



# Maltese e-Newsletter



The Journal of the Maltese Diaspora

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"Have confidence in the young people, give them a chance, and they will surprise you."

*Kofi Atta Annan*

As the first generation Maltese community in Australia is ageing and shrinking in size, the younger generations have shown little or no interest in continuing the Maltese language, culture and traditions. WHY?

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Humphrey Bogart

## THE MALTESE FALCON



Francesca Mifsud  
Miss Zejtun

The gale finale of Miss Universe Malta 2018 in July concluded with the crowning of Francesca Mifsud from Zejtun as Miss Universe Malta 2018. She succeeds and was crowned by Miss Universe Malta 2017 Tiffany Pisani and will now represent Malta in Miss Universe 2018 pageant to be held later this year.

Peinture Caravaggio  
Michelangelo Merisi da - The Lute-Player  
Milan 1571



The event will be held on December 17, 2018 in Bangkok, Thailand.

## Give Youth a Chance

### QUO VADIS?

#### MALTESE YOUTHS IN AUSTRALIA

The first-generation Maltese community in Australia is ageing, dying out and decreasing rapidly in size. The second and third generations have shown little or no interest in continuing the Maltese language, culture and traditions in Australia. Why?

We must accept the fact that Maltese community organisations in Australia are facing big challenges and, I am afraid now it is far too late to generate interest and encourage the involvement of the younger Maltese-Australian generations in the Maltese language, culture and traditions and heritage.

Those who call themselves community leaders never gave chance to the young ones to take important positions in the community because they were afraid that they will lose their office or prominence.

In many committees of our associations the average age of the members is well over 70 and 80 and they are still hanging on to their position although they say that they want to see the young ones to continue the work they have been doing for these last 50 or 60 years. The Maltese communities in Australia will become extinct in a matter of a couple of decades. We must empower our young and give them a chance. They are intelligent, vibrant and have so much to contribute to the community.

The future of a small community like the Maltese community in Australia depends for its survival on its youths, readily identifying with their ethnic background and cultural heritage and being prepared to show a commitment to their community and a readiness to take on the leadership roles. But unfortunately, they, in the past, were never given a say. Also, our children have well integrated within the Australian society.

With the ageing of the Maltese-born first generation, the Maltese community in Australia is facing a crisis: there are no young people coming up to take over the leadership of our organisations and several of these groups have already disbanded.

While we may console ourselves that this is not a problem only within the Maltese community and, in fact, it goes right across other ethnic groups in Australia, in the case of the Maltese community, the problem is more pressing due to the smaller size of the community, which has shrunk by over 30% in the past 25 years.

Most importantly, the Maltese language uptake in Australia seems to be declining as can be seen from the difficulty in getting the minimum of 15 students selecting Maltese language at Year 12 level on a national level. The Australian Government will be deleting the Maltese language as one of the languages being offered in schools.

There is no simple answer to the often-raised questions as to why parents, who have chosen to identify themselves with their Maltese background and have been involved with the Maltese community in Australia for many years, have been unable to convince their children that they should also be involved in the life of the Maltese community.



## PRESS RELEASE BY THE OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER:

## US Ambassdaor pays farewell visit to the Speaker

Reference Number: PR181961, Press Release Issue Date: Sep 14, 2018



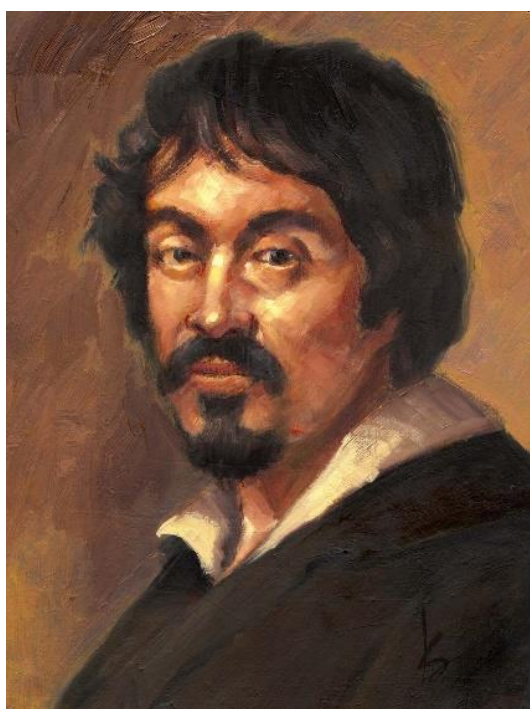
Ambassador of the United States of America Ms G. Kathleen Hill has this afternoon paid a farewell visit to Speaker Anġlu Farrugia.

Speaker Farrugia said that bilateral relations between Malta and the United States have always been strong and friendly ever since the establishment of diplomatic relations on 21st September 1964. He noted that the US was the first country with which Malta established diplomatic relations upon gaining its independence.

The Speaker added that there are excellent relations between the Maltese Parliament and the US Congress, and elaborated on the work of the Parliamentary Intelligence Forum, led by the Chairperson of Congressional Taskforce on Terrorism and Unconventional Warfare, in which Malta has been an active member in the past years.

Speaker Farrugia also spoke about the prevailing instability in Malta's neighbourhood, particularly in Libya, stating that the situation there is of grave concern not only to Europe but to the world. He added that the instability was contributing to illegal migration from the African continent to Europe, with billions of dollars being generated from human trafficking in the region, which is then laundered to enter legally in the financial system. Both sides agreed that finding a lasting solution will require hard work.

Both sides also agreed about the need to ensure that trade relations between the US and the EU be maintained and developed further. Ambassador Hill was accompanied by Mr Mark A. Schapiro, Deputy Chief of Mission at the US Embassy in Malta.



Do you love Maltese History?

## The Story of Caravaggio in Malta

*Chalk portrait of Caravaggio*

*by Ottavio Leoni , circa 1621*

Michelangelo Merisi was born in the town of Caravaggio (about 30 kilometres from Milan) in 1571. **Caravaggio** was, in fact, the first great representative of the Baroque movement. He was the archetypal rebellious artist and led a turbulent life. His life, it is said, matched the high-drama of the chiaroscuro style that his paintings became famous for.

In 1606 whilst working in Rome, one of his many brawls resulted in Caravaggio killing a young man called Ranuccio Tomassoni. With a price on his head, Caravaggio fled and headed for Naples where he would be outside the Roman jurisdiction and under the protection of the Colonna family. After just a few months, despite a successful period in Naples where he was given a number of important church commissions, Caravaggio left for Malta, the headquarters of the Knights of the Order of St John of Jerusalem,

arriving on the island in July 1607.



*'Judith beheading Holofernes' by Caravaggio Photo: Mimmo Frassinetti / Rex Features*

Grand Master Alof de Wignacourt invested Caravaggio as a knight of magistral obedience so taken was he at having an artist of such calibre as official painter of the Order. It was during this time that Caravaggio was commissioned to paint **'The Beheading of St John the Baptist'** and **'St Jerome Writing'**, both of which are on display in **St John's Co-Cathedral**. This period of relative calm in his

life was short lived, and by late August 1608, Caravaggio was arrested for causing trouble once again, this time badly wounding a high ranking Knight in another fight. Imprisoned at Fort St Angelo, disgraced and unable to paint, he used his inventive powers to plan his escape. Caravaggio's incredible break-out took place in October 1608 and once again he was on the run. The Council, informed of his escape, immediately expelled him from the Order.

After a nine month stay in Sicily, during which time he was trying to secure a pardon from Pope Paul V, Caravaggio returned to Naples and the protection of the Colonna family. His style and technique as an artist was still evolving and he enjoyed a productive time in his second spell in Naples.

An attempt was made on his life, and an incorrect account of his death was reported in Rome. Although Caravaggio survived the attempt, his face was left seriously disfigured. In an attempt to build bridges, Caravaggio painted 'Salome with the Head of John the Baptist'. He depicted his own head on the platter and sent the work to de Wignacourt as a plea for forgiveness. In 1610, Caravaggio took a boat north to receive a pardon, thanks to powerful allies in Rome. What happened then is shrouded in mystery. The artist was reported as dead in a private newsletter (an avviso) dated 28th July. Three days later, another newsletter declared that the artist had died of fever. His body, however, was never found. His mysterious death at the age of 38 has been blamed variously on malaria, an intestinal infection, lead poisoning from the oil paints he used or a violent brawl.



Maltese Diabetes Association  
Għaqda Maltija Kontra d-Dijabete  
in Melita Street.

- Since 2012 we started operating in a renovated apartment situate at 74/1, Melita Street, Valletta. Our Headquarters comprises of a large conference room, administrative office and two meeting rooms.

- The Maltese Diabetes Association was established as a non-governmental non-profit voluntary organisation in 1981.
- Our Headquarters were always domiciled in Valletta, Malta's capital city. First in South Street, then within the British Legion Premises

OPENING HOURS EVERY WEDNESDAY 9 AM - 12 PM  
ADDRESS 74, FLAT 1. MELITA STREET. VALLETTA

WEBSITE: <https://www.diabetesmalta.org/>

EMAIL: [info@diabetesmalta.org](mailto:info@diabetesmalta.org)

## Maltese Falcon' Statue Sells for Eye-Popping \$4 Million at Auction



Courtesy Everett Collection

The only known film-used Falcon is among the rarest pieces of movie memorabilia ever offered for public sale. The Maltese Falcon statue from the movie of the same name sold at auction for \$4,085,000, including a buyer's premium of \$585,000.

The sale was conducted by Bonhams in New York in conjunction with Turner Classic Movies. The price was at the high end of expert estimates for the piece. Bonhams had declined to offer a pre-sale estimate.

It ranks with the most expensive pieces of movie and TV memorabilia ever sold at auction, trailing the original Batmobile from the 1960s TV show, which sold for \$4.6 million, and the Aston Martin driven by **Sean Connery** in *Goldfinger*, which sold for \$4.1 million.

But it far outstripped the \$2 million paid for a pair of ruby slippers worn by **Judy Garland** in *The Wizard of Oz*, or the \$576,000 paid for an Enterprise model used in *Star Trek*. The falcon statue was one of two made for the movie but the only one known to have appeared on film. According to Bonhams, markings on the statue -- particularly a small dent from where the statue was dropped -- can be matched to the one on film.

"The spectacular price achieved reflects the statuette's tremendous significance. The Maltese Falcon is arguably the most important movie prop ever and is central to the history of cinema," **Catherine Williamson**, the director of the Bonhams entertainment memorabilia department, said in a statement. The piece was owned by an unidentified California collector who acquired it in a private sale in the 1980s. The identity of the winning bidder has not been disclosed.

### The movie - The Maltese Falcon



USA | 1941 | 101 minutes

"The stuff that dreams are made of." Sam Spade (Humphrey Bogart), a cynical, tough-talking private eye, becomes ensnared in a web of deceit when a simple missing persons case becomes a deadly hunt for a missing statuette. John Huston's 1941 directorial debut became the prototype for the Film Noir genre, and Bogart's

performance as Spade made him a household name. With legendary performances from Mary Astor, Sydney Greenstreet, Peter Lorre, and Elisha Cook Jr.





## Hamrun's mid-summer Madness

*A visit to Hamrun is hardly on anyone's bucket list but once a year the Hamrunizi let their hair down and it's quite an experience...*

Hamrun is a largish and mostly nondescript working men's town just a mile or so outside Valletta. By Maltese standards it is a relatively "new" town, its lavishly decorated if stylistically confused church only being completed in 1875 and the town itself only becoming a parish in 1881. Hamrun has a wide and fine shop-filled main road which is unfortunately also the main trunk road from Valletta to Rabat and Mdina and therefore choked with traffic at most times of the day. But for one day a year all the traffic disappears and Saint Joseph's High Road becomes the largest pedestrian area in Malta as Hamrun celebrates the feast of its patron - the somewhat obscure Saint Cajetan.

The feast of Saint Cajetan is celebrated on the Sunday following the 7th of August (this year on the 10th). What the feast lacks in the fireworks department (there are hardly any open spaces around the town which allow for sizeable displays) it however makes up with its band marches. The evening marches are spread out over a whole week but it's the traditional Sunday morning march that is the real peak of merriment and boisterousness. The town's two band clubs of St. Joseph (nicknamed Tal-Miskina) and St. Cajetan (Tat-Tamal) participate in this march and both attract a sizeable crowd of followers, loyally dressed in the clubs colours - blue and red respectively. Due to the immense rivalry between the clubs the band marches take a different route and do not meet. Both marches are also obliged to start and end at the same time - start time is



normally around 11am and the marathon marches continue until 3pm, usually in blazing sunlight and temperatures hovering around the 30c mark. The clubs also have a signed agreement not to let things get out of hand and this is religiously adhered to - not least because there are hefty financial penalties relating to any departure from acceptable behaviour.

If this is starting to sound somewhat intimidating rest assured it isn't. The rivalry is mostly good-natured and the opposing fans mingle, embrace and drink (and then drink some more) together. Rowdy and mischievous it does get though - the bands just love stopping in front of the rival club's premises and playing to their heart's content while the followers indulge in some bawdy and not too Christian chanting. Some of the clubs' fans also wear themed fancy costumes and face-paint which add to the colour and the general carnival mood. Just don't come in your Sunday best... It's truly a mad feast of colour, sweaty good fun, beer aplenty and one which every *Hamruniz* will tell you is **unique to the islands**. Trust me, I'm one.

**Let me tell you that since I have been reading your journal, my knowledge regarding the beautiful islands (Malta & Gozo ) and the people living there has increased by 100%. God bless you and your work. One can only imagine the amount of research you go through to keep this journal to such a high standard.**

**Sincerely yours, Philip Bonnici**

## Shop / Fresh Vegetables



Get your hands on the freshest, most delicious seasonal produce, grown and prepared near you.

### BEANS BROAD (FUL)

#### Product Details

Broad beans or fava beans are eaten both raw or cooked. The Maltese Kusksu is a vegetable soup primarily containing fava beans and pasta beads. They are also used in the very popular appetizer called bigilla where they are served as a puree mixed with olive oil, lemon juice, garlic, parsley and mint. It is served with bread or crackers and is the Maltese answer to hummus.

### BIGILLA (MALTESE BEAN DIP)

This bean paste is very common in Malta. It is served by restaurants and bars as appetizer and it is also found ready made in supermarkets. The tic beans are called 'Ful ta' Ġirba' in Maltese. They are similar to fava beans but smaller. See picture below.

Serves 5

Total Time  
1 hr 10 min

#### Ingredients

1. 200g dried broad beans
2. 3 cloves garlic
3. 2 fresh chillies
4. 6 tablespoons olive oil
5. 3 tablespoons water
6. fresh parsley

#### Instructions

1. Pre-soak the beans in water a day before. Rinse 3 or 4 times while they are soaking in water to clear the water as much as possible.
2. When ready to cook, remove the beans from soaking water and rinse.
3. Boil the beans in a pan for about an hour stirring from time to time.
4. When beans are softened, remove from heat and let stand for a few minutes.
5. Rinse under some running water and remove excess water.
6. In a blender first blend the garlic, chilly and parsley to make sure they are finely chopped.
7. Add the tic beans and remaining ingredients to the blender and blend until a paste is formed.
8. Serve with raw crudites or olive oil crackers



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## HISTORICAL PILGRIMAGE



### ST PUBLIUS TAKEN TO SEA TO PAY HOMAGE TO ST PAUL

On Sunday the 9th of July I was invited by the Assoċjazzjoni Publiju ta' Malta to participate at the first edition of the Pilgrimage of St Publius in honour of St Paul's 1850th martyrdom anniversary.

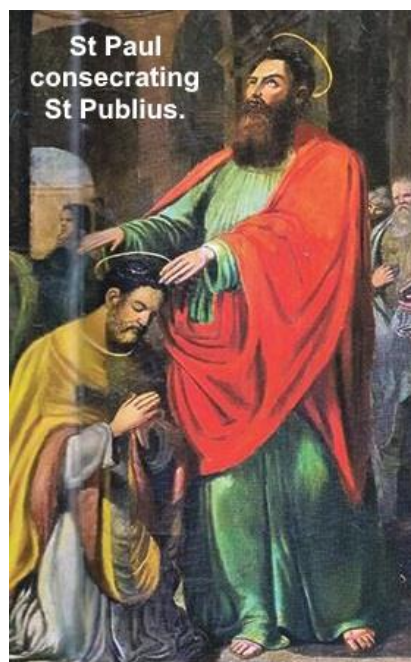
Maybe you are thinking who was St Publius and why he is so important with the life of St Paul? Publius was a Maltese National who according to tradition, was born of noble parents around the year 33 AD. Their urban residence was where today stands the Metropolitan Cathedral of Mdina.

He was the Chief Official (Governor) of the Island who welcomed St Paul and the 276 persons on board the ship which was shipwrecked in Malta. That's why there is this great devotion for the Saint!

Furthermore, Paul healed Publius' father, and afterwards Publius became a Christian and was then ordained as the spiritual leader of the Maltese by St Paul himself.

Now we could appreciate why St Publius is taken to visit St Paul in the island dedicated to him as a homage for what the Apostle Paul did for his father and for his life.

In the photo above you can see the devotee carrying the statue under that hot sun with such a deep devotion!



Later on, according to tradition, Publius was sent to Athens, becoming its second bishop. However, Publius was later martyred by being thrown to the lions.

Today, Publius is honoured as a martyr, as the first bishop of Malta and the first Maltese Saint. His liturgical feast is held on the 22nd of January, while the St Paul's Feast is a public Feast in Malta and it is held on the 10th of February. The devotion to St Publius in Malta dates from olden times.

St Publius Church is in Floriana where you can find the titular statue of St Publius carved in wood by the sculptor Vincenzo Dimech as a unique and outstanding work of art. From the Act of the Apostles 28:1 – 10 you can read the memories of St Luke who was a prisoner as the Apostle Paul during the shipwrecked.

*"When we had escaped, then they learned that the island was called Malta. The natives showed an uncommon kindness; for they kindled a fire, and received us all, because of the present rain, and because of the cold...."*

*...Now in the neighbourhood of that place were lands belonging to the chief man of the island, named Publius, who received us, and courteously entertained us for three days. It happened that the father of Publius was sick of fever and dysentery. Paul entered in to him, prayed, and laying his hands on him, healed him. Then when this was done, the rest also who had diseases in the island came, and were cured. They also honored us with many honours, and when we sailed, they put on board the things that we needed".*



## THE MAQLUBA LEGEND, QRENDI

Posted by Fiona



The little village of qrendi is a proper jewel of peacefulness located in the enchanting and rocky countryside on the south west coast of Malta.

Within its borders, you can spot wonderful views of the **Blue Grotto** and ride along the valley called **Wied iz-Zurrieq** to **Ghar Lapsi** coastline for a refreshing swim and of course, admire the majesty of the **Neolithic Temples** known as **Haġar Qim** and **Mnajdra**. There is something more... A **legend** handed down over time that also involves the mysterious **island of Fifla**.

THIS IS THE LEGEND OF IL-MAQLUBA, A NATURAL PHENOMENON, THAT HIDES A STORY IN ITS DOLINE. Adjacent to the chapel of San Matthew, situated on the road connecting the village to Wied iz-Zurrieq, one comes across Il-Maqluba, another interesting feature quite unique to the village of Qrendi.

In fact, Il Maqluba is an interesting “quarry like” feature formed by a depression in the land, filled with Maltese trees and shrubs, quite breathtaking and truly impressive! This area is a wild sanctuary for carob trees, where the Maltese National tree, the Gharghar (Sandarac Gum) can be found growing wild. A place where Laurel trees grow in harmony with bamboo cane and Ivy as well as Pomegranate trees grow in great abundance.

The Maltese name “Maqluba” actually means “over turned” and it is the name given to two similar depressions found within the Qrendi boundaries and within two miles of each other, both having totally different characteristics from one another.

*Behind the Maqluba magnificent views comes a legend equally as impressive!*

*Handed down through the generations, we learn of bad people living together in a small village or hamlet (Hal-Lew). Almighty God warned the village, through a good woman living close by and often referred to as a nun, against their bad ways. Unheeding these warnings, God decreed that the land swallow the village sparing none except the good woman. In turn, angels were dispatched to dispose of the “bad village” by dumping it at sea. Legend thus tells of the formation of the island of Fifla situated some five kilometres to the South West of the fishing port of Wied iz-Zurrieq.*

Well but I cannot believe that the people in Malta were so bad, St Paul the Apostle said that he found an unusual kindness among the locals! Well, actually on the 23rd November 1343, Malta experienced one of its most severe winter storms in history, a tempest or possibly an earthquake”. It was at this time that the formation of this phenomenon came about.

The Maqluba is a natural conical depression formed by the collapse of the underlying limestone strata, commonly known in geological terms as a doline. It is a sinkhole collecting rainwater from as far as a five kilometre radius!



**MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER**  
The Journal of the Maltese Diaspora

*Serving the community for five years  
Thanking our readers for their patronage*

## Chamber where the Inquisition tortured blasphemers



**The Inquisitor's Palace in Birgu is free to the public on Independence Day on 21 September** by MaltaToday Staff

### The Inquisitor's Palace Vittoriosa

Inquisitor's Palace was the seat of the Maltese Inquisition in the years 1574 – 1798. It was known then as the Palazzo del Sant'Officio. The building was originally built at the beginning of the 16th century as the seat of a court known as Castellania, but little remained of the original construction due to the many construction changes and renovations in the following centuries.

After the liquidation of the Inquisition in 1798 during the French occupation of Malta, the palace served as a military hospital, a canteen and a monastery. Since 1966, there is a museum in it, known since 1992 as the National Museum of Ethnography. The building is one of several such palaces surviving in the world, and the only one open to the public.

The Inquisitor's Palace was handed over to the Museum Department in 1926, and until 1939 Vincenzo Bonello and Antonio Sciortino performed various restoration works at the palace. In 1942, the palace was transformed into a temporary Dominican monastery after the original monastery and church were bombed during World War II. The palace survived the war undamaged, it was transferred back to the Museum department in 1954, after the Dominican monastery was rebuilt.

The palace building was renovated and opened as a museum called Inquisitor's Palace in 1966. On the first floor in 1981, the Folklore Museum was established, but since the late 1980s the museum has deteriorated and only part of it has been accessible to the public. In 1992, the National Museum of Ethnograph was opened in the palace and, in addition to the museum section, there is also the ethnographic section of Heritage Malta. The reconstruction and renewal of its subsequent parties are still underway in the building.

In addition to exhibits related to the Inquisition, the collection also includes various wooden models of destroyed architectural objects, including Vittorios' performances from bomb destruction during World War II, the Valletta bakery before destruction in the 1930s and Manderaggio before reconstruction in 1950.

The building was placed on the Antiquities List of 1925. Today it is a national class 1 monument and is listed on the National Inventory of the Cultural Property of the Maltese Islands.

Take photos and participate in Wiki Loves Monuments competition at the Inquisitor's Palace in Birgu for Independence Day on Friday, 21 September, when Heritage Malta opens the doors of this grand palazzo for free to be enjoyed by the general public.





### A Gothic monument in a Baroque island

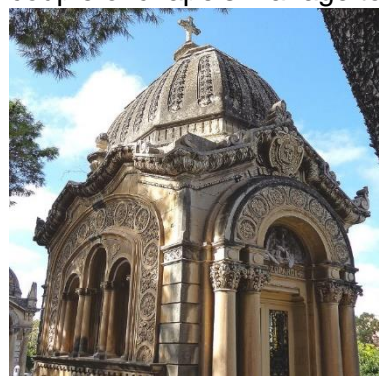
The architectural landscape of the Maltese islands is very much a Baroque dominated one. Notwithstanding the various architectural styles prevailing in the islands, the Baroque seems to be ingrained in the Maltese psyche to the extent that even churches built well into the 20<sup>th</sup> century more often than not revert to this architectural idiom – as witnessed by Xewkija's huge rotunda which was only completed in the 1980's.

## SANTA MARIA ADDOLORATA CEMETERY



One notable departure from the Baroque is the Santa Maria Addolorata Cemetery – a huge burial ground which is effectively the island's national cemetery, built in a neo-Gothic style in 1869 by Emanuele Luigi Galizia – at that time principal architect at the government Works Department. Galizia was a gifted man and made exceptionally good symbolical use of the large site's topography – placing the cemetery's principal chapel on the top of a hill, reached from the cemetery's elegant gatehouse through a series of stairways and winding alleyways: the architect's quaint interpretation of man's long road to salvation.

The cemetery – in which well over 200,000 Maltese are interred – can easily compare with some of southern Europe's so-called monumental cemeteries. Although the number (and quality) of the sculptured monuments is much less than one finds in the grand monumental cemeteries of Italy, the cemetery is characterised by a large number of richly carved private mausoleums in its older western sections which feature a quirky mix of styles ranging from elegant classical lines to the purely exotic – a couple of chapels manage to look more like Hindu temples than Christian memorials – and there is even



a curious masonic-style pyramid. Most noteworthy of the latter is a poignant bronze put up by a travelling businessman who, upon his unexpected return to the Island, so surprised his ageing mother that the excitement apparently helped to quicken her demise.

**Private Mausoleum** - Though the sculptured monuments at the Addolorata are not thick on the ground, there are a few well worthy of note. Perhaps the best known is the touching monument of a well-dressed man grieving on his dead mother (in the main chapel area). This is one of the cemetery's finest sculptures – curiously the back of the monument retains shrapnel pockmarks from a Second World War bomb which exploded nearby.

Also close to the chapel is another fine monument to the four Maltese who fell in the 1919 riots against the colonial government. The monument is the work of one Boris Edwards – a Russian émigré who escaped Bolshevik Russia in 1919 and eventually made Malta his home.

**Main Chapel Addolorata Cemetery** - As with all cemeteries, a sad air of abandon hangs over the Addolorata – the weathered monuments, the rusting wrought iron, the overgrown weeds; but on sunny winter days the cemetery makes for a highly interesting architectural tour, and the hundreds of chirping robins and redstarts which make Malta their temporary home during the cooler months add a much needed dash of life and colour to this beautiful, if austere, home of the departed.

*The Santa Maria Addolorata Cemetery is open every day of the year from 7am to 4.30pm.*



## THE MYSTERY OF THE GOLDEN CALF

The disappearance of schoolchildren in a tunnel in Malta in the 1940s has inspired a movie which has just started showing at Eden cinemas.

The Maltese-language *Il-Misteru tal-Għoġol tad-Deheb* focuses on two cousins who, after finding an ancient treasure map, try to find a golden calf mentioned in the Bible. Their adventure takes them to the same underground labyrinth where the 1940s children went missing.

*Il-Misteru tal-Għoġol tad-Deheb* was awarded development funding by The Malta Film Fund. As a result, the script benefited from a number of consultations by various professionals including BAFTA-winner script-doctor Jeff Murphy and Bobette Buster, who is an official consultant to Pixar and Disney.

The production team spent a considerable amount of time gathering and

*Il-Misteru tal-Għoġol tad-Deheb* was shot over 34 days between July and September 2016. Post-production visual effects, sound mixing and colour grading was carried out by local and international professionals between November 2016 and November 2017.

*Il-Misteru tal-Għoġol tad-Deheb*'s title song is in both in Maltese and English. A music video has also been produced.

Written by Ruth Frendo and directed by Alenka Falzon, the actors include Neve Mansueto, Aiken Buhagiar, Henry Zammit Cordina, Christabelle Scerri, Deandra Agius and Mandy Micallef Grimaud. The composer is Sam Hayman whilst the director of the animation is Christ Scicluna. <https://www.imdb.com/title/tt2321536/>



**Malta's First Ever Children's Movie**



**Hon Miss Mabel Strickland OBE**

**"The Honourable Mabel Edeline Strickland OBE** (8 January 1899 – 29 November 1988), was an Anglo-Maltese journalist, newspaper proprietor and politician.

Strickland was the daughter of Sir Gerald Strickland (later Lord Strickland), Prime Minister of Malta, by Lady Edeline Sackville, eldest daughter of Reginald Sackville, 7th Earl De La Warr.

Strickland founded a newspaper group in Malta with her father and her stepmother, Lady Strickland (née Hulton). In 1935 she became editor of The Times of Malta and "Il Berqa" before taking over as Managing Director of the Group on the death of her father in 1940.

The paper never missed an issue throughout the Siege of Malta in World War Two, despite taking direct hits on several occasions. She formed and led the Progressive Constitutional Party during the 1950s as one of the principal political leaders of the 1950s, participating in the integration talks in 1956-57 as well as opposing independence in 1964.



She was elected to the Maltese Parliament again in 1962. She always fought passionately for a free and independent press and to maintain Malta's ties with Britain and the Commonwealth.

Mabel Strickland was affectionately known in her time as both "Miss Mabel" and also "The Queen of Malta". She had a huge, formidable personality, and an infectious sense of humour. Described once as "an active volcano" she was unquestionably a force to be reckoned with. With an impressive range of contacts, she was

equally at ease with Royalty or Statesmen as she was with her employees or the woman/man in the street. Having never married or had children of her own, her chosen heir was her great nephew Robert Hornyold-Strickland. Mabel died on 29 November 1988 and is buried in the family crypt in the Cathedral in Mdina. Her tombstone lies near that of her father who was the principal influence in her life."

**ArHall's next exhibition – Truimvirate – opens later this month**

ArHall in Gozo is launching a new exhibition – Truimvirate – 3 artists from 3 different continents will be in power of the next show, with its opening night on Friday the 21st of September.

Artists Spyke von Stripe from Canada, Lindsay Hunt from Australia and Tomas Hed from Sweden will present a multifaceted exhibition of sculptures, drawings and paintings. Wild metal animals, ironic cats and unexpected authorities will take over ArHall, the gallery said. The Vernissage will be Friday, the 21st of September at 8pm. The Exhibition opens to the public on the 22nd of September till the 23rd of October.

ArHall is located at 8, Triq Agius de Soldanis, Victoria and the opening hours are: Monday/ Tuesday: 10:00-13:00 16:00-18:00, Wednesday/Thursday: Closed, Friday/Saturday: 10:00-13:00 16:00-18:00 and Sunday: 10:00-12:00.

## Did you know? Gozo's unique tradition to protect your home from thunderstorms – L-GHAZZIELA

*As the first post-summer rains hit, get your hands on some "ghazziela" made by the residents of Zebbug in Gozo, and don't miss the festa of the Madonna of the Ghazziela. Adriana Bishop*



The beautiful hilltop village of Zebbug overlooking Gozo's northwest coast is famous for the lacework its residents produce, its parish church decorated with locally mined onyx and the 18th century artillery battery. It is also renowned for bearing the brunt of some of winter's harshest storms. But local residents have a means to protect themselves from the wrath of Mother Nature, and it is steeped in religious tradition.

Zebbug has a unique and highly original tradition dating back centuries, in which the village residents produce small talismans made of unleavened bread dough called *ghazziela* which are hung by the windows and behind the doors of the houses to protect their properties from lightning and to keep evil spirits at bay.

Every weekend, starting from early July, the villagers roll up their sleeves and get stuck in to producing thousands of these *ghazziela*. The work begins on Saturday evening with the washing of several giant oven baking trays which are then dried out in the sun. The next morning, after the sunrise Mass, a simple dough is prepared from flour and water. Housewives, young women and children congregate at a vacant property in the village and set to work on forming the talismans.

The *ghazziela* are cut out in the shape of a spinning wheel, in reference to what is believed to have been Our Lady's craft, and incorporate the letter M for Mary, given that the village of Zebbug has a strong devotion towards the Virgin Mary. Every year the villagers spend five consecutive Sundays working on a voluntary basis kneading, shaping, cutting and baking *ghazziela* - last year, they made a whopping 7,000!

*"After mass, the ghazziela are blessed and then distributed by altar boys to the villagers."*

No one knows exactly how and why this tradition started, but records show that Zebbug's first parish priest bequeathed in his will back in 1737 a trust fund to permit the residents to buy flour to make *ghazziela*.

The baked *ghazziela* are stored in cardboard boxes until the feast of the Madonna of the Ghazziela, which this year will be held on 9th September. On feast day, the prepared *ghazziela* are taken out of their boxes, the excess flour is dusted off and they are displayed in straw baskets on the church parvis. After mass, the *ghazziela* are blessed and then distributed by altar boys to the villagers - adults receive two *ghazziela* and children get one each.

A solemn procession with the statue of the Madonna of the Ghazziela winds itself through the streets of the village. The statue was made in 1910 by Galliard et fils in Marseille and on the occasion of the feast, the rosary beads which normally adorn the hands of Our Lady and a young Jesus are exchanged for a string of *ghazziela*. And this year, for the first time ever, the Socjeta Filarmonika Santa Marija Zebbug has won funds from the Malta Arts Fund, and as a consequence the *ghazziela festa* mass will be animated by the society's youth band, with an audiovisual feature being screened at the end of the festivities to promote this local tradition.







## Nyuk, Nyuk, Nyuk! Hardcore Fans Of The Three Stooges Need To Know These Facts

Before comedic talent like Jim Carrey and Melissa McCarthy took over Hollywood, “The Three Stooges” were the pioneers of using slapstick comedy to make people laugh around the world. In 2012, all of their shorts were released on DVD, and fans found themselves falling in love again with their antics. Newer fans got their first chance to catch this group in action fully. And with some new content involving “The Three Stooges” coming soon, including an action/adventure film series, the franchise will continue to live on for decades to come. Here, we take a look at the members of this beloved group, and we discuss some little-known tidbits about the show.



Moses Harry Horwitz, who is better known as Moe Howard, was the leader of the pack. Moe got started in acting by working as an errand boy for Vitagraph Studios in Brooklyn, New York. The studio started giving him work and he eventually joined a Mississippi River showboat’s acting troupe.



Louis Feinberg, who is known as Larry Fine, was a part of “The Three Stooges” for its entire run. While filming their comeback series “Kook’s Tour” in 1970, he would suffer a stroke and become paralyzed on the left side of his body. The TV show was scrapped, and the taped footage was turned into a film. On January 24, 1975, he died from a stroke at the age of 72.



Born as Samuel Horwitz, Shemp Howard was a member of “The Three Stooges” from 1930 to 1932 and from 1946 to 1955. Aside from being a part of the Stooges, the New York City native also had a career in film with roles in *Pittsburgh*, *Strictly in the Groove*, and *Moonlight and Cactus*.



From 1932 to 1946, Jerome Lester Horwitz played Curly Howard, who was the most popular out of the Stooges. While filming the movie *Half-Wits Holiday*, the New York City native suffered a stroke that prematurely ended his time with “The Three Stooges.” Horwitz died young, of a cerebral hemorrhage at the age of 48.



*Mgr Pietro Pace and Sir Adrian Dingli were the two most prominent Gozitans of the late Victorian era.*

## **Id-Djoċesi t'Għawdex tagħlaq 154 sena !**

Kav. J.M. Attard – Victoria - Għawdex

Xi żmien ilu kont preżenti fil-Knisja Katidrali għall-Konċelebrazzjoni Sollenni mmexxija mill-E.T. Monsinjur Isqof Mario Grech bħala ringrazzjament lil Alla għal mija u ħamsin sena mit-twaqqif tad-Djoċesi Għawdxija. Minn dak inhar għaddew erba' snin; niftakar ma kienx hemm fejn taqa' labbra u dan juri li l-Għawdxin huma konxji mill-fatt li l-gżira tagħhom issa ilha Djoċesi għal għadd sabiħ ta' snin. Din kienet twaqqfet mill-Beatu Papa 1X permezz tal-Bolla Singolari Amore (b'imħabba liema bħalha) tas-16 ta' Settembru 1864. L-Għawdxin kienu ilhom 66 sena ħalli jkollhom l-isqof tagħhom. L-aħbar ingħata fil-Konċistorju tat-22 ta' Settembru ta' dik l-istess sena. Il-Papa kien ħatar lill-Arċipriet Mikiel Franġisk Buttigieg bħala l-ewwel Isqof t'Għawdex, il-Knisja Kollegjata tal-Kastell intaġħżlet bħala l-Knisja Katidrali u ffit żmien wara id-Djoċesi fethet ukoll l-ewwel Seminarju tagħha.

Li forsi niesna ma jafux huwa li sakemm sirna Djoċesi, it-triq ma kenitx waħda faċli iżda Għawdex minn dejjem kellu ulied intelligenti li għarfu jmexxuh u jiddefenduh. Fil-fatt sakemm

wasalna biex Għawdex ikollu l-Isqof tiegħu bil-knisja Katidrali, kellhom jgħaddu ħafna snin u taqtigħ il-qalb. Iżda bit-tħabrik bla ma jaqta' ta' żewġ Għawdxin ta' dehen, fl-aħħar ġew meġġubha l-ostakli kollha; dawn kienu Dun Pietru Pace (1831 – 1914), saċerdot imwieled fil-Belt Victoria fid-9 t'April, ordnat saċerdot fil-Belt Eterna fis-17 ta' Diċembru 1853 wara li iktar kmieni kien kiseb Dottorat; kien anke s-segretarju privat tal-Kardinal Vincenzo Santucci. L-Għawdxin l-ieħor kien Sir Adrian Dingli mwieled fil-Belt Valletta minn ġenituri Għawdxin; avukat prim, anzi Avukat tal-Kuruna u l-aktar bniedem fdat mill-Gvernatur Ingliż.

Kif itenni l-istoriku r-Reverendu Dr Joe Bezzina fil-ktieb tiegħu Religion and Politics in A Crown Colony; The Gozo-Malta Story 1798-1864, tal-ewwel kellu jwitti t-tfikkil li nqala' fil-Vatikan u sieħbu l-ieħor kiseb l-approvazzjoni tant meħtieġa minghand l-Ingliżi. Kien il-Papa Piju 1X li fl-aħħar ta l-kunsens biex Għawdex jinqata' Djoċesi għalih u naħseb li minn dak inhar sallum kellna għadd ta' Isqfijiet li dejjem raw kif għamlu biex il-Knisja f'Għawdex tibqa' miexja 'l quddiem possiblament mingħajr ħafna skossi għalkemm kull min hu midħla tal-Istorja jaf li dan mhux dejjem kien possibbli. Monument life size ta' dal-Prelat tal-Knisja nsibuh wieqaf quddiem il-Knisja Katidrali tagħna.

“L-ispiritu tiegħi jifraħ f'Alla s-Salvatur tiegħi, għax Hu xehet għajnejh fuq iċ-ċokon tal-qaddejja tiegħu....għax is-Setgħani għamel miegħi ħwejjeg kbar”. Dan il-kliem sabiħ tal-Magnificat li l-Verġni Mbierka lissnet fid-dar ta' Eliżabbetta, tkantah illum ukoll il-Knisja f'Għawdex. Għax tabilhaqq li l-Mulej ħares lejn iċ-ċokon tal-gżira tagħna u għamel magħha u biha ħwejjeg kbar

f'dan l-anniversarju tant sabiħ għalina l-Għawdxin. Ejjew irroddu ħajr lil Alla għal tant grazzji li ħarġu minn Djoċesi daqshekk żgħira tul il-154 sena li ilha mwaqqfa - mijiet ta' Saċerdoti, għexieren ta' missjunarji, numru mhux żgħir ta' Isqfijiet, ordnijiet reliġjużi li bdew f'din il-gżira, vokazzjonijiet numerużi għall-ħajja ikkonsagrata, 15-il parroċċa, seminarju, tant u tant familji mibnija fuq is-Sagraament taż-Żwieġ, tant karita u ħniena mwettqa fis-skiet minn diversi persuni u għaqdiet, tant ġid fil-komunitajiet u fis-soċjeta' ċivili, tant nies kbar, haddiema bieżla u Nsara tajbin. Għal dan u għa ħafna iktar, illum ngħidu grazzi lil Alla filwaqt li nagħrfu r-responsabilita' li għanda biex dak kollu li Alla tana fil-fiduċja li għandu f'Għawdex u



fl-Ghawdxin, inkomplu nghixuh, inkattruh u nagħtu xhieda tiegħu għall-ġid tagħna, tal-Knisja u tal-pajjiż tagħna. Nafdaw lill-Knisja Ghawdxija lit-talb u lill-ħarsien tal-Qaddisn Protetturi tagħha.



*The Cathedral in Victoria*

tal-‘wall units’ imma biex neħduha f’idejna u naqrawha biex inkunu kapaċi nifftu ħalqna meta niġu mistoqsijin xi ħaġa dwar it-twelmin tagħna. Dak li nitgħallmu u nisimgħu waqt l-Omelija tal-quddies inkella waqt il-laqqgħat ta’ tagħlim, qegħdin inqegħduh fil-prattika, inkella jidhol minn widna u joħroġ dritt mill-oħra!

Xi żmien ilu Monsinjur Isqof kien ħareġ bl-ideja li kull parroċċa tiegħu ħsieb familja li għaddejja minn xi krizi jew tinsab ippersegwitata; ippropona li kull kommunita’ parrokkjali taċċetta li tilqa’ fiha familja minn fost l-insara maħbuda minn xi hemm. Monsinjur Isqof issuggerixxa li kull parroċċa taddotta familja fejn toqgħod u timpenja ruħha li tipprovdilha fejn toqgħod u l-mezzi biex tgħix. L-Isqof qal ukoll biex il-Knisja Omm tiftaħ dirgħajha biex tħaddan ukoll lil dawk li jinsabu fil-periferija ġeografika. Kien hemm xi parroċċa li sakemm qed nikteb, daħlet għal dan it-tip ta’ evanġelizzazzjoni! Jiena nawgura lid-Djoċesi tibqa’ miexja ‘l quddiem għal ġid ta’ wliedha kollha billi l-membri kollha tagħha jiġbdu ħabel wieħed taħt it-tmexxija tar-Ragħaj tagħha li ma joqgħodx lura milli kontinwament iwissu u jgħalliem!

Bla dubju l-pulmuni tad-Djoċesi huwa s-Seminarju fejn jithejjew is-saċerdoti ta’ għada. Ma jistax ikollok Djoċesi bla Seminarju u allura dan ukoll qed jagħlaq 154 sena għax Djoċesi u Seminarju jimxu id f’id. Għal żmien twil is-Seminarju tagħna kien immexxi mill-Ġiżwiti sakemm l-Isqof ra li dan jista’ jitmexxa wkoll b’suċċess minn saċerdoti djoċesani kif fil-fatt qed issa u din il-kariga issa tinsab f’idejn saċerdot żagħżuġh bravu u intelligenti li jiena ċert ma jagħmilx għajb lil dawk li ġew qablu. Kif qal tajjeb l-Isqof dan il-bini għal bidu kien iservi ta’ sptar – Sptar San Giljan - u issa qed iservi mill-ġdid ta’ sptar imma mnejn joħorġu saċerdoti ippreparati biex jikkuraw spiritwalment lil ħuthom il-bnedmin. Miegħu jinkorpora wkoll skola sekondarja tas-subien mnejn jistgħu ukoll jinbtu xi vokazzjonijiet!

Nawguraw mill-qalb ħajja twila lis-Seminarju tagħna u jalla iktar żgħażaġħ qalbiena jissuktaw jagħtu widen għas-sejha li kontinwament qed jagħmel l-Imgħalliem għall-għalqa tiegħu għax il-ħsad huwa kbir imma nibza’ li l-ħaddiema huma ftit

## The New 'It' Holiday Destination For North Americans

*The islands were featured on more than 22 places-to-visit lists in 2018*

**Chiara Micallef**

Could the Maltese islands be the new Mediterranean hotspot for America's Spring Break? New figures released by the Malta Tourism Authority (MTA) certainly seem to suggest so.

20,956 Americans have made their way here from the USA in the first half of 2018; that's a 28.2% increase compared to last year.

We also saw an increase in Canadian tourists, where an increase of 23.5% was noted over since last year. An impressive 66.4% growth in Cruise Passenger Traffic in Q2 2015 when compared to same period in

2014. - <http://goo.gl/1WVVde>



Michelle Buttigieg, an MTA rep for North America has attributed this increase to several factors. "An important part of Malta's appeal to the North American traveller is that English is an official language. It is a safe, peaceful and stable EU democracy, with better vacation value than in other more expensive European countries," Buttigieg said.

Other contributing factors were also noted, including the increase was the heavy promotion of local events and cultural celebrations, such as

the Valletta Film Festival and the Isle of MTV.

In 2017, Malta saw a 24% increase in North American cruise passengers and a 30% increase in Canadian passengers. Growth was also noted in the cruise market, where a total of 93,482 North American passengers made their way here in 2017.

"The increase is also due to the MTA's continued promotional campaigns targeting niche markets that reflect the diversity of Malta and Gozo's tourism product," Buttigieg explained. "The MTA has also garnered major publicity in the USA and Canada because it is proactive in working with prominent journalists and social media influencers."

### MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER

The Journal of the Maltese Diaspora

**WE ARE  
FAMILY**

Thank you for providing the newsletters to me each time. I always show it to a lot of my members and they say it is the best thing that happened to us. We all enjoy reading not only about Australia but also what is happening in our home country Malta and around the world. Congratulations and please keep it going. Victor

St Helena Maltese/Australian S.C.  
Inc. Melbourne Australia.



## Speaker Farrugia receives Indian Vice-President Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu



Speaker of the House of Representatives Dr Anġlu Farrugia received a courtesy call from Vice-President of India Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu.

Speaker Farrugia referred to the cordial bilateral relations, which have existed diplomatically between Malta and India since 1965 and noted that the Indian community has been in Malta since the 19<sup>th</sup> century. He mentioned his visit to India in February 2007, when he led a delegation from the Standing Committee on Foreign and European Affairs and had meetings with various Indian Ministers. He recalled Mgr Ambrogio Buttigieg, Bishop and Apostolic Nuncio, the first known Maltese who visited India where he died in 1557.

Speaker Farrugia said that bilateral trade has grown considerably in the last years, although there is scope for improvement. In this regard, reference was made to the visit last March by Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade Promotion Carmelo Abela, who led a 26-strong business delegation to New Delhi and Mumbai.

Parliamentary cooperation also featured in the meeting, with Speaker Farrugia mentioning the support he received from Indian MPs when he was elected Chairperson of the Small Branches of the Commonwealth.

Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu replied by expressing his congratulations for Malta's Presidency of the Council of the European Union. He continued by elaborating on the parliamentary system existing in India and said that they too, like Malta, believe in parliamentary democracy. He added that India is expected to become the third economic power in the world and that it was moving towards transformation.

Speaker of the House of Representatives Anġlu Farrugia, was accompanied by the Dr Edward Zammit Lewis, Chairperson of the Foreign and European Affairs Committee; Dr Carmelo Mifsud Bonnici, Opposition Spokesperson for Foreign Affairs and Trade Promotion; Mr Ray Scicluna, Clerk of the House; Miss Eleanor Scerri, Director International Relations; Mr Ancel Farrugia Migneco, Personal Assistant to the Speaker, and Mr Giovanni Miceli, Adviser International Relations.

Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu, Vice President of India, was accompanied by Mr Shiv Pratap Shukla, Minister of State for Finance; Mr. Prasanna Acharya, Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha (Upper House of Indian Parliament); Ms. Vijila Sathyananth, Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha (Upper House of Indian Parliament); Ms. Saroj Pandey, Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha (Upper House of Indian Parliament); Mr. Rajeev Satav, Member of Parliament, Lok Sabha (Lower House of Indian Parliament); Dr. I.V.S. Rao, Secretary to the Vice President, and Dr. D.M. Mulay, Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs.

Also present were Mr. Rajesh Vaishnav, High Commissioner of India to Malta; Dr. (Ms.) Anju Kumar, Joint Secretary (CE), Ministry of External Affairs; Mr. Ashok Dewan, Joint Secretary to the Vice President; Dr. N. Yuvaraj, Private Secretary to the Vice President, and Mr. Vikrant Kanugonda, Sr. Private Secretary.



## Naidu addresses Indians in Malta, hails their contribution in bilateral ties

[Press Trust of India](#) | Valletta September 17, 2018

### Indian Vice President to visit Serbia, Malta, Romania

Vice President Venkaiah Naidu on Sunday interacted with the Indian diaspora in Malta and hailed their contribution in strengthening India's relations with the southern European island country.

Naidu, who arrived here from Serbia where he addressed Parliament and held bilateral talks with the country's top leadership, addressed the Indian community here.

"Always a pleasure to interact with Indian Diaspora in their home away from home! Vice President @MVenkaiahNaidu addressed the Indian community in Malta and hailed their contribution in strengthening bilateral relations between two countries," External Affairs Ministry Spokesperson Raveesh Kumar said in a tweet.

Earlier, the vice president was warmly received by Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Promotion of Malta Carmelo Abela upon his arrival in Malta. Naidu is on a three-nation tour to Serbia, Malta and Romania to boost ties with these European countries.

Attended the famous National Championship Air Races in Reno, Nevada this past weekend, and noted in the Jet class race that there was an Australian entrant. When the announcer introduced the parade of pilots and planes, we heard the Australian jet, "Blue Ice", an L39 Albatross was piloted by Charlie Camilleri. Needless to say, the name caught our attention and we decided to try and meet the chap. And we did. Below are a couple of stories on Charlie Camilleri's bio and other informative facts. He autographed our program and as he wrote: "Go Malta". Regards, Fred Aquilina USA



19 GO MALTA

Blue Ice



Charlie  
Camilleri

from  
Australia

### **CHARLIE CAMILLERI Race #61 – Miss Independence**

An ex- Royal Australian Air Force member, Charlie spent 22 years in the RAAF as an aircraft engineer where he worked on various high performance aircraft including the F-111 and Mirage. Prior to retiring from the RAAF, Charlie completed his commercial pilot training as part of his resettlement from the Air Force.

He then established an aircraft maintenance and charter operation in Bathurst NSW, where he has operated and expanded his business over the last 23 years.

Charlie flies various aircraft throughout his working week, from the L-39 Albatros through to the De Havilland Tiger moth. The fleet of aircraft at his base are used for charter, joy flights and government aerial survey operations.

Charlie also operates L-39 Albatros jets for adventure flights, within his current business operation. Paying customers are treated to a thrilling aerobatic flight in the L-39 overhead Mount Panorama in Bathurst, Australia's most prominent V8 Super Car

Race track and the stunning Whitsunday Islands in beautiful North Queensland.

Charlie has been attending the Reno Air Race since 2011 where he crewed for another jet racing team as the Crew Chief. In 2013 he attended PRS and competed in the air race in 2014. Charlie is looking forward to another exciting race event this year.

### **L-29 Delfin Jet Restoration February 3, 2017**

The team at PanAir are currently working on the restoration of their L-29 Delfin jet. Designed as a military training aircraft, the L-29 was built in the 1960s for the air forces of the Warsaw Pact nations. It was Czechoslovakia's first locally designed and built jet aircraft.

The L-29 is the predecessor to the L-39 Albatros and was built by Aero Vodochody to replace the Soviet Union's piston aircraft trainers. Approximately 3500 of these aircraft were produced with many remaining today in the hands of military collectors and civilian pilots.

The restoration of PanAir's L-29 in Bathurst, has been a very slow but dedicated process with the aircraft being painstakingly restored to its former glory. Currently there are no L-29's flying in Australia and the team hope that once the jet is fully restored that they will be able to showcase it at various airshows and events around the country.

Chief Pilot and Air Race pilot Charlie Camilleri, fly's a different L-29 jet during the thrilling Reno Air Race, which is based in Reno Nevada. After his partner had purchased this L-29 for him in Australia it was discovered that this very aircraft was the 'sister' to the jet based in the States. One crazy coincidence!



## Rockestra wows the public



Rockestra, the concert that takes pop, rock and classical music and spins them on their tails to create an entertaining evening for all, was held on Saturday.



The event was organised by the Malta Community Chest Fund with the aim of raising funds for those in need. The Malta Philharmonic Orchestra under the musical direction of MPO chairman Sigmund Mifsud and artistic direction by Pawlu Borg Bonaci took part.

Some of the finest local artists, including Frank Calleja, Chris Grech, Raquela Dalli Gonzi, Matthew James Borg, Kenneth Calleja, Joe Roscoe and Mikaela Attard took part. There were also performances by Relikc, the Animae Gospel Choir and the Stagecoach Choir. Photos by IRIS: Vision of Solidarity

## MUSIC+ Free Gozo mini-festival opens later this month

BY [GOZO NEWS](#)



This year the Classique Foundation of Gozo is embarking on a new project, with the first edition of a mini-festival – MUSIC+ with a programme of events to be held between late September and November.

The mini-festival programme will include recitals from local and international artists, master classes in different instruments, workshops for Primary school students and talks, with a conference will bring the festival to a close.

A recital by Edlira Shkurti (violin) and Erga Halilaj (piano) from Albania, will get MUSIC+ underway, on Friday, the 28th of September.

Shkurti is a member of the RTSH Orchestra of Tirana, Albania whereas Halilaj, apart from being a member of

the RTSH Orchestra, is also a visiting professor at the University of Arts of Tirana.

To follow will be three further recitals: on Saturday, the 29th of September, featuring up-and-coming Gozitan pianist Francis James Camilleri; and another on Sunday, the 30th, which will feature Laura Magistrelli (clarinet) and Marina Degl'Innocenti (piano) from Italy – Magistrelli is professor of clarinet at the Conservatorio Giuseppe Verdi of Milan.

The last of the three recitals will be held on Sunday, the 28th of October, featuring trumpeter Brendan Ball, trumpet player with the Malta Philharmonic Orchestra, and pianist Elaine Mercieca.

Ball and Mercieca will perform the world premiere of Alan Cassar's Deconstructed Images, as well as excerpts from some of the well-known classics.

All these recitals will start at 7.30pm and take place at the Exhibition Hall, Ministry for Gozo, St Francis Square. The organisers said that they will also all feature music by Maltese composers.

Laura Magistrelli, Edlira Shkurti and Erga Halilaj, will give master classes in clarinet, violin, and piano respectively. These will be held at the Gozo Visual and Performing Arts School, Xewkija, on Saturday, the 29th of September, starting at 9.00am.

As part of the mini-festival, selected Primary School children will also have the opportunity to attend two workshops – OPERA 4 KIDS. These workshops will be conducted by Ms. Sarah Spiteri, on Thursday, the 4th of October.

Then on Friday, the 5th of October, at the Exhibition Hall, Ministry for Gozo, starting at 7.30pm, Dr Abraham Borg will deliver a talk, Opera in Malta: a brief overview.

MUSIC+ mini-festival will be brought to a close with a conference: The Future of Opera in the Maltese Islands with the participation of representatives from all opera house in the islands.

It will be moderated by Dr Paul Xuereb and addressed by Ms. Cecilia Xuereb and internationally renowned soprano Miriam Gauci.

The conference will be held on Friday, the 9th of November, at the Circolo Gozitano premises, Victoria, starting at 7.30pm. This conference will be held in Maltese and attendance is by registration.

All events are free of charge.

The Classique Foundation is a non-profit cultural organisation in Gozo, with the main objective of promoting culture by organising musical concerts from time to time.

MUSIC+ has been supported by the Ministry for Gozo NGO Assistance Scheme, a funding programme for Voluntary Organisations on the Island of Gozo.

For more details and information please contact: [musicplusgozo@gmail.com](mailto:musicplusgozo@gmail.com) – 7970 3288 / 9948 7341.



## Malta National Aquarium

Malta National Aquarium is located in the town of Qawra in Saint Paul's Bay.

Tickets include an aquarium map and information on shark feeding hours. Each room is dedicated to another water body, including two in the vicinity of Malta. There are copies of objects sunk by the coast of Malta (including the statue of Jesus).

In the aquarium there are many species of marine animals: sharks, jellyfish, octopus, grasshoppers, flying fish, "Nemo". In total there are 26 aquariums and water tunnels in the facility. There is also a replica of a submarine. The aquarium itself is not too big and you can visit them in one hour or less.

The aquarium is air-conditioned, which is especially nice on hot days. In the aquarium there is La Nave Bistro, from which you can watch Saint Paul's Bay. The aquarium has free parking.

There is a possibility to buy a trip around the back of the aquarium. It is worth looking for discounts to the aquarium (you can get it in different places), because they allow you to save 3 euros



## Prime Minister discusses Brexit with UK Prime Minister

**Prime Minister** - On Monday, Prime Minister Joseph Muscat met with the UK Prime Minister Theresa May at 10 Downing Street, London.

Discussions between the Prime Ministers included the latest developments on Brexit, as well as how the two countries will strengthen their relationship. Also discussed was future collaboration to strengthen investment and trade between the two countries.

Prime Minister Muscat said that Malta and the UK are natural partners and relations between the two countries have always been strong, and will remain so. Bilateral and Commonwealth issues were also discussed

Joseph Muscat then went on to have a meeting with former Prime Minister of the UK Tony Blair.

During the day, the Prime Minister also met with ten international companies specialising in various fields such as technology, energy, renewable energy, financial services, and cinematography among others. He said that these companies have shown interest to invest in Malta..



## Gaulitanus Choir returns from successful concert tour in London



The Gaulitanus Choir of Gozo, has just returned from its choral tour in London, where it played a central role in the Malta Day celebrations which were held in the UK's capital.

The choir gave a number of performances during the tour, on the invitation of the Malta High Commission and the Malta Day UK Organising Committee.

These included a performance during the Maltese Fair held at the Westminster Cathedral Hall. The choir also joined for a performance with the UK's St Sebastian Brass Band conducted by Peter Cole

The next date was at the majestic Westminster Cathedral, the mother church of the Catholic Church in England and Wales, where it animated the liturgy during the official high Mass commemorating the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The concelebrated mass was led by H.G. Mgr Paul Cremona, Archbishop Emeritus of Malta, together with a very good number of Maltese priests, including Fr Victor Camilleri, who was instrumental in co-ordinating the event.

The Gaulitanus Choir was accompanied by Jonathan Allsopp, the Cathedral's organ scholar, on the grand organ. The large congregation in attendance was led by the Lord Mayor Locum Tenens of Westminster, Judith Warner, and the recently-appointed Malta High Commissioner, H.E. Joseph Cole, who also addressed the congregation at the start of the Mass. Representatives of several Maltese organisations were also there.

The choir attended the official Gala Dinner in the evening which was held at the 5-star Churchill Hotel, following the invitation of the chairman of the Maltese Culture Movement, Bernard Scerri. The guests were led by H.E. the High Commissioner Mr Joseph Cole and H.G. Archbishop Emeritus Mgr Paul Cremona.

The Gaulitanus Choir rounded up its artistic commitments at Our Lady of Victories Church in London's Kensington district, again co-ordinated by Fr Victor Camilleri.

During its various events, the Gozitan choir was conducted by its musical director Colin Attard. The participating soloists were sopranos Annabelle Zammit and Stephanie Portelli and mezzo-soprano Marthese Borg.

Gaulitanus said that H.E. the Malta High Commissioner told the choir, "It was indeed a pleasure to have Gaulitanus Choir.... Your uplifting performance of psalms and hymns at Westminster Cathedral has animated the Mass so beautifully.... I have received a number of very positive comments about your singing after the event.... I relay my gratitude to your team of professional and talented choristers.... I hope that in the future, there will be more instances of collaboration between the Malta High Commission, London and the Gaulitanus Choir, to continue showcasing Maltese talent in the United Kingdom."

The Gaulitanus Choir's London concert tour, was supported by the Ministry for Gozo. GOZONEWS.COM



**SOLEMNS FEAST IN HONOUR OF OUR LADY  
QUEEN OF VICTORIES  
PATRONESS OF THE MALTESRE COMMUNITY  
OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA**

*At Christ the King  
Church  
Lockleys  
SA*

*Mass at 1pm  
Procession  
Marches*



*All the members of the  
Maltese community  
are invited to  
participate*

*September 20  
1 October  
2018*

Friday 28 September at Christ the King Church, Henley Beach Road, Lockleys – Tribute to Mary by Maltese Associations accompanied by Maltese Queen of Victories Band. 7 pm

Saturday 29 September – Annual Feast Dinner at the Parish Community Hall Hall, Lockleys 6.30pm

Sunday 30 September – Holy Mass, Procession with the statue and Entertainment in the Hall 1.00pm