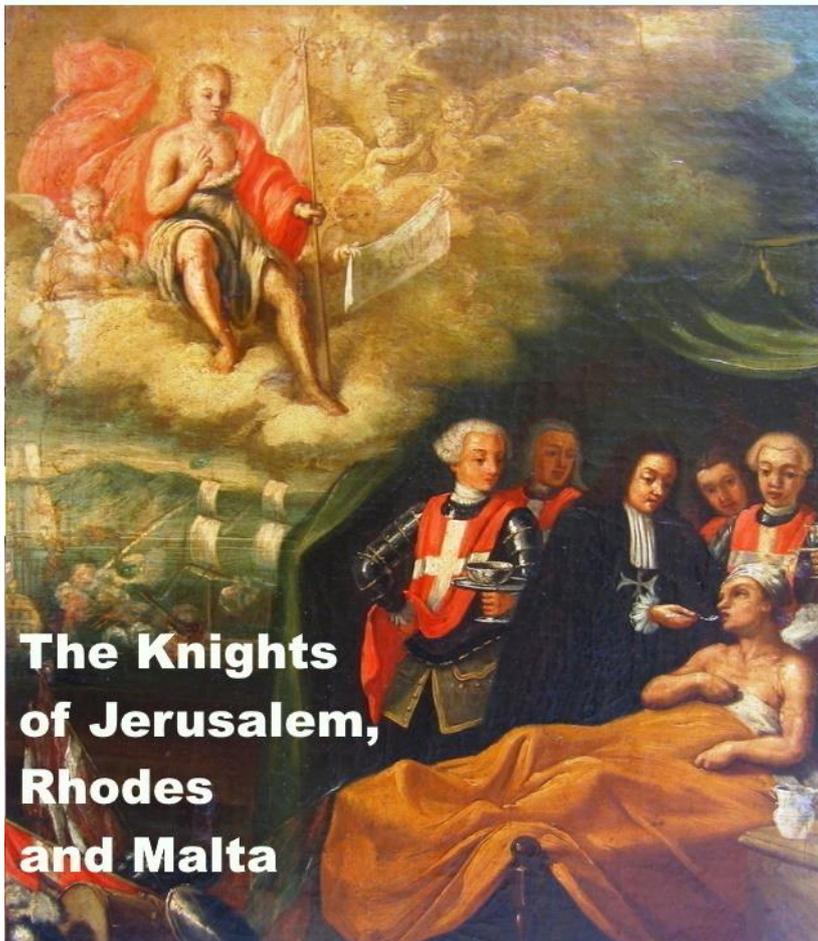




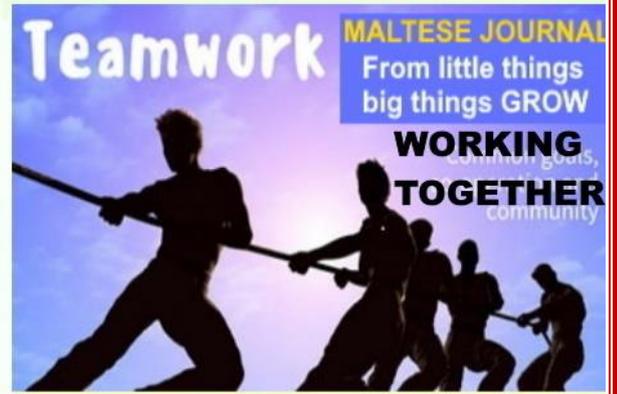
Maltese eNewsletter
Journal of Maltese Living Abroad
Editor: Frank Scicluna OAM MQR
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**THE RUSSIAN MALTESE
FALCONS**

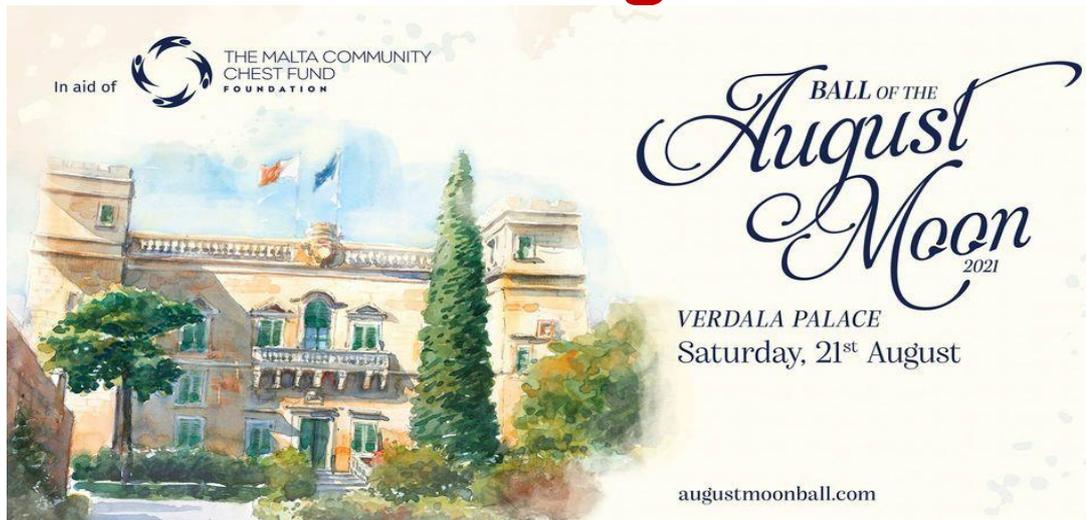


**The Knights
of Jerusalem,
Rhodes
and Malta**



Teamwork MALTESE JOURNAL
From little things
big things GROW
WORKING TOGETHER
community

Ball of the August Moon 2021



This year's Ball of the August Moon will take place on Saturday 21 August 2021, President George Vella announced on Wednesday. The event will be held at the Verdala Palace gardens. This will be the third edition being organised

under the Presidency of President George Vella and the second with restrictions in the context of Covid-19.

During a press conference held at Sant'Anton Palace, Marchesino Daniel de Petri Testaferrata, Chairman of the Ball's Organising Committee, gave details about the event and stressed that the ball will be held in full compliance with the directives issued by the health authorities, with whom the organisers are in constant contact. He mentioned that one of the changes this year is the date, which was chosen to be later in August with the hope that the situation regarding the pandemic will have improved and coincided with the eve of a full moon. Additionally, the music during the ball, during which there will be no dancing, will be played by the bands of the Armed Forces of Malta and the Malta Police Force.

President George Vella thanked Marchesino de Petri Testaferrata and the rest of the members of the organising committee who, for the second year in a row, had to face more difficulties than usual to keep this tradition alive and continue to raise the much-needed funds in aid of the Community Chest Fund. He also thanked the sponsors, as well as the bands of the Police and Armed Forces.

"We have made all the necessary sacrifices, we have done whatever was needed, to be in line with the law and to have the peace of mind that we will not be creating issues or leading to undesired consequences. Last year, we took all the measures. I am satisfied with the fact that nothing bad happened and things ran smoothly, and I hope that will be the case again this year," said the President. While expressing hope that the situation regarding the pandemic will continue to improve, he made clear that, should things get worse or if the health authorities advise the organisers to cancel the ball, it will be cancelled. Tickets are on sale for €100 per person and may be purchased online from the website www.augustmoonball.com.



MUŻA The Knights of Jerusalem, Rhodes and Malta

This painting is an allegory, or a symbolic representation, of the Order of St John. The heavenly apparition of the patron saint, John the Baptist, shows that the Order was founded on religious vows. A raging sea battle and a still life of war arms, armour and banners on the left bring out the naval and military mission the knights were committed to serve as staunch defenders of the Catholic faith.

So now that we have established that the knights were monks and soldiers, what is the sick patient on the right meant to represent? He represents the hospitaller vocation of the Order of St John, the original purpose it had after all started out as. This is why the Grand Master, accompanied by his knights, tends to the patient lying on one of the many beds of the Sacra

Infermeria (or Holy Infirmary, today the Mediterranean Conference Centre) which the Order built in Valletta.

This painting invites reflection on the medical frontliner professionals who at present are surpassing their call of duty. They soldier on, waging war against the overwhelming challenges of this pandemic for the sake of our protection. Like the patient who benefits from the knowledge and facilities of the hospitaller knights, we are indeed privileged to have such dedicated and brave medics. Yet we have to do our part! We have to remain vigilant, keep our guards up and ensure to pass “the stress test of solidarity” (Hans Henri P. Kluge, WHO Regional Director for Europe, 2nd April 2020).

FOR OUR MALTESE-AUSTRALIAN READERS

This Australian Census make sure you acknowledge your Maltese Heritage. Be proud you have a Maltese background



May 4, 2020 ·

Today we remember Maltese historiographer Gian Francesco Abela who left us on the 4th May in 1655. Abela, who was born in Valletta in 1582, was a priest, lawyer, a member of the Sovereign Military of the Order of St. John and also the first Maltese to write the history of our islands. We honour Abela for creating the first historical museum in Malta at his house in Marsa, also known as 'il Museo di San Giacomo' (bottom left corner on the engraving attached). His dedication towards the study of history

and its monuments, old books and ruins led him to write the book "Della Descrittione di Malta isola nel Mare Siciliano: con le sue antichità, ed altre notizie" (1647) which is considered to be the best testimony to Abela's knowledge of local antiques. Gian Francesco Abela's artefacts still exist in collections held by Heritage Malta's National Museum of Archaeology.

Engraving by Louis-Martin Berthault (1770-1823) titled "Vue à vol d'oiseau de la Ville & du Port de Malte", which was completed by Jean-Baptiste Liénard (1780-1807), late 18th/early 19th century. This engraving forms part of the Malta National Collection.

The Maltese pastry that's so good, it's worth planning a holiday around

What is the Maltese pastizzi - and why is it so good? - Copyright [Getty via Canva](#)
By [Tim Gallagher](#)

Pre-pandemic Malta was the perfect holiday destination: sandy beaches, fascinating culture and just a short flight for Europeans. Now it's even more appealing thanks to its



handling of the pandemic.

Malta was the first European country to reach herd immunity and has some of the most relaxed entry requirements for visitors. It is taking part in the EUDCC gateway and does not require quarantine for countries on its green list.

An archipelago stretching out into the glistening Mediterranean off the coast of Italy, Malta enjoys 3000 hours of sunshine a year. But sandwiched between ever-popular Italy and Greece it often gets forgotten. Malta lacks instantly recognisable icons like the Venice canals or the Acropolis, it doesn't even have a signature food...or does it?

Allow us to introduce you to the 'pastizzi', a Maltese snack so popular that there is a 'pastizzi' shop in every village. Once you've tasted one, you'll be planning your entire Maltese getaway around them.

You may find pastizzi in those countries where Maltese live.

**Remember
the old
computer?**



Verdala Castle



From Hunting Lodge to Presidential Palace Verdala Palace can trace its origins to a solitary hunting lodge built by the Grandmaster of the Order of St John Jean de la Valette (1557-1568). The lodge stood on a strategically located outcrop of land overlooking a valley that would later become a woodland and a green oasis to stands out in an otherwise arid countryside. On this spot, in 1586, Grandmaster Hugues Loubenx de Verdalle (1582-1595) later built his countryside retreat to plans by Maltese architect Gerolamo Cassar (1520 - c. 1592).

The square-shaped palace built by Grandmaster Verdalle was originally a two-storey structure with the ground floor accessible from a dry ditch surrounding the building. Four towers, one at each corner, give the palace the looks of a fortress. The third floor was added later, during the magistracy of Grandmaster Anton Manoel de Vilhena (1722-1736) who also built the attendants' quarters, stables and coach-houses forming the perimeter of the main grounds in front of the Palace. During the British period, the Palace fell in disrepair but Governor Sir Frederick Ponsonby (1827-1836) and, later, Governor Sir William Reid (1851-1858) undertook restoration works and to use Verdala Palace, yet again, as a country residence. The Palace became one of three sites assigned to the Office of the President when Malta became a Republic in 1974.

The palace also has its own art collection including works by seventeenth and eighteenth-century masters. Early nineteenth-century works of art by Maltese artists are also on display. The decorative scheme of the main hall is the work of the Tuscan painter Filippo Paladini (1544-1614) Verdalle's very own court painter. Episodes from the life of Grandmaster Verdalle are depicted at each end of the barrel-vaulted hall with allegories featured on either side of each ceiling bay. The Palace complex also includes a chapel dedicated to St Anthony the Abbot extensively patronised by Grandmaster Nicolas Cottoner

(1663 - 1680). The titular painting of the chapel is by the Italian artist Mattia Preti, painted during the early years of his permanent relocation to Malta in the 1660s when painting the vault paintings of St John's Co-Cathedral, then the Conventual Church of the Order of St John.

IF YOU ARE OF MALTESE HERITAGE LIVING ABROAD

THIS IS YOUR JOURNAL



THE BELL OF ST HELENA IL-QANPIENA TA' SANTA LIENA BASILICA OF BIRKIRKARA BAZILIKA TA' BIRKIRKARA

Godwin Gauci - Adelaide

Birkirkara is one of the oldest village in Malta from around 1400AD and today it has about 25,000 residents stretching out to its neighbouring vilages of Attard and Balzan. Some of the oldest feature's are the old railway station where the train was used as a main

public transport up until the year 1931. it is now a public park.

The famous windmill 'Mithna' in Bwieraq Street. This 18th century building is home to the Gabriel Caruana Foundation, a famous modernist/abstract artist from Birkirkara. The Aquaduct (**Acuadott**) built in the 17th century which the name Birkirkara meaning 'Running Water'. The oldest church in Birkirkara is the **Santwarju Madonna tal-Herba** with its huge collection of ex-voto paintings dedicated to the holy virgin).

It is said by Mr. V. Cauchi, that St Helena church had two other bells prior to the biggest existing bell. The first bell was manufactured in 1891 by Mr.G. Grech which had a fracture and was dismantled, taken down from the bell tower. Recommissioned for a second time, Mr. Guiju Cauchi from Bormla casted another bell in 1914, but unfortunately it also was damaged in the same way as the previous one. The current bell which is the biggest in Malta and the third largest in Europe, known by it's nicknamed 'Helena' was commissioned in 1931 weighing 79,380g (7.9tons) and costing £1,300 Maltese Pound sterling at the Milan Barigozzi foundry in Italy. It's tonality was entrusted to the famous Maltese composer Carlo Diacono. It was brought to Malta by Filippu Sammut, an iconic character in the history of Birkirkara.



A large crowd gathered at the Grand harbour to see the arrival of the M.V. Garibaldi which brang the bell from Italy. The ship berthed at Barriere Wharf. A large crate packed with the bell, was taken of the ship and put onto a barge and ferried to the quay. The large crate was opened to check it's contents and the condition of the bell. The bell was struck by the chancellor twice with a hammer and sounded off. All went good. The bell was then loaded onto a trailer which had special iron wheels to take the weight and was drawn by two mules. It took most of the day, with hundreds of people and parishioners help pushing the trailer through the street to reach Birkirkara parish church. The sun had set and the bell was left at Psaila street. There was a lot of debate on taking the shortest route, because of the weight of the trailer and bell.

It was to heavy for the street and be unsafe to pass through. So, on the 17th of January 1931 and taking a longer route, the bell was majestically carted from Psaila street passing near the church of St Anthony, then to the main square, through St Francis square and down St Helen street and to the church's porch. Men have placed many large planks across some of the steps to help and not damage them.

A special structure made from stone which was cut from Tal-Balal near Naxxar, by the master artisan Toni Parnis to house the bell. Now was the time for all the population of Birkirkara to see the bell. This magnificent bell stood ten feet 3 inches tall (3.81metres), with a diameter of eight feet (2.44metres).



The Fable of the Birkirkara Parishioners 'Ta' Sormhom Catt' The people with Flat Bum' Men of the Birkirkara parishioners went up the tower with large pieces of timber and building a structure to house the bell. They rigged up pulleys and ropes to bring up the bell to the tower. Once finished they waited patiently for the men below to tie the bell to the ropes. The church has two ledges surrounding it and each one separating the two section of level being around three stores high. Some men climbed and stood on these ledges to help stabilize the bell as it is lifted. The men tied up the bell and there was silence for a while as the clergymen prayed and blessed the bell and the parishioners. The women and children stayed back giving room for the men to pull up the bell. Slowly the men

stretch out the ropes and pulled. There was grunting by the men as it slowly rises and about halfway with the heavy weight some of the ropes give way and break. The men pulling those ropes fell flat onto their bottoms and that is the start of fable of the Birkirkara People having a 'Flat Bum'.

Finally, in 1931 and after a long time the bell had reached its destination, standing proud in the tower and the people can't wait to hear the bell tolling away. The bell ringers would get up early in the morning before the sunrise as I was told by my father when he was a young boy and ringing the bell at 3 o'clock in the morning. You can hear it from miles away.

On the 18th of August or on the first Sunday after that date, The Feast of St Helena, 'il festa ta' Santa Liena' is celebrated. The church is covered in coloured lights and the streets are decorated with



colourful banners. The statue is placed on a special holding platform and the parishioners dressed in white robes place strong wooden rods and carry the statue out of the church.

This photo is from 1950 □

The statue is carried around the streets of Birkirkara throughout the day with lots of people giving homage. Crowds gather around the piazza where shops are selling coffee's and pastizzi and other Maltese delights. A main feature happens when it is time to place the statue back inside the church. The men line up the statue straight with the front doors of the church and run up the two-steep flight of steps and carry the statue back inside. Later as it is the dark of night, firework would light up the sky while the crowd cheer on and celebrate with a few drinks. Because of the covid19 the feast has been cancelled 2020/2021

Here is a statue of St Helena holding a cross symbolizing the death of Christ.



Carla Scicluna Finishes Fourth In Olympic 100-Metre Heat

After finishing fourth in her preliminary

round race at the Tokyo 2020 Olympics on Friday, Malta's Olympic sprinter Carla Scicluna advanced to the 100 meters first round heats.

Scicluna's fourth-place finish was enough to secure her a spot in Round One of the 100-meter women's heat, according to Olympic qualification standards. Scicluna's time was 0.06 seconds better than her personal best. At 15:47 am local time, she will now participate in Heat Five of Round One of the women's 100-meter dash. Scicluna finished with in the preliminary round with a timing of 12.11 seconds, following Indonesia's Alvin Tehupeior, Malawi's Asimenye Simwaka and Joella Lloyd from Antigua and Barbuda.

Race Results						
Rank	Lane	Bib Number	Name	Reaction Time	Result	
1	9	1023	ANT LLOYD Joella	0.179	11.55	<u>Q</u>
2	5	2907	MAW SIMWAKA Asimenye	0.164	11.76	<u>NR</u> <u>Q</u>
3	7	2286	INA TEHUPEIORY Alvin	0.194	11.89	<u>SB</u> <u>Q</u>
4	1	2956	MLT SCICLUNA Carla	0.152	12.11	
5	4	3149	PLE BARAKAT Hanna	0.164	12.16	<u>NR</u>
6	8	3116	OMA AL ALAWI Mazon	0.191	12.35	
7	3	2247	GUI CONTE Aissata Deen	0.157	12.43	<u>PB</u>
8	6	3685	TUV STANLEY Matie	0.159	14.52	<u>PB</u>
9	2	2972	MTN BA Houleye	0.147	15.26	<u>PB</u>



THE ABORIGINAL FLAG

It's 50 years since the Aboriginal flag was first flown in Australia. In July 1971, the flag was flown during a march on Adelaide's Victoria Square.

It was originally created for the Aboriginal Land Rights movement, but since then it's become a powerful symbol of identity for Aboriginal people.

It was recognised as an official flag of Australia in 1995. Get more Indigenous stories and features from the ABC here: <https://ab.co/3e7VxIK>
ABC News, Mitchell Woolnough

'IL-VITORJA' NALTA NATIONAL DAY CANCELLED IN NSW

On behalf of Rev Fr Tarcisio Micallef MSSP I would like to inform you that the Maria Bambina Celebration or Il-Vitorja at St Mary's Cathedral on the 12th September 2021 had to be cancelled because of the pandemic restrictions. Sadly, for the second consecutive time we shall miss this National annual celebration. If you can please notify the listeners/readers to be aware of the cancellation in advance. It is hoped that by next year 2022 the pandemic will be over, and we will celebrate the feast of Our Lady as in previous years for more than fifty-six years. Should you wish to speak to Fr Tarcisio it will be very ideal and very appropriate. Thank you for your undying support throughout the years. It is very appreciated. Fr Tarcisio number: 02 9380 8398. His email: tarcismic@yahoo.com.au
Kind Regards Antoinette Mascari F/O
Rev Fr Tarcisio Micallef MSSP Chaplain for the Maltese Community in New South Wales



**150 SENA MILL-KONSAGRAZZJONI
TAL-KNISJA ROTUNDA TAL
MOSTA
46 SENA MILL-INKURUNAZZJONI
TAL-KWADRU TITULARI
21 SENA MIT-TQEGHID TAL-
ISTELLARJU TAX-XBIEHA TAL-
ASSUNTA**

Din is-sena il-Parroċċa
Qegħda tfakkar tliet ġrajjet
Li l-Mosta mkabbra bihom
Kif qatt lilhom tista' nsiet!

Għaddew mija w ħamsin sena
Mindu ġiet ikkonsagrata
Ir-Rotunda sbejha tagħna
Wieqfa, sħiħa, qisha blata.

Matul dawna s-snin kollha
Min jaf kemm żaruha n-nies
Jammiraw il-ġmiel li għandha
Li bla dubju hu bla qies!

Min jaf kemm tgħammdu u mietu
Għall-kenn tal-Assunta tagħna
Lejn is-Sema Illum taru
Biex mill-Genna qed jarawna!

Sitta w erbgħn sena tgerbu
Mindu kien ġie nkurunat
Dan il-kwadru titulari
Illi hu għal qalb kulħadd.

Kif fil-knisja inti tidhol
Dritt jisraqlek l-attenzjoni
Għax maħdum b'sengħa u għaqal
U tal-arti, eċċezjoni!

Fuq ix-xbieha tal-Assunta
Nilmħu stellarju sabiħ
Niftakruh qiegħed jitqiegħed
Mhux xi qabda snin qatigħ.

Tiftakruha dik il-ġrajja!
Għaddew wieħed u għoxrin
Mindu l-folol hawn intasbu
Grajja sbejha; x'waħda din!

Il-lejla għandna għax nifirħu
B'dawn it-tliet tifikiriet sbieħ
Ċert li l-Mosta fost l-irħula
Bihom żgur tagħmel ir-riħ!

Għalkemm inti din is-sena
Mhux se ddu mat-toroq tagħna
Għax ta' denbu twil le ħamel
Li ferħana lkoll jarana

U ivvinta pandemija
Biex jgħakkisna u jbeżzagħna
Minn fuq il-bradella tiegħek
Ħaddanna u indukrana.

Regġa' lura t-tbissima
Illi tlietna tul ix-xhur
Aħna lilek għandna b'ommna
U bik qalbna tkun trid tfur.

Ejjew mela illum ngħajtu
Evviva l-Immakulata;
Inti Sid il-ħolqien kollu
Tagħna kun dejjem il-blata!

Kav Joe M Attard
Rabat – Għawdex
Awwissu 2021

We thank all our readers from Gozo



What's on: in Malta ***August 2021***



exhibitions, and outdoor events in Valletta, also by means of the VCA branches – the Strada Stretta Concept and the Valletta Design Cluster, over the coming weeks

Rainbow Street

'Rainbow Street' celebrates the power of art in public places, immersing passers-by in a fun and colourful vibe. Inspired by the architecture of Valletta, light artist Carl Caruana created a hanging exhibition that captivates audiences with colourful lights and colours. This installation is in South Street, Valletta and can be enjoyed until September. **Music in the City'**

- TNAX

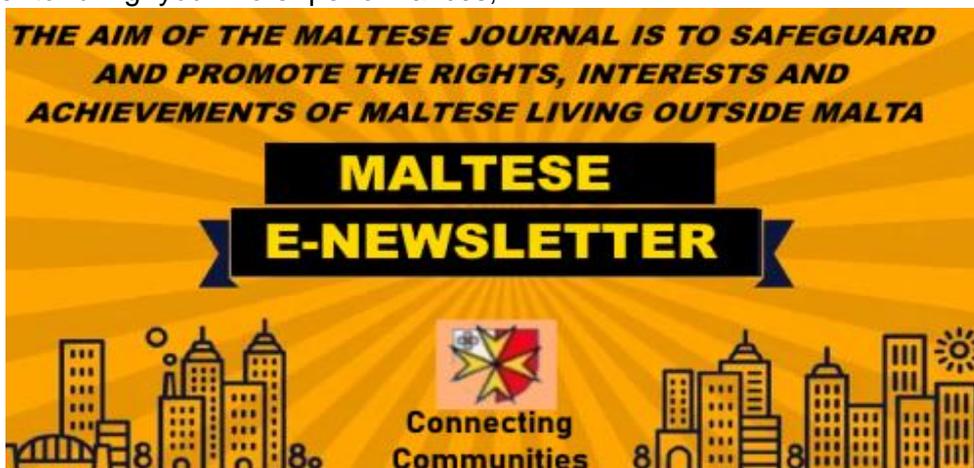
The Valletta Cultural Agency has put its efforts and energy into creating a meaningful cultural programme. The cultural sector has proved essential and this is a time for the arts, in any form – large and small scale – to be valued. Experiencing the arts, be it visual arts, performing arts, music and food, allows us to process the things we go through.

Experience Rainbow Street, the August photo as part of the ongoing photography project TNAX and the Valletta Design Cluster Roof Garden, at leisure, in the freedom of the outdoors. Follow our website and Facebook pages for updates as events may be announced as restrictions ease. We promise to bring you more performances,

Carl Farrugia's photo 'Music in the City', shot in August 2017, takes us back to pre-pandemic times, street events and the feeling of a crowd. In the background is one of the Three Cities all lit up for the festa. The photo will be exhibited at St John Street in Valletta as from the 2nd August. TNAX is created and produced by the Valletta Cultural Agency in collaboration with the Valletta Local Council and is curated by Therese Debono.

Visit the Valletta Cultural

Agency's Website or Facebook page and follow us on Instagram for the latest updates on our upcoming events



The Russian Maltese falcon



Reference Number: , Press Release Issue
Date: Jul 30, 2021

Nizhny Novgorod Mr. Oleg Zaitsev is a dedicated Honorary Consul of Malta for Nizhny Novgorod, a beautiful city to the East of Moscow. Mr. Zaitsev is

continuously contributing to the strengthening of the relations between Malta and the Russian Federation especially through his people-to-people initiatives.

His latest initiative was the organisation of a team called 'Maltese Falcon' to participate in the competitive X-Waters Volga. The competition was organised by the X-Waters which is an international franchise that organises events all over the world including in Malta next October. The competition took place on the 23rd of July 2021. The temperature of the water was 20°C. The Volga River is the longest river in Europe.

This is not the first time that Mr. Zaitsev participated in sports events to promote Malta. Earlier this year he participated in the IronStar Triathlon competition in the city of Gelendzhik on the Black Sea, as well as Kazan, in the Republic of Tatarstan, where he and his team took various prizes. The Maltese Falcons competed with a specifically designed gear bearing the very recognisable Maltese Cross.

The City of Nizhny Novgorod will be commemorating this August the 800th Anniversary of its foundation. It was established by Prince Yuri II of Vladimir in 1221. During the Soviet period it was called Gorky and it became an important industrial centre. Because of this, it suffered severe attacks from the Luftwaffe during WWII



THE RUSSIAN MALTESE FALCON



The People of Malta

www.facebook.com/thepeopleofmalta

"Our work is not easy. I have been a stonemason for 35 years. Cannot we be like the police and army where we give a 25 year service and retire with our pensions?"

This is a very tough job. Rain or shine this work has to be done. With rain you end up working in mud, whilst the sun burns down and exhausts you. We start work at six in the morning. There are very few Maltese still

working with stone. We won't end up unemployed because the demand is high. But we are at the end of this. We have got older. There are very few stonemasons left in Gozo. We are amongst the few still working.

When you build with stone instead of bricks the end result is much sturdier. Nowadays there are a lot of tools available to work with. Builders suffered much more in the past. Our work should be appreciated more!" - Ganni and Konsilju

Maltese 'hero' priest hailed in UK after bone marrow donation



www.timesofmalta.com

Fr Mario Sant did not realise he was a donor to a friend

Fr Mario Sant

A mother-of-three has had a tearful reunion with a Maltese hospital chaplain after discovering he was the donor who saved her life in a bone marrow operation in London two years ago.

Fr Mario Sant, 39, is in London to support patients sent for treatment there.

Described by the UK press as "a Maltese national hero", Fr Sant three years ago was moved by the plight of a five-year-old boy at Great Ormond Street to become a bone marrow donor.

It was too late to save the boy, who died a few months later, but the priest was put on the international database as a bone marrow donor.

In March 2019, he met leukaemia patient Agnes Vella, 59, who needed stem cells from bone marrow to stop her cancer. "She was at the Royal Marsden in London, and we joked that I could be her donor, as I was called to donate as she arrived," Fr Sant told the Press Association.

"But her records said the donor was English and I was born in Malta, so we didn't think it was me. Plus, I donated at a different hospital, so it just didn't fit. I think we both hoped and joked about it, but we thought it wasn't possible."

Fr Sant and Vella stayed in touch but did not discuss the matter again.

In May last year, Vella wrote to the donors' register seeking information so that she could thank whoever had saved her life. It was then that she learnt, to her surprise, that it was her friend Fr Sant. It was also a surprise to the priest too.

"It was amazing to discover that I was Agnes's donor," Fr Mario said.

This was, by far, not the first time that Fr Mario's donation had saved lives.

Times of Malta reported in 2017 how he donated blood when he came to Malta on holiday. "Donating an hour of your time would not cost much, except for a bag of platelets, but it went a long way to improve the life of cancer patients," the Conventual Franciscan had said. The priest has been donating blood since he turned 18, following in his parents' footsteps. He started donating platelets in 2019 when he realised the high demand for the blood product.

He made his first donation a few days before losing a close friend, Trevor Mercieca, to leukaemia.

Mercieca, who needed about 65 bags of blood in his last six months and a bag of platelets every day, used to describe donations as a "daily gift of life", his wife Claire had said.

Fr Sant met Mercieca, who was like a brother to him, during one of his trips to London for treatment.

"Despite his deteriorating condition, I learnt a lot from Trevor and we became close friends. I realised he needed a bag of platelets every day, apart from regular blood.



Lehen Malti
Maltese Voice

LEHEN MALTI (Maltese Voice) - CANADA

Lehen Malti offers the Maltese community 30 minutes of first-run language programming on a weekly basis, in a magazine-style format.

**OMNI 1 - Ontario Saturdays 8:30 a.m. Tuesdays 3.30 a.m.,
11:30 a.m. Thursdays 8:30 a.m.**

OMNI BC Saturdays 2:00 p.m. Fridays 10:30 a.m.

OMNI Alberta Saturdays 2:00 p.m. Wednesdays 7:00 p.m

"I am one of 15 siblings. At the time families used to be more numerous. In order to find some work my father used to go to Malta and on occasions he even went to work in France. He wanted to bring up a



large family. Even though he was illiterate, he had the brain of a lawyer. I was born in Malta, in Floriana and I was baptised that same day as was the custom in those days. My brother also became a priest, Dun Karm Xerri, known as the Parish priest of Comino, where he was even the headmaster of a school there. We were brought up in Tarxien and Paola.

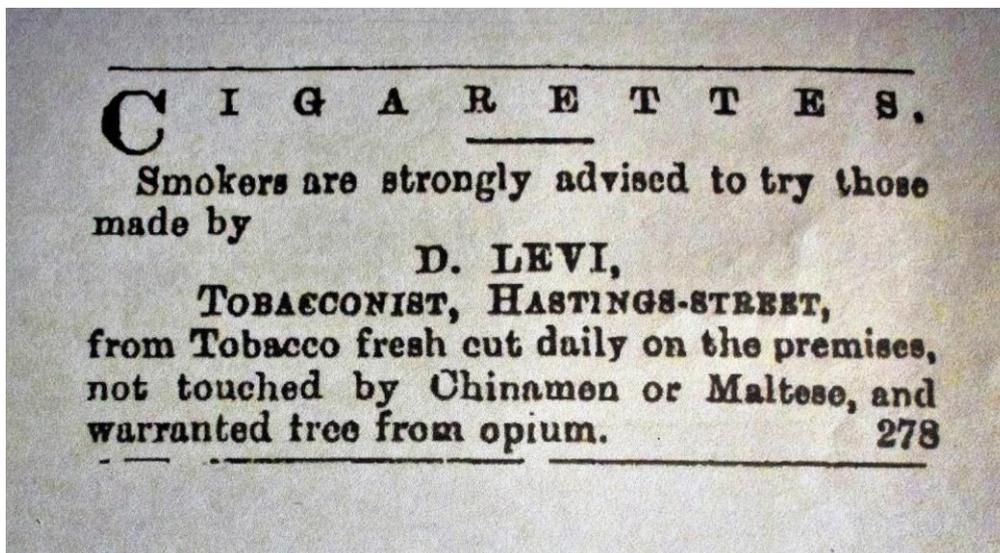
When I was 12 years old I went back to Gozo, where I attended the Seminary as a boarder. I entered priesthood under the influence of my sister who was a member of the MUSEUM, and I used to watch her continuously praying. I was also influenced by the priests where I used to serve as an altar boy. I have been a priest for the last 62 years. I was ordained as such on the 12th of April 1959 and have been

the Cathedral Monseigneur since 1969. That is how people refer to me, as the Mons of Qala or the Volkswagen Mons. I have never felt the depth of the spiritual life more than I have felt it over the past four years in which I have been homebound after an accident I had. This confinement has been very good to me and has made me more self-aware.

I have learnt that whatever a person does people will always find something to criticize so do whatever needs to be done.

Shakespeare talks about the entrance and exit of actors on a stage. And I feel I am at the exit. The actor enters the stage and that is our time on this earth. The entrance is our birth. I am nearing the final act, getting closer to the end. Clapping? The world promises much, but gives little, even more so..." - Mons. Lawrence Xerri.

‘Untouched by Chinaman or Maltese’



The advert published on the Hawke's Bay Herald, of October 18, 1883, on page four. Provided by Leonard Callus, from the National Archives of Malta

One stark example of prejudice is an 1883 advert

"strongly" urging people to try cigarettes by D Levi, on Hastings Street, as they are made from tobacco that is freshly cut on the premises and is untouched by "Chinamen or Maltese". The advert, which also features in Shaun Grech's *Dehumanation* exhibition, must have been issued some weeks after the very first organised group of Maltese migrants moved to Australia in 1883. The group consisted of 79 Maltese people, supported by a Capuchin friar who migrated on a five-year contract to harvest cane in North Queensland, Australia.

Maltese Culture

Żejtun dialect

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

One of the dialects found in the [Maltese language](#) is the **Żejtuni Dialect** (Standard Maltese: *Djalett taż-Żejtun* or *Żejtuni*; Żejtun Maltese: *Żejtewni*). This dialect is used by many of the [Żejtun](#) inhabitants and in other settlements around this city like [Marsaxlokk](#), that consists of about twelve thousand people.

The following two words are an example, there are many more that make it into the list of vocabulary found in this Dialect.

- For *kite* the Maltese word is *tajra* but in this dialect it is found as *manučča*.
- For *foggy weather* the Maltese word is *ċpar* but in this dialect it is found as *ċlambu*.

All the vocal letters in this dialect possess a liquid versatility which allows the position, emphasis and tone of the vowels to change without any distinct rule; in some words the consonant letters are found to change as well. Such variations in the dialect are innate to native speakers.



THE VOCAL 'A'

The vowel 'A' in the Żejtun dialect is changed into U or E . Example:

English	Maltese	Żejtun Dialect
newspaper	gazzetta	gezzette
meat	laħam	leħem
fat	xaħam	xeħem
coal	faħam	feħem
water	ilma	ilme
burner	spiritiera	spiritiere
home	dar	dur

This form happens to roughly all of the words that end in the vowel 'A', but when the sentence construction does not allow the vowel 'A' to transmute into 'E', such as in the Maltese equivalent of *potato*, i.e. '*patata*', a different vowel has to be used to elongate the syllable. Here, the word does not become *petete* but changes into 'Ū', becoming *patûta*.

THE VOWEL 'E'

The vowel 'E' changes into the vowels 'A' or also 'I'. Example:

English	Maltese	Żejtun Dialect
wild	selvaġġ	salvaġġ
seriousness	serjetà	sirjitu
seminary	seminarju	siminurju
when	meta	mite

THE VOCAL 'O'

The vocal 'O' in this dialect changes into 'U', however it demands an element of phonetical emphasis to differentiate this changed 'U' from the previous one. In philology such emphasis requires an accent, hence 'Ū'. Example:

English	Maltese	Żejtun Dialect
school	skola	skùla
wheel	rota	rùta
pan	borma	bùrma
sack	xkora	xkùra
corner	rokna	rùkna
roll	romblu	rùmbļu

This form occurs in many other words that have 'O' as their first vocal letter.

THE VOCAL 'U'

When the last vocal of the word is the U, it is changed into the vocal O with the consonant W with a muted-ending . Sometimes the U is changed into EW. Example:

English	Maltese	Żejtun Dialect
ship	vapur	vapowr
Mr.	sinjur	sinjowr
stick	bastun	bastown
vase	vażun	vażown
money	flus	flews
fish	ħut	ħewt
shop	ħanut	ħenewt



ZEJTUN
ONE OF THE MOST BEAUTIFUL CITIES
IN MALTA

MALTA AND COVID 19 Pandemic, Polio Epidemics and Dr Bjorn Ibsen

Dr. George M. Boffa (NSW - Australia)

The prolonged anxiety, trauma and stress caused by COVID 19 hit and affect us in different ways. Not least, the many personal recollections and family

stories which are revived. These memories and resurgence of memories are often coupled with renewed awareness of instances from the history of Malta; in my case, mainly medical.

Self-isolation, or quarantine, is deemed a simple means, however restraining that may be, of containing the spread of communicable diseases. Quarantine (KORANTINA in Maltese) refers to the old custom, now renewed in many countries, of holding a person showing or suspected of carrying contagion, in total isolation for a period of forty days, before they are allowed to step foot in the country and mingle with the population.

The idea was that, were a person incubating a serious infectious disease, that disease would manifest itself in the forty days of isolation. The penalties for breaching quarantine laws were severe indeed. Fear of diseases like plague or cholera was debilitating. In Malta visitors who showed symptoms or who might be carrying a disease, were kept in isolation in the Lazzaretto on Manoel Island.

Quarantine is derived from the Venetian "Quaranta" which means Forty. Venice was a powerful state in her day and enjoyed extensive business connections with many of the Mediterranean countries, including those of the Middle East, where certain diseases were endemic.

The words Quarantine and Lazzaretto remain with us even if their meaning has changed somewhat, and today Quarantine does not always refer to forty days of isolation.

Reports on the COVID epidemic provide data on the number of persons infected, the number hospitalised and the number in intensive care and on respirators. The technique and strategy for helping the very sick through induced aeration, with ventilators, came into use following an epidemic of acute anterior poliomyelitis (infantile paralysis) that broke out in Copenhagen in 1952.

The patients were many; 3000 were admitted between August and December 1952. They kept coming in. The death toll was frightening. Dr Bjorn Ibsen, an anaesthetist, was consulted. He

suggested that a tube be inserted down the patient's trachea (breathing canal) so that oxygen could be pumped through to keep the organs oxygenated, thus keeping the patient alive and promoting recovery. This procedure saved the lives of many!

When, in 1952, Dr Ibsen proposed this dramatic innovation there weren't many ventilators available. In fact, these were developed later. So what did Dr Ibsen and his Danish specialist colleagues do? They recruited medical students to ventilate the patients pumping oxygen into them round the clock, by squeezing air out of a breathing bag every few seconds. They worked in six hour shifts. Unknowingly bringing about an evolution in the dispensation of modern medicine, and the development of a new technique for fighting instances of similar contagion and need. New chapters had to be written on the treatment of many critical conditions.

Dr Ibsen's resourcefulness in the face of doubting colleagues, and the assiduousness of the medical



students were remarkable reminding us all of the wisdom of the words put by Shakespeare in the mouth of Hamlet, Prince of Denmark.

"There are more things in heaven and earth, Horatio, than are dreamt of in your philosophy!"

Dr Ibsen's dramatic innovation and striking results ultimately led to the introduction of "intensive care".

Another example of how some crucial advances flow from the input of the trained, prepared, scientific mind.

Many of the doctors involved in the 1952 Copenhagen Polio Epidemic had been involved in the Danish Resistance against the Nazi invaders in WW II. It was an honour and a privilege to work alongside them. But, that is another story!

A few years earlier in 1943, Malta also had the misfortune of experiencing a polio epidemic! which now has a place in books of epidemiology and the

history of medicine. Those of my age recollect the anxiety and great concern we had for our parents at the time.

Some of the children infected with the Poliomyelitis Virus were placed in isolation and treated at Verdala Palace, at il-Buskett, where two of my cousins, Saviour Paul and Hilda Boffa and her future husband, Philip Micallef, together with fellow medical students, had been recruited to serve. Needless to say, their father (Paul Boffa) was very proud of their participation and contribution.

Philip, Hilda's son, remembers with awe, his mother's recollection of her time at Verdala Palace, looking after the polio victims and her dread of the "Blue Lady", who is said to walk the halls of the Palace, at night.

The "Blue Lady" was the name given to a young Maltese girl, who, forced into an unhappy marriage, rebelled, and was confined to a room in Verdala Palace. She died when she fell from a window while trying to escape, leaving her ghost, dressed in the blue dress she had on at the time of her death, to roam the Palace at night.

Verdala Palace is replete with interesting stories, with recollections of the famous and not so famous, like Ceausescu and Gaddafi who were welcomed there, bringing no honour to themselves nor to their host!

Above all the young patients are worthy of remembrance. All with their own special story, among them, the daughter of a Maltese employee of the David Bruce Hospital, the Military Hospital in Mtarfa. Suddenly taken sick, her father took her there where she was seen by Dr Norman Earl Mawby, who correctly diagnosed Polio from which she subsequently recovered. Making her one of the patients that survived the Polio Epidemic that visited Malta in 1943.

Dr Mawby had arrived in Malta in 1941. During the voyage, he had watched as Stuka dive bombers attacked his ship, the Port Chalmers (later of "Operational Pedestal" fame), and also watched, helplessly, as an enemy torpedo passed right under them and then sunk the next ship steaming on their other side. At the time, his wife, in England with their small son, was expecting twins.

When news that her husband's convoy had come under attack and had suffered heavy losses reached her, she went into premature labour and lost them both.

In 1943 King George VI visited Malta and Dr Mawby was assigned to accompany His Majesty,

because, unbeknown to most, the King was unwell.

The child polio victims in Malta received loving care and attention from everyone, from Medical Students, and also, as it happened for one of them, from the King's doctor, himself!

There was fear in Malta in 1943, and not from the war alone.

Ten years later, in 1952, it was the turn of the people and doctors of Copenhagen to suffer, to a much more severe extent, because of the virulence and the cruel spread of the polio pandemic.

Twenty-five years after, in 1967, I was greatly privileged to work under Dr Ibsen, as a WHO Fellow in Anaesthesiology, in his hospital, in Copenhagen. I heard some details of his work and story from the great man himself!

I remember the day he invited me to dinner at his home. It was an occasion to savour the presence of a man to whom much is owed. Very unassuming he was! He also proudly showed me the framed certificate of Honorary Fellowship of a Royal College of the UK and Ireland, awarded in recognition of his significant contribution to world medicine; that is, to humanity.

I could not but reflect on the benefit and advantage accrued by small countries like ours, from our close association with developed countries well advanced and respected in the field of medicine. Although the Copenhagen Polio epidemic was a tragedy for the Danish people, nevertheless, it led to the development of Intensive Care; a milestone of undoubted benefit to millions worldwide.

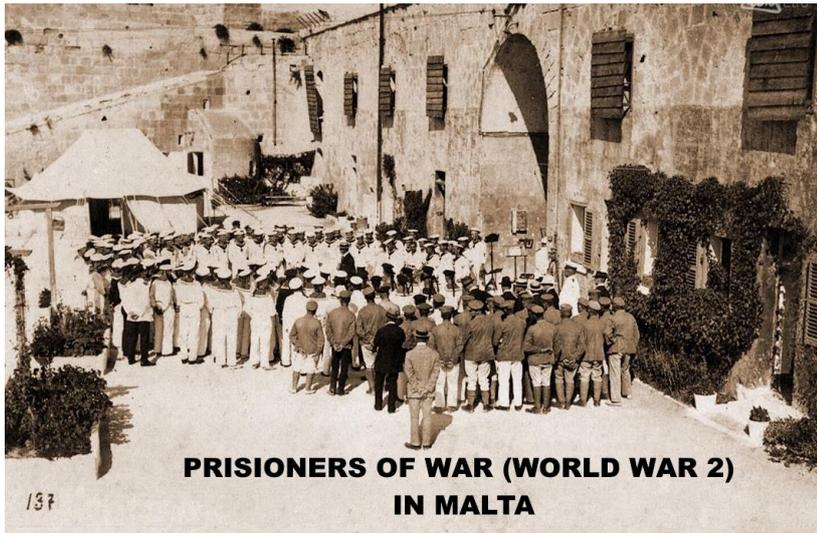
One wonders how the Covid pandemic will be remembered, in years to come!

We continue to remember and revere Dr Bjorn Ibsen and his contribution to World Medicine, that is to humanity! Few of the team led by Dr Ibsen in that Copenhagen Hospital in 1952 could have imagined the progressive change they initiated.

May those dealing with the present epidemic of COVID 19 have the same dedication!

Bjorn Ibsen Day is on August 27th. That was the day in 1952 that Dr Ibsen proposed positive-pressure ventilation for polio patients. He had to innovate or else! His unprecedented performance during that bygone epidemic remains an inspiration. We commemorate him with huge respect and gratitude. My thanks are due to Mr Agostino Borg for significant help in the compilation of this note.

The POWs held in Malta were not Malta's prisoners.



The POWs did not wreck what their captors provided them with. On the contrary they used their skills and ingenuity to improve their surroundings and turn their spartan Nissen huts into a home away from home. They actually cultivated vegetables and fruit and even helped in the kitchens and in the distribution of food. Some of the POWs had medical training and tended to their fellow prisoners' health and sometimes they were called upon to provide medical assistance to British and Maltese personnel in charge of camp security. The POWs organised cultural and sports activities. They printed their own newsletters. Their football teams were a formidable force on the rough grounds

where they played against their captors, providing many Maltese football fans with a spectacle. They produced souvenirs in a variety of materials such as Malta stone, aircraft duralumin or Perspex which they then sold to raise money for their needs. Some Maltese homes still have some POW art displayed on a shelf.

POWs worked on various construction projects, which the Maltese enjoy to this very day, such as the chapel at Pembroke and the Lido at St George's Bay. They even offered to rebuild the Royal Opera House. Incidentally, this project never materialised because someone thought it fit to publicise it as a threat to Maltese workers' jobs.

There were times when the POWs organised peaceful protests that were just that and no more. There are no reports of prisoners carrying stones or weapons fashioned out of chicken bones. There was one occasion when they cheered and clapped when some Maltese workers protested over the POW's employ in construction works - the Maltese protesters carried placards which read "Germans Go Home" and the POWs loved it.

Above all, the POWs were a self-disciplined lot and their level of education and culture could only have left a positive influence on those who came into contact with them. The Maltese never felt threatened by their presence. [Stephen A. Petroni, San Gwann]

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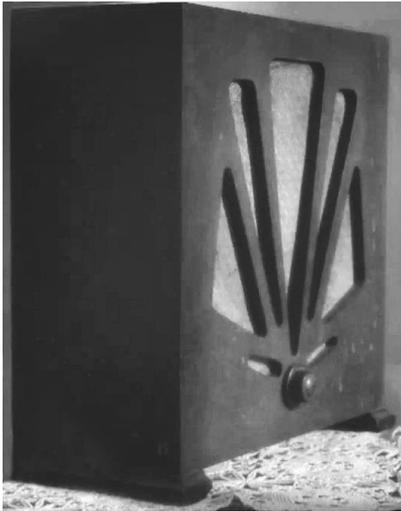
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down memory lane - nostalgia

REDIFFUSION IN MALTA

In 1935, radio broadcasting began in Malta by a company called Rediffusion (Malta) Limited, which had been given the power and authority by the Government of Malta to operate sponsored radio programs as well as ordinary commercial radio programmes.

Rediffusion Malta Ltd began operating as a radio station for Malta and Gozo by means of a license issued by the British Governor, since in 1935 Malta was still a British colony.

The service consisted of two channels – one which used to transmit BBC programmes originating from the UK which used to arrive in Malta via short wave, while the other used to broadcast programmes from

other foreign stations, especially Italian ones. On 11 November 1935, the Rediffusion had broadcast a series of programmes to commemorate Remembrance Day.

During the war, the Rediffusion in Malta and Gozo played an important role because they used to transmit air raid warnings. After the war, broadcasting in Malta started to become more organized. One of the two channels used to transmit only Maltese language programming while the other continued to transmit the BBC and other foreign stations.



The popularity of this medium grew when the news in English and Maltese also began to be transmitted.

Twelve years after radio broadcasting began in Malta in 1947, the concept of advertising began. In 1955, the Rediffusion was also introduced in Gozo where a small station was opened.

In the 50s, broadcasting started to give more importance to female listeners by dedicating special programmes for them. In fact, Carmen Carbonaro started these women's programmes 70

years ago.

In the 50s and 60s there was a musical explosion as great singers with different styles emerged.

On 23 January, 1958, broadcasting in Malta had its first official building with the opening of Rediffusion House in Guardamangia, the same building which today houses the PBS Creativity Hub.

In 1962, Television Malta was introduced, which at first used to transmit from the same building which housed the radio station, as the building known as Television House, did not yet exist. This was completed 16 months later, on 6 February 1964.

Among the various personalities who mesmerised Maltese and Gozitan listeners with their voices was Charles Arrigo, who used to read novels on air, described by many as a broadcaster *per excellence*.

To stay informed always read THE TIMES OF MALTA online.

Malta native Father Nicholas Cachia taught at St. Vincent de Paul since 2016

MIAMI – USA, St. Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary is mourning the loss of a beloved brother and faculty member, Father Nicholas Cachia, who died July 28, 2021. He had served on the seminary's faculty since 2016 and directed the Pre-Theology Program from 2017–2021.



Photographer: COURTESY

Father Nicholas Cachia had taught at St. Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary in Boynton Beach since 2016. A native of Malta, he died July 28, 2021.

“He dedicated his priesthood to forming good and holy shepherds according to the heart of Christ, and has gone home to share in the wedding feast of heaven,” said Father Alfredo I. Hernández, rector and president of the seminary.

Father Cachia was born Nov. 22, 1961, in Malta and ordained a priest of the Archdiocese of Malta on July 8, 1988. In addition to his current role at the seminary, he served on the board of the Seminary Formation Council and as chaplain of the Serra Club of Southern Palm Beach County.

Since 2004, Father Cachia had served as a spiritual director and lecturer for the Institute for Priestly Formation at Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska. He was also a member of the IPF Priests of St. Joseph. At different periods between 1996 and 2015, he served as spiritual director and lecturer at the University of Malta and the Archbishop's Seminary in Tal-Virtu, Rabat.

He received his licentiate in Sacred Theology at Tal-Virtu, Malta in 1988, and his master's and doctorate in Sacred Theology from the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome in 1990 and 1995, respectively. He is the author of many publications, the most recent being "33 Days with St. Joseph," based on Pope Francis' apostolic letter *Patris Corde*, on the occasion of the Year of St. Joseph.

Father Cachia is survived by his father, John Cachia, and his sisters, MaryRose Catania (Nicholas), Lilian Cilia (Mario), numerous nephews and nieces, and extended family in Malta.

IT'S NICE TO BE IMPORTANT, BUT IT MORE IMPORTANT TO BE NICE





In the 70s, the Maltese islands experienced historical events which were conveyed to the nation through radio and TV transmissions, while in the 80s and 90s, developments in the broadcasting sector continued to grow especially with the introduction of pluralism.

MATCHES - maltese cross

The need and use of fire has been known to man since the dawn of civilisation. Its presence, when controlled, remains a crucial aspect of our lives as much as it was back then. For several millennia, the knowledge and ability to create fire derived mostly primitive methods and techniques, mainly using friction or concentrating an intense heat in a fixed spot, as one would do with a shard of glass.

The relative difficulty and complications of such methods often led to some source of fire being maintained constantly, but this was rarely possible in the case of nomads, soldiers, and all those moving from one area to another. For countless centuries man has struggled to find ways to generate fire speedily and with ease. Flints were among the first known resources employed to make a fire, when and where these were available.

The discovery of gunpowder and its eventual adaptation for military use made it necessary to have immediate and regular access to fire. Wicks or Cords made from hemp, cambric and similar fibres dipped in chemicals such as ammonia were employed towards this purpose leading to two main varieties, slow and fast burning matches.

These first matches were hence the ancestors of the ubiquitous wooden stick known in our age, and it is from them that the word itself originates, from the original old French "meche". As for the matches of our day, it appears that they share the same origins as gunpowder: China. The first known mention of thin wooden sticks with coated tips goes back as far as 577 AD, while accounts written in 1270 AD also make reference to this commodity being sold in markets at Hangzhou.

It would take the Western world many more centuries before the first modern 'self-igniting' matches were discovered. The invention has been credited to Jean Chancel, in 1805. These early matches were dangerous and expensive however, leading to much experimentation over the next decades, and a variety of matches including types made with glass capsules or wax stems. In 1816, another Frenchman, Francois Derosne, came up with the first friction match while ten years later, an English chemist, John Walker, introduced the first successful matches of this type.

The next fifty years would see more developments and much experimentation with alternative chemicals or substances with the aim of reducing risks during manufacture as well as to customers, and reducing negative side effects such as smell, sputtering and primarily, self-ignition when undesired! This led to the invention of safety matches between the 1840s-50s, as well as the first matchboxes with a striker panel on the side/s. Early matchboxes were typically made from thin wood ply sheets and paper. The next 100 years would see both matches and matchboxes evolve considerably, beyond the staple basics. The first matchbooks or flip-tops were introduced in America in 1890. Matches have since been made in a large variety of sizes and different coloured stems or tips. Matchboxes too come in many shapes and formats. The same applies for the graphic designs on matchboxes, especially after the recognition of advertising or propaganda potential became noticed and implemented. The rich variety and often artistic element in such designs led to such products becoming widely collectable, and this aspect too was exploited by manufacturers' by issuing sets and serieses in a myriad of colourful themes.

But the same way mankind's rapid advance in terms of technology through in the last two centuries brought about the birth and heyday of the match, it also brought its decline with the invention of gas lighters.

During the 1970s lighters became readily available, cheap and disposable. Safer, more durable and reliable were all qualities that led to lighters becoming the preferred consumable.

Despite the relative decline in demand, matches persist as a convenient commodity, both in domestic and rural environments, and are still readily present just about anywhere.

Matches were first introduced to Malta by sailors, servicemen, and other travelling visitors. As more brands emerged and their availability spread across Europe and the world, they soon found themselves on the shelves of local shops.

Among the efforts to rebuild Malta and its economy after the second world war, a local enterprise named the Modern Match Factory Marsa aka MMM was established in 1950. The initiative was successful but the aforementioned slow decline of the seventies persisted through the next decade and the factory closed its doors around the early 1990s.



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MALTESE CANADIAN COMMUNITY NEWS

The vintage cars are back!

Events are back and we encourage all to participate, attend and support all the events of our Maltese Canadian Community, keeping in mind and follow all rules related to the pandemic.
MALTA BAND CLUB - 5745 Coopers Ave., MISSISSAUGA - ONTARIO - CANADA



THE CONSULATE GENERAL OF MALTA TO CANADA DONATES BOOKS AND EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS TO THE MELITA SOCCER CLUB LIBRARY

The Consulate General of Malta to Canada has recently donated books and educational materials to the Melita Soccer Club Library, one of Toronto's oldest Maltese Canadian Libraries. The Melita Soccer Club is presently the oldest Maltese Canadian Club in all of Canada established in 1963. Today the Melita Soccer Team, also known as Canucks participated in soccer

matches in Toronto and participate in the very popular annual match between the Melita Soccer Team and the Maltese American team based in the Tri-State Area in New York.

The over 200 books and educational materials are primarily publications, exercise textbooks, CDs, colouring books, lithographs, CDs and DVDs to learn the Maltese language, the history of the Maltese Islands, Malta and Gozo's Diaspora worldwide, publications about Malta, Gozo, education, commerce, archaeology, culture and religion.

The Consulate General of Malta to Canada compiled these publications from an array of Malta Government Ministries, agencies, institutions, banks, chambers and companies. Mostly donated by Heritage Malta, the University of Malta, Arts Council Malta, Malta Enterprise, the Malta Films Commission and the Ministry for Foreign & European Affairs.

While presenting the donation to the Melita Soccer Club Secretary, Ms Mary Ann Piscopo, the Consul General of Malta to Canada, Dr Raymond C. Xerri encourage the committee to use these publications and educational materials to attract, teach and transmit Malta's rich identity, heritage, culture and history. Go ahead and entice Maltese Canadian youths to want to learn of their origins and ancestry - Malta and Gozo can open new doors of opportunities, a whole new world for Maltese Canadian youths in areas of education, commerce and entrepreneurship where their dreams can come through." Secretary Piscopo thanked Dr Xerri for this donation and all the initiative he is taken to bring together the Maltese Canadian community, especially the youth.

CANADIAN MEMORIES



More memories from the installation of Pastor Fr Christopher Cauchi at Our Lady of Sorrows, ETOBICOKE - CANADA

Maltese eNewsletter 
Journal of the Maltese Diaspora

From little things
BIG things grow



Our aim is to build Bridges between us not Walls

THE LAST FARMER OF “WIED IL-GĦASEL” (Honey Valley)



Researched by

Greg Caruana (NSW)

The singers are Sammy Bartolo (deceased) and the New Quari band, verses by Alfred Sant. This valley is very picturesque, with its various slopes having their own individual names. The valley, which starts at Fiddien, joins Wed il-Qlejgha (or as it is otherwise known as Chadwich Lakes), and leads to the St. Paul's Shipwreck Chapel, which was rebuilt in 1690 in an architectural style. Then

I come to the chapel of HOPE (with its legend of the young virgin from Mosta who while feeding the sheep, and saw some Furbans coming. When the Furbans arrived they saw the entry of the cave she was hiding in, guarded by a huge cobweb, and walked away.

There is also the Chapel of St. Paul the Hermit. This too has a very delightful legend of when the people of Mosta hassled this hermit who then fled on his mantle and flew to Gozo. This chapel is under the Mosta fortress which was used for monitoring by the British services and is now being used by the police to train their dogs. Here we also find a bridge that was originally made of iron, built by the British services, in 1896, which took 27 years to complete. In 1980 it was replaced by a limestone one, which at least removed the old eye-sore that was ruining the surrounding environment. Naturally, this leads to below the saltines of Naxxar. Here we also find the chapel of St. Catherine which stands on the side of the hill 't'Alla w ommu', and it was built in 1607. In fact this is not the original chapel, as it was preceded by another that was built in 1659.

Here the valley continues and breaks under Ħal Għargur and the Salina is seen at a distance of about 15 kilometers. Of course its most beautiful part is without a doubt where it is the deepest, next to the northwest of Mosta. And from here it was nicknamed "Wied il-Għasel (Honey Valley)". Alfred C. Sant in the beautiful verses he wrote for this song, says 'bħal eremit maqtugħ minn nies qalb is-siġar u l-għolliq immur sabiex naqla l-għejxien' (that like a hermit away from people among the trees and fields he goes to earn his living). And continues by 'spiċċaw l-ulied, jaħdmu fl-ibliet' and 'l-aħħar bidwi f'Wied il-Għasel hu jien' (the children now working in the cities, and the last farmer in Wied il-Għasel is me).

Until about 50 years ago, this valley was full of life, with farmers working their farm to the full, It was all fertile land, and these farmers as zealous as they were to earn their daily bread, through nature, they had always been subject to the seasons, where they endured both the good and bad seasons. Just like in this song, the author-singer wrote 'staġun xott, kemm bgħata l-frott' (dry season, the fruit was lacking); where the farmer would have been behind the plow and with the fences and the plowshares, while plowing the fertile soil. As our Alfred Sant says in the song 'Wara l-moħriet naħdem fis-skiet' (behind the plow working in silence) referring to the farmer named in the song.

But nowadays these fields are no longer cultivated and are abandoned, since the same farmers' children did not continue the same trade, moving on to work in the towns instead.

Wied il-Għasel has a very ancient and beautiful history, it is said that in this valley there were beautiful fig and carob trees, and wild plants such as 'ħubbejża tar-raba', capers, wild daisy, narcissus and many other crops filled the surrounding environment with fragrance. There was also parsley as well as the 'xkattapetra' (a plant that was used to crush kidney stones), and many other plants. Many wild birds some of which nested in the cracks and small caves in the rocks on each side of this valley alongside many other plants. This place was the cradle for bees that produced much of the honey in the cracks alongside the rocky crops. This still exists in this valley to this day, and thus serves as a refuge for wild

birds such as Malta's national bird, the Merill, whose song enchants the surrounding environment. There used to also be owls and crows as well as wild rabbits in abundance. But over time, under the pretext of development, these animals can be said to have been completely destroyed. The first Mosta farmers most probably lived in this valley alongside their fields and this is confirmed by the many caves and catacombs found throughout this valley. Thanks to the Mosta Council and the "Lil din l-Art Helwa" association, they will not be destroyed under the pretext of development, and when it rains in winter, one can enjoy the serenity in listening to the water running through the valley of "Wied il-Għasel". Even on Sundays and holidays, on a nice fine day as is characteristic of the Maltese islands, you see groups of people go for walks to rest, enjoy and have fun in this display of nature in this a natural phenomenon of "Wied il-Għasel".

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We hope everyone has been enjoying their summer and staying healthy. Unfortunately, we are writing once again on the topic of COVID. The committee has decided to immediately adopt new CDC guidelines issued on 7/27/21. With recent significant rate of COVID infections and CDC guidelines call for masks to be worn indoors by everyone regardless of vaccination status.

Masks are now required at all times while indoors at the Center except while seated. Please remember to wear your mask if you are outdoors from the back garden or bocci court and coming inside

the Center. We encourage members to make use of our outdoor area and terrace as much as possible. We feel strongly that while a modest inconvenience it is the proper decision for our members, volunteers, and community.

Please respect these guidelines and the request to wear a mask on the premises to keep everyone safe and at ease while at the Center. Thank you for your cooperation.

If you do not have a mask the Center can provide you with one

Members please remember to come up to date with your dues. It's easy to pay - online, in person or mail in a check. Membership cards can be collected at the Center. If you would like it mailed please contact us.

IF YOU HAVE AN INTERESTING STORY TO TELL SHARE IT WITH OTHERS - SEND IT TO US

maltesejournal@gmail.com



Għaqda tal-Malti – Università Il-membri tal- Kumitat il-ġdid ghas-snin 2021- 2023 u l-karigi tagħhom

L-Għaqda tal-Malti – Università tgħarraf illi waqt il-Laqqha Ġenerali Annwali (LĠA)

tas-Sibt 31 ta' Lulju 2021, uffiċjalment inħatar Kumitat ġdid li se jservi lill-istess Għaqda bejn l-2021–2023. Din is-sena ma saritx l-elezzjoni minħabba li kien hemm biss tmien nominazzjonijiet. Madankollu kull nominat ġie approvat mill-membri kollha preżenti għal-laqqha. L-irwoli tal-membri fil-Kumitat huma:

Il-President: Keith Attard **Il-Viċi President:** Raquel Sammut **Is-Segretarja:** Anthea Enriquez

L-Assistent Segretarju: Romario Sciberras **It-Teżoriera:** Deborah Muscat

L-Assistent Teżorier: Raffaello Bezzina **L-Uffiċjal għar-Relazzjonijiet Pubbliċi:** Nicole Mangion

L-Assistent Uffiċjal għar-Relazzjonijiet Pubbliċi: Sara Abela **Il-Membri Ex Officio:** Dr Michael Spagnol

Mill-ġurnata tal-LĠA, il-membri tal-Kumitat il-ġdid attendew għal laqgħat mal-membri tal-Kumitat l-antik biex jibdeu jiffamiljarizzaw ruħhom mal-irwoli tal-kariga tagħhom. Barra minn hekk saret ukoll l-ewwel Laqqha tal-Kumitat fejn ingħatat ħarsa tal-attivitajiet il-kbar li l-Kumitat irid jibda jipprepara għalihom, fosthom Żanżan Kelma, Il-Jum Ewropew tal-Lingwi, Freshers' Week tal-Università, u l-attivitajiet marbuta mal-Festival tal-Ktieb, b'mod speċjali t-tnedija ta' *Leĥen il-Malti – Għadd 40*. Il-Kumitat il-ġdid lest jibqa' jaħdem fuq il-proġetti mibdija mill-kumitat l-antik waqt li jaħseb ukoll f' modi friski biex il-lingwa u l-letteratura jkomplu jistagħnew. Il-Kumitat jixtieq ukoll ikompli jikkollabora ma' ħafna aktar għaqdiet u organizzazzjonijiet. Fil-preżent, l-GħMU qiegħda tgħin fil-Festival Mediterranju tal-Letteratura, organizzat minn Inizjamed.

EXTRA TOUR!



FILFLA ISLAND

On **Saturday, 28th August**, Heritage Malta is inviting you to join Senior Curator John J Borg on an intriguing tour around Filfla, during which he will reveal several interesting anecdotes about this small island which might look insignificant but has a very interesting narrative. During the tour, participants will enjoy a boat ride while listening to these stories and many others. A sharp lookout will also be kept for any seabirds,

turtles and cetaceans that may be encountered along the way.

The boat will leave from Sliema Ferries (Luzzu Cruise Point) at 10:00am sharp and head towards Filfla, passing along the eastern and southern coast of Malta. There will be no disembarkation on Filfla and no swimming will take place around the island either. However, on its way back the boat will make a stop next to Delimara for those who would like to swim, and then return to Sliema. Ticket prices are as follows: Adults €25, Seniors and Students €20, Heritage Malta members and children (6 – 11yrs) €15. **Tickets** may be bought at all Heritage Malta museums and sites, as well as online by clicking on this link <https://shop.heritagemalta.org/index.asp?eventid=781> Ticket holders are to meet at Sliema Ferries at 9:15am. The boat will return to Sliema at 3:00pm. The tour may be cancelled in case of bad weather.

More info in the following link <https://heritagemalta.org/an-intriguing-tour-around-filfla-by-heritage-malta/>



MALTA, GALLIPOLI AND AN AUSTRALIAN COUNTRY TOWN CALLED YASS (NSW) 1915

PRIVATE ROY HOWARD DENNING (Photo) landed at Gallipoli on 25 April 1915 and was wounded on 16 June. He, with many other ANZACS, was sent to Malta to recuperate, where he wrote to his mother describing his experiences at the landing - *I was justified in being proud of being an Australian.*

[Letter, Private Roy Howard Denning, 213, 1st Field Company Engineers, Malta, 23 July 1915, to his mother, YDHS has recently published the full twelve page letter from Roy Denning: *My dear mother: a letter from a soldier after Gallipoli*, Jane Nauta, Yass, 1998]

Roy Denning was born at Marulan, New South Wales. The family moved to Yass (a country town in New South Wales), and Roy attended the Yass District School. He was working for the Clyde Engineering Company, Sydney, when, on 7 September 1914, he joined the AIF. Private Roy Denning landed in Gallipoli on 25 April 1915 and served there until he received a severe gunshot wound in the

back on 16 June.

He was evacuated to Pembroke Camp in Malta four days later and after his recovery; he went on to fight on the Western Front until the end of the war. By 1918, Roy's war weariness was evident from this diary entry. "Digging trenches through forest, God give me back the day joined this blood-sucking unit who are never satisfied."

[Diary, Private Roy Howard Denning, 1918, France. This diary is in a private collection]

In October 1918, because he was an original Anzac, Private Roy Denning received the so-called 'Anzac leave', and he was on the high seas when war ended on 11 November. Roy Denning's family did not live in Yass during the war, and he never returned there himself to work. The town, however, for commemorative purposes, claimed him as one of their own and his name is on the Yass Honour Roll at the Soldiers' Memorial Hall and on the Yass District School Honour Roll.

As Roy recovered from his wound in Malta in 1915, he had much time to think about what he had seen in Gallipoli. He wrote at least two letters to his mother on that subject, the second of which has survived. It is a remarkable document. Roy was one of the first Yass men to land in Gallipoli and his description.

Members of the 2nd Australian Field Ambulance practice boat drill off the island of Lemnos, Greece, in preparation for the



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

C01632

landings at Gallipoli, April 1915 AWM C01632

MALTA AND THE ANZACS

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