



# Maltese e-Newsletter

The Journal of the Maltese Diaspora

Editor: Frank L Scicluna OAM MQR JP

Email: maltesejournal@gmail.com



**BUILDING BRIDGES BETWEEN INDIVIDUALS AND COMMUNITIES**



**Midfielder  
Jake Brimmer**

Jake Brimmer  
from Melbourne,  
of  
Maltese  
Heritage  
plays for  
Perth Glory FC  
and  
following in footsteps  
of Viduka and Kewell



**SCOTT MORRISON RE-ELECTED  
PRIME MINISTER OF AUSTRALIA**



**In 1942, the desperate  
battle to keep Malta  
- the Fortress Island -  
in Allied hands  
was at its height.**

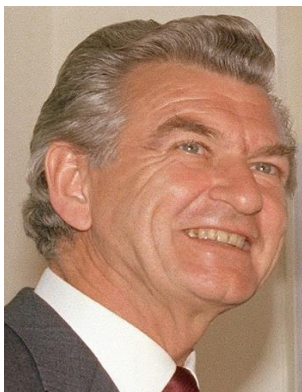


**The Order of Malta's 61st international pilgrimage has ended. Led by the Grand Master, Fra' Giacomo Dalla Torre del Tempio di Sanguinetto, members, volunteers and assisted persons from 45 countries on the five continents participated to the pilgrimage, as well as the ten newly elected members of the Sovereign Council.**

Like every year on the first weekend in May, some 7400 people, including over 1300 malades, peacefully invaded the Marian sanctuary on the foothills of the Pyrenees for the most important of the Order's pilgrimages.

The Grand Master participated in numerous events, including the Eucharistic procession with the sick to the Sanctuary, the pontifical high mass in the Basilica of St. Pius X celebrated by the Archbishop of New York, Timothy Cardinal Dolan, followed by the angelus in the Grotto of Massabielle, Msgr. Jean Laffitte's meeting with the chaplains and the candlelight Marian procession. Not to mention numerous encounters with members, volunteers and malades, offering each a handshake and a word of encouragement.

When consigning the participation medal to those making the pilgrimage, Fra' Giacomo Dalla Torre del Tempio di Sanguinetto expressed "his thanks to you, dear pilgrims, for your participation, devotion and faith and for the unquenchable 'esprit de corps' of our beloved Order of Malta in this venerated Marian sanctuary. Dear pilgrims, we shall go forward together, enriched by the blessings we receive in this holy shrine to Mary, with renewed energy, hope and the courage to face the challenges ahead of us". Appointment for everyone in May next year for the 62nd pilgrimage to Lourdes.



### **VALE BOB HAWKE, former Australian prime minister, dies age 89**

Tributes have poured in for **Bob Hawke**, and they will do so for the days to come. Everyone from ordinary Australians to former prime ministers have laid their wreaths at the foot of his memory, after it was announced by his wife Blanche d'Alpuget that he had died peacefully tonight.

He has been remembered for his staunch anti-racism, his long-lasting environmental policies, his economic reforms and his social conscience.

A man Bob Brown credited with "the best environmental record of any PM since federation", who Barrie Cassidy said helped drive the "dagger to the heart of apartheid", and who let the students stay after Tiananmen Square.

Ivan Martin – Times of Malta

## 'I am Maltese too', black teenager tells PL activity as Muscat underlines integration

**'Lassana Cisse came to Malta for shelter, protection. He did not come here to die'**



*Thea addressing a Labour Party political gathering on Monday*

A Maltese black teenager addressed a Labour Party political activity on Monday to appeal for integration in the wake of a brutal murder of an Ivorian migrant. Describing herself as “ethnically Ethiopian, but Maltese”, 14-year-old Thea Mizzi addressed a gathering in Hamrun and said, in Maltese: “I came here to show you I am Maltese just like you.”

She said that she had been hurt by [the cold-blooded murder of Ivorian national Lassana Cisse](#).

“He came to Malta for shelter, for protection. He did not come here to die,” she said, thanking Malta for having accepted her and her sister with open arms.

Thea said that while she could remember some people making fun of her when she was younger, and the times she decided not to tell her mother, not to worry her, she was proud to be Maltese.

She would still meet the odd person who would be surprised to hear a black person speak in Maltese, but she was proud of not only speaking in Maltese but of speaking the language as they do in Zebbuġ.

Taking to the podium after her, Prime Minister Joseph Muscat said Thea had sprung to mind after news had first broken of Mr Cisse’s murder. “Thea is as Maltese as you and I,” he told the crowd. Pressing on the need for integration, Dr Muscat said some might try to use the term to scare voters – but to him, integration was something to be proud of.



Prime Minister Joseph Muscat with Thea Mizzi

Some, he said, had advised him against raising the issue of migration in Hamrun for fears that residents would not take it well.

Integration might not be the most popular issue, “especially in areas like this”. This is why I come here, to these types of areas to speak about this – to you,” he said.

Turning back to Mr Cisse’s murder, Dr Muscat said he hoped his life was not lost in vain.

“From this seed of hatred, a tree of hope and love can grow,” he said. Dr Muscat said the country had an opportunity to make a difference. Some might say, ‘but what can I do?’ “Let’s do what we Maltese do naturally - open our arms and our hearts,” he said.

FIND US ON FACEBOOK AND TWITTER AND AT THE  
MALTA MIGRATION MUSEUM - VALLETTA, GOZO NATIONAL LIBRARY  
MALTESE CANADIAN ARCHIVES - TORONTO AND WEBSITE [ozmalta.com](http://ozmalta.com)



# MALTA'S FIRST SPITFIRES

In 1942



W3252 and X4668). Pilot Officer Sandman managed to bale out and was taken prisoner. Malta, however, buried itself in the French soil. It was 45 days old.

**CHEQUERED CAREER** Ghawdex, on the other hand, had a more chequered career. Like Malta, it was delivered to 74 Squadron at Gravesend and its first recorded flight was 12:00 on May 24 with Sergeant Doerr flying it to West Malling. Air-firing and convoy patrols followed throughout the rest of May and into June, and on the 16th, during a Blenheim escort operation, Pilot Officer Sandman claimed a probable when a Bf 109F was seen diving to earth after he attacked it.

During the rest of the month, Ghawdex carried out further Blenheim escorts and a lot of 'Rodeos'. Its last recorded flight with 74 was on July 6, a sweep flown by Sgt Lockhart.

After overhaul by Air Service Training (AST), very likely at Hamble, Hants, W32 12 was transferred to 92 (East India) Squadron on then operating from Biggin Hill on September 17. On September 24 the squadron moved to Gravesend and remained there until October 20, when it moved to Digby, Lincs.

Over the next few months Ghawdex undertook convoy patrols, air-firing practice and even formation flying. When 92 left for the Middle East in February 1942, the Spitfire was allocated to 417 (City of Windsor) Squadron, RCAF on the 6th. It saw no operational service with 417, but four days later while it was being flown by Sgt Hazel from Digby to Colerne, Wilts, it ran out of fuel due to a faulty gauge over Bath and force-landed at Charmy Down in Somerset.

**NAVY CALL-UP** Though only slightly damaged, Ghawdex was sent to 9 Maintenance Unit, Cosford, Shropshire, on May 26, 1942, where it was stored. On February 1, 1943, it was transferred to AST at Hamble who undertook repair and conversion to Seafire IB status for carrier-borne operations. The serial number was changed to NX881 and at this point, if not before, the name Ghawdex will have disappeared from below the cockpit.

NX883 entered Fleet Air Arm service with 897 Squadron at Lee-on-Solent, Hants, on April 23, 1943. Beyond that it flew with 748 Squadron at St Merryn, Cornwall, to August 1941; 761 Squadron at Henstridge, Somerset to October 1944; 759 Squadron at Yeovilton, Somerset, to March 1945.

In the spring of 1945, Seafire IB NX883 was issued to 768 Squadron and embarked upon the escort carrier HMS Ravager until at least May 1945. The exact fate of NX881, once Spitfire V Ghawdex, is unknown.

Sadly the Maltese presentation Spitfires never saw service in the islands. A letter in The Times of Malta dated January 15, 1941, bemoaning this fact read: "Sonic Maltese people are very anxious to know what has become of the money collected in Malta for the fighter planes, namely Malta and Ghawdex. "They were supposed to arrive in Malta by the end of the year. Nothing has been heard about them lately. Will the government please note this serious matter that concerns every Maltese citizen as it concerns me."

In reply it was stated that the Spitfire fund had been overtaken by other purchases made possible by the generosity of the Maltese people. These included ambulances, the Maltese Relief Fund, Malta Mobile Canteens and many others. The reader was assured that two Spitfires had been purchased and were now in squadron service in the UK and that they were greatly contributing to the eventual defeat of the enemy.

Malta and Ghawdex did indeed play their part in the eventual victory. In memory of the very generous gift by the people of Malta and Gozo, a commemorative plaque was presented by the Ministry of Aircraft Production to the Anglo-Maltese League. This and the two Spitfires themselves cemented a bond between people of Malta and Britain that is as strong today as it was then.

# Journal of the Maltese Diaspora

## Malta in the 16th place for Michela; the Netherlands wins Eurovision Song Contest

### Underwhelming Madonna performs at final



Michela placed 16th in the Eurovision Song Contest, as the favourites the Netherlands walked away with the prize.

Duncan Laurence from the Netherlands won the festival with his ballad *Arcade* in a tight race which went straight to the wire. He had been the bookmakers' favourite to win, and went to the top of the leaderboard after the public vote.

Laurence, 25, came out as bisexual in 2016 and has used his new high profile to call for tolerance and understanding.

Italy placed second and Russia came in third.

The Gozitan 18-year-old singer opened the 2019 edition of the festival with a convincing performance of her track *Chameleon*. She obtained 95 points in total.

In the jury voting, Malta obtained 10 points from Azerbaijan, 8 points from the Netherlands and Italy, 6 points from Montenegro and Russia, 5 points from North Macedonia, 4 from Israel, Poland and Armenia, 3 points from Germany, the Czech Republic and Cyprus, 2 from Sweden, and one point from Finland, Slovenia, Latvia and Moldova.

But Malta's 10th place from the jury was dented when it received just a total of 20 votes from the public, the poor result clearly reflected on the faces of the Maltese performers and delegation.

The Maltese jury gave the maximum points to Italy's Mahmood.

Support for North Macedonia's Tamara Todevska surged in early voting returns, bucking bookmakers' expectations, making for nervous moments for the other contestants.



**The Maltese e-Newsletter is published weekly and is sent by email to a growing list of subscribers worldwide.**

**If you would like to start receiving the e-newsletter, please subscribe by sending an email to [maltesejournal@gmail.com](mailto:maltesejournal@gmail.com)**

**Past issues of the Maltese e-Newsletter can be found on our website [ozmalta.com](http://ozmalta.com). Launched in 2013, this Maltese journal provides information about the history and culture of the Maltese Islands as a holiday destination.**

**Today, The Maltese eNewsletter is one of the most read journals. Many of these are people who are interested in coming to Malta for their holidays. For more information, or if you wish to discuss your specific requirements, please send an email to [maltesejournal@gmail.com](mailto:maltesejournal@gmail.com).**





## What is the National Reconciliation Day?

At the heart of reconciliation is the relationship between the broader Australian community and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. To foster positive race relations, our relationship must be grounded in a foundation of truth.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have long called for a comprehensive process of truth-telling about Australia's colonial history. Our nation's past is reflected in the present, and will continue to play out in future unless we heal historical wounds.

Today, 80 per cent of Australians believe it is important to undertake formal truth telling processes, according to the 2018 Australian Reconciliation Barometer. Australians are ready to come to terms with our history as a crucial step towards a unified future, in which we understand, value and respect each other.



Whether you're engaging in challenging conversations or unlearning and relearning what you know, this journey requires all of us to walk together with courage. This National Reconciliation Week, we invite Australians from all backgrounds to contribute to our national movement towards a unified future.

National Reconciliation Week (NRW) is a time for all Australians to learn about our shared histories, cultures, and achievements, and to explore how each of us can contribute to achieving reconciliation in Australia.

The dates for NRW remain the same each year; 27 May to 3 June. These dates commemorate two significant milestones in the reconciliation journey—the successful 1967 referendum, and the High Court Mabo decision respectively.

Reconciliation must live in the hearts, minds and actions of all Australians as we move forward, creating a nation strengthened by respectful relationships between

## Senior citizens to get free access to all Heritage Malta sites

**Elderly citizens, along with the two youths, will be granted free unlimited access to all Heritage Malta sites** by Karl Azzopardi

*Government and Heritage Malta officials signing the memorandum of understanding*

Heritage Malta's Senior Passport initiative will grant senior citizens free and unlimited access to all Heritage Malta's attractions.



PHOTO: DGE - Kevin Abela

During a memorandum of understanding signed on Thursday, Culture Minister Owen Bonnici said that this will give better accessibility and inclusivity to senior citizens.

"Thanks to this scheme, not only are we making the agency's sites and museums more available, but we're also raising more awareness on our heritage and history. We are committed to keep on strengthening this ever-growing sector, for the benefit of our community," Bonnici said.

In order for people to apply for the scheme, senior citizens are urged to go to their respective local councils, where staff will enrol them in the Senior Passport system, and the

passport together with an information leaflet which will be received by post within 10 working days.

Heritage Malta's Senior Passport holders can enjoy free and unlimited visits to 27 sites which include prehistoric temples and caves, historic houses and prisons, fortresses and palaces, and a selection of museums relating to nature, archaeology, maritime, war, and art.

On each visit to any of the sites, the holder is to ensure that the passport is stamped.

On every eighth stamp collected, the holder will be given a reward by Heritage Malta, to a total of three rewards.

Passport holders are also entitled to be accompanied by two youths who also receive free admission. Parliamentary secretary for local government Silvio Parnis, said that the elderly, are part of the government's the local government reform.

"This reform aims to continue improving their quality of life and it provides that by law, in all local councils there will be a councillor responsible for the elderly," Parnis said



Bishop Peter Baldacchino. Credit: Archdiocese of Miami.

## Pope Francis names Bishop Baldacchino to lead Las Cruces diocese

15, 2019 / 04:03 am ([CNA](#)).- Pope Francis Wednesday appointed Bishop Peter Baldacchino to head the Diocese of Las Cruces, New Mexico – making him the first diocesan bishop associated with the Neocatechumenal Way to serve in a mainland U.S. diocese.

Baldacchino, 58, has been an auxiliary bishop of Miami, Florida, since 2014. He was ordained a priest for the Archdiocese of Newark in 1996.

Vatican City, May

As a seminarian in Newark, Baldacchino studied at the Immaculate Conception Seminary at Seton Hall University but lived at the Redemptoris Mater Archdiocesan Missionary Seminary.

Baldacchino's formation was in part guided by the Neocatechumenal Way, a post-baptismal itinerary of Christian formation first approved by Pope Paul VI and supported by each of the subsequent popes. Seminarians who discern their vocation while involved with the Neocatechumenal Way are encouraged to place special emphasis on the universal missionary character of the priesthood

and offer themselves, at the discretion of their local bishop, in service to the New Evangelization anywhere in the world.

Baldacchino is the first graduate of a Redemptoris Mater seminary to serve as a diocesan bishop in a mainland U.S. diocese.

He was born on the European island country of Malta, to a family of four children. His family joined the Neocatechumenal Way while he was a child, but he was not initially drawn to the priesthood.

After studying science and chemistry at the University of Malta, he began working as a technical manager at a bottling plant. At age 28 he attended the 1989 World Youth Day in Santiago de Compostela, Spain, after which he became more involved in the Neocatechumenal Way.

Through the movement he was sent on mission, during which he started to feel called to the priesthood, eventually being matched with the Redemptoris Mater seminary in Newark. He was ordained a priest for the Archdiocese of Newark on May 25, 1996.

Baldacchino served for over a decade as a missionary in the Turks and Caicos Islands in the Caribbean, and speaks Maltese, English, Italian, Creole, and Spanish.

The Diocese of Las Cruces was established in 1982. According to 2015 estimates, it has more than 236,600 Catholics, accounting for just over 42% of the area's population.

## Hal Far Murder: President urges calm, warns about dangers of xenophobia



President George Vella expresses his sadness with regards to the recent developments in the investigations concerning the murder of Lassana Cisse on 9 April. Two soldiers have been arrested in connection with the murder. The President, in a statement, reminded one and all that everyone is presumed innocent unless found guilty by the Law Courts.

It is very unfortunate that the persons accused are members of a disciplined corps. The

President emphasizes the fact that this should not in any way reflect on the country's various disciplined corps, and the upright behaviour of these corps' members, as well as the sterling work and values of loyalty and dedication to serve the community.

On behalf of all Maltese and Gozitans, the President would like to convey his sincere condolences to the migrant and foreign community in the country for the heinous murder of a person from amongst their community, and for the others hurt, and assures them that this act does in no way reflect the sentiments of the Maltese and Gozitan people. The President warned on the dangers of racist, xenophobic, and extremist talk. This language of hate is to be condemned and should not take root in Maltese culture.

The President feels that an incident like this should make us reflect deeply and at length and should steer us to hold a sincere dialogue on the future of the country as a multi-ethnic, multi-cultural, and tolerant society. The country needs to ensure that everyone develops in a serene environment where security, stability, and prosperity are available to all. Last of all, the President augurs for calm to reign, and for this negative incident to serve to draw us closer together, and not be manipulated to sow division in our society. Prime Minister Joseph Muscat thanked the Maltese police force for their work. "The two persons arrested do not represent the ethos of the Armed Forces of Malta," he said in a series of tweets. Visibly angered by the racially motivated murder of an Ivorian man, Joseph Muscat said this evening, insisting it was time for all Maltese to stand up and say 'never again'. "Malta in our heart is a Malta that loves and not one that hates," Muscat insisted that it is time to embrace and not simply tolerate diversity

## Whatever happened to the moon stone stolen from Mdina?



***The inscription says: This fragment is a portion of a rock from Taurus Littrow Valley of the Moon. It is given as a symbol of the unity of human endeavour and carries with it the hope of the American people for a world of peace***

From the encyclopedia Wikipedia

The **Malta lunar sample displays** are two commemorative plaques consisting of small fragments of Moon specimen brought back with the Apollo 11 and Apollo 17 lunar missions and were given to the people of Malta by United States President Richard Nixon as goodwill gifts.

The Malta Apollo 11 lunar sample display commemorative podium style plaque consists of four "Moon rock" rice-size particle specimens that were collected by Apollo 11 astronauts Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin in 1969 and a small Maltese flag that was taken to the Moon and back on Apollo 11.

The four "Moon rocks" weigh about 0.05 grams in total. They are encased in a clear plastic ball the size of a coin which is mounted to a wooden board approximately one foot square on a small podium pedestal display. The small podium plaque display also has mounted on it a small Maltese flag that had been taken to the Moon and back on Apollo 11, which lay directly below the "goodwill Moon rocks". The small podium plaque display was given to the

people of Malta as a gift by United States President Richard Nixon. Similar "Moon rocks" displays were also given to the other 134 worldwide countries.



The Malta Apollo 17 lunar sample display commemorative style plaque (10 by 14 inches) consists of one "Moon rock" particle specimen that was cut from lunar basalt 70017 and a Maltese flag. The basalt 70017 was collected by Apollo 17 astronaut Harrison Schmitt on the Moon in 1972. Once lunar basalt 70017 was brought back to Earth from the Moon, the basalt Moon rock was cut up into small fragments of approximately 1 gram. The specimen was encased in a plastic ball and mounted on the wooden plaque along with the Maltese flag which had been taken to the Moon and back by the crew of Apollo 17. The plaque was then distributed in 1973

by President Nixon to the country of Malta, as he did that year to the other 134 countries of the world (the same countries previously for the Apollo 11 plaque display gifts) and again to all 50 states of the United States. This was done as a goodwill gesture to promote peace and harmony.

The Maltese Apollo 17 goodwill lunar sample display that was given to Malta was stolen in 2004. It had been housed in Mdina at the Museum of Natural History. The curator of the museum found it missing during a daily inspection. The single "Moon rock" within the clear plastic ball mounted on the top of the wooden lunar display weighted just over 1.1 gram.

The Moon rock's unguarded display case was broken open and the clear plastic ball that enveloped the "Moon rock" was removed from the 10 inch by 14 inch wooden presentation display board. The Maltese flag that had flown on the Apollo 17 mission and was also mounted this presentation plaque was left behind untouched, suggesting an amateur thief. The wooden presentation display together with the Maltese flag would have proven where the Moon rock came from and established its value.

Joseph Richard Gutheinz, a retired NASA agent who has made it his job to recover other missing "goodwill Moon rocks", told the Associated Press that the thief or thieves involved with taking the Maltese "goodwill Moon rock" will have trouble figuring out what to do with it. He said they could try to sell it to private collectors, if they could prove what it is and its value. He even surmised that they may be dumb enough to try to sell it at an auction house.

Gutheinz suggested offering an amnesty period for the thieves to try to recover the stolen Moon rock. This offer was backed up and printed in the *Times of Malta* newspaper. As of 2012, the Apollo 17 Maltese "goodwill Moon rock" is still missing. Gutheinz suspects that counterfeit variations will be sold for decades. Heritage Malta condemned the thieves as being "cowardly" and asked help from anyone who may have information on the theft or the thieves. The stone was at the Mdina Natural History Museum, from where it was stolen 15 years ago.

In two months' time the world will commemorate the 50 anniversary of the Apollo 11 mission when in July 1969 man descended on the moon for the first time through astronauts Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin. Even in the Apollo 11 mission, the Maltese flag was carried on the moon. In Heritage Malta's collection at the Nature Museum in Gozo there are four small samples of stones from the moon, gathered by Astronauts Armstrong and Aldrin. The four stones weigh in all 0.05 grams and are exhibited inside a coin-size plastic container.

## MALTA STORY

**Malta Story** (Brian Desmond Hurst, 1953) starred Alec Guinness as RAF reconnaissance photographer Peter Ross. Set in 1942, the film tells the story of the defence of Malta from Axis power

attacks, it being a critical link for Allied supply lines. It features realistic re-enactments and use of archival combat footage. Against this background, there is a love story between Ross and a local girl, Maria (Muriel Pavlow) who works in the RAF operations room.

Thanks to research by Allan Smith (administrator of the Brian Desmond Hurst Estate) and his various contacts, we now have positive identification of some Malta location photos. Grateful thanks are also due to Muriel Pavlow (annotated MP in photo notes) for identifying some of the photos in a meeting with Allan. Some photos are still pending further detail and any information would be gratefully received. Click on the images to see larger versions.

The first two photos below depict a Victory Kitchen (VK) - set up by the government during 1941-43 due to severe food shortages. Each person with a ration card was entitled to one cooked meal per day. The two women are Maltese extras, the sisters Mary Ann and Nadia Kissaun. Theirs was a musical family and Mary Ann subsequently became a professional concert pianist. Grateful thanks to the publisher of "Treasures of Malta" and Allan Smith for the identification of the two ladies. This picture was used in an article about Malta Story by Allan in issue 48 (Summer 2010), vol. XVI no. 3 of "Treasures of Malta".



Malta Story location photo, confirmed by MP - William Creighton centre in white apron



Malta Story location photo, confirmed by MP. The two girls were Maltese extras on the film, Mary Ann and Nadia Kissaun. William Creighton far left

## SIR PAUL BOFFA



Your feature “**DIONE AQUILINA PHOTO ALBUM**” (page 19 of issue 268) gives interesting and heart warming information for which one is very grateful.

I hope that your readers will allow some reflections on the photo “Sir Paul Boffa Dockyard Photo”.

Paul Boffa’s father was Mastru Karm who, during the Great War and for years thereafter, was in charge of the blacksmith factory, workshop or foundry at the Royal Naval Dockyard.

Mastru Karm was responsible for 200 men. He was a strict and principled man. During the Great War, during the time of war, as a matter of principle he would not go out on strike although he was very much a “workers” man and leader.

At the same time he was forward looking and organised a saving scheme for his workers as an insurance in case of injury or sickness. He was much loved by the men working under him, and was of high beneficial influence and greatly respected not only at the dockyard, but also in Vittoriosa, his home City.

For years, even after his death in 1929, the blacksmith workshop at the dockyard was referred to as “**IL-HANUT TA’ BOFFA**”. It was therefore highly emotional, meaningful and significant for his eldest son “**IT-TABIB PAWLU BOFFA**” to go on pilgrimage, to visit his father’s old place of work, and to mix with the workers at the blacksmith factory at the Royal Naval Dockyard soon after he became Prime Minister in 1947.

That occasion is remembered very positively and memorably in the photo (**thankfully presented by the Aquilina Family**) which shows the workers in their work clothes with the flames from the forge so warmly and beautifully visible.

All the workers are in their work apparel not excluding (IT-TABIB) in his dark suit and hat, which was the traditional “uniform” of the family doctor at the time, and typical of the way and expected appearance when doctors were visiting patients in their homes. Nothing, and I know, would have been of greater satisfaction and peace of heart for my Ziju Pawl, (**Missier il-Haddiema**) than to be surrounded by workers in his father’s old workplace. Dr. George M. Boffa





Midfielder  
Jake Brimmer

Perth Glory staged a late fightback to snatch a point against Melbourne City

Perth Glory have beaten interest from rival A-League clubs to retain exciting young midfielder Jake Brimmer for the next two seasons.

Glory chief executive Tony Pignata revealed they faced stiff opposition to keep Brimmer, who has represented Australia at under-17, under-20 and under-23 levels.

"Other teams were hovering, looking to sign Jake, so we're extremely pleased to have re-signed him," Pignata said.

"We look forward to him being an important player for us during the rest of the season and in the coming years." Glory first signed Brimmer in 2017 after he had spent three years in the Liverpool academy. German side Kaiserslautern were also interested in his signature.

Glory football director Jacob Burns said Brimmer was a talent to watch.

"Jake is an exciting young player with a very bright future in the game," Burns said.

"He is continuing to grow and improve under the guidance of Tony Popovic and the rest of our coaching staff and being given opportunities in terms of game minutes.

"It's fantastic to see him taking advantage of those opportunities by making an impact during those game minutes."

Brimmer, of Maltese heritage, has made 33 Glory appearances, said it had been an easy decision to stay. "I've improved under the manager (Tony Popovic) and am really looking forward to another two seasons with Glory," he said.

"The club has taken major steps forward this year and the future looks extremely bright."

Brimmer and teammate Brandon Wilson are in the Australian under-23 squad for a camp in Kuala Lumpur ahead of three AFC under-23 Championship qualification games in Phnom Penh, where they have been grouped with Cambodia, Chinese Taipei and Korea Republic.



## Twelve year old Maltese girl dances at the Royal Albert Hall in London

Report: Antonia Micallef

Born in Ethiopia and adopted in Malta, Kenzie Galea is one of three adopted children within the same family. Every weekend she travels to Birmingham for ballet lessons. Although she is only twelve, Kenzie has already won herself a dance scholarship and has been selected to

perform in the prestigious dance production that has been staged four times at the Royal Albert Hall in London.

Kenzie Galea, a student in her second year of secondary school at the national school of Visual and Performing Arts, was selected from among hundreds and was one of eight girls to take part in The Nut Cracker, with Birmingham Royal Ballet, at The Royal Albert Hall in London.

"I never really thought what if I got in, it was mostly for the experience. And when I heard that I got in I was really happy and shocked, and then when I heard that I was going to dance on stage with the Birmingham Royal Ballet it was like a dream that came true," she said. Kenzie trains in ballet, jazz, flamenco and escual bolera which is a combination of ballet and flamenco, with the local dance company Estudios de Danza. It was her school teachers and the unconditional support she received from her adoptive parents who encouraged Kenzie to audition. Every weekend she travels to Birmingham for ballet lessons.

## Bank of Malta Commemorative Coin Women's Right to Vote



On December 1, 2017 the **Central Bank of Malta** issued a silver coin to mark the 70th anniversary of the coming into force of the 1947 constitution, which enshrined the principle of universal suffrage to all persons over 21 years of age. This was the first time that Maltese women were given the right to vote – a right which was exercised for the first time on October 25-27, 1947.

The granting of the right to vote to women as well as the right to stand for public office was hotly contested. Evidence of this is the fact that the National Assembly set up to draw up a draft constitution began its work on January 20, 1945 without any women representatives. Two months later the **Women of Malta Association** was finally admitted to the Assembly with two representatives, **Josephine Burns Debono** and **Hélène Buhagiar**.

Maltese women first exercised their right to vote in the elections of October 1947. Of the 140,703 eligible voters 54% were women. Of 76,745 registered female voters, 54,565 actually voted. Of the two

women candidates, one – **Agatha Barbara** (1923-2002) – was elected. She would successfully contest 10 consecutive elections, be appointed cabinet minister five times, and would be the first Maltese woman to become president of the Republic in 1982. Clearly, the road to full and effective equality for women and men in Malta did not stop with the achievement of 1947. It is still an ongoing process.

The coin, struck at the **Royal Dutch Mint**, depicts a hand casting a vote in a ballot box. In the background is reproduced the text of the 1947 Constitution specifying that all persons over 21 years of age were eligible to vote. On the obverse the coin carries the emblem of Malta and the year of issue 2017.

The coin has a face value of €10. It is struck in 0.925 silver, has a weight of 28.28 grams and a diameter of 38.61 mm. It is struck in proof quality and the mintage is limited to 1,000 coins. The coin was designed and engraved by **Noel Galea Bason**

## Kite festival of diversity brightens up Valletta skies

Children gathered in Valletta to fly kites alongside master kite builder Guo Hongli

by Laura Calleja [maltatoday.com.mt](http://maltatoday.com.mt)



Some two hundred children gather at the entrance to the capital on Friday morning for the second edition of the Kite Festival.

The festival is being organised by the Malta Foundation for the Wellbeing of Society (MFWS), in collaboration with the China Cultural Centre and MUZA and forms part of the foundation's goal towards "inclusion, peace-building and the celebration of diversity".

"This second edition of the Kite Festival is aptly taking place during the 30th anniversary of the UN Convention on the

Rights of the Child, where Article 31 highlights the right of children to play and to participate fully in cultural and artistic life," said President Emeritus and MFWS chair Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca who opened the event.



The event, held around Valletta's Triton Fountain, saw the return of master kite builder Guo Hongli, who is in Malta to teach schoolchildren how to build kites.

Kite-flying was originally used for military purposes, to send signals or messages, test wind, and measure distances. It was not until the Song Dynasty (960–1279) that kite-flying rose to popularity as a means of art and recreation, spreading to neighbouring countries across the sea and along the Silk Road, eventually reaching Western

Europe.

Guo is an expert in the research and production of handicrafts kits from China's Shandong Province Weifang, which enjoys an unparalleled reputation as "the cradle of kites" and "kite capital of the world".



His demonstrations and workshops have enriched the understanding of traditional Chinese kite culture and enhanced bilateral artistic exchanges in many corners of the world.

Coleiro Preca said that Guo's workshops in Malta would give children the opportunity to learn more about this ancient Chinese tradition while engaging in interactive play with their peers.

During his stay in Malta, Guo and his team will visit five schools and also give a Kite-Making DIY Workshop.

## AMBER'S ALIVE AND BACK WITH NEW MUSIC

Michael Bugeja

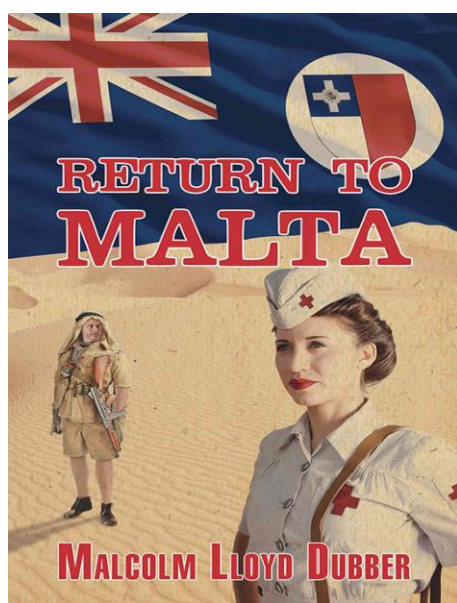


Having spent a busy time promoting her album *Redemption* abroad, as well as taking part in various local music productions, including the musical *Il-Hanina Maddalena*, Amber is back with a brand new song.

*Alive* is one of several new tracks the charismatic artist has been working on for her new album, which is scheduled for release later this year. The new album will see her collaborating with different producers, each working to highlight Amber's particular timbre and style as she looks back to her roots to find her true self as an artist. She is writing all of the songs for the new record, which is expected to be a self-exploratory journey inspired by life experiences expressed in a musical form.

The new single, composed by Elton Zarb and Amber at *WickedandLoud*, is a song about love. "Love has no age, no limit, no races, no genders and as cliché as it might sound... Love is just love", Amber said in a comment. This sentiment is certainly evident in the

accompanying video, which was directed by Olwyn Jo. The story revolves around an elderly couple who meet in a day centre and fall in love. Each day they exchange little glances, a smile... until they realise one is never too old to love. Sweet!

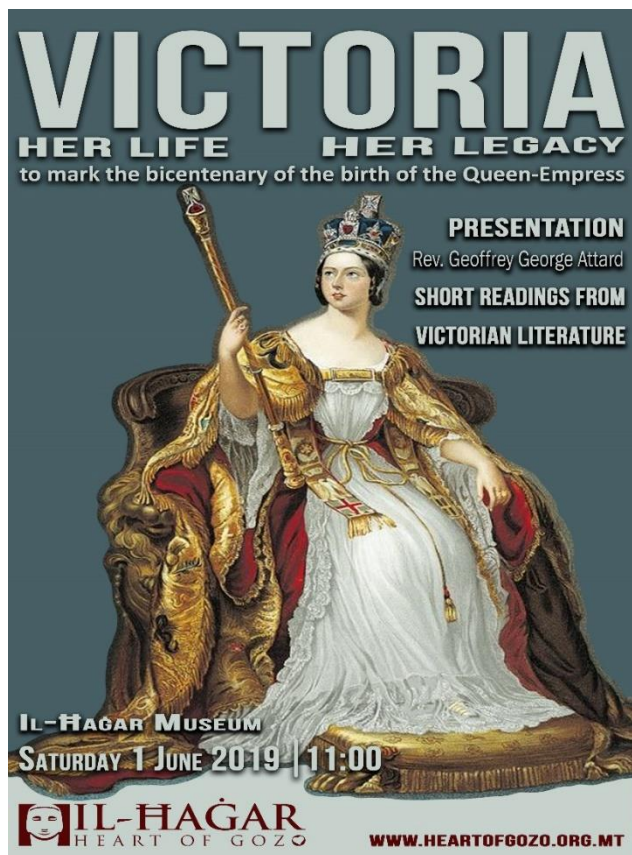


## Return to Malta

Nurse Hazel Almonde is caring for injured servicemen during the dark days of the siege of Malta during World War Two when she meets injured Naval Chief Petty Officer Ewan Jones, who has survived an attack on an Italian destroyer. They are immediately attracted to each other. Ewan is recruited into a naval intelligence operation to pose as an Italian naval officer who survived the sinking of the Italian destroyer. Hazel becomes his contact as the nurse attending the POW camp. Ewan infiltrates the Axis POWs to find out the invasion plans for Malta. Their relationship is severely tested when she suffers a harrowing ordeal at the hands of the Gestapo after the POW ship is captured and taken to Tripoli. Ewan escapes and finds himself in the Long Range Desert Group. Hazel is tormented again but rejoins Ewan. They return to Malta and are married,

Send us your comments, stories and  
articles to share with other readers  
[maltesejournal@gmail.com](mailto:maltesejournal@gmail.com)





## FONDAZZJONI BELT VICTORIA

Pjazza San Ġorġ, Victoria VCT 1101  
info@heartofgozo.org.mt

Media release

Queen Victoria celebrated @ Il-Haġar

Queen Victoria was born two hundred years ago. Her connections with Gozo include the fact that the main town became a city and its name changed for her Golden Jubilee.

Naturally enough, Fondazzjoni Belt Victoria felt duty-bound to mark this bicentenary - choosing Saturday 1 June: about halfway between the actual date and Jum il-Belt Victoria (organized annually by the Local Council).

This occasion, consisting of a talk about the Empress and short readings from British authors who visited our islands during her reign, is at 11am and is being hosted at Il-Haġar museum (Pjazza San Ġorġ, Victoria). Entrance is free but booking on

events@heartofgozo.org.mt is recommended. Ir-Reġina Victoria mfakkra fil-HAĠAR

## Sultana wins Romania Junior Squash Open



Lijana Sultana has won the Romanian Junior Open.

Taking part in the Under 13 Girls event in Bucharest, she won all her matches without dropping a game to win her first European ranking tournament.

In the qualifying group, Sultana was superior to her opponents, beating Andra Marin and Anna Kedves to finish top of the group. In the next round Sultana gave another solid performance to have the better of Alexandra Ghiorghisor.

In the final match, the young Maltese player continued to play well, giving no chance to her opponent Timeea Dumitrascu, to claim her first European title.

Since joining the National Sport School, Sultana has continued to improve and is steadily moving up the European rankings. She is currently ranked #25 in Europe and is looking to emulate the success of her squash siblings Colette and Kijan Sultana

Lijana Sultana is supported by Harrow Sports, Malta Squash, MOC and Sport Malta.

## CANADIAN “SCREWBALL” GEORGE BEURLING IN MALTA – WW2



By Dave O'Malley

On the island of Malta in the endless, hot and dusty summer of 1942, fighter pilots from the British Commonwealth fought and died to prevent the Nazis from bombing the Maltese into submission and to break a crippling siege blockade. After the Battle of Britain, there was no greater battle of the Second World War in which air combat and superiority played the central role. Here in the brilliant, searing sky over Malta, reputations were made, lives were forfeited, stresses were multitude and legends were born.

Canadian fighter pilots played a crucial and out sized role in the defense of an island that hovered on the brink of collapse for two and a half years.

Of the many great aces that wrote their stories here, many were Canadian and none more storied than Flight Sergeant George Frederick Beurling.

Of all the Canadians who engaged in the grim business of killing German airmen, Beurling is the most accomplished of all. There would be no one better at war's end. Beurling was then, and is today, a figure that inspires conflicting impressions, opinions and feelings—both suspicion and adoration. In his eyes you can see, no feel, the spirit of the lone wolf, the practiced killer, the gifted predator. Both charismatic and controversial, introspective yet outlandish, he was a man who would not follow the normal arc of history. On Malta Beurling would become the greatest Canadian ace of the war, and the subject of legend, hero worship, bureaucratic manipulation and conspiracy theory.

With his preternatural abilities in the air, his odd and aloof behaviour and his unquestionable successes, Beurling attracted nicknames like flies on a biscuit. Today we commonly call him *Buzz* Beurling, but back in the day, Allied propagandists took to calling him *The Knight of Malta* or *The Falcon of Malta*, but his 249 Royal Air Force squadron mates knew him as *Screwball*. The Merriam-Webster dictionary defines the word 'screwball' as "a whimsical, eccentric, or crazy person". Considering his sometimes quirky and insular behaviour, his icy blue eyes, withering Karglances, and disdain for bureaucratic niceties, one might be forgiven for thinking that the name *Screwball* was earned as a result of his character. I know I did. But that would be wrong. Recently I was reading a yellowed page torn from the Toronto Globe and Mail of September 6, 1949. There was a short interview by columnist and aviation enthusiast Bruce West with another Malta icon, Wing Commander Percy Belgrave *Laddie* Lucas, CBE, DSO and Bar, and DFC Beurling's 249 Squadron commanding officer during his time on Malta.

"Beurling came to us in Malta as a flight sergeant," said Lucas. "One of the fellows who had known him in England took me aside shortly after he arrived and told me that Beurling was likely to be rather difficult to handle."

"Well, he was, for a short time, until he got into the pattern of our discipline," he said. "From then on he was a superb air fighter. One of my most lasting impressions of Beurling concerns his integrity. He was absolutely honest. He never made a claim for a plane shot down unless he was completely certain of it."

"As you may know, one of his familiar nicknames was 'Screwball.' There have been all kinds of stories told about how he picked up the nickname, but I was there when he got it and I know.

"In Malta," said Lucas, "the flies were simply scandalous. There were millions of them. When you put some food on a plate, they would swarm all over it. Shortly after Beurling arrived, we were sitting there eating our usual thin slices of corned beef. Beurling lifted his plate from the table and placed it on the floor.

"He'd wait there with his foot poised until there were sixty or more flies on his corned beef. Then he'd plant his foot down hard. He seldom got less than about 40 of them. Then he'd sit there looking at them and say 'The screwballs!' "He used to do that every other day, and it didn't take long before he'd picked up the nickname of 'Screwball' Beurling."

Beurling, according to Lucas, had the most remarkable eyesight he had ever encountered. "They were strange blue eyes," he recalled. "They were a little wild—the eyes of a killer, in some ways. The Maltese have wonderful eyesight. It's a sort of racial characteristic. But Beurling could spot an aircraft from the ground quicker than a Maltese could spot it.

## Il-Festi Maghna! Ingawduhom

L-antiki taghna kienu jghidu: Gunju gunjett nehhi l-qmis u d-dublett! U dan ix-xahar li jgib mieghu l-istagun tas-sajf jinsab wara l-kantuniera.. Matul t'hawnhekk Dun Michael Said jagħmel minn kollox biex jagħtina festa sabiha mhawra bl-ingredjenti kollha tal-festa Maltija. Il-Hadd ta' wara, 2 ta' Gunju, mmorru għand il-Patrijiet Frangiskani maghrufa Ta' Giezu f'Għajnsielem



għall-festa tat-Tawmaturgu ta' Padova, Sant'Antnin fil-knisja helwa tieghu u tmint ijiem wara, il-Hadd 9 ta' Gunju nidhlu fir-rahhal ċkejken tal-Għasri għall-festa ta' Corpus Christi fejn illum nsibu wkoll l-

istatwa titolari li toħroġ iddur fuq l-ispallejn bl-akkumpanjament tal-banda u fejn is-sinjura artista Audrey Mercieca pingiet għadd ta' bandalori tassew sbieħ li jzejnu l-Misraħ tal-knisja parrokkjali. Prosit lill-Kappillan zagħżuġh t'hawnhekk Dun Edward Xuereb li ha ħsieb irrestawra l-faċċata. Il-Fontanin ifakkru l-festa lill-Qalb ta' Gesu' l-Hadd 16 ta' Gunju u ffit nar ta' kwalita ma jonqosx matul il-jiem tal-festa fil-Fontana, fi triqtek lejn ix-Xlendi.

Il-Hadd ta' wara, 23 ta' Gunju tiġi l-festa tal-Prekursur tal-Mulej u fix-Xewkija ssirlu festa

l-aħħar weekend ta' Mejju jiftaħ l-istagun tal-festi f'Għawdex bil-festa tan-Nawfragju ta' San Pawl u l-Kappillan

kbira kemm fil-knisja Rotunda kif ukoll fil-pjazza ewlenija tax-Xewkija, li issa ngħatat dehra ġdida. Bhal dejjem fid-29 ta' Gunju Għawdex jitla' bi ħgaru san-Nadur għall-festa tal-Imnarja u dak inhar iż-żewġ statwi ta' San Pietru u San Pawl joħorgu jdur mat-toroq tan-Nadur. Is-Sibt ta' qabel, b'rabta mal-festa, jien inkun fil-pjazzetta ta' dan ir-rahhal nipprezenta l-Wirja Agrarja. Fl-ewwel Hadd tal-Lulju, sewwa sew fis-7 ta' Lulju, fil-Punent ta' gżiritna nagħmlu l-festa tal-Viżitazzjoni fl-Għarb fejn insibu l-Banda tar-rahhal 'Il-Viżitazzjoni' li għandha b'surmast tagħha lil Jason Camilleri. Ma għidtx le meta ż-żgħażaġh t'hawn darba minnhom kienu talbuni niktbilhom il-versi għal marċ tal-briju. Hawn ukoll niltaqqu ma' Arcipriet zagħżuġh Fr Trevor, li jiehu ħsieb il-Mużew tal-Parroċċa u li għandu statwa mtitolari tassew helwa tal-Madonna qed iżżur lill-qariba tagħha Santa Elizabetta.

U wara l-Għarb, immorru sa Ta' Kerċem għall-festa tal-Madonna Tas-Sikors li tilhaq il-qofol tagħha l-Hadd 14 ta' Lulju. Intant il-festi jibqgħu għaddejnin u fit-tielet Hadd tal-Lulju, sewwa sew fil-21 ta' Lulju, l-Belt Victoria tinħakem mill-briju u l-ferħ li ggib magħha l-festa tal-Megalomartri San Gorg fejn il-Qriema jaqsmu l-Fliegu u jingħaqdu mal-Gorgjani Għawdxin u erhilhom jagħmlu għors shih. Din

is-sena l-istatwa sabiha ta' San Gorg rebbieh fuq id-dragun li harget minn idejn l-istatwarju Vincenzo Cremona qed taghlaq 125 sena. Din l-istatwa l-Gimgha fl-ghaxija tohrog waqt id-Dimostrazzjoi u tard fl-ghaxija tittella' fuq il-pedestall taghha fi pjazza Indipendenza quddiem il-knisja ta' San Gakbu. Bhal San Gorg, Santa Margerita hija qaddisa tat-tielet seklu u din titfakkar bi kbir fir-rahal Ta' Sannat, gimgha fuq San Gorg.

Kien f'dil-festa, kienet tirrakkonta ommi, Alla jahfrilha, li kienet iltaqghet ma' missieri għall-ewwel darba. Tghid kemm ilu issa! Illum it-tnejn taht it-trab u ahna forsi mhux 'l boghod! U wara Ta' Sannat, il- Hadd 4 ta' Awwissu, immorru fir-rahal tal-Qala għall-festa tal-kbir Patrijarka San Guzepp. San Lawrenz dis-sena se jitfakkar il-Hadd 11 ta' Awwissu fir-rahal li jgib ismu. Il-Lawrenzjani jippreparaw bi shih għall-festa u maghha jabbina kull sena il-Festival Lawrenzjan u mhux l-ewwel darba li nkun mistieden mis-Sindku biex nipprezenta xi serata minnhom. Hawnhekk is-sindku Noel Formosa u l-Kappillan zagħzugħ Fr Charles Sultana narahom jahdmu id f'id flimkien is-sena kollha għal għid ta' dan ir-rahal ckejkien u hiemed mhux boghod mill-bajja pittoreska tad-Dwejra. Inkunu qrib sew issa l-festa popolari tal-Assunta li dis-sena se tahbat il-

Hamis, 15 ta' Awwissu u fir-Rabat taghna tahkem arja ta' festa. Din hija wahda mill-festi l-kbar fil-gzejjer Maltin u fl-istess jum l-Assunta tkun qed titfakkar f'seba' nhawi differenti f'Malta. Fil-belt Victoria ssir ukoll il-Wirja Agrarja u Tradizzjonali fil-Gonna ta' Villa Rundle u dejjem f'nhar il-festa, wara nofs inhar isiru t-tliet tradizzjonali tal-bhejjem fi Triq ir-Repubblika. Ftit jiem biss wara, il-Hadd 18 ta' Awwissu ssir il-festa helwa lill-Madonna tal-mnu fil-knisja ckejkna taghha gewwa x-Xlendi u r-Rettur habrieki t'hawnhekk jorganizza l-logħob tal-baħar u ma jonqosx li jgib ukoll il-banda ddoqq li takkumpanja l-Purçissjoni mat-toroq tal-bajja u jaghlaq bi ftit logħob tan-nar. L-Assunta terga' titfakkar f'Ghawdex fil-25 t'Awwissu fir-rahal fuqani taż-Żebbug fejn iż-żiffa tilqa' l-istatwa helwa tal-Madonna waqt li l-Banda tar-rahal 'Santa Marija' ddoqq l-innijiet Marjani u takkumpanja l-Purçissjoni. Dis-sena tistghu wkoll tiltaqghu mal-Arcipriet il-gdid

wild ix-Xagħra li issa ilu jmexxi liż-Żebbug minn Novembru li ghadda. Taf li nkunu qeghdin bil-mod il-mod resqin lejn tmiem l-istagun tal-festi f'Ghawdex bil-festa tal-Madonna Ta' Loreto li ssir f'Ghajnsielem fl-1 ta' Settembru! Hawnhekk tisma' hierga l-ghajta 'Viva x-Xemx' waqt li l-banda tar-rahal taht id-direzzjoni ta' Mro Frankie Debono ssellem lil Marija hija u hierga mill-knisja Gotika taghha b'sett ta' qniepen godda li joholqu l-isbah armonija.

U l-ahhar festa kbira tehodna x-Xagħra il-Hadd 8 ta' Settembru, u l-Arcipriet Dun Karm Refalo ma joqghodx lura milli jaghtina festa kbira, għażiża u devota ddedikata lit-Twelid tal-Bambina. Din hija festa li trid tfakkarna wkoll fir-rebha tal-Maltin fuq il-qawwa tal-Mislem u fuq il-biza' tal-Alleati. F'tempju mirqum kollu rham u sengha nsibu l-istatwa simpatika tal-Bambina li tohrog tberek lix-Xagħrin u lilna magħhom u n-nies tiffolla u ma toqghodx lura qabel ma titfacca xi taqliba tal-arja! L-ahhar festa helwa u modesta hija dik tal-Madonna tal-Grazzja għand il-Patrijiet Kapuccini u l-hbieb tieghi Gorg Debono u Vincent Vella flimkien ma' shabhom ma jhallu l-ebda gebla f'postha biex juruna li din il-festa ckejkna taghlaq l-istagun tal-festi f'Ghawdex. Tibqa' l-festa f'gieh Gesu Nazzarenu li ssir l-Hadd 29 ta' Settembru u l-komuita t'hawnhekk flimkien mar-Rettur taghha Dun Anton Refalo jippreparaw bi shih biex isellmu lin-Nazzarenu kif tassew jixraqlu.

**Kav Joe M Attard Victoria Ghawdex  
Mejju 2019**



## Australian-Maltese singer-songwriter with world-wide popularity

Singer-songwriter and musician Natasha “Tash” Sultana, an Australian with Maltese descent, is gaining popularity in the musical scene with alternative rock and reggae rock styles.



The singer has just released the album Flow State as a debut in the international music scene, with songs such as Salvation with which she already released a music video, which was seen by over a million people within two months.

The 23-year old Australian-Maltese singer, starting playing music at the age of 3, when her grandfather gave her a guitar as a present. Tash Sultana can play 20 musical instruments including the piano, trumpet, saxophone, mandolin and synthesizer.

Tash was born and bred in Melbourne. She started playing by busking on streets, joined the Mindpilot group in 2008, but the group split in 2012. A year later she sang as a soloist.

YouTube was the platform that led her to fame as her published videos were well received and seen by millions of

people around the world.

In 2016, she released her first EP, while her world tour last year was sold out. Although she visited Europe, Malta was not included in the tour.

Her debut album, Flow State, was launched in the end of August and the singer-songwriter is expected to give a number of concerts to promote the album and interpret her successful songs, such as Harvest Love and Salvation.



In a recent interview, Tash was asked about her background, and how she feels about her connection to Malta.

*"I frequently go to Malta, to see my family. It's nice to see how Maltese you actually are."*

## HISTORY OF CHURCH OF ST. GREGORY OF ZEJTUN AT MALTA



This former parish church built in 1436 was originally dedicated to St. Catherine. It was enlarged in 1492, 1593 and 1603 so that from the original medieval chapel there remains only the central nave and the facade, both of great simplicity. But the simplicity of the nave gives it a special charm. During the successive transformations, a transept was added, and the initial dome was modified. Before the towers were built, the roof of the church served as an observation point to monitor the sea and signal the approach of hostile ships. In 1969 secret passages were discovered under the church, which contained some fifty skeletons of soldiers, and this remains a mystery. In front of the church is a statue of Pope Gregory: the church took its name after the

construction of the great church of St. Catherine.

During a pastoral visit to Żejtun in 1575, Mgr Pietro Dusina was intrigued by their annual custom and asked the elderly inhabitants about its origins.

No one was sure of its inception and people came up with various theories. But they all agreed on one thing: the procession was a sort of thanksgiving to God.

Some believed a promise was made when the village was saved from harm during a violent storm, while others claimed it was when a storm wrecked a large Turkish fleet which was about to attack the area.

The truth was discovered accidentally in recent years when Dominican friar Fr Mikiel Fsadni was doing some research in the Curia archives.

He found out that in 1543 Bishop Cubelles had set up this pilgrimage as a plea to God in order to bring peace among the European nations, in a period of great turmoil and peril.

The parish of St Gregory in Żejtun was chosen as it was the furthest parish church from Mdina.

Originally, the pilgrimage had great significance and thousands of people participated, including all the clergy and the confraternities of the various villages.

Interestingly, this pilgrimage was even included in the wedding rites, as the bridegroom had to promise his bride to take her to this feast.

The pilgrims started their long walk at dawn from the Mdina cathedral and passed through various villages and towns until they arrived at the parish of St Gregory in Żejtun.

The pilgrimage was a magnificent spectacle of colours as the clergy and confraternities of each village or town were distinctly dressed and all of them carried flags.

Prosperous families built their houses along the route of the pilgrimage. Some examples of these are well-known premises in Żejtun: Casa Perellos built by Grand Master Ramon Perellos and Juventutis Domus, which was the property of Bishop Ferdinando Mattei.

In 1969 a huge sensation was created around the church of St Gregory when a number of human bones and three secret passages were uncovered by some workmen.

Curiously, among the locals there had always been rumours that within the walls of this old church were some secret passages. But over the years several attempts to prove this had always proved futile. After more than 42 years of silence, Grezzju Vella, who was only 16 at the time, narrated the horrible day of this gruesome discovery.

He had been doing some work near the dome of the church, believed to be one of the earliest domes in Malta, together with his uncle, Carmelo Spiteri, and a fellow worker, Ċikku Zammit.

At one point he got fed up and unwittingly began to scrape at a narrow crack between two stone slabs.



When the crack widened, he threw a stone inside, expecting to hear it go down into the church, but instead it fell nearby and he realised that there was something underneath the roof.

Mr Vella called the others and soon they were joined by Fr Palmier, who was responsible for the church, and by ĠanMari Debono, who was the sacristan.

On the removal of a large stone, a dark void was revealed and since only Mr Vella could pass through the hole in the roof, he was tied to a rope and given a box of matches so that he could inspect the site.

Eventually the boy came upon a number of human skeletons and got a terrible fright which left him deeply traumatised.

In fact Mr Vella never returned to this church again, notwithstanding that he lives only a few kilometres away. It was only last year that he bravely ventured into the passages and nervously took a look at the human bones, now stacked at the far corner of the third corridor.

No one knows who these bones belonged to and how they ended up in these secret passages. Again, speculation is rife.

Some suggest that they were the unfortunate victims of the frightening Turkish attack which took place in 1614, while others suggest the place might have been used as an ossuary.

Between 1978 and 1980 some studies on the bones indicated that the skeletons had probably been exhumed and moved there from a cemetery. Moreover, it was found that these people had seemingly died within a short time of one another. Unfortunately today the procession of St Gregory has lost much of its appeal.

In fact, the route has been shortened considerably as it starts from the small chapel of St Clement which is situated in the limits of Żejtun and ends only a short distance away at St Gregory's church. According to Żejtun historian Canon Joe Abela, this tradition is yielding to the changes of time, turning from a covenant of faith into a mere celebration for the first swim in the cool waters of Marsaxlokk





## Rock'N Malta announces new venue for Metal Pioneers Dream Theatre

Rock'N Malta have announced a new venue for progressive metal pioneers Dream Theater concert on the 9th July due to an unprecedented demand for tickets. The event, formerly planned at the Mediterranean Conference Centre with a capacity of over 1,600, sold out in less than 48 hours.

The new venue, Pjazza San Gorg in Valletta, will allow for a larger capacity for locals and tourists to enjoy one of the best bands in the World spearheading the progressive metal path to the future, under the stars in the Capital.

Dream Theater have achieved a startlingly sublime synthesis of soaring and unmistakable melodies, progressive instrumentation and aggressive heaviness unrivaled in the hard rock scene. James LaBrie (Vocals), John Petrucci (Guitars), Jordan Rudess (Keyboards), John Myung (Bass), and Mike Mangini (Drums) - share a unique bond with one of the most passionate fan bases around the globe as evidenced by their two GRAMMY® Award nominations and 15 million records sold worldwide.

Among numerous accolades, 1992's *Images & Words* received a gold certification and landed the band *Rolling Stone's* coveted "100 Greatest Metal Albums of All-Time." Fans voted the 1999 *Metropolis Pt. 2: Scenes from a Memory* the "Number One All-Time Progressive Rock Album" in a 2012 *Rolling Stone* poll.



The 9th July gig at Pjazza San Gorg will bring a live performance that is big, long and diverse as only Dream Theater can make it. They will be supported by local bands Mirage, Nomadtson and Ferret!

"We knew that a Dream Theater gig would attract the discerning rock fans. But to have it sell out so early is beyond our expectations and encourages us to think even bigger." Lou Bondi, Artistic Director for Rock'n Malta. Rock'n Malta would like to highlight that current ticket holders who purchased tickets to Dream Theater at the former venue remain valid, where ticket types and seating placement will be mirrored at Pjazza San Gorg with elevated seating.

Tickets to the new venue will be released in 2 weeks and will be available from [www.kultura.mt](http://www.kultura.mt)



## L-Gharusa tal-Mosta Garden

Restoration works on Victoria Lines to be carried out

More than 2,200 trees and shrubs have been planted. Photo:

Jeremy Wonnacott, DOI

More than €500,000 have been invested in the regeneration of *Ġnien*

*l-Gharusa tal-Mosta*, inaugurated by Prime Minister Joseph Muscat

and Sustainable Development Minister José Herrera on Sunday. Dr Muscat said that open spaces in Mosta were uncommon so it was incomprehensible how this jewel had been left to deteriorate for many years without anything being invested in it.

More than 2,200 trees and shrubs have been planted, 4,300 metres squared of paving was laid, the facilities, paths and passageway were restored and safety features were installed.

It would now again become a place where the Mosta community could rest and it could also be considered an extension to Mcast, where students could spend their lunchtime, Dr Muscat said, adding that work on the restoration of the Victoria Lines would also be carried out.

The Prime Minister said he was satisfied with the work but it was important to reach a clear agreement with the council in the next legislature about how the garden should be cared for.

Dr Herrera said the project was witness of the country's work in favour of the environment.

Ambjent Malta, he said, was leaving a direct impact on the country's communities and the natural capital.

Through a holistic strategy, open spaces in Malta had to be transformed into spaces that gave communities somewhere to rest, he said.



## Traditional Maltese Recipe: Pudina tal- ħobż (Bread pudding)

### Ingredients

- 800 g/1 ¾ lbs bread
- 50 g/2 oz margarine
- 100 g/4 oz sugar
- 3 eggs
- 50 g/2 oz chopped mixed peel
- Grated rind of an orange
- 2 tbsp cocoa
- A drop of vanilla essence
- 200 g/9 oz sultanas
- A pinch of nutmeg
- 1 tsp mixed spice
- 1 tsp baking powder
- 1 ½ cups of milk

### Instructions:

1. Cut the bread into pieces, place in a bowl, cover with milk to soak for an hour.



2. Mix all the other ingredients together in a bowl, add the bread and continue to stir till all the mixture is well combined.
3. Pour the mixture into a pre-greased baking dish.
4. Bake in a moderate oven for approximately 4 minutes or check by inserting a skewer in the centre, if the pudding is cooked, this should come out clean.
5. The pudina may be eaten warm or cold.

*Photographs have been taken by Matthew Cauchi and food has been cooked at Gululu restaurant by Neville Gauci*