



Maltese eNewsletter

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ISSUE 333

Editor: Frank Scicluna



TAL-QUBBAJT

MRS. MALTA



MALTESE LIVING
ABROAD ARE
THE PRIDE OF
MALTA
AND GOZO

MALTESE-CANADIAN AUTHOR
MARTHESE FENECH

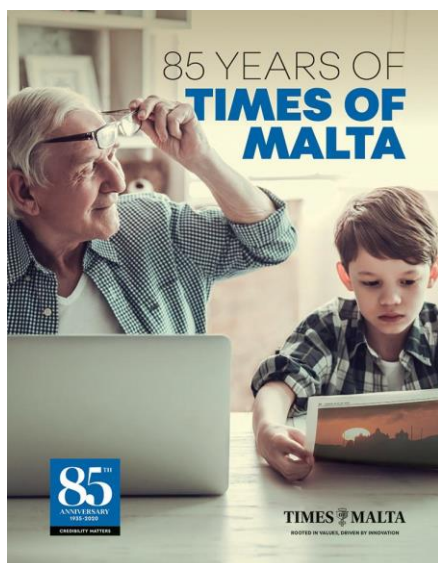
Page 3



HAMRUN
WE MISSED
THE MIDDAY
MARCH



COVID-19



In 1935, Britain's King George V and Queen Mary celebrated their silver jubilee, George Gershwin's *Porgy and Bess* premiered in Boston, Mussolini's army attacked Abyssinia, Persia was named Iran, James Chadwick was awarded the Nobel Prize for Physics for his discovery of the neutron, and Mono-poly board game went on sale for the first time.

And *Times of Malta* was born.

A lot has changed in 85 years. The media landscape especially is unrecognisable from what it was more than eight decades ago, with technology and social media taking centre stage.

But certain elements remain unchanged: independent journalism still serves as a platform for the common good; still provides a snapshot of history; still holds people accountable; is still a critical pillar of democracy. And while celebrating 85 years of independent journalism, the publication looks to a

future where *Times of Malta* will continue bearing witness.

Frank on behalf of the readers of your (our) PERIODICAL, I am sure that everyone would love to thank you firstly on a job well done, and secondly and importantly thank you for welding us together through this paper. Frank, GRAZZI HAFNA.

Percy Eugene Cartwright Jnr - Shellharbour City NSW August 2020

MRS MALTA



"Winning a beauty and fashion contest was a childhood dream. I cannot describe the moment when I was declared Mrs. Malta 2020. It was very emotional. My dream had finally come true. I overcame the suffering I endured when I was bullied and called

fat as a child. I am a mother to three children. Jake the eldest is 11 years old, Dayle is 9 and my youngest Alessia will soon be 3. Mrs. Malta is a contest organized by Ivan Gaffiero and it is open to women who are or were married. I have always been attracted to fashion. Behind the scenes of Mrs. Malta there are numerous preparations like photoshoots to introduce you to the public. You need to prepare a theme, hair, wardrobe, make up and meetings with your coach (who in my case was Sue Rossi) to help you with modelling, choosing clothes and all the promotions needed together with the knowledge to answer questions put forward by the jury. I also trained physically.

How do I cope? Time management, I plan beforehand. I wake up early and sleep late and I have a lot of support. This competition was scheduled for March but because of Covid-19 it was postponed to August. I am not bothered when people say that I participated in a beauty contest. People talk and you have to be astute enough to evaluate what is said and by whom. Next year I shall be participating in Mrs. World in Sri Lanka. This is a first for Malta. Amongst other challenges I faced I needed to tone up, especially after three children and the fact that I could not train outside the house because of Covid-19. Another challenge was to gain the public's sympathy. It is common for a married woman to let herself go to take care of a million other things. But I encourage women out there to find the time to take care of themselves, follow fashion and take a break from daily routines to go out and enjoy themselves. If you have a dream, work for it and believe that it can become reality.

Amazon Best Sellers
Our most popular products based on sales. Updated hourly.

Best Sellers in Maltese History

| #1 | #2 | #3 |
|---|--|---|
|  <p>FALCON'S SHADOW A Novel of the Knights of Malta Marthese Fenech ★★★★★ 1 Paperback CDN\$25.00 ✓prime</p> |  <p>EIGHT POINTED CROSS A Novel of the Knights of Malta Marthese Fenech ★★★★★ 29 Paperback CDN\$25.00 ✓prime</p> |  <p>BRITISH SUBMARINES IN TWO WORLD WARS Norman Friedman ★★★★★ 24 Kindle Edition CDN\$33.75</p> |

Maltese-Canadian author Marthese Fenech's new historical novel *Falcon's Shadow* soars to number one within hours of release

Toronto, August 2020

Falcon's Shadow: a Novel of the Knights of Malta, the second book in author Marthese Fenech's *Siege of Malta* trilogy, published by BDL, launched at number one on Amazon's

bestseller list within hours of its presale release. At present, both *Falcon's Shadow* and *Eight Pointed Cross*, the first novel in the series, are occupying the number one and two spots on the bestseller list. During the months of Covid-19 lockdown, Fenech thought she could help those struggling with boredom by providing some affordable—and legal—escape. She dropped the price of the digital version of her first novel, *Eight Pointed Cross*, across all Amazon marketplaces to 99c as a thank-you to those doing their part to flatten the curve. Within hours, her novel hit number one. Fenech donated a percentage of the sales to Conquer Covid-19 charities. Additionally, she used proceeds from the surge in book sales to purchase boxes of nitrile gloves for frontline staff at a local hospital.



Fenech's trilogy is based on the Great Siege of 1565, a culmination of the hostility between the Knights of St John and the Ottoman Sultan. The ongoing conflict incites the collision of two great empires, intertwining the fates of characters separated by faith, loyalties, and vast distance. *Eight Pointed Cross* is set two decades before the Great Siege of 1565 and features the lesser-known but decisive 1551 Siege of Gozo. *Falcon's Shadow* picks up in the immediate aftermath and sweeps from quarry pits to sprawling estates, tumultuous seas to creaking gallows, the dungeons beneath the bishop's palace to the open decks of warships. The third, yet untitled novel showcases the Great Siege and is set for release in late 2021. Both novels have won the [Coffee Pot Book Club award](#) and garnered outstanding reviews from acclaimed authors, historians, rock stars, and swordsmen.

Giovanni Bonello, historian, author, and former Judge of the European Courts of Human Rights, has high praise for Fenech's novel: "Many historical sagas have been published, but few convey the scale, complexity, and attention to historical detail of *Eight Pointed Cross*. Marthese Fenech creates intricate plots and multi-dimensional characters, whom she moves from one perilous situation to another, keeping readers avidly turning the pages. I found myself utterly immersed, a result of the stylistic traps awaiting the reader around every treacherous corner and the unabashed pathos of the tragedy subsumed in the plot. Ms Fenech must have been born with her narrative genetics in perfect order. I truly hope her relentless talent is acknowledged where it should be. Managing to weave a gripping storyline from the ordinary misadventures of love, envy, hate, cowardice and violence underscores her skills better than had she opted for a big story against an epic background." Click [here](#) for more reviews.

Born in Toronto to Maltese parents, Fenech has travelled to sixty-five countries across six continents. She has a Master's degree in Education and teaches high school English and history. While completing research for her novels, she took up archery and accidentally became a licenced coach. A former kickboxing instructor, she surfs, snowboards, scuba-dives, climbs, skydives, throws axes, and practices yoga—which may sometimes include goats or puppies. Fenech is happy to chat about her books, research, travels, and inspirations. Here is a brief video filmed moments after I discovered my bestseller status: <https://vimeo.com/441375198>

-more-

On July 7, 2020 she hosted a [Facebook Live](#) book launch, which has had several thousand views. *Eight Pointed Cross* and *Falcon's Shadow* are available across global Amazon marketplaces in digital, paperback and audiobook editions. Fenec's novels can also be purchased from bookstores and tourist sites in Malta and direct from publisher, [BDL](#).

Please visit <https://marthesefenech.com> for more information.

happened to me." - Geraldine Ellul Magri from Siġġiewi



GUZU –“IL-BEZUZA”

A Maltese Pantry <https://www.amaltesepantry.com/people/guzu-tal-bezuza-always-tending-his-herd/>

"This is my work but it's also a passion. I come here every day to feed and milk the sheep and goats. I love these animals. Here, on the Dingli cliffs, it's peaceful and quiet. I wouldn't change this for anything else in the world. As a young boy, I was always running after my father while he tended to the animals. And then it was my turn. My father used to go around in the streets with the animals to sell milk. I've had them for 70 years now. I'm 77 years old and I still feel good. This work has kept me alive and full of energy because it keeps you on your toes. An athlete has to wake up early every day to run...well, so do I. I milk them everyday, otherwise they'd get ill. I milk them first thing in the morning and then give the milk to my wife to make fresh cheeselets. These are in high demand: the number of animals is dwindling but the demand is growing stronger. Nowadays, kids don't even know what sheep or goats are.

Due to the pandemic, I wasn't taking the goats out into the pastures to graze. Usually, in winter, I bring them here to graze. I visit them every day, including holidays. You'll see me here by 6.30am, come rain, come shine...even when it's raining heavily. I spend about an hour and a half here...working non-stop. Then I go home, have a cup of coffee and a toast and come back here to milk the animals. They provide milk all year round. In the evening, I come here again to feed the animals. Even when you're not feeling well, you still have to show up. I wonder what would happen if I had to go to hospital? That's the only thing that worries me.

What will happen once I'm gone? Well, there's nobody left. And if today was my last day on Earth, they would sell them straight away, even before they bury me. My children won't do this work because it's not enough. When my father stopped working here, it was a harsh blow for him. He passed away four years after. Nowadays, I regret having told him to stop. I hope that my children won't do the same. If I were born again, I would lead the same life. I wouldn't change a thing." – Gužu, il-Bežuza

Maltese Living Abroad are the Pride of Malta

Queen Elizabeth II recognises Neil Agius in honour of his voluntary service

By **Coryse Borg** newsbook.com.mt

Photo caption: Kurt Arrigo

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II today recognised Neil Agius, representing Malta, as the 151st Commonwealth Point of Light in honour of his exceptional voluntary service advocating for plastic-free seas.

Neil is an ocean advocate, endurance swimmer and co-founder of the 'Wave of Change' campaign which raises awareness of plastic pollution in the Maltese sea. He recently completed the daunting 95 km swim between Sicily and St Julian's to raise awareness of the threats to the world's oceans and their biodiversity, only the second person in history to have undertaken this swim. Neil believes that his 'speedo diplomacy' will help support 'Wave of Change', inspiring young people to take action in their everyday life to reduce plastic waste and become 'Wavemakers'. In its most recent campaign, 'Wave of Change' is harnessing the power of social media, encouraging young people to pick up three pieces of rubbish and challenge their friends to do the same. As part of the legacy of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in London 2018, Her Majesty The Queen – as Head of the Commonwealth – is thanking inspirational volunteers across the 54 Commonwealth nations for the difference they are making in their communities and beyond, by recognising one volunteer from each Commonwealth country every week.

By sharing these stories of service, the Commonwealth Points of Light awards celebrate inspirational acts of volunteering across the Commonwealth and help inspire others to make their own contribution to tackling some of the greatest social challenges of our time.

Neil said, "I am really honoured to receive this award. It is a great feeling that I can inspire so many to make changes to the way they treat mother earth. There is no Plan-et B so we really need to respect it, once we can learn to do that then we will be able to enjoy it at its full potential and glory."

Stuart Gill OBE,
UK High

Commissioner
in Malta said, "I am pleased to

recognise Neil Spiteri as this year's Commonwealth points of Light Award. Neil is an example of dedication and determination in his fight against climate change and environment-related issues. Swimming to Malta in record-breaking 28 hours should serve as an inspiration for others to be the change for a better world."



Installation of Gozo's ninth bishop will be held outdoors



Mgr Anton Teuma will be installed as Gozo's new bishop on September 13 in the square in front of the Madonna ta' Pinu Sanctuary.

The celebration, which starts at 5.30pm, will be broadcast on TVM 2 and on the diocese's social media profiles. Meanwhile, thanksgiving mass which was initially planned for September 5, will be celebrated on August 27 at 6.30pm at the San Ġwann Battista Rotunda in Xewekija.

This mass will be broadcast on Xejk TV and social media.

A prayer celebration will be held on September 11 at 8pm at the Istitut tal-Familja Papa Ġwanni Pawlu II chapel in Victoria. This event will also be broadcast on social media.

Gozo's ninth bishop will make his solemn entry into the Cathedral of the Assumption in Victoria on September 16 at 6.30pm.



Tal-Barrani

Tal-Barrani is a primarily agricultural area in Malta that extends from the town of Żejtun to the villages of Santa Luċija, Ħal Tarxien and Ħal Għaxaq, lying across many south-eastern communities in Malta. The land gives its name to a nearby chapel dedicated to Saint Lucy.

In a notarial document dating from the 16th century, the area near this estate was known as *bitalbarrani*, that is, the stranger's or outsider's land.^[2] This name may indicate that the land under cultivation at Tal-Barrani belonged to some outsider, either someone from outside a village community, or a foreigner. Moreover, the same land contained another area which was called *Tal-Misilmin* (land of the Muslims).^{[2][A]} At least from the 17th century onwards, Tal-Barrani was a recognised agricultural estate, and was documented in the 1654 property book of the Order of St. John, the *Cabreo Magisteriale*. A niche of the Annunciation of Our Lady lies on Tal-Barrani Road.

In the 1960s, a depot for Malta's milk collection system was built at Tal-Barrani.^{[4][5]} In October 1965, while constructing the depot, a number of archaeological remains were found in the middle of the

building site.^[6] The site was later demolished, and a private hospital was built, leading to the finding of further tombs in 2008 and 2009. A Late Roman and Byzantine catacomb and a tomb were discovered and excavated in 1993, closer to Żejtun.

Tal-Barrani is an important transportation link in the south-eastern part of the island, with a major road cutting the area in half. The existing road consists of a dual carriageway of two northbound and two southbound lanes separated by a central reserve. A €20 million road project is being proposed to divert traffic between Tal-Barrani Road and Vjal Santa Luċija via tunnels.

Tal-Barrani was the site of political violence on 30 November 1986,^[10] when a group of people, some wearing balaclavas, began hurling stones and bottles on an approaching group of political activists. The clashes erupted with the appearance of members of the police's Special Mobile Unit, who fired teargas canisters and rubber bullets onto the crowd, and mayhem ensued.

GEOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY The promontory of Żejtun is defined to the north by Wied iz-Ziju, which separates Żejtun from Ħal Tarxien and other outlying high ground. This valley includes the area known as Tal-Barrani. The land also gives its name to a type of uniform clay brown soil. In a number of areas in Malta and Gozo, a type of calcareous colluvium lies above a layer of terra fusca. If the colluvium is thin, the mixing of the two layers due to tilling over a long period of time will produce a uniform brown soil, very rich in clay. This type was classified as Tal-Barrani.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS Tal-Barrani contains a significant number of archaeological remains. These include an ancient tomb cluster and field systems at the Tal-Ħotba site at Tal-Barrani, and a number of late Roman and Byzantine catacombs.^[3] A Christian catacomb and four rock-cut tombs were discovered in 1915, 1963 and 1993, under the present road footprint of Tal-Barrani. At least another seventeen tombs were discovered in 1965, 1966 and 2008 were found in fields in an area known as Tal-Ħotba, very close to Tal-Barrani road. The 1960s discoveries at Tal-Ħotba consisted of three tombs within the footprint of the old milk collection depot.



**WE THANK ALL OUR READERS AND SUPPORTERS
FOR MAKING OUR JOURNAL NUMBER 1.
BRINGING THE MALTESE COMMUNITIES CLOSER
Together we defeat the COVID-19**





You may now enjoy the Grand Harbour's scenery from Dar il-Mediterran roof

Nigel Mifsud

From today onwards, one of the best scenery of the Grand Harbour may be enjoyed from the rooftop of the Mediterranean Conference Centre in Valletta. This follows the inauguration during the weekend of this €2.5 million project.

The Dar il-Mediterran għall-Konferenzi' roof project, with a space of 1,300 square metres, is part of a wider project that includes a virtual museum which was launched a few weeks ago, the installation of air conditioning and new technology in the conferences sector at the Dar il-Mediterran building.

Dar il-Mediterran chief executive, Pierre Fenech, said that this is an important project for the tourism industry, particularly in the field of events and conferences.

Parliamentary Secretary for European Funds, Stefan Zrinzo Azzopardi, said that half of the project's cost was paid from European funds. He said the project aims at preserving the country's historic heritage and to strengthen the Maltese touristic product.

During the project's inauguration, Tourism Minister Julia Farrugia Portelli said the project will improve the touristic product and offers a different platform for international conferences held in Malta. She said UNESCO described the project as 'best practice, even for the way it balanced restoration with the modernisation aspect of the building.

Last year, some 167,000 persons visited Dar il-Mediterran, 15,000 of them to attend conferences.

'It's inhumane': Melbourne family begs to see son as he fights for life in hospital



Although Ms Cassar was able to ride in the ambulance with her son, she said as soon as she entered the hospital she was separated from him due to its coronavirus restrictions on visitors. Mr Stylo has an autoimmune condition called chronic granulomatous disease.

In January, Mr Stylo contracted an extremely rare fungal infection in his liver, spleen and stomach lining which he was unable to fight off because of his weakened immune system. The fungal infection is so rare there are only five known cases in the world.

Doctors believe an infection then spread into his bloodstream.

"As soon as I got to the hospital, I didn't even have a chance to give him a hug or a kiss, they ushered him away and said you can't be with him," she said. Doctors pumped Mr Stylo full of antibiotics but his condition deteriorated the next day and he was placed on life support.

"I got a phone call saying he had deteriorated, and they had put him in ICU. I begged and pleaded, please let me come and see him," she said.

"They said no. Then an hour-and-a-half later I got the call saying you are allowed to see him, special circumstances, he only has hours left to live."

Mr Stylo thankfully pulled through. He was taken off life support and his condition stabilised before his mother was able to see him. A scheduled video call was arranged for Mr Stylo to speak to his family but his condition deteriorated again and he was put back on life support.

Ms Cassar said her son's condition had improved in recent days, but they were all acutely aware of how fragile it was and wanted desperately to see him.

"We are staying hopeful, but we know that Ben's condition is very fragile," she said.

"He may relapse into septic shock again. We have a window now to see him and we want that window; we want to see him.

"We think every family should have the right to see their family members in ICU and it's been 10 days now.

"It's inhumane. I'm literally going mad, I'm losing my mind over this trying to think of ways to get in there to see him."

Mr Stylo, pictured with his parents in hospital in the US. (Supplied)

Ms Cassar said she understood the need for the hospital's strict rules on visitors during the pandemic, but said there needed to be a way for families to see their loved ones in ICU. Ms Cassar said she was willing to undergo coronavirus testing and wear full PPE gear if she was able to see her son.

Mr Stylo's father Donald Borg said all the family was asking for was for one person, Ms Cassar, to be able to see their son.

"He is good hands in ICU, great hands, but there is no one in this world that knows Ben's condition and also his state of mind like his mother," he said. "Ben needs his mother's support.

"We can hear it in his voice that he is losing hope. He is so isolated and doesn't feel like he has any contact with the family.

"Just for Rose to be able to see him would help massively."

Mr Stylo was born with a rare autoimmune condition and was diagnosed when he was three years old. (Supplied)

The family has written to Premier Daniel Andrews and Health Minister Jenny Mikakos asking them to change the rules around visitors to ICU wards.

"The health minister's department contacted me and said they were going to contact the ICU team. But the ICU team tell us that they are guided by the regulations for the health department so we keep going around and around in circles," Ms Cassar said.

A spokesperson for Alfred Health said: "We understand what a challenging time this is for families wishing to visit a loved one in hospital.

"The visitor restrictions at The Alfred, which are common to many Victorian hospitals right now, are there to protect our vulnerable patients and our staff while there is a sustained level of COVID-19 in the community.

"As visitors are only permitted under special circumstances, our staff are working hard to maintain the connection between patients and loved ones. Daily briefings and telehealth sessions also ensure families up-to-date and involved in care decisions.



St Lawrence statue anniversary commemorative card and handstamp

To mark the occasion of the 125th Anniversary of the statue of St Lawrence, San Lawrenz Gozo, the Gozo Philatelic Society issued a commemorative card with the special handstamp from Maltapost, in a limited edition

of 150.

This is a joint issue card between the Gozo Philatelic Society and Mr Robert Louis Grech history researcher, a great admirer of St Lawrence, San Lawrenz parish and village.

The Society said anyone interested in acquiring one of these cards should please contact Anthony Grech on e mail tonigrech73@gmail.com Each card costs €3.00 (postage paid).

The special handstamp issued by MaltaPost to commemorate the 125th anniversary of the statue of Saint Lawrence, is also available to order.



YES WE ARE OPEN!!

27-20 Hoyt Avenue
South, Astoria,
NEW YORK, USA

First we would like to
thank all the volunteers in

our Maltese community during these very challenging times. The Maltese Center cannot exist without our volunteers who help in any way they can to keep the Maltese Center operational. Thank you to those who donated their time over the past several months during the shut down to make sure all was well with the Maltese Center. Thank you to those who donated their skills and time to much needed refurbishments to the Maltese Center. Thank you to those who donated supplies and labor to complete the tasks. Thank you to those who donated funds. Thank you to those who became new members. Thank you to those who continue their membership. Thank you to those who work behind the scenes and keep the wheel turning so we may continue to have a place of our own - our beloved Maltese Center. Because of this dedication we were able to open safely and stay open. Although at limited capacity and outdoor only, and new protocols, WE ARE OPEN!

On July 5th the Maltese Center began with a members only soft reopening. Learning to operate under this new norm with the NYS and NYC safety guidelines implemented we have successfully managed. The only entrance into the Maltese Center is through the lower hall and make your way to the back yard area. The main entrance is not to be used at this time. This allows us to monitor everyone entering. Pastizzi and Kinnie are available for pickup or if capacity allows to enjoy in the the backyard which is covered with a massive canopy and equipped with fans for your comfort.

As a reminder the following guidelines are in place and we ask you to RESPECT the enforcement of these rules by those on duty, the rules are to keep everyone safe:

The city and state has issued guidelines that dictate how we must operate. It is imperative, and we ask for your cooperation, in following the city's and state's mandate. No exceptions.

What is required:

NO MASK. NO ENTRY. IT IS MANDATORY ON THE PREMISES! A mask that covers your nose and mouth

at all times on the premises of the Maltese Center. They may be removed while seated. While seated we encourage you to wear your face covering except when eating or drinking.

You are required to sit at your table on arrival as seating is limited. Once seated you must keep that table and chair.

Upon entry have your face covering on and you must sanitize your hands or you may use the restroom to wash your hands.

You will need to sign in and sign out in order for us to maintain a capacity log.

Do not linger inside the lower hall. The lower hall is only to use the restrooms, pick up your drink or snack at the concession or to enter or exit the premises. No one is allowed is to sit or stay inside the lower hall.

Reservations are suggested! We have a limited capacity to follow and ask that you honor your reservation. If you arrive without a reservation you may be asked to wait outside if we have reached our capacity limit. This does not apply to grab and go.

The main area of the center will remain closed.

Please practice social distancing at all times, 6 ft apart. Hand sanitizers are readily available and we encourage you to wash your hands or use sanitizer prior to eating or drinking, and often.

Wipe down your area (including chair and table top) with the provided disinfectant and dispose of all your waste properly.

What you can expect:

Tables will be separated by a minimum of six feet. The tables and chairs have been carefully placed. **DO NOT MOVE TABLES OR CHAIRS FROM WHERE THEY HAVE BEEN PLACED.**

The Bocce court may only have two players at any given time. All standby players must stand outside the court at proper distance from each other. A face covering must be worn at all times. Players must put disinfectant and store away any sports equipment after use and dispose of their waste properly.

We welcome you back safely! To make a reservation visit our website to make a [reservation](#) or TEXT 347-680-8201 with your full name and the date of visit.

Thank you for your cooperation. If you have any questions please contact a committee member. Welcome Back!

Final preparations before lampuki season



On the feast of Santa Maria the lampuki season opens. About 122 fishermen were going about the final preparations yesterday before the season officially opens. During the blessing, a number of rosary wreaths were thrown into the fishermen's boats as a sign of devotion. A mass was also celebrated on the shore of Marsaxlokk. Dolphin fish (lampuki) season begins on August 15 and runs until the end of the year. Currently the boats and vessels are loaded with trellis as well as stones, palm fronds and ropes. These will be positioned out at sea according to the positions provided to them by the Department of Fisheries and Fisheries. Aquaculture.

What is lampuki? Lampuki is a type of fish that is typically found in and around the waters of Malta. It goes by various other names, depending on where you are from, such as the dorado, dolphinfish or the mahi-mahi. It migrates through the Maltese waters between the end of August and the end of December and it is one of the most popular, traditional autumnal Maltese dishes. A white, meaty fish with a delicate flavour, it lends itself to a variety of sauces and accompaniments- making it one of the most versatile fish you can choose to eat.

How do they catch it? In a technique known as kannizzati, local fishermen cut down the lower fronds from palm trees which they then weave into large, flat rafts. These rafts are then put out to sea, usually accompanied by traditional fishing boats known as 'Luzzu', or more modern fuel powered crafts. As the sun reaches the highest point in the sky, the lampuki all clamber to seek shade under the rafts, the fishermen wait for a large number of fish to gather before casting a net over them. This is a technique that has not changed since the Roman times and even when the fish is used for commercial purposes, this old method is still used.

Where can I get it from? Well that totally depends on whether you want to try it out in a restaurant, or have a go at cooking it for yourself! Some of the best restaurants to try lampuki are situated in the south of Malta- e.g. Marsaskala, Birgu, and [Marsaxlokk](#). Here, the fish you eat has often been caught that lunchtime and is as fresh as you can imagine. You also have the bonus of getting to enjoy your meal in a picturesque seaside village. Alternatively, you can pick some up from one of the fishmongers, or keep your ears out for the fish van that roams the streets every morning selling a range of fresh seafood- you can pick up quite a bargain here.

How should I eat it? This is a matter of great debate- some like their lampuki in a pie, some like it with a thick, garlic infused sauce, and some prefer it grilled in tinfoil with just a smattering of seasoning to taste. Alternatively, you can try it in a delicious fish stew called alijotta, all soaked up with some delicious, fresh, Maltese bread, or "hobz" as it is known locally.

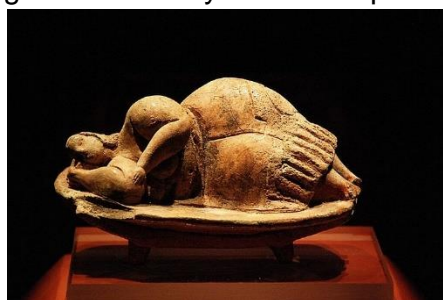


THE TWO FAT LADIES



The tiny islands that comprise Malta, Gozo and Comino, set in the middle of the Mediterranean sea, are home to prehistoric art and architecture out of all proportion to their size. Although the origins of these ancient buildings remain largely unexplained. The islands' early remoteness in human settlement appears to have fostered a powerful local religion. This provided the context for the construction of megalithic temples and their associated art — including Malta's famous 'fat ladies'.

Although generically referred to as 'ladies', the gender of many of the sculptures discovered at



Malta's ancient sites is actually uncertain. They are usually interpreted as fertility

figures due to their plumpness. Although given the statues location at the entrance to the southern temple, the colossal figure at Tarxien may be a temple guardian figure. Smaller portrayals of similarly shaped figures were recovered from Tarxien and other sites on Malta. Some are portrayed standing, some seated on a throne, and some seated on the

ground with their feet tucked in. One particularly lovely figure is portrayed lying on a couch on her right side, with one hand under her head and a cloth draped over her hips. Known as the 'Sleeping Lady', she is one of the many treasures in the National Museum of Archaeology — itself a fine example of Malta's later Baroque period architecture in Valletta, Malta's capital.

But is the Sleeping Lady really asleep? She was discovered in the Hal Saflieni Hypogeum, an underground burial complex hewn from solid rock using only tools made of chert, flint, obsidian and deer antler. One of its most striking characteristics of the Hypogeum is its chambers. The chamber mimics Malta's above ground Temples in form and shape. The ancient architects appear to have recreated the Temples of the living above ground for the dead below. Several have ceilings with rings of carved stone overhanging the one below, in imitation of the corbelled masonry found in the Temples. Some of the Hypogeum's ceilings and walls also have the same spiral decoration as the Temples, only here they are painted in ochre. When first excavated in the early 1900s, it was estimated over 7,000 individuals were interred in the Hypogeum, a practice spanning some seven centuries that continued until c. 2,500 BCE. Along with the Sleeping Lady, artefacts recovered from the site include pottery vessels, stone and clay beads and amulets, and little carved animals and birds that may once have been worn as pendants.



**THE JOURNAL THAT IS CONNECTING MALTESE
IN MALTA, GOZO AND THE REST OF THE WORLD**

**2013 - 2020 - SEVEN YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITIES
BUILDING BRIDGES**

maltesjournal@gmail.com



Experience Malta: Small island in the Mediterranean abounds in reasons to visit

By **Adriana Janovich** adrianaj@spokesman.com(509) 459-5446

Malta is small – just 122 square miles – and strategically located in the middle of the Mediterranean. Three of the seven islands that make up the archipelago – Malta, the largest, as well as Gozo and Comino – are inhabited. And they have been visited or invaded, settled or ruled, by almost every great power in the area. All – from the Phoenicians and Romans to the Knights of St. John, French and British – have contributed to the country's rich culture and history.

Malta, to me, is a perennially intriguing place to visit. But this year, Valletta reigns as the 2018 European Capital of Culture, and the timing to travel there perhaps couldn't be more perfect. From prehistoric temples and relics of the knights and World War II to fireworks-filled festas, sun-washed beaches and filming locations, Malta has much to offer.

Go to a gun show

Valletta's Upper Barrakka Gardens provide a perfect perch to watch a cannon blast from the Saluting Battery on the lower tier of the bastion. Eight working replica cannons have been added to the battery and, at noon, one is loaded and fired in a ceremonial salute. The British dug into the rock under the gardens to build the Lascaris War Rooms, which served as their headquarters for Malta's defense during World War II as well as the Allied Invasion of Sicily in 1943. The gardens, also home to a fountain and outdoor cafe, are linked to shops and restaurants at the Valletta waterfront below by a lift that drops 190 feet in 25 seconds. www.lascariswarrooms.com.

Experience knighthood

The Palace State Rooms and Palace Armoury at the Grand Masters' Palace in Valletta offer a look into the workings of the Order of St. John, represented by the eight-pointed Maltese cross – a symbol seen throughout the country. In the Grand Council Chamber, frescoes depict the events of the Great Siege of Malta in 1565, when Ottoman Turks unsuccessfully attempted to invade the island. Armor from the siege era from both sides of the battle is on display. heritagemalta.org.

Pretend to be a noble

Casa Rocca Piccola is the 16th-century palace of a noble Maltese family in Valletta. The privately-owned palace, built in 1580, is the ancestral home of the Ninth Marquis de Piro, who lives in the palace and opened it to the public. Don't be surprised to see him carrying a pet parrot to a perch in the garden just before the start of the first tour of the morning or his wife coming through the summer dining room, opening windows. The family archives are on display, along with silver, art work, furniture and, buried deep underground in a converted cistern, bomb shelters used during World War II. www.casaroccapiccola.com.

Carouse with Caravaggio

Saint John's Co-Cathedral in Valletta is a high-Baroque, Roman Catholic cathedral with rows of ornate chapels running along a wide nave and a floor of intricate, inlaid-marble tombs. The masterpiece of realism "The Beheading of St. John the Baptist," completed in Malta in 1608 by Michelangelo Merisi da Caravaggio, a well-known brawler with a long police record as well as a famous Italian artist, attracts crowds. www.stjohnscocathedral.com.

Take a coffee break

The ornate Caffè Cordina, established in 1837, is a great spot for a pick-me-up. The pastry case is full of decadent and decorative creations, from entire chocolate cakes to individual tarts, eclairs and servings of tiramisu. Try traditional honey rings, or qaghaq ta' l-ghasel, and a cappuccino. Or, sip an Aperol spritz, which seem to be everywhere in Valletta this summer. There's air-conditioning inside. But tables shaded by umbrellas in Valletta's Victoria Square offer prime people-watching. The menu includes salads, sandwiches, smoothies, pasta and pastizzi, traditional, savory, Maltese pastries filled with mushy peas or ricotta cheese. Wash one down with a light Malta-made Cisk lager. www.caffecordina.com.

Feast at the food market

The newly refurbished Victorian-era Is-Suq tal-Belt food market – it opened in January – houses a communal dining area and food stalls serving traditional Maltese dishes as well as pizza, tapas, gelato

and more. The lower-level offers a specialty grocery store with fresh pasta, baked goods, spices, meats, cheese, wine and more. issuqtaibelt.com.

Kick it with Kinnie

This bitter orange soda is basically the national beverage of Malta. The recipe for the carbonated, bittersweet, Malta-made soft drink is secret, but it's believed to contain aromatics such as anise, licorice, vanilla, ginseng and rhubarb. Think of it as the Aperol or Campari of soft drinks. If you order it at a restaurant, be sure to ask for ice. www.kinnie.com.

Sample Stuffat tal-Fenek

Rabbit stew is the national dish of Malta. Rabbit is slow-cooked in red wine with garlic, onions, herbs and spices until it's falling-apart tender, rich and flavorful.

Stroll through the "Silent City"

The quiet, narrow, cobbled streets of Mdina, the island's old capital, offer medieval and baroque architecture. "Game of Thrones" fans might recognize the main gate as a filming location in season one. The ditch around the walled city, made into a public garden five years ago, is home to the Malta International Food Festival, held mid-July. Indulge in a decadent slice of cake at Fontanella Tea Garden, which is located atop the bastion and offers sweeping views of the island. www.maltainternationalfoodfestival.com and fontanellateagarden.com.

Explore ancient temples

Malta is home to a number of prehistoric temples, dating from the neolithic period (5,000 to 4,100 B.C.) to the Bronze Age (2,500 to 700 B.C.). Qrendi, along the southern coast, offers two compounds that date to the island's Ggantija phase (3,600 to 3,200 B.C.), older than both Stonehenge in Britain and the pyramids in Egypt. Hagar Qim sits on a hilltop overlooking the sea and islet and bird sanctuary of Filfla. Mnajdra lies in a hollow about 550 yards away. Hamrija Tower, built in 1659 by the Order of St. John, is part of the same archeological park. heritagemalta.org.

See a sea cave

The Blue Grotto on Malta's south coast is a must-stop. Busloads of tourists come to the cliff-top viewpoint to see the massive arch and cave system. It's best to go early in the morning, especially in summer. Boat tours are also available. www.visitmalta.com/en/info/bluegrotto.

Soak up some sun

Malta has many beaches and swimming holes. Ghadira Bay, not far from the Gozo ferry terminal on the northeast coast, offers the biggest sandy beach in Malta. It's also one of the most popular and tends to be busy, especially on summer weekends. It's good for families with small children because the water remains shallow for quite a distance. Golden Bay, near a large five-star hotel on the northwest coast, is a top spot for sunbathing tourists. Just south is the less crowded and less touristy Gnejna Bay, the go-to beach for villagers of nearby Mgarr. Boathouses, built into limestone, line the southwest side. They're used to store fishing and boating equipment as well as double as makeshift beach cabanas. Keep an eye out for jellyfish, particularly mauve stingers. www.visitmalta.com/en/beaches-and-bays.

Photograph fishing boats

The bay at Marsaxlokk is filled with brightly colored Maltese fishing boats. Painted blue, yellow, red and green, these open wooden boats feature a pair of eyes painted or engraved on the bow of the boat. They look stunning in photos. After picture-taking, walk around the cafe-lined harbor where the Turkish fleet anchored during the Great Siege of Malta. Be sure to also check out the open-air market, which sells everything from that day's catch and traditional Maltese lace and nougat to fruits, veggies, sunglasses, flip flops and tchotchkes. Note: the waterfront becomes super busy on Sundays when buses bring tourists to the market. www.maltauncovered.com/culture/maltese-boats-luzzu/.

Have fun with fireworks

Malta loves its fireworks. It hosts the annual Malta International Fireworks Festival. And villages throughout the country put on fireworks shows during their annual village festa, or feast. These celebrations honor the patron saints of local parishes. Malta is profoundly Catholic. According to the Book of Acts, St. Paul shipwrecked here around A.D. 60, working miracles and converting the island's inhabitants. Today, approximately 98 percent of Malta's growing population, an estimated 432,200 people, adheres to Catholicism. Festas feature processions with priests and statues of patron saints, live music, food vendors, banners and other decorations, confetti and, of course, fireworks. During summer, there are festivals every weekend. Entire towns, often dressed in their Sunday best, seem to turn out. www.maltainfoguide.com/malta-village-feasts.html.

Go to Gozo

Take a short ferry ride to the nearby island of Gozo, which stretches just 26 square miles and was home to Azure Window, a dramatic, natural, flat-topped arch that collapsed into the sea last year. The site – rugged, with spectacular sea views and ancient sand dollars embedded in the limestone – remains a visitor attraction. It was the filming location for Khal Drogo and Daenerys Targaryen’s wedding in season one of “Game of Thrones.” Rock at the base of the cliff forms a natural pool, known as the Blue Hole, popular with swimmers and divers. Nearby, outside the village of Gharb, the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Blessed Virgin of Ta’ Pinu displays letters, paintings, photos, baby clothes, seat belts, even casts and crutches, from pilgrims grateful for answered prayers such as surviving illnesses or accidents or giving birth to a healthy baby. Stunning mosaics representing the stations of the cross were completed last year in the parvis. The recently restored Cittadella – with its old prison, gunpowder magazine, grain silos, battery, World War II bomb shelters and more – is not to be missed. A brief video in the visitor’s center details the history of the fortress, where – until 1637 – all people of Gozo were required to spend the night for their own safety. Valletta’s namesake, Jean Parisot de La Valette, a knight of the Order of St. John and 49th Grand Master of Malta, was one of the citadel’s most famous prisoners. www.visitgozo.com and www.tapinu.org.

Website of the Ministry for Foreign and European Affairs**MALTESE LIVING ABROAD**

The Ministry for Foreign and European Affairs seeks to protect and promote the rights and interests of the Maltese living outside Malta.

We strive to enhance connectivity through active interactions as well as promote Maltese identity, culture and heritage, including the Maltese language as goalposts of Maltese opulence in the world.

We endeavor to further build on the networks of the Maltese living abroad with a view to explore business and other forms of collaboration within the framework of mutual benefit and in the common interests of Malta.

We resolve to engage further with the Maltese across the world through the Consul-on-the-Move programme which aims to bring government services closer to the people.

OBJECTIVES OF THE MALTESE LIVING ABROAD UNIT

The Maltese Living Abroad Unit seeks to promote and protect the rights and interests of Maltese living abroad. It aims to:

Protect and promote the rights of those living abroad whilst also increasing interest in Maltese culture and Identity

Serve as the focal point for information, advice and co-ordination to Maltese living abroad

- Serve as the focal point for information, advice and co-ordination to any association or non-governmental organization representing Maltese abroad
- Ensure the implementation of the decisions taken by the Council for Maltese Living Abroad as regulated by Chapter 515 of the laws of Malta
- Maintain strong communication links with the Council of the Maltese Living Abroad
- Maintain updated records of the Maltese Living Abroad Register comprising of the Notification forms, D, P and O
- Create effective communications and collaboration frameworks between Malta and its citizens living abroad
- Enhancing engagement through the Consul-on-the-Move program

<https://foreignanddeu.gov.mt/en/Government/MLA/Pages/Maltese-Living-Abroad.aspx>

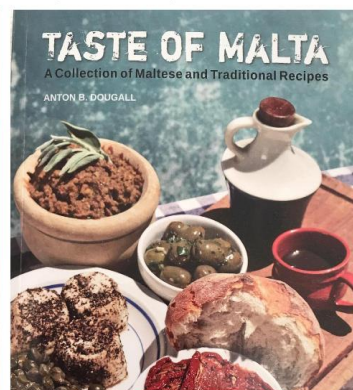


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MALTA TEMPLES AND TOMBS

by **Graham Stuart**

Just beneath the southern tip of Italy, in the extreme western part of the Mediterranean sea, lies the island of Malta. 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 center 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 dual 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. A hypogeum is the Latin name for an underground structure. 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 *ENIGMA FANTASTIQUE*.

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.

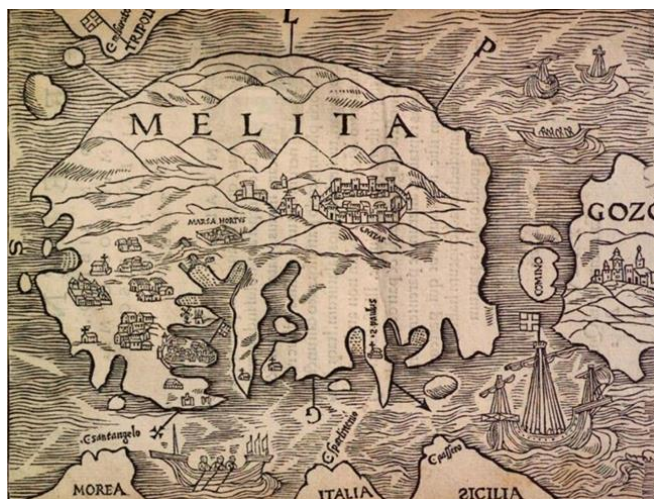
When they found themselves back in the Hypogeum chamber, the guide saw her expression and gave her a "knowing" look. About a week afterwards the disappearance of the children and their teacher(s) took place, and on her second visit she saw an entirely new guide who denied that the other guide had ever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

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.

As for the Catacombs beneath Malta itself, there are some ancient accounts which say that deep caverns beneath the island continue underground BEYOND the shores, and according to one source [i.e. the ever elusive "Commander-X"], part of this labyrinth stretches hundreds of miles northwards and intersects with catacombs beneath Rome (the hill Vaticanus?) or at least did so in ancient times.

WE THANK ALL THOSE WHO SENT A SMALL DONATION TOWARDS THE UPKEEP OF THE MALTESE JOURNAL. WE INTEND TO COLLABORATE AND PUBLISH THE CONTENTS OF THE NEWSLETTER IN A BOOK IN FUTURE AND WE NEED YOUR HELP. See page 15



‘Il Kaulata Maltia’, the only existing copy of the first journal in Maltese

The turning point in the history of Maltese publications was the liberalisation of the press in 1839.

Map of the Maltese islands in Jean Quintin’s *Insulae Melitae descriptio ex commentariis rerum quotidianarum* (1536). | British Library

Karl Farrugia

Since September I have been working on the Maltese collection at the British Library, where I am tasked with cataloguing Maltese publications. The library boasts an impressive range of material ranging from 16th century publications by the Knights of Malta to books published in 2017. Amongst these there are some of the earliest references to the Maltese language as in Jean Quintin’s historical and geographical survey of the islands *Insulae Melitae descriptio* (1536, BL 795.g.6.(1.)), contemporary accounts of the Great Siege of Malta from 1565, some of the earliest works on the Maltese language by Agius De Soldanis from 1750, and a complete collection of Mikiel Anton Vassalli’s works from 1791.

The turning point in the history of Maltese publications was the liberalisation of the press in 1839, which formally came into force in March of that year following a wider drive for political autonomy in the British colony throughout that decade. The earliest wave of independent newspapers to be published in Malta came on the heels of this development. These newspapers were a largely multilingual affair, with the vast majority being in Italian or English, bilingual Italian and English (*Il Mediterraneo*, BL NEWS8160 NPL), and even trilingual in Italian, English and French (*Il Corriere Maltese*, BL NEWS8160 NPL). However, a number of short lived journals in Maltese started popping up at the same time, with one issue of the English-language publication *The Harlequin* published on December 6, 1838, under the title *L’Arlecchin, jeu Kaulata Inglisa u Maltia*, (Cassola, 2011,p22), being entirely in the vernacular.



Tenor Joseph Calleja’s concert cancelled

Tenor Joseph Calleja’s concert that was due to have been held on The Granaries in Floriana on 4th September has been cancelled due to COVID-19 and is now expected to take place in a different format. Concert organisers NnG Promotions said that a special guest at the concert would have been the Italian singer Zucchero, together with the Malta Philharmonic Orchestra. Those who had purchased tickets will be refunded but the organisers are working on the alternative holding of the concert and this to include tenor Calleja as well as Zucchero.



Photo: Superintendence of Cultural Heritage

Skeletal remains of two adults were found in a cluster of seven tombs discovered during construction work in the south-eastern limits of Tarxien.

The plots, all neighbouring each other, included land that had not been developed before.

In a statement the National Heritage Ministry said a tomb had been discovered in the area way back in 1974.

The tombs, discovered between 2018 and 2019, mainly consist of the typical shaft and chamber found across the Maltese islands and which were in use during the Punic and Roman periods about 2,500 to 1,800 years ago.

These tombs were discovered during archaeological monitoring by the Superintendence of Cultural Heritage during the early stages of construction work.

Considering the known archaeological sensitivity of the site, the development permit was tied to a monitoring condition. In such cases the superintendence directs archaeological investigations through freelance archaeologists who monitor the works and document any discovered features.

An excavation team from the superintendence, which includes an osteologist, carried out the investigation of two sealed tombs.

One tomb included the remains of two adult skeletons, an amphora (large water jar) and a patera (a double handled bowl). The tomb was sealed with a large stone slab.

The second tomb included a number of funerary pottery urns containing burnt human bone. The urns were covered with either bowls or plates.

Human remains in ancient Tarxien tombs

A cluster of seven tombs was discovered during construction

There was also a trefoil jug, an oil lamp, a number of small pottery vessels, an amphora and another patera. This chamber was also sealed with a large stone slab and was used between the Punic and Early Roman Period, circa the fourth and second Century BC.

This necropolis shows that burial practices in the classical period varied within the same context, including both inhumations and cremations.

"Discoveries in this condition are becoming increasingly rare because archaeological remains are finite and non-renewable.

"More importantly, this discovery further proves the need to have monitoring conditions included in development permits as well as to have professional archaeology monitors on site to be present during development works," the ministry said in the statement.

The superintendence will investigate the other tombs in the coming months. Studies on the excavated items will yield information about the people buried in the tombs (sex, age, traumas and whether they suffered from particular diseases) and the funerary practices. The superintendence has meanwhile set up a temporary exhibition at its offices in Valletta with information on the site, showcasing some of the objects from one of the excavated tombs.

Source: Times of Malta





Maltese-Canadian tenor Victor Micallef, who forms part of the world-famous group **THE TENORS**, has toured the world some years ago with the group he still dreams of the day when he will sing for a Maltese audience. Micallef added that his second dream is to sing alongside tenor Joseph Calleja.

THE TENORS - the Canadian vocal supergroup have performed for the last four Presidents of the United States, including at the White House Christmas Tree Lighting for the Obama family, for the world leaders at the G20 Summit, for the opening ceremonies of the XXI Olympic Winter Games, for Her Majesty the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, The Oprah Winfrey Show with Celine Dion, The Primetime Emmy Awards, and the NBC Tree Lighting Ceremony at Rockefeller Centre.

Victor Micallef' has great love for Malta, particularly as it brings back so many memories of his childhood and of the holidays he spent at his grandmother's house in Zebbug. He said that his parents were always proud to be Maltese, and they brought him up to a background of Maltese culture and heritage and within the Maltese community in Toronto. Victor Micallef mentioned that in his younger days he used to visit Malta every two or three years. In fact, although he sometimes finds it difficult to express himself in Maltese as he does not practice it often enough, yet he understands everything. Micallef said his visits to Malta decreased in frequency when he started working on his career, as his commitments in different countries did not leave enough time for holidays.

VICTOR MICALLEF

Maltese-Canadian tenor

Victor Micallef said he started singing professionally in opera after his father's death. He added that he had spent some years studying music and singing in Florence, after which he joined the Florentine opera company. He then also sang with the Canadian opera company before joining The Tenors. Victor admitted to having been unsure about the group before joining them. When they started performing together, however, their voices and style gelled so well that he never looked back. Victor recalled a number of experiences with the group which he will never forget, including their participation in Oprah Winfrey's TV show, particularly when half-way through Celine Dion joined them and sang with them. Other unforgettable experiences include singing at the White house and for a number of US Presidents, and also five appearances in concerts for Queen Elizabeth. He sang for Pope Francis, undoubtedly another unforgettable experience. Despite all these experiences which many singers only dream about, his one dream has still to come true, but he is still hoping it will materialise soon.

Victor added that because of his career commitments he hadn't visited Malta on holiday for 17 years, and he felt this deeply. He remarked, however, that he has seen substantial changes, and even joked about the improvements to Malta's roads. Victor was full of praise for Malta's beauty, and said he was really proud to be of Maltese descent, remarking that the Maltese had a lot to be proud of. Victor Micallef would like to thank his Maltese admirers who, he said, give him lots of support, and ended with a message in Maltese, "Nispera li narakom dalwaqt" (I hope to see you soon).

Man with a passion for military memorabilia



Report: Maria Muscat

Michael Cachia is 67 years of age. He and his father grew up with a great passion for American and British military trucks, and other craft including aircraft engines. Michael spends his time building dismantled military trucks, and has a large collection of military craft, even an old car that was used to take St. George Preca from one place to another.

One of the military items owned by Michael Cachia, known as Piti from Benghajsa Birżebbugia, is a hand-operated war siren. It was used to warn people to go down to shelters because of military airstrikes during the war. Michael who is now 67 years old has a great

passion for trucks and old craft, a passion he inherited from his father Paul. Michael said that in British times, his father worked and provided services for the military.

Michael told us that just like his father had done, he too likes collecting things related to the history of Malta, among them a fire truck that was used in 1975 when a Vulcan Bomber plane crashed in Żabbar. Every military vehicle that Michael has, works, and if it doesn't, he makes it work.

"It's something you are born with, when we were young, we used to work with the British and that stays with you ... we are always finding ways of doing things ..."

When you walk into Michael's house you think you're in a museum of military trucks, and old vehicles and every kind of thing imaginable, from old truck engines, airplane engines, and even an old Morris from the thirties that St. George Preca used to ride in.

"This car belonged to my grandfather and was given to my father and he would go to Fr George Preca in Hamrun, take him to mass in Benghajsa and take him back."

Enthusiastic and even a little excited Michael showed us a disassembled military truck that he is building piece by piece. When asked if he has any dreams Michael told us that he is living his dream, but that it would be fun if now, apart from so many military trucks, he manages to get his hands on an airplane as well. When we were there Michael saw an old music box belonging to his grandfather which he thought no longer worked, but when he tried playing it it began playing music from the war years. This made Michael think of his grandfather rejoicing and dancing to the music.

What will Hamrun enthusiasts do without their feast?

Report: Andrea Rossitto Photos: James De Giorgio, Shawn Farrugia



Contrary to the normal festive atmosphere that on this day reigns in Hamrun on the feast of San Gejtanu, this year the locality's street lacked this tradition. On this day, feast supporters of 'tal-Miskina' and those of 'tat-Tamal' create a unique feast spectacle under a scorching sun.

Hamrun born and bred enthusiasts James De Giorgio and Shawn Farrugia, are among these feast enthusiasts. Speaking to tvm.com.mt Shawn, Tamli, who among others is a great follower of the San Gejtanu band marches and James, a Miskina supporter who enjoys displaying large flags on his roof, spoke about the feast rivalry although they say that supporters tend to join together in celebrating this feast.

Despite their love for their own band, the two supporters said that the San Gejtanu feast's expectation is great as, among others, it represents a recollection of the time when in Hamrun commerce was at its best during their childhood. During the time, they recall that Hamrun was full of life as it attracted scores of thousands of feast lovers from every part of Malta. However, this year, similar to what other feast enthusiasts experienced in other localities, James and Shawn could not enjoy the festive atmosphere while hoping that next year it will be different and they will enjoy to enjoy what they missed this year.



Maltese Residents remember historic visit to Seven Hills in 1986 as John Paul II becomes a saint

Jessica Oxford, Blacktown Advocate

SEVEN Hills in New South Wales has a saintly connection of St. John Paul II.

When over 1 million people descended on Vatican City to witness the canonisation of John Paul II on 27 April 2014, it brought back memories for residents who remember the former Pope's visit to Seven Hills several

years ago.

St John Paul II visited workers at the Seven Hills Transfield factory on November 26, 1986, donning a hard-hat as he toured the complex.

Seven Hills resident Charlie Micallef said he joined thousands of other people to witness the historic visit.



Over 12,000 people crowded Seven Hills Transfield when Pope John Paul II came to town.

"(At Transfield) he was very healthy, very cheerful and smiled all the time," he said.

Mr Micallef said he was surprised by St John Paul II's decision to visit Seven Hills and was humbled that he met with "ordinary working men."

"I think it was to send the message that you can find God everywhere, even when you're working," he said.

Carmen and husband Charlie Micallef still remember St John Paul II's visit to Seven Hills in 1986. His wife, Carmen, recalled how she waited for St John Paul II to drive past in his Popemobile on Prospect Highway, Seven Hills, with daughters, Maria and Doris.

"Everyone came out to see him; students lined the streets, even people that weren't Catholic — (it was) like royalty," she said.

"He put out his hand as he went past, directly in front of us. I felt blessed." Mrs Micallef compared St John Paul II's visit to Seven Hills in 1986 to Prince William and Kate's visit.



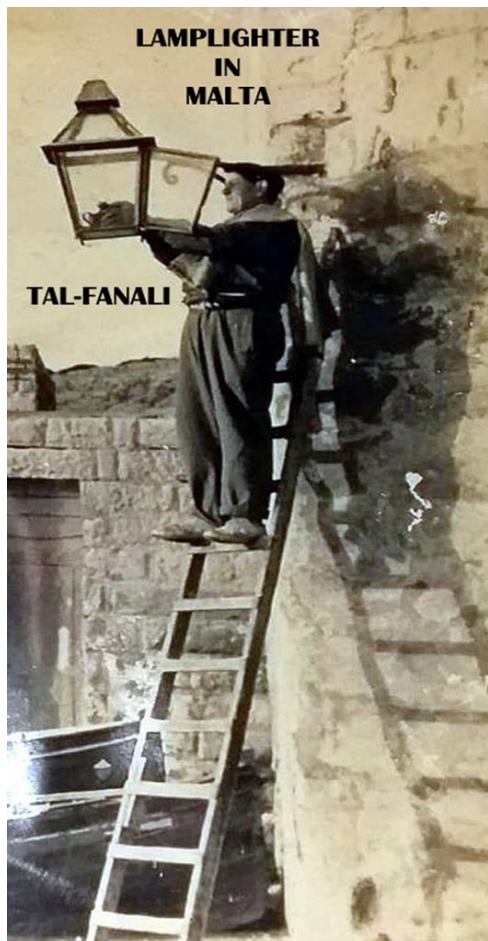
Mrs Micallef said she was due to give birth to her son, John, at the time and gave him the middle name Paul because of this blessing. He was born the week after the former pope's visit.

In 2005, grandmother Yvonne Attard told the *Blacktown Advocate* the time St John Paul II walked up and greeted her and daughters, Simone and Monique during his Seven Hills visit.

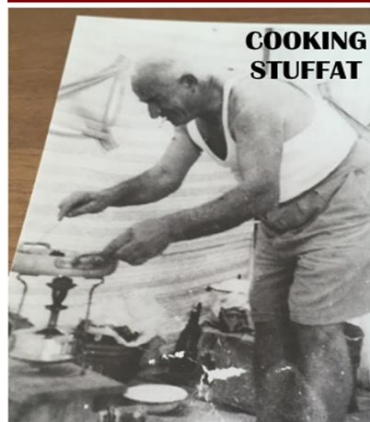
"He put his hand on my arm and I felt electricity shoot up my arm," she said. "It was the thrill of my life to see him, let

alone to touch him." Yvonne Attard said this photo of her daughter Monique with St John Paul II was a prized possession. A saint for Seven Hills

In 2005, when John Paul II died, former owner of the Transfield factory, Franco Bongiorno Nettis told the *Advocate* of his experience touring the facility with him. (Continue next page)



NOSTALGIA



"I was lucky enough to spend an hour talking to the pope," he said. "We spoke in English and Italian and he emphasised the necessity of people working together as a family." It is understood Transfield factory was selected for its high number of workers of Italian descent.

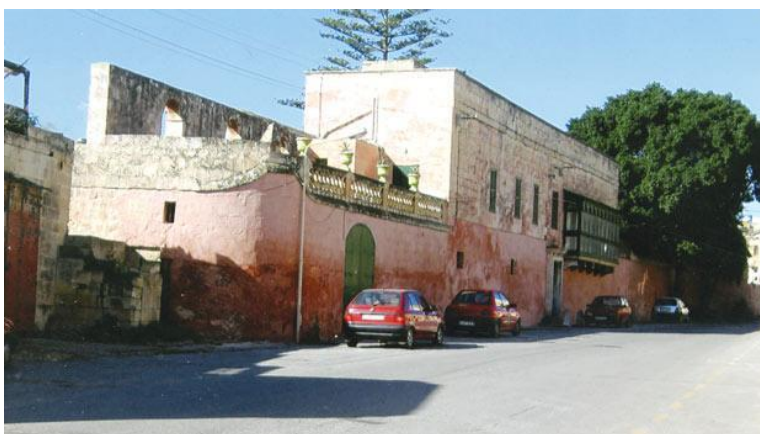
Born Karol Josef Wojtyla in Poland in 1920, John Paul II was canonised along with fellow former pope John XXIII on Sunday by Pope Francis.

It was the first time a dual canonisation of two Popes had occurred. It was also the largest crowd at Vatican City since John Paul II was beatified in 2011.

Like millions around the world, Mr and Mrs Micallef said they watched the ceremony on television. John Paul II received the fastest canonisation since the 1700s, just nine years after his death.

"He was very humble (and) good with young people," Mr Micallef said. "He was one of the best (popes)."

St John Paul II reigned as head of the Catholic Church from 1978 until his death in 2005. He survived an assassination attempt in 1981 and bridged the relationship between Catholicism and Judaism; becoming the first pope to pray at Rome's main synagogue in 1986.



Tarxien's Villa Barbaro has been scheduled Grade One

The Planning Authority has placed Villa Barbaro in Tarxien on a First Grade Level as it is one of the oldest buildings in the country and needs greater protection.

The scheduling took place in collaboration with the Superintendent for Cultural heritage and extends further scheduling of other properties including that in a Żejtun street

that faces Villa Barbaro. Martin Saliba, the CEO of the Authority, said that although this villa has been under protection since 2009, this scheduling has strengthened the protection from any development that may take place in the same street.

Villa Barbaro and its gardens were built in the 16th Century as the property of the Barbaro family and has architectural heritage values on a par with the Inquisitor's Palace at Ġirgenti and Palazzo Gomerino in Rabat.



Maltese Singles Australia >

PRIVATE GROUP - 212 MEMBERS

I have just created a new Maltese Singles Group on Facebook. This group is to help people from Maltese heritage connect with each other for friendship, relationships and marriage. It's only for single people over 18 years old living in Australia with a Maltese background.

We have already 212 members in one week but would like to get the word out.

Rita Joanne Coleiro

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1793672704252180>



Central Coast Maltese Social & Recreation Club
AUSTRALIA

**We deplore those who sit there
trying to put down others who
work hard and are successful**



When one want to build a Club so Maltese can have a place to meet together under one roof this is how you build it. We thank the men in the photo and everyone that volunteered their time to help.

Micallef beside him

Robert Borg This is a great photo & a timely reminder of how we should support our Maltese establishments

Frank Zammit Great photo. These people had the vision, passion, guts and generosity to start building a home for the Maltese Community to come and enjoy each other's company and maintain traditions. I think it's time we honoured them with a plaque on the honour wall.

Mary Mamo My father and brother and uncle are in this photo they were always working at the club and helped to build it

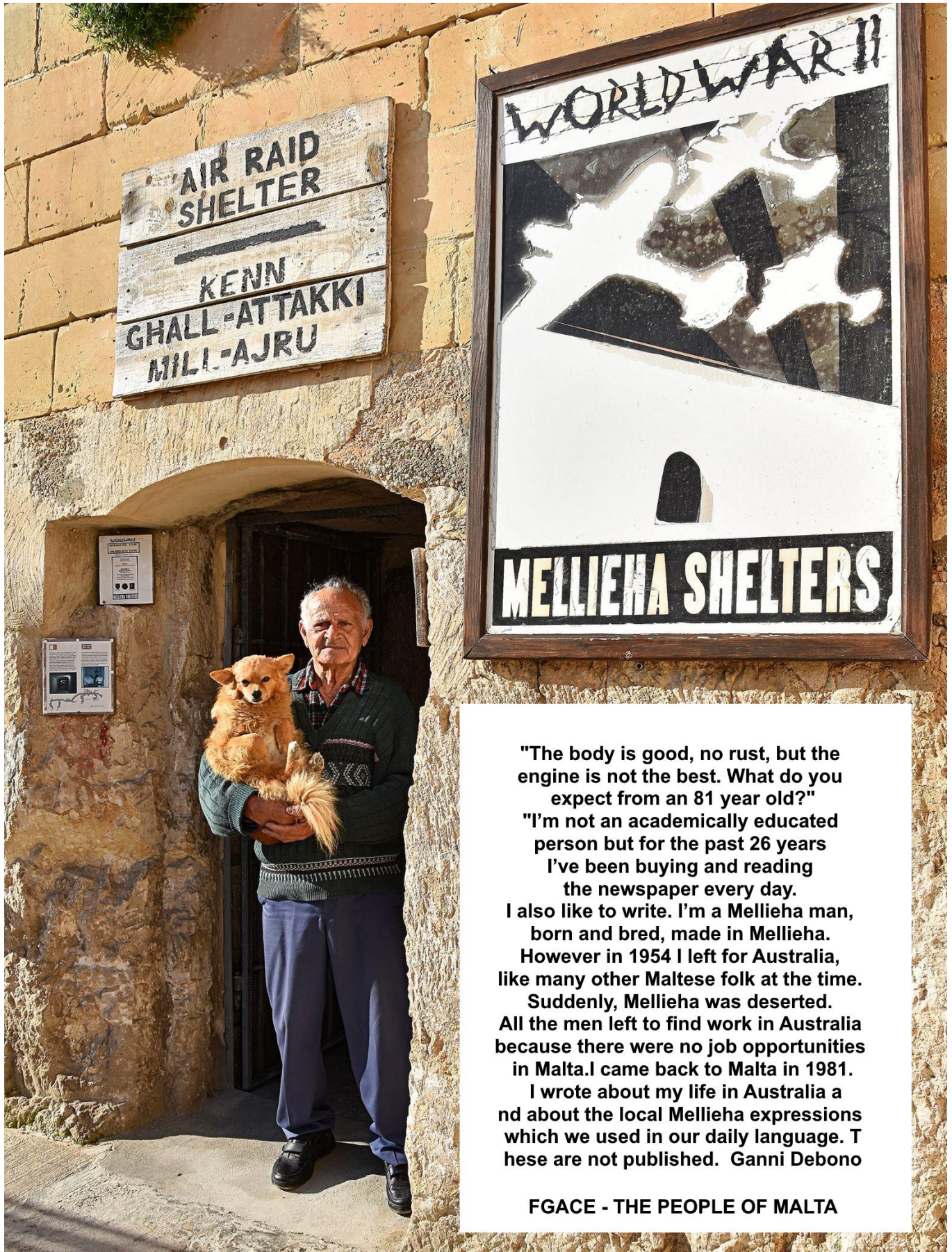
GEORGE CROSS FALCONS MALTESE COMMUNITY CENTRE – CRINGILA, NSW

from L to R Frank Micallef, girl unknown, Charlie Borg, Joe Scerr, Peter Micallef at wheel barrow. Joe Margro (with shovel) Boy with bricks Julian Micallef

The George Cross Falcon Club was established in 1951 to serve and support the Maltese community in the Illawarra.

Michelle Brocklesby My Dad (lifting the wheelbarrow) is hard at work helping to lay the foundation of the club along with my uncles and many others. He has been a proud supporter of the club from the humble beginnings to this very day. Both he and my mum really enjoy the weekly gatherings with lifelong friends, bus trips and functions. Thank you for sharing this is such a great photo.

Lawrence Vella Uncle Johnny or curly hold shovel looking up at camera and uncle Frank



"The body is good, no rust, but the engine is not the best. What do you expect from an 81 year old?"

"I'm not an academically educated person but for the past 26 years I've been buying and reading the newspaper every day.

I also like to write. I'm a Mellieha man, born and bred, made in Mellieha.

However in 1954 I left for Australia, like many other Maltese folk at the time.

Suddenly, Mellieha was deserted. All the men left to find work in Australia because there were no job opportunities in Malta. I came back to Malta in 1981.

I wrote about my life in Australia and about the local Mellieha expressions which we used in our daily language. These are not published. Ganni Debono

FGACE - THE PEOPLE OF MALTA