



MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER

Journal of Maltese Living Abroad

Editor: Frank L Scicluna OAM MQR



HAPPY NEW YEAR

IS-SENA T-TAJBA



The Editor and staff
wish all our
readers and all the
Maltese living in
Malta and Gozo
and all those
living abroad
a New Year
2022
full of peace
health and
happiness

We look up in hope



HON DR. ROBERT ABELA



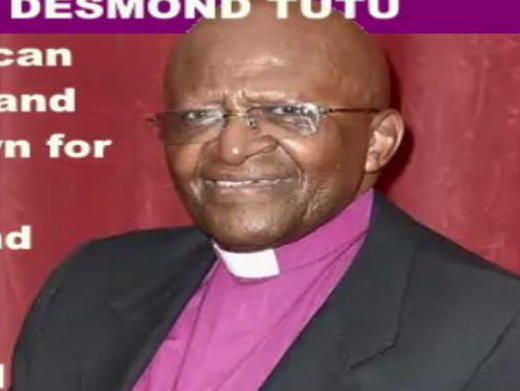
HON DR BERNARD GRECH



DENISE DEMICOLI

ARCHBISHOP DESMOND TUTU

was a South African
Anglican bishop and
theologian, known for
his work as an
anti-apartheid and
human rights
activist
Died 26 Dec 2021



ENZO GUSMAN - RIP
1947-2021
Born in Sliema - Died in Canada

L-Istrina 2021- MALTESE ARE VERY GENEROUS PEOPLE



Monique Agius

-NEWSBOOK.COM.MT

The annual telethon, L-Istrina, in aid of the Malta Community Chest Fund has finished, raising over €5.8 million for charity. This year, €5,845,000 were collected.

Held every Boxing Day since 1995, Sunday's edition marks its 26th year. **During the 2020 edition, more than €6.5 million were raised.**

Speaking at the opening of the event,

Archbishop Charles Scicluna urged the public to donate, saying that "every drop counts". Meanwhile, the Archbishop's Curia has donated €1,000 to L-Istrina.

Prime Minister Robert Abela urged the public to donate, and to take the Covid jab, as he noted that this year unlike the previous year some fundraising events associated with L-Istrina could happen following the mass vaccination campaign.

In fact, the Office of the Prime Minister has released a video showing Abela and his wife Lydia receiving their booster dose on Sunday, together with their daughter Giorgia Mae who received her first dose of the vaccine.

Opposition leader Bernard Grech also joined the pleas, urging the public to donate.

President George Vella and his wife, Miriam, who are attending this year's edition virtually after they went into quarantine after coming in contact with somebody who tested positive for Covid-19 on Monday, also addressed the public urging the people to donate.

President will not be physically present for L-Istrina

Last year, events which are usually held to raise funds for L-Istrina were cancelled due to the coronavirus pandemic. In 2021, the annual President's Fun Run made a come back in a different format.

Instead of a large gathering, which typically saw thousands of people running and walking along four routes converging on Valletta, smaller walks were held around 58 different localities in Malta and Gozo.

€60,800 collected in BOV Piggy Bank Campaign

The funds collected through the L-Istrina BOV Piggy Bank Campaign 2021 amounted to €60,800, exceeding the previous year's mark.

The Bank explained that the funds were collected from all primary and secondary schools in Malta and Gozo using environmentally friendly cardboard piggy banks introduced during last year's campaign. These featured the winning 3 drawings from a competition organised by the Malta Community Chest Fund Foundation.

L-Istrina BOV Piggy Bank campaign 2020 launched

BOV Director Anita Mangion, accompanied by BOV Head CSR and Communication, Charles Azzopardi, presented the sum collected, together with a €200,000 donation through the Bank's Community Programme during L-Istrina live broadcast.

Malta Police Force donates €20,000

€20,000 have been donated by the Malta Police Force.

In a Facebook post, the MPF said that contributions were mostly made by police officers and other donations through fund-raising activities



Christmas and New Year's message of Prime Minister of the Republic of Malta Hon. Dr. Robert Abela to the Maltese Living Abroad

Dear citizens of Malta and Gozo,

While you might live miles away from the Maltese Islands, we are sure that you carry

a piece of Malta in your hearts wherever you go. Regrettably, this is the second consecutive year that we are celebrating Christmas and New Year amid Covid-19 restrictions, albeit in varying ways. We remain steady in our fight against the pandemic, and have managed to contain the spread through a well-coordinated campaign and vaccination programme.

However, the situation is far from over, with the infection rate worldwide on the increase again. We must be vigilant and not let our guard down. Hence my appeal to all those who still haven't taken their vaccine, or those who are due to receive the booster - please move forward and be vaccinated. Vaccination is key to protecting our societies from the disease. Malta has the highest number of vaccinated people in all of the European Union, and I am pleased that the lives of many Maltese citizens were saved thanks to the vaccine.

The success of our vaccination programme allowed us to return to normality. 2 Our sense of solidarity has also urged us to donate Covid-19 test kits and vaccines to our neighbouring countries Tunisia and Libya, as well as Rwanda, Ghana and Iran. I am pleased that our efforts were recognised by the World Health Organisation, and we are hailed as the EU's highest per capita vaccine donor.

And Malta will continue to assist in the global fight against the pandemic, providing support as and when necessary in a spirit of both solidarity and multilateralism, and to avoid disparities between nations. Indeed, the interdependence between nations became more vocal due to the pandemic, and physical distances were somewhat dissolved,

which underlined further the importance of multilateralism. 2021 was indeed a busy year for us.

The Government embarked on a number of projects and initiatives as part of our Recovery and Resilience Plan. Malta also continued to play its part in the advancement of human rights worldwide, as we continue our excellent track record in striving for a more just and equitable society. Furthermore, we are planning a carbon neutral future for Malta in order to limit the impact of climate change and prevent irreparable damage. 3

This target is also one of the five pillars of economic growth and recovery from the pandemic, together with sustainable economic growth, good governance, education and infrastructural improvement. Malta is looking onwards and upwards to a brighter future – and I want you to be part of it. All the Maltese communities living abroad have a direct share in the work that Malta carries out on a national and international stage. You can be catalysts of change to help our ambitions for our country to take shape.

The physical distance should not stop us from taking initiatives and exploring new ways in which we can work together. I invite you all to remain connected with your homeland, not only during this time of the year but throughout the whole year. Let us all cherish our rich traditions, culture and identity, by ensuring that we pass them on to our children. A word of thanks also goes to the many Maltese missionaries working in different parts of the world to improve the lives of people who are deprived of the essentials.

Their dedication is an inspiration to us all. My wife and I would like to wish you and your families a joyful Christmas, and a new year full of good health, happiness and prosperity. SAHHA



Kummissjoni Għolja tar-Repubblika ta' Malta
High Commission for the Republic of Malta
MESSAGE OF H.E. MARIO FARRUGIA BORG –
HIGH COMMISSIONER



It is once again that time of year when we look back and evaluate our successes and failures, hoping for a better new year.

At the beginning of 2021, my family and I moved to Canberra for my appointment as High Commissioner for Malta. As the world grapples with post-pandemic recovery, Malta has made incredible achievements. Boasting of the fifth best public healthcare service in the world, Malta is currently the second highest in the EU with the booster. The economy continued to outperform expectations, and the last budget for 2022 set the ground for an increase of eligible elderly persons who receive a non-contributory Maltese pension and more favourable conditions on inheritance for pensioners.

In 2021, I had the pleasure to meet the Governors-General of Australia and New Zealand and the Governor of New South Wales, where we reaffirmed our great bilateral relations based on solid foundations. As interstate borders reopened, I visited our communities in New South Wales and Victoria, and I hope to visit other states in 2022.

I would like to thank our Deputy High Commissioner, Ms Denise Demicoli, who has served in this capacity since 2017, for her continuous support and dedication and welcome Ms Gail Demanuele, who will take over in January. I would also like to thank my staff and Consulates-General, as well as our Honorary Consuls for their cooperation and commitment.

Together with my partner Joanne and my family, we wish you all a joyous Christmas and all the best for a prosperous New Year. **Mario Farrugia Borg**

High Commissioner of Malta to Australia and New Zealand 22 December 2021



I hope this message finds you well and that you are looking forward to spending a refreshing festive break with your loved ones. 2021 has been another challenging year for us all, yet I am so proud of what we have achieved as a community. We must continue to support each other as we celebrate the festive season and cherish our important traditions. Thank you to all South Australians for your amazing work throughout the pandemic. With your continued support, we can stay safe and strong together. I wish you, your family, and your community a wonderful and safe festive season! May 2022 bring you good health, much happiness, and a bright beginning!

Messagg tal-Kap tal-Oppożizzjoni Dr Bernard Grech



Il-Milied huwa l-festa ta' dawk kollha li jhobbu, dawk kollha li jimpurtahom minn haddiehor u li jridu jaraw il-ġid fil-familja tagħhom, lil dawk ta' madwarhom u lis-soċjetà. Dawn iż-żminijiet jgħinuna wkoll nirriflettu fuq it-tifsira tal-ħajja. **Forsi l-ewwel skop tal-ħajja huwa li naraw li napprezzaw u nirrispettaw lil kulħadd, miż-żgħir sal-kbir.**

Qiegħed nixtiqilkom il-koll il-Milied it-Tajjeb, u mhux sempliciment il-festi t-tajba, għax kien it-twelid ta' Ġesù li

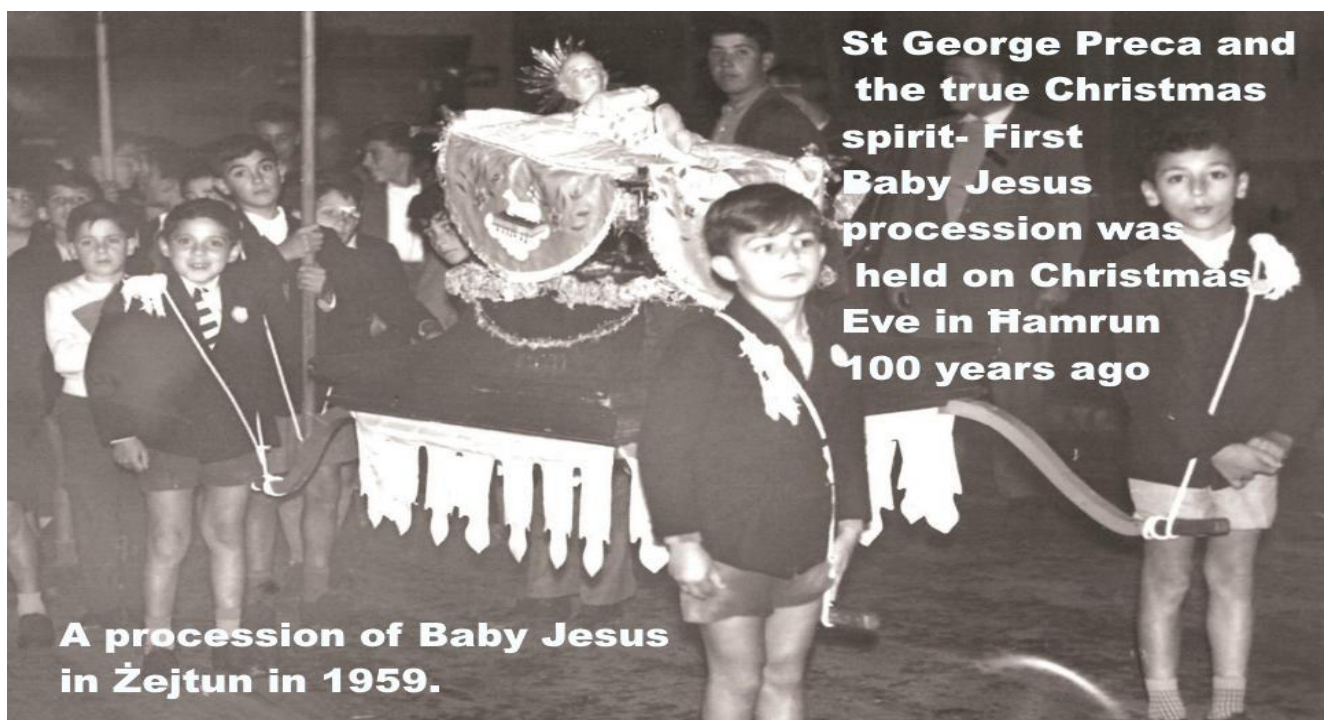
saħħa id-dinjità umana – li kull wieħed minna huwa ta' valur daqs kull ieħor.

Nixtieq l-ewwel u qabel kollox insellem lil dawk li għal xi raġuni jew oħra għadhom iħossuhom imwarrba jew minsija fis-soċjetà tagħna. Lilkom b'mod speċjali, għeżiež tiegħi, irrid ngħidilkom li intom qegħdin f'qalbi u nwegħedkom li nibqa' nagħmel minn kollox biex ma tibqgħux tħossukom skartati. Inti u jiena nistgħu naħdmu flimkien biex ħadd ma jitwarrab.

Aħna rridu naħdmu b'saħħitna kollha biex ħadd ma jaqa' lura.

Nistieden lil dawk li diġà qegħdin fuq quddiem biex jaħsbu wkoll fl-oħrajn, għax is-sigurtà u l-hena tagħhom tiddependi mis-sigurtà u l-hena ta' kulħadd. Nimxu kemm nimxu 'l quddiem, jekk mill-ġid u mit-titjib tas-soċjetà ma jgawdix kulħadd, sal-inqas wieħed, ma nkunux nistgħu ngħidu li għandna pajjiz b'saħħtu. **Il-Milied it-Tajjeb lilek u lil dawk kollha li tgħożż.**

Il-Milied it-Tajjeb lil kulħadd! Bernard Grech Kap tal-Partit Nazzjonalista



St George Preca and the true Christmas spirit- First Baby Jesus procession was held on Christmas Eve in Hamrun 100 years ago

A procession of Baby Jesus in Żejtun in 1959.

MESSAGE FROM H.E. JENNY CARTMILL HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR AUSTRALIA IN MALTA



What a year it's been for all of us, in Malta, Australia, and elsewhere, including for so many people separated from family and friends due to the pandemic. I hope the Christmas and New Year period will provide some opportunity for reunions and rest for everyone.

At the High Commission, we've been busy assisting people to return home from both Malta and Tunisia, and helping consular clients, including many passport inquiries as travel conditions ease.

We weren't able to celebrate Australia Day 2021 or commemorate ANZAC Day with the usual large gatherings. Instead, on ANZAC Day, the President, HE George Vella, and Mrs Vella honoured us with their presence at Pieta cemetery to lay a wreath, along with the New Zealand Honorary Consul Kevin Bonnici, in a very small ceremony.

It was a sunny morning, and in the quiet, we could hear the bird-songs and reflect on everything those young men gave up. Malta continues to care for them in the well-kept and very touching Commonwealth War Graves Commission cemeteries on the island.

Next year, we may have to continue to hold small, symbolic events until large public ones can be held safely again - we'll see how things progress over the Northern Hemisphere winter.

Malta achieved very high vaccination rates early on, and I was struck by the excellent coverage of the

health care system and the resilience of the Maltese people in coping with restrictions to keep us all as safe as possible. I've been lucky to have been able to see some more of Malta and Gozo on weekend hikes – to Wied Babu, Wied iż-Żurrieq, and to the tower and salt pans near Xlendi. Next on the list is

Wied il-Għasel in Mosta, with its Chapel of St Paul the Hermit. In September, Deputy High Commissioner Susie McKellar and her family returned to Australia after four years, and her successor, Jenn Kingsman, has settled in happily with her husband Phil.

Due to the Australian borders partially re-opening in November, both Jenn and I will have young adult children joining us for Christmas this year, making it a really happy time as we explore the festive season, Maltese-style (and keep restocking the fridge and cupboards!)

It's great to see that the Christmas Markets are back in Valletta, along with the beautiful cribs, decorations and lights in every town. We'll be thinking of you all in Australia, and wishing you all a very happy and healthy Christmas and a much better New Year.

From the Department of Home Affairs - Australia



Josephine, Michelle, Claire, Tania, Minerva, Lisa would like to take this opportunity to wish you, your loved ones, and community members a safe and joyful Festive Season. And we very much looking forward to engaging with you again in 2022.

Tania Gerlach



*Merry
Christmas*



Well, it's Christmas Eve and it's all happening what a year we have had, 2021 has proven to be another difficult year for us all. As we all prepare to celebrate Christmas, with our family and friends maybe for the first time in months. Let us also remember those that still are unfortunately unable to see their families.

I hope that we as a Nation do not drop our guard and become complacent, that we keep in our thoughts and prayers those around us, The United States of America and the World that unfortunately have lost loved ones and for those who will not be able to spend Christmas with their loved one. That we will also be able to withstand the devastating impact of the Coronavirus pandemic and that we come out the other end as a stronger people, let us not forget that we are all Australians first no matter which state you come from.

I would like to on behalf of the Executive and Committee of the Australian American Association Victorian Division, wish you, your family and friends a Wonderful, Joyful, Safe, Peaceful and Blessed *MERRY CHRISTMAS*.

Sam CJ Muscat JP

President

Australian American Association Victoria

Season's Greetings

WE like to wish you a very holy and safe Christmas and all the very best for the New Year.
Thank you for all the newsletters we received this past year,
we have read them with much pleasure. I am sure that you will continue in 2022
giving people around the world the joy of receiving them.
regards, Mireille and Bruce Daw (Adelaide - Australia)

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Ministry for Foreign and European Affairs, Maltese Clubs in Australia, NZ, UK and USA
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Republic Day of Malta celebration organized by the High Commission of Malta in Canberra

R-L: The High Commissioner of Malta, Mr. Mario Farrugia Borg, Partner, Ms. Joanne Grima, DHC Ms. Denise Demicoli, Senior Counsellor Ms. Gail Demanuele, Consul General of Malta, Melbourne Ms. Chirelle Ellul Sciberras & Consul General of Malta, Sydney Mr. Lawrence Buhagiar

The High Commission of Malta hosted a reception on Monday, 13 December 2021, at the Commonwealth Club in Canberra, to celebrate the 47th anniversary of the establishment of the Republic of Malta, to recall the effort and struggle of our ancestors.

In his speech, the High Commissioner of Malta, H.E. Mr. Mario Farrugia Borg highlighted that our Maltese history spins back 7000 years and our intangible heritage, identity, values and cuisine have survived multiple waves of foreign colonisation. High Commissioner reflected on the fact that our archipelago punches above its weight in vision, progress and achievements. Furthermore, our values are shared and celebrated by hundreds of thousands of Maltese living abroad, with the largest community calling Australia home. He also explained that Malta treasures our bilateral

relations with like-minded partners, such as Australia and New Zealand whom we work with to achieve our common goals.

The High Commissioner took the opportunity to thank the Deputy High Commissioner, Ms. Denise Demicoli, for her continuous support and dedication, as she completes her tenure this year and welcomed Ms. Gail Demanuele, who will take over this role.

The reception was attended by the Chief of Protocol Mr. Ian McConville, Heads of Missions, members of the diplomatic corps and Officers of the Maltese Australian Association in Canberra and Queanbeyan, the President of the Maltese Community Council of NSW. The Consuls General of Malta in Sydney and Melbourne were also present, including former High Commissioner of Malta, Mr. Chares Muscat and Spouse, Mrs. Victoria Muscat.



Maltese eNewsletter
Journal of the Maltese Diaspora

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**Building Bridges
between us**

If you have a story
to tell share it
with others
Send it to us.



Farewell to Denise Deputy High Commissioner



We say farewell to our beloved Denise Demicoli who is moving to Malta after she spent 5 years as Deputy High Commissioner for Malta in Australia.

Prior to being posted to the Malta High Commission in

perspectives of media and communications and critical theory. Her interdisciplinary post-graduate studies in the field are best applied in relation to mediating relationships within the Maltese Communities Living Abroad and local authorities, with the aim to safeguard the best interests and well-being of Maltese citizens.

Ms. Demicoli, who assumed office in Australia on 20 March 2017, was in charge of the Consular section at the High Commission in Canberra whilst performing the duties of Deputy to the High Commissioner. During her stay in Australia Denise performed her duties professionally and she was well-liked and respected by all the members of the diplomatic corps as well as the members of the Maltese communities around Australia. I personally would like to thank her for all the support she gave me when I was the honorary consul in South Australia. The Maltese in Australia are grateful to Ms Demicoli, who has served the Maltese Government amongst us with enthusiasm, dedication and commitment. We are going to miss you, Denise. Frank Scicluna

Canberra, Australia. Denise served as a Second Secretary within the Directorate General Political & EU Affairs & Maltese Abroad of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Malta. Her areas of expertise range from issues pertaining to Mediterranean Regional Initiatives, EU coordination on the EU's Common Foreign Security Policy and the revamped European Union Neighbourhood Policy.

Ms Demicoli has carried out extensive research on intercultural diplomacy and dialogue through the

Dear Frank, I'd like to wish you and your readers a Merry Christmas and a Happy New



Year. Thank you for continuing to work together to keep our state safe, and our economy strong, throughout the challenges of another year with COVID-19. South Australians are reuniting with

family and loved ones because we've opened our border. At the same time, SA has the fastest growing economy in the nation and we have seen record high levels of employment throughout the pandemic. Adelaide has been named the third most liveable city in the world, and for the first time in 40 years, we have more people moving to SA than leaving. The Marshall Liberal Government's Economic Recovery Plan is creating jobs, delivering a stronger health system and making our state even more liveable! There is a lot we can be proud of as South Australians, and I look forward to seeing what we can achieve in 2022. Wishing you a safe and happy holiday season. Hon. Steven Marshall Premier of South Australia



In Loving Memory of Enzo Gusman - Canada

It is with deep sorrow and much love that we mourn the passing of Laurence Enzo Gusman, who went to meet the Risen Lord on December 17, 2021, at the age of 74. He will be lovingly remembered by his wife of 51 years, Carmen; his children: Johanna and Greta (Chris); his grandchildren: Skyler, Jack, Diego and Summer; his sister Mary (Lawrence) Barry; brother George (Vivianne) Gusman and by numerous nieces, nephews, friends, and thousands of his fans worldwide. Enzo was born in Sliema, Malta in 1947. He always loved singing and music and began performing for audiences at the young age of 13.

He was a very talented singer and songwriter and proudly represented his homeland of Malta in numerous song festivals around the world and won many of them. Enzo had an amazing stage presence and could keep an audience captivated with his charisma and strong vocal abilities. His original compositions told stories from his childhood growing up in Malta and have become timeless classics in Maltese folk music.

Enzo was awarded the Medal of the Republic of Malta in 2011 for his many contributions to Maltese music. In addition to his singing and songwriting talents, Enzo had a passion for radio and television broadcasting and presented radio programs on many of Malta's popular radio stations, as well as presenting a radio show in Italian for a station in Toronto in the 1980s. Enzo emigrated to Canada with his wife and 2 daughters in 1979.

While living in Canada, he continued to perform publicly while at the same time working full-time as a bank manager, and hosting a radio program on the weekends. He was always working hard to give his family a better life and had 3 jobs or more for most of his life. Enzo was very proud of his Maltese heritage, and missed Malta greatly, so in 1991, he began making frequent visits to his homeland and continued with his singing and radio career right up until 2017, when he retired from full-time work, but continued to do his radio program, when he was in Canada with his children and grandchildren.

He enjoyed being semi-retired and spending his days with his loving family by his side. He loved being a Grandfather and wore the name "Nannu" or "GL" for Grandpa Laurence, very proudly. Enzo was a very giving and generous man and was always wanting to help others. He did a lot of charity work performing at hospitals, old age homes, and homes for the disabled; he helped raise money on his radio show to buy wheelchairs for needy children; and organized groups of his listeners to go with him to donate blood for Malta's blood bank on many occasions.

In July 2020, Enzo suffered a near—fatal spinal cord injury which had him hospitalized for 9 months and left him a quadriplegic. In April 2021, his family lovingly welcomed him home and cared for him there. Although the injury devastated Enzo and his family, he never gave up and always kept his strong faith in God. Enzo was a fighter and he was so courageous during his entire illness. Although he was in constant pain, he always tried to make us laugh and continued to have an excellent sense of humor. Enzo passed away from complications related to his spinal cord injury, and was surrounded by his loving family.

Enzo's family would like to give a special thank you to the wonderful nurses and caregivers who helped care for Enzo at home. You are all so special and we are so thankful for the loving care you provided to him. Memorial donations may be made to: Spinal Cord Injury Ontario. <https://sciontario.org/> Or: ALS Malta - Donor <https://alsmalta.org/donate/>

Republic Day honours and awards The President of Malta



On Republic Day 13th December during the Investiture Ceremony at The Palace in Valletta, on behalf of the government and people of Malta, the President of the Republic

George Vella paid public tribute

to a number of Maltese citizens who distinguish themselves in different fields of endeavour. He honoured 27 individuals and a volunteer organisation.

Two of the honourees received the Midalja għall-Qlubija, 15 The National Order of Merit, or the Xirka Ġieħ ir-Repubblika, and 11 others, the Midalja għall-Qadi tar-Repubblika.

The honorees are:

NATIONAL ORDER OF MERIT

RENO CALLEJA who served for 20 years as a Labour MP. Renowned for his assiduous endeavour to promote Malta internationally, particularly with China. Profs. Sir Alfred Cuschieri, an academic and surgeon known for pioneering contribution to the development and clinical implementation of key-hole surgery.

PROFS. LUDVIC ZRINZO: A neuroradiologist and neurosurgeon who introduced neurosurgery to the Maltese Islands.

HONORARY MEMBER

DARRIN QUIROZ CAMILLERI born in the USA to a Maltese father. Became the first-ever Maltese American and youngest Latino to serve in the Michigan Legislature. Profs. Lino Bianco is an architect, an engineer, an academic and a diplomat. He is currently the Ambassador of Malta to Romania and the Republic of Moldova.

PROFS. JOSEPH CACCIOTTOLO Introduced and led for many years bronchoscopy within a specialist pulmonary medicine service.

FREDERICK FEARNE. He played an important role in the setting up of technical education in Malta. Norman Hamilton for 60 years a broadcaster in Radio & TV and served as Malta's High Commissioner to the UK.

DR. JONATHAN JOSLIN a Consultant Emergency Physician and Specialist. Dr Michael Spiteri has specialised in the field of Emergency Medicine.

FR. GWANN XERRI (Posthumous) since 1974, worked in a number of parishes in Brazil where he died from COVID-19. Profs. Edward Zammit has worked incessantly towards the democratisation of labour and industrial relations. St John Rescue Corps, a voluntary organisation a new branch of St John Malta.

PROFS. SANTE GUIDO, art historian and art conservator. George Procopiou is a most influential person in the maritime industry.

MIDALJA GĦALL-QLUBIJA

DR. RAYMOND GRIXTI distinguished himself for his rapid act of bravery. Sean Meli rescued a 14-year-old swept to sea at Qui-Si-Sana, Sliema.

MIDALJA GHALL-QADI TAR-REPUBBLIKA

CHARLES MUSCAT served for seven years as High Commissioner for Malta in Australia where he has lived since 1962.

NEIL AGIUS a long-distance swimmer.

Philip Chircop militating in the Health and Elderly sectors.

LINO FARRUGIA is a Producer/ Director, of radio/Tv programmes.

ANTON GRASSO author of several books.

LILIAN MAISTRE a broadcaster for 60 years. Jane Marshall for 50 years household name in theatre and television. Michael Pace known in the field of local Physical Education and Sport. Connie Vella who for 30 years helping patients receiving treatment in Britain.

DR. ETHEL VENTO ZAHRA is a dental surgeon.

DR. JOE ZAMMIT CIANTAR a teacher by profession and Senior Lecturer with the University of Malta Junior College



A word of thanks and gratitude to all Maltese Canadians for your many cards, messages, emails and calls wishing your warm Christmas wishes to us.

A heartfelt thanks from all of us.

We hope you all had a great day as we had.

Dr. Raymond Xerri

Consul General for the Republic of Malta in Canada

WE ARE PROUD OF OUR MALTESE ACHIEVERS

MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER

A weekly independent journal of and for the Maltese Living Abroad

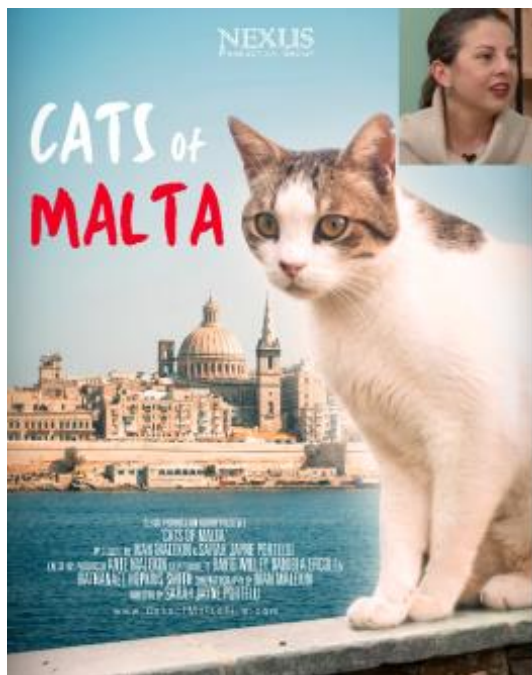
This newsletter reaches Maltese who live in Malta Gozo and those who live around the world.

Our sole aim to connect all Maltese and build bridges not walls and to promote the history, culture heritage and language of the Maltese Islands



Please read, share and support your journal

to strengthen the links between all Maltese
Your emails, suggestions and comments are greatly appreciated. Be a part of the big family



CATS OF MALTA IN AUSTRALIA

For those that celebrate Christmas, and even for those who don't, we wish you a restful and safe holiday period. No matter what your beliefs and traditions, we hope you have started to wind down for the year.

Finally, we have made it down to Melbourne, Australia to be with our family, who we have not seen in two years.

The year is almost over, but we are still working on finishing Cats of Malta for 2022 release. Tomorrow we will be in Eltham re-recording the narration for the opening of the film and also some narration heard throughout.

We will post pictures of our adventures in the sound studio as they happen on our social media accounts - Twitter, Instagram and Facebook. So check it out! Share to support if you like the pictures, it really helps us spread the word.

In 2022 we have a screening happening in Melbourne. Once

the deal is in place, an announcement will go out here, so stay tuned. Contracts are currently being signed, but we can tell you it's going to be a fun screening and it's great to be having a screening in our hometown after making the film in our second home, Malta.

If you need a break from all the eating and drinking on Christmas Day, why not throw on the TV and catch Sarah Jayne talking Cats of Malta with Nevis on Pink Panther - [ONE TV](#) 6pm Central European Time (CET). It's a mix of Maltese and English, but she tried! If you miss it on Christmas Day, you can also watch online [here](#). Until next year, have a wonderful end of the year, purrfect people and thanks for all the support you have shown Cats of Malta in 2021.

We have big plans for next year and can't wait to share Cats of Malta with you all!

Kind regards, **Sarah Jayne & Ivan Malekin**



INGREDIENTS

- 225g plain flour
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 2 tsp bi-carb soda
- 1 tsp ground ginger
- 1/2 tsp cinnamon
- 50g unsalted butter
- 100g soft brown sugar
- 100g golden syrup

HOW TO

STEP 1.

Preheat oven to 190 °C and line a baking tray with parchment.

STEP 2.

Sieve the flour, salt, bicarb, ginger and cinnamon into a large bowl. Heat the butter, sugar and syrup until dissolved. Leave the sugar mixture to cool slightly, then mix into the dry ingredients to form a dough.

STEP 3.

Chill the dough in the fridge for 30 mins.

STEP 4.

On a surface lightly dusted with flour, roll out the dough to a ¼-inch thickness. Stamp out the gingerbread shapes with a cutter, then re-roll any off-cuts and repeat. Place your gingerbread shapes on the lined trays, allowing space for them to spread.

STEP 5.

Cook for 10-15 mins, then remove from the oven and leave to cool.



2022 Calendar of extraordinary women' to raise funds for women and children in need – timesofmalta.com



The Women for Women Foundation has created a calendar of 12 “ordinary” women who do extraordinary things, with all funds going towards supporting women and children in need.

The calendar women, range in ages, ethnicity, and backgrounds and all have their own individual story.

They include Republic Day medal recipient and cancer advocate Ethel Vento Zahra, Caroline Galea, who was on site when migrant Lamin Jaiteh was dumped on the road in Mellieħa this year and Alessia Bonnici, a 16-year-old musician on the autism spectrum.

“It was actually the idea of one of the women we help regularly through the foundation – a mother of four children,” Francesca Fenech Conti, who represents the foundation told *Times of Malta*.

The 12 women who feature in the 2022 Extraordinary women calendar Photo: Women for Women Foundation

Fenech Conti said many women who seek support from the foundation come up with different ways to help and give something back in return. “Some

come to help us and volunteer with cleaning, others help us with searching for items we need for other users. It is one big family.”

She said that deciding who should feature on the calendar was a difficult process.

“We wanted to really highlight the efforts of selfless women who really forget about themselves and are always ready to help, support and inspire others.”

She said the women featured in the calendar inspired the foundation, and all show a sense of resilience, determination, and positive attitude towards life.

“Women for Women Foundation felt that these women from different backgrounds, with various strengths and abilities, really personified what the foundation is all about.”

“They promote a sense of empowerment and inspiration, we consider them to all be real women for women and their attitude towards helping others makes Malta a better place.”

The 2022 calendar is the first edition of what the foundation hopes will become a yearly fundraising event.

“We already have many extraordinary women who we would like to feature next year!”

Fenech Conti said all the funds raised from sales will go towards the Women for Women Foundation which provides financial support, education tools and equipment for women and children and works hand in hand with social workers.



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





Although, due to Covid , we are unable to visit our homeland we are determined that when this virus is defeated we will resume our regular visits to Maltese Islands and connect again with our relatives and friends and enjoy the beauty of MALTA

Kav Joe M Attard qed jippreżenta serata tal-Milied bis-sehem tal-orkestra u solisti taħt id-direzzjoni ta' Mro Antoine Mercieca fil-Knisja tal-patrijiet ta' Giezu fl-Imġarr Ghajnsielem nhar il-Ħamsis 23 ta' Diċembru fil-ġhaxija li matulha l-pubbliku li attenda seta' jisma għadd sabiħ ta' għanjiet tal-Milied bħal Adeste Fidelis, O little Town of Bethlehem, Joy to the World, Christmas Lullaby, Sinfonia Pastorale, Holy Night u oħrajn li lkoll nafuhom. Jiena ngħatajt iċ-ċans ukoll li naqra k-poeżija tiegħi li ktibt għal dal-Milied li ġie f'ċirkustanzi xejn sbieħ u li fil-fatt semmejtha Milied Speċjali.



Embassy of Malta
to China



Ambaxxata ta' Malta
għac-Ċina

L-Ambaxxatur John Aquilina, martu Ann, DHOM Jean Paul Gatt u l-Istaff fl-Ambaxxata ta' Malta għac-Ċina jawgurawlikom l-Isbah Xewqat għal Sena Ġdida 2022 Mimlija Sahħa u Hena.

Ambassador John Aquilina, his wife Ann, DHOM Jean Paul Gatt and the Staff at the Embassy of Malta to China extend to you Season's Greetings and our Best Wishes for a Happy and Healthy 2022.

卓嘉鹰大使携夫人卓慧佳、副馆长高吉恩及马耳他驻华大使馆所有工作人员向您致以节日的问候。并祝愿您2022年快乐健康。

Preseppi

Għaqda Hbieb
tal-Presepu
Għawdex



Jikteb il-Kav. Joe M Attard minn Għawdex

Tajjeb tkun taf li l-ewwel Għaqda Hbieb tal-Presepu twaqqfet f'Għawdex fl-1985 fir-raħal ta' San Lawrenz u l-Fundaturi kienu Gorg Borġ, Joe Galea u l-Kappillan tar-raħal l-Kan Dun Mikiel Borg. Għadha wieqfa sallum u sena wara twaqqfet oħra f'Malta. L-Għaqda t'Għawdex tirrappreżenta lill-gżejjer Maltin fil-laqqhat li jsiru minn żmien għal żmien barra minn xtutna. L-Għaqda mondjali tal-Presepu tiġbor fiha madwar 21 pajjiż mid-dinja kollha u l-president Joe Galea jattendi regolarment għal dawn il-laqqhat. Ta' min jgħid li waħda mill-membri tal-Għaqda f'Għawdex, is-sinjura Carmen Camilleri dan l-aħħar giet magħżula bħala s-Segretarja Generali tal-Għaqda Mondjali tal-Presepu.

Ta' kull sena l-Għaqda f'Għawdex tagħmel Wirja ta' grotti u Preseppi u dis-sena flok wirja waħda qed tagħmel tnejn; waħda fil-kuritur tal-Kunvent ta' Sant Wistin Victoria u oħra fis-Sala ewlenija tal-Ministeru għal Għawdex fi Pjazza San Franġisk Victoria. Għadd sabiħ ta' grotti u preseppi xogħol it-tfal tal-iskejjel tal-Gvern u tal-privat qed jiehdu sehem kif ukoll numru sabiħ ta' Preseppi u Diorami maħduma minn artisti Maltin U Għawdxin.



CHURCH OFFERS SUPPORT FOR STRANDED MIGRANTS

The Church in Malta through the Migrants Commission, Justice and Peace Commission and JRS, strongly urge the national authorities to take immediate action and ensure that the asylum seekers currently stranded at sea are rescued and disembarked at a safe port. Over 220 children, women and men rescued by the Sea Eye a week ago in Malta's search and rescue area are still stranded at sea, in worsening weather conditions, after Malta refused to provide them with a port of safety. Alarm Phone yesterday reported that a further 70 people are reportedly in distress and requesting rescue in Malta's search and rescue area.

The Church in Malta strongly believes that leaving people stranded at sea is inhumane and unlawful, and experience shows us that this strategy does not serve as a deterrent to forced migration but imperils life unnecessarily. As it has been doing over the past years, the Church in Malta is willing to offer its support and services, and to accommodate a number of asylum seekers in its properties, in which it currently hosts around 250 persons. Thus, a wholehearted appeal is being made to the Maltese Government and to the responsible authorities not to put people's lives at risk by leaving them out at sea.

At the same time, the EU Commission is urged to step up its solidarity efforts amongst member states, to save lives and alleviate pressure from border countries.



McSims Maltese Pastizzeria Opens Second Branch In Cardiff City Centre

By [Sasha Vella](#)

Wales' own Mc Sims Maltese Pastizzeria has just launched its second branch, this time in the City Centre on Queen's Street in

Cardiff. The eatery was named as "one of the hidden gems in Cardiff's hospitality scene" by the [Wales Online](#) media company.

"McSims Pastizzeria is a Maltese bakery that has been wowing those lucky enough to have discovered it since opening on Senghenydd Road back in January," it wrote. McSims has continued to wow its customers with the traditional Maltese variety of pastries, and the response was so good that it actually led to the opening of the second branch. **"With the new shop in Queen Street, it feels like now we have come to life," the owners of the chain told Wales Online.**

"There are 35 seats, it's all gorgeously decorated and when the weather is nicer, we'll have the opportunity for people to sit outside too."

Next time you're in Wales, head over to McSims on Queen Street if you're feeling like a taste of Malta.



The President and Committee of La Valette Social Centre Blacktown NSW wish all their members and their families and friends a Joyous and Blessed Christmas.
Godfrey Sultana

**WE WOULD LIKE TO
THANK THE MANY
FRIENDS, READERS,
CLUBS, ASSOCIATIONS,
COMMUNITY AND
RELIGIOUS LEADERS,
PARLIAMENTARIANS,
BUSINESSES AND OTHER
PROFESSIONALS
WHO SENT US
"Best Wishes"
FOR THIS SEASON**

Covid puts a damper on Christmas' and New Year's activities around the world

Associated Press



From Bethlehem and Frankfurt to London and Boston, the surging coronavirus put a damper on Christmas Eve for a second year, forcing churches to cancel or scale back services and disrupting travel plans and family gatherings. Drummers and bagpipers marched through Bethlehem to smaller than usual crowds after new Israeli travel restrictions meant to slow the highly contagious omicron variant kept international tourists away from the town where

Jesus is said to have been born.

In Germany, a line wound halfway around Cologne's massive cathedral, not for midnight Mass but for vaccinations. The offer of shots was an expression of "care for one's neighbor" that was consistent with the message of Christmas, cathedral provost Guido Assmann told the DPA news agency.

Around the world, people weary from nearly two years of lockdowns and other restrictions searched for ways to safely enjoy holiday rituals.

"We can't let the virus take our lives from us when we're healthy," said Rosalia Lopes, a retired Portuguese government worker who was doing some last-minute shopping in the coastal town of Cascais.

She said she and her family were exhausted by the pandemic and determined to go ahead with their celebrations with the help of vaccines and booster shots, rapid home tests and mask-wearing in public. She planned a traditional Portuguese Christmas Eve dinner of baked cod.

In New York City, where omicron has spread widely, people waited in long lines to get tested, many doing so as a precaution before traveling to reunite with family.

Brianna Sultan and her daughter Ava, 8, spent Friday in one of those long lines waiting for a test after they got word of another infection at school.

"It's a terrible way to be spending Christmas Eve," Sultan said after more than two hours in line and as the chill deepened into the evening in New York City's Harlem neighborhood. "It's terrible that we can't see our families because this COVID strain is coming back up again."

[Holiday travel was dealt a blow when major airlines cancelled hundreds of flights amid staffing shortages largely tied to omicron.](#)

Sadia Reins arrived in New York City from Alexandria, Virginia, on Friday to be with with her 75-year-old mother. Reins said the two haven't spent Christmas together in two years, and despite the risks in traveling during the outbreak, she couldn't bear to be apart from her mother again this year.

"We're going to cry," she said, adding: "We talk on the phone all the time, but it's not the same as looking at someone."

In Britain, where the coronavirus variant is ripping through the population, some houses of worship hoped to press on.

At St. Paul's Old Ford, an Anglican church in East London, priests planned to hold services on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. But to protect parishioners, the church called off its Nativity play.

"You might have to cancel the service, but you can't cancel Christmas," said the Rev. April Keech, an associate priest. "You can't stop love. Love still stands."

Numerous churches in the U.S. canceled in-person services, including Washington National Cathedral in the nation's capital and historic Old South Church in Boston. Others planned outdoor celebrations or a mix of online and in-person worship.

In Rome, a maskless Pope Francis celebrated Christmas Eve Mass before an estimated 2,000 people in St. Peter's Basilica, where admission was limited and worshippers had to wear masks. While the number of faithful was far more than the 200 allowed in last year, it was a fraction of the 20,000 the basilica can seat. Before the pandemic, St. Peter's was routinely packed for midnight Mass.

In Germany, churchgoers faced a thicket of health restrictions and limits on attendance. Some had to show proof of vaccination or testing.

Frankfurt's cathedral, which can hold 1,200 people, offered only 137 socially distanced spaces, all of which were booked days in advance. Singing was allowed only through masks.

People in the Netherlands tried to make the best of the holiday, despite living under one of the strictest lockdowns in Europe. All nonessential shops were closed, including bars and restaurants, and home visits were limited to two people per day, four on Christmas.

"We are just meeting with some small groups of family for the next few days," Marloes Jansen, who was waiting in line to buy the traditional Dutch kerststol, a Christmas bread with fruits and nuts.

In France, some visited loved ones in the hospital. In the Mediterranean city of Marseille, the intensive care unit at La Timone Hospital has been taking in more and more COVID-19 patients in recent days.

Amelie Khayat has been paying daily visits to her husband, Ludo, 41, who is recovering from spending 24 days in a coma and on a breathing machine.

They touched their heads together as she sat on his bed, and now that he is strong enough to stand, he got up to give her a farewell hug, as a medical worker put final decorations on the ICU Christmas tree.

Parisians lined up at chocolate shops, farmers' markets and testing centers. France has posted record numbers of daily COVID-19 infections, and hospitalizations have been rising, but the government has held off on imposing curfews or closings during the holidays.

"It does affect our enthusiasm to celebrate Christmas. It does makes us a bit sad. But at least we are sure not to contaminate or get contaminated. We will all do the test in our family," said Fabienne Maksimovic, 55, as she waited in line at a pharmacy in Paris to get tested. In Antwerp, Belgium, Christmas trees hung upside down from windows in a protest against the closing of cultural venues. In Bethlehem, the scene was much more festive than it was a year ago, when musicians marched through empty streets. This year, hundreds of people gathered in Manger Square as bagpipe-and-drum units streamed through.

Before the pandemic, Bethlehem would host thousands of Christian pilgrims from around the world. The lack of visitors has hit the city's hotels, restaurants and gift shops especially hard.



End-of-year concert at Aurora

The Aurora Theatre will host an end-of-year symphonic concert. Photo: Charles Spiteri

The Aurora opera theatre will present the first end-of-year gala evening in collaboration with the Malta Philharmonic Orchestra (MPO) and Gozo Ministry. The MPO will execute a symphonic concert featuring an eclectic mix of Maltese and continental music. It will be directed by Colin Attard.

The end-of-year concert will be followed by an eight-course fine-dine dinner prepared by chef Paul Bugeja, well known for his services and expertise at the Michelin-rated Northcote Obsession eatery in Lancashire, UK.

Egypt, Greece and Malta – Unusual Historical Connections



Ask anyone in Malta to direct you to the Mosta Dome and you'll get immediate directions. Not all churches on the island are as well-known as this one is. Not many people are aware of the connections between this church and Ancient Egypt.

The church as it is now is not as old as you may think. It was finished in the 1860s based on a design by Maltese architect Giorgio Grognet de Vassé. Grognet had studied in Italy to become a priest before joining French revolutionary forces in Egypt. He was sure Malta was the lost city of Atlantis. A colourful character, in other words. This starts to explain why the local bishop opposed his proposal to rebuild the old church in a neo-classical design.

The parish church at the time was on the same site. It was almost 200 years old. Population growth meant that the town needed a larger place of worship. Grognet's idea for a neo-classical design was to mimic the Pantheon in Rome. Neo-classicism was still in its infancy at the time. The conservative bishop can therefore be forgiven his opposition to this design.

There was one other neo-classical building in Malta at the time which had also been recently built – **Capua Palace, so named because the Prince of Capua** lived in exile here.

Yet, one of his main arguments was that a Roman Catholic church should not use the Pantheon – a Roman pagan temple, to boot – as a model¹. I can understand this point of view, even if it was a little narrow-minded.

The main facade of the new church has six Ionic columns and a portico. The Parthenon has eight Corinthian columns and a portico.



Grognet used his inspiration wisely, it seems. This links the Mosta Dome to Rome, but what about the connection to Egypt?

The Pantheon as we know it is not the first temple on that site. Like the Mosta Dome, it was built on the site of a previous temple. The Corinthian columns were mined from Mons Claudianus, the Roman quarry in Egypt, near Luxor. They were cut on site – 11.9 metres tall and 1.5 metres in diameter. The Romans floated the 60 ton behemoths up the Nile, across the Mediterranean and then up the Tiber river. The original plans called for columns 14 metres high. The facade of the structure had to be redone to cater for this³. The Romans could not have cut taller columns since they could not transport anything larger. In other words, the Pantheon's height was restricted by technological limitations. This was because the quarry was Egyptian (i.e., so far away).

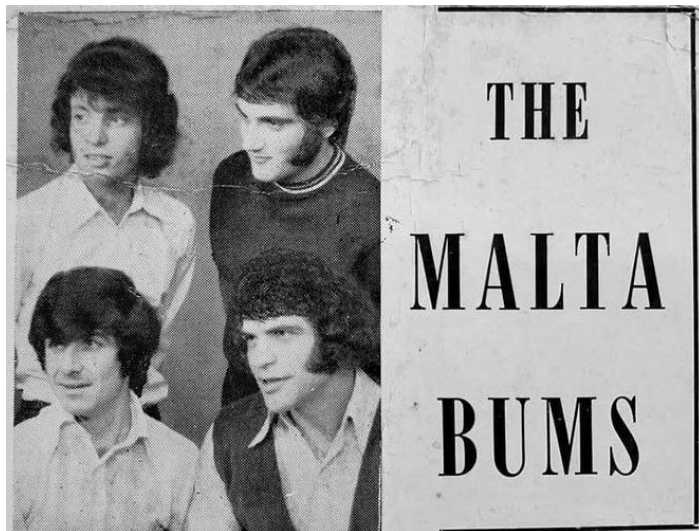
Technological restrictions in the Egyptian quarry influenced the Pantheon's design, which in turn was the inspiration for the Mosta Dome. *Have you heard of any unusual connections between countries?*

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The historical guide to the island of Malta and its dependencies; Giuseppe Periccioli Borzesi;

Louis Parnis, the President of the George Cross Falcons Community Centre of Cringila, NSW and the committee and members sent the best wishes to the editor, staff and readers of the Maltese Journal. "Thanks for supporting our club throughout the year"



The Malta Bums

Profile:

It was nearly 1963 that the younger Freddie Portelli try to formed a band the members where Mario Perrone, Paul Perrone two brothers and Tony Camilleri well known as Bayzo all which today passed away. But Mario was emigrated to Australia and was replaced by Tony Muscat then known as il-Maduwi who started playing Rhythm guitar and at times even lead guitar, Paul Perrone could not continue and was replaced by Tony Bartolo Il-Gegu who was suggested to Freddie by his father to play drums and that was the final set of the originally known Malta Bums,

and from there began the adventure of this famous Maltese Band new line up Freddie Portelli (19), Tony Muscat (18), Tony Bartolo (17) and Tony Camilleri (Bayzo) (16). It was interesting the fact about the name of the this band, because in the early sixties the band had no name. As they all had no job they jokingly named the band THE BUMS but when they went on tour in Germany the their Manager Herr Otto Alf named the band MALTA BUMS which in Germany was taken as Malta's Explosion. They started in West Germany, in Essen West, Dusseldorf, Duisbergwen to Koln where they gave TV live shows on radio and Television.

The band got a great opportunity to tour aboard, when during the rehearsals in a Garage in St Paul's Bay a German couple used to come hearing them rehearsing and before they left to Germany, they offered to take them to Germany for the first aboard experience.

Herr Otto Alf payed everything for them, and they were contracted for 20 days but it was already six months when Freddie urged Herr Otto Alf to let them go for a rest which he reluctantly accepted on condition that the band will return to Germany, but when they came back to Malta they were stormed with gigs and concerts {A TV crew from KOLN TV came to Malta and produced a documentary called 'Malta of the Malta Bums' where they were filmed playing live, but Herr Otto Alf came to take them back to Germany but then, they had two offers from USA and from Tokyo and they chose USA so before Herr Otto Alf could get them back to Germany, they left for America where they toured California, New york, Detroit, San Francisco and strait to Canada.

The Malta Bums had a particular sound, beside their good musical backing they were specialized in harmonies as all the four members were vocalists with a sharp ear for music. Freddie wrote VIVA MALTA due to a unique offer, they had to appear in Germany's top rated TV show which accepted only international hit makers in fact the guests before them were Sonny and Cher at their peak, this offer came after Koln's TV producer heard them singing live on Radio Koln where he was impressed and made it a point to come to one of their gigs where he noticed their talent and potential and with their style when he made them this offer on condition that the band will sing in their own language that is in Maltese. That's why and when Freddie wrote and composed VIVA MALTA When Viva Malta was aired it was a sudden explosion in Germany and that's when The Malta Bums became so popular there.

In Germany and England they had various opportunities and were highly looked at. When Apple, The Beatles record company wanted to release a song they recorded at their studios Trident, the song which Freddie wrote and composed was titled OLD OLIVE TREE and they recorded it using the very amps and drums of the Beatles, but on concluding the deal, Mr. Russ Conway a very popular pianist who had hits all over the world and probably one of the first English artist who obtained gold records wanted 50% from profits of copyright because some time before Freddie signed a two year contract and no agreement was reached.

The Malta Bums got released four vinyl singles 45rpm, one of them was with three songs Dinja Din on A-side and B-side there was Yvette and Il-Football, there was Ġej il-Milied, Do this, That's all I know, Viva

Malta was released on (Portelli Productions), there was even Nerga Insir Ferhan. Apart from this their was (Old Olive Tree) the song which was to be released in UK but never came to materialize due to disagreements between Russ Conway wanting 50% profits from Freddie's Copyright and Apple The Adventure of Freddie Portelli and The Malta Bums came to an end in 1972 when Freddie got a lot of commitments, and he could not cope with playing every night, play waterpool, work as a draughtsman and so he left The Malta Bums, but formed another band named The Black Train to play only in weekends.

Life goes on, and The Malta Bums continued with their own commitments, instead of Freddie Portelli came in a guitarist Alfred Scicluna a very dear friend of Freddie, an expert on Computers and he is the one who still guides Freddie himself on programming. Bayzo now was the main lead singer and in 1973 they make a big hit when they issued the great song by Alfred C. Sant lyrics and music by Ray Agius L-Ewwel Tfalja li Habbajt (First loving Girl) they get this success merited due to their professionalism gained, due to the great experience they got during the beginning Tours, all over the world. But, about two years from this great success The Malta Bums, started fading away from the music scene, because then, it was The Black Train Malta's main attraction and that's when The Malta Bums was split up, Bayzo went as a solo artist and later formed Bayzo u Klikka.



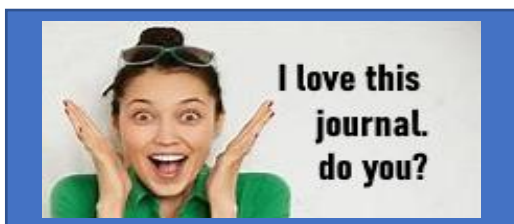
MARIA and MARIA in MOSTA

"Since my legs are starting to fail me I need to take care of them. So whenever I can I try to avoid coming up and down the stairs. Maria is my neighbour and friend. She is going shopping and stopped by to check whether I needed anything.

Here we think of our neighbours and look out for each other, even though things have changed and there are a large number of new people whom I barely know. We are two Marias, that's how we are called." - Maria and Maria



The St Sebastian Seniors Association Victoria would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Stay safe and enjoy this festive season with your loved ones. May 2022 be filled with joy and laughter, and may we be able to go ahead with a year full of exciting events



THE PEOPLE OF MALTA

Till a few years ago this was my father Edward Seychell's workshop. He used to make leather costumes and after he passed away, around three years ago, I decided it to renovate it and turn it into a workman's coffeeshop. I serve coffee and tea from an old boiler, pastizzi (cheesecakes), pizza and hobz biz-zejt (traditional Maltese bread with oil and tuna) and wraps. I wanted to create the village concept into Valletta - that of opening at dawn for a cup of warm tea or coffee.



Most of the coffee places in Valletta are aimed at tourists and businesspeople but I wanted a place where the average working person can find things with a reasonable price. The city of Valletta is becoming a rich person's place. In this part of Valletta a number of residents look for this place. The Maltese are learning to eat well. But everyone sometimes needs that pastizz or quick fast food. Especially workers, who stop to eat and continue working.

From this place I have learnt of the many problems that are present in homes. People who are unable to cook. I never believed that such huge problems existed. God always provides. You need to keep your feet firmly on the ground. People come here for me. I socialize with them, listen to them and serve them. I meet a lot of different characters. That is the beauty of this kind of work. A lot of lovely and less lovely people. I serve everyone and thank them." - Kurt Seychell

Knights Era Reservoir Discovered Beneath Parking Area In Valletta Ditch



for unveiling this hidden.

St Andrew's Ditch Parking area. Two dangerous openings with a depth of 7.5m were flagged and immediately cordoned off by the Police and swift workers from Clean Malta - Cleansing and Maintenance Division on a Sunday morning. A knights reservoir was discovered and surveyed, with a possibility of a dangerous collapse due to recent surface water erosion. Broken slabs and missing arches have rendered the whole site unsafe & unstable. Gratitude to all those involved especially the page Il-Gibjun

We are still growing and going strong
If you like to receive this journal regularly
Send an email to Frank: maltesejournal@gmail.com



Christian Doctrine Society (tal-Muzew) Sunday afternoon walk?



When 70-year-old Fred Bickley of Peterborough was stationed at Hal Far Airfield between 1955 and 1959 he took this photo of Maltese children in the area. Mr Bickley, who was holidaying in Malta recently, said he must have taken the photograph on a Sunday as the children were wearing their Sunday best. The children, Mr Bickley said, must now be in their 60s at least and he felt the publication of the picture may enable them to enjoy memories of the past.

We invite you to send us any rare photos of yourself, your relatives and friends especially those which remind us of the days when migrants left Malta and Gozo and travelled by ship or plane to far away countries like Australia, New Zealand, United States, Canada, United Kingdom or any other country



Family who hosted refugee for a year happy to do so again

John Paul Cordina NEWSBOOK.COM.MT

- Migrant Offshore Aid Station (MOAS) A Maltese family who welcomed a young South Sudanese asylum seeker into their home for a year found perhaps one drawback: parting at the end of it was bittersweet.



perhaps one drawback: parting at the end of it was bittersweet.

21-year-old Samuel Maker lived with Joanna Delia, her partner Henry Petersen and their two children as an au pair as part of a pilot project organised by the Migrant Offshore Aid Station (MOAS) with the aim of helping refugees and asylum seekers find accommodation and to integrate.

Maker now hopes to continue studying: he dreams to become a doctor. His former hosts, meanwhile, would be happy to host someone else through the MOAS project, and encourage others to open their own home.

A long journey to safety

Maker was just 12 when he left his

hometown, as his country, which had only gained independence in 2011 after two lengthy and bloody conflicts, was wracked by a violent civil war which has killed over 380,000 people – including his father – and displaced millions.

After leaving his country, crossing the Sahara, hitchhiking through Libya and reaching Tripoli, where he was detained, stripped of his passport and effectively enslaved before fleeing, Maker eventually reached Malta at the age of 18.

He spoke of his experiences – and of his wish to become a doctor and help others – in an interview he gave to the **Times of Malta**, which came to the attention of both MOAS and the Delia-Petersen family.

The family already hosted au pairs, who typically hailed from northern Europe and North America and stayed for a year. But as another yearly stay neared its end,

they wondered whether asylum seekers in Malta would benefit from such an arrangement.

After Delia spoke to MOAS co-founder and personal friend Regina Catrambone, MOAS' pilot Family Hosting Project was born.

The family met Maker a few times so that they could get to know one another, and to their delight, the young man was happy to join their household for a year. The arrangement was supported by MOAS, who provided Maker with equipment such as a tablet computer and an internet connection as well as with mentoring and access to a social worker.

"Sam is a young man with big dreams, and a lot of exposure to unfair forces in this world," Delia said in an interview with MOAS. "He was a great big brother to our children, Leila and Peppi, playing football for hours a day, learning Maltese together with them."

"To live with a person that has gone through so much... and learn of the extraordinary overwhelming intensity of his journey to Malta. A person who has had to flee his home, live in a camp for internally displaced people, and to have made that journey, lasting one year and seven months, as a teenager all to look for a safe place to study, is eye opening, humbling, and exposes our privilege and how desensitized we have become as a society," she continued.

Delia observed that the experience also helped the family become more aware of how hospitable their neighbours, friends and family truly were, and that despite the "empty vessel hatred" directed through social media towards people who, like Maker, innocently seek a better life, most people were ultimately kind and warm hearted. 'We all need to work together'

Maker also formed a strong bond with the two children, who "hugged him regularly and miss him already.' And in the end, Delia conceded, "It hurt to see him go."



"When Sam decided to move on, it was bittersweet. He left a void in our home. We asked the children if they wanted another au pair and they said they did at least for another year, so we will certainly consider hosting someone else from the project," she said.

The experience taught Delia that the Maltese community needed to understand and admit that we all need to work together, and that communication and compassion were key to a healthy society. "Seeing how comments on social media used to hurt Sam was painful. I wish we could do more to curb hate speech as individuals," she added.

Delia also emphasised that the authorities should ensure that asylum applications are processed within the stipulated time frames, noting that this was a constant source of anxiety for the asylum seekers left in limbo.

Maltese Folklore

If you're the type of holiday maker who likes to immerse yourself in the culture and history of your chosen destination then Malta is the perfect destination for you. Whenever there is reference in contemporary culture to any ancient, religious organisations; legend, myth and reality merge to obfuscate fact from fiction. A very recent and popular example of this has been "The Da Vinci Code" by the fiction author Dan Brown who intersperses historical reference with supposition and fables. And it seems that we can't get enough of these stories.

However, when examining The Knights of Malta military order of the Catholic Church, fact is so much more interesting than fiction. Dating back to the time of the Crusades, the order is one of the few created in the Middle Ages that is still active.



Maltese folklore Our favourite stories of the unexplained, mythical and legendary tales of Malta from thousands of years ago are:

Il-Maqluba, Qrendi There is a trend of sudden sinkholes appearing across our countryside, resulting from the high rainfall and expansion of our towns; with a 15ft hole forming on the M2 in February this year and 17 homes were evacuated in Hemel Hempstead as a 35ft sinkhole appeared. But sinkholes are not a new phenomenon with the Il-Maqluba being present in Malta since 1343, its formation becoming a classic story. Whilst now we know that sinkholes occur when water is absorbed through layers of rock causing the ground to give way, in medieval times the creation of the hole was seen as a warning

from God.

It was believed that there was a small village that lived in the area that is now sunk, they were not good people though and God sent a good woman from nearby to warn them to change their ways. As they continued to live in sin and ignore the warning God allowed the land to swallow their residences, allowing only the good woman to escape. The angels then took the ruins of the village to sea to form the island of Filfa just off the coast of Malta.



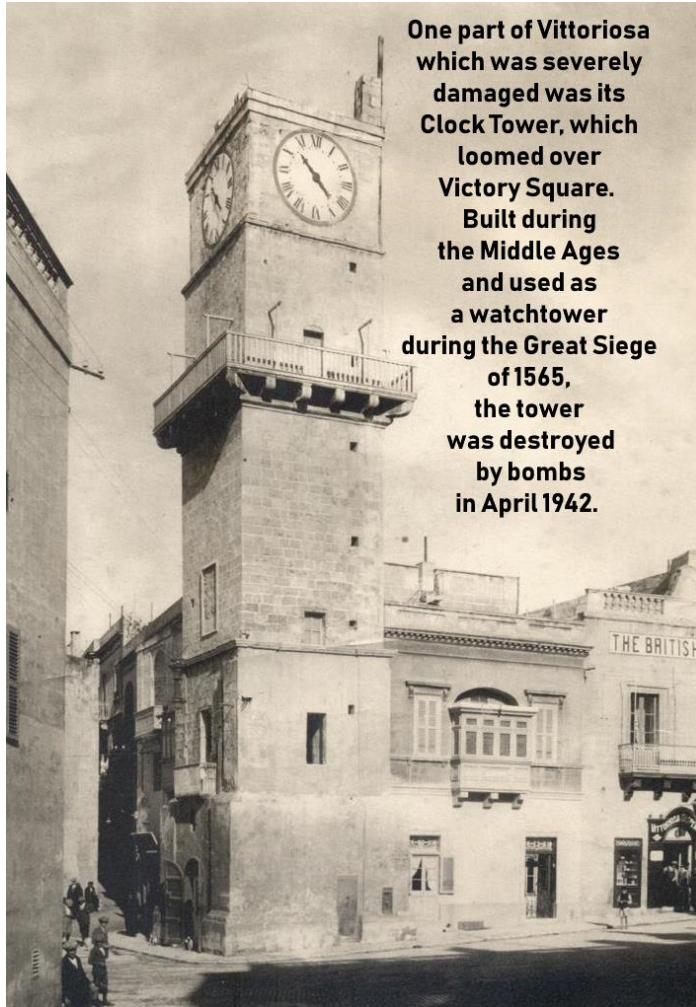
The tale of the Fisherman's son Much of Malta's folk tales involve the tradition of poor fishermen and their families, the renowned story of the Fisherman's Son is told as a lesson to young people in Malta to teach them about the importance of respect for their loved ones. In this story a poor fisherman's son leaves school to take up the family career, he presents his largest fish to the King and is paid as a reward. However the young princess insists that the boy uses the money to return to school and study hard, when he becomes intelligent and well-read she persuades the King to allow her to marry him. Their marriage is not happy though, as they fight and she calls him a poor fisherman so he leaves for another island, where he is so sad he refuses to speak. When the

princess hears of his new life she travels to try and make him speak again, where he speaks only to wish her dead. But he is cured of his silence and soon the couple is reunited to become a happy couple once again.



The wailing women Maltese tradition uses similar beliefs to those of the Kol of India, where it is believed that evil spirits may hinder the dead's soul from beginning its journey through the afterlife, and hence there must be loud mourning at funerals to scare the spirits away. This meant that the bekkajja (wailing women) were hired to attend every funeral to cry, sing and break vases to express their grief; they would also cut their hair and bury it with the dead to demonstrate a binding to the sacred world. It was only 80 years ago that this tradition of the bekkajja at funerals was ended, and professional mourners were no longer a feature at every Maltese funeral. If you want to learn more about Maltese folklore, and explore the

traditions of Maltese villages whilst you're away then make sure you pay a visit to the Gharb Folklore Museum, it's situated in the main square of the town in Gozo and exhibits artefacts and items from the history of Malta.



One part of Vittoriosa which was severely damaged was its Clock Tower, which loomed over Victory Square. Built during the Middle Ages and used as a watchtower during the Great Siege of 1565, the tower was destroyed by bombs in April 1942.

VITTORIOSA, COSPICUA AND SENGLEA THE THREE CITIES

Having been in existence long before Valletta, the Three Cities were for a long time the most significant hives of activity in the country. Vittoriosa was for a period Malta's capital when the Order of St. John moved into Malta, while Cospicua was a centre for industry during the British period through the dockyards which, at their height, employed some 14,000 people – 20% of the Maltese working population.

Today things have, however changed. Malta's capital became Valletta soon after the Great Siege of 1565 while the dockyards are far from the industrial centres that they were in the twentieth century, having been privatised in 2010. The vista from across the water looking over where one of the main areas of the dockyards once has long changed, as has the vista looking towards Vittoriosa's seafront, with yachts now dominating the marina.

The effect that the Second World War had on the area is also somewhat present – the area was hit hard during the blitz due to its

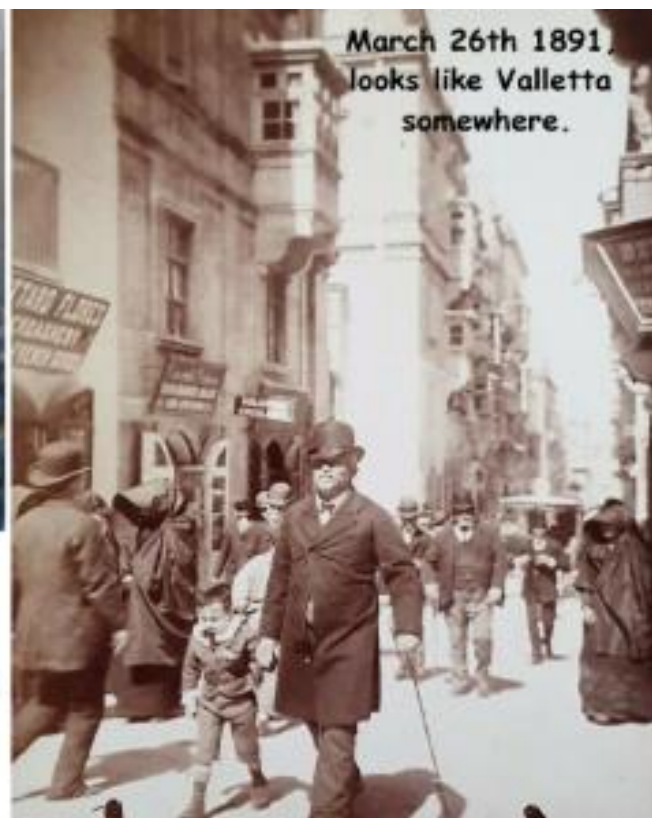
proximity to Malta's key naval facilities, leading to widespread damage. One part of Vittoriosa which was severely damaged was its Clock Tower, which loomed over Victory Square. Built during the Middle Ages and used as a watchtower during the Great Siege of 1565, the tower was destroyed by bombs in April 1942. Despite much debate as to whether it should be rebuilt or not, nothing has materialised thus far, and Vittoriosa's square thus remains tower-less.

If you would like to send a small donation towards the publication of this newsletter, write to me on maltesejournal@gmail.com and I will send you the details - Frank



Rita G Grima -This was a passport photo, I'm the baby, in 1964 when my parents emigrated to the UK.....(dad went beforehand)

FACEBOOK : NOSTALGIA MALTA



March 26th 1891,
looks like Valletta
somewhere.



The first Big Bell of Birkirkara 1942