

Maltese e-Newsletter

The Journal of the Maltese Diaspora

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The Maltese living abroad are part of the Greater Malta. We love and are proud of our homeland and we wish the republic a bright future

"ID-DUDI" An 'ghana' quartet from Gozo more than 100 years ago.





THE NEW
PRIME MINISTER OF MALTA
DR. ROBERT ABELA

Congratulations

Know your Maltese Joural - Our Mission

This

Maltese/Global electronic Newsletter is serving as a link of communication between Maltese living in Malta and those who are residing overseas. Hence our motto is "Building Bridges".



We live in a world of instantaneous communication so let's make better use of the internet and broadcasting systems to reach out to one another, to interact and to keep ourselves informed of what small and great endeavours Maltese citizens are undertaking in Malta or overseas.

This flow of information will keep the world up to date about our modern country and its people - Malta. To a significant degree this does happen already within some communities established overseas.

It should be possible for anyone travelling anywhere in the world to be able to find out if there is a fellow

Maltese in a city. We are reaching various regions where many Maltese already live, and their role can include the facility to provide the right connections and make appropriate introductions. We also see this journal as a vehicle for selling the entrepreneurial drive of Maltese as they build their lives and international businesses. Why not work with fellow countrymen and women? If you have been blessed with success then sprinkle some of that magic dust on our students at university or give a helping hand to young, budding entrepreneurs should they call out of the blue and ask for advice. The Government regardless of how far away from Malta one might live is very keen to find out how our communities and individuals are giving a great name to their homeland. We are specifically tasked with making sure opinions are heard on all aspects of new legislation as it may affect citizen's interests.

But, if you don't talk to us, write or e-mail us then we cannot speak up on your behalf. In due time all these lines of communication will be open. The younger population of Maltese living abroad are the masters and mistresses of new technology, new ways of communicating, new trends and styles. I would urge them to be the main drivers and helping to set its course and agenda. We can and should celebrate our history, for it is only by understanding the past, and learning from it, that we can forge an even brighter and better future.

In summary, thus journal has been established for all Maltese, to celebrate the lives they are living today, the achievements of the past, and the ambitions for what is yet to come. Because of Malta's geo-strategic location countless visitors, tourists and Europeans are helping Malta to build a better economy.

We have welcomed them, absorbed their influences, adopted some of their ways; they have had an impact on our culture, on our language and over the centuries created a glorious heritage but throughout we have remained Maltese. I believe Malta is a richer nation because of the wealth of influences and by understanding and rejoicing in our history we can build wider and deeper personal, cultural and commercial relations wherever we find ourselves. We are proud to be Maltese and we must celebrate what it is to be a citizen of Malta. Be connected.

Keeping Maltese Communities Connected

NEW PRIME MINISTER PLEDGES UNITY, STABILITY AND PEACE OF MIND







Matthew Xuereb

Prime Minister Robert Abela

In his first address to the nation just hours after taking his oath of office as Prime Minister, Robert Abela promised that his government will deliver national unity, stability and peace of mind "because this is what people want".

"People want peace of mind and stability and this is what we will deliver. People want national unity because this always made us stronger. Let us find common ground so that together we can move forward," he said, echoing his leadership slogan.

Dr Abela said the government will continue implementing its

2017 electoral manifesto to continue improving people's lives through social justice and social mobility and ensure that the country's wealth reaches more people.

He said it was his privilege to serve and ensure that the country keeps moving forward to create more wealth and register more successes.

"I am in politics to help people and this is what I will keep doing. Together we will keep working for the benefit of the country," he said.

The editorial staff and readers of this Journal of Maltese living abroad wish Dr. Robert Abela all the success in his new office of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Malta

MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER CONNECTING COMMUNITIES

Read, enjoy, share and support your journal

We belong to the same global village

Building Bridges between us and linking Maltese all over the world



We encourage our readers in Adelaide to support this special fund-raising function. It is envisaged that a rowing event will take place in Malta ANZAC DAY 2021. The full details are not yet avaiable and we keep you updated as soon as we receive information from the organisers. For tickets and other details contact John Calleja on 0414 932481

The countries with the noisiest neighbours have been revealed in a new poll – with Malta coming out



on top. Malta was ranked as the worst place in Europe for noise last year, as a result of rowing couples yelling, late night DIY fanatics and loud music.

<u>Eurostat</u> said more than a quarter of people in Malta experienced noise problems coming from their neighbours or the street.

Malta topped the noise list at 28.2 per cent, followed by Germany on 27.8 per cent and the Netherlands on 27.1 per cent.

Next in the rankings were those living in Portugal on 23 per cent, Romania on 20 per cent and the United Kingdom on 19.8 per cent.

The survey found that people living in cities or built up areas like Malta were twice as likely to suffer from noisy neighbours than those in rural areas. Bay News



5 - 7 Jun 2020 EUROPEAN ROWING CHAMPIONSHIP

EVENT INFORMATION ELIGIBILITY

All European Member National Federations plus Israel shall be eligible to compete in the European Rowing Championships. An athlete must present a valid passport from the country for which he wishes to compete (as per FISA rules).

EVENTS OFFERED

The events offered at the **European Rowing Championships** are:

Men (M): 1x, 2x, 2-, 4x, 4-, 8+ Women (W): 1x, 2x, 2-, 4x, 4-, 8+ Lightweight men (LM): 1x, 2x, 4x Lightweight women (LW): 1x, 2x, 4x

Para-rowing: PR1 M1x, PR1 W1x, PR2 Mix2x, PR3 Mix4+

ABOUT THE VENUE

Lake Malta regatta course is located in the centre of Poznan. It is one of the most modern venues in the world and over the last twenty years has hosted large international events in water sports. Poznan hosted the 2007 and 2015 European Rowing Championships, the 2009 World Rowing Championships, the 2016 World Rowing Cup III and the 2017 World Rowing Cup II.

Poznan is located in west-central Poland along the Warta River. It is the fifth largest city amongst one of the oldest cities in Poland. Its population is approximately 550,000.

The origins of the first Poznan rowing club go back to the year 1904. Its initiator and founder was Maciej Wierzbinski who settled then in Poznan after a long-term stay in England. In 1912 the Tryton Poznan Association was established, and in 1919 the Students' Sport Association began life. In the same year the Polish Federation of Rowing Associations (Polski Zwiazek Towarzystw Wioslarskich, PZTW) was established in Poznan. It was one of the first sports federations created in the reborn Poland, and was founded by 13 sports clubs. In 1924 Polish rowers took part in the 9th Olympic Games in Paris for the first time, entering two crews, a single and a four, into competition. They won their first Olympic medal (bronze) during their second Olympic appearance in 1928 in Amsterdam. From 1925, Polish rowing crews participated in the European Championships until their last appearance in 1938. The rowers returned to the European Championships after the Second World War in 1947, in Lucerne.

Website: https://www.erch2020.eu/ Email: office@rowing.poznan.pl Tel: +48-601-305-136

Fax: +48-61-864-0866

Address: ul. Władysława Reymonta 35, 60-751 Poznań, Poland

MALTESE SAYING

"Take is easy – bhal l-Inglizi" A rhyming couplet based on the assumption that the English (i.e. British) are normally relaxed when compared to the Maltese frantic temperament...hence "Take it easy – like the English"! Meaning = be relaxed and cool like the English! But, are the British really relaxed and laid back?



Of Poznań's many lakes it's Malta - to the east that is the best known, and its surroundings are well worth further investigation. Formed in 1952 as a result of damming the Cybina, this 2.2km long lake is the largest man-made lake in the city, with an average depth of 3.1 metres. Surrounded by parks and woodland, it is today one of the principal recreation areas in the region - in both summer and winter - with an ice-rink, ski slope (the first in former communist Europe), a worldclass regatta course, zoo, water park, and dozens of other attractions, including several historical sights. Just east of the centre, but miles from the madness of the market square, if you're in town to decompress, head to Malta. **History**

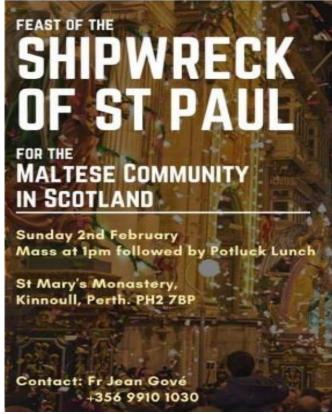
- What you see before you wasn't always a lake, more of a river running by Poznań. In 1178 Prince Mieszko invited representatives of the Knights Hospitaller to the region, and they in turn built **St. John of Jerusalem Church** - now regarded as the oldest brick place of worship in the country. By 1530 the West European branch of the Knights had resettled on Malta, and so their order found itself renamed The Knights of Malta. The chaps who had come to Poland followed suit, and soon the locals were also referring to the area they decamped to as 'Malta.'

For the next few hundred years Malta went largely unnoticed, and it was only in the 19th century that the people of Poznań suddenly realised they had a great place to head for a weekend stroll, or wobble around on a newfangled contraption called a bicycle. Adding to Malta's appeal was its dense greenery and relative isolation from prying eyes, making it popular with frisky couples. After WWI numerous

ideas for Malta came to the fore, but all eventually hit a wall with the exception of Adam Ballenstaedt's 'Freedom Mound.' Not ones to faff around and wait for planning permission it was the Nazis who actually changed Malta to the Malta we know today. It was on their initiation that thousands of slave workers were drafted in and began

damming the river to create a lake, and while they never saw their plans realised, the communists who took over did. The job was finished in 1952, and the results you can see for yourself.

Between 1980 and 1989 the lake was completely drained, and the surrounding area given a facilities facelift in time for the World Canoeing Championship in 1990. Today it's still regarded as a top-quality course, as proved by the decision to hold the 2009 World Rowing Championships here. An enormously popular leisure destination for people throughout the region, new attractions and facilities are constantly being added as the area's allure continues to grow.





The TVM news bulletin has once again ended up X Factor on TVM, with 69,000 viewers. with the biggest audiences from all television It resulted from the 1,240 persons taking part in viewers.

carried out in November by the National Statistics foreign stations. Office for the Broadcasting Authority has shown The survey showed that viewers who follow ONE viewers, reaching just under 35%, which station than any other channel. translates into registered the second-highest number of viewers.

The 8.00 p.m. bulletin on TVM reached an audience of just under 124,000, and on every day

TVM news bulletin with biggest viewership among stations in Malta : Reno Bugeja

of the week from Monday to Sunday the 8.00 p.m. news registered the highest number of viewers from any programme on all local stations. The second-largest audience among local stations was registered by the entertainment programme

stations in Malta. An audience survey carried out the survey that news programmes are the most by the Broadcasting Authority in November sought after, followed by drama, and with shows that the 8.00 p.m. news bulletin reached discussion and current affairs programmes in an audience of nearly 124,000, and on any day of third place. The survey showed that in November, the week the audience was greater than that for television stations jointly registered a 10.5% any other local programme. TVM registered the increase in viewership when compared to the highest audience among all stations with 138,000 previous survey carried out in July. The survey also showed that just over 69% of the population The latest television and radio audience survey follow local stations, with nearly 31% following

once again that TVM had the highest number of TV spend more time viewing their favourite

138,000 viewers. One TV On the radio front, One Radio has retained its audience, position as the station with the biggest following, exceeding 20%. Net TV registered an audience of although 89.7 Bay has the highest number of just under 8%. PBS' second TV station, TVM2, listeners, nearly 21%. Radju Malta is in third qualified as the fifth station with the highest placing, with nearly 13% of radio listeners saying they prefer the national station.



89.7 Bay is crowned Malta's number one again

89.7 Bay has once again been crowned Malta's number one radio station.

Official research shows Bay cemented its position at the top spot with an impressive audience reach of 20.78%. The independent survey was carried out in November

2019 and commissioned by the **Broadcasting Authority**.

The research showed that 89.7 Bay continues to dominate radio listening in Malta, reaching a larger audience than the three other music radio stations – Vibe FM, XFM and Malta's Magic – all put together. In a statement, a spokesman for the Broadcasting Authority said: '89.7 Bay attracted the largest amount of radio listeners on 20.78 per cent followed by One Radio on 16.38 per cent and Radio Malta on 12.84 per cent.'

More than 57.7 per cent of those questioned said they listened to the radio every day, an increase of 2.5 per cent on the previous survey.

Bay station manager Andrew Zammit said: 'It goes without saying that I'm immensely proud of the team at Bay – their drive, focus, dedication and sheer hard work has truly reaped dividends.'

For more stories from across the Maltese Islands like our <u>Bay Easy</u> and <u>89.7 Bay</u> Facebook pages, or follow us on <u>Instagram</u>.

Museums and Sites - The Mediterranean in a nutshell

Is it possible to fit 35 million years, 30 museums and sites, seven world heritage sites and one national agency in just one book? Heritage Malta's latest publication proves it can be done.

Heritage Malta Museums & Sites: The Mediterranean in a Nutshell provides detailed but concise one-page accounts focusing on essential data about each of Heritage Malta's museums and sites. These are accompanied by one-page images and a set of brief main points, together with the address, contact, weblink and QR code of each place.

The engaging pages take readers on a journey of discovery of these islands.

Among the sites featured is Malta's oldest one, Ghar Dalam, a 144-metre deep cave which serves like a time capsule covering one million years. The remains of extinct prehistoric fauna, as well as evidence of the first humans, which were unearthed from this cave, are now exhibited in the Victorian-style museum located at this site.

Each of the six megalithic structures in Malta and Gozo – Ħaġar Qim, Mnajdra, Skorba, Ta' Ħaġrat, Tarxien Temples and Ġgantija – have their own particular story to tell. However, they all share the prestigious honour of being listed as Unesco World Heritage sites.

The Borġ in-Nadur prehistoric ruins include a Bronze Age village, a late Neolithic temple and a cluster of bell-shaped silos. Both serving to shed further light on Malta's prehistory while adding more enigmatic finds, the place points also to other historical elements which can be found in the surrounding context.

Hal Saflieni Hypogeum is another Unesco World Heritage site. The multi-level subterranean burial site, which delves 11 metres below street level, is one of the most intriguing and remarkable prehistoric locations of the Maltese islands.



Beautifully carved out using just stone and bone tools and craftily decorated with neolithic wall paintings, the place acts as a unique witness to a civilisation which disappeared.

The two historical burial grounds, namely St Paul's Catacombs and Ta' Bistra Catacombs, have their own particular characteristics. While the former is a maze of 1,025 tombs situated beneath houses and streets, the latter is located in an ancient quarry and contains 44 catacombs.

The Domvs Romana is a testimony of the life of an affluent Roman family which owned this residence in Malta. While the richly-decorated marbles that have survived in this site are a direct proof of opulence, the several daily life artefacts portray a bygone era.

Having been used as a place of exile since ancient times, the Maltese islands have their share of historical prisons. One of the oldest ones is situated at the Citadel of Gozo, with its original cells dating back to 1548. Among its most curious features, one finds the scores of inmates' graffiti, including ships, handprints, crosses, names and dates.

Text by: Alan Fenech, Godwin Vella, Vincent Zammit

Photography and Design: Pierre Balzia

The publication is available from Heritage Malta's museums and sites.

Two Rising Stars

Every one that attended St. Catherine Feast Ball in Adelaide on the 16th November will attest to the wonderful night that it was. The atmosphere was certainly a happy one, because of the good food, great ambience, and of course the great music by the "Cross Road" band that kept everyone on the dance floor, all night.

However, when everyone was having a spell, but the music was still going, everyone including myself found themselves focussing on the dance floor. There were two young girls who captivated us with their slick and smooth

footwork. I think that Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers would have envied the these two beautiful girls wearing lovely dresses and beaming smiles gliding across the dance floor with such finesse.

Such was the admiration of these two damsels, that they were given a hearty applause when they returned back to sit with their relatives.



Intrigued by the stylish and fluent dancing of these two young ladies, I approached their grandparents, Fran and Bob and their uncle Tony, who told me with pride that the girls, Lucy and Ella Nuttal Gilbert, were actually 9 year old twins who enjoyed their dancing so much that they were encouraged to take formal dancing lessons at Theatre Bugs Dance School, and were obviously enjoying their talents on the dance floor that night much to the pleasure of their admirers! As if that is not enough, Lucy is also taking Singing Lessons. Such dedication and commitment!

On talking with their grandparents, I found out that these young ladies are not only budding dancing stars, but they have been learning music as well, because they have also been learning to play brass instruments through their school with Salvation Army Brass. One is learning Trumpet and the other, the Euphonium. Not only are they budding dancers but also musicians as well, perhaps one day soon they may become members of the Maltese Queen of Victories Band of South Australia as well!!

Well done Lucy and Ella!

Townsquare Sliema to resume with excavation works

Townssquare submits new application for a lifestyle business hotel



by Karl Azzopardi

Excavation works will resume at the Townsquare project site in Sliema after the Planning Authority approved the revised plans, the company said.

The developers said that excavation works will be carried out with the "latest equipment", helping to minimise noise and keeping dust to a minimum.

The equipment has been used successfully for the University Residence Hub outside Mater Dei Hospital,

project CEO Peter Diacono said.

He added that a new application for a lifestyle business hotel has been submitted, located in a building earmarked for office space.

"Our market research revealed room for a new breed of business hotel in Sliema and this establishment will complement our living, retail, food and business spaces," Diacono said. The footprint of the project's built-up area will remain the same.

The public spaces will include open-air avenues, gardens and a central piazza, making Townsquare the largest pedestrian zone in Sliema's town centre, the developers said.

"Townsquare will also start restoration works on the historical Villa Drago and its surrounding garden," Diacono added



More than 40 cultural events to be held in Valletta throughout 2020

During this year Valletta will host over 40 large cultural events that will include the participation of about 300

artists. The programme was established with the collaboration of artists and the Valletta Cultural Agency. The Head of the Agency's programme, Joanne Attard, explained that a calendar of activities is being prepared.

One of these, "Belt il-Beltin" will take place on a Valletta Day in Pjazza San Ġorġ as well as the Valletta Pageant of The Seas on 7th June that will have a new artistic direction. There will also be "The Secret Garden" which is a project for children and in Maltese. There will be visual arts which will collaborate with a design cluster and inhabitants in the old abattoir area as well as Project 12 that is currently in Triq San Ġwann and will be changed for every month.

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The Agency's CEO, Catherine Tabone, maintained that culture enables skills that create a unified population. She said the Agency's mission is to promote culture and other aspects to continue to create a distinct identity for Malta's capital city.

She said the aim is to spread economic and social regeneration but also to promote artistic culture and to promote these as first and foremost.

During the launching of the year's cultural programme, Chairman Jason Micallef said that over €3 million will be invested in these activities with the participation of about 240 Maltese artists and a further 50 foreign artists.

The Minister for Culture, Owen Bonnici, said the Valletta Cultural Agency was established to continue strengthening Valletta's cultural identity while infrastructure upgrading continues to be regenerated in the city. Minister Bonnici said the ultimate aim is that arts and culture become accessible to all.



Call issued for Malta-Gozo Tunnel project

Posted On January 9, 2020 - Updated 9 January, 2020 1:08pm **Report:** Ruth Castillo

Companies and consortia are being invited to take part in the first of three stages of the process which should lead to the choice of a concessionaire who will design, build, finance, operate and maintain the tunnel between Malta and Gozo.

Prospective parties have until 9 April to reply to a pre-qualification questionnaire (PQQ), through which they will highlight, among others, their previous experience in the construction of similar tunnels.

The Malta-Gozo Tunnel Project includes the building of a 14 km-long tunnel, part of which will be submerged, with two vehicle lanes, one in each direction, and with space in between wide enough for emergency vehicles. It is being proposed that the tunnel will extend from the Xemxija area to Nadur. Through the process which was launched this week, Infrastructure Malta is looking to identify a company or consortium to construct and operate the tunnel for a definite period. The length of the concession will be determined in the final stages of this process. At the end of the concession, the concessionaire will hand over the tunnel infrastructure to Government. The process also indicates that the Government's aim is for this project to be financed without any guarantees or subsidies.

Nine lengthy studies, each one made up of a number of reports, as well as other technical information, have been published as part of the documentation of the pre-qualification questionnaire.

The five best offers, which will be classified in the initial stages of the PQQ, will qualify for the second stage, which includes the Invitation to Participate in Dialogue ITPD). The selection process will be concluded with the Best and Final Offer (BAFO) stage when the best final offer will be chosen.



and abroad



Share it with others send it to us

Bilingual Education

Learning two languages from birth stimulates the grey matter.

What's best when it comes to teaching your little ones their first words? Maltese, English, or a mixture of both? **Helen Raine** investigates the language issue and finds some myths debunked.

Good news for Malta; bilingual babies are officially cleverer. Study after study has shown that learning two languages from birth stimulates the grey matter like nothing else and new research from Singapore has only underlined that conclusion.

However, scientists warn that bringing up a truly bilingual baby is not as simple as speaking Maltese at home then sticking your own little ghajn tuffieha in front of the English version of Thomas the Tank Engine for half an hour a day. It seems that parents in Malta could be squandering a unique linguistic opportunity for their little ones.

The Singaporean study showed babies familiar pictures, revealing the image bit by bit. Researchers found that the bilingual group of babies could recognise the images more quickly that monolingual children. Their conclusion is that there is a "generalised cognitive advantage in bilingual infants that is broad in scope, early to emerge, and not specific to language".

Another Swedish study found that the size of the brain actually increases when language is studied intensively. Recruits who were trained in difficult languages such as Arabic and Russian from scratch had a measurably larger hippocampus after the teaching.

The advantages of being bilingual vastly outweigh short-term drawbacks.

You'd expect, then, that in Malta, a country with two official languages, children would have easy access to this kind of brain training. But one study by Helen Grech at the University of Malta suggests that fewer than 40 percent of Maltese families



speak both languages at home, with the vast majority speaking only Maltese (97 percent identify Maltese as their mother tongue). Maltese students are still best at English overall in the EU (outside the UK) according to Eurostat and, on the streets of Malta, it's rare to come across a Maltese person who speaks absolutely no English. So why aren't we teaching our children to speak both from the cradle?

Myths have abounded since the 1970s that speaking two languages to an infant could confuse them or delay language in a way that could be permanently damaging. Those outdated ideas have now been roundly debunked. It's very clear that not only is it much easier for children to learn a language if they do so from birth but that this actually helps a child's cognitive development in a multitude of ways.

This isn't happening in Malta as often as it could and should. Perhaps it's part of Malta's somewhat schizophrenic cultural approach to language in general. These days, it seems that Maltese is the conversational language of choice and most TV shows originating in the country are in Maltese. Yet, the best-selling newspapers and magazines are in English. University exams are in English. And the government really can't make up its mind, with websites usually being in both languages (but not all pages), official letters and press releases sometimes being sent out in Maltese only but occasionally in English or both.

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Maltese Migration Museum – Valletta Maltese Canadian Archives - Toronto

DOING BUSINESS IN MALTA



MALTA ENTERPRISE It is the country's economic development agency, tasked with attracting new foreign direct investment as well as facilitating the arowth of existing https://www.maltaenterprise.com/

BUSINESS FIRST It is Malta's Government website for the Point of Single Contact for businesses. The formation and tools on this website are designed specifically for business start-ups, as well as established businesses, and the people who advise



and support them. Provides free access to information required for the day to day running of your business. Business First is managed and maintained Malta bv Enterprise. https://businessfirst.com.mt/



TRADE MALTA Malta's Official Export and Trade Promotion Agency. TradeMalta Ltd is a publicformed partnership between Government of Malta and the Malta Chamber of Commerce. Enterprise and Industry. organisation is an executive agency dedicated to supporting Malta-based businesses to reach international markets with their products and services. https://www.trademalta.org/



PROJECTS MALTA It is a Government company that works in Public Private Partnerships promoting and developing sustainable private/public sector joint venture initiatives. These ventures serve to improve Malta's infrastructure, the quality of services being

offered to citizens, and also to improve the value for money that a direct partnership with the private sector brings. Our prime goal will be be geared towards the country's growth and competitiveness. http://www.projectsmalta.com/



THE MALTA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, OF COMMERCE, ENTERPRISE AND INDUSTRY voice of the private sector in Malta. Its principal

mission is to actively represent companies from all economic sectors and ensure that entrepreneurs enjoy the best competitive environment and regulatory conditions possible for the conduct of business. https://www.maltachamber.org.mt/



The official website of the Government of Malta https://www.gov.mt/



MELLIEHA

NICOLA COLLINS

Mellieha is the northernmost town in Malta. Unless you are specifically visiting the island's largest sandy beach or actually staying in Mellieha itself, it is often dismissed as a place to visit. If travelling to Gozo you'll pass through Mellieha to get to and from the ferry terminal. Like other Maltese villages, Mellieha is well worth visiting.



PALACE AT SELMUN A small district of Mellieha, Selmun is often dismissed by visitors and often not known about at all. Overlooking the area is Selmun Palace, built by the Knights of Malta during the reign of Grand Master Manoel de Rohan. Used as both a hunting lodge and noble residence, it not only had acres of grounds attached to it, but also boasted views across Mellieha and beyond. Later used by the British as a naval hospital during the Maltese rebellion against the French. In more recent years, the Selmun Palace Hotel was built adjacent to the palace, but running at a loss it eventually

closed n 2011. Now left uninhabited and unattended, the building is beginning to see the ravages of time and is presently for sale...if you a spare few million euros.

MALTA'S LARGEST SANDY BEACH Ghadira Bay, or Mellieha Bay, not only has the largest sandy beach on the island, but is also one of Malta's 12 beaches that have been awarded with Blue Flag status. This popular tourist spot with shallow, clear waters that stretch out for almost a mile has plenty of facilities on hand. Sun loungers and umbrellas can be hired, refreshment kiosks are open all day, wheelchair accessibility has been installed and numerous water sports take place. Stroll a little farther along the beach to catch boat trips to Comino and the Blue Lagoon.

ENJOY THE SUN Comprising two beaches (Armier Bay and Little Armier Bay), this place is much quieter and set in a rural area of Mellieha. Frequented predominantly by locals, there's the opportunity to hire a sunbed and umbrella or enjoy an equal amount of space dedicated to people who bring their own towels to relax on. With a refreshment kiosk on hand serving drinks, ice creams and hot and cold food, there's no need to worry about taking your own. As with other Maltese beaches, the waters are clear and remain shallow for quite some distance. The bays' locations can mean they're quite a walk from the nearest bus stop, so it's best to visit by car.



VISIT THE FILM SET OF POPEYE 1980 saw the release of *Popeye* the film starring Robin Williams and filmed in Malta. Nearly 40 years on, the set still stands as a major tourist attraction. Wander round Sweethaven and experience first-hand the village of crooked buildings looking out over the Mediterranean. Now with swimming pools, sunbathing areas, boat trips, dining areas, a couple of gift shops and plenty of entertainment from the animators included, Popeye Village is a perfect place for all the family to spend the best part of a day.

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THE CHURCH IN THE SQUARE Located in Mellieha's main square is the Parish church, built between 1883 and 1898. Using Maltese stone from a nearby quarry, each piece was carried to the site by people classed as peasants at the time. The church is dedicated to the Birth of Our Lady. When the first stone of the church was laid it was blessed by the parish priest, Reverend Francis Maria Magri and again blessed by Bishop Pietro Pace on completion. The neighbouring Sanctuary of Our Lady was constructed in the late 16th century, and extended in following years as the population of Mellieha grew. 1990 saw Pope John Paul II blessing the sanctuary while visiting Malta, photographs of which remain on display inside.



THE WWII AIR RAID SHELTERS A few steps away from Mellieha's Parish Square, you'll find one of the largest WWII underground air raid shelters on the island. Open to the public daily, the small doorway leading in is quite misleading to what actually lies behind. The tunnels, which have a depth of 12 metres and stretch for over 500 metres, were completely hand-dug. A main corridor leads to separate rooms that had many uses, such as a maternity room and a room for valuables which remained guarded during the war. Protecting the Mellieha community and refugees, more 'well-off' families were able to apply for a license to

dig their own separate room. With sound effects and mannequins, the shelters today make a wonderful visitor attraction and at the same time provide a cool break from the sunshine outside.

GHADIRA NATURE RESERVE sits opposite the beach, a seven-acre land of salt marshes and a large lake. Open every weekend between November and May, it provides visitors with the best times of year to see Malta's wildlife at its best. The reserve is part of Malta's Birdlife Project and as well as providing the public with locations to see the wildlife they provide rehabilitation for injured birds. With hides open for birdwatchers and photographers and wild flowers popping up as early as February, this is also an ideal location to spot some lizards scurrying through the undergrowth. Run by knowledgeable volunteers who are only too happy to answer your questions.



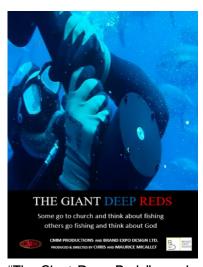
VISIT A HIDDEN SHRINE Across the main road from Mellieha shelters is this tranquil and captivating grotto. Accessed through a small gateway and down a flight of steps, this place often gets walked straight past by visitors unaware of what sits beneath their feet. A place of pilgrimage, the rear walls are lined with handwritten letters of gratitude and prayers. A perfect place to sit in silence, light a candle and collect your thoughts. Mellieha Grotto © Wiki Commons



THE RED TOWER Standing tall on St Marfa's Ridge, Mellieha, is St Agatha's Tower, more commonly known as the Red Tower due to it's painted color, which remained during its restoration process. This watch tower, protecting the straits between Malta and Gozo, was built in 1649 when the island was under the rule of Grand Master Jean Paul Lascaris Castellar. Dedicated to St Agatha, the tower houses a small chapel and originally had two extra rooms used as the sleeping areas for its 49-man garrison. The tower's distinct colour, location and four turrets make it visible across Mellieha.

, location and four turrets make it visible across Mellieha.

THE DORMANS



Maltese documentaries 'The Normans' and 'The Giant Deep Reds' win international awards

Locally-produced documentaries, one on Medieval period in Malta, the other on bluefin tuna, win international awards by Massimo Costa

Two documentaries produced in Malta have gone on to win international awards this year.

The documentaries "The Normans" and

"The Giant Deep Reds", produced by Chris & Maurice Micallef, won awards at international IMdB rated festivals in the last couple of months.

The Normans focuses on the medieval period in the Maltese islands, and has won best picture, best documentary feature, best television script and best trailer in the US Filmcon Awards.

Filmcon judges said the producers created "an impressive historical film with high production value, using live action shots, 3d animation, drawings, mythology stories, narration, dramatic score and beautiful sound design"



The Filmcon Award won by 'The Normans'

Other awards were given at the Latitude Film Awards held in the UK, the Druk International Film Festival, the Calcutta International Cult Film Festival and the Crown Wood International Film Festival held in India, and the Florence Film Awards held in Italy, which saw them winning best costume design, best documentary feature, best educational film, best trailer, best production design, best director, best cinematography, best editing and best sound design for a number of times in these festivals.

The Giant Deep Red, which deals with the bluefin tuna and will be televised on One TV in 2020 also bagged awards, including the White Unicorn International Film Festival in India, where the documentary was voted as the best film, the best documentary, the best film on nature/environment and wildlife and best trailer.

Other awards were registered at the Pinnacle Film Awards, Topshorts, Los Angeles Independent Film Festival Awards, Metro Film & TV Awards, So you can act film competition, Royal Wolf Film Awards, Festigious Los Angeles Competition, Short CineFest, the New York Film Awards, the Mindfield Film Festival and the Spotlight Documentary Awards, all held in the US and the Cult Critic Movie Awards which was held in India.

In all, to date The Normans has won 53 international awards, while The

Giant Deep Reds got 44.

Both documentaries were produced by CMM Productions, in collaboration with Brand Expo Design and One Group. The Micallefs have to-date won 339 awards in film-making both locally and in international film and video festivals.





JP2 Foundation special commemoration year Epiphany Concert



The JP2 Foundation of Gozo is organising a special year of of activities, which will reach its climax on Monday, the 18th of May, when it commemorates the first centenary of the birth of Karol Wojtyla and thirty years since Pope Saint John Paul II visited the Maltese Islands. The Foundation started the New Year 2020 with the first of these

The Foundation started the New Year 2020 with the first of these activities in the third edition of the Epiphany Concert, held at the Church dedicated to St Anthony of Padua in Ghajnsielem.

The Concert involved four Gozitan Children Choirs:- "KorUliedil-Battista" from St John the Baptist Parish, in Xewkija, "Kor Magnificat" from St Joseph Parish in Qala, "Kor Virgo" from "Our Lady of Loreto" Parish in Ghajnsielem and "Kor Sant'Antnin" hailing from the church of St. Anthony of Padua in Ghajnsielem, where there is also a Community of Franciscan Fathers.

These four choirs sang various Christmas melodies that were warmly welcomed by the audience present.

The concert also hosted pop singer Chiara, as well as the young promising Gozitan Tenor Angelo Muscat, and Maltese singer Brad Cardona.

Brad and Chiara sang together the original song "Angel," a song that Chiara presented in the Eurovision Song Contest in 2005. Angelo and Chiara sang "The Prayer" a song which ended with a standing ovation by all those present.

The two-and-a-half-hour concert ended with the participation of the four choirs, the Maltese pop singer Brad, the Gozitan Tenor Angelo and Chiara singing together "Helu Bambin."

The Foundation thanked the Ministry for Gozo, the Ghajnsielem Local Council and the Community of Franciscan Fathers who helped to raise the necessary funding for this event.

"Naffaxxina ruħi nisma' I-ħobża Maltija u I-ftira tfaqqa'. II-ftira tajba biż-żejt u t-tadam, ftit melħ u bżar. Jiena



hekk inhobbha. Mill-forn li ghandi ģewwa Ħal Qormi qieghed hawn bil-vann indur mat-toroq ta' Ħaż-Żabbar inbigh il-hobż Malti. Ghadni nahdem bil-forn tal-hatab u l-Malti ghadu jfittixha din u jippreferiha mill-furnata tad-dawl. Is-sodisfazzjon tieghi hu xhin il-hobż johroġ mill-forn u tisimghu jfaqqa'. M'hemmx festi u mhemmx Ħdud ghalija. Dejjem ghaddej. Wara l-furnata nohroġ indur triq triq inbigh dak li nkun ipproduċejt." –Twanny

"The sound of the Maltese bread and ftira crackling fascinates me. The ftira tastes best with oil and tomatoes and a pinch of salt and pepper. That's the way I like it. From my bakery in Qormi I drive around the streets of Zabbar selling Maltese

bread. I still work with a wood-burning oven which the Maltese prefer over an electric one. The greatest satisfaction is when the bread is taken out of the oven and you can hear it crackling. There are no feasts or Sundays for me. I am always in the go. When the bread is done I drive through the streets selling what I produce."

— in Haz-Zabbar, Malta. https://www.facebook.com/thepeopleofmalta/

MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER 302



'Keeping Connected' A convention for Maltese Living Abroad announced for October 2020

The Ministry announced that in October 2020 a convention for the Maltese living abroad will be held in Malta. The chosen theme is 'Keeping Connnected' and it will be largely devoted to workshops composed of Maltese who live abroad with the aim to discuss and submit new ideas and suggestions to better protect the interests of the Maltese diaspora abroad. This announced by Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade Promotion Carmelo Abela during a press conference at the closure of the 10th annual meeting of the Council of Maltese living abroad, who for the last two met for their annual meeting at the builling of the Ministry in Valletta. More details will follow.

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Email ronborg@mac.com



PILGRIMAGE – TOUR to the HOLY LAND

with Mgr Dr Joseph Farrugia Curator of Il-Hagar Museum

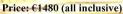
3-10 March 2020







Jerusalem, Nazareth, Bethlehem,
Tiberias, Tabor, Capernahum,
the Jordan Valley, Cana, Ein Karim,
Beit Jalal and Lydda, the Qumran,
the Templar city of Acre, the Fortress
of Masada and other cultural sites
including the Yad Vashem.



Accommodation in the historic centres of Nazareth, Bethlehem and Jerusalem

Full board (breakfast, lunch and dinner)

Coach

Entrance fees to Capernaum, Acre, Muhraqa, Masada, Qumran, Dead Sea.

The number of participants is limited and booking is on a first come first served basis.

e. events@heartofgozo.org.mt m. +35699021591

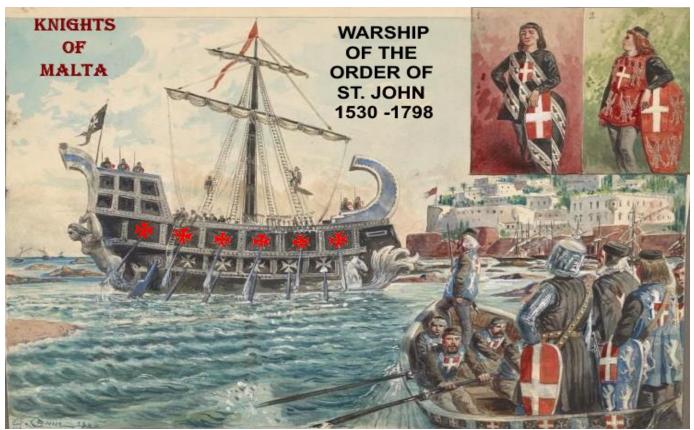














Mark loved magic since he was as young as seven years. He was given a magic set box as a gift on his seventh birthday. His family and friends, at school the Salesian Oratory, always loved to see his new tricks that he used to prepare from

time to time. He recalled, with a smile, during our interview, his first commissioned magic show at the age of ten. He was asked to perform at a friend's Confirmation party. He remembered that show took him weeks to prepare. The show was a success. He wasn't paid but given a nice present. He never looked back.

Mark kept buying new magic books and studied deeply to developed new ways and ideas to do tricks. He got his first qualification in the art of Magic as a member of the International Brotherhood of Magicians at the age of twelve, becoming the youngest magician on the Island at the time. Mark was also lucky, since his father was a carpenter and had all the tools he needed to build up boxes and illusion for his shows that marvelled his audience at where ever he performed

He appeared on Malta television at the age of 14 and was also the resident magician during a popular children's TV program. From this time on Mark managed to get his father as his taxi driver, taking him to privet homes to perform at various children's parties. Many a times, three to four time a day. In 1984 Mark was the youngest magician ever to perform live during a New Year's Eve Gala Dinner Dance at the Ramla Bay Hotel.

By time and great sacrifices Mark gained experience. Now he has decided to dedicate his magical carrier to excel in children's parties. Today, without pretence, He considers himself an expert in the field of children entertainment.

"I don't just do Children's Magic shows. I do them correctly and professionally "



"ID-DUDI" An 'ghana' quartet from Gozo more than 100 years ago.



Maltese Folk Music and Singing: Ghana

Traditional Maltese folk music has deep roots that date back to the 16th century, since music has always played an important part in the every day life of Maltese people. This type of local folk music is called ghana in Maltese.

It can safely be said that folk music in Malta was heavily influenced by its geographical location. In fact, researchers state that ghana is a combination of the famous Sicilian ballad mixed with Arabic tunes.

In the old days, visitors to the Maltese islands used to comment that they were very impressed with the Maltese people's seemingly natural ability to sing and ryhme. This folk singing was widespread on the islands and one could hear men and women singing while doing their daily activities on the farm, in the fields or around the house. Ghana was in fact the music of peasants, fishermen and working class

men and women.

A close look at the lyrics will reveal that each song usually recounts a story about life in the village or some important event in Malta history.

Street hawkers used to sing folk songs to attract attention to their products and declare how their products where better than the ones the seller next to them was selling! That's traditional Maltese marketing! Nowadays the ghannej (meaning folk singer) is usually accompanied by three guitarists. However, in the old days there used to be other musicians accompanying the singer.

The Mysterious and Amazing Hypogeum

A hypogeum is the Latin name for an underground structure –

In the past Malta has been the possession of many nationalities, and has been considered to be one of the most strategic areas on earth, being a port and an intersecting point between Europe, Asia, the Middle East, and Africa, etc.

This 9-mile-long island was an ancient centre of civilization at the time when the

Phoenicians from Carthage invaded and began to rule it.

When a group of ancient priests who worshipped the "god" Moloch (another name for Baal, Osiris, or Nimrod - considered by the ancients to be the "sun god") visited the island in Old Testament times, the islanders readily accepted their teachings, including that of offering up human sacrifices to appease their "god" Moloch, for the ancient Maltese themselves practiced human blood sacrifice to the "gods" of the underworld which were believed to exist beneath the island and elsewhere, so-called deities which were often identified with "serpents".

When the Apostle Paul visited the island as recorded in the book of ACTS chapter 28, he learned of their superstitious beliefs concerning serpents after he had been bitten by one of the beasts on the island (at the time called Melita) and survived by the power of the *risen Jesus* - a god which the Maltese knew nothing about until Paul's fateful visit. Since the time of the Carthagians, Malta has had many rulers - Romans, Arabs, Normans, Argonese, Castillians, the Hospitalers or the Order of St. John of Jerusalem, later known



as the Knights of Rhodes, and still later as the Knights of Malta, who remain there to this day, having duel headquarters in Rome. A few miles south of the town of Valletta, Malta, is the small village of Casal Paula.

In the year 1902, workmen who were digging a well literally fell into the earth. What they discovered (or rather re-discovered) was a series of ancient caves, mostly excavated out of solid rock, which descended into the earth and into three lower levels below. These multi-leveled catacombs became known as the "Hypogeum of Hal Saflieni", named after the street beneath which they were discovered.

Near the floor of the last chamber, within the 3rd and last (officially recognized) sub-level of these ancient catacombs, there are a few so-called "burial chambers".

These are only a few feet square and situated right next to the floor, and one must get on their knees just to look into them. These "burial chambers" are just large enough for one to crawl through.

There have for years been rumors that one of these "burial chambers" does not end, but

continues into deeper and unexplored caverns beyond.

This, according to certain sources, was the **subterranean passage** and chamber which was referred to years ago in an article which appeared in the August, 1940 issue of the *NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC Magazine* The article stated the following concerning several people who disappeared in these catacombs without a trace: "Many subterranean passageways, including ancient catacombs, now are a part of the island's fortifications and defense system. Supplies are kept in many tunnels; others are bomb shelters. Beneath Valletta some of the underground areas served as homes for the poor.

Prehistoric men built temples and chambers in these vaults. In a pit beside one sacrificial altar lie thousands of human skeletons. Years ago one could walk underground from one end of Malta to the other. The Government closed the entrances to these tunnels after school children and their teachers became lost in the labyrinth while on a study tour and never returned."

The story goes much "deeper" however, than the NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC article indicates.

Other sources say that ABOUT 30 CHILDREN vanished in these catacombs on the study tour, and that when the "Hypogeum" was first discovered nearly 30,000 human skeletons of men, women and children (victims of ancient sacrifice to the "underworld gods", performed by an old neolithic race) were discovered as well. One article written by a Miss Lois Jessup, at the time an employee of the British embassy and later secretary for the New York Saucer Information Bureau (better known as NYSIB), appeared in an old issue of Riley Crabb's BORDERLAND SCIENCE magazine, published by the Borderland Sciences Research Foundation (B.S.R.F.) and was later reprinted in full in Dr. Allen's book FANTASTIQUE. **ENIGMA** Miss Jessup claimed that she visited Malta and the Hypogeum also, once before the tragic disappearance of the children, and shortly thereafter. She described how on her first visit to the catacombs she finally convinced the guide to allow her to investigate one of the so-called "burial chambers" near the floor of the last chamber in the third sub-basement, the supposed "end" of the Hypogeum tour. He seemed to know something she didn't, but finally consented and told her that she could enter at "her own risk".

As she did so, candle in hand and her loosed sash being used as a guide rope for her friends who followed behind, she crawled through the small passage and eventually emerged into a large cavern, where she found herself on a ledge overlooking a very deep, seemingly bottomless chasm.

Below and on the other side of the chasm was another ledge which appeared to lead to a doorway or tunnel in the far wall. We realize that what happened next might sound unbelievable to many who read this, but we would ask them to make their own determination of it's validity. Miss Jessup swears that what follows really happened. Out of this lower tunnel on the far side of the chasm, she claims, emerged in single file several very large creatures of humanoid form but completely covered with hair from head to foot. Noticing her, they raised their arms in her direction, palms out, at which point a violent "wind" began to blow through the cavern, snuffing out her candle. Then, some "thing" wet and slippery (apparently a creature of a different sort) brushed past her.

This all happened just as the person behind her was beginning to emerge from the passage and into the cavern. They could not understand her panicked attempts to get back to the "Hypogeum" room, but they consented after she insisted.

When they found themselves back in the Hypogeum chamber, the guide saw her expression and gave her a "knowing" look. About a week afterwards the disappearance of the children and their teacher(s) took place, and on her second visit she saw an entirely new guide who denied that the other guide had ever worked there, although she knew that this new guide was hiding something.

She learned from more cooperative sources however, that THIS was the tunnel that the children and their teacher(s) and possibly the old guide, had entered. She also learned that after the last child had made it through, the walls of the small tunnel just "happened" to collapse or cavein.

Although the official version stated that the walls caved-in on the students, search parties were never able to locate any trace of the teacher(s) or the children, although the rope that they had used to fasten themselves to the lower Hypogeum chamber was found to have been CLEAN CUT as if by something sharp (not falling rock).

It was asserted that for weeks afterwards the wailing and screaming of children was heard underground in different parts of the island, but no one could locate the sources of the cries.



Do you remember the publications Denfil and Saghtar?

After the summer holidays, thousands of students returned to school. And, on the first day, every student is eager to find out who are his classmates, his new teachers, and what are his school books for that particular year.

Among several books aimed at children, which for many years were used or distributed in schools, are Dolphin

(id-Denfil) and Thyme (Saghtar, which are no longer with us, and which are rarely talked about.

At <u>-TVAM</u>, one of the brains behind these books, author and editor Victor Fenech, explained that when Malta was about to obtain her Independence, the Head of State of Malta at the time, Agatha Barbara, had asked that the series of books which was published when Malta was still under the British, 'A bouquet of roses' ('Ġabra ta' ward') be changed. Which is how the publication "Id-Denfil" came to be.

Asked what became of Saghtar. Mr Fenech said that after 354 publications, he believes that its time had passed, as today's children have become more technological and reading has declined sharply.



Maltese Man Stranded in The Philippines After Lava-Spewing Volcano Leads To Mass Evacuation

By <u>Jean Paul Azzopardi</u> lovinmalta.com

January 13, 2020

As millions are evacuated following a deadly volcano eruption, one Maltese man finds himself stranded alone in the Philippines and at the mercy of the ash cloud that prevents him from coming home.

Jean Zammit kicked off 2020 with a two-week vacation to the enchanting islands of the Philippines where he spent his days soaking up the sun on the shores of Coron Palawan and Boracay.

But as Jean was preparing to come home, Manila's Taal Volcano blasted steam, ash and pebbles nine miles into the sky.

Flights have since been cancelled, with droves being evacuated and inciting nationwide fear of an explosive eruption. "Most of the international airlines have cancelled their flights due to the ash cloud," Jean told Lovin Malta. "We have no information when they'll fly again."

At least 10 flights have been cancelled as a result of the looming grey cloud that covers Manila, including the Emirates flight that was supposed to bring Jean back home. As a result, the Maltese makeup artist has been forced to desperately search for accommodation, something he was lucky enough to find given the position he is in.

"Thank God I had some savings because not everyone can afford to pay for a hotel for a few more days. ROCS Group is helping me since the airline won't provide any accommodation in the case of national disasters. It's so important to have travel insurance because you never know when you need it."

Jean has managed to avoid most of the immediate danger by being in the nearby city of Cebu but that doesn't make his time there any less stressful as Philippine authorities have urged a total evacuation of nearly half a million people near the capital Manila fearing a possible explosive eruption from the active Taal volcano.

"I am safe but all anyone can talk about is the eruption," he said. "They are evacuating people and many are stuck like me with no idea when we'll fly back. We just need to wait and see."



Attention members: General Meeting on Sunday January 26th, 2020. All members encouraged to attend. Please contact a Committee member to be up to date with dues, those who would like to become a member may do so on the website or at the Center (subject to approval), nomination forms are available fr om a committee member.



