



Maltese e-Newsletter



The Journal of the Maltese Diaspora

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10 Most Multicultural Cities in the World



Multiethnic Australia

The results of the 2016 Census of Population and Housing, released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), show that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples represented 2.8 per cent of the population. 649,200 people reported being of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander origin in 2016.



**DON'T MISS OUT ON
THE MANY INFORMATIVE
ARTICLES
IN THIS JOURNAL**



The 10 Most Multicultural Cities in the World

From London to New York and São Paulo to Singapore, some cities manage to fit the entire world within them. Successive waves of immigrants have all brought with them a piece

of their old homes and made a mark on their new, creating diverse cultural environments full of incredible restaurants, festivals and art scenes. Below, Culture Trip looks at some of the most multicultural cities in the world.

AMSTERDAM Known as a welcoming place for immigrants and asylum seekers, Amsterdam, which is the largest city in the Netherlands, proudly hosts a diverse population. With approximately 178 different cultural backgrounds, the country's capital is a lively blend of friendly people from all over the world. This cosmopolitan city also has a host of multi-lingual people, and for those new residents who cannot speak Dutch, the city offers many language classes 'mostly free of charge' to help them. Amsterdam also hosts many cultural events throughout the year, which emphasizes their worldly view, including the DRONGO Festival, a celebration for multilingualism.

LONDON As the largest city in the UK, London is home to one of the most ethnically diverse populations in the world. From India to Jamaica to Ghana and many more countries, the world is truly represented in this vibrant area. Approximately one-third of Londoners are foreign-born, and even though the official language is English, the lively streets are brimming with global languages – well over 200 languages are spoken. While many people have chosen London as their new home, they still have a love for their culture and share it in many ways, including delicious food and festivals such as the Notting Hill Carnival.

LOS ANGELES Located in Southern California, Los Angeles is one of the most multicultural cities in the world, with people from approximately 140 different countries, speaking roughly 86 different languages. With immigrant-friendly laws, it is a popular place for those seeking a new life in the US. The city also has the distinction of being a place without a majority population, creating a truly vibrant cultural scene. Los Angeles is overflowing with cultural neighborhoods, such as Koreatown, Little Tokyo, and Boyle Heights, an area popular with the Latino community.

PARIS While immigration is a hot topic in France, as it is in many countries, there is no doubt that Paris has a diverse group of global cultures. Although it is difficult to determine an exact number of foreigners living in Paris as France's laws forbids asking about ethnicity on censuses, independent surveys put the percentage anywhere between 14% to 20%, with the majority of immigrants coming from outside the EU. Visitors will find many dynamic neighborhoods in Paris. For example, the Quartier Chinois (Chinatown) in the 13th arrondissement is a lively community of several Asian cultures while the eclectic Belleville (10th, 11th, 19th, and 20th arrondissements) is a multicultural beauty made up of African, Jewish and Asian ethnicities.

NEW YORK CITY One of the most cosmopolitan cities in the world, New York is an exhilarating metropolis located on the East Coast of the US. Made up of five boroughs, Queens is the most diverse, with people from India, Korea, and Brazil to name but a few countries. It was reported in 2017 that there

were more languages spoken in the borough of Queens than anywhere else in the world. In 1984, immigration-friendly New York established the Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs, which has set up a number of programmes to help those who have moved to the city from abroad.

SAN FRANCISCO Another hub of Californian multiculturalism, San Francisco is smaller than many of the other cities mentioned thus far, but just as cosmopolitan. Many immigrants call this 49-square-mile city home, with the largest group originating from China. Others come from places such as Germany, Italy, Mexico and India. The city is dotted with vibrant neighborhoods, including Chinatown, the Mission District, and North Beach and is also known for celebrating its multicultural roots through various festivals and events throughout the year. Highlights include the Chinese New Year Festival and Parade, which has been named at one of the top ten parades in the world, and the Ethnic Dance Festival, a celebration of the diverse Bay-area communities through dance.

SÃO PAULO Located in south-eastern Brazil, São Paulo – commonly known as Sampa to locals – is one of the most multicultural cities, if not the most, in South America. While immigration may not be as prevalent as it was in years past, the city's varied population is due to the many waves of immigration that began in 1870. From Italy to Lebanon, many countries are represented throughout the largest city in Brazil and this is evidenced in the city's culinary scene, religious landscape, and neighborhoods. Visitors can wander Bela Vista, also known as Bixiga or Bexiga, to experience Italy in São Paulo, or Liberdade, which is the Japanese quarter.

SINGAPORE Singapore is a unique multicultural location. Not only is it a city-state, but it's also very young in comparison to other places on the list, having only gained independence in 1965. This tiny island nation is proud of the diverse cultures and religions that exist together. While the majority of its residents are of Chinese origin, other ethnic groups include Malays, Indians, and Eurasians. A smaller minority is made up of people from the United States and Canada. In an effort to ensure communication remains relatively smooth, Singapore also boasts four official language: English, Malay, Mandarin, and Tamil.

SYDNEY Situated on Australia's east coast, Sydney is a lively city with a vibrant, multicultural landscape. While English is the official language of Australia, the city is home to approximately 250 different languages thanks to residents that come from Vietnam, the Philippines, Italy and many more international locations. Celebrating their multicultural community whenever they can, Sydney also hosts events and festivals that promote cultural awareness. One of the most popular events is Living in Harmony, which is a month-long celebration of the city's cultural diversity through a variety of festivals and events.



TORONTO Multiculturalism is part of Toronto's brand as a city. Genuinely embracing diversity, Toronto is home to many different ethnicities and cultures, truly shaping who we are as a collective. If you're from Toronto or if you have visited the city, you know that there's an array of different areas and places that embody various cultures and people.

We have the privilege to learn and get an inside scoop into people's traditions, languages and overall lucky enough to

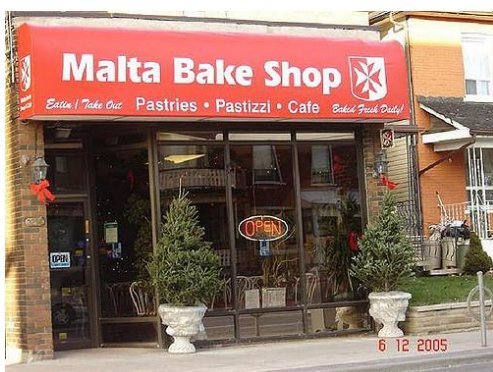
appreciate the differences in others. To be Torontonians is to be accepting and proud of who you are, with the willingness to share it with others.



Each Toronto neighbourhood embodies a distinct culture. **The wonderful thing about Toronto** is that you can literally experience so many cultures in a day. We have Little Italy, Greektown, Koreatown, Chinatown, Little Portugal and Little India - each embracing an authentic lifestyle and cuisine.

Over 180 languages and dialects are spoken here. **Toronto being home** to so many different types of people,

it's pretty dope to know that our city is a mosaic of different languages, which truly paints our city in a unique way. According to a 2006 consensus, about 47% practiced their mother tongue - imagine how these numbers have grown.



We are home to over 200 ethnic origins.

Toronto is a melting pot that contains every piece of the world. This alone influences how the people in our city live and are represented.

Toronto is one of the most multi-cultural destinations in North America. **Travel North America** and see for yourself - nobody does it like T.O.

Half of Toronto's population was born outside of Canada.

According to a 1996 census, 1,237, 720 people were born outside of Canada. This means that as generations are progressing, the potential to mix with other races is extremely likely. We are a city of beautiful, mixed babies - sharing and integrating culturally.

T.O is the largest retail market in Canada. **This means that** Toronto's retail stores and restaurants have access to products from all over the world. You are likely to find an authentic restaurant for your country somewhere in the city. We are home to some of the best cultural festivals! **Taste of Toronto**, Toronto Caribbean Festival, Salsa In Toronto, Taste of the Danforth, need I say more? We rank in the Top 10 most appealing cities to live and work.

Our success wouldn't be where it is today without the various types of people and experiences from all over world. The city truly benefits from this advantage in a positive way. Toronto possesses a reputation that makes the city a top choice for new immigrants to live and work, in comparison to the rest of Canada. **Here in Toronto**, we encourage acceptance and diversity. We don't want people just to come here and claim themselves Canadian, but we want them to embrace their cultural differences as well - because that's what's truly Canadian and especially Torontonians.

A plaque presentation commemorating the Maltese community in Toronto.



Children of Maltese-Canadian Society of Toronto members dressed for Toronto's centennial celebration, 1934.

The society won first prize in the float competition.

Library and Archives Canada

World-known Maltese-Australian chef visits his roots in Żejtun



Maltese-Australian chef and entrepreneur Shane Delia is on a Malta visit to renew his family origins from Żejtun and to gain further details about the culture of Maltese food. Through the television series 'Spice Journey' Delia has become world-known and the episodes featuring Malta are being transmitted on TVM and TVM2.

His last visit to Żejtun was eight years ago where his father was raised before emigrating to Australia.

Delia said, "Żejtun is very special to me and not just because of my heritage because it makes some of the best pastizzi in Malta".

At that time he had filmed parts of 'Spice Journey' that was featured on SBS and Travel Channel and are now being transmitted by TVM.

He said, "I remember sitting on these steps with my dad and my brother eating pastizzi that's how it is". Shane recently returned to Malta but this time he is not on an eating tour or researching further into pastizzi. He is here to appreciate his family while also gaining an insight into the distinct qualities of the Maltese kitchen.

Shane said, "I think that the culinary identity has been lost through the ages even though there is amazing produce, amazing stories and some really passionate people that are really devoted to restoring Maltese culinary identity".

As an entrepreneur and owner of a number of catering outlets in Melbourne, where he employs over 150 people, needless to say he is also looking into business opportunities in Malta.

"Since I've been here it's been amazing I met some really brilliant people who have opened my eyes, if anything re-ignited my passion for Maltese food and presented me some good opportunities, and I'm hoping that in the next few months would be able to get a deal done here in the south which might start re-investigating and re-discovering what real Maltese food is about", he stated.

By producing 'Spice Journey', Shane dealt more with the aspects of food in the Middle East, Asia and the Mediterranean, a series that is transmitted throughout 130 countries.

"What it did is it opened up predominantly the Australian market but the global market eyes to what food is and how important it is to the people from those cultures and than from the villages", continued Shane.

Throughout summer editions of 'Spice Journey' are being screened every Friday at 3.30pm on TVM and at 6pm on Sunday on TVM2.

Originally published by [TVM](#) on 12 July 2018. Written by Keith Demicoli.



THE RETURN OF THE NATIVE

Victor V. Vella M.A (Univ. of Sydney)

Your article 'Give youth a Chance' in the 237 edition of the Maltese Newsletter, took me back 50 years when I arrived in Australia and found myself a member of the the committee of of the Maltese Community: Western Suburbs....presently known as La Valette Social and Religious Centre. . I soon started to realise that I changed the country but haven't changed the mentality . I'm referring to the clinging to power, and the non-acceptance of new faces round the committee table , a typical band-club atmosphere. I was going to add the hesitancy of accepting the young or not so old members, coupled with a touch resentment towards those with an educational background. Your article also

brought another ripple of nostalgia to mind: the short articles I used to write 50 years ago in the Maltese Herald, two of which bore the titles *X'gara mil-Kisra u l-Bukkun* and *The day of Amateurism is over*. The latter especially would be a fitting addition to your article which unfortunately is 50 years too late.

The question of youth participation in Maltese committees and activities for that matter has been with us all these years. Every now and then there is an upsurge in some quarters for the lost sheep. The last one was some 5 years ago when a small number of young people appeared in the Convention for the Maltese Abroad which took place in Malta. As far as I know they were bodily present but they seemed to have been kept at arms length.

Which has been the case in Australia within the Maltese community. The article 'Give Youth a chance', hints at some reasons for the present situation. It does not analyse it or offer solutions. As a sensible reader could surmise and as I indicated in the beginning of this writing, the present situation has deep roots and one may well say that it is too late to revive it. Yes, it is easy to say...it is never too late...Though I believe it is.

A 'drone' look at the present situation would not offer signs of much hope. In the last fifty years one may well notice the musical chairs game which operates in most of our committees. Some chairs have been occupied by the same incumbents for 50 years and over. I remember them well!. These so called leaders love not the chairs, but the power which goes with them: the adulation of leaders, the meetings with and general access to Maltese and some Australian V.I.P.'s. I may mention the more modern carrots of a free flight to Malta and back for a board meeting or a convention, and the enticement of a glittering medal. Maybe I'm being too critical. Yes we have and have had people who have genuinely volunteered their leadership for the community. However leaders of any sort especially Maltese tend to get stuck to their pedestals till they die. Even the Church which many criticise for its conservatism years ago has realised that by 75 those in power have to go.

I cannot but agree with the sentence in the article, stating, 'We must empower our young and give them a chance'. The big questions are ...how, when, where, why?. And to start with the last one: Why would a young Maltese Australian lad/lass or a middle-aged one be interested in Maltese culture at the present time. By the way we are not talking about a visit to Malta as a tourist, or about a *platt mqarrun mahmug*...or whatever. I am thinking more of the language, the history, the literature, the heritage, the folklore, the spirit of a community. We have not been able to present these traits of our culture to the young or to the old for that matter in a professional way. We had hopes that the radio and SBS would offer means to those ends. And I sincerely hope they have to some extentthat is the reason why I am still involved with them.

Talking to some of the young ones some years ago about the present situation and trying to find out the reasons of their lack of interest, the common answer used to be: There is too much party politics, and Maltese ones at that.. Other general reasons were the presence of too many divisions and competition and imitation within the community and as a few added the lack of professionalism in presentations. These responses come from the horse's mouth or mouths. True or false....? I leave it to the judgement of the readers.

In many cases the second and third generation see Malta as a tourist attraction since they have lost filial, and nostalgic connections. They love Maltese postcards..with an occasional visit. When all is said, as I tried to explain during the last convention of the Maltese Diaspora... is how did the Maltese migrant and the second third or fourth generation Maltese or Maltese -Australian fitted in the wider community? After all it is the individual that counts. And the 100 or so individual I met at a nonagenarian birthday party recently proved to me that the majority have made a success of the migration process or of their parent' or grand parents' venture. That is the big test. I was shouted down when I raised this question at the convention. Even more when I hinted that there could be some doubt as to whether the nurturing of a Maltese culture and identity in the young is only a front

or a shield to protect those in power. Otherwise they would lose their pedestals. A doubt which works in tandem with the whole issue of what has happened in the last 50 years or so: don't give the young a chance.

UPDATE: COUNCIL OF MALTESE LIVING ABROAD

New members for CMLA representing the Maltese communities in different parts of the world were chosen in October 2018.

The objectives of the Council are

- To promote the quality of life of the Maltese communities abroad;
- To strengthen political, cultural, economical and social ties between the Maltese communities abroad and Malta;
- To facilitate the preservation of a cultural and linguistic identity among the community;
- To promote Maltese culture and in particular the teaching of the Maltese language abroad;
- To assist in the integration of the communities in their adopted countries;
- To analyse problems which Maltese communities encounter including issues relating to working conditions, professional and educational training and recognition of qualifications obtained by Malta;
- To advice the Minister of Foreign Affairs on any legislation or issue that can affect the interests of Maltese abroad.

After the retirement of most members of the Council for Maltese Living Abroad, we were informed that these are the new members of the Council who were approved in forming the Council of Maltese Living Abroad (CMLA)(2018-2021).

They are:

❖ Borg Edwige	15.10.2018	State of Victoria, Australia
❖ Sammut Mario M	15.10.2018	State of Victoria, Australia
❖ Camilleri Emmanuel	15.10.2018	State of New South Wales, Australia
❖ Previtera Marie-Louise	15.10.2018	State of New South Wales, Australia
❖ Delia Shane	15.10.2018	Rest of Australia (South Australia, Tasmania, Queensland, Northern Territory, ACT, Western Australia)
❖ Caruana Claudia	15.10.2018	U.S.A.
❖ Grima Angelo	15.10.2018	U.S.A.
❖ Schembri Susan	15.10.2018	Canada
❖ Berry-Brincat Antonella	15.10.2018	United Kingdom
❖ Grima A Alexander	17.04.2017	EU States other than Malta and UK
❖ Gatt Stephen	26.04.2017	
❖ Cutajar Josephine Ann	26.04.2017	
❖ Grillo Anita	15.10.2018	
❖ Muniglia Dennis	15.10.2018	
❖ Azzopardi Brandon	15.10.2018	

The first meeting of the new Council is scheduled in Malta on November 20 and 21.

Once again I would like to sincerely thank you and congratulate you on having produced such an excellent and informative newsletter for the last five years. I left Malta in 1981 to go to Australia which was a great move as I was fed up of politics. I now live in Spain and I find your newsletter very spectacularly informative, many times it reminds me of my childhood.

Well done and once again congratulations

Best regards Godfrey Vella Spain

MALTESE CITIZENSHIP



One can define citizenship as the legal bond between an individual and the state. Content of this bond is derived from national legislation. The bond is different in each country and may be subject to changes depending on political and social situation.

The Maltese Citizenship Act (Cap.188), amongst other matters, establishes who should become a citizen of Malta automatically by birth, and who can be registered or naturalized as a citizen of Malta. Acquisition of Maltese citizenship by registration means that a person, provided he satisfies the conditions established by laws has the right to acquire citizenship upon application. Prior to the year 2000, Chapter 3 of the Constitution of Malta contained quite substantive provisions regarding Maltese Citizenship, which were complemented by the provisions of the Maltese Citizenship Act (Cap 188). Following the relative amendments the said Constitution contains now only the general principles and citizenship matters are regulated by the Maltese Citizenship Act. On the 1 August 2007, further amendments to the said Act were enacted. As a result of these amendments, Maltese born abroad, who can prove descent from an ascendant and one of the parents of such ascendants were also born in Malta may acquire Maltese citizenship by registration.

Matters concerning citizenship and residence fall within the competence of the Ministry for Home Affairs and National Security.

WAYS OF ACQUIRING CITIZENSHIP

Acquisition of Citizenship by Naturalisation - The Maltese Citizenship Act provides for the acquisition of citizenship by naturalization, whereby most of the provisions concerned give the Minister responsible for citizenship matters discretion in the grant of Maltese citizenship. A person is eligible to apply for Maltese citizenship if prior to his application he has resided in Malta for a period of five year. He is of good conduct. Such eligibility does not, however, give him the right to become a Maltese citizen. As has been mentioned the Minister has the discretion regarding the grant of citizenship and in general requests are acceded to in accordance with the relative policies.

Children of citizens of Malta who have not acquired citizenship automatically at birth or cannot apply for registration by descent can acquire Maltese citizenship by naturalization. Recently the Individual Investor Programme (IIP) was introduced into Maltese Citizenship legislation, whereby such persons and family members may acquire Maltese citizenship by naturalization. Further information in this regard will be given hereunder.

Acquisition of Citizenship by Registration - Spouses of citizens of Malta can acquire Maltese citizenship provided they satisfy the relative conditions. Persons of Maltese descent can also obtain Maltese citizenship by registration provided that they can prove by documentary evidence such descent.

Regaining Maltese Citizenship - In the case of a Maltese citizen, who had lost the citizenship due to various factors, the Maltese Citizenship provides the legal mechanism in order that Maltese citizenship can be regained.

Dual Citizenship - As from 10 February 2000 the concept of dual citizenship became the rule and not the exception. Maltese citizens can retain any other citizenship which they hold. As a result of such amendments foreigners who acquire Maltese citizenship are not required to renounce their foreign citizenship/s in order to retain their Maltese citizenship. Furthermore Maltese nationals who had lost their Maltese citizenship, in view, that Malta did not allow dual nationality, re-acquire their Maltese citizenship automatically provided that they satisfy the relative conditions. If such conditions cannot be satisfied the persons concerned can re-acquire Maltese citizenship by means of registration.

For further information : <https://integration.gov.mt/en/ResidenceAndVisas/Pages/Citizenship.aspx>

Double-digit growth in population in northern part of Malta

St Paul's Bay registers 26% increase since 2015



Many localities in the northern part of the island are experiencing double-digit growth rates in their population, new statistics show.

The Maltese population as a whole grew by 8% compared to 2015 while Gozo also registered a 5% increase.

An exercise conducted by *Times of Malta*, based on the estimated population figures per locality published by the government this week, shows that the official total population reached 475,701 this January 1, growing by more than 36,000 people compared to three years ago.

Read: Population growth - is Malta

reaching the limit?

A comparison on the growth rate registered on a locality-by-locality basis shows that while the average increase in the last three years across both islands stood at 7.5%, the large and already populated localities in the north saw their residential population bulge, posting double-digit increases.

With the exception of Marsascala, where the population grew by 12% since 2015, all the other major localities that experienced heavy growth rates are situated to the north, with St Paul's Bay topping the list. Until a few years ago, the locality was considered as a quiet summer vacation seaside resort but the situation changed dramatically over period of a few years, with the town having the largest population on the island.

The town is now home to more than 100 nationalities, with the government having to build new schools Until three years ago, the largest town was Birkirkara. However, between 2015 and 2018, the number of residents in St Paul's Bay grew by more than a fourth – 26%. According to a recent study, the town is now home to more than 100 nationalities, with the government having to build new schools to cater for the massive demand in the area.

Another four localities – Msida (23%), St Julian's (21%), Gżira (21%) and Swieqi (20%), all neighbouring towns – saw their residential population soar by a fifth, registering growth rates of over 20% since 2015.

Read: Increase in Malta population more than 15 times that of the EU

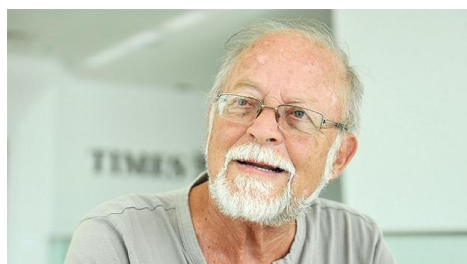
Following closely is Sliema, considered as the most prosperous locality on the island, which registered an official growth rate of 19% in the period under review, having a population surpassing 21,000. Other major increases were registered in Mellieħa and San Ġwann.

According to the statistics, all 68 towns and villages across the island reported population increases over the past years, with Mdina having the smallest, two residents, to reach a total population of 237. Constituted bodies, NGOs and Opposition political parties have been harping on the need to have a plan to manage migration, arguing that the current trends are not sustainable on the long term for a small island. Prime Minister Joseph Muscat insists he wants a "cosmopolitan island".

	2018	2015	Difference	%
Malta	442,996	408,596	34,373	+8
Gozo	32,705	31,095	1,610	+5
Total	475,701	439,691	36,010	+7.5

	2018	2015	Difference	%
St Paul's Bay	26,133	19,316	+6,817	+26
Msida	12,216	9,413	+2,803	+23
St Julian's	12,708	10,075	+2,633	+21
Gżira	10,784	8,512	+2,272	+21
Swieqi	13,553	10,879	+2,674	+20
Sliema	21,068	17,109	+3,959	+19
Marsascala	13,726	12,033	+1,693	+12
Mellieħa	10,868	9,486	+1,382	+12
San Ġwann	14,125	12,900	+1,225	+9
Birkirkara	23,750	22,378	+1,192	+5
Mosta	20,551	19,925	+626	+3
Qormi	16,500	16,207	+293	+1.7

THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN FOCUS –



RODERICK BOVINGTON – NSW AUSTRALIA

Having been brought up an ultra-orthodox Catholic – as an altar boy, a member of Malta's Society of Christian Doctrine (M.U.S.E.U.M.), a former seminarian and a religious choir member of three different groups – fully immersed and committed to these character-building affiliations that leave an indelible mark on young minds – the current universal

preoccupation with the scandalous behaviour of paedophilic clergy is a deeply painful problem to confront.

What brought this scourge to worldwide scrutiny and utter condemnation is its widespread occurrence within our own religious circles – but not exclusively.

As a young lad growing up in Catholic Malta of the 1950s, whatever happened at the village level that would otherwise have raised local eyebrows was always kept hush hush. Society the world over in that era behaved in a similar manner. Children and young pubescents were not to be exposed to matters that 'publicly' went against societal acceptance. And we meekly accepted our superiors' directives while doubts lingered on subconsciously in our boyish minds.

Little did we, decades later, anticipate the sexual abuse upon minors that has hit the Catholic establishment with such embarrassing and damaging force. I, as one of several millions of nominally Catholic adherents, have given much thought to different aspects of this most worrying cover-up within the very pillars of our collective moral bulwark, the universal Catholic Church.

So, if I am a mere single adherent out of several million Catholics throughout the world, profoundly hurt by these dastardly anti-social revelations, why should I speak out and not remain silent like the rest of the masses?

As a writer-thinker, a communicator to the masses, I deem it my moral obligation to help eradicate all aberrations deleterious to society's savoir-faire, provided one is well informed and harbours strong

feelings about going concerns. Silence only spells approval or at the very least, capitulation to contra forces.

Having expressed my convictions here in no uncertain terms, I am convinced there are extra powerful and influential vested interests throughout society determined on bringing down the Catholic Church, through their relentless barrages aimed squarely at whatever smacks of Catholicity! If this were not the case, then why are all other perverse modes of human behaviour we see all around us, day in day out, tolerated, if indeed not tacitly approved? How rife is such hypocrisy!

While I stand four square in full support of the current crackdown by authorities the world over, no matter where these horrid offences happen, I am baffled how different law courts worldwide accept evidence of sexual abuse, which allegedly happened several decades ago, without solid, concrete evidence.

Indeed, one questions how the paedophile clerics were never psychologically vetted out of the system during the long seven years' training for the priesthood. Why would any young priestly aspirant with paedophilic tendencies choose to follow a religious life, knowing they would be bound to celibacy and obedience?

Of course, fully-fledged clerics would once be acutely aware of the Church's protection from public scrutiny. Also, these young men would have no wife and family responsibilities, no taxes to pay, no home to purchase and maintain, no fear of losing their livelihood, with a regular income guaranteed by their faithful congregations. What a fanciful, pretentious life of aimless bliss this must be to the conniving cleric, irrespective of the harm and damage he inflicts upon his fraternal good clerics and the universal Church.

These psychopathic personalities occur in all walks and ranks of life. And neither are they confined exclusively to the male gender. It is time the public outcry unmask the just-as-rampant abusive women instead of incessantly demonising the male gender alone. Throughout history we've had presidents, monarchs, prime ministers, popes, army generals, top scientists, philosophers, leading educators and people from every stratum of society who led their entire lives preying on the vulnerable. Where nowadays do we encounter a cleric so devoted to his cause that he places himself last?

But there is yet another profound aspect which to my knowledge has not been aired publicly despite its serious implications upon Catholic doctrine. From moral, ascetic and dogmatic theological angles, every Catholic must be left bewildered. For these considerations have the power to shudder the very foundations of Catholic exegesis. How can the believing Catholic laity comprehend the Church's silence on these fundamental scores?

These reflections, as mind boggling as they are, question the entire gamut of Catholic doctrine incorporating the very *raison d'être* of our Catholic religion, the faith and ultimately the continuity of the Church itself. I do not recall ever having read a single public reference by Church authorities to these thoughts surrounding the very essence, the heart of universal Catholicity.

An offending priest who, according to traditional Church doctrine, commits a sacrilegious mortal sin with every one of these offences is the same priest who says Mass and consecrates the host and wine into the body and blood of Jesus Christ.

The only conclusion one can reach from this travesty is that all those offending clerics, along with the Church hierarchy who protected them, do not truly believe what they preach, rendering their Catholic faith the greatest fraud in human history. The Catholic Church has outgrown its original Christian mission with all its pomp, rituals, celebrations, titles, ranks, liturgy, regalia and all the rest. Jesus never had any material wealth, no titles, no fancy clothing to enforce his authority.

As Malta's national poet Dun Karm proclaimed in his epic poem *Il-Jien u Lilhinn Minnu*, at every step during his intellectual journey, in moments of doubt, he repeatedly retorted "emmen", believe! Scolding his very self for having allowed the slightest doubt in his own Catholic faith, he revealed his human frailty from the deepest corners of his intellect and of his Christian soul.

Where nowadays do we encounter a cleric so devoted to his cause that he places himself last?

Times of Malta by [Sarah Carabott](#)

Basil finally finds his cousins after year-long search

Readers help out to solve family riddle



Evone Scicluna, Basil Pavis and Joe Mallia. Photo provided by Rebecca Pavis

A search for family in Malta that started last year has turned a full circle, with an 89-year-old Brisbane man finally tracking down his relatives.

For Basil John Pavis, born in England, the search has been an intriguing one, with clues first pointing at the possibility that his surname was actually Paris and, later, Pons.

With the help of several people, including the St George's parish office in Qormi, *Times of Malta* readers and social media users, Mr Pavis has finally met two of his cousins in Dingli.

Evone Scicluna and Joe Mallia, two of seven siblings, are the first paternal relatives Mr Pavis has ever met.

The meeting, which took place earlier week before Mr Pavis returns to the UK was "terrific" as it followed what he thought was another dead-end.

Orphaned as a child, Mr Pavis was the only son of George and Mabel-Blanche née Matthews. He knew that his father, who everybody called George Pavis, was originally from Malta and had died from war wound complications in England in 1934.

It was only last year that he discovered that his father was actually called Giuseppe Paris, after Reed's School, in Surrey, provided records of his mother's application to enrol him at the London Orphan School.

Then, in a surprising twist following an appeal in the *Times of Malta* for any surviving relatives to come forward, it was discovered that the family name was Pons. In his research, James Agius, a volunteer at the St George's parish office, found that the family name was sometimes even mistakenly written as Bons and one time even as Borg.



Rebecca Pavis is in Malta with her father. Photo: Jonathan Borg

Mr Pavis arrived in Malta in March with his daughter Rebecca to narrow down the search.

The parish's records showed that his paternal grandparents had 10 children. One of them, his aunt Georgia, had given birth to at least two children who were around her father's

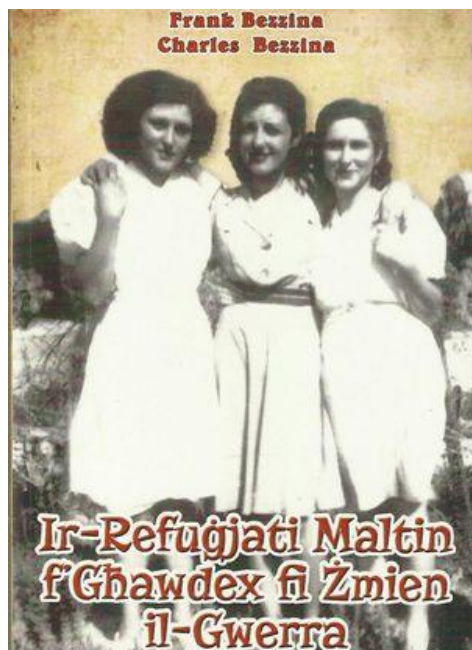
age. Sadly, following another appeal in *Times of Malta* about the two women – Carmela and Emmanuela of Qormi – Mr Pavis and his daughter were told they had died.

Mr Pavis, a father of eight, thought he had reached a dead end. But the family did not give up. They received a lot of e-mails and social media messages and got a break when his wife, Linda, posted the latest appeal article that appeared on *Times of Malta* and some photos on a Facebook group called 'Searching for lost friends and family Malta'.

Father and daughter finally met Ms Scicluna and Mr Mallia, children of Emmanuela, whose last residence had been Msida.

The meeting was anything but a dead end because they learnt that Mr Pavis has several more relatives in Melbourne, ending his fears that he would never meet anyone from the family side of his father.

Book review – Ir-Rifugjati Maltin f'Ghawdex fi Zmien il-Gwerra Maltese Refugees in Gozo during WW2



BY [GOZO NEWS](#)

“Charles Bezzina is in need of no introduction; his poetry inspired by the sea and by solitude is synonymous with Gozo and he is certainly the most renowned Gozitan poet with various anthologies to his name. However, poetry is not his only love. Charles takes after his father and strictly speaking, he has continued where his father stopped. In the last decade or so, he has given us a couple of books about the Second World War and his native island of Gozo.

Ir-Rifugjati Maltin f'Ghawdex fi Zmien il-Gwerra – is the title of his latest publication. In the book, which he co-authors with his late father who was a collector of documents related to Gozo and the last war, Bezzina goes into detail as he provides us with precious information about the various Maltese families and personalities who decided to move to Gozo during the war. Gozo, being a backwater, was much safer than Malta.

The area around the Dockyard, Valletta and the Three Cities known as Cottonera were at the centre of attention during the Second World War. There are those of the opinion that Malta was the most bombed place during the war. Gozo was saved

much of the trouble although as Bezzina narrates and this book and the previous ones about the war and Gozo, the island had its fair share of suffering. Nadur, Ta' Sannat and even Victoria were at times hit by the enemy.

Still, Gozo was safer than the main island and the government encouraged many Maltese families to move to Gozo and settle on the island for the war years. Frank, the author's father, narrates who he saw the first refugees from Malta arriving in Victoria in June 1940; Frank kept notes about the proceedings of the war in Gozo – had he not done so, much of what we know about Gozo during the war would have been lost for posterity.

Both authors quote various sources such as the daily *Il-Berqa*, documents of the Police Department as well as other official reports to substantiate their arguments. Various shreds of information are gleaned from veterans of war and by word of mouth.

Information about the whereabouts of the refugees in Marsalforn during the war and the building of the Victoria Male Branch of the Society of Christian Doctrine is also to be found in the book.

The reminiscences by such notable personalities like President Emeritus of the Republic Ugo Mifsud Bonnici, himself a prolific writer, author and architect André Zammit and Victor Wickman – just to mention a few – make for interesting reading.

In this latter part of the book, the contributors write from their own experiences and mention by name the Gozitans with whom they mixed and shared their everyday life during these hard times for our islands.

Bezzina's book is interesting also from a social point-of-view. Although poverty was rampant in those days, the Gozitans – together with the Maltese refugees – were not idle at all. They organised plays on stage and participated in the procession with Baby Jesus that the members of the MUSEUM made it a point to coordinate every Christmas.

The book has a foreword by war expert Laurence Mizzi and an introduction by ex-Minister for Gozo Anton Tabone. Many photos feature for the first time.

The book was sponsored by the Bank of Valletta and has a useful bibliography. The arduous work that has been put into the book is a guarantee makes the book an authoritative one on the subject it deals and sheds light on an important period in the history of Gozo.”

Ir-Rifugjati Maltin f'Ghawdex fi Zmien il-Gwerra, Gozo 2017; 119 pages.

Fr Geoffrey G Attard, Gozo.

Times of Malta - [Sarah Carabott](#)

Woman finds her Maltese nanny 60 years later

Armed with childhood memories of 1950s Malta, she came to find Rena



Anna Grima with Angela and Colin Herring. Photo: Jonathan Borg

A woman who flew to Malta from the UK equipped only with a few black-and-white photos and scarce information has managed to meet the nanny who cared for her 60 years ago in Sliema.

But the encounter was only made possible after a *Times of Malta* reader whom she had never met spent two weeks looking for the nanny.

Rena, the Harrings' childhood nanny.



When reader Anna Grima learnt of Angela Herring's visit from the newspaper, she did all the groundwork beforehand and managed to trace the childhood carer Rena, née Sciberras.

Ms Herring, née Pollitt, lived in Malta as a child between 1955 and 1959 and her memories are "hazy but very happy".

[READ: Basil finds his Maltese cousins after a year-long search](#)

Her father was in the Royal Marines and left a week after her family arrived to go to Cyprus. She recalls living on Sacred Heart Avenue, in a block of flats that stood alone overlooking a grassy hillside. "We played a lot on the hillside and in the street

– there were very few cars. One day some Maltese boys were throwing stones towards the roof and I got hit on the head. My mum rushed me up to the hospital at the convent and I remember them stitching the cut. It was very painful.

"There was a farm next to us that has been knocked down, and sadly the whole area is now built up." Ms Herring remembers several places from her time in Malta: a playschool in Valletta, the Army School at Mtarfa and beaches like Għadira and Golden Bay that have not changed much.

But one of the highlights remains meeting her nanny, Rena, to whom in her letter she refers as Raina or Reigna.

"Meeting Rena was amazing – she remembered our family so well, she remembered how quiet and shy my brother was, how smart and precise my father was and also how kind my mum was.

"It was wonderful to meet her after all these years, and I cannot thank Anna Grima enough, because without her it would have been impossible," she told this newspaper.

Ms Grima made it her mission to find Rena when she read Ms Herring's letter in the newspaper.

The fact-finding venture took her from Sacred Heart Avenue to several other streets in Sliema, Balluta Bay and St Julian's as she was referred from one person to another. Each referral lifted her hopes, but each time she realised that she was knocking on the wrong door.

When she finally traced Rena to Naxxar two weeks later, the 25-minute drive seemed an eternity.

There she knocked on Rena's door and handed over the photos that Ms Herring had published in the newspaper.

"She looked at them, looked back at me with a big smile and said 'Yes, this is me'. I cannot explain what I felt. My eyes were watering and apart from feeling relieved and satisfied, there was so much happiness in my heart," Ms Grima recalled, noting Rena's brother had helped her out.

Ms Herring's trip to Malta will probably not be the last.

"We loved Malta, absolutely loved it. We have visited several Mediterranean countries, and Malta was by far the cleanest and the most welcoming. Everyone was so helpful. There are a lot of cars, and the signposts were not brilliant, but as everyone told us, 'You can't get lost'.

"We definitely hope to return. There were many places we did not have time to visit. Sadly we didn't have time for Mosta, which I remember visiting with Rena as a little girl at Christmastime."

Multicultural and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Engagement – ACT Australia



Australian Capital Territory Policing values the wellbeing of every member of the community and wants people of all nationalities to feel safe and secure. We recognise that in some countries, police are greatly feared and those who arrive in Canberra under humanitarian or

refugee programs may mistrust police.

We aim to work with the Multicultural and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community to create positive relationships with police, break down barriers and learn, understand and appreciate the needs of cultural groups in Canberra.

We also work closely with Migrant and Refugee Settlement Services to assist people who are new to Canberra learn about the role of police and the laws in Australia. We also support a number of groups through community events, information sessions and education programs.

The Australian Federal Police and ACT Policing also support and celebrate a diverse workforce. All ACT Policing sworn members are provided with multicultural awareness training to ensure they are equipped to appropriately engage with people from a Multicultural or Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander background.

Students to get special performances at largest ever Malta Book Festival



Malta Book Festival doubles capacity with additional hall to accommodate more students

Actress Antonella Axisa will lead a team of actors for both a street theatre performance and one on stage based on Noel Tanti's Fil-Kamra ta' Jonas

The Malta Book Festival 2018, the most prominent and prestigious book celebration of the year, will take place at the Mediterranean Conference Centre, Valletta, starting from Wednesday 7 November and going on till

Sunday 11 November.

For yet another year the Malta Book Festival will be dedicating a lot of activities to children aimed at encouraging them to read, having been set up to adhere to a philosophy that provides age-appropriate learning activities for children revolving around books and reading. Schools are encouraged to book a slot for their students to visit the Malta Book Festival 2018.

Since the Festival has doubled its capacity by adding an extra hall, double the number of students will be able to attend the Festival during the morning of weekdays, when a number of special performances will take place for them.

New to the Festival is a performance organised by the Malta Visual and Performing Arts School (MVPA), based on Antoinette Borg's *Fittixni*, winners of last year's Terramaxka Prize in the category 'Books for Adolescents'. The play will be performed by young actors for the visiting students.

Additionally, actress Antonella Axisa will lead a team of actors for both a street theatre performance and one on stage based on Noel Tanti's *Fil-Kamra ta' Jonas*, also a National Book Prize winner in the Terramaxka section. Horizons is also organising an activity based on the Maltese translation of the book 'El Cuento de Ferdinando' (on which the children's film *Ferdinand* is based).

Families will also have the opportunity to visit the Malta Book Festival 2018 hassle-free during the weekend, as a free shuttle service will be available on Saturday 10 and Sunday 11 November all day to and from Publu bus stop, near the Independence Monument in Floriana in Sarria Street, to the Mediterranean Conference Centre.

The first trip from Floriana at 9:15 am on Saturday and 8:15 on Sunday, running every hour. Last trip from MCC at 22:30 am on Saturday and 21:30 on Sunday, running every hour. This service is free of charge and will be operating on Saturday and Sunday only.

This year's festival will be held on 7-11 November. The programme of events will be delivered in printed form to all households in Malta and Gozo in the next two weeks.

PRESS RELEASE BY THE OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER:



Vietnamese Ambassador pays farewell call on Speaker

Reference Number: PR182289, Press Release Issue Date: Oct 23, 2018

Ambassador of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam Mr Cao Chinh Thien paid a farewell visit on the Speaker of the House of Representatives Dr Anglu Farrugia.

Speaker Farrugia expressed his appreciation to Ambassador Thien for the hard work carried out during his three-year tenure of office that intensified the bilateral relations between Malta and Vietnam, particularly the activities organised in 2014 to mark the 40th anniversary of these diplomatic relations. He mentioned the signing of a Double Taxation Agreement and high-level meetings, including the one between Prime Minister Joseph Muscat and his Vietnamese counterpart Xuan Phac on the margins of ASEM 11. He referred to trade and economic relations and noted that bilateral trade ought to be increased.

Ambassador Thien said that 2019 would mark the 45th anniversary of bilateral relations and expressed hope that there would be an exchange of business delegations in order to enhance trade between the two countries. He referred to the Voluntary Partnership Agreement on Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade which was signed last Friday by the EU and Vietnam in the margins of the EU-ASEM Summit. He said that he looked forward to Malta's ratification of this agreement to help the process of bringing it into force as quickly as possible. He also said that, if Malta were to open an Embassy in Asia, it should consider opening one in Hanoi, given that Vietnam was fast becoming an important industrial base of large Asian companies.

The Vietnamese Ambassador was accompanied by Ms Nguyen Thu Ha, Second Secretary, Embassy of Vietnam, Rome; Mr Do Hai Long, Third Secretary, Embassy of Vietnam, Rome; and Mr Walter Cavrenghi, Director General of Italy - Vietnam Chamber of Commerce.

“When you go back to Malta, do please tell them that we love Malta. Tell them that we never stopped loving our country and that we can’t come back because our children are here.”



When the former Foreign Affairs Minister Tonio Borg visited Australia few years ago, an elderly lady in Australia, a grandmother, approached him with tears in her eyes and begged him: “When you go back to Malta, do please tell them that we love Malta. Tell them that we never stopped loving our country and that we can’t come back because our children are here.”

Dr Borg recalled the touching moment when he officially launched the first meeting of the Council for Maltese Living Abroad. The council is made up of representatives of Maltese communities in all the continents around the world as well as experts in the field of migration.

The grandmother’s story is a very common one among the Maltese people who settled in Australia. “The 50,000 Maltese who emigrated to Australia in the 1950s are getting older, so there are problems in that they are now resorting to speaking Maltese again,” said Edwin Borg Manché, a council member referring to studies showing that, in their old age, people tend to start speaking in their original language.

He asked the Government to help “so we can offer them a better service when it comes to language”. In Melbourne, he said, a number of volunteers visited the elderly so they would have the opportunity to speak to someone in Maltese.

The pull to the homeland is felt even in the Maltese-American community. “On special occasions when Archbishop Paul Cremona went to California, people mill in from everywhere and, all of a sudden, everyone becomes Maltese,” said Louis Vella, another council member representing the Maltese community in the US. “It is good to hear Maltese – old Maltese – being bandied about.”

The older the emigrant gets, the stronger the pull towards the home country. Joe Scerri, who has lived in Canada for the past 45 years, said: “The bond doesn’t weaken.” As a council member, he brought to light the possibility of Canadians with dual citizenship getting some sort of a non-resident ID card that would show that they are Maltese too.

“We need to highlight the fact that the idea of migration has ended and is now replaced by the concept of a Maltese generation that lives both in Malta and abroad,” said Dr Borg, who is the council’s president.

The new generation of emigrants are no longer crossing the continents, opting instead to pack and move to European Union countries. Their problems are mainly of an administrative nature. “We have a situation where the Administration needs to come to terms with the fact that the emigrant would still be living part of his life in Malta,” said Franklin Mamo, a council member who lives in Belgium. He said that the largest number of Maltese living in Belgium were aged 0 to 9 years. “The average age of people who migrate to Belgium is 35 to 40, so they will be starting a new family,” Mr Mamo said.

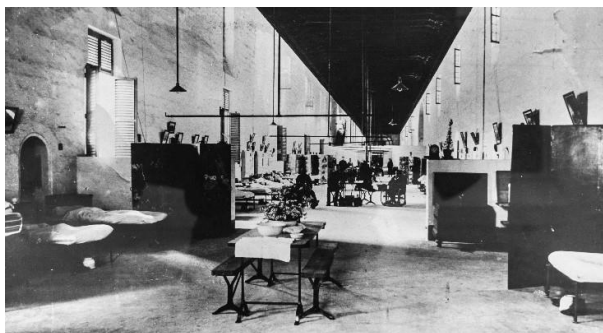
The council will work to promote the communities in their country of residence, their ties to Malta, the preservation of culture and language and integration in the country of adoption.

It will also strive to set up a Maltese Cultural Institute, an effort lauded by Tourism Minister Mario de Marco, also present at the meeting: “This will be crucial in the promotion of the language and culture of the Maltese Islands.



The brief history of the Mediterranean Conference Centre

One of Malta's most popular venues for performances, events and large-scale conferences, the Mediterranean Conference Centre has far more to its history than meets the eye.

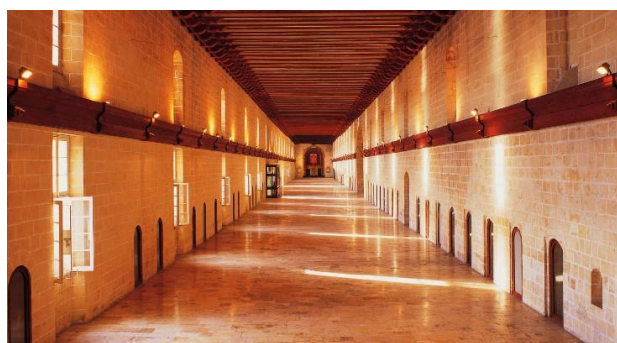


Martina Said

'The Holy Infirmary of the Knights of St John to The Mediterranean Congress Centre at Valletta' by Paul Cassar

The magnificent Mediterranean Conference Centre (MCC) is one of Valletta's most remarkable structures, works on which began in the 16th century during the reign of Grand Master Jean de la Cassiere, as an infirmary for the knights of the Order of St John.

One of the building's main attractions is a hall measuring 155 metres in length, referred to as the 'Great Ward'. Known as the Sacra Infermeria, the MCC was considered to be one of the best hospitals in Europe at the time, capable of accommodating around 900 patients. Today, this same hall is used as an extensive exhibition or event space.



Under the reign of Grand Master Nicholas Cottoner, the School of Anatomy and Surgery was established in the infirmary, and was the early precursor of the Medical School now at the University of Malta in Msida. As with the rest of the islands, the Sacra Infermeria underwent various changes while in the hands of different rulers. When the Knights left the island and the French took over, a number of structural changes were implemented in order to improve the hospital's sanitation.



'The Holy Infirmary of the Knights of St John to The Mediterranean Congress Centre at Valletta' by Paul Cassar

Between 1800 and 1918, the hospital was used by British military forces as a station hospital, particularly suitable due to its proximity to the Grand Harbour, where the sick and wounded were brought in from their ships. It was after the end of WWI that the Sacra Infermeria stopped being used as a hospital, and instead housed the Police Headquarters until the start of WWII, during which time the building sustained disastrous damage.



Gradually and many years later, the old hospital was reconstructed and restored, and inaugurated as the Mediterranean Conference Centre in 1979, as it is

known today. Its various halls, stages, equipment and facilities have made it a top venue for local and international events, surrounded by remarkable views of the Grand Harbour within a truly historic setting. *Curious? Visit the MCC at Triq l-Isptar, Valletta to experience this unique building for yourself!*

PETITION SEEKS TO PUT ENGLISH ON PAR WITH MALTESE IN LAW COURTS

A parliamentary online petition has been filed asking for legislation to change so that English could be used in the courts, the same way Maltese is

Creator of Petition – David Lorenzo Alvarez

This petition respectfully requests the House of Representatives to amend or introduce appropriate legislation to ensure that citizens can equally exercise their rights and access to public services, including the Judiciary, in either of the official languages of the Republic of Malta. The above is being requested without prejudice of the status of the Maltese language as the National language. Despite Malta's economic growth, accession to the European Union and integration within the International Markets, citizens and investors alike are not always equally treated when exercising their rights, accessing to public services or to the Judiciary if they do not command one of the official languages.

This situation provokes some cases in which non-English speakers or non-Maltese speakers cannot equally access to public services including the Judiciary or to exercise their rights. It is also seen as an issue by many international investors as there are situations in which they cannot access to the Courts, even when no advocate nor representative is required.

The Constitutional Mandate that chose the Maltese language as the language of the Courts should not be used as the basis not to update legislation like the 1965's Judicial Proceedings Act (Chapter 189). In fact, legislation of over 50 years ago should be amended and adapted to reflect current Maltese society and economy. The petitioner also believes that art. 5 of the Constitution of Malta allows the Parliament to look for a fairer model, as those already in place worldwide as, for example, in the Republic of Ireland, Luxembourg, Canada, Switzerland or Brussels. These models have in common that exercise of rights or access to public services or Courts are possible in either language, and when that it is not possible translation and/or interpretation is provided.

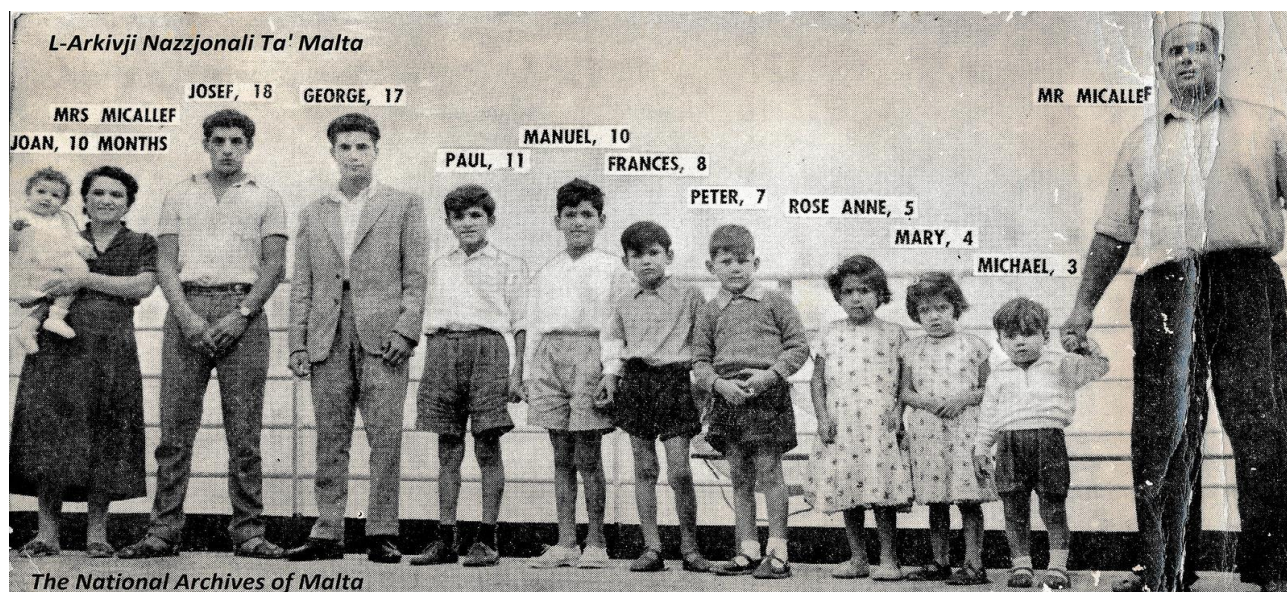


Proud to be Maltese



Multi-coloured doors and windows in the Facade In Marsaxlokk Malta is a photograph by Jacek Wojnarowski 2016.

Large families - HOPING FOR A BETTER LIFE - JITTAMAW F'HAJJA AHJAR



A photograph of the Micallef family from Naxxar who emigrated to Australia in 1959. This photo was featured in the "Bullettin Emigranti" published by the Department of Information together with the Emigration Office (November 1959)
Ritratt tal-familja Micallef minn Naxxar li kienu emigraw lejn l-Awstralja fl-1959. Dan ir-ritratt deher fil-"Bullettin Emigranti" li kien maħruġ mid-Dipartiment tal-Infommazzjoni flimkien mal-Uffiċċju tal-Emigrazzjoni (Novembru 1959).



Industrial area in Xewkija,
GOZO - MALTA
Triq I-Ghassara,
Xewkija XWK 3000, Malta

Magro

Brothers Group of Companies is a private, family-owned organisation. It finds its roots in 1916 when three Magro brothers joined their father's business as general provisions merchants. In 1934 they ventured in the processing and canning of fresh tomatoes and subsequently branched into a number of other business activities including the importation into Malta of livestock, fodder and foodstuffs and exports of local agricultural produce.

In 1977, John and Michael Magro, the sons of one of the first partners, took over the running of the business and further expanded their activities to include tinsplate can manufacture, food distribution, retailing, advertising & marketing, construction & real estate. In 1995, the company moved to a purposely built factory with a covered area of 27,000 square metres which today has become a centre of excellence for food processing in the Mediterranean.

The backbone of the food sector of Magro Brothers Group of Companies is the processing of fresh tomatoes - Magro Brothers (Foods) Ltd is the major company within the group. It is one of the few local companies which handle the whole production cycle of tomato related products, from the growing of crops to the distribution of the finished product. This also includes the packaging such as tinsplate-cans and "Coex" plastic bottles. The present production range is very diversified and includes canned tomatoes, table and pasta sauces, mayonnaise and condiments, jams and jellies.

As part of the company's policy of diversification and living up to market expectations, in 2004, Magro Brothers Group have expanded in exclusive gifting and hampers of local delicacies and crafts under the Savina Brand and, in 2010, in the production of traditional cheeses and dairy products under the Farm Fresh Brand.

Today, with over 100 years experience, Magro Brothers Group of Companies has become one of the leading enterprises in Malta and has gained the respect of the local business community and the trust of most financial and commercial organisations. The owners take pride into rigorously monitoring the crops of the suppliers they themselves would have hand picked. This is definitely one major factor which has helped the company to achieve the well deserved premier position. In 2016, Magro Brothers celebrated their 100th anniversary by a number of events including a big celebration at the Villa Rundle in Victoria Gozo



*The first generation -
Ganni Magro*



*The 2nd Generation - Wigi,
Guzeppi and Manwel*



*The 3rd Generation -
Michael, John and Nicholas*



History of Fort Rinella

Rinella Battery is a Victorian battery in Kalkara, Malta. It is commonly referred to as Fort Rinella, although it was never classified as a fort while in use. It contains one of two surviving Armstrong 100-ton guns. Kalkara, Malta

Fort Rinella is one of a series of four coastal batteries built by the British in Malta and in Gibraltar between the years 1878 and 1886. The purpose for building these forts was for each of them to house an Armstrong 100-ton gun. The building of these forts was necessitated by Britain's fear of losing her naval

superiority in the Mediterranean to Italy, who was at the time rebuilding her navy to an unprecedented strength.

In 1873 the Italian navy launched a class of two very powerful battleships: the Duilio and the Dandolo. These battleships were protected by 22 inches of steel armour, and four Armstrong 100-ton guns were mounted on each ship. Once completed, these battleships out-classed anything which other navies possessed. The British were always sensitive to naval developments in the Mediterranean, more so since the opening of the Suez Canal in 1869. By maintaining her supremacy in the Mediterranean, Britain could make sure of the vital route to India via the Suez Canal. In the light of all this the emerging of a powerful Italian Navy was regarded as a potential threat to British interests in the Mediterranean. In order to better assess the situation a military commission was sent to Malta and Gibraltar to investigate the preparedness of the coastal defences of these two important naval stations in the light of the threat posed by the Italian navy. The recommendation of this commission was that two 100-ton guns be placed at Malta and another two at Gibraltar.

In Malta two sites, at the mouth of the Grand Harbour, were identified to mount the 100-ton guns. Two batteries of a standard pattern were built. One of the batteries was built at Sliema and the other was built at Rinella. The overall design of each battery was that of an irregular pentagon surrounded by a deep ditch, which was enfiladed by three caponiers and a counter-scarp gallery. The forts were built on two levels – underground were the magazine and two loading-chambers; at ground level were the accommodation area and machinery chambers.

The 100-ton gun presently at Fort Rinella arrived in Malta from Woolwich on 10th September 1882. After some months the gun was ferried from the Dockyard to Rinella Bay from where it was transported to Fort Rinella. The gun had to be manhandled all the way to the fort. The operation, which involved about 100 men from the 1st Brigade Scottish R.A. Division, lasted three months. Finally in January 1884 the gun was brought into position and was ready for use. The gun was mounted en barbette on a wrought-iron sliding carriage. In this position the gun fired over the top of the parapet of the emplacement without the need of exposing the gun-crew to enemy fire. Given its massive proportions the gun could not be worked manually, therefore an ingenious hydraulic system was used to traverse it and to load it. This makes Fort Rinella the first battery to have had a gun worked by mechanical means.

After the fort was completed in 1886, War Department inspectors visited the fort and found that the design needed alteration in order to render it more effective against bombardment. Consequently most of the masonry riveting within the emplacement was removed and two musketry positions on the roof were completely filled in with earth. Modifications were also carried out to the gun's machinery so as to render it more efficient.

In 1906, after just twenty years in service, the 100-ton guns in British service were declared obsolete. As a consequence of the 100-ton gun being phased out, Fort Rinella was stripped of all its machinery and abandoned. The 100-ton guns had never fired a shot in anger. Up till the mid-1930s Fort Rinella served as a Position Finding Station for nearby Fort Ricasoli. Thereafter the fort was handed over to the Admiralty who surrendered the property to the Government of Malta in 1965.

MFAKKAR ANTON F ATTARD – KITTIEB, POETA U STORIKU



Nhar il-Erbgha filghaxija 24 ta' Ottubru '18, il-Malta Libraries flimkien mac-Circolo Gozitano fakkru lil dan il-Kittieb Ghawdxi b'Serata helwa fis-Sede tac-Circolo Gozitano Victoria li matulha Kittieba Ghawdxin qraw xi siltiet mill-kitba varjata li harget mill-pinna ta' dan il-kittieb prolifiku fuq medda ta' nofs seklu. Fetaħ is-Serata l-President tac-Circolo il-Poeta l-Avukat Alfred Grech li tkellem fit-tul dwar il-hidma letterarja ta' dan il-Ghawdxi li halla l-wirt letterarju tiegħu kollu li jikkonsisti f'mijiet kbar ta' kotba lil-Librerija Pubblika t'Ghawdex fejn kien jghaddi ħinu jfittex u jaqra manuskritti u ġurnali. Fost ix-xoghlijiet li nqraw matul din il-Lejla ta' tifikira, kien hemm siltiet qosra Mill-Folklore ta' Ghawdex kif ukoll Ġabra ta' Taqbil u Ghana Folkloristiku. Inqraw ukoll il-poeżiji Il-Passjoni ta' Gesu', Il-Lunzjata, Santa Marija.

Inqara wkoll ir-rakkont ta' fejqan tal-ghageb minn Frenċ tal-Gharb mill-ktieb ta' Attard, Mill-Hajja tal-Imghoddi, waqt li l-kantant Spiro Sillato fuq il-kitarra kanta San Gorg Megalomatri u Santa Marija Assunta. Is-serata għalqet b'messaġġ qasir mis-Sur Gorg Cassar, l-Uffiċjal inkarigat mil-Librerija Nazzjonali t'Ghawdex li kien jaf mill-qrib lil Anton F Attard li ta' kuljum kien jaraħ quddiemu ma' xi mejda tal-Liberija fi Triq Vajringa jagħmel xi reċerka inkella jaqra u jifli xi kitba qadima. Huwa radd hajr pubblikament lill-familja tal-kittieb (preżenti kien hemm wiehed minn hutu li ilu msiefer madwar ħamsin sena) tal-ghotja sabiħa ta' kotba li għogbu jhalli lil-Librerija u kif Ghawdex tilef wiehed mill-kittieba ewlenin tal-Malti li habb lil Isiena bla ebda kundizzjoni. **Kav**

Joe M Attard Victoria Ghawdex



UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

Malta

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for

Refugees was

established on December 14, 1950 by the

United Nations General Assembly to help Europeans displaced by the World War II conflict.

From only 34 staff members when UNHCR was founded, it now has 6,650 national and international members of staff. The agency works in 118 countries, with staff based in 108 main locations such as regional and branch offices and 151 often remote sub-offices and field offices. UNHCR is now dealing with 34.4 million people who fled their country of origin because of persecution and war. UNHCR is the recipient of the 1954 Nobel Peace Prize for its work in helping the refugees of Europe.

Malta - The Republic of Malta is an archipelago situated in the centre of the Mediterranean, 80 km south of Sicily and 284 km east of Tunisia. It is a member of the European Union and the Eurozone.

Malta is a signatory to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol since 1971. It officially lifted its geographical reservation on 13 December 2001. Malta is not yet a signatory to any of the UN Statelessness Conventions.

UNHCR Malta - The UNHCR Malta office opened in 2005 and falls under the regional office of Rome. The office's first challenge was to meet the high influx of boat arrivals from the Libyan coast heading for the European mainland.

UNHCR also works closely with the Maltese government, social partners and a number of local organisations and NGOs not only to find durable solutions for refugees and beneficiaries of protection in Malta, but also to advocate and work towards improved access to protection and conditions of asylum in Malta; an increased protection-sensitive asylum system and related policies; to strengthen the capacities of government and partner agencies; and to increase general awareness about asylum issues in the country.

UNHCR staff in Malta. After spending the initial years working with just two officials, in 2009 it was agreed to increase UNHCR's capacity in Malta.

The posts are: Administration/finance, Protection, Durable Solutions and Public Information.

A number of consultants are also employed with UNHCR Malta. UNHCR representative to Malta Kahin Ismail (2017 –) Beat Schuler (2016 – 2017) Jon Hoisaeter (2009 – 2016)

OPINION - RENE ZAHRA

Ms. Bishop (Newsletter 241, Page 12) asked for our views about her article **Where do the Maltese come from? It might not be where you think!** and here they are mine.

No one knows exactly where the very first people to inhabit Malta came from. During the last ice-age some 17,000 years ago the pressure of ice on Europe made Africa move North, making the Mediterranean narrower and pushing up the land between Malta and Sicily. At the same time the level of the sea was much lower than it is today. Africa and Sicily were joined. The remains of African animals found in Ghar Dalam are proof of this.

With the melting of the ice-age, pressure on the European landmass eased, and as a result Africa moved South. This formed the Pantelleria trench (see Google Earth and see how the shape of the trench matches the coast of Sicily. The geology of Lampedusa a very small island some 110 km. south-west of Malta is the same. The land in between just sunk when the land stretched to make Africa move southwards. The Temple Builders might have lived in the lands now under the Mediterranean and as the level of the sea suddenly or quickly came up they transferred their civilization to the Maltese Islands, the only remaining part of a much bigger land now under the sea. We find no traces at all of the Temple Builders in Sicily, while in Malta there is a large number of Prehistoric Temples and other sites built in the space of about 1000 years. There is nothing anywhere else in the world similar to the Maltese temples anywhere else in the world and dating our local civilization. These people could not have one day woke up and all together agreed to start building complex temples.

The other question is had these people died off completely and Malta repopulated with other races. It's correct to say that at some time the Neolithic population suffered some kind of famine. Bones found close to Ggantija temple point that way, but they did not die off completely. I don't agree with this at all. In the prehistoric temples we find statues of a goddess(?) with very special features; huge hips, fat thighs and legs, and then insignificant breast. Some think they could be men, but I have never seen men with hips that big. Only women have that anatomy. If you come to Malta and look well you can still often see this type of woman in our villages, and this not a feature found so common in other countries. This might indicate that these features come to us from Neolithic times. It is very difficult if not impossible to have the whole population **completely wiped out** from islands the size of Malta.

When the Phoenicians came to Malta they found people here. A wreck found close to Gozo has baked pots made from Maltese clay on it. In the Punic Wars the Maltese at first sided with the Carthaginians, but finally with the Romans, however when St. Paul was shipwrecked in Malta, in the Acts of the Apostles, he indicates the locals as Barbari, meaning that they did not speak Latin or Greek.

Your part on the Arabs is mostly correct, but to say that the Maltese islands were **completely depopulated** is very exaggerated. The population was decimated yes, but there remained pockets of people who had hid themselves living in these islands. These remained Christians. This is shown from the names of certain localities. Most of the local names are in Arabic and we have places called **Tar-Rumi**, and **It-telgha tar-Rumi**. – Rumi in Arabic means Christian. So why name places for Christians when Christians had disappeared 150 years before.

When after 150 years the Arabs came back to defend Malta against the Byzantines they were afraid that the locals would turn against them and the locals supported them. Since the locals already spoke a language close to Arabic they quickly adopted the Sicilian type of Arabic.

Witteringer was a very good historian, but like all of us he had a hidden agenda. He was very anticlerical and a confessed atheist. He did not want to believe that the Christian religion of the Maltese came to us all the way from St. Paul, but from the Sicilian Church. He also hated Italian influence on the Maltese.

Regards DNA tests. This is very subjective too. It depends a lot on how far back you go. There is also the fact that Malta is very open to migrating people, and since the population is small any number will leave a big DNA imprint. When the Knights of St. John came to Malta, they brought with them about 2000 people from Rhodes and this when the population of the Maltese Islands was about 15,000. Why has the Maltese language survive the influx of so many different languages? In most cases the people coming to Malta were men, who married local women, and while women stayed at home men were away for most of the day, if not for weeks and months. In view of this it was the women who taught her children her language and not the father.

These are some ideas, but I hate to be too dogmatic and always ready to accept new well argued ideas.