



Maltese eNewsletter

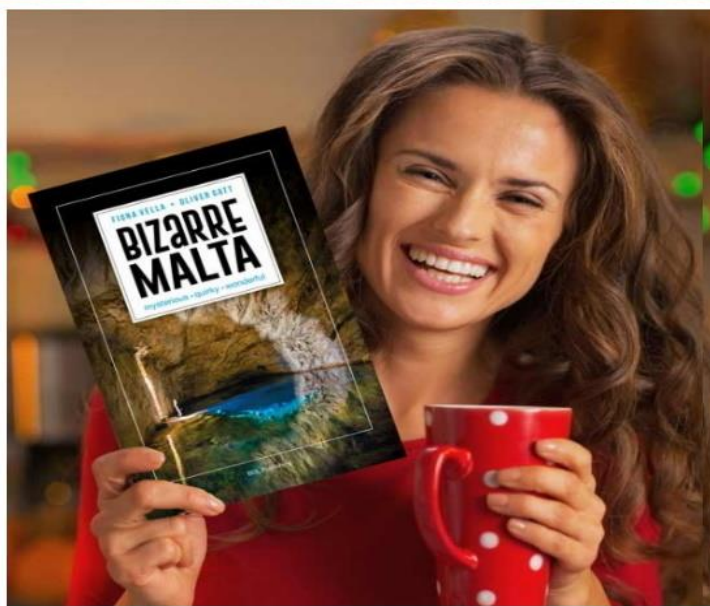
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**HE JUST REALIZED
HE WAS MALTESE**



THE JOURNAL OF ALL MALTESE LIVING ABROAD



It wasn't just St Paul – Malta has had its share of shipwrecks

Report: Mario Xuereb

The vessel which ran aground in Qawra may recall the shipwreck of St Paul in 60 AD, an event which is commemorated today by the Church in Malta.

That shipwreck will always be remembered as the biggest

ever tragedy in Maltese waters, as its story is even recorded in the Acts of the Apostles. Fourteen other tragedies have occurred over the past 160 years, however, in which scores of sailors and passengers lost their lives, including many Maltese.

The tragedy which goes back to November 1908, nearly 110 years ago, in the seas close to Malta, is still considered the worst maritime tragedy. The 'Sardinia' had just left the Port of Malta, when fire spread throughout the ship.

"By the time it was sailing in the vicinity of Xghajra, the vessel was one huge fireball. It was a major disaster. No one could understand why the fire had spread so quickly. The Captain was the first person to lose his life, when an explosion occurred on board the 'Sardinia'. There was a rumour that the vessel could have been carrying explosives, but the owners always denied this," maritime historian Victor Wickman points out.

There were some 150 Muslim pilgrims on board, on their way to Mecca. Over half of them perished in the tragedy, as well as 16 members of the crew, Europeans and Indians.

"It was stated in the inquiry that followed that there were serious shortcomings. Muslim pilgrims were left on deck together, and some were even cooking their food. There were no fire precautions. The cooking fires could have led to the eventual conflagration," Wickman adds.

Mr Wickman points to fires, storms, on-board damage and bad navigation as the main reasons for the 14 shipwrecks around the Maltese coast in the past 160 years.

Just as the vessel carrying St Paul in 60 AD hit a reef, the same fate overtook the battleship HMS Sultan, when it was manoeuvring with torpedoes close to Comino in 1889. The battleship's Captain ended up being blamed. Although the reef was not marked on any navigation chart, he was still held responsible.

More recently, in the mid-50s, the 'Star of Malta', carrying passengers, merchandise and mail from Sicily, ran into problems close to Dragonara Point. "It was a morning when the weather was not so good. There was some navigational error. The vessel was kept close to Dragonara and ended up on the rocks. The vessel was nearly a total loss. A ship's cook and a female passenger had lost their lives."

Conscious of the fact that one doesn't take risks with the all-powerful sea, Maltese mariners are used to praying to St Andrew and other patron saints of seamen to protect them from the dangers they might encounter in the course of their work.



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THE SAGA OF SKAUBRYN



The Camenzuli family in Paola, Malta, a few days before their departure for Australia on Skaubryn, 1958. From left: Lucy, Lina, Georgina, Zaren, Mary and Joyce. Reproduced courtesy Camenzuli family.

The **International Museum Day** is an annual event that raises awareness about the role of museums in cultural exchange and the development of mutual understanding. This year's theme of 'hyperconnected museums' focuses on how museums can make their collections accessible and connect with local communities. It's a theme that is pertinent to our **Remembering Skaubryn: 60 years**

on exhibition, which is drawn from an important **collection of photographs** documenting the fire and rescue on the Norwegian migrant liner *Skaubryn* in 1958. *Skaubryn* was carrying 1,080 passengers, mostly German and Maltese migrants, and was the only vessel lost at sea during the era of post-war migration to Australia.

We have been amazed by the public response to *Remembering Skaubryn*, with offers of material for our collection, **oral history interviews**, and visits from survivors, their families and descendants, as well as local community groups such as the Australian-German Welfare Society. It has been wonderful to hear from visitors who have found a personal connection to the exhibition,

reminding us that immigration is lived history but also *living* history, where the impacts of life-changing migrant voyages resonate right down through the generations.

Reconnecting with the Camenzulis

The exhibition has also given us a chance to reconnect with the Camenzuli sisters, who emigrated from Malta with their parents, Zaren and Georgina, in 1958. Zaren, Georgina and their four daughters, Mary (11), Joyce (10), Lucy (9) and Lina (3), were without lifejackets when

they evacuated the burning *Skaubryn* in the Indian Ocean on the evening of 31 March 1958. The lifeboat they boarded did not have a motor, and an elderly German passenger in their boat died after suffering a heart attack. Zaren and Georgina had to watch on helplessly as their four girls were hauled up in baskets to the rescue ship, *City of Sydney*.

The migrant ship Skaubryn catches fire in the Indian Ocean



Survivors of the Skaubryn, Maltese immigrants Zaren and Georgina Camenzuli and their daughters (L-R) Lina, Lucy, Joyce and Mary in 1996. credit: Ben Rushton



The Camenzuli sisters recently made an emotional visit to the museum to mark the 60th anniversary of their family's arrival in Australia – a family that now numbers almost 100. They provided some poignant photographs relating to their departure from Malta. One is a studio portrait of the Camenzulis in the town of Paolo, just days before their embarkation on 22 March 1958. The four girls are dressed in smart new double-breasted coats that were handmade by their mother, a talented seamstress. Sadly these, along with all their belongings, were lost in the *Skaubryn* disaster. Another photograph, taken by a cousin, shows the family preparing to board the motor launch that will convey them to the ill-fated *Skaubryn*. The youngest daughter, Lina, peeks out from beneath a railing at the wharf in Valletta.



Ghana tal-fatt

The Camenzuli sisters also presented an English translation of a *ghana tal-fatt* (traditional fact-based folk song) titled 'Saga of the *Skaubryn* migrants', written by their mother and inspired by the family's ordeal. In 1996 Georgina performed the moving ballad in Maltese during a *Skaubryn* reunion at the museum, with her husband Zaren accompanying her on the guitar. Sadly Georgina and Zaren Camenzuli have passed on, but their four daughters have ensured that

the family's story will live on by sharing the *ghana* here in memory of their parents. It's a powerful reflection of history and memory, story and song. *Georgina Camenzuli performing her ghana at the museum, accompanied on guitar by her husband Zaren and two friends, 1996. Reproduced courtesy Camenzuli family.*

Posted by Kim Tao - the curator of post-Federation immigration at the Australian National Maritime Museum.

Maltese community found in Japan dates back more than 100 years



Maltese community found in Japan dates back more than 100 years THE INDEPENDENT Tuesday, 9 June 2015 A crew from Japanese national television was in Malta to make a documentary about a small Maltese community in Japan that dates back to the 1890s. Directed by Teppei Okuso from the Japanese Broadcasting Corporation, and with the help of interpreter Mayuko Vassallo, the team has interviewed a few people, foremost among them Professor Henry Frendo, who coordinates the unit on emigration and migrant settlement at the University's Institute of Maltese Studies. From manuscript sources at Cospicua parish church, the National Archives and the University's Melitensia section, it transpires that the founder of this community was a Ruggiero Inglott, who was born in the harbour town of Cospicua in 1871 and died in

Yamugucci, Japan, in 1950 at the age of 79. He married a Japanese lady, Nakayama, whom he very probably met in a Christian mission school context; she later converted to Catholicism.



MALTA-JAPAN
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
マルタ日本商工会議所

MALTA-JAPAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The Malta-Japan Chamber of Commerce is a non-profit organisation with the aim of strengthening bilateral commercial exchanges between Malta and Japan.

A memorable day - 24th February 2020, when Malta-Japan Chamber of

Commerce represented by its President Mr Anthony Micallef, visited H.E. Malta President George W. Vella together with a group of Japanese artists at San Anton Palace.

This leads to strengthen further the relationship between both countries- Malta & Japan.



["Travel x Food"] Challenge to make Maltese pizza "Futura" with a professional chef! Online cooking class

Direction from the owner and chef at "RESTAURANT MALTA" who trained in Malta to make FUTIRA (ftira) – the soul of food in Malta.

Takashi Takamiya the owner chef of the "RESTAURANT MALTA" introduces how to make pizza FUTIRA bread loved by the Maltese People



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Malta - Japan Association
マルタ日本協会

The Malta Japan Association ('MJA') is an NGO with the primary aim of promoting Japanese culture in Malta and strengthening ties between the two countries.

<https://www.facebook.com/MaltaJapanAssociation/>

How the Maltese Cross helped refugees in WWII

J-P Mauro

Citizens of Malta painted the crosses on the front of their homes as a show of support and a pledge of service to refugees.



There are many World War II era photos in circulation that show Crosses of Malta emblazoned on the front of houses on the island of Malta. The Maltese Cross has long been associated with the Knights of Malta, as it was used as far back as the 16th century by the Knights Hospitallers during the Crusades, and the symbol held strong when they became known as the Sovereign Military Order of Malta. But what led people to inscribe the image on their street-facing facades?

The Maltese Cross is as steeped in symbolism as it is in history. The figure is recognizable by the way each point of the cross is angled outward, to make eight points. Malta Uncovered points out that these eight points are symbolic of three things: Firstly, as part of a symbol of a “Christian Warrior,” they represent the eight obligations or aspirations of the knights, which are:

“To live in truth, have faith, repent one’s sins, give proof of humility, love justice, be merciful, be sincere and wholehearted, and to endure persecution.”

The eight points are also representative of the eight nations whose countrymen were admitted into the order. Malta Uncovered explains that these include “Auvergne, Provence, France, Aragon, Castile and Portugal, Italy, Baviere (Germany), and England (with Scotland and Ireland).” The site notes that modern teaching holds that the points are also symbolic of the eight “beatitudes” or “blessings” of the order. According to the site:

“A good first aider in service of the Order of St. John [aka. Knights of Malta] is Observant, Tactful, Resourceful, Dexterous, Explicit, Discriminating, Persevering and Sympathetic.”

Now that we know the symbolism behind the Maltese Cross, it seems safe to assume that Maltese citizens were painting crosses on their houses as a sign of solidarity with their protectors. After all, the Maltese Cross is the guiding symbol of their warriors, entrenched in their culture for hundreds of years. While this practice was an obvious show of support, however, it was also a bit of a code.

A report from Television Malta (TVM) reveals that painting Maltese Crosses on the front of one’s house was a way to announce to the community that the household had room to accommodate refugees. The practice started in 1940, when bombs began to fall on Malta. As the attacks targeted their three most populated cities, there were estimated to be a third of their 85,000 people displaced.

In order to protect the citizenry — and keep the fleeing refugees out of the way of the military — the displaced were sent to the more rural towns and villages inland, which were safer from attack. With far too few shelters, however, the people of these small towns took in families to stay through the hardest time of the war.

These private homes that welcomed refugees began to paint Maltese Crosses on their houses to show how many people they were sheltering. The crosses also made it easier for government officials to see where there may be enough space for another refugee family

. They simultaneously showed off the generosity of each homestead, while showing that they had more to give, if there was anyone else in need.

The story is covered in more depth in the Maltese documentary ‘Malta fil-Gwerra’ by TVM. [Click here to watch the short historical film.](#)



Regina Psaila

“MALTESE MEDIA NEEDS BLACK REPRESENTATION” Regine Psaila

Monique Agius

Maltese media needs black representation, which people of colour and children of biracial families can relate to, Regine Psaila told Newsbook.com.mt during an interview. Regine, who is originally from Cameroon, moved to Malta four years ago after meeting her husband. At present, she is reading for a Diploma in Journalism at the University of Malta.

This newsroom interviewed Regine about her experience in Malta and her work within the African Media Association. Asked about her transition to Malta, Regine said that the difference could be felt, since she went from a huge country full of trees to a country the size of a part of her village.

“At the beginning, I felt trapped. I wanted to take the car to go on a three-hour drive; I couldn’t do that,” she recalled, adding that now she is used to the country.

Regine is a manager at the African Media Association, a local NGO, working in the field of migration and inclusion of asylum seekers in Malta. The NGO also works in the media. Through the association, programmes aimed at asylum seekers are drafted, through which they are helped to tell their story, whether it is a positive or a negative one.

Black representation in Maltese media Regine is advocating the need to have black representation in the media, noting the diversity in society – Maltese children who are black, biracial couples and adopted children. “This is their country and they need to see someone who looks like them in the media,” she elaborated.

Asked to elaborate further, Regine explained that young people need role models.

“I look up to Michelle Obama, for example. She has inspired me a lot. She was so strong in that difficult position, despite being so hated. Having someone like that empowers one to say ‘I can make it,’” Regine maintained.

Having black representation in the media would empower young black people who face widespread discrimination even at schools, she remarked. People of colour also face discrimination in nightclubs, with many of them being denied entry, Regine noted. She added that a voice that would denounce actions such as these is needed in the Maltese media.

We belong to planet Earth Regine is a strong believer that humans belong to planet Earth.

“We have to overcome our barriers and boundaries, and just say we are human,” she explained.

“Yes, the cultures are different, in my home country, I eat couscous with my hands; here, I use a fork. But it is the same couscous which is eaten here in Malta and which you find in Italy and everywhere,” she observed.

Differences in cultures are the result of people who want to focus on small things which sometimes are not so relevant, she added, further noting that “we breathe the same air”.

“We talk the same languages. A language – you learn it. I speak Italian and am learning Maltese. I hope that by the end of my life I will manage to speak it,” she maintains, noting that there aren’t many huge differences except in cases where people refuse to break the boundaries and recognise that we are all the same.

Asked whether she has experienced racism herself, Regine replied in the affirmative. She mentioned incidents when bus drivers do not stop for two Africans waiting on a bus stop or when people refuse to let her have an empty seat.

“On public transport, you find a lot of nasty things happening,” she remarked.

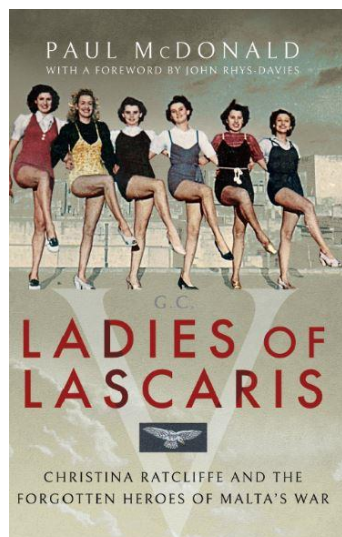
African Media Association Malta is a new NGO set up in 2014 by African journalists in Malta using their professional skills to help migrants to learn about living in Malta and effective integration. The aim of the project is to bring information to African

immigrants in Malta, such as news, current affairs, information how to live in Malta, music and culture etc.

Contact Person: Regine Psaila

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Malta's forgotten female heroes of WWII: The Ladies of Lascaris

In 1942, 53 female civilian plotters worked at Lascaris, including Christina Ratcliffe, a former singer and dancer. Sarah Micallef

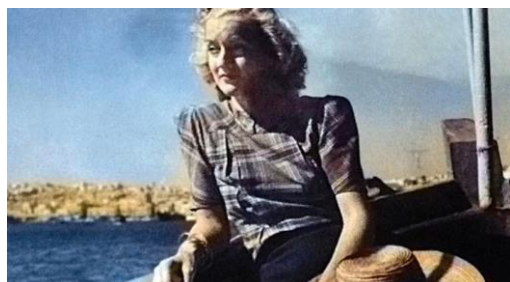
The new book – [Ladies of Lascaris: Christina Ratcliffe and The Forgotten Heroes of Malta's War](#) by Paul McDonald deals with historic Lascaris War Rooms in Valletta

Tracing the life of Christina Ratcliffe, an English singer and dancer who became an aircraft plotter in Malta in WWII, the book tells her story in the underground Royal Air Force operational headquarters beneath Lascaris Bastion in Valletta, as well as those of other British and Maltese girls employed by the RAF.

The author, Paul McDonald, is himself a former Royal Air Force pilot, yet while he's not old enough to have experienced the horrors of WWII, his connection with Malta is a strong one, having been posted here as a photo-recce pilot in 1975. Returning to the island to prepare for the launch of his new book, I sit down with him for a chat about his fascinating subject: the 'forgotten' heroes of Malta's war.

Who was Christina Ratcliffe?

This, dear readers, is not a fictional tale. In June 1942, 53 female civilian plotters worked at Lascaris, some as young as 14. Six, including Christina, were decorated for gallantry. She was described in the Times of Malta in 1942 as "Christina of George Cross Island", and she herself was reported as saying that Malta "is carved on my heart."



"Christina Ratcliffe (full name: Mary Christina Ratcliffe) was very much a real person. She was born in Cheshire, England, in 1914 and first came to Malta in 1937. She returned in March 1940 and remained on the island until she died in 1988," says Paul, who

conducted vast research for the book. "My research involved contact with the Maltese historian Frederick Galea and with the families of the girls who worked at Lascaris," he explains. "It also involved visits to the UK National Archives in Kew, London and visits to Malta itself."

A rare female perspective on war

What the women of Lascaris did, how they lived and how some of them died is told in part using their own words with Paul's book. And indeed, their descriptions of life beneath the most intensive, prolonged bombing the world has ever seen are both rare and extraordinary – an insightful female perspective at the heart of military conflict.

According to Paul, for years after WWII, whispers of a remarkable RAF photo-recce pilot called Warby and his stunning companion Christina, a true heroine, echoes within small corner cafes and bars across Malta's towns and villages. Yet her contribution has never been truly documented – until now.



"Malta is a jewel of an island and has a fascinating history," Paul maintains. "There is much that links Malta and its people with the UK. The people of both are determined and resilient, and both islands have stood up to invasion throughout their history."

About the author

Paul and his wife Jackie lived in Birkirkara and Balzan from 1975 to 1978. They often drove past Christina's Floriana home, unaware at that time of her existence. When they left Malta, they had an even stronger connection with the island: two children, their son Matthew born in Mtarfa and their daughter Hannah in Attard. Asked of his connection with the island, Paul smiles, "both my children were born here. If I understand your laws correctly, that makes them Maltese. Need I say more?"



THE LASCARIS WAR ROOMS - VALLETTA

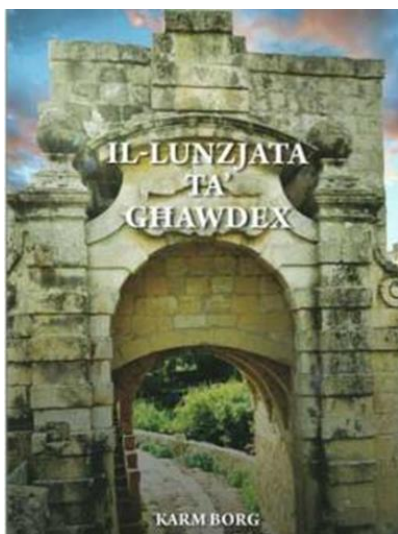
Located 150 feet under the Upper Barracca Gardens and the Saluting Battery in Valletta, the Lascaris War Rooms represent one of Malta's best kept secrets from World War Two.

The War Rooms consist of a network of underground tunnels and chambers that housed Britain's War HQ in Malta from where the defence of the island against Axis aggression was waged and all offensive operations in the Mediterranean were directed.

This ultra secret complex housed an operations room for each of the fighting services which included the hugely important RAF Sector Fighter Control Room from where all air and sea operations were observed and controlled. This was supported by a Filter Room through which all radar traffic was channelled and sifted and an Anti-aircraft Gun Operations Room from where artillery fire against air attack was coordinated. A Combined Operations room served for joint operations, within a heavily guarded facility which accommodated the encryption machines used to receive and send secret communications. Being so deep underground the whole complex was mechanically ventilated – one of the original features that still works. In July 1943, the War Rooms were used by General Eisenhower and his Supreme Commanders Admiral Cunningham, Field Marshal Montgomery and Air Marshal Tedder as their advance Allied HQ for Operation Husky – the Invasion of Sicily.

Following the end of the war, it became the Mediterranean Fleet HQ. In 1967 it was taken over by Nato to be used as a strategic Communication Centre for the interception of Soviet submarines in the Med. It remained in that role for the next ten years when it was finally closed down. The War Rooms played an active part in the Anglo-French invasion of Egypt during the Suez Crisis in 1956 and went into full alert for a number of days during the Cuban Missile Crisis of 1962 when a Soviet missile strike against Malta was expected. In 2009, Fondazzjoni Wirt Artna – the Malta Heritage Trust has embarked on the restoration of this historic complex. Since then its volunteers have spent many selfless hours in painstakingly getting it back to its former glory for the enjoyment of the visiting public.

Karm Borg, 'Il-Lunzjata Ta' Għawdex'



Lunzjata Church/Ministry for Gozo, Gozo. Press 2020, 144 pages

Il-Lunzjata Ta' Għawdex is the name of the latest publication that Mgr Karm Borg of Ta' Kerċem (Gozo) has just published. The book, which consists of seven chapters, is the fruit of many years of scholarly research and brings together the history of the small countryside chapel of the Annunciation that is to be found in the outskirts of Victoria, in the valley that bears the same name. The book focuses on the church but contains other interesting information about the prayer of the Angelus and the Marian cult attached to the solemnity of 25 March.

This book by Mgr Borg is of the utmost importance for the history of Gozo; strangely enough, although the church of the *Lunzjata* - as it is known by one and all - is of medieval origins, it had not yet attracted the attention of historians to the point of becoming the subject of an entire publication. Mgr Borg is to be lauded for this book. Having said

this, Mgr Borg, being both the author of a number of historical books as well as rector of the church since 2008, was certainly the ideal person to provide us with a publication of this kind. He himself hails

from the village of Ta' Kerċem which overlooks the valley and the church of the Annunciation. Besides having been born and bred in the area, Borg grew up in the vicinities of the church and a natural love for the place developed within him since childhood.

History is a favourite subject for Borg who served for many years as librarian of the diocesan seminary's library in Victoria. He has also written dozens of articles about his native Kerċem and about the history of the Church in Gozo. This book provides us with an outline of the history of the medieval church of the Annunciation which goes into detail and is set within the context of the local ecclesiastical milieu. After giving us a detailed sketch of the small church's history, Borg then describes the evolution of the liturgical solemnity of 25 March. The importance of this feast among the other Marian feasts of the Roman calendar is a theme that is discussed vividly in the book and this is definitely an aspect that will catch the attention of all those who are keen on Mariology.

Mgr Borg's *Il-Lunzjata Ta' Għawdex* is a book to be cherished since it covers not only the ecclesiastical history of the church cuddled by the cliffs that are to be found on one side of the valley but also provides the general reader with original information about the flora and fauna of the valley and the important role that the valley itself played at the time of the Knights of St John. The original photographs and pictures in the book make it a sumptuous publication and render the book all the more attractive.

Copies of the book can be obtained from the Kerċem local council or directly from the author via borgdunkarm@gmail.com.



Active Ageing prize launched

Report: Maria Muscat

The Parliamentary Secretary for People with a Disability and Active Ageing, Silvio Parnis has announced the launch of the seventh edition of the Activity Ageing Prize, 2020, which this year will include two new awards, a prize

for active ageing in residential homes and a prize for the best grandmother and grandfather.

Mr Parnis said that in the light of the pandemic, this year the prize will celebrate the elderly despite the challenges which Covid-19 has brought with it for them to remain active, both for those who live in the community and those who live in residential homes.

In all, nine prizes will be awarded, including the prize for active ageing, a prize for married couples and a prize for academics.

Mr Parnis said that because of the pandemic, the award ceremony will be done virtually on 30 October. He said that nominations will be accepted until 30 September, either through an application which can be collected from the Parliamentary Secretariat in Valletta, or by email at premjuanzjanitaattiva.mfsc@gov.mt, or on the website www.activeageing.gov.mt or else from all local council offices.

Keeping Maltese Communities Connected



Il-Maskri

għandhom jintlibsu dejjem
fiċ-ċentri reliġjużi

sahha

Biex tirraporta lil min jikser din il-liġi ċempel 119



STORYTIME WITH CR. VICTORIA BORG

Join us for story-time with
Cr Victoria Borg, including some
Maltese Rhymes.

Please visit the link below to listen.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B4vS6qAajhE>



Brief history about the sinking of HMS.Glorious

During the Second World War many were those Maltese whose lives were to be affected by events that were to unfold as the war progressed. June 8th 1940 brought with it a huge shockwave as news came that the aircraft carrier HMS.Glorious had been sunk with huge loss of life. Many Maltese ratings were amongst the dead and as it turned out no Maltese survived the tragedy.

HMS.Glorious had left the Mediterranean to join the Home Fleet .On board over fifty Maltese ratings and English seamen who had married into Maltese families and had made Malta their home, were heading for the unknown. Their destination was to be Norway. The British forces were trying to gain a foothold in Norway to try to offset the push the German forces were making in order to gain access to the iron ore mines in Sweden and Norway as well as to control the Northern shipping sea lanes. HMS.Glorious was used to land airplanes as well as protect landing troops from enemy fire.

After initial successes the British forces realised that it was futile to continue as the German forces were proving to be far superior. The mission now was to evacuate all the troops and equipment that were previously landed on Norwegian soil and take them back to England. One must note that at this time England was alone in her fight against the Germans as all her allies had been beaten and occupied by the Germans. England was also at that time trying to save its army from the clutches of the Germans by mass evacuation from Dunkirk.

Two convoys were to be formed between the 4th and 5th June and HMS.Glorious was to try and land as many airplanes as it could carry from Norway. This she did with great success even landing fixed winged Hurricanes without the use of arresting hooks, something that had never been done before. At about 2.30am of the 8th June Captain D'Oyly Hughes on board the Glorious asked permission to leave the convoy to head back to Scapa Flow in Scotland sighting lack of fuel as the reason for this request. Permission was granted and the Glorious accompanied by two destroyer escorts HMS. Ardent and HMS.Acasta left the convoy. Later on that day at about 4.30pm the smoke from the chimneys of HMS.Glorious was spotted by two German pocket battleships Scharnhorst and Gneisenau. The two German ships advanced to investigate and on recognising the ships as British they opened fire with their far superior guns. The two destroyers tried valiantly to protect the Glorious but unfortunately she was caught unprepared and was hit by the second salvo fired from the Scharnhorst from a range of more than 24,000metres making her escape almost impossible. The Ardent and Acasta laid smoke screens to hide it from the enemy but all proved futile. They engaged the enemy but the enemy had far superior gun power and after a two hour battle all three ships were sunk. Acasta managed to fire two torpedoes just before going down and one of these hit the Scharnhorst causing severe damage. The Germans thinking that a British submarine had fired that torpedo hurried back to their base in Norway leaving survivors from the three ships in the freezing water. It was calculated that more than 900 men survived the battle, however only 41 men were still alive when rescued three days later. The rest of the men had died a horrible death in the frozen Norwegian waters. It is recorded that amongst those 900 there were Maltese crewmen who tried to lift the spirits of those around them in the Carlew floats but later succumb to the cold. Many of the Maltese were young men in their early twenties experiencing their first trip outside the Mediterranean like my wife's uncle Francis Polidano who was only 20 when he lost his life on board the Glorious. Two other young men Ramon Cuesta and Giovanni Brincat were both only 17 years old when they died.

When the news of the sinking reached England, both parliament and the general public wanted an explanation as to how a capital ship like the Glorious was allowed to leave the safety of the convoy with only two destroyer escorts. Just a few months had passed since the sinking of HMS. Courageous in similar circumstances. The public was asking questions and the government was having trouble answering them. To make the story more interesting along with the two convoys, another ship was sailing with them from Norway, HMS. Devonshire. On board the Devonshire there was the Norwegian royal family, Norwegian parliament and Norwegian gold bullion much needed by the British for the war. It so happened that the only distress signal sent by the Glorious was picked up by the Devonshire but Vice Admiral John Cunningham on board the Devonshire thought it too garbled to make sense and increased speed without taking further action. Why increase speed and call for other measures used in case of danger if the message was garbled? The people had other ideas and were of the opinion that the Glorious could have been sent as a decoy, and assure safe passage for the convoys as well as the Devonshire. The convoys and the Devonshire made it back to the UK without mishap. The British government faced with growing discontentment from within parliament as well as the public came up with a solution. He closed the whole case for a period of 100years. Although nowadays there is the Freedom of Information Act, within the Act itself the government can still withhold information if that information happens to embarrass the government or is a threat to national security. So it seems we will never know the answers to our questions.



In the year 2000 a group of relatives in the UK decided to organise a supposedly one off service marking the 60th anniversary since the tragedy. The response was overwhelming and the next year another service was organised with more relatives attending. The Maltese High Commissioner was asked to attend as these relatives knew the heavy loss suffered by the Maltese on this ship. In the year 2008 a memorial plaque was presented to the Maltese public by the Glarac Association as recognition to this fact. Glarac is an acronym formed by taking the first two words from each ship Glorious—Ardent—Acasta. Every year the Glarac Association Malta organises a service of remembrance for all the men lost on the three ships with a special focus on the Maltese men. Unfortunately this year due to Covid-19 pandemic the service was cancelled. Let's hope that next year we will be once again able to show our gratitude to our fallen heroes. I hope that I will be able to give you more information about this story in the future. Take care and keep safe.

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LOCATION The link to the online event to be provided by the event organiser

CONTACT DETAILS <https://www.trybooking.com/book/sessions?eid=646371>

MEET THE COMMITTEE

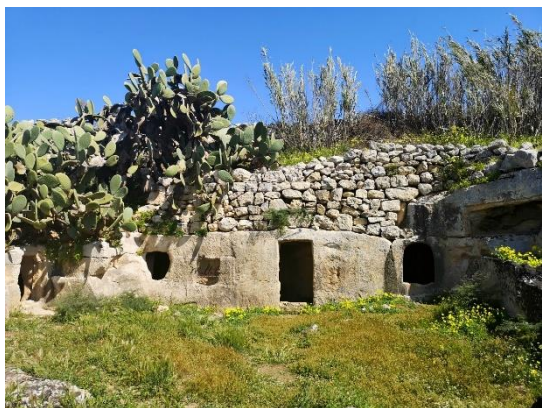
Today we thought we would do something a little different to our usual Meet the Player post. We wanted to introduce you to our Committee.

We have 10 hard-working, passionate people who work hard to ensure the band continues to be successful now and into the future. They are a strong dynamic team, driven to achieve the bands vision seeing the Maltese culture preserved here in Victoria through a common love, MUSIC.

Our committee members are:

Dean Attard - Co-President
Joe Cardona - Co-President
Amie Cardona - Secretary
Rebecca Xuereb - Secretary
Emanuel Cuschieri - Treasurer
Frances Offer - Treasurer
Chris Barratt - Band Representative
Steve Azzopardi - Band Representative
Maryanne Vella - Librarian
Lisa Zammit - Policies & Procedures





Exploring Paleo-Christian Catacombs in Salina

By Martina

Is it possible to find new places to discover after 13 years living in Malta? That even a toddler can enjoy? Yes, it is! This time I would like to tell you a little bit about the Paleo-Christian Catacombs in Salina and how you can easily get to them. The best orientation point the Chapel of the Annunciation, so let's start here.

This chapel appears in documentation in 1618. The two side buttresses alongside the two walls were added in 1776 to prevent the walls from sliding out. Today the chapel forms part of the parish of Burmarrad. It's still functioning and if you would like to attend a mass you can do so on Saturdays.

There are couple of parking spots available and it's generally very quiet, so you shouldn't have a problem with parking. Feel free to walk around the chapel and when you ready, come back here, facing the chapel. From this position, the catacombs will be on your right.

There is a sign, which informs you that there are indeed Paleo-Christian Catacombs. This signposted public pathway, which leads to the catacombs, passes though private agricultural land. Please be respectful and simply follow the path. It's beautiful here, so let's keep it that way.

Soon you will come to this opening, which will reveal the Paleo-Christian Catacombs. This is relatively unknown, small, but not less important legacy from Malta's Roman period. These catacombs are believed to be dated to the 2nd or 3rd century AD. Such burial site is an important record of the sizable community that must have lived in the area.



Now it's time to start exploring! The site consists of a number of smaller tomb groups clustered around a rectangular court. They are cut in the rock, which must have been an ancient limestone quarry. The catacombs are well maintained, clean, easily accessible and free to visit.

I'm always very respectful and probably a bit scared of these places for some reason. But my son, wasn't afraid at all. Him and his dad were full on with their explorations!

I have to say, the ceilings are not very high and being a tall person I had to be very careful to avoid painful encounters with the hard limestone.

In the picture below you can see perfectly preserved c-shaped dining 'table' also known as the agape table, which was used for commemorative meals. It is carved in its entirety out of the living rock! The agape tables generally rise around 60cm above ground level and in the Maltese catacombs are about



75cm in diameter. The small open section of the rim had most likely rather practical than ceremonial function. It is assumed, that this opening made it easier to clean and wash the table after the meals.

This hypogeum also features two baldacchino tombs, rarely found outside of the Rabat catacombs. These two window tombs that surround the agape table suggest that it was an important feature of the catacombs.

The catacombs contain different types and shapes of graves. Some of the graves are wide enough to hold the remains of two individuals lying side by side.

It's worthwhile to mention that Malta's Paleo-Christian heritage with its hypogea and burial rites, is considered among the most important in the early Christian world, in particular because some of the rituals constitute a mixture of religious rites performed on the same site.

According to UNESCO, the mixed features of the [Maltese catacombs](#) are rarely equaled anywhere else in the Mediterranean. Our island is rich in these types of burial sites. There is certainly a need to stimulate and foster and increased awareness of Malta's Paleo-Christian heritage.



I had to close off this blog with this picture as I really like this 'window' with the direct view of the chapel. www.maltatina.com

My name is Martina, alias Tina. I'm originally from the Czech Republic, but have been living in Malta for over 10 years. As you can imagine, every relationship tends to become a bit boring after a very long time. My love story with this island started experiencing some serious issues. I thought I had seen and done it all, and that there was nothing exciting going on anymore and no new discoveries to be made



Keeping Connected for Maltese Seniors

Facebook page for Maltese Seniors in Australia and the Maltese Diaspora helping keep them socially connected and informed with each other and their homeland Malta through stories, culture, and relevant important information from both Australia and Malta. Marie-Louise Marisa Previtera (Marisa)

<https://www.facebook.com/malteseseniors>



Palazzo Ferreria

Palazzo Ferreria, officially **Palazzo Buttigieg-Francia**, is a palace found near the entrance of Valletta, the capital city of Malta. It was built in the late 19th century. Designed by Architect Giuseppe Bonavia, it was the first building to introduce timber balconies on the islands. It is a grade 1 national monument.

History

On the plot of the palace a former foundry of the Order of St John existed to manufacture the knight's armaments. Giuseppe Buttigieg and his wife Giovanna Camilleri acquired the land from

the government, and they built Palazzo Ferreria in the late 19th century. Visibly on the façade are the coat of arms of Buttigieg and Camilleri. The palace was left as dowry to their daughter Teresa Buttigieg. She married Colonel John Louis Francia for whom the Palace got its name for a while. Francia was a Spanish citizen from the British colony Gibraltar, and the two met in Malta while Francia was on duty with the British army. Palazzo Ferreria is the second biggest palace in Valletta after the Grandmaster's Palace.

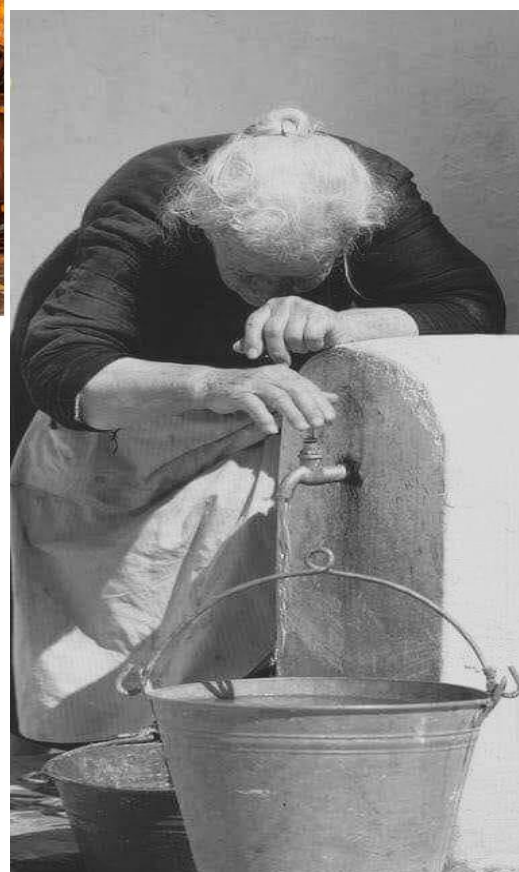
The Francia family resided at the palace until the end of World War Two, in 1947. The war had destroyed or partly damaged most buildings in Valletta. The Labour government, led by Dom Mintoff, rented part of the palace from the Francia for the Public Works Department, to reconstruct and restore Valletta from the war damage. The family kept a small part of the palace as an apartment which is now used as a Maltese government Ministry's office. The Francia sold the palace in 1979 to the government which was administered once again under Prime Minister of Malta Dom Mintoff. Today the lower parts of the palace consist of several shops.

Architecture The architect of Palazzo Ferreria is Giuseppe Bonavia, who also designed the Lija Belvedere Tower and La Borsa. Bonavia is accredited to be the first architect to introduce the timber balconies on façades, beginning with the Palazzo Ferreria. This took place in the 19th-century and has influenced several architects and Maltese populace in general, something that is still visible and prevalent today. The palace is scheduled as a grade 1 national monument by the Malta Environment and Planning Authority



Gourgion Tower

The tower, built by nobleman Giovanni Gourgion and inaugurated by Grand Master Adrien de Wignacourt in 1690, stood at Xewkija till June 1943 when it was dismantled by American troops stationed there during World War II to construct a temporary airstrip to be used in the invasion of Sicily.



Chapel of Our Lady of Sorrows, Mqabba.

This chapel, which is tucked away in the centre of Mqabba dates back to the 15th. century and it was first named to Our Lady of the Assumption.

It was then referred to as Tal-Faqqanija, and was built prior to 1500. It is not known exactly why it was so called, because Faqqanija was slightly away from it.

During the plague that struck Malta between 1592 and 1593 around 4,000 people died. Many of these were buried in the cemetery that existed in front of this church.

Today this cemetery is no longer seen since the land was covered with tiles and then after trees were planted.

In 1680, it was rebuilt and it is in a very good state of preservation. It is opened daily for adoration.

Charles Borg - The mysteries of Malta



Malta's Hero Chefs Are on Their Way to Lebanon, Beirut

• Thea Formosa

Following the tragedy that struck Beirut a couple of weeks ago, everyone has been doing their best to help in any way that they could.

A group of Maltese chefs, led by Lebanese chef Hany Harb, have embarked on a journey -Hany Harb

himself, joined by Jean Galea Souchet; Robert Bonello; Rafel Sammut of 'Briju' Restaurant; Zack Demarco; Marko Pavlovic, and with the assistance of Hany's Wife Claudienne – are jetting off to Lebanon as we speak, to prepare food for the residents of Beirut.

Once Hany and the team get to Beirut they will be joining forces with Chef Joe Barza, who is heading the Chefs For Beirut Initiative, which forms part of the even-larger World Central Kitchen campaign.

WCK's Relief Team is using the power of food to offer hope to families in need, showing them that "we are here and we care. We are working within the local community to heal and strengthen by providing nourishing, fresh meals made with care."

Hany told Daniel and Ylenia during a Bay Breakfast interview, that upon landing at Beirut, they will be heading straight to the kitchens, joining other chefs to prepare some 16,000 meals per day to people who have lost their relatives, their place of work, their belongings, and their houses.

Hany also explained that they are collecting donations from the people of Malta and Gozo to be able to buy the ingredients themselves, and said that they have already surpassed their original €15,000 target and they are at nearly €30,000 as at the time of the interview.

How can YOU do

Donations to this initiative can either be dropped off at Ali Baba in Gżira or sent through Revolut on +356 9945 0211. Revolut donors are to leave a note specifying that the funds are a donation to the Lebanese donation kitchen.



Looks forward to October to embark on ġbejniet production

Report: Andrea Rossitto

In the very heart of a number of lovely farms in the limits of St Paul's Bay, we come across Eric Vella, a sheep farmer. At the early age of 12, Eric had already started breeding livestock, and although his chosen work is not exactly a bed of roses, he has gone for this farm work with a will.

On the family farm at L-Imbordin, Eric gets a helping hand from his wife, brother, father and uncles and aunts. The family work together and October will see the start of the manufacture of cheeselets, the ubiquitous ġbejniet so much in demand everywhere.

In comments to tvm.com.mt Eric explained that the hot August sun is no deterrent to milking his flocks. At the end of the month, the lambs are left with the sheep for about a month before the production of ġbejniet starts in October. Production which Eric will be able to carry out in more comfort on the farm itself this year, as he has now been issued with the necessary permits to set up on more modern lines.

Asked whether foreign competition deters him, Eric insists that in his view, no product anywhere can compete with the local fresh produce. Eric added that in the Maltese Islands nature plans everything beautifully according to the season, and this, in turn, adds to the exceptional goodness of the local product.



Mons. Gwanni M. Camilleri O.S.A.

By Fr. Mark Cauchi OSA

L-Isqof Agostinjan Ġwann M Camilleri kien minsi dan l-aħħar fit-tifkira tal-Knisja ta' Pinu li tant ħadem għaliha.

Mons. Camilleri tweled l-Belt Valletta fil-15 ta' Marzu 1843. Daħal fl-Ordni tal-Agostinjani fis-sena 1861. Gie ordnat sacerdot fis-sena 21 Dicembru 1867 u kkonsagrat isqof t' Ghawdex 24 ta' Frar 1889.

L-aktar ħaġa li jibqa' mfakkar għaliha Mons. Camilleri hija d-devozzjoni kbira li kellu lejn il-Madonna ta' Pinu. Dak li anqas magħruf fir-rigward ta' l-istorija ta' din il-knisja Ta Pinu f'Ghawdex hu li sa minn tfulitu, Mons Camilleri kellu devozzjoni lejn l-Ewkaristija u lejn l-Madonna. Meta kien isqof t'Ghawdex heġġeġ dejjem il-merħla fl-imhabba tiegħu lejn Ġesu' u Marija. Fuq kolloxx kien iħobb imur darbtejn fil-ġimgħa bil-mixi jinvista l-Madonna Ta' Pinu. Dak iż-żmien il-knisja kienet għada kappella. Din it-tradizzjoni żamma l-isqof ta' warajh Mons. Mikiel Gonzi.



Meta Mons. Camilleri kien isqof kellu quddiemu żewġ deċiżjonijiet, waħda li jgħati l-appoġġ tiegħu dwar id-devozzjoni lejn il-Madonna ta' Pinu w aktar wara d-dehriet, u t-tieni kienet li jibni knisja ġdida u monumentali flok mil-kappella zghira. B'hekk ħatar rettur għall-kappella u ħabrek biex ixerred id-devozzjoni. Biex iħajjar aktar lill-fidili għas-Santwarju Mons. Camilleri qala' minn għand il-Papa Ljun III il-Brevi ta' Indulġenza Plenarja. Meta bierek u poġġa l-ewwel ġebbla sqarr; **li meta ġejt fostkom** wiehed mill-għanijiet tiegħi kien li nfittex li ntella din id-dar t'Alla għall-glorja tiegħu u tal-Madonna.

Mons. Camilleri qatt ma qata' qalbu għal dan il-proġett. Biss kien jgħid li sab ħafna diffikultajiet kbar li kien hemm bżonn żmien twil, inkluż kawżi ta' qrati u appelli x'jintrebbu. F'dak iż-żmien l-għedewwa tal-Knisja u tal-Papa żerġu skandi bil-kelma u bil-kitba. Mons. Camilleri ddefenda l-Knisja. Dan l-inkwiet kien wassal lil Mons. Camilleri jkteb f'xi waqtiet feħan ħsibt li wasaln u li ma ndumux ma nqiegħedu l-ewwel ġebbla u ftit wara l-ferh jibidel f'niket, l-żda fl-aħħar irnexielu jgħelibhom u nhar it-30 ta' Meju 1920 Mons. Camilleri bierek u qiegħed l-ewwel ġebbla.

Fi kliem Mons. Nikol Cauchi, il-predeċessur tiegħu Mons. Camilleri kellu fidi qawwija, sens ta' dmir. tjubija paterna u kellu żelu mheġġeġ għas-salvazzjoni ta' l-erwieh. Bħala ragħaj tajjeb Mons. Camilleri dejjem għasses fuq il-merħla f'data lilu. Huea halla din id-dinja fir-Rabat, Malta fis-7 Novembru 1924. Kien Mons. Nikol Cauchi li reġa poġġa r-ritratt taż-żejt ta' Mons. Camilleri li kien tneħħa qabel. Verament kif jgħid Shakespeare; "the good men do is often interred with their bones"



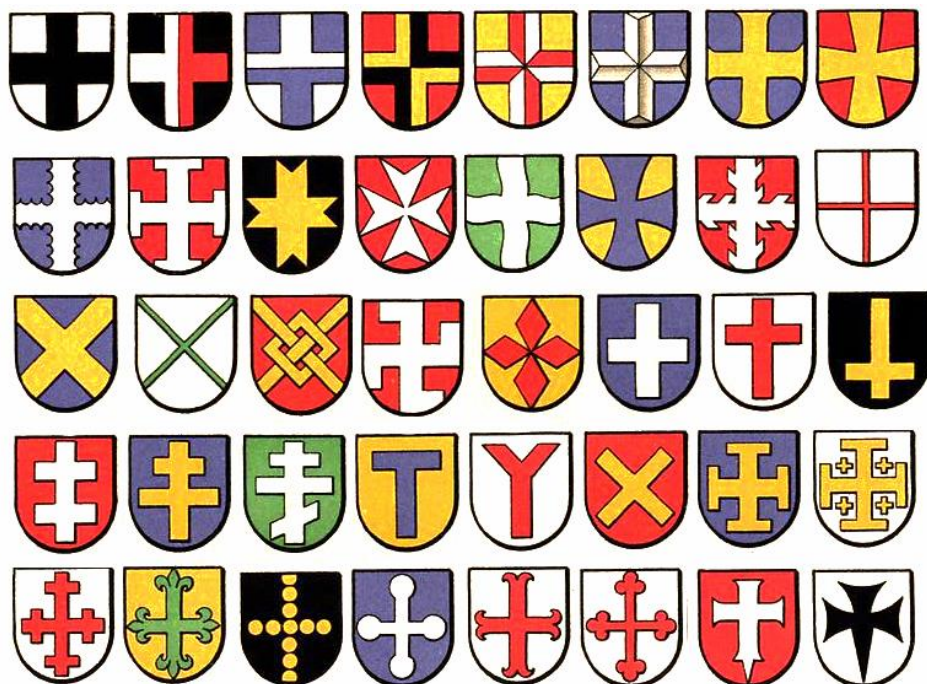
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From Hugo Gerard Ströhl's *Heraldischer Atlas*.

CROSSES IN HERALDRY

A number of cross symbols were developed for the purpose of the emerging system of heraldry, which appeared in western Europe in about 1200.

This tradition is partly in the use of the Christian cross an emblem from the 11th century, and increasingly during the age of the Crusades.

Many cross variants were developed in the classical tradition of heraldry during the late medieval and early modern periods.

Heraldic crosses are inherited in modern iconographic traditions and are used in numerous national flags.



It has been our pleasure to know you. My family and I thank you for the time you gave us in completing forms, so we could receive our Maltese Citizenship. I look forward to purchasing your book when it is completed, I am sure it will take many long hours of hard work to collate all the previous editions. I have kept about 70% of the Journals since I started receiving them, they were and still are very interesting.

Bruce and I had looked forward to going to Malta last June, but due to the virus we had to forgo our holiday. One day, God willing.

We have been lucky in Australia that we have not had too many people lose their life, still one loss has been one too many and may God grant them eternal life.

We would like to wish you both a very safe and healthy retirement. You will be sadly missed

Mireille & Bruce Daw
and Family

'Irbah Ktieb Kuljum'

#oqghodgewwa u #aqraktieb



Il-Hanut tal-Helu li Mar Dawra
by Clare Azzopardi
(illustratur Matt Stroud)
(Merlin Publishers)



Irvin Vella - Investigatur Virtwali: Il-Kaz tal-Gzejjer tat-Tezor
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2017

THE LEGEND FIVE YEAR OLD GHANNEJ



Jomike Agius known as ta' Seba Rġiel and his 5 year old son Lydon performed a series of makjetti during the Ghanafest 2020 in June. This young għannej will blow your mind away as he's sharp and owns the show as good as any of his għana peers. Young Lydon embodies the fruit of Festivals Malta's efforts in keeping this tradition alive. His mother said that għana is everything for Lydon, even during playtime – he lines up his soft toys, stands in front of them and serenades them with his għana. This talented boy from Fgura is successfully following his father's talent of Maltese folk-singing, known as *għana spirtu pront*. Lydon Agius told TVM that God gave him this talent of folk-singing and he is thrilled when he joins well-known *għannejja*.

Lydon's gave a folk-singing session at a Żabbar bar. At first sight, one thinks that Lydon is reading the words however this five year old boy is at his best in the *spirtu pront* folk-singing. Lydon has been folk-singing for the past two years and he does not intend to stop.. Whilst listening to his son singing, Mr. Agius is convinced that Lydon will be a first-class and popular folk singer. "I don't see otherwise; it is a nice hobby. Of course, I want him to succeed.



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**Lill-Assunta
il-mimmi
t'ghajnejna:
Meqjuma fil-Katidral
t'Għawdex**



Is-Sajf reġa' jinsab magħna
u miegħu tant festi sbieħ
illi niesna tkun tistenna
għaliex dawn thobbbhom qatigh!

Nghid għaliya jien tant ngħozzhom
u le nfalli waħda minnhom
mill-bidu sat-tmiem joghğobni
dak kollu li nara fihom!

Importanza jiena nagħti
tal-Knisja l-funzjonijiet
illi jdur mal-istatwa
li ma tħalliniex bi kwiet

U quddiemha erħilna nċapċpu
u nkantawha bla waqfien
għaliex din mimmi t'ghajnejna
hekk kienet dejjem maż-żmien.

In-noti tal-qniepen ħelwa
illi jdoqqu bla mistrieħ,
iferrħuni, jallegrawni –
tismagħhom mal-erba' rjieħ.

It-tizjin fit-toroq tagħna
ukoll joħloq spirtu kbir,
atmosfera mhix komuni,

biha qalbna trid ittir.

U xi ngħidu mbagħad għall-
baned
illi jkaxkru lil tant nies
biex jisimgħu dawk il-marċi
b'ħlewwa w benna ta' bla qies!

U għat-Telgħa tar-Repubblika
in-nies kurjuża tiffolla
sabiex tara l-bhima tagħha
tiela' tlebbet qisha molla!

Žgur li l-festa itkun nieqsa
k'ma jkollhiex xi ftit sparar –
qisek għamilt borma prima
u ħallejtha mingħajr bżar!

"Mma tal-'Vampa' jagħmlu
tajjeb
lis-sema jimlew kulur
bil-murtali, u b' tal-bomba,
tara, tisma' kulfejn tmur!

Dawna l-ingredjenti kollha
żgur li ssibhom fil-Belt tagħna;
fil-ħmistax t'Awwissu sewwa
kif l-Assunta tasal magħna.

Għaliex niesna minn kull naħa
jimlew sew it-Tempju tagħha,
jitolbuha b'hegga kbira
ilkoll hienja mdawrin magħha.

Din il-Knisja hekk tal-ghageb
il-Matrici tal-Għawdxin
b'koppla finta dlonk issaħħar
tant Maltin u barranin!

W hemm se tibqa', lill-Assunta
tkanta innu ta' tifhir
u quddiemha lkoll jinxteħtu
l-ghani, ż-żgħir, il-kbir, il-fqir.

Ta' kull sena f'nofs Awwissu
jingħaqdu fis mal-Għawdxin
ferħan kollu l-poplu Malti
u ma' dawn salt barranin.

U kif jista' jkun mod ieħor
la din l-Omm hi ta' kulħadd
u li żgur qatt ma nstema'
illi warrbet lil xi ħadd!

O Marija sbejha Assunta
meta s-Sibt toħroġ iddur
fost il-ferħ u l-ghors tal-folla
waqt li qalbna bl-hena tfur

Itfa' ħarstek fuq dal-poplu
idhol għammar fil-qalb tiegħu,
għannqu, ħaddnu bil-bews tiegħek
w la tinfired qatt minn miegħu.

Eħlisna minn din l-imxija
li niżżlitna għarkupptejna;
tħalliniex nogħtru, nitkagħbru,
mill-biki xxotta 'l ghajnejna!

La tinsiex illi missieri
bradella hu tak mis-sbieħ,
ommi Lola wkoll ħabbitek
u faħħritek żgur qatigh!

Sakemm għadna f'din id-dinja
żommna dejjem għall-kenn
tiegħek
sabiex imbagħad wara mewtna
ħdejki fil-Genna niġu miegħek.

Kav Joe M Attard
Rabat – Għawdex
Awwissu 2020



Mgr Anton Teuma
Gozo's 9th Bishop
to be consecrated
on 13 September
2020



Stella Maris Parish Museum opens to the general public

Il-mużew tal-Knisja Parrokkjali tal-Verġni Marija Kewkba tal-Baħar se jiftaħ għall-ewwel darba għall-pubbliku fl-okkażjoni tal-festa ta' Stella Maris nhar il-Ħadd 23 ta' Awwissu. Il-mużew, li jinsab biswit il-knisja f'50, Triq il-Kbira, Tas-Sliema, se jiftaħ il-Ħadd li ġej wara l-Quddiesa

Solenni tal-10:30am. Għall-bqija tal-Ħdud il-mużew ser ikun miftuħ bejn l-10am u 12pm jew b'appuntament billi wieħed iċempel fuq 21334941. Stella Maris hija l-eqdem parroċċa f'Tas-Sliema u l-mużew tagħha jiġbor ħafna tagħrif dwar l-iżvilupp ta' din il-lokalità minbarra oġġetti marbutin mal-ġrajjet tal-parroċċa, il-knisja nfisha, il-qassisin li taw servizz u n-nies li għexu fiha.

The Stella Maris Exhibition Rooms will be inaugurated on Sunday 23rd August after the 10:30am Solemn High Mass on the occasion of the feast of Stella Maris. The parish museum is situated at 50, High Street, Tas-Sliema, adjacent to the Stella Maris Parish Church.

Since Stella Maris was the first parish in Tas-Sliema, there are some interesting items being exhibited pertaining to the history of Tas-Sliema. The main focus is the parish itself, as well as the love of the parishioners for their church and for the priests who ministered to them. **The Exhibition Rooms will be open every Sunday between 10am and noon or by appointment on 21334941.**

BIZARRE MALTA mysterious - quirky - wonderful



BDL books

Hand in hand with Fiona Vella and Oliver Gatt we walk through quite untrodden paths. Most visitors and other curious travellers usually herd and stop at the tourist traps, certified as such by the hundreds of thousands who did it before



The weight of repetition bestows credence upon places and validates their claims to high visibility. This book sets out to be totally different – it beckons readers in the opposite direction. It tells us: be the first. It tells us: there are still corners tucked away in the fold of the islands' geography or in the nooks of their history where the attraction lies not in the spectacular, in high creative art, in objects that evoke crucial moments in history, but in neglected, mysterious, weird, inexplicable buildings, or places, or phenomena. The façade of a village house damascened in seashells – Renzo Piano it ain't, but nonetheless it is a spectacular monument to single-mindedness and the ego's craving to stand out as different.

Such a 'guide book' has never been done before, certainly not on the systematic scale that the authors have undertaken in this volume. The closest was the easier and the more obvious: a ramble through the spooky abodes of ghosts,

apparitions, spectres, and the paranormal, which still seem to hold interest for some. Frankly, I have little time for anything that requires me to suspend both belief and disbelief. The authors are here on far surer, though equally intriguing, grounds. They introduce the realm of the opaque, the paradoxical, the irrational, the absurd, the impervious. I wonder why they left the law courts out. by Giovanni Bonello.

BIZARRE MALTA

Bizarre Malta is at BDL Books, Malta

🐟 Let's not discuss sharks in summer shall we? 🐟

Stop here if you want to swim without care this weekend.

In chapter 30 of Bizarre Malta we tell the story of a shark attack as blood curdling as a scene from JAWS 🤩



See the book here 🙌 bit.ly/BizarreMalta

In 1890 two Maltese fishermen were reported to have been killed by a large shark off Marsaskala bay. The victims, Salvu Bugeja aged 66, and his son, Wistin, aged 22, were in the company of two other fishermen when their fishing boat was capsized by a large fish.

The sea creature then devoured Salvu and his son before the eyes of their horrified companions and a few others who were fishing in the vicinity.

Want to read more about Malta's darker and less obvious history? Then get your copy of Bizarre Malta

today. Available from all bookshops, stationers and souvenir shops. Also online here with free delivery 🙌 bit.ly/BizarreMalta

(This photo is not related to the story told here but to a famous shark catch in 1987. More about it on the book.)



MALTESE CANADIANS EMBRASS THE FEAST OF THE ASSUMPTION OF OUR LADY IN TORONTO BY PACKING ST PAUL THE APOSTLE MALTESE CANADIAN CHURCH

The Church was full and I was the last to sit at last Sunday's mass, due to COVID19 restriction. It was a thrill to see the Church full, to see the Maltese Canadian pastor, Fr Mario Micallef recovering well and back on the altar celebrating mass with Fr Jimmy. Thanks always to the readers, the St Paul The Apostle Church Choir and the Ministers of Hospitalities for their sterling job.
Consulate General of the Republic of Malta to Canada



Marsovin releases first Méthode Traditionnelle Brut Rosé

Marsovin has produced for the first time in Maltese history a Méthode Traditionnelle Brut Rosé sparkling wine using the indigenous grape variety ġellewża and selected chardonnay grapes

by **MaltaToday Staff**

101 Brut Rose is a sparkling wine made by Marsovin

Marsovin has produced a special edition Méthode Traditionnelle Brut Rosé sparkling wine, the first in Maltese history. This special edition wine has been named, 101 Brut Rosé, representing the number of years since the winery was first established.

The wine was produced from a blend of Malta's indigenous grape variety Ġellewża and selected Chardonnay grapes.

"As a Maltese wine producer, we are proud of the result achieved, especially since it is a first for Maltese winemaking history. In fact, because we are so proud of the result we have decided to label the wine as a special edition wine. The name 101 represents the number of years of the family's winemaking history," Jeremy Cassar from Marsovin said.

101 Brut Rosé was made using the traditional sparkling rosé winemaking method used in other regions around Europe such as Champagne, Cava, Franciacorta and Trentino.

After the first fermentation of the grape juice a process known as the assemblage takes place, this is the careful blending of the different base wines to form a cuvée which gives the desired aromas and character of the wine before undergoing secondary fermentation and further ageing in the bottle.

The Méthode Traditionnelle is a rigorous and intense process which entails at least 12 months wine maturing on the yeast lees in the bottle prior to disgorgement. The wine is said to have a refreshing natural sparkle, with a complex elegant bouquet.



About Marsovin - www.marsovin.com

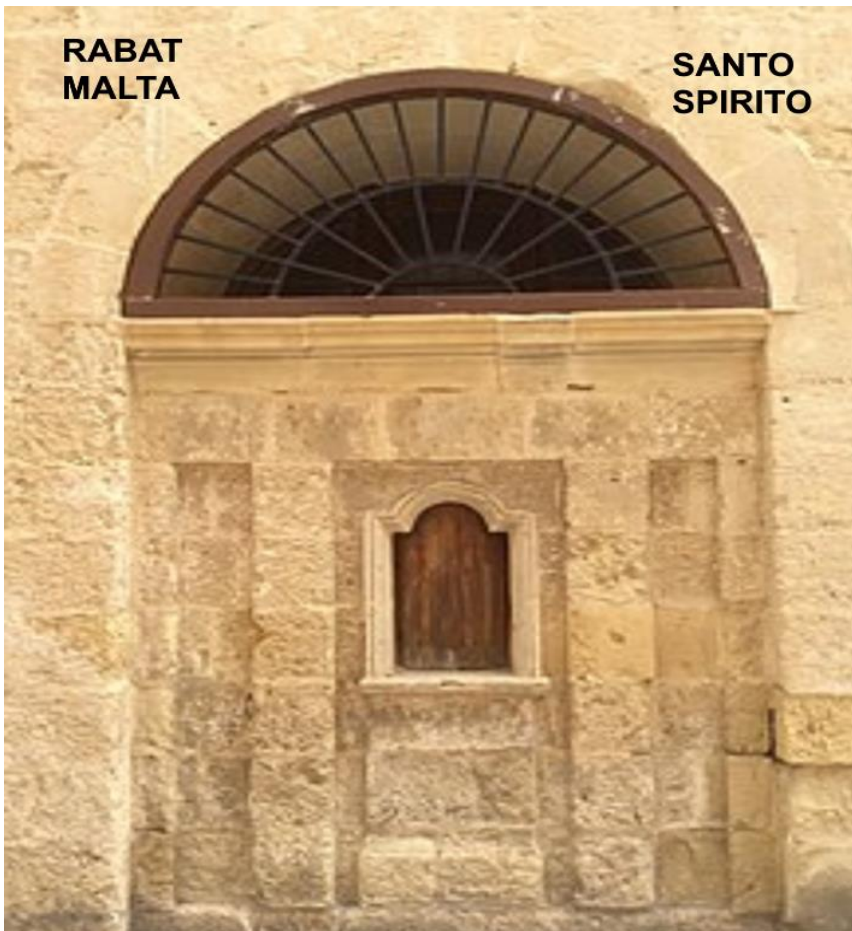
Marsovin is a household name in Malta, synonymous with the production of premium wines. The roots of this well-earned status were planted almost a century ago when Chev. Anthony Cassar founded the company under the name of A&G Cassar, in 1919. Marsovin was incorporated in 1956 as a family-run company which grew to become a significant part of the history of wine-making in Malta.

During the ensuing years, Marsovin continued to expand and modernise, maintaining its high quality reputation which makes the company the leading producer and

exporter of wines in Malta. Marsovin has set major inroads in viticulture and winemaking in Malta and established the current high standards which some Maltese wines enjoy internationally.

The high standard of Marsovin wines is attributed partly to Malta's favourable climatic conditions but also to the stringent controls maintained by experts from the viticultural aspect to the vinification process in order to ensure that the optimum level of quality is achieved.

Today, Marsovin owns 199.7 tumoli of land which make up their five Estates, testimony to Marsovin's commitment to the culture of wine. These Estates, in Malta and Gozo, are owned by Marsovin and the Cassar family and are specifically intended for the production of premium quality, single-estate wines. Over the recent years Marsovin has also introduced several wines into its portfolio all of which are produced from contracted land, owned by Maltese and Gozitan farmers who produce grapes according to Marsovin's specifications, as of Summer 2008 Marsovin currently contracts a total of 1116 tumoli/125 hectares around Malta & Gozo.

1950**2020****1940****2019****RABAT
MALTA****SANTO
SPIRITO**

This is the Ruota, also known as Foundling Wheel and it was used for discreet depositing of unwanted babies. It consisted of a narrow window which led to a revolving wooden cot in which babies could be safely placed. When turned, it rang a bell in the process. It seems that it was in use from at least 1615 until late nineteenth century. How interesting!

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