

Maltese eNewsletter

Journal of Maltese Living Abroad

Editor: Frank Scicluna OAM MQR

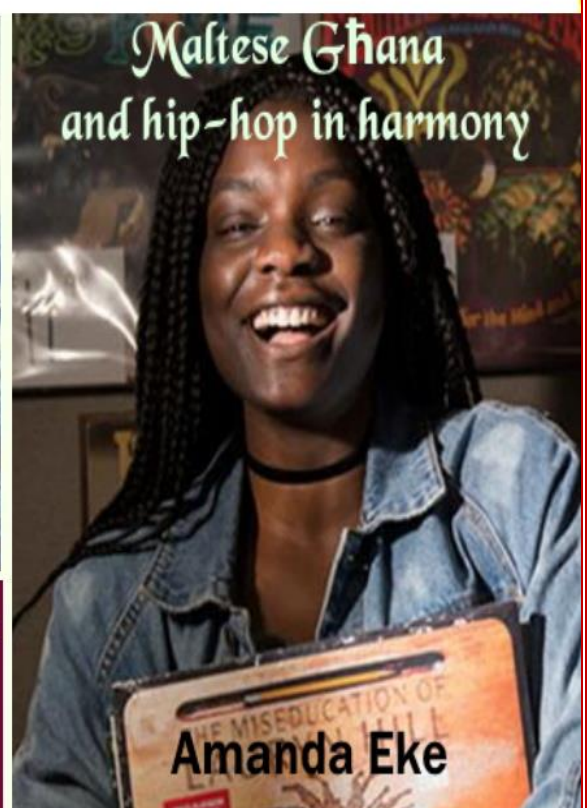
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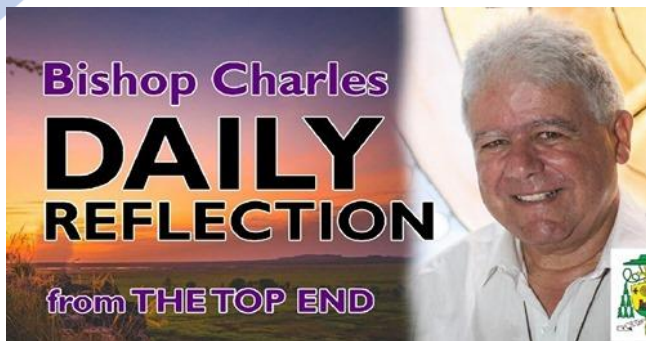


Community people with Bishop Charles Gauci of Darwin - Australia



**We salute and thank the past
and present leaders of our
communities abroad**





MGR CHARLES GAUCI BISHOP OF DARWIN Reflection

I have seen a lot of changes during my lifetime; I was born in Malta in the 50's not long after the end of World War II. I have parents who lived during the war when the population were on the verge of starvation during a siege that lasted for years. We always had

enough to eat but we also never threw anything away that could be recycled or fixed.

In many ways, consumerism has been a bit like a runaway train. The waste that we and other 1st world countries produce is massive. So much good is thrown 'away'. In many ways, compared to most of the world, we live very affluent lives. I know of course that not all Australians share equally in this abundance and indeed there are many who struggle.

Recently, we have been finding empty shelves in the supermarkets. There is a limit on how many items we can buy. Income has suddenly come under threat for so many. For most who live in this country, this is a new experience. Gratification is not a bad thing. If you are hungry you eat, thirsty you drink, tired you rest or sleep.

Balance in gratification, is however also healthy and necessary. If I take something that belongs to someone else without their permission that becomes stealing! If I eat too much, I am a glutton, etc. Gratification of the senses and desires all the time without checks or balances, is demeaning to our dignity and ultimately also a cause of unhappiness. Acting without wisdom and balance leads us to strange and unhealthy places. I need to choose what is right and good and not just what is easy or expedient. It does not mean that something is right just because I can do it or feel like it!

Maybe the empty shelves and other challenges that we are now experiencing can help us to be more reflective about the right way of fulfilling our desires and gratification. Just because I want something does not necessarily make it right.

In our daily reflection, it would be very helpful to share my desires with God, the source of all wisdom. Seek first the Kingdom of God and the rest will be given to you. And afterwards, Jesus is the Way, the Truth and the Life. God bless you today. Bishop Charles Gauci Bishop of Darwin

Follow Bishop Charles on www.facebook.com/darwindiocese



Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Thamarrurr Catholic College

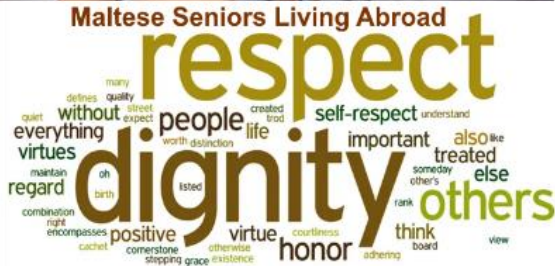
Wadeye, Northern
Territory 0822 AU

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Thamarrurr Catholic College is a remote Indigenous school located in Wadeye 400 km South West of Darwin. The Kardu Diminin people are the traditional owners of the Wadeye country. There are 22 other clans from the surrounding Thamarrurr region residing in Wadeye and attending the school. Catering to over 600 students, the school operates a Family as First Teachers (FaFT) program, preschool, primary and secondary school. OLSH Wadeye is a bilingual school using the step model to teach Murrinhpatha and English in the primary school and teaching the Religious Education Program in Murrinhpatha in the secondary school. General inquiries: (08) 8978 2477 admin.olshtcs@nt.catholic.edu.au

Website <http://www.olshtnt.catholic.edu.au/> **Founded** 1935 **Specialties** Education



Maltese Seniors Living Abroad



We are realising that **our** many members of the Maltese communities are getting on in years and the numbers are decreasing rapidly. Most of them gave up their time, skills and expertise for the betterment of their communities for several decades. It's a common courtesy to treat our seniors with dignity and respect. Unfortunately, sometimes we do not show them the respect and thankfulness they deserve. We forget the magnificent contributions they had given to our communities and families for so many years.

Seniors have plenty of experience in life and they can teach us about enduring change and handling life's challenges. They have a great amount of wisdom and knowledge to share with us. They kept the communities together especially in the early days when migration from Malta was in full swing – in the 50s, 60s and 70s.

Seniors of Maltese Communities Should be Treated with Dignity and Respect

It's important for the younger generation to learn the significance of respecting seniors by listening and spending quality time with them. We must treat our elders with respect, even if their bodies or minds are beginning to fail them. Our senior members of the community are generous, wonderful, powerful and creating the comforts that younger Maltese take for granted.

They have gained knowledge through their life experiences and they worked very hard and it's about time to listen to their stories and learn from them. Our seniors taught us the importance of treating others with kindness and respect. They managed to preserve and share the Maltese culture and traditions wherever they settled. They laid the foundations of today's achievements, associations, cultural traditions and other facilities we enjoy.

Giving the seniors your time and attention does wonders. Spending quality time together can benefit everyone and create special memories. Saying a "Thank you" is so sweet. We salute them.

WE SALUTE AND THANK ALL THOSE LEADERS OF OUR MALTESE COMMUNITIES ABROAD WHO WORKED HARD TO ASSIST THEIR FELLOWMEN/WOMEN IN THEIR TIME OF UNCERTAINTY, STRESS AND GRIEF DURING THOSE DAYS OF MASS EMIGRATION FROM MALTA, THE PRESENT AND PAST LEADERS ARE OUR HEROES AND WE CANNOT THANKED THEM ENOUGH FOR THEIR DEDICATION AND LEADERSHIP. OUR SOCIETIES ARE SO SUCCESSFUL NOW BECAUSE OUR LEADERS LAID A SOLID FOUNDATION FOR US



Local research set to help Artificial Intelligence machines understand Maltese language better

Projects financed by Malta's digital innovation authority

Julian Delia

Minister for economy and industry Silvio

Schembri speaking at the press conference. Photo: Facebook

Malta's national AI strategy, originally launched in 2019, has yielded two projects which will facilitate the use of the Maltese language in software that makes use of artificial intelligence (AI).

'Machine-learning' is a branch of computer science that deals with how algorithms, or sets of rules that define how a computer program responds, can be refined over time through the use of data as well as experiences of solving problems.

The two projects, which were related to text and speech processing of the Maltese language, have led to a cache of data that can be used in customer service and entertainment, for example.

Customers who have previously encountered automated chatbots which can answer queries in English might now be able to have that conversation in Maltese, should commercial operators use the research for that purpose.

Another instance in which this cache of data could prove useful to a commercial operator would be for the subtitling of a film or TV series to include Maltese in its options.

While efforts have already been made to map out the Maltese language, with services such as Google Translate continuously improving their "command" of the language, this is the first time local research will be able to offer a "plug and play" template.

The projects were announced earlier on Thursday by Economy Minister Silvio Schembri. The financing for the project came from Malta's digital innovation authority (MDIA) and the research was conducted at the University of Malta.

Besides the two projects involving the recognition of speech and text, Schembri also announced 'EduAI', which is an ongoing project meant to integrate AI and basic programming skills as part of the education system.

The three projects cost €161,800 to fund, and are set to be released by the MDIA in conjunction with the university, Schembri said.

"We want to create a new industry for this sector, along with jobs and opportunities for people who will be involved in it. Our goal is to make our economy generally more efficient by using AI technology and automation," Schembri added.



MARTHESE FENECH - MALTESE-CANADIAN WRITES ABOUT THE CONSUL GENERAL



As an author, words tend to come to me naturally. However, finding the words to convey the depth of my gratitude sometimes poses a challenge. Now is one such time, as I thank Consul General of Malta in Canada, Dr Raymond Xerri, for his championing of my work and his tireless support of Maltese-Canadian artists.

I was born the youngest of five in Toronto to Maltese parents, both active in the Maltese-Canadian community. I am a novelist, screenwriter, professional editor, and high school teacher. Raymond Xerri, an inveterate storyteller and historian himself, has been instrumental in spreading the word about my bestselling historical novels, *Eight Pointed Cross* and *Falcon's Shadow*, and creating anticipation around the forthcoming third novel in my *Siege of Malta* series. His sharing of my television and media appearances has garnered tens of thousands of views across the globe, the kind of publicity an author dreams about.

An advocate of the arts, Raymond Xerri has graciously put me in touch with editors and the arts community around Malta to increase coverage of my novels. He also plans to submit my third novel to the Toronto International Festival of Authors, an event I have longed to participate in since I began my career. Twenty years ago, I attended the

festival as an aspiring writer and imagined that one day I might take part as a featured author.

Given that my novels are set in sixteenth-century Malta, it is beyond gratifying to have the support of the Maltese community. Through his promotion of my novels, Raymond Xerri has actively sought positive recognition for my efforts to publicize and celebrate Maltese culture through the arts.

I am often asked about my goals. Seeing my novels come to life on the screen is my biggest dream. For years, I have wished someone—a director, a producer, an actor—would approach me about adapting my books. Anytime a film is being produced in Malta, I'd pray the director would pop into a bookshop and pick up one of my novels and contact me.

Suddenly, it dawned on me that I am capable—I did write the novels, after all.

That revelation guided me towards a book-to-script screenwriting course. I have since started adapting my first novel and am currently drafting a pilot episode that I hope to pitch to streaming services as well as HBO, and the History Channel in the next few months. Nothing would bring me more joy than experiencing the fortitude, resilience, and tenacity of the Maltese play out on the screen—big or small. Approaching studios with such a project is a daunting task, but one Raymond Xerri will help facilitate. I look forward to the realization of my dream, of connecting not only the Maltese community but the world with one of the most incredible stories of valour and triumph to grace the annals of history, the Great Siege of 1565.

I wish Dr Raymond Xerri and his wonderful colleagues continued success, and I hope he plans to stick around as our consul general for years to come. Without a High Commission in Ottawa, Maltese Canadians need such a talented, energetic, well-networked and an internationalist like Dr Xerri, who has worked hard and is offering hope to the Maltese Canadian Community and a Consul General many of us have been long wishing for.





Ghana and hip-hop in harmony

This new documentary delves into the worlds of **ghana and hip-hop in Malta** and explores how their fusion influences the local musical landscape. Film-maker Amanda Eke talks about her film Bidla and her take on this seemingly improbable musical merger.

One thing unique to hip-hop is its reflection on the importance of space and identity. From its very inception in New York City in the

1980s, representing one's neighbourhood at rap battles was a central part of the culture.

This is like the għannej in Malta, where one's locale tells a narrative and one's musical style is represented through that. Through this we see a marker of common issues like marginalisation and contested localities being negotiated by both għana and hip-hop.

What these place-identities tell us about the political, socio-geographic and cultural context in which hip-hop culture is produced is poignant throughout Maltese għana.

Ghana and hip-hop are very vital roles on the island. Ghana on its own stands as a sacred tradition of music in Malta, not only in its musical function but also in terms of its historical precedence on the island. It dates back to the late 19th century and was used to tell stories passed down from generation to generation.

Hip-hop is relatively new on the island. However, hip-hop and rap are being used in Malta in contemporary times to perform what was its initial function in the 1980s – to tell the stories of the people. What is significant about the film, Bidla, is that it looks at artists on the island that have combined these two genres, taking the past and combining it with the present for a different look at identity and meanings for the future.

It explores how artists on the island of Malta in the present day are combining these genres to use them as social tools to impact music culture and the democratic organisation on the island and the meaning and lives of artists who use the hybridity of these two forms to further the genre of għana for an entirely new generation of citizens.

Throughout the documentary film journey, Amanda delved into their historical dynamics as she sought to understand the relationship between the two forms. Ghana is an art form that within the Maltese community continues to be played daily in bars, clubs and homes.

But also, the development of hip-hop and għana has been an intertwined path of two different styles, which have grown from and have thrived in similar circumstances. Just as hip-hop has cultivated advocacy to solve social, political and economic problems, għana too has become a sort of advocacy for social and political commentary through rhymes.

Amanda Eke is a Nigerian-American artist, poet and film-maker. Her debut documentary Bidla was previewed at Spazju Kreattiv Cinema on January 17. For more information, visit www.kreattivita.org/event/bidla. <https://youtu.be/Moe3YuOV79k>
https://timesofmalta.com/articles/view/ghana-and-hip-hop-in-harmony.843906?fbclid=IwAR1ji_6LpplEGQAVFojXdV5XMkS1GN6REfMSgilpamWUmZEkcREV12MluWE

Former child prodigy tipped to win Eurovision for the tiny island nation of Malta



Destiny Chukunyere a Maltese-Nigerian singer, is Malta's bid for Eurovision 2021. (Visit Malta)

the Junior Eurovision Song Contest. Destiny might look familiar to fans of *Britain's Got Talent*. In 2017, she belted out Aretha Franklin's "Think" on the reality show, drawing acclaim

Malta is the bookies' favourite to win Eurovision 2021, represented by child prodigy-turned-bona fide purveyor of bops, Destiny.

Malta, a Mediterranean island nation south of Italy and north of Libya, is one of the smallest countries that competes each year in Eurovision.

It's never won. But Destiny Chukunyere, channelling music legends such as Beyoncé, Lizzo and Aretha Franklin, is out to change that.

Long labelled a "child prodigy", Destiny quickly became used to singing in front of cheering crowds in her youth. She was just 13 when she won Junior Eurovision 2015 with a then-record-breaking 185 points.

Five years later, aged 18, she's representing Malta in the Eurovision Song Contest, singing in the first semi-final on 18 May.

The contest is making a triumphant return after it was pulled last year amid the coronavirus pandemic, with organisers pulling out all the stops to ensure it can go ahead safely.

Destiny, 18, has done the music competition circuit, having appeared both on Britain's Got Talent and

from acid-tongued judge, Simon Cowell.

"I've been waiting for someone to come out who we think can be a star," he said after the roaring crowd gave Destiny a standing ovation. "And guess who it is? You."

Not long after, she appeared as a backing singer for Eurovision 2019's Maltese entrant, Michela Pace. Now, the musician is travelling from Birkirkara, a small town filled with cobble lanes and beige churches, to Rotterdam, Netherlands, for the world's biggest music competition.

She's set to sing her electro-swing pop song "Je Me Casse". On first listen, it's a buzzy number born for the dance floor.

But the song is more than a quick dose of serotonin. Its defiant lyrics bounce with female empowerment, following a peevish guy using stale pickup lines and unwanted drinks to woo a woman. She couldn't care less. Instead, she bats the boy away and focuses on having a good time and pursuing her dreams. Destiny is dreaming of winning this year's Eurovision. And considering she's already proved to be a fan-favourite, she might just do it. SOURCE

Video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PQKiHr5qEfA>

Video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xVnTwSIIHp8>

Logo -

https://mma.prnewswire.com/media/1492931/VisitMalta_Logo.jpg



VisitMalta.com

both on Britain's Got Talent and

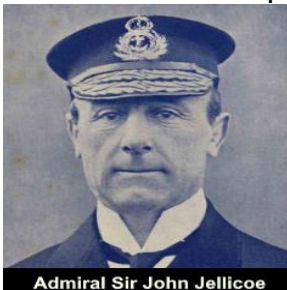


WWI Battle of Jutland 31 May to 1 June 1916

The Battle of Jutland was the largest naval battle of the First World War. It was the only time that the British and German fleets of 'dreadnought' battleships actually came to blows.

The German High Seas Fleet hoped to weaken the Royal Navy by launching an ambush on the British Grand Fleet in the North Sea. German Admiral Reinhard Scheer planned to lure out both Admiral

Sir David Beatty's Battlecruiser Force and Admiral Sir John Jellicoe's Grand Fleet. Scheer hoped to destroy Beatty's force before Jellicoe's arrived, but the British were warned by their codebreakers and put both forces to sea early.



Admiral Sir John Jellicoe

Jutland was a confused and bloody action involving 250 ships and around 100,000 men. Initial encounters between Beatty's force and the German High Seas Fleet resulted in the loss of several ships. The Germans damaged Beatty's flagship, HMS *Lion*, and sank HMS *Indefatigable* and HMS *Queen Mary*, both of which blew up when German shells hit their ammunition magazines. The main action had involved:

- 29 British battleships and 8 battlecruisers led by Admirals Jellicoe and Beatty

- 22 German battleships and 5 battlecruisers led by Admirals Hipper and Sheer
- The German Fleet lost 11 ships, including a battleship and a battle cruiser, and suffered 3058 casualties. Another 10 German ships were seriously damaged.

The British sustained much heavier losses. The Grand Fleet lost 14 ships, including three battlecruisers, and suffered 6784 casualties.

Victory in the North Sea Both sides claimed victory.

Maltese killed in the Battle of Jutland 1916

Maltese personnel who perished in this battle were employed as civilians with the Admiralty and were part of the firm Baptist Borda & Sons who were shipchandlers and canteen managers on H.M ships.

It was on 21 July 1916 when the Chief Petty Officers and 1st Class Petty Officers of the *H.M.S. Inflexible* issued a letter commending Baptist Borda & Sons for the zealous way in which Baptist Borda and his staff carried out their job in canteen management and other multifarious duties on the ship (between 1 November 1912 and 1 August 1916) and especially during the Falkland Islands campaign on 8 December 1914, the bombardments at the Dardanelles during 19 February, 4, 5 and 18 March 1915 and the Battle of Jutland between 31 May and 1 June 1916.

At least one in four of Maltese Royal Navy personnel who died during the First World War perished outside the Mediterranean, notably at the Battle of Jutland.

During these campaigns, staff employed by Baptist Borda & Sons on service with the Admiralty also perished as shown in the holy pictures presented here. On 31 May 1916, the first day of the Battle of Jutland, Emmanuele Cuschieri, aged 34 perished. He worked with Antonio Borda as writer in the canteen of *H.M.S. Black Prince* (keeping records and other paperwork during the journey). Mr Cuschieri was survived by his wife and children. During the same Battle of Jutland, another Antonio Borda, aged 25 died on the frigate, *H.M.S. Indefatigable*. As the fortunes or misfortunes of war had it, the mother of George Vella, Spira (who was the sister of Antonio

Borda) wrote to her brother Antonio lamenting of her son's George death on the *H.M.S. Indefatigable* and told her brother that if he had kept his nephew on the *H.M.S. Inflexible*, instead giving him work on the *H.M.S. Indefatigable*, he would not have perished.

The following is an attempted list compiled from the Government Gazette and the above-mentioned website.

Hopefully, no Maltese ratings are left out:

Battle-cruisers HMS

Indefatigable: Antonio Borda (Canteen assistant, Admiralty civilian), Salvatore Cachia (Canteen assistant, Admiralty civilian), Carmelo Camilleri (Canteen assistant, Admiralty civilian), Emmanuele Chircop (3rd class officer's steward), Joseph Darmanin (1st class officer's steward), Guiseppi Farrugia (1st class officer's cook), James Long (2nd class officer's cook), Francis Mamo (3rd class officer's steward), Carmelo Micallef (1st class officer's steward), Salvatore Micallef (3rd class



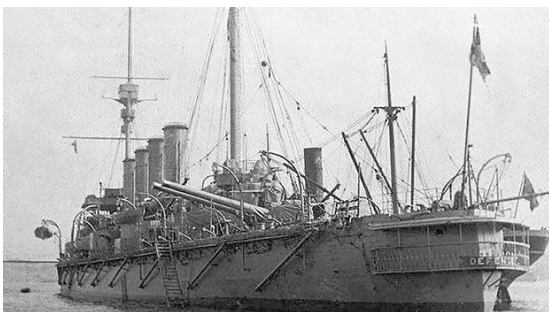
Wounded men on a hospital ship after Jutland

officer's steward), C. Monroe (Canteen assistant), C. Rogers (Steward), Giovanni Spiteri (3rd class officer's steward), Guiseppe Storaci (Cook), George Vella (Canteen assistant, Admiralty civilian) and Publius Viscoso (1st class officer's cook).

HMS Queen Mary. Carmelo Bruce (1st class officer's steward), Carmelo Conti (1st class officer's cook), Albert Coster (1st class officer's steward), Antonio Frendo, 3rd class officer's steward), G. Gaffiero (Canteen assistant), Laurence Gatt (Warrant electrician), Benjamin H. Gale (1st class stoker), Frank Miller (3rd class officer's steward) and Carmelo Nays (1st class officer's steward).

Armoured cruisers HMS Black Prince. Guiseppe Abela (Canteen server, Admiralty civilian), Carmelo Baldacchino (Canteen server, Admiralty civilian), E.A. Borg (Canteen manager, Admiralty civilian), Emmanuel J. Cachia (Canteen manager, Admiralty civilian), John Cauchi (1st class officer's steward), Guiseppe Chetcuti (2nd class officer's steward), Guiseppe Cuomo (Bandsman), Angelo Formosa (Bandsman), Luigi Grasso (Bandsman), Constantino Giunta (Bandsman), R. Glutter (Canteen server), Joseph Magarity (2nd class chief engine room artificer), John Micallef (2nd class officer's steward), Achille Polizzi (Bandsman), Giuseppe Portoghese (Bandsman), Enrico Portoghese (Bandsman), Archimede Priori (Bandsman), Matteo Rosmondo (Bandsman), Domenico Strano (Bandsman), Giovannai Urso (Bandsman), Luigi Ungaro (Band corporal) Lewis Vassallo (Carpenter's mate) and John Vella (Officer's cook).

HMS Defence: Alberto Baldacchino (Bandsman), Joseph Bonnici (Canteen server, Admiralty civilian), Nunzio Carmando (Bandsman), Agostino Cavallazzi (Bandsman), Gaetano Chircop (Canteen server, Admiralty civilian), Giovanni Consiglio (Bandsman), Virgilio di Mauro (Chief bandmaster), Nicolo Fondacaro (Band corporal), Abele Giglio (1st class officer's steward), Emanuele Ligrestischios (Bandsman), Angelo Magri (1st class officer's cook), Carmelo Montesin (Bandsman), C. Micallef (Cook), William Minaldi (Bandsman), Paolo Patigniot, (Canteen server, Admiralty civilian), Antonio Polato (Bandsman), and Enrico Portelli (Bandsman), Charles Rodgers (2nd class officer's steward), Alfredo Ronsisvalle (Bandsman), John Triccas (1st class officer's steward) and Roberto



Venturi (Bandman).

HMS Warrior: Anthony Alford (Officer's steward), Roberto Tanti (Officer's cook)

HMS Inflexible: S. Azzopardi (Fireman), C. Bonnici (Fireman), C. Chircop (Fireman)

HISTORY - British Rule in Malta

In the first months after the insurrection against the French, Maltese leaders realised that they needed a great power to help them expel the French and protect the islands. They first appealed to the King of Naples but since Naples itself was having trouble with Napoleon, help instead came from the British, at the time allies of Naples and at war with Napoleon's France.



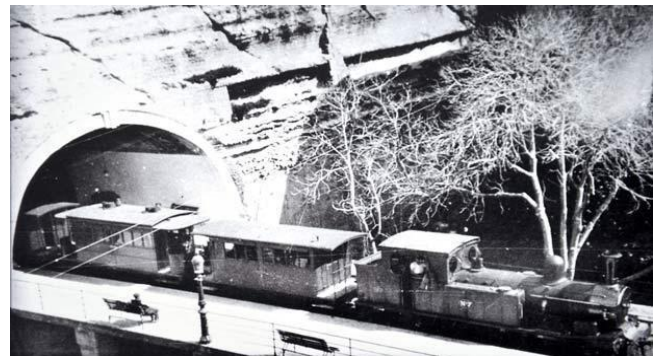
In February 1799 Captain Alexander Ball was appointed president of the National Congress. In March 1799 the Congress petitioned King

Ferdinand IV of Naples to transfer his rights over Malta to King George III of Great Britain. King George accepted the Maltese request and granted the Maltese full protection and the enjoyment of all their rights. In October 1801 the National Congress declared not to surrender the islands to any power other than Britain, nor would they accept back the Order of St. John. The British were here to stay and by 1813 Malta was declared a Crown colony. However, Maltese patriots felt cheated because they wanted Malta to be ruled by a Maltese elected assembly and the role of the British would have been only that of protectors of the islands.

British rule brought an immediate boost to the economy, leading to the establishment of banks, as well as improvements to the education and medical sectors. However a 1813-14 outbreak of bubonic plague killed some 4,500 and hampered trade as other countries imposed restrictions on goods from Malta. Smallpox ravaged the population in 1830 and in 1837, and a cholera epidemic, also in 1837 killed 4,000 inhabitants.

Meanwhile the the Maltese never forgot that they had asked the British to come to Malta to expel the French and longed for self-rule. In 1849, a new constitution was drawn up, empowering the Maltese to elect the members of the government council. Although decisions taken by this council were still subject to approval by the British in London, this was a major milestone in establishing the democracy in Malta.

The Crimean war in March 1854, when Britain and France came to Turkey's aid to limit Russian expansion, was an economic boon for Malta as wounded soldiers were brought to Malta for medical care, a role repeated in World War I when Malta became known as 'Nurse of the Mediterranean'. The opening of the Suez Canal led to an increase in shipping movements in the Mediterranean, boosting the Maltese economy.



In 1882, a sea ferry service linking Sliema and Valletta was launched, followed by a train service connecting Valletta to many towns and villages. In 1905, a tram service was introduced, however by 1931, neither trains nor trams were required, as buses replaced them.

As soon as World War I ended the Maltese petitioned the British for self-government. After WWI widespread unemployment, price hikes and severe food shortages stirred major unrest which culminated in the bloody 'Sette Giugno' riots in Valletta on the 7th June 1919. The British troops attempted to control the riots and several Maltese were killed in the process. A National Assembly was set up, with

the intention of drafting a constitution for self governance. On 1 November 1921 a joyful populace attended the opening ceremony of the first Maltese Parliament by the Prince of Wales.

At that time, Italian was the language of the Church, of the law and of 'society' and the question of English or Italian being taught in schools became a major political issue. This problem combined with issues regarding the Governor's powers resulted in the constitution being revoked. In 1939 a constitution allowing for a parliament with a minority of Maltese citizens was granted, but the beginning of World War II caused local government to be suspended.



During the first years of British rule the island was not given much importance but its excellent harbours became a prized asset especially after the opening of the Suez Canal. The island went on to become a military and naval fortress, the headquarters of the British Mediterranean fleet. Malta's strategic position during WW II led to it suffering heavy bombing with many casualties and widespread destruction of buildings. It was during the worst of this period, in 1942, that Malta was awarded the George Cross "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 forms part of the Maltese flag.

After World War II the islands achieved self-rule once again which was followed and a national debate on whether Malta should be integrated with Britain or achieve independence occupied the Maltese for over a decade. Independence was granted in 1964

and in 1974 Malta became a Republic with a Maltese President as head of state. The decreasing strategic importance of Malta to the Royal Navy meant that the British government was increasingly reluctant to maintain the naval dockyards and by 1979 Malta stopped being used as a British military base.



To this day the presence of the British influence in Malta is felt throughout the islands, from the use of English as one of Malta's official languages to its administration, system of education and parliamentary structure. The British introduced the Neoclassical style of architecture to Malta, evident in the Greek revival portico of the parish church of Sta. Marija Assunta in Mosta, and in the soaring spire of St Paul's Anglican Cathedral which dominates the Valletta skyline. Neo-Gothic architecture was also introduced to Malta during this period, in the Chapel of Santa Maria Addolorata at Malta's main cemetery, and in the Ghajnsielem, Gozo. Sliema which developed from a sleepy seaside village into a bustling, cosmopolitan town during the British period, once boasted an elegant seafront that was famed for its Regency style architecture, strongly reminiscent of the British seaside town of Brighton.



URGENT APPEAL

God Gave Us Two Hands One Hand To Receive the Other To Give!
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NSW Australia

Through these unusual times, we will still continue to keep these pages as up to date as possible. With no certainty when events will continue, be sure to keep up to date with this calendar. The village feasts for this month are still of last year as official calendar has not yet been publish. www.maltainfoguide.com/activities-in-malta-may.htm



In Guardia Parade

The In Guardia Parade is a re-enactment of an actual historical event that used to take place at Fort St Elmo during the time of the Knights of St. John.

It used to be an inspection of the local troops by the bailiff to check their capability of resisting a Turkish attach against the fort. The fort used to guard the

entrance of the two main harbours of Malta where the Knights of Malta used to keep their fleet as protected as possible. The knights were known across Europe for their ability of holding the Turks back from attacking mainland Europe.

The re-enactors are **dressed in period colourful costumes performing, drills, fencing, fire arms and canon firing.**

To buy tickets you have to see when the shows are held as they are not frequent. Once at the fort you can visit the National War Museum.

Details About In Guardia Parade



Valletta Green Festival 2021

The Valletta Green Festival is a yearly opportunity to **enrich the capital city Valletta with a green element of a huge flower carpet** spread on the floor of St. George's Square in front of the President's palace.

More than **80,000 seasonal flower plants** crammed tightly together are planted time before to be in blossom for the infiorata to create an intricate design of white, yellow, purple, red and pink colours for visitors to see, walk around

and take photographs.

It is **held every spring** aiming to inspire residents to grow their own flowers in their own houses around the villages and towns of the island.

Details About Valletta Green Festival

- **Venue:** St. George's Square, Valletta



This is an outside display of colourful plants which can be seen all through the day.

13th Mechanised Ground Fireworks Festival

The Mechanical Ground Fireworks Festival is **held during the feast of St. Publius feast at the village of Floriana.** All that is fireworks in Malta will surely see large gatherings of pyrotechnic enthusiasts flocking to the main Graneries square in from of the village square.

It is a specialised technique where several **well organized and talented fireworks village groups take part in this competition.** They showcase their ability to create intricate moving colourful designs even more elaborate than their counterparts had designed.

MANOEL ISLAND The Abandoned Island of Malta

Petar Djajkovski



Manoel Island lies abandoned and alone in the heart of Malta, just a five minute walk away from the nearby commercial streets.

A view of Manoel Island in 1720

Boats and ferries going from Sliema to Valetta go around it; the only attention it receives is from tourists and their cameras. It is such a peculiar small island, and it houses a beautiful fortress. For a long time, it was home to some lonely and unfortunate people.

“Lazaretto” is defined by Etymonline as a “house for reception of lepers and diseased poor persons,” however it can also refer to a quarantine station for maritime travelers.

Manoel Island served both to isolate passengers arriving by ship — the only way to reach these Mediterranean islands — and to house those showing signs of illness.

It was possibly the most effective measure in the pre-antibiotic era to prevent the spread of infectious disease such as cholera.

The first lazaretto was a temporary building, constructed during an outbreak of the plague between 1592 and 1593. Around 50 years later, the Grand Master of the Order of Saint John at the time, Giovanni Paolo Lascaris, tore down the temporary isolation house and built a permanent, much bigger and better lazaretto. At this time, the lazaretto consisted of only one building.

The next Grand Master expanded the original building and added a second one next to it in 1670. His successor followed his example and continuously worked to upgrade the facility, adding more buildings, new blocks, and warehouses.

The continued efforts of the Order of Saint John to develop the island into a serious illness-fighting facility proved worth the trouble. The lazaretto was turned into a hospital and was used extensively during a later plague epidemic in 1813, the widespread occurrence of cholera in 1865, and again for the plague epidemic of 1937. It was also greatly used throughout the Crimean War, serving as a military hospital for British, Italian, and French troops.

In the period between 1816 and the late 1880s, all of Malta’s incoming mail had to first go through the Profumo Office, located on the Lazaretto grounds, for fumigation. Afterward, it was re-sent packed in special disinfected mail envelopes marked with red seals.

Today, the Lazaretto of Malta consists of several remaining buildings that were constructed in the 17th and 19th centuries. The oldest piece of architecture that still stands dates back to 1643 and is called *Palazzo Vecchio* (Old Palace), *Palazzo Grande* (Great Palace), or even simply *il-Palazz* (The Palace).

It is a two-story building with an atrium in the middle and eight halls around it. Next to the Old Palace lies the New Palace, which was built between the 1670s and 1720s.

The New Palace consists of two courtyards surrounded by several warehouses – one of which was demolished in the bombing of World War II. Another building was added between the Old Palace and the Profumo Office in 1797 and named De Rohan Block, but this was also destroyed during the war.

The lazaretto was surrounded by a high wall to prevent infected people from escaping. In total there were six cemeteries in the area; only one remains today.

The site is now completely closed off to visitors and is undergoing renovations. Extensive works are planned to start soon.

The plans include the construction of an extensive residential and commercial complex including more than 600 apartments, a hotel in the place of the historic Lazzaretto, several retail outlets, streets, plazas, and a yacht marina. However, not all developments will be purely commercial. Big, green park areas

will also be constructed, and the fortress will house art galleries and museums.

Views of the Lazzaretto complex from the bastions of Valletta in 2013 – Author: Frank Vincentz CC BY-SA 3.0



The Lazzaretto of Malta has housed several notable figures during its many years of existence. These have included 1st Baronet Sir Walter Scott, Lord Byron, 1st Earl of Beaconsfield Benjamin Disraeli, French painter Horace Vernet, and French political figure Alphonse de Lamartine.

On the inside of the high walls, graffiti can be seen that was written by the site's "prisoners." The earliest renderings date back to 1681.



The Big Gun at Fort Rinella is still intact and one can visit it. The gun was too costly to demolish and was left as junk, but was later restored to display condition.

Fort Rinella is under the guardianship of Fondazzjoni Wirt Artna - the Malta Heritage Trust.

The pink paint on the Fort Rinella gun was added only recently; originally they were not painted at all. The photo in the left is the gun during WW2.



We are still growing and going strong

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Send an email to Frank: maltesejournal@gmail.com



Sir Temi Zammit (1864-1935)

A true Renaissance scholar, Sir Themistocles



Zammit was successful in many fields, mainly as a medical doctor, but also as a researcher, historian, professor of chemistry, archaeologist and writer.

Sir Temi Zammit was born in Valletta on the 30th September 1864 at a time

when Malta was an important British naval base. During his time, extreme poverty alternated with periods of economic prosperity that were often brought about by war. The social, economic and religious conditions he experienced were later to serve as the setting of many of the short stories he wrote in Maltese.

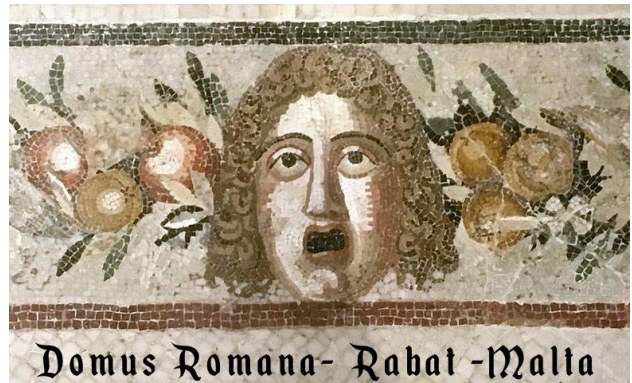
Coming from a very humble family background, Sir Temi graduated in medicine from the University of Malta, and specialised in bacteriology in London and Paris. Soon after returning to Malta, in 1904, he was appointed member of the Mediterranean Fever Commission. His discovery, along with others, of how undulant fever (brucellosis) in the blood of goats is passed on to humans through infected milk, greatly contributed to the eliminating undulant fever from the islands, earning him an international reputation and a knighthood

Sir Temi Zammit became professor of chemistry at the University of Malta in 1905 until his appointment as Rector, 1920-26. Author of several books in the Maltese language, he was awarded a DLitt Honoris Causa by Oxford University.



During all this time, Sir Temi's interest in Malta's ancient past grew – he published a history of the Maltese islands and burst onto the island's archaeological scene at the beginning of the 20th century,

continuing to dominate it right up to his death in 1935. Between 1915 and 1919 he completed the excavation of the Ħal Saflieni



Hypogeum and methodically excavated a number of archaeological sites and tombs, including the megalithic Temples of Tarxien, Ħaġar Qim and Mnajdra and the Rabat Domus Romana which have since been declared UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

A permanent display of some of his findings may be viewed at the National Museum of Archaeology in Valletta.

MALTESE IN ADELAIDE

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Joe Bajada appointed President of an European Cycling Union Commission



Joe Bajada, Secretary-General of the Malta Cycling Federation has now been appointed as the President of a new Commission within the European Cycling Union (UEC), the Small Countries Commission. A few weeks ago he has been re-elected to the post as one of 15 delegates who have the right to vote on behalf of the 50 affiliated members at the Annual General Congress of the International Cycling Federation along with 30 other delegates from four confederations.

It was an initiative of the new President of the UEC, Enrico Della Casa, to set up this Commission, and his choice to lead this Commission fell on Joe Bajada. This is a historic appointment; it is the first time in World Cycling history that a Maltese person will hold the position of President of a Commission. This four-year appointment further increases recognition for the valuable work that Joe Bajada is doing on the international cycling scene. In addition to these positions, Bajada is also a member of another similar Commission of the Union Cycliste Internationale (UCI).

Among the main objectives of this Commission is to protect cycling in the Small States of Europe Games, where after Montenegro cycling was not part of the program, for UEC, this is not acceptable. Another goal is to create specific events so that there is at least one event per year for the 9 member countries and organizing training camps under the umbrella of UCI Solidarity funds. The other members who will form part of this Commission are Walter Baldiserra (San Marino), Camille Damm (Luxembourg) and Bjarni Már Svavarsson (Iceland).

Surprised and at the same time very satisfied with this new appointment, Joe Bajada thanked the new President Enrico Della Casa for this nomination as well as the Management Board of the UEC for the approval. He stated that this is not only a personal success for him but above all for Cycling and Maltese Sport in general. This appointment clearly demonstrates respect, appreciation, and trust that both UCI and UEC put in him and that all this has come after his total commitment to this international sphere.

After receiving this appointment, Bajada also said that with such a trust, apart from that he is extremely humbled to be designated for this position, he feels proud to be once again entrusted, even if coming from a very nation like Malta. This confirms that local cycling is much more recognized in the International Cycling World, as now there is a stronger voice in favour of Malta and similarly sized countries. Joe Bajada's main dream is that soon Malta can organize the first championship for Small and Emerging Countries of Europe. In fact, it was a Maltese proposal in 2017 of organizing such a Championship, but due to many factors, this had to be postponed. Joe Bajada once again thanked the new President Enrico Della Casa, the UEC Managing Committee, also John Zammit, President, and all members of the

Malta Cycling Federation; last but not least, he heartily thanked his family for the continuous support they give him.

John Zammit, President of the Malta Cycling Federation said that on behalf of his council, they are extremely honoured that Joe Bajada was nominated for such an important role so that again he can represent once more with all his abilities our small islands at such top sport level. He congratulated his colleague and wishes him every success in leading this UEC commission for the benefit and development of our beloved sport of Cycling in Europe, especially the Small Countries.

Enrico Della Casa, President of the Union Européenne de Cyclisme in an official statement said, "With the creation of new Commissions, we can now say that we are working at full capacity, faithful to the UEC's philosophy which is to be at the service of and fully involved with our National Federations. The countries represented by members of Commissions for the next four years are no less than 30, which demonstrates our Confederation's enthusiasm and drive and above all important synergy with our grassroots movement. I would like to wish the members of new Commissions every success in their work, who will now have the task and responsibility of making their own contribution to the development of our sport in Europe".

Ruined countryside, soulless towns: Alfred Sant laments construction drive

Former PM has been outspoken on unrestrained construction

Labour MEP Alfred Sant has criticised a construction policy he said had led to "ruined countryside and ugly, soulless town and village centres".

Writing on Facebook on Saturday, the former Prime Minister said he had once advocated for a



construction policy that would eschew new buildings outside towns and villages and instead focus on improvements in urban centres and degraded land in their periphery.

Today, he said, even such a distinction seemed no longer to make sense.

"What has happened is that while construction outside existing urban centres has continued at a rapid rate, towns and village centres have also been subject to extensive works," Sant said.

"But instead of this work leading to improvements in traditional buildings, old houses were demolished in favour of tall apartment buildings that are leading to the loss of all character in our towns." This is not the first time the MEP has criticised the approach to construction in Malta. He was a vocal critic of Infrastructure Malta plans for a flyover in Mrieħel, which he said would lead to the destruction of agricultural land in one of the most fertile parts of the island.

In an interview with Times of Malta last month, he said restraining the construction industry was a long-overdue measure and that people were increasingly realising that "cowboys" could no longer be allowed to run the show. "We shouldn't just restrict construction, but we should say we're going to have real regulation and real prohibitions," Sant said.

"If it's ODZ then you can't do anything. If we're discussing a flyover for traffic, no – penalise traffic, rather than have a flyover."



Malteser Pleaser': Here's How The International Press Reacted To Malta's Attractive €200 Holiday Package



By Johnathan Cilia
www.lovinmalta.com

Malta's new policy to give foreign tourists €200 if they stay in Malta under certain conditions was met

with glee by the international media.

It wasn't just a British radio host saying he's about to book a holiday to the island after the proposal went global, but some of the leading newspapers and media houses around the world.

The MTA policy would see anyone coming from abroad and staying at a five-star hotel getting €100 from the government and another €100 from the hotel, with lower amounts given to hotels with lower stars. Bookings must be a minimum of three nights and must be made directly through the hotel's system.

What they said: "In an effort to revive its tourism industry after more than a year of the pandemic, Malta has launched a scheme to pay holidaymakers visiting this summer. The country's tourism authority will pay foreign travelers up to €100 (£87) when they book to stay at a hotel for at least three nights from June."

"The amount of money paid to each person will depend on the star rating of the hotel they are staying in. Announcing the scheme on Friday, Malta's Tourism Minister Clayton Bartolo said:

"The scheme is aimed at putting Malta's hotels in a very competitive position as international tourism restarts."

"Tourists can get €100 per person on every booking at a five-star hotel, €75 for a four-star hotel, and €50 for a three-star hotel. If there are

multiple people on a booking, each person will each receive that money."

What they said: "Aiming to revive its tourism industry and get ahead of rival destinations, Malta plans to offer foreign visitors a handout of up to 200 euros (\$238.10) each if they stay at least three days on the

Malta "paga" i turisti per l'estate. Fino a 200 euro, a seconda dell'hotel

di Simone Cosimi



Dal primo giugno l'isola riapre ai viaggi con un programma di incentivi per i primi 35mila visitatori: bonus da spendere direttamente negli alberghi per migliorare la sistemazione, pagare pranzi e cene o aggiungere una notte. Ecco come funziona

Italy's La Repubblica praised Malta's vaccination campaign, saying it was "proceeding well".

What they said: "From 1st June the island reopens to travel with an incentive program for the first 35,000 visitors: bonuses are to be spent directly in hotels to improve accommodation, pay for lunches and dinners or add a night."

"It will be a credit to be spent in the structure, not real money: so, for the same budget, you could, for example, choose to improve the quality of the accommodation, treating yourself to an upgrade of the room and accommodation or maybe add an extra night, donated by the Maltese state and the hoteliers.

And the UK's ITV noted that you'd be able to get an extra 10% if you spend time in Gozo.

Mediterranean island this summer."

"World Travel and Tourism Council data show the tourist industry directly and indirectly accounts for more than 27% of Malta's economy, but the sector has been hammered by the COVID-19 pandemic."

MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER

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

Send it to us:
maltesejournal@gmail.com



Back in business! Ambassador John Aquilina signs the Visa Facilitation Service Contract between VFS China and Malta. There is no quarantine requirement for travel from China to Malta



Malta Ambassador to China John Aquilina and Consul Lisa Azzopardi congratulate Mr Lu Yan and Hongyi Culture on receiving the Golden Globe Award at the 6th Diplomatic Culture Night for their generous donation to Malta of 100,000 masks



Congratulations Fredrick Cachia on the launch of your book - you can find Fred's book at the Klabb Ghannejja Maltin Western Suburbs 4-6 Gooding Street St Albans, Victoria to purchase any time!
www.facebook.com/KlabbGhannejjaMaltin1983



**GABRA
SABIHA
TA'
POEZIJI
MALTIN**



**loghba
tal-
bicci
"Jigsaw
Puzzle"**

Joseph Henry Abela, Qassis

Hajjitna tigbor holm, sthajjil, hsibijiet, xewqat, kilbiet, hlewriet, imrar, dieqa, hena u stennija – kollha stampi zgħar li jgħaqqdu xbieha kbira.

Jista' jkollna qrusa għax ma rnexxejniex f'li xtaqna u ninsabu ssikkati meta kieku konna ferħana.

Il-kokka 'l uliedha tara l-isbaħ, u fil-ħajja moħħok jgħinek iżżid jew ifixklek. Thallix lil moħħok jgħasrek imma ntelq u ħadmu moħħok. Jekk għadek ma fhimtx, fittex kemm kemm lil EPICURUS (Twieled 341 BC u miet 270 BC), filosofu li jagħtik tagħrif li jista' jkun ta' siwi.

Hajtek tifhimha meta aktarx thares lura. Bħalissa madwarek tara ċafliis maż-żmien joqgħod kollox, u tibda tara li rnexxejt int ukoll mhux kif hsibt imma aħjar!

bdlbooks.com/blog/hsieb-joseph-henry-abela/43-loghba-tal-bicci/

Maltese for Foreigners books now available on online platform

Gozitan author Charles Daniel Saliba is well known for his publications related to the Maltese language – however, this time, together with BDL Publishing, he has embarked on a digitisation project. (Source- Gozo.News)



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- SPEAKING MALTESE 1
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Charles Daniel Saliba
www.charlesdanielsaliba.com

Available as eBooks
http://www.octavo.app/

Recently, Level 1 of Saliba's Maltese/English book series Maltese for Foreigners became available on the online platform Octavo.

This book-streaming service is designed to make reading and learning languages fun.

The digital library stored in the cloud, features smart recommendations personalised for the reader, access to hundreds of titles and loads of customisable features.

Level A1 (Beginners-Elementary) includes three books: My First 750 Words in Maltese, Maltese Grammar Essentials in Context 1 and Speaking Maltese 1.

The author explained that "these books are perfect for beginners and are suitable for use by individuals, by groups or in a school setting."

Dr Saliba stated, "the Covid-19 pandemic has compelled educators to face new realities, including teaching online."

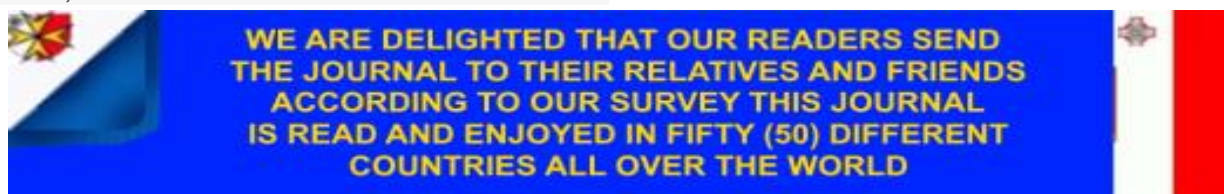
"Being an educator myself, teaching Maltese as a Foreign Language (MFL), daily, at MQF Level 1 and 2 at Sir M. A. Refalo Sixth form, I could experience myself the need for these online books (oBooks) to facilitate communication between the teacher and student," he said.

"I worked on this innovative project so educators and learners could have the necessary online tools to teach and learn MFL," said Dr Saliba. "Technology gives you a lot of advantages, among others, the incorporation of audio with each text, auto-correction for most exercises, photos and clipart in full colour."

He explained that "it's also simple for the teacher to share screen content. Moreover, it will be a blessing for Maltese emigrants living abroad, mainly in Australia, the USA and Canada, because such eBooks save them postage money."

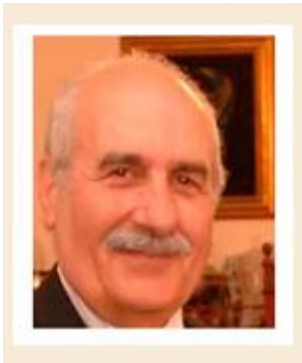
Ms Audrey Cassar, Managing Director at BDL, stated that, "it's been a pleasure working with Charles who has been extremely proactive to adapt to the needs brought about by the pandemic and with our invaluable team he reworked all his books to make them accessible in digital format."

She added that, "Charles immediately understood the advantages of going digital and supported Octavo – a home grown platform – that supports the Maltese language."



LYCEUM PAST STUDENTS (ALPS)

George Stagno Navarra – President writes from Malta



Please allow me to congratulate you for a wonderful NewsLetter with 24 pages that is truly packed with many subjects about the **Maltese Living Abroad**.

So very interesting to read about different aspects of the Maltese

/ Gozitan society, Describing the way of life in Malta and the traditional habits that have been carried to the country of adoption where thousands of our citizens have taken up residence, away from the Maltese shores. Well done indeed.

I wish to introduce myself as **The President of Ghaqda Ex-Studenti Liceo/Association of Lyceum Past Students (ALPS)**. Founded in 1994 by one of the Liceo masters. His name was Dr. Guido Saliba who had wished to bequeath to the Maltese society, something that brings Lyceum Past Students together from all



walks of life and to wherever they may be in this world. The bond that had started in the classrooms of our beloved best school in Malta, still exists in the over 900 members who form ALPS. In 2019, we have celebrated our Silver Jubilee and we already embarked on the next twenty five years when, in 2044 the association can be half a century old. Many of us will have departed this planet earth but for those who come after

us and continue to lead **The Association of Lyceum Past Students**, there is going to be a fountain of activities duly recorded in

our archives, of all we have achieved in our first 26 years of existence.

I am quite confident, there are a few hundred Maltese ex-Lyceum students who have emigrated to Australia and would like to get in touch and reminisce from the roots of their childhood school days.

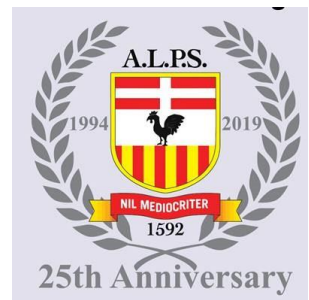
We have our own web-site www.alpsmalta.com/ and our e-mail alpsmalta@gmail.com

At the end of the 25th anniversary celebrations ALPS printed its **CHANTICLEER 108 page Special Edition magazine** that is full of many nostalgic episodes, all recounted by Liceo past students who have written their experiences from their youth that can never be erased from their hearts and mind.

Thousands of Maltese & Gozitan scholars have taken their secondary education from the Lyceum, that has seen them exhilarate to achieve the highest posts wherever they can be in the world. From the Lyceum of Malta we have seen a Cardinal, many Bishops scattered around the globe, Members of Parliament, Presidents and Prime Minister of Malta, Professors of University, Architects, Members of the Clergy, Lawyers, Judges, Magistrates, Teachers at all levels of education, Highly qualified engineers in every sectors of industry and many other Trades and respectable professions that are innumerable to recall and mention.

If you have attended the lyceum in Malta during your education years please get in touch with us and become a member of our association - alpsmalta@gmail.com. We will furnish you with all the details.

In thanking you in anticipation, I send my best regards and augur to you and your publishing committee, every success for the future.



KING GEORGE V MALTA DOCKYARD SHIP MODEL *Fund Raising Appeal*

The aim of this article is getting the word out to your readership and to update you on the progress and status of this campaign. Literally,



within a very short time, a most generous Maltese shipping company, M.A.L. Services Company, offered to transport the model gratis through their firm. Specifically,

Mark Spiteri and Jason Bonnici worked with Mario Farrugia of Fondazzjoni Wirt Artna to help accomplish the transportation of the model. Working through all the logistics involved, packaging, signage, customs declarations, invoices, shipping labels, pick up arrangements, etc., I am happy to report that the model arrived safely yesterday and will be undergoing restoration and preparation for display in their museum. Again, I wanted to thank you for disseminating the information and to thank you and your readers as well for any donations they may have provided.

First off, hope all is well with you and now that vaccinations are being populated, we may be seeing an end in sight to this terrible pandemic. Fondazzjoni Wirt Artna, the Malta at War Museum, would like to display this model at their museum and needs assistance in raising funds to accomplish this. During WW II, HMS King George V was part of Malta's history including escorting two captured Italian battleships from Sicily to Valletta. The model was made from discarded tin, wood, brass, etc. found at the dockyards in Valletta where my brother Manuel was employed as a teen. It was hand made without the aid of any kit.



Fondazzjoni Wirt Artna, the Malta Heritage Trust, is a

voluntary non-governmental organisation active in the field of heritage preservation. One of its principal objectives is to create awareness to encourage the better understanding and

preservation of the cultural heritage of the Maltese islands. For this reason, over the years, FWA undertook the rehabilitation and restoration of various cultural properties.

Today FWA looks after several historic buildings and sites in Malta. These properties span 7,000 years of Maltese history, from pre-history to the 20th century. These range from a megalithic temple at Kordin to a great baroque gate once serving as the main entrance into the imposing 7km long Cottonera bastioned ramparts; and from a Victorian fort armed with the world's largest cannon to 20th century concrete defences.

Most of the cultural properties which FWA holds in trust, are made accessible to the public. In line with its objectives, FWA seeks to provide the visiting public with the highest form of interpretation that will enable a better understanding and appreciation of our cultural heritage. For this reason FWA also undertakes to build and maintain cultural collections with which to establish museums.

Fondazzjoni Wirt Artna is governed by a board of trustees, whose role is to formulate the general policy, and to safe-guard the aims of FWA as spelled out in the organisation's statute.

The daily management of the trust is entrusted to the office of the Chief Executive Officer. This office is made up from a small core of full-time personnel assisted by part-time and volunteer staff. The Chief Executive Officer is responsible for all the functions of FWA. Fondazzjoni Wirt Artna is a not-for-profit organisation. All the revenue it generates goes towards the restoration, and ongoing conservation of its cultural properties. Funds are generated through membership fees, voluntary contributions and sponsorships; from the management of its sites as cultural attractions; and through the provision of heritage related services to public authorities and the private sector. [Fred Aquilina]

More information on Fondazzjoni Wirt Artna here: <http://www.wirtartna.org/>



How a pine cone from Gallipoli germinated seeds of peace in Australia

© Provided by ABC NEWS

Lou Hollis of the Friends of the Warrnambool Botanic Gardens. (ABC News: Tim Lee)

When the guns fell silent after the bloody combat of Lone Pine at Gallipoli, Australian soldier Keith McDowell crawled from the trenches onto the battlefield to collect a pine cone.

It was a fragment of the solitary pine, high on a plateau, that gave its name to the infamous 1915 battle. After four days of desperate hand-to-hand fighting, the Allies had a rare win. But it came at the cost of more than 2,000 Australian lives and perhaps as many as 6,000 Turks.

Years later the memento would become a living legacy of the Lone Pine conflict and a symbol of remembrance between two once-warring nations.

When Keith McDowell was shipped from Gallipoli to the Western Front he carried his pine cone souvenir in his haversack for several years.

Later in the war, he became seriously ill and was invalided home to south-west Victoria.

For 12 years he gave little thought to the pine cone until one day his wife mentioned that her aunt at Grassmere near Warrnambool, was a keen gardener.

Local historian David McGinness said "He took it across and [gave it to her] saying 'Aunty you have a green thumb, see what you can do with this.'"

Emma Gray extracted five seeds and germinated four which grew into seedlings. By then their significance was well realised.

Trees, including avenues of honour, were commonplace forms of commemoration. The first of the seedlings were planted at a ceremony at Wattle Park, Melbourne in May 1933.

The others were planted at Warrnambool's Botanic Gardens, the Shrine of Remembrance in Melbourne and at The Sisters, near Terang in south-west Victoria.

The latter two trees died in recent years but have been replaced with later generations grown from the Warrnambool tree.

It is Turkish red pine, *Pinus brutia*, native to the Gallipoli Peninsula and notoriously difficult to grow.

At least two other soldiers brought home pine cones from Gallipoli, that have also been used to propagate seedlings.

These were Aleppo Pines, thought to have grown from cones attached to imported timber used to wall the Turkish trenches at the battle of Lone Pine.

The gnarled and scaly-barked Warrnambool tree is a towering specimen with a plaque at its base detailing its heritage. It's become a popular tourist attraction in recent years.

Propagating seeds from the 'mother tree' to create a new generation of commemorative trees has taken an enormous community commitment.

Local Lou Hollis has collected fallen pine cones, drying them, carefully extracting and planting the seeds.

"It can be anything from six to eighteen months till they germinate," Ms Hollis said.

"And then they sit as about a three-centimetre fluffy pom pom on a tiny, delicate little stick before they grow any further."

Retired doctor and skilled rose grower David Shimmin has helped.

He succeeded in striking four pine seedlings, one of which stands in the grounds of the Port Fairy Primary School.

Dr Shimmin has a special family connection to the Lone Pine story.

Eighty-six years after the Australians landed at Anzac Cove, Turkish-born Kedir Zehir and his Australian wife, Dr Shimmin's daughter, arrived at Port Fairy.

"It is a symbol of life, as much as a human life as far as I'm concerned," Dr Shimmin said.

"So the symbolism of it is what appeals to me."

In Turkey, Mr Kedir had been a professional tour guide, familiar with the Gallipoli battlegrounds.

He was amazed to learn of the tough old Turkish pine, linking his homeland to the neighbouring town of Warrnambool.

"There's a quite good saying in Turkish that says: You have to learn from your past otherwise your future won't be bright," Mr Zehir said.

"So we have to learn lessons, like the wars, there are no winners, heaps of young lives lost in that little piece of land," Lindsay McDowell, the grandson of Keith McDowell who brought home the pine cone said. "It has brought school kids together and it has brought people together on Anzac Day to see these little pine trees." "I think it really is recreating an intense interest in Anzac day and this is seen by the Anzac day marches."



MY EXPERIENCE OF WORLD WAR II BY MICHAEL AGIUS (ADELAIDE)

I enlisted in the Royal Air Force on January 27, 1942. After a month of recruitment at Kalafrana four of us were posted to an Observation Post at Delimara Point situated at the Southern tip of Malta.

When we arrived there the officer in charge lectured us on the duties we have to carry out. He explained that we are to watch for enemy aircraft and to inform him.



He would then telephone the Operation Room in Valletta from where an order will be issued to send out aircraft to engage the enemy.

During one of the operations the spitfire sent to engage the enemy lost his dogfight and the pilot parachuted. When the pilot descended he hit the sea forcefully. The Kalafrana Air Sea Rescue managed to pick up the pilot and took him to hospital.

Several years later passed and in 1951 I was working in the Salaries Section of Australia Post. During one of the conversations I learned that our section leader called Howard Lester who walked with a limp had been involved in a dogfight over Malta during WW2 as a Pilot with RAAF.

I took the opportunity to ask him details and experience of his encounter and the date it occurred I was surprised to learn that Howard was the pilot whom I saw parachuting into

the sea on that very day.



Author: Trevor Zahra. Merlin Publishers / 2021

The story revolves around a well-to-do man, living on his own, in an old house. His only company is the maid, the few sentences, in a large font size so that children can

The Mystery of Mr. Spir Spiteri

nephew, the neighbour, the milkman and an old friend. One day, this man, Mr Spir Spiteri, is found dead. The murderer is among these five people. But who did it?

This is at the heart of the unique mystery that Trevor Zahra has written, Il-Misteru tas-Sur Spir Spiteri. It is unique in that it is a murder and an investigation written for children, a story told in very short chunks of text and aimed at children aged eight upwards. Every page has a few sentences, in a large font size so that children can

feel confident when reading and can move along with the mystery and try to solve the investigation together with the Police.

It is unique also because it is the first time that augmented reality is used in a Merlin book. In fact, technology is an integral part of this story. The book can be read alone as it is. However, further clues to solve the mystery and identify the murderer of Mr Spir Spiteri, are found in the animations accessed via augmented reality. The children will have a blast when they hover over the pages with their parents' mobiles and see the pages come alive in front of them - as if by magic. The characters walk, talk and reveal, in every scene of the augmented reality animations, another puzzle piece of the mystery.

Augmented reality is remarkably easy to use. Anyone who has a mobile and internet access can make use of

it. The book includes instructions on how to download the app and access the animations that drive the story.

The app, Flint (or Flint Malta for iOS), has been created by Flint Innovations Ltd, a start-up company that has applied this technology for Żahra's book. The app is compatible with both Android and iOS phones.

There is of course a reason why Trevor Żahra remains the most popular children's author across multiples generations. He is not content to repeat the same formula over and over, but treats every book as a novelty. And in *Il-Misteru tas-Sur Spir Spiteri* he combines Maltese storywriting with technology.

The illustrations are, needless to say, also by Żahra.

'*Il-Misteru tas-Sur Spir Spiteri*' is a Merlin Publishers publication and is available from all bookshops or directly online from www.merlinpublishers.com

New CBM coin issue commemorates birth of artist Albrecht Dürer

Numismatic coins in gold and silver commemorating 550 years since the , are to be issued in the coming weeks by the Central Bank of Malta.

The gold coin has a face value of €50, and the silver coin has a face value of €10. The silver and gold coins are finished to proof quality. The €10 coins are limited to 1,000 pieces and are struck in 0.925 silver. Each coin weighs 28.28g and has a diameter of 38.61mm. The €50 coins are limited to just 400 pieces, and each is struck in 0.916 gold, weighs 6.5g and has a diameter of 21mm. The coins were designed and engraved by Noel Galea Bason and were minted at the Royal Dutch Mint. The obverse of the coins features the coat of arms of Malta. The reverse shows a representation of one of Dürer's woodcut engravings entitled 'St George and the Dragon.' Albrecht Dürer was born in the city of Nuremberg on 21 May 1471. Although his work was steeped in the German late-Gothic style, his travels to Italy brought him in contact with the Italian Renaissance, which influenced him profoundly. He was an accomplished artist but is best remembered for the prodigious amount of engravings he made: some 346 woodcuts and 108 copper engravings.

Dürer elevated engraving to a high art form. His prints are appreciated for their aesthetic

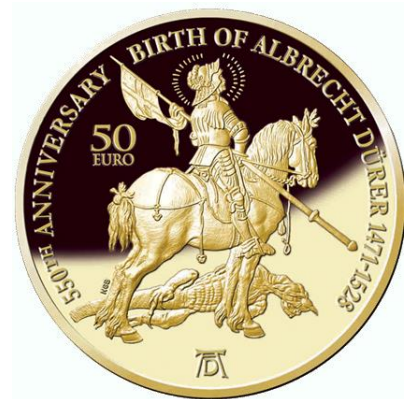
qualities, intricate and minute details, and the deft techniques employed to create shading and spatial depth.

Dürer is an icon of German and European art, and his works are featured in museums and galleries worldwide.

In Malta, the Mdina Cathedral Museum has a prestigious collection of around 74 original works – 60 woodcuts and 14 engravings – including 'St George and the Dragon,' which inspired the artwork of the Central Bank of Malta coin.

The Bank has launched a short, informative video about the Dürer collection at the museum, as well as about the engraving selected for the numismatic launch.

The Mdina Cathedral Museum will be holding an exhibition dedicated to Dürer from the 21st of May to the 1st of August. [malta.gozo.com]



BY [GOZO NEWS](#)



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Mother's Day Luncheon
Sunday 2nd May 2021
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Entertainment by
Joe Apap
(Il-Kangaroo)

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The Centre on 9622 5847

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The Maltese Community Council of Victoria

Is inviting you to a Maltese Movie Night

Where: Maltese Community Council of Victoria
477 Royal Parade Parkville 3052

When: Friday 28th May 2021

Time: 7.00pm

Cost: Free Attendance

*Come join us for an evening at the Movies
Popcorn, drinks and pastizzi will be available
For sale*

*Bookings must be made via mccv.org.au
For further information please contact the
MCCV on 9387 8922.*

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