



MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER

Journal of the Maltese Diaspora

Building Bridges between individuals and communities

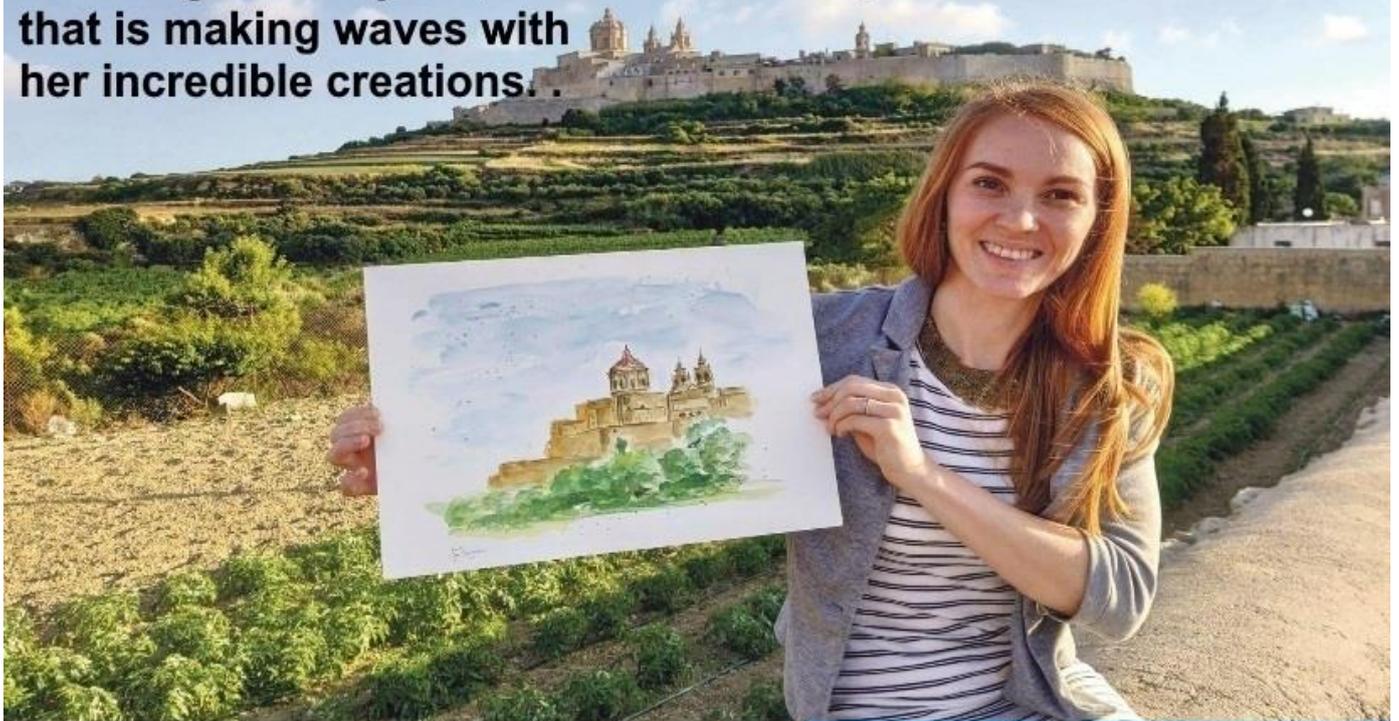


Editor: Frank L. Scicluna

maltesejournal@gmail.com

Splashes of Malta at Palazzo de Piro

Meet Olga Dmitriyeva, Kazakhstan born, a watercolour artist that is making waves with her incredible creations.

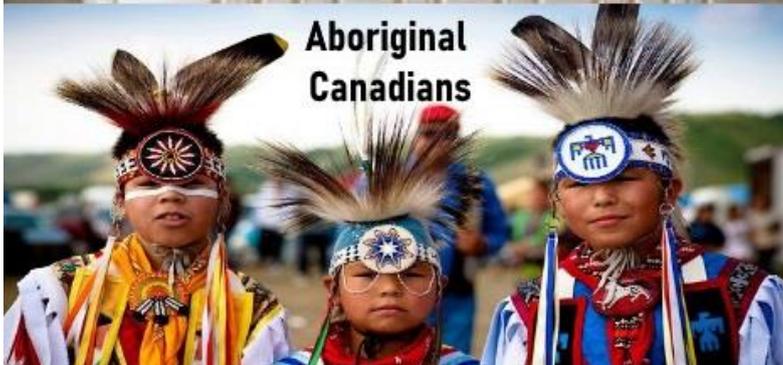


Working with limestone



Miss Universe Malta winner Teresa Ruglio (right) and last year's winner Francesca Mifsud.

Photo: Miss Universe Malta.



Aboriginal Canadians

Architecture of Malta

An eye-view of VALLETTA



Some of the earliest still-standing structures in [Europe](#) are in [Malta](#) in the form of burial chambers and temples. There are seven of these temples in total including two in Ggantija (on Gozo), plus Hagar Qim and Mnajdra (on the island of Malta); all date from about 3000-2500 BC.



Lasting construction on the islands continued millennia later as trade routes across the Mediterranean oftentimes passed through the islands or they were occupied to control that same trade. This led to various constructions, particularly in Valletta, by various groups beginning with the Phoenicians. Most of these early constructions by the Phoenicians, [Greeks](#), Carthaginians, and Romans have since disappeared, although a few of the capital's towers and walls were originally constructed

by these groups and the Romans erected Roman Domus, a villa just outside Mdina.

It was the 1500s when architecture truly began to blossom in Valletta. During this time numerous buildings in various styles were built, most prominently in the Renaissance, Baroque, and Rococo styles. The Grandmaster's Palace (1571-1574; now [Malta's](#) Presidential Palace) and the Mediterranean Conference Centre (1574), both in Valletta, are two of the most impressive Renaissance buildings in the country. St. John's Co-Cathedral (1573-1578) was also built by the powerful Knights of Malta Order in the Baroque style, but with Byzantine influences. The National Museum of Fine Arts (1570s), again in the capital, is in the late Baroque, or Rococo style.



MALTA - A quiet street

Most of the architecture built since the golden age in the 1500s has been either destroyed or, more likely, restored in recent times. Perhaps the best example of this is the Valletta Waterfront, which was originally constructed as nineteen different buildings, primarily built in the 1600s. It was recently renovated and these buildings were united to create a present-day construction that is very representative of the country's architectural history.

Today, much of Valletta remains in the simple stone style, however interiors and even exteriors have been remodeled to make the buildings useful for today's demands. Valletta, above all other locations in [Malta](#), is the best representative of the country's architecture and is one of the most densely represented architectural cities.



Stonemason who has been working with limestone for the last 40 years

Adrian Spiteri

The work at the quarries has also gone down but at the same time, the value of the Maltese stone has achieved international acclaim. Limestone is recognised as a cultural icon because it has been used for thousands of years and because of what can be made from it. With the help of a department at the University of Malta, the Maltese limestone has now obtained official recognition as an important geological resource.

For Mikiel Buttigieg this does not make much of a difference because he has always appreciated limestone which has provided a livelihood for him and his family. He is worried, however, about the future of this stone.

“I think there will come a time when we will say, ‘look at that block of limestone’, or ‘we haven’t seen a stonemason building with this stone in a long time’. This might happen in the future but for now, you still find people who love and appreciate the Maltese stone.”

The few limestone quarries which still exist signify part of our Maltese patrimony for Mikiel, while geologically, the limestone was always considered one of the natural resources of our island. Today, however, we are all aware that this resource might be depleted.

<https://www.facebook.com/frank.scicluna.3>

While limestone is becoming more scarce and the use of this stone in construction has gone downhill, the International Union for Geological Sciences has just recognised this Maltese stone as one of the 15 geological formations around the world which deserves recognition as a world heritage resource. This news was music to the ears of Mikiel Buttigieg from Zebbug who has spent his life working with Maltese limestone. Mikiel Buttigieg has been working with limestone for the last 40 years and to this day, although he is 70 years old, he still makes balustrades.

“This is such a beautiful stone and is so lovely to work with, you can do what you like with it, in fact, if you notice our temples and churches, they are masterpieces of construction. It is a very strong stone, a good Maltese product because we have a lot of limestone and our buildings are very well-built with their beams, slabs and arches”.

Mikiel said you rarely find houses being built with limestone these days and the stone is now mostly used for aesthetic reasons such as balustrades.

“You do not really find a lot of stonemasons any more, because this is backbreaking work,” he says.

Believe me, I am addicted to this journal – I wait for every issue anxiously and after I read it I share it with my relatives and friends in Malta and overseas. I have read interesting stories which I have never knew before. I saved most of the newsletters on my USB. Carmen Ciantar

Splashes of Malta at Palazzo de Piro

Olga Dmitriyeva displaying her painting of Mdina.



This month, Palazzo de Piro in Mdina is hosting another exhibition of watercolour paintings by Olga Dmitriyeva.

Hailing from Kazakhstan, the artist has lived in seven countries and visited over 50. She loves to keep diaries, on which she enjoys sketching. She has amassed scores of notebooks that contain hundreds of sketches and drawings from each country she has visited or lived in.

The exhibition portrays many Maltese

landmarks on paper with a colourful and personal touch. It dives into a world of juicy and tasty fruits and vegetables grown in Malta, while inspiring people to appreciate daily scenes taking place on our sunny island.

Having lived in Malta for the past three years, the art exhibition showcases some of the islands' best known as well as some of its less famous sights, landmarks and products. More information about the artist can be found on www.sketchgingereo.com or on Instagram @sketch.gingereo.

The art exhibition, on display at Palazzo de Piro in Mdina for the whole of July and August, is open from 9.30am to 10.30pm.

2,000-year-old temple floor discovered



Site contains remains of over 4,000-year-old structures. The floor of a temple dating back to prehistoric times was uncovered in ongoing excavation works at Tas-Silġ, the Culture Ministry said.

In a statement, it said the 2,000-year-old floor of the Temple of Ashtart was uncovered in a 'farmhouse' with various remains at the site.

The removal of the farmhouse floors have uncovered a series of floors and preparation layers, the ministry said.

"The site at Tas-Silġ contains the remains of over 4,000 years of structures, most of which were used for religious

purposes," Culture Minister Owen Bonnici said.

The Temple of Ashtart was made famous by Roman senator and orator Cicero when made reference to it in a prosecution speech against Caius Verres.

Along the years, both the *Missione Archeologica a Malta* and the Department of Classics and Archaeology of the University of Malta have conducted extensive excavations at this site. A 'farmhouse' located on the site is being restored and will be turned into a visitor centre equipped with digital interpretations.

These excavations are being carried out in collaboration with the Department of Classics and Archaeology of the University of Malta, which is utilising this dig to train its students in archaeological practices. Close collaboration is also held on this and other digs with the Superintendence of Cultural Heritage.

This project is just the first step in a long-term plan that Heritage Malta is currently implementing for the site. This includes the finalising of a management plan, and a conservation plan.

Inviting Maltese at Memory Lane Café - Victoria

The Memory Lane Café program is available for people with dementia and their family members.



The Australian and Victorian governments, under the Home and Community Care Program, have provided funding for Café Style Support Programs that are offered throughout Victoria.

These cafés provide an opportunity for people with dementia and their family members to enjoy time together with some refreshments and entertainment, in the company of people in a similar situation to themselves. Dementia Australia Vic counselling staff and trained volunteers also attend.

The Maltese Community has been invited by Dementia Australia to participate in the Memory Lane Cafe that is held at the Maltese Cultural Centre, Talmage Str., Albion.

This consists of five different nationality groups:- Vietnamese, Polish, Macedonian, Chinese and Maltese. The groups meet once a month from about 10.30 a.m. till 12.30 p.m - next event is on 24 July 2019! Every month one group hosts the other groups by providing morning tea and finger food light lunch.... Usually of the hosting group's culture. They also provide some entertainment in music, dancing, video of their country and /or some light exercise.

The aim is to get the different communities to mingle together.... Get to know the others' culture. Guests can come with a carer and transport can be arranged to pick them up and return them home.... There is a cost of \$5.00 per person paid to Dementia Australia on the day by who attends. If interested and for further details contact the Maltese Community Council of Victoria on Ph: 9387 8922 during office hours. A representative of the Maltese Community Council of Victoria attends to be with the Maltese guests. (Nicole Osborne)

Sydney Harbour Bridge - the centrepiece for Flames Across the Meadows

Gozonews.com



Flames Across the Meadows on Saturday evening, brought a view of Australia to Kercem, with a replica of the Sydney Harbour Bridge constructed as part of the stunning pyrotechnics display. Hundreds turned out to

watch the fireworks display, held as part of the Kercem Feast and organised by the Kercem Fire Group in collaboration with the Ministry for Gozo and the Kercem Local Council. Present for the event was the Minister for Gozo Dr Justyne Caruana and H.E. Ms Julienne Hince, Australian High Commissioner. Dr Caruana hailed it as a huge success, and congratulated everyone involved, reiterating the continuous support of the Ministry for Gozo towards the initiative.

Photographs: MGOZ/Terry Camilleri

Hi Frank Thanks once again for all the interesting subjects that you and your team are presenting to us Maltese of near and far. I'm forwarding this email to show you how much the Maltese Journal is being accepted. Keep up the good work. Looking forward for the next umpteen issues of Maltese Journal . Regards Harry Bugeja- Adelaide

Hi Harry, Ok u grazzi bil-quddien (tal-Maltese e-newsletter) u jien qed wara li naqrahha qed ngħaddiha lill-persuna ohra avukat mara Ghawdxia li ahaddied wara l-elezzioni ta Meiiu li ahadda ahal Ewropa



Who are Indigenous Peoples in Canada?

The Aboriginal Peoples of Canada

The aboriginal peoples of Canada are a small but influential community that remind Canadians of their country's ancient past and their contemporary responsibilities to its first residents.

It is difficult to find accurate depictions of early aboriginal life in Canada. Little aboriginal art survived, and European artists often depicted Indians in highly "romanticized" or made-up ways. Seen here, a depiction of Iroquois camping made to illustrate the writings of Joseph François Lafitau (1681-1746), a Catholic missionary who spent five years living with the Iroquois people in New France.



By most measures, Canada is a very young country, and Canadians are a very new people. The vast majority of Canada's population is descended from European immigrants who only arrived in the 18th century or later, and even the most "historic" Canadian cities are rarely more than 200 years old.

But thousands of years before any Europeans arrived there were still people living in Canada. Aboriginals, also known as natives, the First Nations, indigenous Canadians, or Canadian Indians, are the modern-day descendants of the first human inhabitants of North America.

History of Canada's First Peoples There are three categories of Indigenous peoples in Canada: Inuit, Métis and First Nations. The Inuit primarily inhabit the northern regions of Canada. Their homeland, known as Inuit Nunangat, includes much of the land, water and ice contained in the Arctic region. Métis peoples are of mixed European and Indigenous ancestry, and live mostly in the Prairie provinces and Ontario, but also in other parts of the country. First Nations peoples were the original inhabitants of the land that is now Canada, often occupying territories south of the Arctic

Everyone has to come from somewhere, and most archaeologists believe the first peoples of Canada, who belong to what is sometimes called the Amerindian race, migrated to western North America from east Asia sometime between 21,000 and 10,000 B.C. (approximately 23,000 to 12,000 years ago), back when the two continents were connected by a massive land bridge known as the Bering Plain. In the centuries that followed, these peoples spread all across the lands that now comprise Canada and the United States, forming hundreds of distinct tribes and settlements scattered across the vast landscape. Though population estimates vary wildly, the Amerindians likely numbered in the millions.



We are proud of all the Maltese achievers around the globe



The Three Crosses of Marsaskala

The Monument of the Three Crosses with the Passion Symbols, is an eye-catching curiosity. Who erected this monument and for what reason? In 1615, Żabbar together with Marsaskala, still formed part of the parish of Żejtun. 650 people inhabited Żabbar and they rightly begged the bishop to establish Żabbar as a separate and independent parish.

The bishop acceded to their request and Rev. Angelo Pontremoli was appointed parish priest of the new parish of Żabbar. As was the practice, Bishop Cagliares established the limits of the young parish. As a matter of fact, a section of modern Marsaskala remained within the limits of Żejtun, while another part, which included the area where the first parish church of Marsaskala was built, fell within the limits of Żabbar. It is possible that the Three Crosses at Bidni were put up as an indication of the place where the limits of Żejtun and Żabbar met.

Guze Muscat Azzopardi gives three traditional versions regarding the origin of these crosses: three monks were killed by the Turks and buried there; a man died of the plague and was buried by the people of Żejtun; an elderly hermit was for three times buried there after repeatedly arising from death!

Russian national stopped the list of Malta's new citizens



There were 464 Russians who obtained Maltese citizenship in 2017, making them the largest group of foreign nationals to acquire citizenship for the third year running.

The information comes from Eurostat's figures on mobility published in the report *People on the Move*.

There were 1,973 people granted citizenship in 2017 – the reference year for the survey. The top three nationalities that obtained a Maltese passport in 2017

were Russians (464), Saudi Arabian (342) and British (195). Russians have topped the list of new citizens since 2015.

Eurostat does not specify the method by which citizenship was obtained but it is plausible that the number of Russians and Saudi Arabians is directly linked to Malta's cash-for-passport scheme.

Across the EU, almost one million people were granted citizenship in any of the member states.

Moroccans topped the list of citizenship recipients with 169,143, followed by Albanians (126,336) and Indians (73,287).

Crypt beneath the convent of the Franciscan Capuchin Friars in Floriana



mummy in the Capuchin crypt.

The Famous Crypt beneath the convent Of The Franciscan Capuchin Friars In Floriana, was cut between 1725 And 1730, upon the suggestion of Friar Ġużepp Calleja OFM. Cap., From Cospicua.

Not many know of the Capuchin Order's custom of having permanent exhibitions of skeletons and mummified monks. Even fewer people would know that the crypt beneath the Capuchin Friary, in Floriana was used for this burial practice where friars dried the bodies of their brothers who died.

Though the details of this process are not well known, the dead bodies were probably cleaned of intestines and blood and left to dry out for more than a year in a room. The dried bodies of certain "holy" friars were erected and placed in niches dug in the walls of the crypt.

Wearing their habits, the monks were identified by name, age and date of their passing away.

The practice, in fashion about 250 years ago, is discussed in an article by Giovanni Bonello appearing in this summer's edition of Treasures of Malta, published by Fondazzjoni Patrimonju Malti.

The author goes into a number of documents and writings of foreign visitors who expressed revulsion towards the practice defined as "gruesome" by some. A London magazine in the 19th century, The Graphic, called the skeletons on display "pickled monks".

He explains how the walls of the crypt used to be decorated with bones and skulls. In fact, the walls are pitted with small holes made by steel nails used to hold up the remains. Though this could be seen as a macabre practice by today's standards, the monks probably saw this as a way in which to venerate deceased holy monks. The practice of keeping bones and skulls was a constant reminder that this life was not an end in itself.

The entire site was badly damaged during the second world war. Both the church and the friary were almost entirely destroyed, while a friar, Clement Cauchi ofm. cap., and the convent's garçon, Giuseppe Borg of Żabbar, were killed during the air raid which destroyed the site in April 1942.

The crypt was left abandoned for three decades. it was thanks to the initiative of the late friar Francis Azzopardi ofm. cap., that it was restored and re - opened in October 1979.

The most venerated dried body that is still preserved is the one of Fra Krispin Zammit of Gozo who died in the convent in 1867 aged 78.

A Little Poem still visible on one the walls of the crypt reads :

"Capucine By Death Are Taken,
Brother Friars Dry And Bake'em,
Skeletons With Well-Steamed Crust,
A Warning Stand To Living Dust

Population of Malta and Gozo is almost half a million

The National Statistics Office, in data released to mark World Population Day, said that, the estimated total population of Malta and Gozo at the end of 2018 stood at 493,559, up by 3.8% when compared to 2017.

The NSO noted that persons under the age of 18 made up 16.2% of the total population, while a further 18.7% were aged 65 and over. Of these, 2,889 persons – 2,010 females and 879 males – were over 89.



It went on to say that the population increase in 2018 was largely due to net migration (immigration less emigration).

Population increase was driven by a net migration of 17,102 persons, an increase of 17% when compared to the previous year. The biggest proportion of net migrants were men, reaching 10,835 against 6,267 female counterparts, the NSO said. Excluding adoptions, the largest share of migrants were third-country nationals at 9,209 followed by other EU nationals at 7,349. Net migration of Maltese nationals was estimated at 480.

The number of resident live births registered during 2018 increased by 2.9% over the previous year. The NSO said that there were approximately nine births for every 1,000 persons in 2018.

Over the past ten years the total fertility rate has decreased from 1.43 to 1.23, while the average age of parent who gave birth has increased from 28.6 years to 30.5 years.

The NSO explained that this was largely due to a sharper increase in population figures when compared to increases in the number of births. Resident deaths rose by 3.3% over the previous year. Of the 3,688 registered resident deaths during 2018, 64.4% were persons aged 75 and over. The average life expectancy for those born in 2018 is 82.5 years, an increase of 2.8 years when compared to ten years ago, said the NSO.

The total population of the EU stood at 513.5 million, an increase of 1.1 million over the previous year.

Germany leads the pack with 83 million residents, while France follows suit with 67 million.

The United Kingdom is the third largest with a population of 66.6 million residents.

While Malta was the country with the largest population increase of 3.7% over the previous year, Luxembourg followed suit with an increase of 2% and Ireland came third with an increase of 1.5% when compared to 2017

This Maltese Journal may be found at the
 Malta Migration Museum Valletta
 Maltese/Canadian Archives - Gozo National Library
 on FACEBOOK and Twitter
 Website: www.ozmalta.com



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Strength in Unity



Friends of Providence House NSW donate \$AUD16,800 to Id-Dar Tal-Providenza

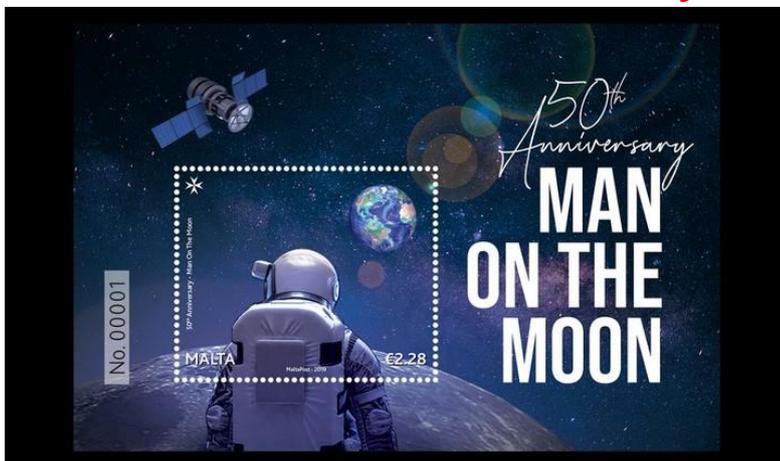
July 11, 2019/

The Friends of Providence House NSW, Australia donated \$AUD16,800 (€10,239.53) to Id-Dar tal-Providenza. The cheque was presented to Fr Martin Micallef, Director of the Home, during the Volleyball Marathon that was held

between the 5th and 7th of July 2019 by Leli Borg brother of Jim Borg, the Coordinator of the Australia philanthropic group. The money was raised by way of sponsorships, functions and donations.

Special thanks go to Breakaway Travel Blacktown, La Vallette Social Centre and to all those who made a donation. The same goes to all the talented Maltese/Australian performers for giving their time during fund-raising events held during the year. Last but not least a big thank you to the Secretary, Marisa Previtera and the Treasurer, Miriam Friggieri who together with Jim Borg form the coordinating team of Friends of Providence House NSW. (Jim Borg NSW – Australia)

MaltaPost marks the 50th anniversary landing of man on the moon



BY [GOZO NEWS](#) - To commemorate the 50th anniversary of the historic landing of man on the moon, MaltaPost will be issuing a special miniature stamp

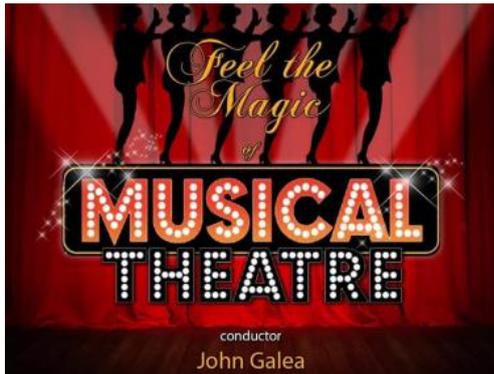
The design of the miniature sheet is by Aidan Cassar and is an artistic rendition of a moon landing as it would or could appear in the present day. MaltaPost explained that "it does not seek to replicate the actual 1969 historical event."

16,000 miniature sheets will be issued and the stamp measures 49mm x 40.5mm, with a comb perforation of 14.2 x 14.2 and bearing the Maltese Cross watermark.

The miniature sheets measure 120mm x 80mm and were produced by Printex Ltd in the offset process and carry a face value of €2.28.

This philatelic issue will be available from all Post Offices in Malta and Gozo as from this coming Saturday, the 20th of July.

Orders may be placed online at www.maltaphilately.com or by mail from the Philatelic Bureau, MaltaPost p.l.c. 305, Qormi Road, Marsa, MTP 1001; Telephone: 2596 1740, e-mail: info@maltaphilately.com



Feel The Magic the project

Feel the Magic represents a strong three-year vision that seeks to place the arts and creativity at the heart of Gozo's future. The project supports the implementation of a series of high-profile concerts in collaboration with international and national organizations and aims to develop a co-ordinated yearly programme of events. So far the series has featured two hugely successful *Feel the Magic* concerts: *Feel the Magic of Brass* and *Feel the Magic of Piazzolla*.

Chorus Urbanus Productions is a non-profit organization that is a very powerful protagonist in the national cultural scenario. It is the organization's mission to co-ordinate and present notable cultural events throughout the year. It is our policy to produce and present concerts of a very high standard both by local and international artists within the limits of our budgetary constraints, that are however generously supported by the Gozo Cultural Support Programme Fund within the Ministry for Gozo and the Arts Council. The *Feel the Magic* Project is spread over four major concerts per year (one for every season) and one Grand Concert featuring various soloists, Choir, Children's Choir, Orchestra, and Choreography. Orchestra and, in the open-air during the Summer months.

Feel the Magic of Musical Theatre The Chorus Urbanus Productions is a non-governmental organization is a powerful player in the national cultural scenario. It is the mission of the organization to co-ordinate and present remarkable cultural events throughout the year. It is our policy to produce and present concerts of very high both by local artists as well as international artists despite the financial constraints of our budget, that are nevertheless supported by the Gozo Cultural Support Program, within the Ministry for Gozo and the Arts Council.

Feel The Magic project is spread over four major concerts each year (one per season) and a grand orchestral concert which that sees the participation of various seasoned soloists, the Chorus Urbanus, Children's Choir, and Choreography. This will be done outdoors at St Augustine Square on Saturday 27 July, 2019 at 8.30pm.

The concert *Feel-the Magic of Musical Theater* banks on the fruitful experience and successes achieved by the Chorus Urbanus Productions in producing the musicals *Fiddler on the Roof* and *Scrooge* during 2017 and 2018 respectively. In this spectacular concert the soloists of the Chorus Urbanus include Fabian Galea, Angelo Muscat, Mario Portelli, Ruth Portelli, Maria Cassar, Hilda Grima and Ryden backed by Chorus Urbanus; the young singers Kristen Grima, Gabriel Grech, Christa Mercieca and Kurt Theuma Scerri and the Chorus Urbanus Junior Section; and the Central Stage Dance Academy under the choreographic direction of Nathalie Sciortino. The Malta Concert Orchestra will under the direction of John Galea, artistic director of the triennial Project. The show will be co-ordinated by the stage director Jamie Camilleri while the sound design will be under the direction of Sergio Costa together with PRO Sound Stage. The visual design and lighting are under the direction of Ismahel Portelli and Chris Gauci. The stage set is designed by Teddy Mizzi.

This concert promises to be a feast of music, singing and dancing of 21 excerpts taken from the best musicals of all time that have thoroughly enjoyed extensive runs in the West End of London as well as the Broadway stage. Tickets for this colourful show are already for sale online at www.ticketline.com.mt, and we are happy to announce that sales are progressing well despite being activated barely 24 hours ago.

The philosophy behind the setting up of this project is triggered by a culturally rich and eminently educational approach. Our policy gives a high priority to the promotion of top-level local talent to share the limelight with foreign high-calibre artists. It is our objective to enhance the international status of the Project with seasoned local and international performers being invited to perform a varied repertoire that promises to be exciting in its exploration of the magic of the Arts

DAR IL-BEBBUX – HOUSE OF SNAILS AT HAL- GHAXAQ



The fascinating Dar il-Bebbux is over 100 years old. Joanna Demarco

At the heart of the southern village of Hal-Ghaxaq- home to less than 5,000 people - and merely a stone's throw away from St Mary's Parish Church, lies a building which is unique and fascinating, not only to the humble village, but to the Maltese Islands: a house whose upper facade is decorated in *hundreds* of different snails and sea shells. *Dar il-Bebbux*

The building is known as the Snail House or *Dar il-Bebbux*, and story has it that over a century ago, at the start of the 20th century, Ghaxaq resident Indri Dimech began decorating this facade back when the building was being used as a local bar. In an interview with The People of Malta back in 2015, Josephine, Indri's great granddaughter, said that her great grandfather would collect the sea shells from his trips to Palestine specifically for this purpose.

Snails, shells and stones of all sizes form elaborate decoration and adorn religious imagery, surrounding a number of statues which are placed in niches within the facade. Sadly, over time, the elements have resulted in the slow, chipping away of the elaborate design, and because the mode of decoration is so unique and unusual, the new owners of the property - who are currently restoring the building together with the Local Council - are finding it extremely difficult to find someone in Malta who can restore it to its former glory.

Because of its elaborate style and decoration, the house has been included in the National Inventory of the Cultural Property of the Maltese Islands - and we're not surprised! The house even has its neighbouring road named after it: *Triq Dar il-Bebbux*.

It is difficult to pinpoint exactly where Indri Dimech found the inspiration to decorate his home in such a unique way, although we do know that a number of similar facades can be found in Spain, Denmark and even the United Kingdom.

SNIPPETS FROM THE HISTORY OF MIGRATION TO AUSTRALIA IN THE 50s



1957 photo of a group of new and old Australian school children on their way to a camp in Anglesea, where they would learn another facet of the Australian way of life. The camp was sponsored by the Good Neighbour Council of Victoria, to help the adjustment of migrant children to their new way of life. Children from Australia, England, Malta, Germany, Lithuania, Holland, the Ukraine, Poland, Estonia and Russia would 'mix informally in a happy atmosphere of outdoor folk dancing, beach games, clay-modelling, drama instruction and films on Australia'. (Source: National Archives of Australia, 7471087)

British Influence in Malta



Malta is a unique island, where the English is spoken as much as the Maltese because both are official language. The English culture is also evident. Malta is an independent since 1964 but Malta kept privileged relations with the United Kingdom, and tracks of the British culture remains everywhere.

For example, the phone boxes and red mailboxes well known of London also find themselves on the island. The English is so well implanted in Malta that you can find 48 establishments dedicated to the learning of the language for an Island of 420,000 inhabitants. The FELTOM (Federation of English Language Teaching Organizations Malta) is the only professional federation and includes 22 schools of language in Malta and Gozo among the 48 accredited by the government. Each year, you can meet around 75,000 young and adults who come to improve their English.

Malta is also a very cosmopolitan country, with a multicultural

story. In fact, the country has saw the French colonization and the British domination until its independence. What's more, it's an Island with beautiful cities including three sites registered on UNESCO World Cultural Heritage list and magnificent landscapes in the Mediterranean climate. This result as 300 sunny days per year.

The British Period is a very significant era in Maltese history. World Wars and Maltese Independence are the most historic dates of the period. The British legacy still lives on in many aspects of daily life in Malta today.

After assisting the Maltese to expel the French, the British found themselves sovereign of the Islands, but were at first uncertain as to whether they should retain the territory. The Treaty of Amiens in 1802 established that Malta would be passed back to the Order of St. John, but some locals were not keen to return to their former rulers and requested to remain under British protection.

As it happened, the Peace of Amiens was short lived and the Napoleonic wars resumed. The British were thus committed to defend Malta and would eventually gain full sovereignty of the Maltese Islands by the provisions of the Treaty of Paris in 1814. From then on, Malta became an important part of the British Empire, a strategic stronghold in the region and a stepping stone for Britain's expansion to the East.

Through cycles of war and peace, Malta's fortunes were inextricably linked to those of Britain. This was never more evident than during World War II when the islands played a pivotal role in the Mediterranean theatre of war. The role of the Maltese Islands during the First World War as a supply station and as a base for the recovery of the injured earned the Islands the title, 'Nurse of the Mediterranean'.

The bravery of the Maltese people during the World War II was acknowledged by King George V who awarded the whole population of Malta his George Cross for valour.

After the war, the movement for self-determination grew stronger and finally Malta was granted Independence on September 21st, 1964. British forces retained a presence in Malta until March 31st 1979 when their military bases on the island were closed and Malta became a republic. The Islands became part of the British Commonwealth.

The Journal of the Maltese Diaspora

Malta was part of the British Empire for over 150 years, so it is hardly surprising that business, laws and education have some British overtones. Today, you'll find plenty of this special blend of Mediterranean Britishness around in Maltese daily life. English is a joint official language with Maltese. It is spoken fluently and widely. But English, as other languages such as Italian, has made an impact on daily conversation in Maltese (Malti). The Maltese often switch effortlessly from Malti to English mid sentence. Walking through the capital, Valletta, you'll come across shops and cafes with British names harking back to mid last century. Visitors are always surprised and charmed to see old-fashioned, red-painted, British letter and phone boxes when this street furniture has all but disappeared in the UK itself. Driving is on the left, as in the UK. Out and about on the road, you'll come across a number of old British cars: Morris Minors, Ford Anglias and Prefects, Triumphs and Bedford lorries. Many are used regularly for daily travel, but others are lovingly cared for vintage models seen out only on special occasions. Maltese cooking has also adopted some elements of British fare: local bars and cafes serve the British breakfast and brunch. Beer is a favourite drink here as in the UK, and is sold in 'pints' and 'half pints' rather than litres.

Let's all get together

The 8th of September 2019 is getting closer. That is The Maltese national Day and the celebration of Mass at St Mary's Cathedral in Sydney is the focal celebration used by the Maltese community of NSW. As is quite common in the Maltese community division rears its ugly head as was shown last year in the absence of some leaders and of organisations which objected to new rules and regulations. This is no big surprise as divisions in one form or another whether within the whole community or in the smaller groups are what keeps them alive.

Divisions, whether political or personal are created by individuals or circumstances for various reasons. The sad aspect of all this is that at a stage when the community is shrinking and some leaders keep harping on unity and on the survival of our identity, some leaders are not humble enough to accept new regulations and formats of rituals which look out of place in modern celebrations. After all some of these leaders talk and believe in the equality of all. However, they opt out of these occasions, mainly religious, more to satisfy their own political and personal beliefs.

One could easily find 100 reasons for not attending a religious function such as the Mass of Our Lady of Victories at St Mary's Cathedral. However it is not impossible for an individual or an organisation to discover one good reason for attending and take part in the only annual occasion where we get together as a community under one roof. For some not to march and show your flag or not to sit in the first row may require a touch of humility. For some it may need more than a touch. It could also need a spark of faith in the community and in the occasion!

Victor V Vella - Sydney

Twelidt hemm imma nghix hawn.. **I was born there but I live here**

Immigration from Malta increased after 1944, when Maltese migrants were classified as 'white British subjects' for the purposes of Australia's immigration policy. In 1948 the Maltese were offered assisted migrant passage to Australia, and by 1954 in excess of 10 000 Maltese had settled in Australia.

Twelidt hemm imma nghix hawn.. **I was born there but I live here**

Approximately 18,000 Maltese people emigrated to Canada between 1946 and 1981, but emigration slowly reduced over time. In 2006 only 145 people of Maltese origin settled in the country. ... Today, most of people of Maltese origin, some 18,680 live in Toronto (more than 50% of the total Maltese Canadian population).

The Journal of the Maltese Diaspora

Soċjetà San Pawl Banda Konti Ruggieru



Rabat band named after St Paul and Count Roger is 150 years old

Report: Mario Micallef

This year is the 150th anniversary since the foundation of the society which is named after St Paul and the only one in Malta with the band named after Count Roger. Today, the band is involved with a major participation at the feast of St Paul in Valletta, where

it has played for over a 100 years.

The St Paul's Society – Count Roger Band of Rabat has also contributed in the drafting of the social services legislation in Malta.

Through the initiative of 17 Rabat band musicians, all contributors to the Proto-Parish church of St Paul, a notarial contract was signed on the 25th July 1869 which bind them to train in music and eventually founded the St Paul's Society Count Roger band.

Current secretary, Aris Cefai, said that this is the first band in Malta established through a notarial act. The society is named after St Paul who, according to tradition, lived in Rabat and the band to Count Roger as defender of St Paul's faith.

In its 150 years of history, the society worked to enhance two main feasts celebrated at Rabat: Corpus feast in June and St Paul's feast in July. With music as its central activity, the society had eight band directors, including Vincenzo Ciappara, nicknamed "the king of Maltese band marches" and Prof. Joseph Vella.

The band participated in a number of great musical programmes and at special occasions, such as the inauguration of the train service in 1883; during visits in Rabat by Popes John Paul II and Benedict XVI and played in many feasts and was invited to visit the United States, Canada, Germany and Italy.

Apart from training in music arts, the Society Mutuo Soccorso Conte Ruggiero was established within the society in 1917.

"Members came up with the idea of having a society that by fees, they pay extra for free services by a doctor and have free medicines. When in April 1956 the Maltese Parliament was debating a social services legislation, the society's statutes were studied. That is after it was established in 1917, it left its mark on a national basis", Mr Cefai said.

The society is based in Palazzo San Paolo in Triq il-Kbira, where the society has a great tradition in snooker and where former band musician, Pawlu Debono, made the first 100 point break. It was also a place of theatrical performances.

"Kburin bi ġrajjetna – Harsitna 'l quddiem" is the motto for the year-long celebrations of the 150th anniversary of St Paul's Society Count Roger Band, which also include the band's participation in St Paul's feast in Siracuse at the end of June.



**MALTESE
E-NEWSLETTER**

The Journal of Maltese
living in Malta and Abroad

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maltesejournal@gmail.com

Mtarfa hospital set to become international school

Will mostly cater for children of expats living, working in Malta



Ivan Camilleri|0

The Mtarfa Military Hospital.

The House of Representatives on Wednesday approved a concession to a private company to rehabilitate the old Mtarfa Military Hospital into a fully-fledged international school.

The school will cater mostly for children of expats living and working in Malta.

Following a discussion during a session of the National Audit Office Accounts Committee, both sides of the House approved a resolution so that Haileybury Malta Ltd will be given the hospital for 40 years to run as a school.

The company had won a tender issued by the Education Ministry for the opening of a second international school on the island, which will be competing with the Verdala International School.

€50,000 annual rent for the premises

Two companies had originally applied for the concession but the other applicant, Ellesmere College Malta, was disqualified after failing to reach the tender's criteria. According to the Education Ministry, Haileybury, which already operates similar schools in Kazakhstan and the United Kingdom, will be investing more than €15 million in the rehabilitation of the former hospital.

It aims to start its operations in September 2021 and intends to have a total school population of 580 students at primary and secondary levels.

According to the company, the school may eventually also offer kindergarten and sixth form facilities.

So far, expats have only the option to send their children either to Verdala School or to independent schools.

The company is expected to pay the government €50,000 annual rent for the premises during the first five years, increasing to €125,000 after.

Registered last month, Haileybury Malta Ltd is owned by two separate companies.

Stanley Logistics Ltd is a United Kingdom company which already operates similar colleges, while the Maltese partner company is Ruth Trapani Galea Ltd, owned by a businesswoman of that name who was also appointed by the government as a director of the Malta Gaming Authority



FOLKLORE FROM MALTA AND GOZO OLD TIME TRADES AND TRADITIONS

Malta and Gozo are rich in folklore like legends, customs, old time trades, children's games of

the 50's and 60's. Gozo is fast emerging as the top venue for settling-in owing to its primeval beauty, long history dating back to prehistoric times and its mild climate. Temperatures in winter rarely fall below the 17-deg. mark. Summer tourism, conference centres, winter tourism, scuba holidays all contribute towards the economy of the island.

Here is a List of the trades that some people still remember and preserved for future generations.

The Milkman early in the morning and in the afternoon together with a dozen or so goats

The Greengrocer selling vegetables with donkey and cart

The Journal of the Maltese Diaspora

The Hawkers in winter selling bigilla and chestnuts and summer ice-cream
 The Fishmonger carrying a large wicker basket of fresh fish, octopus and lampuki
 Seller of Sea urchins (rizzi) and sea shells/mussels (imhar)
 Seller of Pastizzi, qassatat and Ravjul
 Seller of roasted nuts, broad beans and sweet peas
 Seller with cart and donkey selling onions and potatoes
 Seller with cart and donkey selling water and melons, figs and prickley-pears in summer
 Cloth Dealer armed with yard-stick and different cloths slung on his shoulder
 Seller with cart and horse selling live poultry, pigeons and rabbits
 Seller of kerosene with 44-gallon drum on horse-drawn cart and with measuring cans dangling behind

During the festa season in Summer, sellers of home-made pastries, nougat and ice-cream would be present in every village selling their wares on handcarts.

Women were really stay-at-home in those days. The hawkers passed regularly by their doorstep every day and they had no need to leave the house except to hear mass and to pay an occasional visit to the shop. There were shops or supermarkets like today but they were primitive by today's standards.

In the evenings and even late into the night, women and girls indulged in extra curricular work like sewing and embroidery, knitting, yarning and lace-making and often in the dim light of kerosene lamps. It was a hard life in the 50's.

1. Confectionary 2. Bakery 3. Butcher 4. Salad Seller - roasted onions and egg-plant, salted tuna, herrings, olives, peppered and dry local cheeslets, anchovies and dried figs. 5. Miller 6. Tailor for men and boys 7. Seamstress for ladies and girls 8. Shoe shop 9. TinSmith 10. Blacksmith 11. Ironmonger 12. Cobbler 13. Haberdashery 14. Barber for men and boys 15. Grocer who held a ration contract and distributed oil, flour, macaroni (long size), bread and sugar 16. Printer and Book-binder

Some of the above trades are now obsolete, like the miller and the tinsmith. There were others which still exist today, obviously: teachers, priests, farmers and herdsmen, carpenters, builders, painters and cabinet-makers,



HAZ-ZABBAR - MALTA

The town was used as an encampment by the Ottoman armies at the outset of the Great Siege of 1565. Ħaż-Żabbar was granted city status by the last Grand Master on Malta, Ferdinand von Hompesch, in whose name the population built a triumphal arch on the main approach road from Paola through Fgura.

During the Maltese uprising against the French between 1798 and 1800 the city was used as a base by the Maltese insurgents. A memorable battle took place in front of the Ħaż-Żabbar Sanctuary. To this day, French-era cannonballs are to be seen in household walls in the city's older parts and some are also in the church museum after being retrieved from the old church dome.

San Ġorġ ta' Cremona

125 SENA MAGĦNA!

Mija u ħamsa u għoxrin sena –
kif jitgerbu b'heffa s-snin!
Daqshekk issa ilha magħna
din il-ġawhra tal-Għawdxin!

U l-Ġimgħa filgħaxija
toħroġ fid-Dimostrazzjoni
u tintlaqa' f'nofs il-misraħ,
lilna tfawwar bl-emozzjoni!

Waqt li bil-mod tibda tielgħa
fuq il-palk ta' nofs il-Pjazza
u bl-applawsi lilha nilqgħu –
m'hemmx kulur, età jew razza!

San Ġorġ jidher qiegħed jinfed
b'dik il-lanza lid-dragun
u jitriegħed taħt sieq Ġorġi –
ta' kull żmien l-aqwa Tribun.

Kemm kien bravu dak Vincenzo
li tana statwa bħal din!
Min qatt lilha jista' jisboq –
lil dal-ġuvni paladin!

Xortih tajba l-poplu tagħna
li kiseb kapolavur
li Cremona ried jagħtina –
b'wiċċu mfaqqa', l-isbaħ f'jur!

Meta l-Ġimgħa inti toħroġ
biex iddur mat-toroq tagħna,
għal ffit warrab dik il-lanza
u fi ħdanek dlonk ilqagħna!

Niesna tieqaf u timmuta
quddiem statwa hekk imponenti.
Matul dal-ġranet tal-Festa
dil-vara tkun taħt il-lenti!

U meta matul il-weekend
fuq l-ispalla tkun iddur,
dmugħ iġelben ma' ħaddejna
u l-qalb tagħna bl-hena tfur.

Mas-sena elf u tmien mija
żidu biss erbgħa u disgħin –
f'dik is-sena din iżżanznet,
kulhadd qal: "Din ġiet minn fejn!"

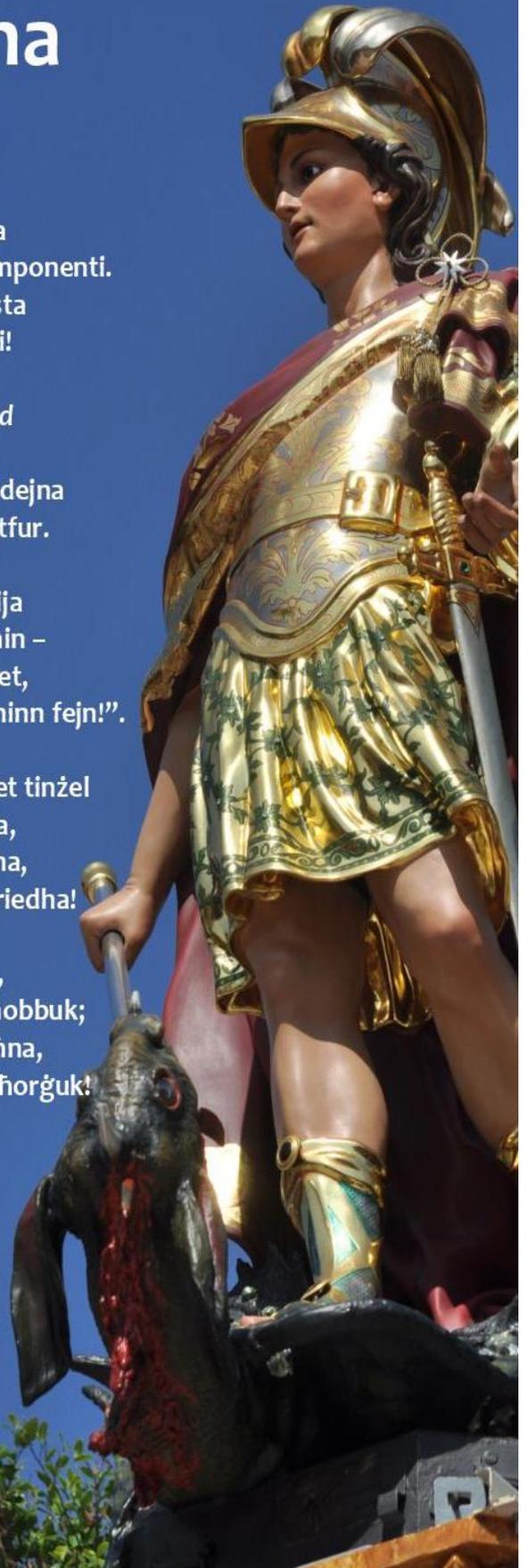
Mis-Smewwiet din riedet tinzel
sabiex tbierek lil uliedha,
biex tħarisna, isseddaqna,
Patrun t'Għawdex Alla riedha!

Ibqa' mela saltan fuqna,
San Ġorġ 'taż-Żonn', inħobbuk;
ibqa' diehel fil-qalb tagħna,
minn hemm qatt ma noħroġuk!

Kav. Joe M. Attard
Il-Belt Victoria
Għawdex

23 ta' April 2019

[ritratt: JJP Zammit]



Per tutti gli amici italiani

CUCINA MALTESE: UN MIX INSOLITO

Le **specialità culinarie maltesi** hanno diverse influenze che spaziano da quelle mediterranee a base di pesce, a quelle più nordiche a base di **carne e formaggi**.

I PIATTI PRINCIPALI

Pastizzi I **pastizzi** sono delle piccole torte salate di pasta sfoglia salata farcita con ricotta o piselli. Il costo varia da **0.30 € a 0.50€** e si trovano nelle numerose **Pastizzerie** presenti nell'isola di Malta. Un consiglio è di *andarci piano* perché sono un po' pesanti ma vale la pena di assaggiarli.

Fenkata Nell'isola di Malta il coniglio è mangiato da secoli per tradizione, servito con patate arrosto o fritte (chips) e un'insalata leggera. Generalmente il **coniglio maltese** è cucinato **sia fritto che stufato**, ma in entrambi i modi, l'aglio è usato in proporzioni colossali – non è qualcosa da ordinare al primo appuntamento.

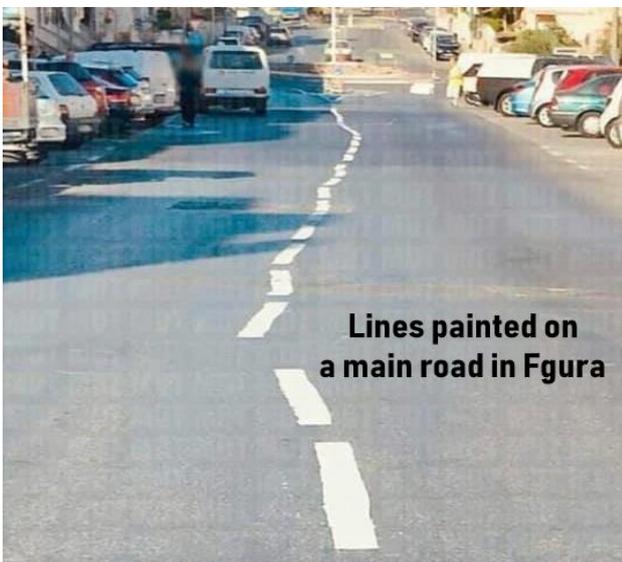
Ġbejna **Ġbejna** è un piccolo **formaggio rotondo** preparato con il **latte di pecora** disponibile in diversi aromi. Sono acquistabili in tutti i supermarket con il costo di **ca 0,80 €** ma se volete mangiarlo al ristorante ti consiglio di assaggiarne la versione frita.

Ftira La **Ftira** è il **tipico pane maltese** a forma di ciambella. La ftira, generalmente, viene cotta al **forno a legna** per risultare croccante e gustosa. Ti consiglio di gustare la Ftira farcita con tonno e verdure fresche.

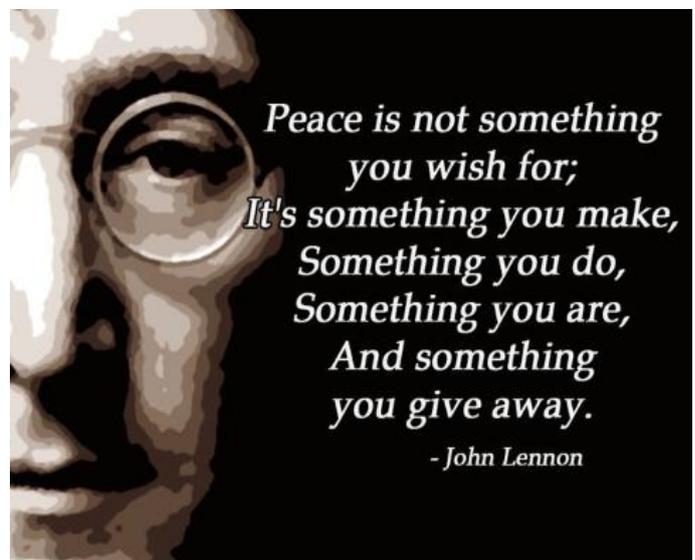


L'OROLOGIO PER INGANNARE IL DIAVOLO

A Malta ci sono tantissime chiese – si stima 365 circa – ma altrettanti orologi su di esse. Infatti, come puoi notare la maggior parte delle **chiese a Malta ha 2 orologi**: uno che segna l'ora esatta e uno che segna un'ora a caso. Ti starai chiedendo come mai? La leggenda narra che il secondo orologio con l'ora sbagliata serviva per **ingannare il diavolo** che si presentava durante le messe per disturbare i fedeli. In questo modo il diavolo si confondeva e la messa si svolgeva in tranquillità.



Lines painted on
a main road in Fgura



Peace is not something
you wish for;
It's something you make,
Something you do,
Something you are,
And something
you give away.

- John Lennon

Kapunata Maltija (Maltese caponata)

Caponata, a Sicilian and also a Maltese Dish must not be confused with the French Ratatouille. Both use aubergine, but Caponata is flavored with sugar and vinegar whilst in Ratatouille, these ingredients do not feature. Although Sicilian, in Malta, Kapunata is very popular especially in the hot summer months when eaten chilled with fresh crusty maltese bread.

There are many ways to serve Kapunata, on its own, as a side dish with fresh fish especially, as a pasta sauce or glamorize it a bit and serve it with risotto milanese and parmesan crisps as a dinner party starter.

There are many recipes for Kapunata, and below you will find one of the Maltese versions:

Ingredients:

- 200g onions, thinly sliced
- 1 tbsp olive oil
- 400g tomatoes, peeled and chopped
- 500g aubergine, cubed
- 2 celery stems
- 6 olives
- 1 tbsp capers
- 2 tbsps tomato paste
- 125ml water

Method:

1. Place the onion and the olive oil in a saucepan.
2. Cook the onion on moderate heat, stirring continuously. If the onion dries out, add some water.
3. Add the tomatoes, the aubergine, the celery, the olives, the capers, the tomato paste and more water, still stirring continuously.
4. Bring to a boil.
5. Reduce the heat, cover the saucepan and leave to simmer for one and a half hours.
6. Remove the pan from the heat. Leave to cool. Stir in chopped basil before serving. Enjoy!

Happy Cooking!



Pete Buttigieg's Maltese dad was told: "go back to your own country"



Mr Buttigieg told the story after US president Donald Trump launched a crackdown on illegal immigration and said a group of congresswoman should go back to where they came from.

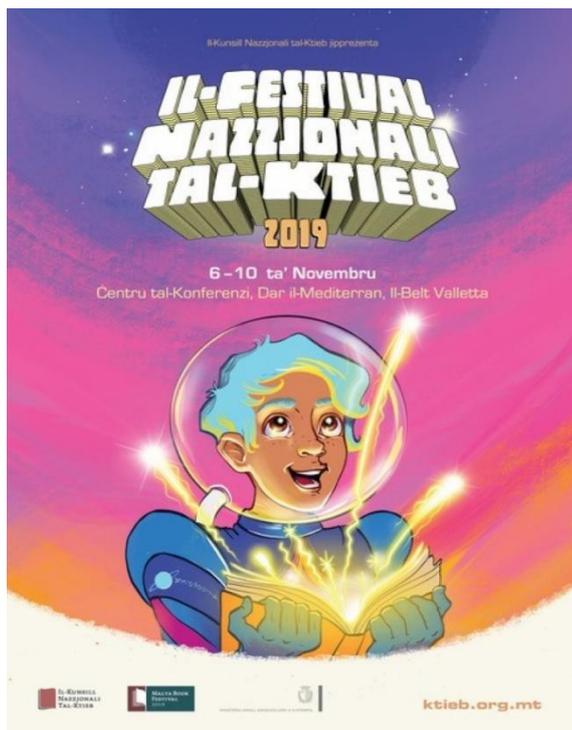
Pete Buttigieg, the 37-year-old mayor of South Bend, Indiana, is vying to become the 2020 Democratic presidential nominee.

His late father, Joseph Buttigieg, was from the Ħamrun area of Malta but emigrated to America in the late 1970s. In a tweet, Mr Buttigieg described an experience his father had endured.

"As an immigrant and a citizen, my dad cared deeply about this country," he wrote.

"Once, when he was speaking at a campus protest

against Reagan's accommodation of apartheid, a passing student noticed Dad's brown skin and unique accent and called out: 'go home!' "He answered: 'I am home.'"



The National Book Council has announced that the 2019 Malta Book Festival will take place in November at the Mediterranean Conference Centre

Laura Calleja

The full programme of events and activities will be published in the second week of September and will be delivered in a physical copy to all households in Malta and Gozo

The National Book Council has announced that the 2019 Malta Book Festival, will take place from 6 November through till 10 November at the Mediterranean Conference Centre.

The council said the poster for this year's festival was produced by the popular illustrator Lisa Falzon, and graphic designer Steven Falzon, the latter of whom produced the visual work for last year's edition also.

The full programme of events and activities will be published in the second week of September and will be delivered in a physical copy to all households in Malta and Gozo.

Malta Book Festival to take place in November

“As is customary, the Festival will open with a conference, which will this year relate to the literary genres of sci-fi and fantasy, and will be led by a number of local and overseas authors,” the council said. Among them are Loranne Vella, the Brussels based author of *Rokit* and winner of the 2018 National Book Prize. The foreign authors attending the conference are Malta-born Jon Courtenay Grimwood, Kali Wallace and Dave Rudden.

The NBC said on weekday mornings the festival will welcome school visits. Students they said will be treated to a special programme of cultural and fun activities, including theatre pieces, reading, and meetings with writers. “Apart from these activities, a group of professional actors, lead by Antonella Axisa, will adapt last year's *Terramaxka* Prize winners for the stage.”

The council said that following last year's success, the comedy duo *Danusan* will once again be staging performances inspired by works which would have been awarded the 2019 *Terramaxka* Prize.

Tickets will be available for sale on at the Mediterranean Conference Centre's website in the first week of September, and further information on receiving tickets to *Danusan* shows through the purchase of books at the festival will then be announced at a later stage.

“The NBC will also be retaining an extended exhibition space for this year's MBF, which will include an extra hall for booksellers and NGOs, and a bigger activity area for the many book presentations, discussions, launches and cultural activities that will be taking place,” the group said.

The NBC added that in the coming weeks it would be also revealing the name of a renowned international author as this year's special guest. The group said members of the public are urged to follow their Facebook page to stay up to date.

Order of Malta's newest recruits



Three of the new Order of Malta cadets being enrolled by Cadet Leader Liz Doyle.

The Order of Malta Ambulance Corp in Drogheda, Ireland welcomed its 15 newest members to the organisation after their enrolment as Cadets.

The Cadet unit is made up of both boys and girls from 10 - 16 years and is the youth element of the Ambulance Corps.

The new Cadets received their enrolment certificate as well as their basic first aid and cardiac first responder certificate.

The Corp also had its first two Cadets promoted to Cadet Sergeant and Cadet Corporal, a huge achievement for all involved. Cadet leader Liz Doyle and Officer in Charge of the Unit James Kershaw paid tribute to all the cadets for their hard work over the last few months since starting in May.

About the Order of Malta Ambulance Corps Cadets

The Order of Malta Ambulance Corps has a dynamic Youth program, which provides first aid training and activities, known as the Cadets. The Cadets cater to children aged between 10 and 16 and is run by senior members of the organisation. It equips children with valuable first aid and home nursing skills and encourages participation in the community. Anyone interested in learning more about the work of the Ambulance Corp, should email drogheda@orderofmalta.ie or see their [Facebook page](#).



ORDER OF MALTA – SOUTH KOREA

Throughout the month of May, the Order of Malta Korea completed five 'Bread for Weekend' services, where the members packed and delivered total 1,500 breads, serving 750 elderly seniors.

In Korea, May is a 'family' month for most, with Children's Day and Parents Day celebrations. Hospitaller Veronica Mihyun Kim and Bona Hye-jung Kang reflected on the meaning and value of family by participating in this volunteer activity on the 3rd May, just two days prior to the Children's Day, together with Bona's lovely seven-year old son Yong-won Cho, who insisted in helping and did a great job of packing and labeling the breads.



ORDER OF MALTA -Medical Clinic - Dili, Timor-Leste

Timor-Leste became the first new sovereign state of the 21st Century in 2002, following 30 years of occupation by Indonesia. At that time, Timor-Leste experienced some of the worst health standards and life expectancy in the Asia-Pacific region, including diseases and conditions which have been eradicated in Australia and elsewhere.

Since independence, there has been a massive improvement in both healthcare and life expectancy, with a combination of local infrastructure and aid funded programs. Nonetheless, there are still significant gaps to be addressed, particularly in maternal and early childhood (neonatal) healthcare

In November 2017 the Order of Malta Medical Clinic opened in Dili and offers free basic primary out of hospital medical care and health education to financially disadvantaged Timorese. Thousands of Timorese have already benefited from the services provided.

The Order of Malta Clinic is entirely funded by donations. Learn more about the Order of Malta Medical Clinic by visiting its website www.orderofmaltaclinic.org.tl