

Maltese eNewsletter

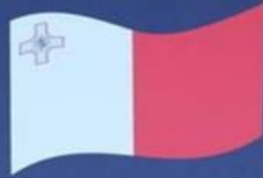
Journal of Maltese Living Abroad

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President George Vella



CONFERENCE
FOR NATIONAL
UNITY

KONFERENZA
GHALL-GHAQDA
NAZZJONALI
2021



SEDDAQ IL-GHAQDA
FIL-MALTIN
U SLIEM

BEST WISHES FROM ALL MALTESE LIVING ABROAD



CONNECTING COMMUNITIES
MALTESE LIVING ABROAD



Senior Citizen
of the Year



2021 Winner - Mario Sammut OAM



Restoration of Australia Hall
Malta Project

RAHMP



www.facebook.com/VESA.RAHMP

We are seeking to gather interest in the potential restoration of Australia Hall Pembroke, Malta. Built in 1915 to provide respite to ANZAC soldiers, the building suffered a catastrophic fire in 1998 and has remained subject to deterioration ever since

President Vella said: “The first step was made today for more national unity”



Addressing the conference on national unity at the Verdala Palace, the President said that he feels this is an obligation towards those honest and law-abiding citizens who are fed up with the situation, and towards future generations so that we will give them a better country than the present one.

President Vella said “It is important that we do not point our fingers only at others, however, every person may contribute for things to be better; this is only the beginning of a process aimed at discovering what divides us and openly discuss it, without prejudice and with a constructive aim to generate unity”.

Various speakers and members of the public made their input during the conference. Moderator Prof. Carmen Sammut said that the issue of ‘divide and conquer’ is one of the oldest political strategies which increases the rhetoric of division and we need to establish the roots of what creates division to move towards unity, including the divisive and non-respectful language on the social media.

At the conclusion of the conference, President George Vella expressed his great satisfaction that the first conference on national unity drew so many valid comments towards constructive and respectful dialogue on the way forward in order to have less divisiveness and get closer to unity.

President Vella’s initiative comes in tandem with the long-anticipated constitutional reform he is shepherding. The unity conference should not be a one-off event but deserves to be extended to village

squares and social media platforms, for a truly national discussion to take

Archbishop Charles J. Scicluna said: “We welcome the figure of the President of the Republic as a symbol of our national unity and our call to be a democracy based on the choice we continually make for what is right and our thirst and hunger for justice.”

In his inaugural speech, President George Vella also spoke about national unity. He promised that during his Presidency he will work unceasingly to address with absolute attention the strengthening of national unity. “This unity does not come about by merely wishing for it. We have to work hard to achieve it. There undoubtedly remains the need and space for different and divergent opinions, but in the same fashion, there needs to prevail a genuine and reciprocal respect. Our exchanges and discussions have to be dignified, based on civic and correct demeanour, and never result in attacks of a personal nature.”

Anyone wanting to submit more comments can email on konferenzanazzjonali@gov.mt

THE MALTESE LIVING ABROAD SUPPORTS THE PROJECT OF THE PRESIDENT OF MALTA. WE PRAY AND HOPE THAT THIS CONFERENCE WILL BRING PEACE, HARMONY, UNITY AND SOLIDARITY AMONG ALL THE CITIZENS OF THE MALTESE ISLANDS AND THOSE LIVING OVERSEAS



MORE ACCOLADES FOR A MALTESE MOVIE

The original Maltese film *Luzzu* and its leading actor Jesmark Scicluna have continued to receive more honours as the film has now been bought by the American distribution company Kino Lorber.

The future for all those who worked on the production of this film, which has the Maltese seas as its backdrop, is very promising as the

film is expected to be released later this year.

Written and directed by Alex Camilleri, the story is about a young fisherman who ends up taking great risks when he gets involved with illegal fishing in order to be able to feed his family.

Luzzu is the first film shot in Malta to have competed in a major international festival where it was received with honours. Behind the film there is also the talent and hard work of Rebecca Anastasi, Ramin Bahrani ("The White Tiger," "99 Homes"), Alex Camilleri and Oliver Mallia. ;[times of malta]

8
March



The global theme for International Women's Day in 2021
'Women in Leadership: Achieving an Equal Future
in a COVID-19 World'.

I N T E R N A T I O N A L

Women's

D A Y

Kummissjoni Għolja tar-Repubblika ta' Malta fl-Awstralja High Commission for the Republic for Malta to Australia

PRESS RELEASE 02/2021 1 March 2021

38 Culgoa Circuit, O'Malley ACT 2606 Telephone: 02 6290 1847 Facsimile: 02 6290 2453 Email: highcommission.canberra@gov.mt EN



Confirmed appointment of Ms Chirelle Ellul Sciberras as new Consul-General in Melbourne from May 2021. The High Commission for the Republic of Malta in

Canberra is pleased to announce that the appointment of Ms Chirelle Ellul Sciberras as new Consul-General in Melbourne has been confirmed. Ms Ellul Sciberras will be taking up the position from May 2021. Ms Chirelle Ellul Sciberras joined the Ministry for Foreign Affairs in 2011 and was posted as Consul at the Malta High Commission in London, in August 2013.

During her tenure in London, she was responsible for various consular matters including the Maltese diaspora and Maltese patients travelling to the UK for treatment. In 2017, Ms Ellul Sciberras returned to Malta and covered International Development issues within the International Development, Economic Affairs and European Institutions Directorate. In 2019, Ms Ellul Sciberras was promoted to a grade of Counsellor within the Diplomatic Corps and carried on working within the same directorate.

The Malta High Commission in Canberra, together with colleagues at the Consulates General in Melbourne and in Sydney, look forward to welcoming Ms Ellul Sciberras to our team in Australia.

92% of our readers responded that they want to remain on our mailing list and they love it
8% Declined or did not respond
25 new subscribers

Il-Kummissjoni Għolja tar-Repubblika ta' Malta f'Canberra għandha l-pjaċir li tthabbar li l-ħatra tas-Sra Chirelle Ellul Sciberras bħala Konslu Ġenerali ġdid f'Melbourne ġiet ikkonfermata. Għaldaqstant, is-Sra Ellul Sciberras mistennija tibda l-ħidma tagħha f'Melbourne minn Mejju 2021.

Is-Sra Chirelle Ellul Sciberras bdiet il-karriera diplomatika tagħha fi ħdan il-Ministeru għall-Affarijiet Barranin fl-2011. F'Awwissu 2013, kienet appuntata bħala Konslu fi ħdan il-Kummissjoni Għolja ta' Malta f'Londra, fejn kienet responsabbli minn affarijiet konsolari u assistenza għad-diaspora Maltija fir-Renju Unit, kif ukoll lill-pazjenti Maltin li jivjaġġaw lejn ir-Renju Unit għal trattamenti speċjalizzati.

Fl-2017, is-Sra Ellul Sciberras irritornat Malta fejn issuktat il-ħidma fid-Direttorat għall-iżvilupp Internazzjonali, Affarijiet Ekonomiċi u Istituzzjonijiet Ewropej. Fl-2019, is-Sra Ellul Sciberras ġiet promossa fil-grad ta' Kunsillier fil-Korp Diplomatiku ta' Malta. Il-Kummissjoni Għolja f'Canberra, flimkien mal-kollegi fil-Konsolat Ġenerali f' Melbourne u f'Sydney, ninsabu ħerqana li nilqgħu lis-Sinjura Ellul Sciberras fit-tim tagħna fl-Awstralja. Welcome from our readers!!!!!!



MARIO SAMMUT - SENIOR OF THE YEAR



Mario Sammut OAM is the Latrobe City 2021 Australia Day Senior Citizen of the Year. The Morwell resident's leadership has resulted in numerous projects, the latest being the opening of the only Maltese museum in Australia in Morwell last February. He presents on community radio station Gippsland FM, broadcasts the Maltese Show and two breakfast shows (in English) on 3GCR weekly, and one Maltese show on 3ZZZ. Mario has served with the Latrobe Valley Migrants Resource Centre and the Committee of Management at the Morwell Community Health Centre.

He is known for his dedication to the Maltese Community Centre of Latrobe Valley and to the Latrobe Valley Maltese Museum.

"I am truly humbled on receiving this award,

because as one gets older or senior now a days, it is genuinely nice to be recognised for the years one dedicates volunteering. I am incredibly grateful to have had the opportunity to volunteer my time in enhancing the wellbeing of the whole community," Mario said. "I would like to thank all the other volunteers who believed what I wanted to achieved and offered their time in volunteering."

MALTESE CANADIAN COMMUNITY NEWS

THE MALTESE PRESENCE IN NORTH AMERICA



E-NEWSLETTER

The 24th edition of 'The Maltese Presence in North America' has been published and has extensive coverage of events in the Maltese Canadian community throughout Canada.

You can obtain your copy by emailing the editor, Dan Brock on dbrock40@worldline.ca or by visiting the Malta Bake Shop in Malta Village. A copy can also be obtained from the waiting room of the Consulate General of the Republic of Malta to Canada.

Read, learn and pass on copies to your family, relatives and friends.





AWARD FOR THE RESTORATION OF THE ARCHBISHOP'S CURIA FAÇADE

The recently restored façade of the Archbishop's Curia in Floriana has been awarded a Din l-Art Ħelwa award for Architectural Heritage. Following the restoration and conservation of the façade of Casa Manresa, the project earned the prestigious Prix d'Honneur in its category. Michael Pace Ross, Administrative Secretary, Roberto Buontempo, Head of Property, and Perit Daphne Fenech from CREAID received the award on behalf of the Archdiocese of Malta.

The Din l-Art Ħelwa Architectural Heritage Awards are an initiative set up to encourage architectural excellence in a Maltese context, the rehabilitation and reuse of old buildings, and the recognition of the dedicated work of those active in the field of restoration. The programme is carried out with the support of the Kamra tal-Periti. The conservation of the main façade is the first phase of a project which will see all façades restored. Built between 1743 and 1751, Casa Manresa was designed by Jesuit Fra Francesco Rosignoli as a retreat house. The baroque building stood on a high ridge with an unobstructed view of Marsamxett Harbour.

The main entrance is flanked by columns and elevated from the ground floor, made accessible through a majestic staircase. Sculptured garlands decorate the masonry frames and a statue featuring the Madonna and Child crowns the architectural configuration. Planning for this restoration project started in 2017, when studies

were commissioned to survey the existing condition of the masonry fabric of the exterior facades of the palace. Having been built in various distinct phases, different areas of the building exhibited different pathologies and deterioration mechanisms.

The orientation of the building, its proximity to the sea, and the changes in the urban environment surrounding it have all played a part in the aging process and have created unique manifestations of deterioration which required scientific studies and testing. Interventions included the application of biocide, chemical cleaning using paper poulticing, mechanical cleaning using microblasting and surgical knives, repairs through the injection of specially designed mortar mixes, plastic repair, stone changing, consolidation treatments, and the repointing of mortar joints where necessary.

Furthermore, the inclusion of protection components, such as protecting cornices and ledges with traditional deffun mortar, and the design and implementation of an easy maintenance plan would ensure the longevity of the results obtained through the initial capital investment. The restoration of the façade was financed by the Archdiocese of Malta, following the approval of the Diocesan Finance Committee presided by Archbishop Charles Jude Scicluna. The façade will be illuminated later this year.

IC-CELEBRAZZJONIJIET TAL-GIMGHA MQADDSA

Greg Caruana NSW



HADD IL-PALM Wara l-festa tad-Duluri jigi Hadd il-Palm jew Hadd iz-Zebbug. F'dan il-jum issir il-Purcissjoni bil-weraq tal-Palm u z-Zebbug imbierek, u fil-quddiesa jinqara l-Passju jew ahjar l-istorja tal-Passjoni. Dan il-weraq kienu juzawh biex f'Sibt il-Ghid u fi zminijiet ohra jbahhru bih. Ta min ikun jaf li l-irmied ta Ras ir-Randan jew l-Erbgħa tar-Rmied isir ukoll minn dan il-weraq is-sena ta qabel. Iz-zebbug imbierek nhar Hadd il-Palm, minbarra t-tbahir kienu juzawh ukoll biex iqegħduh fil-pruwa ta xi qoxra tal-bahar, xi lanca, luzzu jew kajjikk indendluh f'xi maqjel, u juzawh bhal asperges meta jitfghu l-ilma mbieriek fuq xi hadd qieghed imut.

HAMIS IX-XIRKA F'Hamis ix-Xirka ma jsir ebda quddies fil-parrocchi filghodu, izda biss wahda fil-Katidral fejn fiha isir it-tberik taz-zjut tas-sagramenti. Filghaxija imbagħda ssir quddiesa wahda f'kull parrocca fejn fiha isir il-hasil tas-saqajn, b'tifkira ta dak li għamel Gesu Kristu fl-ahhar cena li hu għamel mad-dixxipli tiegħu. Il-qniepen tal-knisja kienu jindaqqu ma l-intonazzjoni tal-Glorja biex imbagħad jibqu siekta sa l-intonazzjoni l-oħra tal-Glorja ta Sibt il-Ghid. Flokħom tiehu postha c-cuqlajta. Wara il-quddiesa Kristu jigi espost fl-artal tar-Ripossizzjoni jew fis-Sepulkru. Hafna nies li l-Hamis filghaxija sa nofs il-lejl jagħmlu l-visti s-seba knejjes jew zjajjar lis-Sagrament. Dawn kienu jmorru minn knisja għal ohra joffru l-qima tagħhom lil Gesu u fit-triq jghidu ir-Ruzarju

IL-GIMGHA L-KBIRA Il-purcissjonijiet mhux dejjen kienu johorgu f'jum il-Gimgħa l-Kbira, f'Hal Qormi kienu johorgu f'Hadd il-Palm fil-waqt li fil-Belt u l-Isla kienu johorgu fil-lejl ta Hamis ix-Xirka. Fl-1879 l-Isqof Scicluna ordna li l-purcissjonijiet kollha jridu jsiru kollha f'jum il-Gimgħa l-Kbira. Il-lum il-purcissjonijiet kollha jsiru fil-jum tal-Gimgħa l-Kbira hlief għal zewg parrocci, dawk ta Hal Ghaxaq u il-Għargħur li jagħmluom f'Hadd il-Palm. Il-purcissjonijiet ta dawn iz-zminijiet huma differenti minn dawk li kienu jsiru qabel, gruppi ta personaggi biblici hadu post il-hafna fratelli ta dari u għadek issib li f'xi uhud mill-manifestazzjonijiet nies igorru l-ktajjen. Dawn ifakkruna meta l-ilsiera kienu jagħmlu weghda li jkaxkru l-ktajjen tal-jasar fil-purcissjoni tal-Birgu. In-numru ta vari jvarjaw minn parrocca għal ohra. Il-purcissjonijiet tista tghid kollha jdumu madwar erba sghat jigru mat-toroq ewlenin tar-rahall jew belt. Ma jonqosux in-noti muzikali ta marci funebri li jagħmlu mill-okkazzjoni wahda solenni. Fl-antik il-purcissjonijiet tal-Gimgħa l-Kbira kienu differenti hafna minn tal-lum. Wara l-istandard tal-fratellanza kienu johorgu l-vari wahda wahda, segwiti minn fratelli. Xi whud kien ikollhom is-slaleb, ohrajn torci, izda kulhadd kien ikollu rasu mogħtija b'kapott b'zewg toqbiet għal-ghajnejh. Hafna minnħom kienu jgorru l-ktajjen. Fanali bix-xema jixghelu f'kull rokna tal-vara kienu jhallu effett mill-isbah meta jaqa d-dlam. Il-banda tar-rahall jew belt kienet tiehu sehem bl-ahjar marci.

IL-HELU TAR-RANDAN Minhabba li dari s-sawn tar-Randan kien rigoruz hafna kienu joqgħdu lura u ma jieklux hlewwiet. Xi haga speci ta helu li kienet popolari dari kemm mat-tfal kif ukoll mal-kbar fiz-zminijiet tar-Randan, kienu l-karamelli magħmula mill-harrub, l-ghasel u gulepp. Il-lum għadek tara xi ragel b'qoffa f'idu ibiegh minn dan il-helu tul il-gimgħa tal-Gimgħa Kbira. Matul ir-Randan wiehed isib il-verzjoni Maltija tal-hot cross buns bis-sinjal tas-salib jidher car fil-wicc tal-helu. Imma l-aktar helu famuz u renommat ta zmien ir-Randan hu il-kwarezimal. Imbagħad hemm il-qagħaq ta l-appostli li huma hobz forma tonda miksija bil-gungliel.



Royal Navy Hospital Mtarfa

Connected to: *MaltaMtarfaNational Inventory of the Cultural Property of the Maltese Islands*

Wikipedia

RNH Mtarfa, known as *David Bruce Royal Naval Hospital*

The **Royal Navy Hospital Mtarfa**, also known as *David Bruce Royal Naval*

Hospital is a former *British* naval hospital in *Mtarfa, Malta*.

On 6 January 1915, Sir *Leslie Rundle*, Governor and Commander-in-Chief Malta, laid the foundation stone of the new Central Services Hospital. The building was commenced on the assumption that funds would be released to build the ancillary buildings at a later stage. By April 1915, the construction of the main block of the hospital was in hand. By 31 March 1916, the sum of £17,950 had been spent, out of the provisional total of £55,000. It was opened in June 1920 with beds for 6 officers and 190 other ranks.

The new hospital was taken over by 30 Coy RAMC on 23 June 1920. The old Barrack Hospital at Mtarfa, adjacent to Q Block, became a Families' Hospital. The former Families' Hospital moved from Valletta in 1920. The Cottonera Hospital was shut.

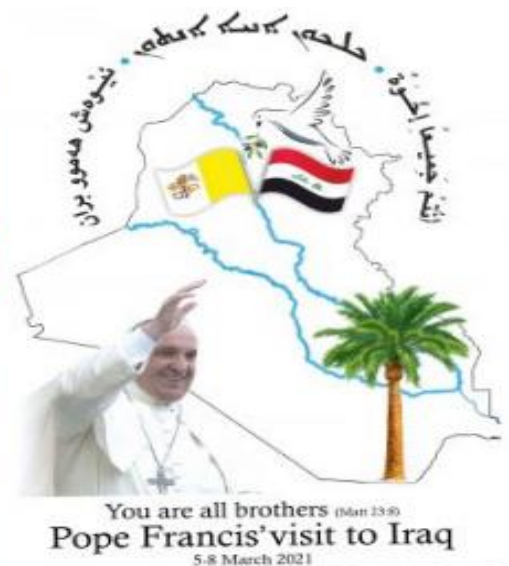
In 1941, the hospital took over its war role and changed its name to *90 British General Hospital* (90 BGH). It increased its beds from 200 to 2000 beds by taking over the whole of the infantry barracks for hospital wards, and the pitching of tented wards on the football pitch. 90 BGH reverted to 600 beds in late 1944.

On 1st March 1951, the designation of the hospital changed to *The David Bruce Military Hospital*, after the discoverer of the root cause of *brucellosis* in 1887 (later traced to goats' milk in 1905 by Sir *Themistocles Zammit*). In October 1962, the David Bruce Military Hospital was handed over to the Royal Navy Medical Services. After the closure of *Royal Naval Hospital Bighi*, Mtarfa became the central services hospital. It was modified and re-opened as the David Bruce Royal Naval Hospital Mtarfa on 2nd October 1970 and remained as the only military hospital in Malta until the Royal Navy departed in 1979. It was then converted to a state secondary school named after *Sir Temi Zammit*, part of St Nicholas College. The school closed and moved to new premises in 2015. The site is now derelict but plans exist to re-open it as an international school.

The hospital is listed on the *National Inventory of the Cultural Property of the Maltese Islands*.^[2]

We are proud of our Maltese Achievers 

**The Journal of Maltese Living Abroad
connecting communities
around the world**



Pope Francis said his upcoming trip to Iraq would be an important sign of his concern for the region's Christians but also an important opportunity to build fraternity through interreligious dialogue.

"In our time, interreligious dialogue is an important component of the encounter between peoples and cultures. When it is viewed not in terms of compromising our own identity but as an occasion of mutual understanding and enrichment, dialogue can become an opportunity for religious leaders and the followers of different confessions, and can support the responsible efforts of political leaders to promote the common good," the pope told ambassadors to the Holy See Feb. 8.

A few hours later, the Vatican released the initial schedule for the pope's trip to Iraq March 5-8. The schedule listed planned events and cities but did not provide specific times for any of the events.

As Cardinal Louis Sako, the Baghdad-based patriarch of the Chaldean Catholic Church, told reporters Jan. 28, Pope Francis plans to meet March 6 with Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, leader of the country's Shia Muslim majority and then to hold an interreligious meeting with Christians, Muslims and Yazidis on the plain of Ur, widely recognized as the homeland of the patriarch Abraham.

Throughout the trip the pope will pay homage to the victims of war and persecution in the country. He will meet March 5 with clergy and religious at the Syriac Catholic Cathedral of Our Lady of Deliverance in Baghdad, which was the site of a massacre in 2010 by members of the Islamic State; two priests and close to 60 other worshippers were killed.



Maltese eNewsletter

Journal of the Maltese Diaspora

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**I FOUND \$20 NOTE IN
THE CARPARK
AND I THOUGHT TO
MYSELF – What would
Jesus do?
SO I TURNED IT INTO
WINE**

Murders that shocked Malta



CARMELA BORG Back in 1992, 74-year old Carmela Borg's body was found in a well in Mgarr. At first, everyone thought that she was the victim of a robbery. The body was already decomposing, so getting it out of the well proved to be difficult and a bit too traumatic for the policemen on duty. The woman had been murdered prior to being thrown in the well with her handbag and all, as someone had suffocated her by tying a plastic bag around her head.

The woman was said to be very sharp and kept notes of whatever happened to her or any quarrels she had written down on notes in her bag. The robbery was half-heartedly ruled out since if someone wanted to rob her, they would've taken her bag too, and not thrown it in the well with her. People speculated for a long time about who could have committed this heinous crime, but this murder was never solved and is still considered to be one to have shocked the island to its core.



SAVIOUR MANGION Saviour Mangion is considered to be the only Maltese serial killer. He was first charged with killing Maria Stella Magrin, 68, from Cospicua in 1986 whom he stabbed 13 times. He was also convicted of two other murders; the one of Rozina Zammit, 54 of Safi who was stabbed 37 times in 1984, and that of Francesco Saverio Cassar, 75 of

Żejtun.

Mangion originally intended to kill Saverio Cassar's sister, but when Cassar went to the rescue he was killed by Mangion, leaving the sister unharmed. The murder of Maria Stella remained unsolved for 20 years until Mangion started boasting about committing a murder he was never caught for. The apparent motive behind these senseless killings was money, as Mangion reportedly broke into his victims' homes to rob them. He was sentenced to life imprisonment.



BEN ALI WAHID BEN HASSINE Back in 1988, Maltese people were collectively terrified of leaving their homes as four taxi drivers were horrifically murdered within the space of a few days. The first victim was a British taxi driver who was robbed for a measly Lm47 (which is about €100) while the second one, who was French, was shot in the head for around €70. After this third victim was also shot, Tunisian Ben Hassine and his accomplice Brahim Mosbah tried to

decapitate him. After a couple of failed attempts, Ben Hassine decided to smash the victim's face to an unrecognisable pulp with a rock... for €400. The fourth and last victim was killed by a gunshot to his head for another pittance.

The extreme terror that gripped the nation in those few days was enough to leave everyone scared of going out of their homes.

In 2014, one of the killers argued that he should be freed, stating that the Maltese laws were breaching his “human rights”, since he had already paid for his crimes by spending 25 years in prison.



DEATH OF AN ALTAR BOY (1908) Nearing the end of his life, a man is rotting at a mental hospital. Frangisku Farrugia is well past the 80-year mark, and he's had plenty of time to think on his sins. Or rather, that one sin which must have clouded his personal history for most of his life.

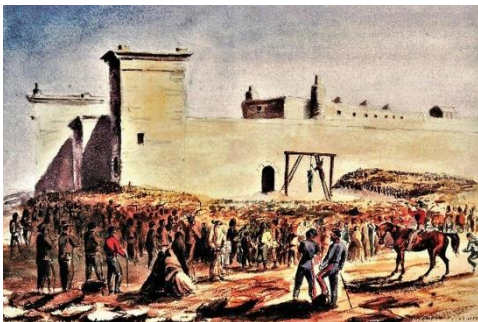
Flashback to Palm Sunday, 1908: Frangisku meets his 10-year-old cousin Guzeppi Seguna and suggests that they take a walk from their home in Zabbar to Birgu to gather some blessed olive branches.

Guzeppi is a model child, and the darling of the village. A devout altar-boy, “neat in appearance” and hard-working. But his hard work also lays the groundwork for his downfall: the uncle who he used to help out around the

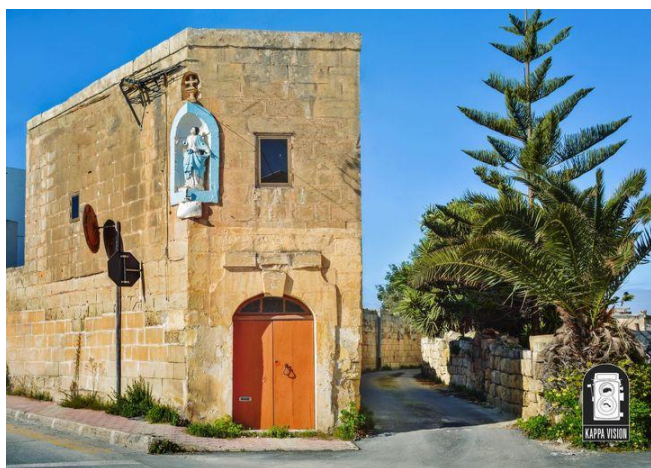
house has promised to leave him his entire property, and this doesn't go down too well with some of his envious relatives.

Frangisku confesses to the murder of his young cousin one year later, leading the police to Fort Ricasoli where he claims to have buried the little boy's fresh corpse. He is reported to have told the police that Guzeppi “looked so beautiful when he was dead”.

Farrugia died at the Mount Carmel Mental Hospital in 1980. He was 88 years old. Now known as a filming location, Fort Ricasoli played an important part in this upsetting murder



HANGING IN MALTA Until 1971, capital punishment was part of the Code of Laws of Malta. Despite the utilisation of various means of execution, including beheading, burning at the stake and the firing squad, the main means of sentencing prisoners who were condemned to death was by hanging. This gruesome method of execution was modified along the years, especially by the British who sought to ‘humanise’ the process. Malta also has one of the few last surviving British-style gallows at the Corradino Correctional Facility which was last used in 1943



Kappa Vision – Shared Post

A typical Maltese rural scene from yesteryear has survived to this day and can still be found on the outskirts of the town of Mosta in the northern region of Malta. This structure is part of the locality's Lieutenant's Garden (Ġnien tal-Kmand) and has been scheduled as a Grade 1 protected building.

A typical Maltese rural scene from yesteryear has survived to this day and can still be found on the outskirts of the town of Mosta in the northern region of Malta. This structure is part of the locality's

Lieutenant's Garden (Ġnien tal-Kmand) and has been scheduled as a Grade 1 protected building. Copyright © Kappa Vision / Jean-Paul Borg. For all my latest photos, please visit and like Kappa Vision on Facebook and kappavision_gram on Instagram. When sharing, DO NOT repost, but FEEL FREE to share directly from Kappa Vision. — in **Mosta, Malta**

Nostalgia

MALTESE COMMUNITY IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA - 1950



In the 1950's the Maltese community in Adelaide gave a big welcome to the Archbishop of Malta Mgr. Michael Gonzi. They greeted him at Parafield Airport in Adelaide. The photo on the left shows Joseph and Christ Chetcuti wearing a white shirt and red trousers (Malta's colours). Joe delivered a speech that night to welcome the archbishop at the concert hall next to St. Patrick Cathedral. Joe was helped by the late Gaetano Grech and he never made a mistake. In photo on the right Joe is second from the left, Gaetano is standing back right and on the back left Mary Scarabossa who now lives at Victor Harbor. I don't know the names of the others.

The Maltese community used to meet, conduct meetings and hold social functions in this hall in the 50s and 60s. Maybe you might be able to include the pictures in your next issue of the Maltese Journal. I am sure it will bring back many memories to some folks.

Joseph Chetcuti – Adelaide, South Australia



GEORGE AGIUS 'TAL-MUZEW' DIES

Stay strong, stay strong. A good life always remains relevant."

"I'm not academically gifted as school wasn't obligatory when I was a child. Instead I used to accompany my father on our donkey to sell vegetables. Yet God acts through people like me to spread his word.

One time a man came up to me and said, "If you had gone to school, you would have become a lawyer." I replied: If I were a lawyer with two mansions, I would still sleep on one bed. So what's the point?" I don't even have a car, it's less

hassle for me and I'm happier. Someone who's always worried is a bundle of nerves.

I come to hospital everyday because many patients need to hear words of strength and support.

Whenever you can, spare a kind word or an act of kindness!"

His efforts to cheer up patients and visitors in hospitals earned him the affection of many, as well as official recognition: he has received the Republic Day Medal, as well as the National Volunteer Award. At the end, he sent this message: "Dear Maltese brothers and sisters, be kind and reject every kind of evil, so that you'll live a tranquil life and be genuinely happy." – Ġorġ tal-Muzew

www.facebook.com/thepeopleofmalta

Bontadino de Bontadini



From Wikipedia

Inscription at the [Wignacourt Water Tower](#) in [Floriana, Malta](#), making a reference to Bontadino de Bontadini

Vittorio Bontadini, better known as **Bontadino de Bontadini** (died 1620), was a [Bolognese](#) hydraulic engineer, architect, mathematician and wood carver. He is mostly known for designing the [Wignacourt Aqueduct](#) in [Malta](#).

The [Order of St. John](#) had been trying to build an aqueduct to supply their capital city [Valletta](#) since

1596. In early 1612, engineer [Natale Tomasucci](#) left the island after being unable to solve the problem of how water would flow at [Attard](#). In July of that year, Bontadini took over the project, possibly on the recommendation of Inquisitor [Evangelista Carbonesi](#), who was also from Bologna.^[3] Bontadini adopted the idea of [Giovanni Attard](#) and other *capomastri* to construct arches along depressions in the ground, and run the aqueduct through pipes in the arches. His most significant contribution to the project was the idea to use [pozzolana](#) to make the pipes waterproof. The aqueduct was completed three years later, being inaugurated on 21 April 1615.

The Wignacourt Fountain, which was probably designed by Bontadini

Bontadini's role in constructing the aqueduct was commemorated by Grand Master Alof de Wignacourt by several inscriptions on fountains and other parts of the aqueduct. The inscriptions usually went along the lines of:

BONTADINO DE BONTADINIS, BONON AQUÆ DUCTORE MDCXV.

(meaning *Bontadino de Bontadini from Bologna is he who delivered the waters 1615.*)

According to historian [Giovanni Bonello](#), Bontadini was the first architect to introduce the [Baroque style](#) in Malta, having designed the [Wignacourt Arch](#) and various fountains and other decorative elements within the aqueduct.^[5]

In 1620, Bontadini was murdered in Malta by Ferrante Marangio, an assassin who had been hired by three knights of the Order. The reason behind the assassination is not known.



The Wignacourt Aqueduct ([Maltese](#): *L-Akwedott ta' Wignacourt*) is a 17th-century [aqueduct](#) in [Malta](#), which was built by the [Order of Saint John](#) to carry water from springs in [Dingli](#) and [Rabat](#) to the newly built capital city [Valletta](#). The aqueduct was carried through underground pipes and over arched viaducts across depressions in the ground.

MALTESE CENTER

27-20 Hoyt Avenue South, Astoria, NY, USA



WELCOME BACK

A big thank you to everyone who volunteered their time and the donations of supplies to achieve a successful reopening! **Saturday March 6th** Join us at the Maltese Center for a live broadcast.

1:00 pm Rangers & Devils

2:30 pm Lazio & Juventus

PlayStation FIFA Game Play will also be available.

Don't miss out! Limited seating available. Once at capacity no entry allowed - no exceptions. Make your reservations now! Don't be disappointed.

Pizza & Bites will be served. \$10 donation at the door towards the Maltese Center appeal

This month's **IL-MALTIN TAGHNA** we will be featuring Maltese presence in our community. **March 7th** we welcome guest **Thomas Grech** President & CEO of the Queens Chamber of Commerce, advocating on behalf of the Queens business community. **March 21st** we welcome member **Anita Volpe** Vice President & Administrator of a community hospital in New York State, managing a hospital and mentoring those on a path to healthcare. Each playing a leading, vital role, helping their communities navigate and thrive through these historical times.



Today 1/03/2021 was another historic day for South Australia, as our **nation-leading legislation banning single-use plastics** came into effect.

This Marshall Liberal Government legislation is the **first of its kind in Australia**, aiming to reduce waste, protect our environment and encourage more sustainable practices.

Data shows takeaway food and beverage packaging makes up **more than one third** of the litter found on Australian beaches.

To help address this, the single-use plastics ban applies to **plastic drinking straws, stirrers and cutlery**.

In a year's time, this will be expanded to include polystyrene cups, bowls, plates and clam-shell containers, and oxo-degradable plastic products.

We have worked closely with community and industry on these changes, with many local businesses leading the charge on reducing their plastic use.

For more information, visit replacethewaste.com.au.

STEVEN MARSHALL Premier of South Australia

P.S. An exemption will enable single-use plastic drinking straws to be [accessed by people who need them](#) - such as those living with a disability or due to health needs.

BIGILLA (BROAD BEAN DIP)

The Maltese dip of choice. Just make sure to soak the dry beans for 24 hours with a little bicarbonate soda and salt. This will make sure that they soften enough.

Author: www.amaltesemouthful.com (Marlene Zammit) Cuisine: Maltese

INGREDIENTS

- 250 grams dried broad beans.
- 1 teaspoon bicarbonate soda
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 4 small garlic cloves peeled
- 2 tablespoons chopped parsley
- 2 tablespoons chopped mint
- 2 tablespoons chopped oregano or marjoram (optional)
- 2 teaspoons capers
- Juice of 1 lemon
- 3 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil
- 1 tablespoon fresh chopped chilli or 1 tablespoon dried chilli flakes (optional)
- Freshly cracked salt and pepper
- More olive oil for drizzling
- Crackers or Maltese continental to serve



INSTRUCTIONS

1. Soak the beans with the bicarbonate soda and salt for 24 hours using fresh boiled water.
2. When the beans have been soaked, drain and rinse. Place them into a pot with fresh water and bring to a boil.
3. Immediately reduce to a simmer and cook for 1 hour and 30 minutes.
4. While the beans are cooking lightly fry the garlic cloves for five minutes until softened.
5. In a large bowl mix the garlic, herbs, capers, lemon juice, olive oil and chili if using.
6. Once the beans have been cooked, drain and add into the mixture.
7. With a hand blender blend everything together until blended to a thick consistency.
8. Season with fresh cracked salt and pepper.
9. When serving drizzle with some more oil.
10. Serve with crackers of your choice.



Combating the Rona - A tale of two island countries

Sean Richardson

Studies have placed Australia and Malta in the top echelon of how countries have dealt with the coronavirus pandemic. The study, by the Lowy institute, places Australia and Malta in the top 20 of 98 countries studied for their response to managing the spread of the virus.

The first jabs have just been administered in the Australian arms of the high priority people at risk and frontline staff. Planes delivering cases of vaccine continue to touch down as part of the Government's plan to ramp up the rollout of doses of both the Pfizer & Astra Zeneca vaccines. While Australia has been a laggard in starting the vaccine rollout, the Government's response to managing the virus has seen the country at the forefront of the worldwide effort to combat the virus, allowing Australia some luxury in timing the rollout.

Malta has been slightly ahead of Australia to start the vaccine rollout, similarly to high priority people at risk and frontline staff, as part of a committed Europea compact to administer the vaccine. During 2020 the effort in managing the virus has also seen Malta in the top 20 countries for COVID management. A commendable effort considering the island's vicinity to major outbreaks across the European continent.

The study by the Lowy institute reviewed the performance of countries once they had experienced their 100th case of the virus. The study investigated data for a range of factors to assess the performance of a country's response. The data analysis considered the testing regime, political systems and how the society responded to government measures, economic development, the effectiveness and capacity of public health systems and judged on population size. The results based on a per capita basis, placed countries in a league table of performance.

While the countries' performance ranking changed over time the latest report, in January 2021 prior to the vaccine rollout, had Australia in 8th place and Malta in 14th from the study of 98 countries.

A result that recognises the enormous effort by all concerned across each country's government, society, businesses and individuals at a significant sacrifice for the greater good.

The full report can be found here.

<https://interactives.lowyinstitute.org/features/covid-performance/>










The vaccine rollout is now the major challenge for governments to efficiently and safely vaccinate the population while managing the emergence of new variants with the original virus still circulating.

EuroNews, has reported that as at the end of February, Malta was ranked in the top 3 of the European countries having already had a significant percentage of the population fully vaccinated.

The UK has administered the most vaccines overall and leads in terms of

<https://www.euronews.com/2021/02/27/covid-19-vaccinations-in-europe-which-countries-are-leading-the-way>

So with some good luck, good management and people's good sense we will all make it through this pandemic and that Malta and Australia may once gain be open to overseas travel in the not too far distant future

RANK ▾	COUNTRY/TERRITORY ▾	AVERAGE
6	 Rwanda	80.8
7	 Iceland	80.1
8	 Australia	77.9
9	 Latvia	77.5
10	 Sri Lanka	76.8
11	 Estonia	76.4
12	 Uruguay	75.8
13	 Singapore	74.9
14	 Malta	73.3

vaccinations per capita of population with 30,000 vaccinations completed per 100,000 people. Malta again ranks well with over 16,000 vaccinations completed per 100,000 people. The EuroNews progressive tally can be found here.

VEGEMITE & CHEESE DAMPER

It's here! This is seriously the most 'mouth-watering' worthy cook up we have ever done. We take the iconic Aussie duo (Vegemite & Cheese) to the next level! So sit back and enjoy as Sammy shows us just how to whip up a delicious Vegemite & Cheese Damper!

Prep: 5min | Cook: 10-15min

INGREDIENTS

- 250g self raising flour
- 25g butter
- Salt
- 75mL milk
- Vegemite
- Grated Cheese

METHOD

Add 250g self raising flour to a mixing bowl and then 25g butter. Work through the butter with your fingers until it resembles a crumb. Add a pinch of salt. Mix in 75mL milk until it forms a dough. Roll the dough on a cutting board into a tapered sausage, with one end bigger than the other. Pat it flat and then spread on the Vegemite over the entire length of the dough. Then sprinkle generously with grated cheese. Now roll the dough from the widest end to the narrowest. Place on a rack with baking paper and pat the outside with milk. Top it all off with a final sprinkle of cheese. Now into the camp oven and onto the coals for about 10-15 minutes. Take it out and let it cool. <https://www.bcf.com.au/>



50 Years of Mdina Glass Glass Blowing & Sculpting

MDINA Glass was set up in 1968 as Malta's first glass making company using a blend of traditional glassblowing techniques and those from the burgeoning studio glass movements of the early-to-mid 60s.

For decades, Mdina Glass was known for primarily producing small vases, bowls and paperweights that appealed to tourists visiting the islands and to trade export clients.

It was in the early 2000s that the modern identity of Mdina Glass took shape under the guidance of the Said family. This move into the home décor market saw the production team embark on lengthy development periods as new materials and techniques were employed. The results led to continuous invention. Larger, more colourful and expressive vases and bowls soon led to bespoke trophies, lighting products, lanterns, table and kitchenware, soap dispensers, scented candleholders, sculptures, installations, customised design projects and more.

Since Joseph Said took over the running of Mdina Glass in 1985, the company has added lampwork and fusion techniques to its production techniques and complimented these with glass engraving. These techniques were never available in Malta before being introduced at Mdina Glass and allowed for a greater variety of products to the portfolio, from intricate figurines and objects to plates, dishes, clocks, commemorative plaques and house names. Lampwork and fusion are also ideal methods for producing one-off or small quantity custom-made orders.

You can shop online - <https://www.mdinaglass.com.mt/>

MALTA - GEORGE**CROSS AWARD****15 APRIL 1942**

On the 15th of April 1942, King George VI of the United Kingdom awarded the Maltese Islands the 'George Cross'; an award that is bestowed on civilians for demonstrations of bravery.

This was the worst period for the Allies during the Second World War (1939-1945) as Britain's enemies clearly appeared to have the upper hand. German planes were striking Malta - night and day - with an unimaginable amount of deadly arsenal in an attempt to annihilate this British military base that was constantly getting in the way of their naval attempts to supply Rommel's North African campaign. Malta's geographic position, wedged as it is between Italy and North Africa, as well as dividing the Mediterranean basin into east and west, put the Islands at the top of Hitler's hit-list. Malta-based British aircraft could reach as far as Tripoli in Libya to the south, Tunisia to the west and right over German bases in Italy; on Pantelleria, Sicily and even as far as the port of Naples farther to the north. Thus, standing right on the route of Italian convoys supplying Rommel's Afrika Korps, Malta had to be demolished, if the war in the Med was to be won by the Axis powers.

At this time, military resources and food rations in Malta were practically finished. Fuel was restricted to military action and heavily rationed, the population was on the brim of starvation, and even ammunition was running out, so much that Anti-Aircraft (AA) guns could only fire a few rounds per day, then wait like sitting ducks as the enemy unleashed its fiercest on the Islands.

Italian battleships (of the Regia Marina) out-gunned the British, yet the Royal Navy was far from out-classed. The German airforce (the Luftwaffe) had superior aircraft until late in the day, when Spitfires were finally sent to Malta, and German pilots were the best ever seen in the skies, with their unnecessary daring and brute determination, but British fighter pilots had no intention of yielding one bit. In fact, so important was this little colony for Great Britain and her allies that so many gallant servicemen and brave civilians from all over the Commonwealth lost their



lives in the defence of these islands and running convoys to save this prime military base. Malta served as Britain's vital link between Gibraltar and Alexandria. Without Malta, the British garrison in Egypt would have been isolated and stood little chance of survival.

Also at this time, German and Italian strategists were planning 'Operation Hercules', a sea and air invasion of the Maltese Islands, which fortunately is said to have been called off by Hitler himself - until it was too late, because the Maltese Islands finally received their vital supply of fuel, food and fire-power. On August 15th 1942, on the feast of Santa Maria, a convoy of Royal and Merchant naval ships made port at Valletta's Grand Harbour, after completing one of the more heroic maritime episodes in recent history. To-date, this event remains commemorated in Malta in remembrance of that gift from heaven, the Convoy of S. Maria, and all the men who lived and died in this and previous attempts to bring supplies to Malta.

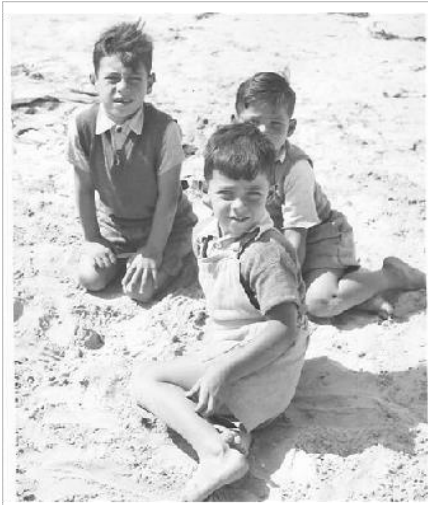
This event also coincided with the turning point of World War Two in favour of the allied forces.

Four months prior to the arrival of the famed Santa Maria Convoy, in his letter addressed to the British Governor of Malta, on April 15th 1942, from Buckingham Palace and in his own hand, King George VI wrote:

"To honour her brave people I award the George Cross to the Island Fortress of Malta to bear witness to a heroism and devotion that will long be famous in history."

To this day, the 'George Cross' flies proudly on the Maltese flag, lest we forget the patrimony of bravery, brotherhood and glory handed down to us by our forefathers.

THE AZZOPARDIS



At Portland Beach

Mary and her three boys - Tony, 5 years, Roger, 4 years and Godwin, 3 years - migrated from Malta to Australia, arriving on 25th August 1949.

Their father 'Edgar Azzopardi' had arrived earlier to work on a farm in Narrawong, near Portland, Victoria.

The family was sponsored by the farmer as there was a shortage of farm hands after the war.

Their parents felt there would be a better future for the children in Australia. "As a four year old on the SS Asturias I recall getting lost on this enormous ship, and the purser eventually taking me back to my mother".

"I also recall my mother buying wares off the boats that came out to the ship in the Port of Aden. They would raise baskets on ropes with the wares in them and then lower them again with money to pay for them. There are many members of the extended families now, and all are residing in Australia". Roger Azzopardi



Passport Photo

MALTESE ALL OVER THE WORLD



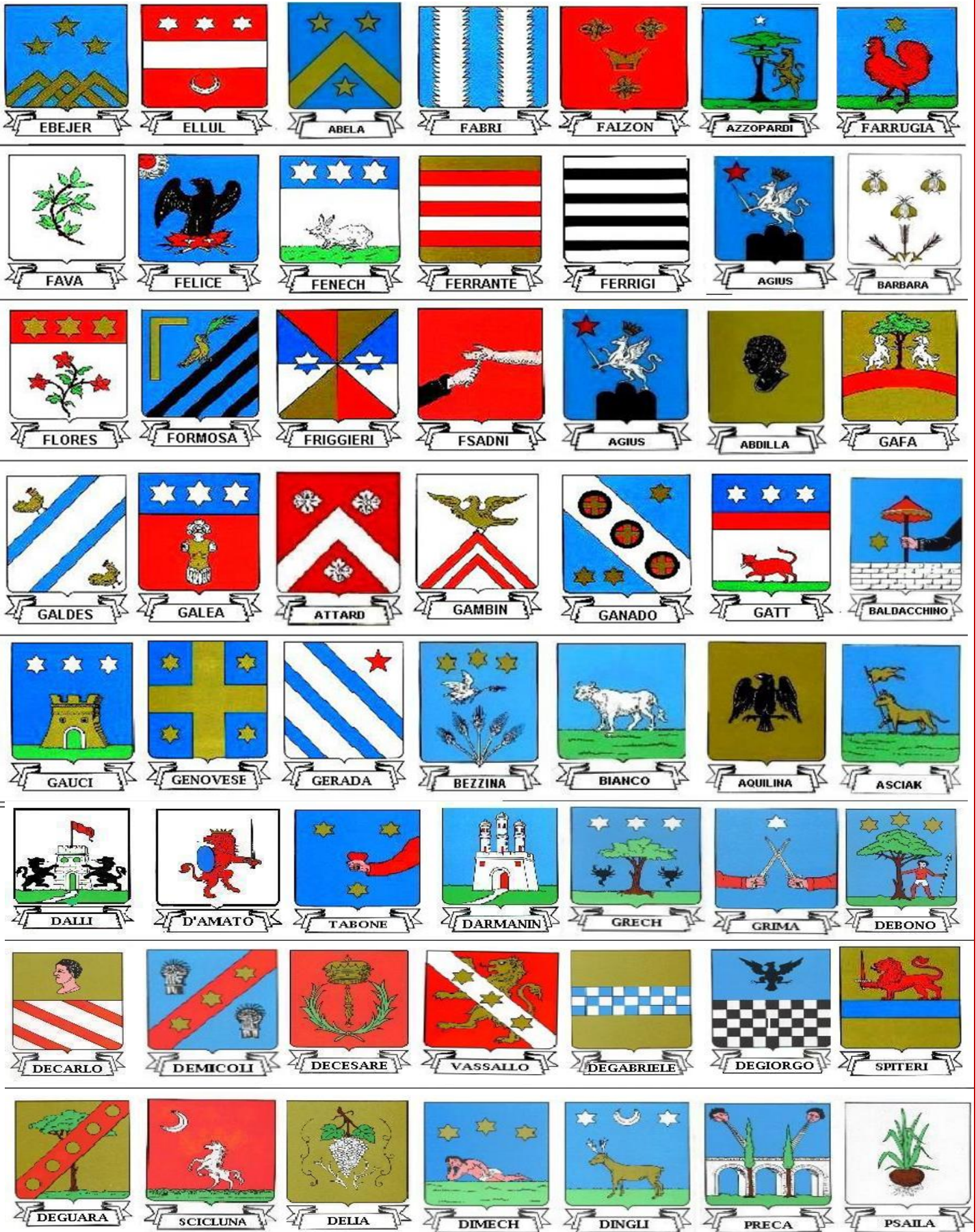
Although the Maltese Islands never had more than 500,000 native inhabitants, it is estimated that the number of Maltese living around the world is very close to a million. That is because over the past two centuries thousands of Maltese left their homeland in search of a better future elsewhere.

In today's terms, they would have been 'economic migrants' and surely not 'illegal immigrants' because their mass migration from Malta was not just organised but also encouraged, especially in the 1960's when it was a handy solution to Malta's economic problems at

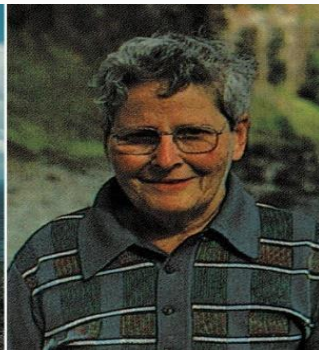
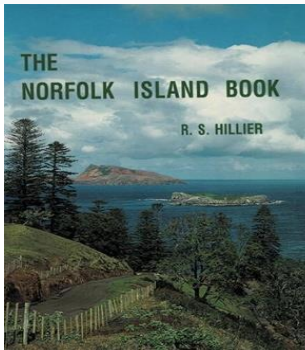
its dawn of Independence in 1964. Many of these went to English-speaking countries such as the UK, USA, Canada and Australia.

A century earlier they had just ventured in the Mediterranean and Maltese communities can today be traced in Tunisia, Gibraltar, Libya and Egypt. When pondering on issues related to the wave of illegal immigrants hitting the Maltese shores, the Maltese people surely know what it feels like to have to leave your mother country in search of a better life far away.





An unknown Maltese authoress



Authoress Rita Stranger Hillier is not known to be Maltese. Strictly speaking, she was Anglo-Maltese. Her father was Gustav Vassallo, son of Enrico Vassallo and Camilla Mifsud. His sister Maria, my mother, wife of Judge Roberto Federico Ganado, was six years older than Gustav, who was born in Malta on February 26, 1889.

On September 29, 1917, he married in London an English lady, Winifred Stranger-Ford. They had two daughters: Patricia, born on October 18, 1919, and Rita, born in London on June 14, 1921.

Rita married George Norman Hillier on June 27, 1951. They had no children, and Rita became a widow on August 24, 1963. During World War II she served with an ambulance unit in North Africa and Italy. Later, together with her husband, she made her home in the Western Desert of Egypt, thence to Ethiopia for a time before returning to England to the West Country Farm owned by the couple.

In the 1950s, she took up residence on Norfolk Island, a tiny Australian island in the South Pacific Ocean, but in the 1980s she moved to Tauranga, in the Bay of Plenty, New Zealand. *It was reprinted five times and was favourably reviewed for its superbly reproduced colour photographs*

In 1969, Hillier published the very first coloured photographic record of Norfolk Island. It was reprinted five times by Anson

Albert Ganado

Right: Authoress Rita Hillier

Publications and was favourably reviewed by the Australian Book Review for its superbly reproduced colour photographs captured with her camera.

Rita took a keen interest in wildlife, listing among her varied pursuits, farming, writing and philately. I recall that when we both were in our teens, we used to exchange stamps by correspondence.

In November 2007, she affectionately sent me from New Zealand a copy of the fourth edition of her book *The Norfolk Island Book*, which contains her portrait in the dust jacket. Among her acknowledgements she thanked her father "for his generous and unfailing understanding".

It is interesting to note that her father had an adventurous life. He was at one time in Sudan supplying workers to Saudi Arabia for the budding oil industry.

He worked for the MI5 and as a secret agent he was responsible for the escape from Ethiopia of the Emperor Haile Selassie. Around this time, he was ambushed in his car and his wife was very badly injured. It was then that Gustav and Freda came to live in Malta.

As from October 3, 1939, by deed poll in Egypt, he assumed the name Henry Stranger-Ford Vassallo, and he wrote that he had spent his whole life looking over his shoulder. He was, however, extremely proud to show to his relatives in Malta the dagger encrusted with precious stones gifted to him by Haile Selassie in recognition of his services.

Rita Hillier died in New Zealand on July 11 or 12, 2016, aged 95 [TIMES OF MALTA]

'Some say I'm crazy and they may be right': Steve Chetcuti to row the Atlantic Ocean



The 6,000km journey will raise funds for Hospice Malta and other charities

22nd February 2021 <https://whoswho.mt/>

Steve Chetcuti, the Maltese corporate communications manager at Hero Group is preparing to row the Atlantic Ocean.

Mr Chetcuti, who also worked as an editor at The Malta Independent for six years from 1996, will embark on his journey in March.

Addressing the feedback he has received, he said "some say I'm crazy and they may be right. What I know is that thanks to your help, I'll be able to collect money to help my three charities - and also fulfil my personal goal."

Hero Group wished him luck, saying "we support his efforts and wish him all the best on his trip".

The 6,000 km trip, on which Mr Chetcuti will be accompanied by five "like-minded people", will raise funds for Hospice Malta, Krebsliga Schweiz, and Terre des Hommes foundation.


As of Saturday, Mr Chetcuti had raised €9,856 for the charities.


His plans to undertake this challenge were formed in November 2018, nine months after his brother, Mike, passed away after battling a brain tumour.



Hanging out the washing on a bright day !
Back streets of Valletta !
Photo by Lorraine Saliba

Thank you for another wonderful and informative newsletter! The mix in this latest edition was spot on!! I particularly am enjoying anything that is in Maltese as I am finding my reading is getting better and faster. So many great topics! I also loved the section on the humble Maltese bread and how much it has played a part in our history and culture. Keep up the great work! I read the whole newsletter without taking a break!! Well done to you and your team.!! Kind Regards Ross Pulo





If you are Maltese living abroad and have a story to tell share it with others.

Send it to us:

maltesejournal@gmail.com

Twilights

an exhibition of sacred art by Aaron Formosa

Formosa '19

Il-Ħaġar | Heart of Gozo Museum & Cultural Centre

Pjazza San Ġorġ, Victoria, Gozo, Malta

27 February - 6 April 2021

Monday to Sunday, 09:00 to 17:00

The organisers are adhering to the health and safety directives and regulations issued by the Health Authorities.



FONDAZZJONI
BELT VICTORIA



IL-ĦAĠAR
HEART OF GOZO

BOV

Bank of Valletta



Cultural Heritage Directorate



MINISTRY FOR GOZO



Ready for a taste of local culture? Introducing the far-off town of Dingli, where the elite rub shoulders with some slightly less than savoury characters in the little local square.

Get ready to sing along to some of your favourite tunes and maybe buy a traditional cheesecake from *tal-Pastizzi*. Just leave plenty of time to catch the bus, destination... *Pjazza Pastizzi*! TMYT *Pjazza Pastizzi* poster *Pjazza Pastizzi* is a devised *Commedia Dell'Arte* production by Teatru Manoel Youth Theatre, directed by Michael Richardson. Toi Toi Education Programme proudly introduces Malta's rising theatrical talent in this season's touch of comedy.

"The play is based on Maltese culture and typical characters you would find in

the Maltese towns. It is based on *Commedia dell'Arte* which means that we have tried to adopt their physicality and storyline and adapt it to Maltese caricatures and culture," explains Nicole Portelli, one of the performers. *Pjazza Pastizzi* will take place on the 19, 20 and 21st March 2021 at Teatru Manoel, Valletta.

Tickets may be purchased [here](#).

booking.teatrumanoel.com.mt/event/16629/title/pjazza_pastizzi/?dt=19.03.2021

This content was supplied by Teatru Manoel Youth Theatre / Toi Toi Education Programme

If you want to be the first to receive the latest news from Malta, download the Newsbook



www.artscouncilmalta.org/

Minister for the National Heritage, the Arts and Local Government José Herrera announced that Arts Council Malta has launched a new Arts Education Scheme as part of a €6 million direct investment in the local cultural and creative sectors.

The new Arts Education Scheme will inject a direct investment of €120,000 in the sector of arts formation and development and is a result of extensive consultation with the sector as part of the work carried out for the development of the RESTART 2021 schemes by Arts Council Malta.