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Ir-Ritorn ta' Wenzu u Rozi



**CRHISTABELLE FROM MALTA
TO WENTY'S LEAGUES CLUB
AND CRINGILA - NSW**



**THIS JOURNAL IS THE VOICE OF THE
MALTESE LIVING ABROAD**



REMEMBERING THE MASS MALTESE MIGRATION



It is said that more people of Maltese descent live away from our shores than live here natively, with the largest communities of Maltese emigrants in existence living in Canada, the UK and Australia. Take this historical journey through the mass Maltese migration with us.

THE BEGINNING

The Maltese started to emigrate during the 19th Century. The first place they settled was the North African coast, particularly in Tunisia, Algeria and Egypt. Most of these communities have since been displaced following the rise of independence movements in those countries as their peoples wished to secede from their colonial masters.

20TH CENTURY

At the turn of the 20th Century, Maltese people began to trickle into Canada, Australia and the UK. The inter-war years saw some 15,000 Maltese leave their homeland for the big industrial cities of the US, primarily Detroit. However, the mass emigration that's clearly entrenched in our country's collective memory began to take place post-World War II.

AUSTRALIA

Australia was the primary recipient of Maltese immigrants in the post-war years, with over 66,000 leaving our shores between 1946 and 1970. In fact, some 57.6% of all people to emigrated from Malta during those years headed for Australia. Over 140,000 people emigrated during those years in total – a staggering 30% of the entire population.

It was the Maltese government itself that catalysed the mass exodus through its Emigration Department. It paid for emigrants' passage to their adoptive countries, which was undoubtedly a great incentive for leaving Malta.

ECONOMIC CONSIDERATIONS

The advent of oil-fired shipping during the 1940s meant that ships no longer had to stop for refuelling at Grand Harbour, Malta's economic hub at the time, seriously impacting the island's economy. In addition, a decline in the island's strategic importance following the end of World War II meant that work was increasingly hard to come by.

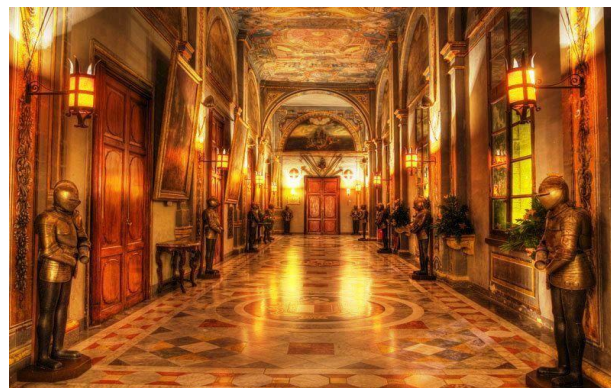
In this context, we can appreciate just how appealing boarding a ship taking you halfway around the world, possibly never to return home, would have been.

Although Malta is actually more populated nowadays than it ever was, there was a perception that the island was heavily overpopulated in the post-World War II era which, in combination with the state of the economy, also made leaving Malta the best prospect available for many people.

A PHENOMENON COMES TO AN END

The mid-1970s saw the decline of mass emigration from Malta, although people still leave our shores for new opportunities to this very day. In the 21st Century, probably the most significant emigration of Malta people has occurred in Belgium and Luxembourg as they took up employment at EU institutions. We are unlikely to ever see another mass Maltese migration phenomenon in our history, but nevertheless, here's to all who took the plunge into the unknown, succeeded and proudly flew our flag in far-flung destinations today!

WE, MALTESE LIVING ABROAD, ARE RESILIENT



Exploring Grand Master's Palace subterranean chambers

A great number of important events in Malta's history occurred in the Grand Master's Palace in Valletta which for many years served as a centre for the country's administration. Today, it is the official palace of Malta's President.

Under the palace, there is a subterranean in which documentation of its use is still being collected and studied.

The Grand Master's Palace was built over 450 years ago and was among the first buildings in Valletta city. A TVM crew visited the subterranean which extends along St George's Square and Archbishop Street.

Originally, the palace was composed of different buildings which were eventually connected to form today's palace. One of these was the house of Eustachio del Monte in St George's Square corner with Old Theatre Street. A discovery was made under this part of the palace, most likely the oldest cellar in the city. Architect David Zahra remarked that a staircase was found during restoration works at the Grand Master's Palace at an area which today houses the visitors' centre. Documentation on the use of the subterranean throughout the years is still being collected. However, Emmanuel Magro Conti, senior curator at Heritage Malta, observes that various modifications were carried out. "On this right side, we also observe an extension and material of the last world war".

Architect David Zahra pointed to a winding staircase which wasn't built as planned because, he said, that pencil marks can be seen on the wall where the staircase was planned and a different one was built.

This is a typical Maltese stone winding staircase...it is interesting that it was built after rocks were excavated, that is under the shaft and the staircase was built to connect the cellar and shelters that were used during the second world war.

Architect David Zahra

There are also a number of rooms which originally stored wines and food products in the cellar of Eustachio del Monte house. Mr Magro Conti said that "the environment was good to store salami, cheese and many other products, such as wines...here we have the original shelves".

During the British era these rooms were also used to store drain pipes, tiles and marbles some of which, Mr Magro Conti added, were used during restoration works at the Palace.



Experience The Magic 'Opera In The Capital' Returns This August

By [Mariam Grima](#)

The popular concert "Opera in the Capital" returns to St. George's Square in Valletta on Friday 30th August at 9 pm.

This event promises a splendid summer

evening of operatic and lighter musical pieces, celebrating the majestic elements of the human voice – the main attraction of this night.

Tenors Alan Sciberras, Cliff Zammit Stevens and soprano Nadia Vella are the soloists for the evening and they will be accompanied by the Malta Philharmonic Orchestra under the musical direction of Maestro Michael Laus.

The Minister for the Arts Owen Bonnici, stated that this event aims to transport the audience through the power of the voice, set against the stunning backdrop of Valletta's historic architecture. **"Opera in the Capital" celebrates both the art of music and the unique cultural heritage of Valletta.**

"This year's edition of 'Opera in the Capital' features the talented soprano Nadia Vella alongside tenors Alan Sciberras and Cliff Zammit Stevens in another high-quality event by the Valletta Cultural Agency. Following the success of the Valletta Pageant of the Seas in June, we are presenting another superb open-air event while celebrating the beauty of the capital," The Chairman of the Valletta Cultural Agency, Jason Micallef, emphasised.

"Opera in the Capital is not just a concert; it's an experience designed to reach both opera enthusiasts and those less familiar with the genre, while celebrating the universal language of music in the heart of Valletta. I am proud to present such a diverse program in an iconic location – St. George's Square," The CEO of the Valletta Cultural Agency, Catherine Tabone, highlighted.

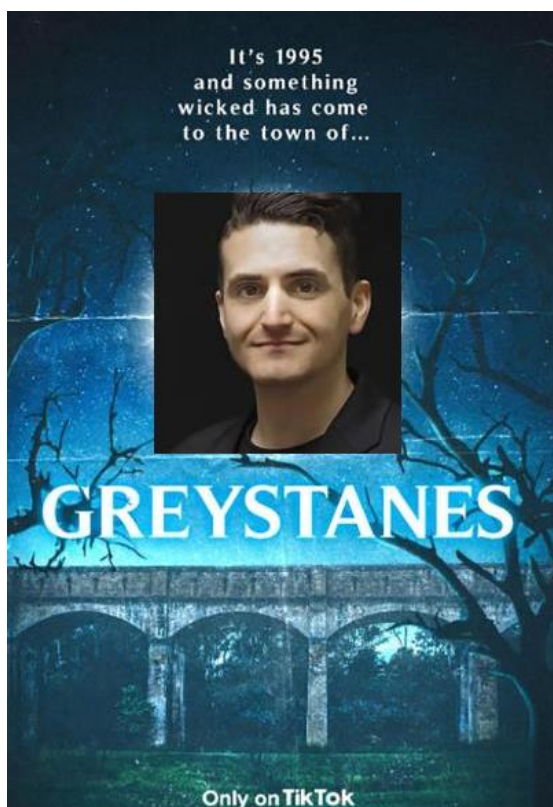
Among the selected pieces are the emotionally charged aria "La fleur que tu m'avais jetée" from Bizet's opera "Carmen" and "È la solita storia del pastore" from Cilea's "L'Arlesiana," which contrast greatly with the dramatic "Donna non vidi mai" from Puccini's "Manon Lescaut."

Tickets can be obtained from showshappening.com. For more information, visit the [website](#) and the Valletta Cultural Agency's [Facebook page](#).

WATCH YOUR LANGUAGE

We spend huge amounts of money protecting species and biodiversity, so why should it be that the one thing that makes us singularly human should not be similarly nourished and protected? Around the world, some organisations are stepping in with technology such as artificial intelligence to help preserve vulnerable languages. Nigeria has adopted OBTranslate to help translate over 2,000 African languages while preserving them for posterity. Australia is using Opie, a robot built on the open-source AI platform TensorFlow, to teach children indigenous languages through games and stories. In New Zealand, a Facebook chatbot called Reobot has been developed to help kids learn Maori.

We must be aware that if we continue talking among ourselves in a language that we simply understand, be it English or another European language, that will simply go to our heads. Yet if, on the other hand, we start talking among ourselves in our language, that will easily start going to our hearts.



The Australian Tiktok horror series inspired by Maltese mythology

The creator, Ryan Cauchi, is the son of two Maltese migrants

[Emma Borg](#)

Ryan Cauchi believes Malta's culture and story has rarely been reflected in films and TV. Photo: Ryan Cauchi's website. Left: Greystanes poster. Photo: IMDB A Maltese-Australian Tiktok horror drama series inspired by Maltese mythology and the migrant experience is drawing an average of around 25,000 views per episode.

Ryan Cauchi, the creator of *Greystanes*, is an Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Arts Awards nominee based in Western Sydney Australia. He is also the proud son of two Maltese migrants. The series, which is found exclusively on Tiktok, is made up of 15 one-minute episodes and is set and filmed in the town of Greystanes.

Cauchi chose Greystanes because it is a stronghold for the Maltese community and is also where his father grew up. Australia has the largest Maltese diaspora in the world – about 200,000 people, according to a 2021 Census. But Cauchi believes Malta's culture and story have rarely been reflected in films and TV. *I would love to come to Malta not just as a lover of the island's contributions to film but just to see it-* Ryan Cauchi

"I wanted to highlight the Maltese culture and give the community a chance to feel represented," said Cauchi. Set in 1995, *Greystanes* tells the story of 11-year-old Samantha and her older brother Marius. While visiting their Maltese grandmother during school holidays, the siblings discover a dark family secret and encounter *il-Haddiela*, an evil figure from Maltese mythology.

With their grandmother leading the way, the family must come together to fight the creature – and its curse.

Il-Haddiela is the Maltese mythology figure associated with sleep paralysis.

Cauchi encountered *il-Haddiela* for the first time 10 years ago when he read Stephen Mifsud's book on *Maltese Bestiary*. 'I could see story building in front of my eyes'

"When I read the book, it was like all the pieces came together and I could see this story building in front of my eyes," said Cauchi.

The series has been compared to the popular Netflix series *Stranger Things* but Cauchi said he was inspired by his childhood in the 1990s and the films he grew up watching like Stephen King's *It* or Stephen Spielberg's *E.T.*

The series features AACTA-nominated actor Frances Duca.

Even though Cauchi is proud of his roots he has never visited Malta.

He reminisced about how, during his childhood, his grandfather would excitedly point out when a film, such as *Popeye*, was shot in Malta.

"I would love to come to Malta not just as a lover of the island's contributions to film but just to see it." Moving forward, Cauchi plans on continuing his Maltese association in film and would also be interested in filming in Malta.

In Gozo the “GĦAŻŻIELA” is made as protection against lightning



In Żebbuġ in Gozo the tradition has continued on the “għażżiela” that has been ongoing for 350 years. During this month the parish children have been helping adults in the making of a pastry that is shaped in the form of an “M” to represent the Madonna Our Lady which pastries are then distributed in mid-September.

Chloe Cini said the pastry is first made and shaped to give form and removed unwanted pastry. The “għażżiela” remains and is then put into a tray and baked and then counted.

Chloe is among a group of 15 boys and girls from the parish who during July to perform the work according to the tradition.

It originated 350 years ago during the time of Parish Priest Dun Frangisk Vella when his family lived in a countryside road near Xwejni Bay.

Canon Archpriest Dun Ġwann Sultana said that during a winter’s evening lightning struck a family and they saw an “M” formation encircled by a stream of light. On the next day they went to the Parish Priest to explain the incident because they were illiterate and fashioned a piece of pastry into what they had seen.

The Parish Priest said the “M” representing Our Lady was chosen and the devotion spread as protection against lightning. The village is fairly high up and is prone to such strikes. Pash Priest Dun Gwann Sultana said from that day onward the PP at the time began to promote the pastry form as a shield against lightning. The pastries were made and then distributed around mid-September during the festa of Our Lady in the village.

.He continued by saying that those who took this pastry form placed it near the front door for the Madonna to protect them against lightning strikes.

Kirsty Borg said it is important for the tradition to continue to protect people. She said she had been making the shapes since she was a young girl and used to help her mother.

Dun Ġwann Sultana said the tradition has continued from one generation to another in Żebbuġ, Gozo or Malta but also by those who had emigrated away from Malta in their devotion to Our Lady.

WHAT IS THE COUNCIL FOR MALTESE LIVING ABROAD?

Do you know that in 2011 the Maltese government established the **COUNCIL FOR MALTESE LIVING ABROAD (CMLA)** to protect and promote the rights and interests of the Maltese living outside Malta and to strive to enhance connectivity through active interactions as well as promote Maltese identity, culture and heritage, including the Maltese language as goalposts of Maltese opulence in the world? The **COUNCIL** endeavours to further build on the networks of the Maltese living abroad with a view to explore business and other forms of collaboration within the framework of mutual benefit and in the common interests of Malta. Yet, the contribution of the CMLA to this journal is very minimal despite having the same objectives. Do you know that this **COUNCIL** exist? Do you know who are the delegates representing you on the Council? To know more about the CMLA go to the website: www.malteselivingabroad.gov.mt

4th Scientific Survey on the State of the Nation conducted by UM Lecturer & Statistician - MALTA



Decision-makers now have a steadfast way to assess the direction in which the country is going, thanks to the recently-published results of the fourth Scientific Survey on the State of the Nation.

The Survey, which was conducted by UM lecturer and

statistician [Dr Vincent Marmara](#), was conducted among a sample of 1,064 people, representing the whole society.

Some notable findings from the survey, as Dr Marmara explained at the presentation of these results held during the National Conference on the State of the Nation and hosted by the President of Malta, Myriam Spiteri Debono, are that:

- The more time passes, the less the people feel that they need religion and political parties to make their decisions.
- The circle of trust people used to rely on is shrinking (including trust in media) and they are taking fewer risks in who they trust.
- For many people, there is a conflict between what they need and what they want - 35.2% think that foreigners are not the solution, but the people also believe that tourism is the most important sector for the continued growth of our economy (a sector which he described as particularly dependent on foreigners).
- While more people are financially better off, their expectations are changing.

The President of Malta remarked that it is important to keep track of changes in the essence of the Maltese character, not just for the various sectors that are driving the national economy, but also for institutions working among people and those aspiring to guide others at various levels of leadership.

Dr Marmara stressed on the value of first listening to the people, and then starting the discussion that this survey highly merits.

Several UM academics also gave insight on the findings through the panels of discussion that followed the presentation of the findings, namely: Prof. Alexiei Dingli, Dr Antoine Zammit, Prof. Andrew Azzopardi, Prof. Michael Briguglio, and Prof. Mario Thomas Vassallo.

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Finding calm within the storm

Australian/Maltese Friar Antonio Maria Farrugia

When Hurricane Ida tore through Southern Louisiana on August 29 2021, it destroyed almost everything in its path. Among the team providing disaster relief were the Little Friars and Little Nuns of Jesus and Mary, USA (also known as Poor Friars and Poor Nuns). Leading the way was US-based Fr Friar Antonio Maria Farrugia, a former Adelaide Maltese graphic designer-turned priest.

[Katie Spain / The Southern Cross](#)



Sr Caterina Curth, Friar John Paul Tsatsoulas and Fr Friar Antonio Maria Farrugia with a koala during a trip to Australia.

The bayou Fr Antonio calls home is about 110km southwest of New Orleans. For all the swamp land's natural beauty, it is often whipped by storms.

"I've spent the last three years in hurricane recovery, and that phenomenal journey has totally shaped my life in a way I never expected,"

Fr Antonio said during a recent trip to his hometown to visit his father, Alan 'Lino' Farrugia and sister Natalie Mooney.

"The thing that affected me, other than the beauty of the Cajun Catholic culture and the people who are so wonderful and welcoming, is the natural threat of hurricanes," he said.

"Unlike many other places in the world, you can say 'God bless you' to anybody here, and they will receive it with a heartfelt thank you."



Fr Friar Antonio Maria Farrugia with his father Alan Farrugia and sister Natalie Mooney.

As hurricane season roles in each year, there is the very real threat of losing everything in an instant. When this happened three years ago, the Poor Friars and Nuns, with the help of Divine Providence, were quick to provide disaster relief to the Catholic parish of the Holy Family Church and the people of Dulac.

A documentary capturing the recovery efforts was commissioned by Fr Mitch Pacwa (of EWTN) after his post-hurricane visit to Dulac. [The House of the Lord](#) was directed by Seth Farmer and Ragan Wells of Uriel Media

Productions and captures the Poor Friars and Nuns at work within the communities of Grand Caillou. Advertisement

"We worked with people who are essentially in humanitarian crisis and helped get them get back to livable conditions," Fr Antonio said. "Approximately 90 percent had damage to the house in one way or another, 40 per cent of whom lost their entire home."

The battered community was without electricity and water for two long months of high humidity, and consequently the houses began experiencing serious mould infestations.

"Through the help of many benefactors, we first met their basic needs like water, food, and nappies. We then addressed temporary housing needs by distributing 30 caravans to our homeless. Then, over the next two years we addressed some of the permanent housing needs by building our people 24

houses. Given we have made a vow of poverty, asking for help in the Name of the Lord (Matt 25:35-40) comes easy to us, we therefore thrive in such situations. It was a blessing to walk with a community through that; to have faith and hope and meaning in a time of difficulty.”

The work continues.

“I’m juggling two parishes that still are not repaired from the hurricane,” he said. “Both churches were damaged and three years later, we’re celebrating Mass in the equivalent of an RSL hall.”

Fr Antonio is also in charge of a religious community of friars and nuns and is studying an online course in Pastoral Theology with a focus on new evangelisation. When he visited Australia in June for a series of talks and a spiritual retreat in Sydney, he was joined by Friar John Paul Tsatsoulas and Sr Caterina Curth. “It’s been a wonderful blessing for them to accompany me in this journey,” Fr Antonio said. “It strengthens me and my own my path to see how God is working in their lives as well.”

Texas-based Friar John Paul Tsatsoulas, Louisiana-based nun Sr Caterina Curth, and Louisiana-based Fr Friar Antonio Maria Farrugia.

The community’s motto is ‘ora et evangeliza’ which means ‘pray and evangelise’ and the trio for a good part did exactly that as they made their way across the nation, documenting their adventure via social media (@poorfriars). It’s been quite a journey.

Fr Antonio, formerly known as Matthew Farrugia, grew up in a Maltese Catholic family in suburban Adelaide and was a Belair parish altar server and Mercedes College student before completing a Bachelor of Design in Visual Communication and working in an animation studio and as a scenic painter in the Australian film industry.



As write this reflection I am on a plane just leaving Sydney where I was a participant in the Australian Bishops Conference. It was a very full week. There were many important matters that we needed to discuss and reflect on. As I reflect on the experience I have no doubt that each participant is a good man of very sincere and real faith.

All have a deep love of God and a desire to serve God’s people with sincerity, integrity and love. We are indeed blessed.

We have different backgrounds... born in different countries... minister in many different environments... do not agree on everything... have different interests... Yes, there is genuine respect... love... care... and when we disagree with each other we do so with sincere respect and still love each other...

This got me thinking about the role that we all have as Christians in our vocation and our mission. In the Acts of the Apostles, we are told that people were attracted to the early Church because they saw that these Christians truly loved each other...

Christians can differ from each other in so many ways! We can even disagree with each other. We can be angry with each other and dare I say, at least for a little while, sometimes not like each other. However, we are always called to love each other.

This needs to be a distinctive sign that we need to give to the whole world a sign, a sacrament of Christ’s universal love. This may not always be easy, especially if someone hurts us. Maybe for a while our prayer needs to be to ask God for the grace to forgive and love...

As Christians, with God’s help, we strive to rise above ideologies ..and truly love... It is what Christ desires for us...



musicworx
presents

Ir-Ritorn ta' Wenzu u Rozi



| Based on the book by George Zammit |
| Adapted for stage & directed by Simone Cremona |

Saturday 21 September 2024 7:00pm

Sunday 22 September 2024 2:00pm | 6:00pm

(Run time 2 hours, including intermission)

St Bernadette's Community Centre | Sunshine North

Tickets: www.trybooking.com/CRWRT

In collaboration with:

midseaBOOKS



<http://www.musicworx.org/>

Following the success of Wenzu u Roži – Praspura wara l-oħra (Feb 2023, Bowery Theatre), Wenzu & Roži are back in town to share more of their antics with you. Roži is on a mission to help her husband cut down his alcohol consumption – but will it work?

Join us to catch up on the latest from the beloved elderly couple and their friends on Saturday 21st and Sunday 22nd September 2024 at St Bernadette's Community Centre in Sunshine North. Ir-Ritorn ta' Wenzu u Roži: Praspur Ġodda is an original musicworx production based on the well-loved short stories of George Zammit. It is presented in the style of a traditional Maltese "teatrin" (a comic theatrical play). Set in the early 1920s, this light-hearted comedy reminds us of the bitter-sweet nostalgia of days gone by. Language: Maltese with some English Commentary Suitable for: All ages

Run time: 2 hours (including intermission) Tickets now on sale: <http://www.trybooking.com/CRWRT>

Sessions: Saturday 21st Sept 2024: 7:00pm Sunday 22nd Sept 2024: 2:00pm Sunday 22nd Sept 2024: 6:00pm

AT ST BERNADETTE'S COMMUNITY CENTRE

21 – 29 COOKE AVENUE, SUNSHINE NORTH, VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA

Ticket prices: Adults: \$30 Concession: \$25

Discounts available for group bookings (\$25 all tickets)

email: info@musicworx.org for more information



Summer edition of Il-Hajja f'Għawdex

Interview with four Gozitan women footballers part of national team is a highlight The front cover of the magazine.

The June-July edition of *Il-Hajja f'Għawdex* (no 1,059) was recently published.

The magazine's summer edition offers an interesting interview with four Gozitan women footballers, pictured on the front cover, who form part of the national team – a great honour for such a small island and evidence of its female potential.

The featured book review is of a new child-friendly guide of the Citadel. There is also a report about the synod of parish priests that was held recently in Rome.

Among the Gozitan issues raised in recent parliamentary questions, the saga concerning restaurant tables occupying St George's Square features prominently.

In his column, Anton Tabone once again stresses the importance that the tragic 1551 sacking of Gozo is given due recognition on a national level.

An important anniversary marked is that of the 100th year since the death of Fr Ġużepp Diacono, a multi-talented Gozitan priest who, among others things, designed many churches and founded the Franciscan Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

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Dinja Diġitali ta' Logħob u Tagħlim bil-Malti

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Preserving Our Language

Malta's rich heritage lives in our unique language, Maltese. While English fluency opens doors, we can't let Maltese fade away. Technology, a crucial part of modern life, is often in English. Here at Nina u Ninu, we're parents who understand this challenge.

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The phenomenon of 'grey divorce' in Malta



According to statistics obtained by TVMnews, nearly half of the divorces granted in Malta over an eleven-year period involved couples who had been married for 20 years or more. This significant finding was discussed with sexologist and psychologist Nicholas Briffa.

Between October 1, 2011, and the end of December 2022, a total of 4,955 divorces were registered in Malta. Of these, 3,993 divorces were issued within Malta, while 962 divorces were granted by other countries.

The data suggests that long-term marriages are increasingly facing challenges, leading to a higher number of divorces among couples with two decades or more of marital history. Briffa's insights likely delve into the underlying reasons for this trend and the impact on the individuals and families. In an interview with TVMnews, sexologist and psychologist Dr. Nicholas Briffa discussed the trend of divorces among mature couples, which he also observes in his clinical practice. He highlighted the "empty nest" syndrome as a classic reason for divorces among individuals around 50 years old. This phenomenon occurs when children leave home, leading couples to reassess their relationships and, in some cases, decide to part ways.

Dr. Nicholas Briffa also mentioned that another reason for the rise in divorces among mature couples is that, over the years, couples often start to drift apart. Dr. Nicholas Briffa noted that on an individual level, couples often fail to reassess their needs over the years. This includes intellectual, sexual, and personal growth. When individuals do not continue to grow together or start to grow in different directions, it can lead to a disconnect and ultimately contribute to the decision to divorce. He went on to add that infidelity, even among mature couples, was a common reason why marriages fall apart.

Dr. Nicholas Briffa observed that in the past, people were often more accepting of mediocre relationships that did not fulfill certain basic needs. They tended to adopt the mindset of being married forever, regardless of the relationship's quality. However, this acceptance has changed over time, leading more individuals to seek divorces when their needs are not being met.

"Where before people were more accepting of mediocre relationships that did not fulfil basic needs and 'settled' on the understanding that 'marriage is forever', today more people are seeking divorce when their needs are not met."

Dr Nicholas Briffa – Sexologist/ Psychologist

Dr. Nicholas Briffa concluded by stating that this evolving perspective is leading individuals to recognize when a relationship no longer holds value for them. Even after making efforts to address their differences and possibly seeking therapy, some couples come to the mature decision that ending the relationship is the best course of action. This realization signifies a shift towards prioritizing personal fulfillment and well-being over maintaining a relationship that no longer meets their needs.

WE, MALTESE LIVING ABROAD, ARE VERY RESILIENT
WE WORKED HARD TOGETHER TO SUCCEED SINCE WE LEFT MALTA AND
GOZO AND WE ARE DETERMINED TO PASS ON OUR CULTURE, HISTORY AND
HEITAGE TO THE NEXT GENERATIONS



The incredible history of the Malta's Salina Salt Pan

Salina Salt Pan was drafted and built on a reclaimed island of clay by the engineers of the Knights of Malta. The date found engraved on the Salina is 1764, which

takes us to the reign of Grand Master Manoel Pinto de Fonseca (1741-1773).

Il Cabreo Del Magistero manuscript, which was compiled on the instructions of Grand Master Jean Paul de Lascaris (1636-1657), has a very detailed plan of the Salina as well as other draft plans. 1764 could have been the execution date or the date of a major alteration. The Salina has seen various modifications over the centuries, including the extension of nine large pans.

The Salina suffered neglect for decades and extensive damage during a heavy storm where one of its retaining walls gave way, leaving it submerged under water and silt for many years. With funding assistance from the European Agricultural Regional Development Funds (EARDF), a project for its restoration and regeneration commenced.

This architectural jewel is once again in its full glory, ready to offer a wonderful experience to visitors and tons of salt for the 14.000 known uses of salt worldwide.

THE XIMÉNEZ REDOUBT

The Salini Redoubt was built by Grand Master Ramon Perellos in 1715. It has two stone cannons (rock-hewn mortars) that were added in 1743, known as fougasse. The Redoubt was restored and enlarged with a salt store by Grand Master Francesco Ximénez in 1773-5, who left his coat of arms embellishing its façade. It was built as part of a war defense plan but also acted as a residence and guardroom for the salt harvest security. An identical Redoubt guarded the harbour from the opposite side, but the latter gave way to development during the 20th century.

Salt production was one of the main industries across the Maltese islands for hundreds of years. It reached its apex during the rule of the Knights of St John, when Maltese salt was exported to the European continent and was appreciated for its quality and taste.

There are 27 salt pans around Malta, 11 salt pans in Gozo and two in Comino.

The Salina Salt Museum administered by BirdLife Malta has officially opened its doors and offers a window on the sustainable practices from the past • Open day on Saturday and Sunday

A Salt Museum is a new addition to the Salina Nature Reserve administered by BirdLife Malta.

The Salina Salt Museum has opened its doors and will serve as a reminder of how our forefathers extracted a natural mineral like salt with respect to nature.

This was said by BirdLife Malta CEO Mark Sultana at the official opening of the museum in the presence of Environment Minister Miriam Dalli.

Sultana said the museum showcases how sustainability was an important principle and is a type of tradition “we should be proud of”.

The Salina salt pans are administered by BirdLife and the museum was a collaboration between the Environment and Resources Authority, Ambjent Malta, and Birdlife Malta with the financial support of the Gal Majjistral Foundation.

The minister said the museum marks Malta's history of salt production. "It represents the commitment to preserving Malta's culture, history, and natural beauty. By protecting our unique heritage, we help people appreciate the natural world," she said.

The project cost €100,000 and funds were obtained from the Gal Majjistral Foundation under the LEADER program. The museum continues to transform Salina Nature Reserve into a unique site that offers visitors a blend of culture, history, and environmental biodiversity coexisting in harmony.



Is-Sriep Regghu Saru Valenuzi available on American streaming website

The Maltese film is available locally on Melita, and internationally on Amazon

Prime - [Giulia Magri](#)

From left: A scene showing young Noel (Jad Xuereb) with his father Richard (Gianni Selvaggi) speaking to Roger Senior (Joseph Zammit). Credit: Shadeena Entertainment 2020. The Maltese film *Is-Sriep Regghu Saru Valenuzi* is now available on the American streaming website, Tubi.

The [2021 thriller](#) is based on Alex Vella Gera's namesake novel and the plot centres on the attempted assassination of former Maltese prime minister Dom Mintoff.

Directed by Martin Bonnici, with a screenplay by Teodor Reljic, the film follows the story of father and son Richard and Noel Sammut Petri, as hidden plans from 1984 weigh down on lives in 2012. The cast includes Maltese stars such as Chris Galea, Gianni Selvaggi, Tina Rizzo, Erica Muscat and Joseph Zammit.

Tubi is available worldwide, excluding Europe, yet European viewers can watch the film on Amazon Prime. Maltese viewers can watch the film on Melita.

The film was financed through the National Book Council's Film Adaptation Fund and the Ministry for Culture of Cyprus.

Speaking to Times of Malta, director Martin Bonnici said he hopes the film will be made more available on different platforms both in Malta and overseas.

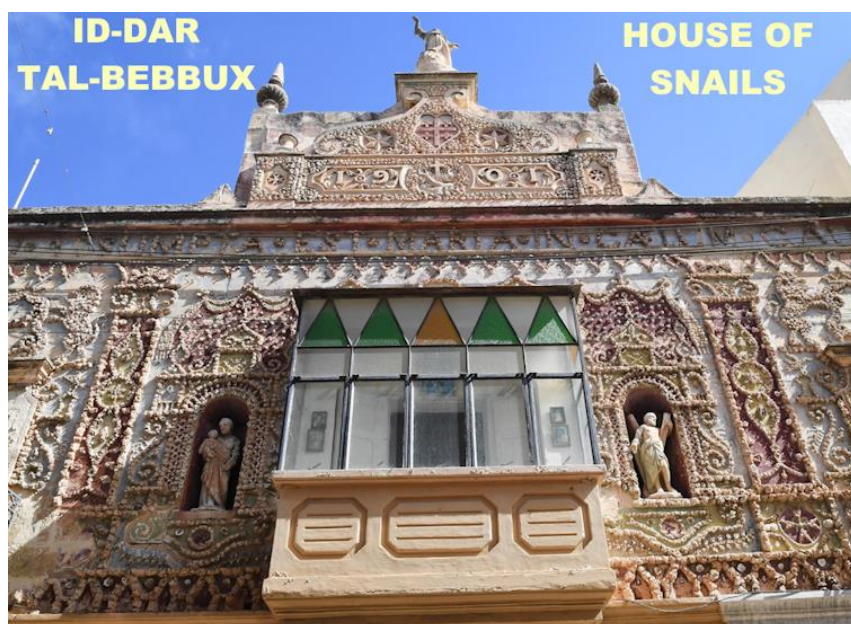
"I hope it will also be studied more, as it is already being done at the University of Malta in the Maltese faculty," he said.

Bonnici said he believes the future of Maltese filmmaking is "bright" but remained tight-lipped when asked if he has any new projects in the pipeline.

"New collaborations are being forged every day an

Hal-Ghaxaq's 'Dar tal-Bebbux'!

A peculiar house covered in snail and sea shells



Emma Galea

Have you ever passed through Hal-Ghaxaq and noticed a façade in the village covered in snail and seashells?

That it is what is commonly referred to in a Maltese as 'Dar tal-Bebbux' (House of Snails).

This historical house is quite peculiar as it is covered in hundreds of snail and sea shells, making it extremely magnificent.

Some of the snail shells on the house date all the way back to 1898, that is when Indri Dimech decided he'll collect shells and use them to make designs on the

façade of the house. During an interview with the [People of Malta](#), his great-granddaughter revealed that he used to go to Palestine and bring over the shells with him.

The designs vary from one other. Some have a religious significance while others depict lions, unicorns, palm trees and Hal-Ghaxaq's coat of arms.

If you wish to view the house, it can be found at Triq Santa Marija, Hal Ghaxaq.

Happy Birthday għażiż Xmun!

Għażiż Xmun se tagħlaq sena
mindu ġejt fid-dinja tagħna
inti l-għożża ta' mħabbatna
li sa tibqa' għal dejjem magħna.

Jalla tikber u titfarfar
għall-għomma u l-ferħ tad-dar
fejn issib l-hena ta' qalbek
f'nofs ta' ġnien ward u nwar!

Lill-Mulej għalik nitolbu
forsi jagħmlek għurnalista
fuq tal-mummy l-passi timxi
u b'hekk dlonk iżżid il-lista!

Poezija tal-Kav. Joe M Attard Ghawdex 2024

Jew fl-iSmugglers tidhol taħdem
u isservi hafna nies
li ta' spiss hemm ġewwa jirfsu
fejn jinqdew bid-dehen u l-qies!

Tagħmel x'tagħmel int fil-ħajja
jalla tghix dejjem ferħan
bi tbissima fuq dak fommok
u wiċċek dejjem daħkan.

La llum il-'birthday' tiegħek -
iddeverti, kul, ixxala;
toqgħodx taħseb fuq l-imġhoddi
jew tinkwieta fuq x'għej għada!



BRODU headlines Rock for Richmond, with Dolls For Idols, Bark Bark Disco and Stephanie Sant

Annual fundraiser for mental health charity Richmond Foundation back with fifth edition on Saturday 17 August at Ġnien l-Għarusa, Mosta

Headliners Brodu top the bill, apart from electrifying performances from Dolls for Idols, Bark Bark Disco, and Stephanie Sant. An Espionage DJ set will cap off the night

The annual fundraiser for mental health causes by the Richmond Foundation will launch its fifth [Rock for Richmond](#) concert on Saturday, 17 August with a line-up of Malta's top artists.

Headliners Brodu top the bill, apart from electrifying performances from Dolls for Idols, Bark Bark Disco, and Stephanie Sant. An Espionage DJ set will cap off the jam-packed night.

Rock for Richmond brings together a community of like-minded people in support of Richmond



Foundation's mental health services and advocacy, having served as Malta's foremost mental health non-profit organisation for over 30 years. Richmond serves its clients both through community-based support across more than half a dozen residential locations, as well as through individual support sessions, interventions, advocacy and awareness-raising efforts.

Richmond Foundation CEO Daniela Calleja Bitar said the event is quite unique in Malta. "Rock for Richmond brings music and mental health together in a down-to-earth event with a genuine community feel that's difficult to find elsewhere."

"We're really thankful to each and every artist, sponsor, attendee and contributor that makes this event a

success. Every ticket sold is a boost of support to Richmond's cause – advocating for and providing quality mental health services in Malta," she said.

Following in the successful footsteps of previous editions, this year's Rock for Richmond will be held at the Greek Amphitheatre at Ġnien L-Għarusa Tal-Mosta. From 7:30 onwards, doors open to an exciting night of great music among a vibrant crowd to promote a noble cause.

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Dear Frank,

I would like to pass on my gratitude and thanks for including the notice for

Skola Maltija Sydney's classes.

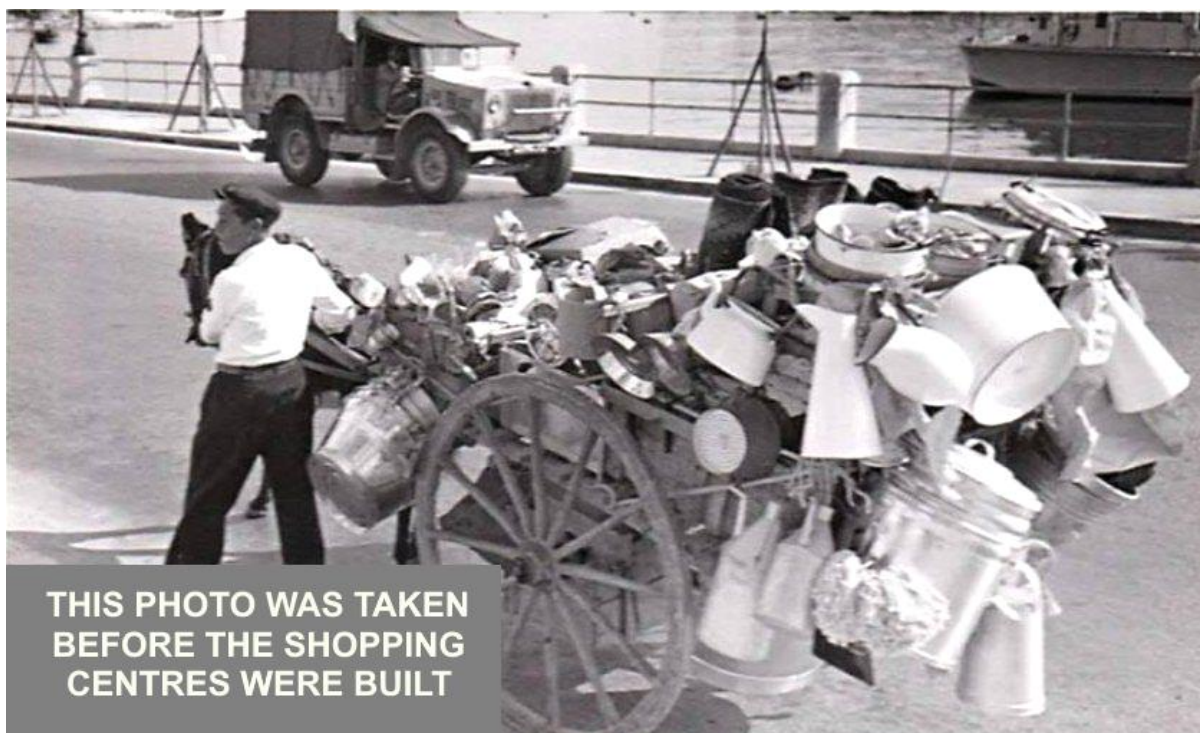
We truly appreciate your support.

You do outstanding work to document events and stories for the Maltese diaspora across the globe.

Kind Regards,

Annemarie Thind
Communications
& Enrolment Officer
Public Officer
0405 126 444

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THIS PHOTO WAS TAKEN BEFORE THE SHOPPING CENTRES WERE BUILT

W I R J A

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 responsabbli, u tfal zgħar mal-ġenituri.**

Il-Wirja tibqa' miftuha għall-Pubbliku
IS-SIBT: mis-2 sas-6 p.m. IL-HADD: mit-8 ta' filghodu sas-6 p.m.

Il-Premjijiet jingħataw mill-Gvernatur nhar il-Hadd fl-4.30 ta' filghaxija.

IL-HADD WARA NOFS-IN-NHAR IDDOQQ IL-BANDA TAL-PULIZIJA



**2 airmen look at a painted relief sculpture
 of the Christ Child standing with his mother,
 who is interceding with him on behalf of the souls
 of purgatory, represented by the two figures amidst
 the flames at the bottom, on the wall of a building
 Malta 1945**