life for a murder he committed in August 1891.

The Maltese Canadian Club of London



**Maltese-Canadian Museum
Archives and Visitors Centre
St. Paul the Apostle Church
Complex 3224 Dundas St. W.,
Toronto, ON, M6P 2A3 1-416-767-705**



Where shall I go for a swim in Malta???

RON BORD (Adelaide)
writes from Malta

Two of the most picturesque spots for a swim in Malta which are not very well known are; **St. Peters Pool and Kalanka.**



Kalanka Bay

St Peters Pool is a pretty natural swimming pool with crystal clear blue-green waters is ideal for snorkelers and swimmers wishing to spend a peaceful and relaxing day in the sun.

This most stunning natural swimming pool in [Malta](#), is closely located to Marsaxlokk at the tip of Delimara Point in the south west of Malta. St. Peter's Pool is not the easiest place to find but it is on the way to Marsaxlokk Bay. Located in a small bay on the Delimara peninsula, St. Peter's Pool is just off the tall chimney tower next to Marsaxlokk Bay.

Crystal clear with a beautiful azure and light green colour, this area offers plenty of opportunities for snorkeling. The flat rocks around the pool provide the ideal opportunity for sunbathing while the high rocks will shield you from the strong sun rays.

Ladders are available for access to the sea but there is also the added option of diving into the waters for the more adventurous bathers. St. Peter's Pool is highly popular with the locals living in the nearby villages as well as for tourists looking for a more remote location to spend their day. Due to its secluded position, it is rarely crowded and you can easily find a spot for yourself.



Peters Pool -Delimara Point

It's no wonder that this was the favourite swimming place for the deceased Prime Minister Dom Mintoff.

Kalanka is yet another especially beautiful swimming spot also situated close to Delimara Point and Marsaxlokk. Reaching is possible only with your **own vehicle or taxi**. The roads to it are dusty and not maintained well. **Hiking could be quite exhausting** when the temperature exceeds 35C.

Il Kalanka bay is one of the most beautiful and stunning natural swimming pools in Malta. It is well hidden in the southeast of Malta, settled at the very top of **Delimara peninsula**. **Il Kalanka bay is quiet even during summer**. There is ample room and even some shady areas along the smooth curves of limestone, while the azure sea makes for excellent **snorkelling**. The sea at Kalanka bay is crystal clear with an amazing azure and light green colours. The flat rocks around Il Kalanka bay provide perfect **sunbathing areas** and the high rocks offer some shade from the strong sun.

A Truly beautiful and stunning natural swimming pool.

Lill-Martri ta' Lidda

FIL-FESTA TIEGHU

Tard matul is-sena l-oħra
l-Art Imqaddsa mort inżur
fejn id-demm għadu qed jġgri,
b'għadd ta' martri għadha tfur!

Izda fost l-inħawi kollha,
ħaduni fil-belt ta' Lidda
fejn matul it-tielet seklu
dawl ta' Kewkba għal żmien idda!

Kien żagħżuġ mill-Kappadoċja,
tribun qawwi, kuraggjuż,
illi fih Djoklezjanu
kien iħobb u fiduċjuż!

Izda 'l Ġorġi ma' twemminu
ma kien żgur jilgħablu ħadd;
li jiċċhad id-Din ta' Kristu
xejn ma basar, ħolom qatt!

U allura kien lest jinża'
minn kull xorta ta' unuri,
basta jibqa' sod fil-fidi
u mħabbtu 'l Kristu juri.

U bla biża' t-triq qabad
li wasslitu għall-qtuġh ir-ras,
ma beżax minn Atanasju,
taż-żegħil xejn ma ta kas!

Illum qiegħed sew fil-għoli
max-xirka tal-qaddisin,
fejn il-Mulej il-post jagħti
lil tiegħu l-maħbubin.

U fil-qalba tal-belt tagħna
bnejnielu tempju sabiħ
illi niesna sa mill-qedem
kompliet tkabbar u tgħożż sħiħ!

Mill-pittura tal-Mattia,
'l Ġorġi lmaħt b'żiemel rebbieħ -
qiegħed hemm biex iħarisna
għax 'l uliedu jħobb qatigh.



Go Belt Pinto nsibu maqdes
illi jdur ma' Ġorġi tagħna,
fejn il-Qriema jsejħulu:
"Qum u orqod dejjem magħna!".

X'sengħa kellu dak il-mastru
illi sawrek mill-injam!
Kemm tispikka surtek f'darek,
b'ta' Carrara dak l-irham!

Meta l-Ħadd flgħaxija toħroġ
biex iddur mat-toroq tagħna,
dirgħajk berraħ, erħi l-palma,
u fi ħdanek dlonk ilqagħna!

Hemmhekk biss inkunu komdi,
bogħod min-niket, dwejjaq, mard:
inti l-mimmi ta' għajnejna,
tisboq l-aqwa bukkett ward!

Kav. Joe M. Attard
Victoria, Għawdex
Lulju 2018

MAN WITH A MISSION

“Ageing should not be a barrier in life but a further opportunity to excel,” insists 80-year-old Angelo Zahra who has recently been selected to receive the main prize in the award ‘Premju Anzjanità Attiva’ (Award for the Active Ageing) for his voluntary management of three homes for the disabled. Zahra studied mechanical engineering at the Dockyard Technical College and for several years, he served in managerial roles. Before his retirement, at age 63, he was the Director of the Manufacturing and Services Department with the Government of Malta.

“I have known Fr Angelo Seychell since his priesthood and I have always admired his work. When he founded the Nazareth Foundation in 1995 and opened his house to provide a home for people with special needs, I supported his venture by collecting donations from my colleagues twice a year. However, I was not directly involved with Dar Nazareth.”



Yet Fr Seychell had for long earmarked Zahra to help him develop his mission to create a warm family environment in which people with disabilities could lead a good and respectful life which gave them the possibility to be happy and to achieve their full potential.

“As soon as I retired, Fr Seychell approached me and asked me to consider serving as the administrator of Dar Nazareth. I accepted on condition to start three months later since I had promised my wife that I would finally take a much-awaited break from work.

In the meantime, my wife and I booked a tour to Lourdes and to our great surprise we found out that the group which we were going to travel with were none other than Fr Seychell, his volunteers and the residents at Dar Nazareth. This was a golden opportunity to get to know everyone better and soon, I was deeply involved with the Nazareth Foundation.”

“In September 2000, when I joined in, there were only five residents at Dar Nazareth. However, in a short time, the house was elaborated to receive a further five residents where it reached its full capacity. A year later, the Foundation rented a workshop wherein our residents could attend daily to entertain themselves and to make crafts which could be sold to the public.”

Dar Nazareth addressed a demand which had been stalled for several years. Soon, its success led to the establishment of two other houses.

“In 2004, the Foundation opened the second house, Dar l-Arcipriet Degabriele, which welcomed a further nine residents. Five years later, the third house, Dar Jean Vanier, opened its doors to another nine residents.” While in the beginning Dar Nazareth was operated by volunteers, the increase in residents and houses required the engagement of full-time workers.

“The funding of such projects is always one of the major stumbling blocks. The Foundation had succeeded to purchase two properties and develop them into residential homes. It also managed to acquire enough money to fund the salary of 30 full-time workers. Nevertheless, the sourcing of further income to sustain all the expenses required to keep these three homes functioning are a constant responsibility. Thankfully, in 2016, the Government signed an agreement with Nazareth Foundation through which it was given 1.4 million euro over a period of three years. This serves as a safety net for the Foundation’s administration to provide the best service possible to its residents.”



For the past 17 years, Zahra has voluntarily taken in hand the management of these three homes and presently he also acts as President of the Nazareth Foundation Board.

“This work has become my mission to do something worthwhile with my available time. It gives me utter satisfaction to see our residents living in a friendly and family environment where they can feel safe, at ease, and loved. Their appreciation and happiness in return give me a sense of fulfilment and help me to feel much younger.”

(This feature was published in the Senior Times supplement issued with The Times of Malta on 15 December 2017) *Share on Facebook*



Palazzo Ferreria Palazzo Ferreria, officially **Palazzo Buttigieg-Francia**,^[4] is a palace found near the entrance of Valletta, the capital city of Malta. It was built in the late 19th century.^[5] Designed by Architect Giuseppe Bonavia, it was the first building to introduce timber balconies on the islands. It is a grade 1 national monument.

History

On the plot of the palace a former foundry of the Order of St John existed to manufacture the knight's armaments. Giuseppe Buttigieg and his wife Giovanna Camilleri acquired the land from the government, and they built Palazzo Ferreria in the late 19th century. Visibly on the façade are the coat of arms of Buttigieg and Camilleri. The palace was left as dowry to their daughter Teresa Buttigieg. She married Colonel John Louis Francia for whom the Palace got its name for a while. Francia was a Spanish citizen from the British colony Gibraltar, and the two met in Malta while Francia was on duty with the British army. Palazzo Ferreria is the second biggest palace in Valletta after the Grandmaster's Palace.

The Francia family resided at the palace until the end of World War Two, in 1947. The war had destroyed or partly damaged most buildings in Valletta. The Labour government, led by Dom Mintoff, rented part of the palace from the Francia for the Public Works Department, to reconstruct and restore Valletta from the war damage. The family kept a small part of the palace as an apartment which is now used as a Maltese government Ministry's office.^[6] The Francia sold the palace in 1979 to the government which was administered once again under Prime Minister of Malta Dom Mintoff.

Today the lower parts of the palace consist of several shops.**Architecture**



The architect of Palazzo Ferreria is Giuseppe Bonavia, who also designed the Lija Belvedere Tower and La Borsa. Bonavia is accredited to be the first architect to introduce the timber balconies on façades, beginning with the Palazzo Ferreria. This took place in the 19th-century and has influenced several architects and Maltese populace in general, something that is still visible and prevalent today. The palace is scheduled as a grade 1 national monument by the Malta Environment and Planning Authority.



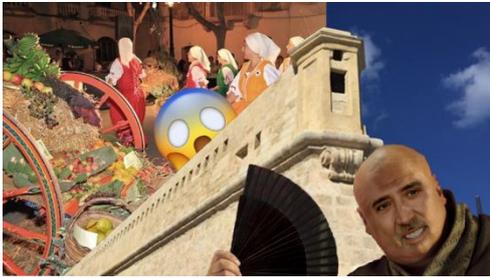
MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER

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BUILDING BRIDGES BETWEEN COMMUNITIES

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

A Bunch Of Over-Ambitious Slaves Had Tried To Poison Half The Country On L-Imnarja



Chiara Micallef

Maltese people are proud of their island's history, and there's a very good reason for that. We're surrounded by relics from across the millennia, with imposing structures and impressive stories. But even in a country which relishes in passing down these narratives from generation to generation, there are some which still manage to go largely unnoticed.

In the 18th Century, when the the Knights of St. John were still in vogue on our island, someone was pissed off at them, and by someone we mean a bunch of local slaves. The Order had a thing for pissing people off — it seemed to be their number one plan on their daily agenda - however this revolt did not really stem from the Order's hobby of stepping on everybody's toes flamboyantly.

Back in 1738, a Muslim ship called the Lupa was carrying Maltese, Georgian and Hungarian slaves across the Mediterranean. These slaves decided that they needed a career change.

They took over the ship, killed a bunch of people and took 150 of them as prisoners. The slaves sailed the captured ship to Malta. Oh and one of the prisoners they took was none other than the Pasha of Rhodes — Mustafa.

When they got here, the French themselves were alerted because of the Franco-Ottoman alliance.

Upon freeing Mustafa, the French were surprised to find out that he had allegedly converted to Christianity and was actually planning on marrying a Maltese woman and staying here.

Spoiler alert: he only said that because he was plotting revenge.

In June 1749, the Grand Master organised a banquet to celebrate the traditional *Imnarja* in Valletta for everyone to attend, so Mustafa and some other slaves planned to poison all the food present at the banquet and also in all the Auberges and palaces around the island. Geez bro.

From there, some of the slaves would assassinate Grand Master Pinto da Fonseca, some other slaves would overpower the guards, and then they'd attack the prison from where they would free all the other Muslim slaves, attack and take over St. Elmo, take all the weapons from the armouries and send for help from Tunis, Algiers and Tripoli to invade Malta. Talk about ambitious.

As bombastically inflated plans go, this one was bound to fail hard.

A couple of weeks before *L-Imnarja*, three of the slaves met in a coffee shop to talk about this plot. Of course, the shop owner overheard them and reported them.

Now we're not saying we would've wanted half the country to be poisoned, but we're genuinely disappointed that these guys would be so stupid as to *discuss their mass assassination plans in a coffee shop*.

They were arrested, and of course seeing as this was the 18th century, tortured. Eight of the slaves had their foreheads branded with a cool letter R and sent to work in the galleys, 38 others were baptised *and* executed. 125 were hanged in the Palace Square in Valletta, and Mustafa was sent back to Rhodes in one of Malta's very first examples of "*go back to your country*". So thanks to Mustafa, laws restricting slaves became harsher.

They couldn't do anything except for, well, slaving — they could no longer sell their trade on the streets, had a curfew and could not gather in crowds. So, the lesson here is to not be bombastically short-sighted when it comes to planning revenge. And to never, ever, ever try to take over St. Elmo.



BENNINI HA NORQOD

Benninni ha norqod,
Benninni bil-ħlewwa,
Kull diqa nessini,
Nessini kull dnewwa;

Benninni bil-lajma
Ta' leħnek jirtogħod,
Benninni, Benninni,
Hekk, hekk, bil-mod.

Aħbili li hemm barra,
Qed jokrob ir-riħ,
Bħal ruħ qieghda tfittex,
Għalxejn, il-mistrieħ.

Benninni, benninni,
Nessini kull diqa,
Benninni, bħal meta,
kont ċkejken fin-nieqa,

U l-għanja tennili
- Il-għanja ta' dari -
Tat-tfajjel imqareb
Mitluf gewwa x-xagħri:

"Izd'ommu wisq talbet
Lit-twajjed Bambin,
U Dan it-triq sablu,
Għaliex hu ħanin."

Jien ġrali bħat-tfajjel,
Tbegħidt wisq mid-dar,
U kollox sibt hieni,
Sakemm il-lejl sar,

U nfirxet ir-reżħa
U d-dlam fuq ix-xagħri,
U sfajt għajjen mejjet,
Imriegħex minn dwari.

Fejn taf, għażiż'ommi,
Kemm ra l-iben tiegħek
Minn xħin telaq daru
U nfired minn miegħek!

Benninni, benninni,
Fissidni bħal dari . . .
Hekk . . . hekk . . . iva, daħħal
Subgħajk gewwa xagħri;

W għannili, bil-ħlewwa,
Il-għanja tas-sewwa.

MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER
The Journal of the
Maltese Diaspora



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New website to assist with the new scholastic year preparations

Wednesday, 4 July 2018, 16:23 Last update: about 20 hours ago



The Ministry of Education and Employment launched a new website, nextyear.edu.mt, to provide students, parents and teachers, with useful information of what to expect in the next scholastic year.

The website covers compulsory schooling from Kinder 1 to Year 11 (Form 5) and is spread into different sections

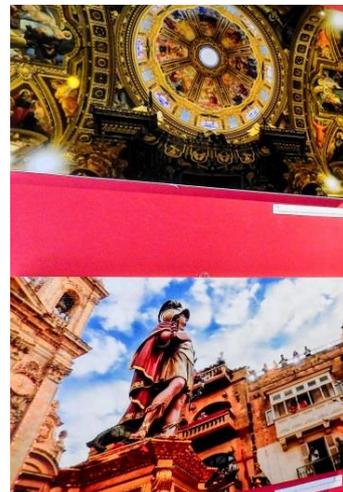
reflecting all this through pages for each year for easy access to information.

- explaining what one can expect in a particular scholastic year.
- Information covering the most important aspects of the year such as curriculum, how parents can be involved, academic choices, and changes from the previous year.
- A section with Frequently Asked Questions which is continuously updated from feedback received.
- A section where users can submit questions or suggestions and in turn these are reflected on the website through updates.
- A section with personalised contact details for the College Principal and School Support Services according to the school the student is currently attending.

Colours of Gozo exhibition opened at Il-Hagar Museum, Victoria



An exhibition of 33 photographs by Salvatore Iozzi has been opened by Judge Giovanni Bonello at Il-Hagar Museum in Gozo, which will remain on display until the



end of September.

Gozo Colori Kuluri Colours – is an exhibition of shots, developed in 40x60cm format by MV Color di Mario Viola (of Rende, Cosenza) and highlight festa aspects, buildings, nature and the sea. Iozzi is an Italian enamoured of the island, as noted by Judge Bonello and also confirmed by a ten-minute slide show in the same hall.

Three other temporary exhibitions at the museum are still running: St George icons, philately and aerial photos. Visitors can acquire photos, books and CDs.

Il-Hagar Museum is located in St George's Square, Victoria. Opening hours are 9am-5pm seven days a week – entrance is free.



Inizjamed Projects <inizjamedprojects@gmail.com>

Inizjamed se tkun qed torganizza konferenza stampa nhar il-11 ta' Lulju sabiex matulha tħabbar it-tlettax-il edizzjoni tal-Festival Mediterranju tal-Letteratura ta' Malta 2018. Il-konferenza se ssir fi Studio Solipsis ġewwa r-Rabat u tibda fin-12.30pm.

Il-Festival Mediterranju tal-Letteratura ta' Malta organizzat minn Inizjamed se jittella' l-Ħamis 23, il-Ġimgħa 24, u s-Sibt 25 ta' Awwissu, f'Forti Manoel, Manoel Island, fit-8.00pm, bis-sehem ta' awturi ewlenin fosthom Juana Adcock (Messiku/l-Ingilterra), Clare Azzopardi (Malta), Massimo Barilla (l-Italja), Jean-Rémi Gandon (Franza), Arjan Hut (l-Olanda), Laia López Manrique (Spanja), Caldon Mercieca (Malta), Teodor Reljić (Malta), Philip Sciberras (Malta), Sjón (l-Iżlanda), u Ali Thareb (l-Iraq).



Din it-13-il edizzjoni tal-Festival Mediterranju tal-Letteratura ta' Malta, flimkien mal-laboratorju tat-traduzzjoni qed jittellgħu minn Inizjamed. Dan il-Festival qed jittella' bl-appoġġ sħiħ tal-Kunsill Malti għall-Arti bħala parti minn ftehim ta' tliet snin magħruf bħala Cultural Agreement Partnership. Inizjamed tixtieq tiringrazzja lill-Kunsill li qed jagħti l-appoġġ tiegħu lil dan il-festival indipendenti. Il-Festival qed jittella' bl-għajnuna tal-Kunsill Malti għall-Arti, Literature Across Frontiers, il-

Fondazzjoni Valletta 2018, Heritage Malta, u l-Għaqda tal-Malti – Università. Dan il-Festival ingħata rikoxximent internazzjonali permezz tat-timbru tal-EFFE Europe for Festivals, Festivals for Europe. Inizjamed minn din is-sena ssieħbet ukoll f'HELA (Hub for Excellency in the Literary Arts) - inizjativa oħra ffinanzjata mill-Kunsill Malti għall-Arti permezz tal-Pjattaforma għall-Industriji Kreattivi. Dakinhar nieħdu l-opportunità biex inniedu wkoll HELA, organizzazzjoni li qed taħdem biex is-settur letterarju Malti jkompli jiżviluppa b'mod iktar strutturat permezz ta' ħidma mill-qrib bejn entitajiet lokali u barranin. Napprezzaw jekk tibagħtu konferma tal-attenzenza tagħkom. Grazzi ferm.

Leanne Ellul Administrator *Inizjamed Malta*

SAFLIENI - c. 3300-3000 BC - THE HYPOGEUM

Like the Mgarr phase the Saflieni period was another short phase (c. 3300-3000 BC), its name is taken



from the place-name of the Hypogeum, a structure hewn out of rock, three storeys high and was used for two purposes - burial (several thousand individuals, along with personal ornaments and pottery items have been found) and also as a place of worship. The Hypogeum's large architectural hall with trilithons and blind niches closely resemble those of the temples.

Three storeys high the Hypogeum was discovered by accident in 1902 by building workers engaged on a new housing development broke through the roof. The workers tried to hide the temple at first, but eventually it was found. The study of the structure was first carried out by Father Manuel Magri of the Society of Jesus, who directed the excavations on behalf of the Museums Committee. He died in 1907, before the report was published. Following Magri's death, excavation resumed under Sir Temi Zammit.

The Hypogeum is the only prehistoric underground temple in the world. To commemorate the acceptance by UNESCO of the Hypogeum structure in the World Heritage Site list, it was depicted on a 2 cents 5 mils stamp issued in the Maltese Islands.

First Level

The first level is very similar to tombs found in Xemxija in Malta. Some rooms are natural caves which were later artificially extended. From evidence, one can say that this is the oldest level. The second level was only opened when the original builders found that this level was no longer adequate. This level is only ten metres below the street level.

Second Level

The level shows magnificent skill in stonework. One can see several important rooms, such as the Main Room, the Holy of Holies, and the Oracle Room.

The Main Chamber

This chamber is roughly circular and carved out from rock. A number of trilithon entrances are represented, some blind, and others leading to another chamber. Most of the wall surface has received a red wash of ochre. It was from this room that the statuettes of the sleeping lady were recovered. Nowadays these figurines are held in the Museum of Archaeology, in Valletta, Malta.

The Oracle Room

The Oracle Room is roughly rectangular and one of the smallest side chambers has the peculiarity of producing a powerful acoustic resonance from any vocalization made inside it. This room has an elaborately painted ceiling, consisting of spirals in red ochre with circular blobs.

Decorated Room

Out of the Oracle's Room, through the hammer dressed chamber, on the right is another spacious hall, circular, with inward slanting smooth walls, richly decorated in a geometrical pattern. On the right side wall the entrance is a petrosomatoglyph of a human hand carved into the rock (Agius).

The Snake Pit

The second level contains a 2 metres deep pit which could have been used for either keeping snakes or collecting alms.

Holy of Holies

The focal point of this room is a porthole within a trilithon, which is in turn framed within a larger trilithon and yet another large trilithon.

Third Level

The lower storey contained no bones or offerings, only water. It strongly suggests storage, maybe of grain.

The cult of these ancestors seems to be linked to that of 'Mother Earth'. It is possible that they believed certain religious rites performed below ground symbolized a temporary return to the womb of 'Mother Earth' from which all life derived.



The 'Sleeping Lady' is a representation of a woman with abundant forms lying on her right side on a couch. It possibly suggests the practice of the rite of incubation.



Above is shown a headless alabaster statuette of an extremely fat human figure whose sex is not indicated.

GOZO CREATIVE THEATRE CLUB
(An Amateur Theatre Group)

La Lupa
(The She Wolf)
By Giovanni Verga

A new version by
David Lan

Directed by
George Mizzi

Mariella Cassar
Marija Cassar
Joseph Bartolo
Helen Camilleri
George Camilleri
Alvin Scicluna
Matthias Mercieca
Marisa Grech
Marvic Bajada
Anthony Debono
Dianne A. Portelli
Michel Refalo
Matthias Refalo

La Lupa – A performance of love and loss at the Lunzjata Valley

The remote, rustic and magnificent location of Lunzjata Valley, will be the setting for Giovanni Verga's masterpiece, 'La Lupa.' This is the first time that a play will be held in this location.

Based on David Lan's The She-Wolf, an English-language adaptation for the Royal Shakespeare Company, is set to come to life in this next production being staged by the Gozo Creative Theatre Club.

A compelling drama of love and loss, it starts with jovial dancing and singing, which slowly builds up tension by gradually developing into a battle of wills for the three main characters

– Nanni, Pina and Mara, fighting their Christian beliefs along with their temptations, culminating in a decisive ending.

The GCTC said that Nanni, a man who is bewitched with Pina, also desires her daughter Mara – consuming himself and those close to him.

Mara does not want Nanni at first, however grows to love him resulting in her disowning her mother – helping to escalate her mother's descent into madness.

Mariella Cassar, Marija Cassar, Joseph Bartolo, George Camilleri, Helen Camilleri, Alvin Scicluna, Matthias Mercieca, Marisa Grech, Marvic Bajada, Anthony Debono, Dianne A. Portelli, Michel Refalo and Matthias Refalo, are all featured in the cast.

La Lupa will be directed by the Gozo Creative Theatre Club's artistic director George Mizzi, with the participation of local dancers and musicians.

La Lupa – endorsed by Valletta 2018 Foundation, will be held in collaboration with the Gozo College Education Department and the Ambassador & Permanent Delegate of Malta to UNESCO.

The dates to keep free are Saturday, the 30th of June and Sunday, the 1st of July, both nights starting at 8pm. Entrance is free. The seating will be on a first come first served basis.

The later in the year, in collaboration with the Sacred Heart Seminary of Gozo, the Gozo Creative Theatre Club will be presenting the contemporary play 'Il-Hmar t'Alla' by Joseph W. Psaila.

This performance will conclude the events which mark the 150th Anniversary of the Seminary's inauguration.

The life of the Curé d'Ars, John Maria Vianney, patron saint of parish priests, is the inspiration for the play.

It portrays the struggle, on a spiritual level, between the hero and the anti-hero which can still rouse our conscience even today.

The cast features George Camilleri, Jamie Camilleri, Joseph Bartolo, Helen Camilleri, Anthony Debono, Alvin Scicluna, Matthias Mercieca, Dianne. A. Portelli, Mariella Cassar, Maria Cassar, Marisa Grech, Marvic Bajada, Francesca Petra Mizzi, Joseph Portelli, Jerome Mizzi, Ruth Portelli, Michel Refalo, Joellson Bezzina and Matthias Refalo.

This production will be directed by the Gozo Creative Theatre Club's artistic director George Mizzi.

It will be staged in November at the Sacred Heart Major Seminary Hall in Victoria, Gozo, on Friday, the 17th, at 7.30pm, Sunday, the 19th at 3.00pm and on Saturday the 25th of November at 7.30pm. Tickets are €5.00 each for adults and €3.00 each for children.

For bookings please contact the Sacred Heart Major Seminary reception either through telephone: 21556479 or e-mail majorseminary@gozodiocese.org.

Tickets will also be available at the door but seating is limited and will be on a first come first served basis.

EVENTS IN JULY



KLACĊ U BREJK

Event Details

Mill-produtturi ta' Kelma Kelma Nota Nota nipprezentaw

KLACĊ u BREJK :: Sensiela ta' kunċerti dan is-sajf bis-sehem ta' Ray Calleja, Daniel Cauchi u I-Big Band Brothers.

TIME Thu Jul 12th 2018 to Tue Jul 17th 2018

ADDRESS Malta, Greek Theatre, Ta' Qali

Fiera I-Kbira 2018 – Trade Fair 5th Edition



**IL-FIERA
L-KBIRA**
MONTEKRISTO
12-22 July 2018

malta

TIME Thu Jul 12th 2018 to Sun Jul 22nd 2018 at 18:00 until 23:00

ADDRESS Malta, Montekristo Estate, Triq Hal Farrug, Luqa

Event Details

12th - 22nd July 2018 - Montekristo Estate

Malta's largest trade fair is back! Following the resounding success of the first four editions of il-Fiera I-Kbira, MonteKristol Estate is gearing up to host a record crowd for the fourth edition of Malta's largest fair. Over 100,000 people visited the Fiera I-Kbira again last year and, judging by the feedback received so far, it looks like the fair will attract an even larger crowd this year, especially since the fair is celebrating

its' fifth anniversary.

The organisers wanted to ensure that all those visiting the fair will be offered great deals by Malta's top brands. This is exactly what this fair will be about - the widest choice of products being offered through various deals, which can only be availed of during your visit at il-Fiera I-Kbira.