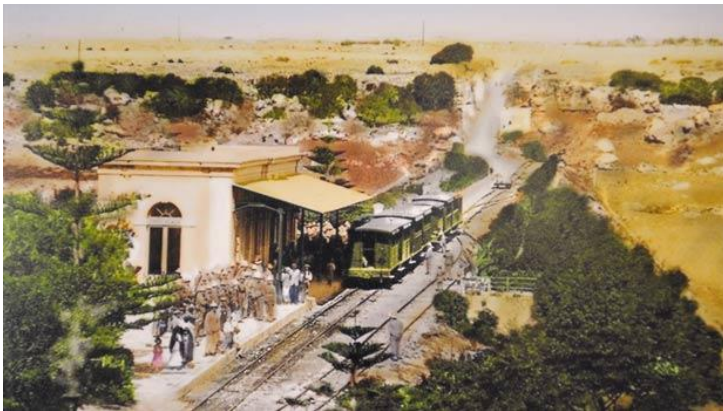


**THE JOURNAL OF THE MALTESE DIASPORA****MALTESE NEWSLETTER**

LINKING THE MALTESE ALL OVER THE GLOBE



## Back in time to the railway era-BIRKIRKARA



*Old paintings and photographs portray Malta's brief era of train travel.*

Birkirkara has one of the island's few remaining train stations.

Malta's brief railway history has been marked at an exhibition in Birkirkara, which boasts one of the few remaining train stations on the island. Organised by the local council, the exhibition was titled Vapur tal-Art, the Maltese term for the railway, which, literally translated, means land ship.

It was held at the former station in Old Railway Garden and marked the 130th anniversary of the Maltese railway, which, according to a song by the folk group The Greenfields, always ran at a loss but was unique.



Inaugurated in 1883, the Malta Railway service ran between Valletta Railway Terminus and Notabile Railway Station in Rabat. Birkirkara (the old way of writing Birkirkara) Railway Station, as it was called then, was considered to be the main hub where trains to Rabat and Valletta met. The railway consisted of a single line, from Valletta to Mdina, which extended for more than 11 kilometres, climbing 150 metres.

First and third class carriages were originally illuminated by candles but changed to electricity powered by batteries in 1900. When the railway stopped running in 1931, 34 carriages were being used and one third-class carriage was preserved, restored and placed outside Birkirkara's former station.

**The Newsletter will not be published  
between 15 April and 12 May  
I will be in Malta for the Convention**





## Work on new Parliament building still lags behind

Parliament's House Business Committee will meet on Monday to ask the Grand

Harbour Regeneration Corporation (GHRC) for an update on progress, or lack of it, on the new Parliament building at City Gate.

Speaker Anġlu Farrugia told committee members that although the GHRC had not come forward, he was regularly sending representatives on site to report on the state of affairs. MPs' benches were still not in place by Thursday last week.

Asked by Opposition Deputy Leader Mario de Marco whether the building would have been handed over by Easter, Dr Farrugia said that until GHRC gave a completion date, Parliament could not set a date for the desired migration to take place.

## L'UNIVERSITA TA' MALTA 'Ir-Riċerka Tiegħi fl-MA'



'Ir-Riċerka Tiegħi fl-MA' huwa seminar li jlaqqagħna ma' studenti li jkunu qed jaħdmu fuq teži tal-MA jew li jkunu għadhom kemm lestewha. L-għanijiet ewlenija tas-seminar huma li nsiru nafu aktar dwar ir-riċerka li għaddejja bħalissa fil-qasam tal-Malti, u fl-istess ħin l-istudenti jidraw jirċievu kritika kostruttiva li ssirilhom fuq xogħolhom. Dawk li jattendu din l-attività jsiru jafu

x'riċerka għaddejja bħalissa fil-Malti, fl-oqsma tal-letteratura u l-lingwistika filwaqt li l-istudenti li għadhom qed jistudjaw għall-ewwel grad jitgħallmu x'jinvolvi l-proċess tal-kitba tat-teži f'dan il-livell.

Din is-sena s-seminar se jsir l-**Erbgħa 15 t'April** f'Sala D1 (Gateway) mit-3.00 sal-4.30pm.

Il-kelliema u s-suġġetti magħżula se jkunu:

- Charlene Debattista – *Il-Malti fl-Era Diġitali: Studju Soċjolingwistiku dwar l-Għodod u r-Riżorsi Diġitali għall-Malti*
- Alvin Vassallo - *Carmelo Camilleri u l-Fidma Ġurnalistika Tiegħu*
- Leanne Bajada - *Reġistru, Temi u Xbihat Tabù fin-Narrattiva Kontemporanja Maltija*

Dan is-seminar huwa organizzat mid-Dipartiment tal-Malti fl-Università, bl-għajjnuna tal-Għaqda tal-Malti – Università.





## Anna's Blueberry Muffins

Recipe by [Anna Olson](#)

Makes 12 muffins.

### Ingredients

- ☐ 1/3 cup (75 mL) canola oil
- ☐ 1/2 cup (125 mL) honey
- ☐ 2 x large eggs
- ☐ 1 1/4 cups (300 mL) 2% plain yogurt
- ☐ 1 tsp (5 mL) finely grated orange zest
- ☐ 1 cup (250 mL) whole wheat flour
- ☐ 1 cup (250 mL) all-purpose flour
- ☐ 2 tsp (10 mL) baking powder
- ☐ 1 tsp (5 mL) baking soda
- ☐ 1 tsp (5 mL) ground cinnamon
- ☐ 1/2 tsp (2 mL) salt
- ☐ 1 1/2 cups (375 mL) fresh blueberries



### Method

1. Preheat oven to 375 °F (190 °C) and line a 12-cup muffin tin (or 36 cup mini muffin tin) with paper liners (alternately, tins can be greased).
2. Whisk oil, honey, eggs, yogurt and orange zest to blend. In a separate bowl, combine flours, baking powder, baking soda, cinnamon and salt.
3. Add to yogurt mixture and stir just until blended. Add blueberries and spoon batter into prepared muffin cups.
4. Bake for 20 to 22 minutes, until muffins spring back when touched. Muffin will keep 2 days in an airtight container, or can be frozen.



**building bridges  
is out motto**

**Where there is unity, tolerance  
and understanding  
there is strength and harmony**



## MALTA: THE NURSE OF THE MEDITERRANEAN SOUTH AUSTRALIAN SOLDIERS BURIED IN MALTA



### CADDY, Frank Bayliss

**ServiceNumber:** 1668  
**Enlistment Date:** Not yet discovered  
**Last Rank:** Private  
**Last Unit:** 7th Infantry Battalion  
**Born:** Not yet discovered  
**Home Town:** Not yet discovered  
**Occupation:** Not yet discovered  
**Died:** Died of wounds, Malta, 20 August 1915, age not yet discovered  
**Cemetery:** Pieta Cemetery MALTA  
**Memorials:** Adelaide 1 National War Memorial\* , Malta G.C. and the ANZACs - "The Nurse of the Mediterranean", Mount Barker HB1\*, Mount Barker WW1 War Memorial\*

#### World War 1 Service

**19 Feb 1915:** Private, 7th Infantry Battalion

**19 Feb 1915:** Embarked HMAT Runic, Melbourne



### BREWER, GORDON

**Service Number:** 558  
**Enlistment Date:** Not yet discovered  
**Last Rank:** Private  
**Last Unit:** 12th Infantry Battalion  
**Born:** Not yet discovered  
**Home Town:** Not yet discovered  
**Occupation:** Not yet discovered  
**Died:** Died of wounds, Malta, 22 August 1915, age not yet discovered  
**Cemetery:** Not yet discovered  
**Memorials:** Malta G.C. and the ANZACs - "The Nurse of the Mediterranean"

#### World War 1 Service

**20 Oct 1914:** Private, 12th Infantry Battalion

**20 Oct 1914:** Embarked HMAT Geelong, Hobart

**RAINEY, HAROLD**

**Service Number:** 2009  
**Enlistment Date:** 29 December 1914  
**Last Rank:** Private  
**Last Unit:** 10th Infantry Battalion  
**Born:** Adelaide, South Australia, 15 December 1891  
**Home Town:** Scotts Creek, Adelaide Hills, South Australia  
**Schooling:** Not yet discovered  
**Occupation:** Stone Mason  
**Died:** Died from wounds (received Gallipoli), Malta, 7 August 1915, aged 23 years  
**Cemetery:** Not yet discovered  
**Memorials:** Adelaide 1 National War Memorial\*, Aldgate War Memorial - Boer War - Vietnam inclusive\*, Malta G.C. and the ANZACs - "The Nurse of the Mediterranean", MyrtleBankM\*, Unley Arch\*, Unley HB01 Town Hall\*

**World War 1 Service**

**20 Apr 1915:** Private, 10th Infantry Battalion

**20 Apr 1915:** Embarked HMAT Hororata, Adelaide

**EVANS, Francis Gilbert**

**Service Number:** 63  
**Enlistment Date:** 19 August 1914  
**Last Rank:** Private  
**Last Unit:** 10th Infantry Battalion  
**Born:** Adelaide, South Australia, date not yet discovered  
**Home Town:** Adelaide, Adelaide, South Australia  
**Schooling:** Gilles Street School, Adelaide, South Australia  
**Occupation:** Electrician  
**Died:** Died of wounds aged 21 years, Malta, 31 May 1915.  
**Cemetery:** Pieta Cemetry MALTA  
**Memorials:** Malta G.C. and the ANZACs - "The Nurse of the Mediterranean"

**World War 1 Service**

**20 Oct 1914:** Private, 10th Infantry Battalion

**20 Oct 1914:** Embarked HMAT Ascanius, Adelaide

**18 ANZAC SOLDIERS BORN IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA  
ARE BURIED IN MALTA (MORE NEXT ISSUE)**



## STARS AND STRIPES MALTA (SASM)



Stars and Stripes Malta (SASM) is a not-for-profit organisation formed last December from the organisation USA-Malta Group (UMG). The USA-Malta Group was formed in March 2006 to coordinate efforts of those USA-born Maltese who have had to renounce their United States citizenship. This was because Malta, until the year 2000, did not recognise “double nationality”. In 2000, the Citizenship Act was passed in Malta. It allowed general recognition of double nationality. The US law does not prohibit dual nationality but never took any particular action in regard to Malta’s position on the subject.

UMG has assisted many of its members to gain dual nationality. SASM will still be assisting those Maltese who were coerced to lose their US citizenship but will now also:

1. Provide service and assistance to US citizens residing in Malta;
2. Work towards the preservation of the common US heritage among Maltese emigrants and US citizens living in the Maltese islands;
3. To inform and educate US citizens on what is happening in the US that directly or indirectly affects them;
4. Encourage and foster political, economic, social and cultural ties between the United States of America and Malta; and
5. Act as a point of reference for American citizens and those interested in the United States of America.

People with US contacts (relatives, Maltese groups, etc.), US citizens and US emigrants and their families are also welcome to join SASM. Membership with SASM is free and people can apply for membership by either visiting the website [www.StarsAndStripesMalta.com](http://www.StarsAndStripesMalta.com) or by writing to Stars And Stripes Malta (SASM), PO Box 6, Ghajnsielem, Gozo, GSM 101, Malta.



### Ambassador Marisa Micallef attends a Simshar screening in West Hollywood

Ambassador Marisa Micallef attended a screening of “*Simshar*” directed by Rebecca Cremona which is currently in the race for Best Foreign Language Film at the Oscars.

*Simshar* is one of 83 films competing for 5 nomination spots which will then be competing for the 87th Oscar event to be held next February. This film is inspired by true events that occurred in 2008 while the theme of immigration is also skillfully weaved in. The screening on the 18th of November was held in West Hollywood and Ambassador Micallef noted a very positive reception from those present.

Ambassador Marisa Micallef said, “I was delighted to watch the film among the top industry professionals who received it so well. Many people in the USA are as yet unaware of the huge

challenges faced by Malta and this very interesting film highlights the human face behind these challenges. We are very proud of Rebecca Cremona and the whole team that supported her."

During the month of November Ambassador Micallef also networked with contacts in LA, NYC and in the entertainment industry in general and elsewhere to support the film in every way possible.

Some sponsorship was also organised by Ambassador Marisa Micallef and the Embassy of Malta would like to thank Honorary Consul General Hugh Cassar most especially for his much valued and appreciated sponsorship which assisted this demanding campaign to promote the film *Simshar*, and Hon Consul General Louis Vella for his contacts and support with the Maltese community in San Francisco.

## Worldwide performers visiting Malta

The School of Performing Arts public conference and performance annual performance 'In any Case' music and dance students, and movement created specifically for



(University of Malta) is held on 20th and 21st of March. The has been devised by theatre, includes texts, music and the piece.

In parallel, the School will be holding theme of Performance and Campus, University of Malta. Dr will be giving a keynote address and from the UK, US, Australia, Nigeria, and Malta to discuss how performance and the performing arts connects to other disciplines from Science and the Humanities.

its annual conference on the Interdisciplinarity at the Valletta Laura Cull (University of Surrey) joined by international speakers Belgium, Italy, Turkey, Brazil,

Talks include Russian and Maltese ballet matriarchs, improvisation, drama therapy, archiving, and many other topics. More information, including registration details and full programme, can be accessed on <http://www.um.edu.mt/performingarts/symposium2015>, or by contacting Dr Stefan Aquilina on [stefan.aquilina@um.edu.mt](mailto:stefan.aquilina@um.edu.mt)





## **MILL-ISTORJA SABIHA TAL-KOMUNITA' MALTIJA T'ADELIADE – biex qatt ma ninsew**

### **Serata mill-isbah tal-Iskola tal-Malti t'Adelaide** Jikteb John Mangion (2012)

Nhar il-Gimgha 11 ta' Mejju 2012 il-kumitat tal-Iskola tal-Malti zamm Lejla Kulturali Maltija gewwa s-sala tal-kunsill t'Enfield, Kilburn biex jiccelebraw il-ftuh mill-gdid tal-iskola u t-30 anniversarju mit-twaqqif taghha. Is-sala kienet kwazi mimlija u mzejna ghall-okkazjoni bl-ilwien prominenti abjad u ahmar. Il-mistednin specjali kienu il-Konslu Generali tal-Philippines Dr Reynado Dante Juanta OAM u s-sinjura tieghu Mrs Cora Juanta. Dr Juanta huwa Professor tal-Edukazzjoni fl-Universita' ta' Manila, fil-Philippines.

Is-serata bdiet b'diskors kommoventi minn Frank Scicluna, li ilu principal tal-iskola ghal dawn l-ahhar 28 sena u li huwa ukoll il-Konslu Onororaju ghal Malta fis-South Australia. Huwa tagha l-istorja fil-qosor tal-iskola u semma kif il-Maltese Guild tas-SA bdiet l-iskola tat-tagħlim tal-Malti fi Frar 1982 – tletin sena ilu. Ghal 29 sena l-lezzjonijiet dejjem kienu jsiru gewwa c-Centru Kulturali Malti ta' Beverly u ghal bosta snin il-kumitat tal-iskola kien sotta-kumitat tal-Guild. Frank fahhar hafna l-kumitat ghax-xogħol siewi li ghamel matul dawn l-ahhar xhur biex jerghu jghatu hajja lill-iskola wara li kellha talghaq ghal sitt xhur.

Il-principal qal ukoll li issa li hemm hafna zghazagh godda u interessati fl-iskola u hemm probabilita' kbira li l-gejjini tal-iskola ikun iktar sod. Wara ndirizza l-udjenza l-Konslu Generali tal-Philippines, Dr Juanta, fejn fahhar hafna din l-inizjattiva tal-kumitat habrieki u tkellem fuq l-importanza li l-komunitajiet etnici jzommu hajjin l-lingwa u l-kultura tagħhom gewwa dan il-pajjiz multikulturali, l-Awstralja. Dr Juanta, f'isem il-mara tieghu, xtaq kull success lill-istudenti, l-ghalliema u l-genituri tal-iskola halli jkomplu jahdmu id f'id għall-gid tal-komunita' Maltija tas-South Australia u għall-preservazzjoni tal-Ilsien Malti u l-kultura Maltija. Wara nzamm 'sing-along' taht id-direzzjoni ta' Ron Borg fejn kulhadd infexx ikanta flimkien kanzunetti tradizzjonali Maltin – *Lanca Gejja u Ojhra Sejra, il-Karrozzin, tal-Bigilla, L-Innu tal-Karnival u L-Ghanja lil Malta*.

Inghataw certifikati lil dawk li dejjem għinu lill-iskola u lill-membri tal-kumitat li huma Anna Farrugia, Josie Scicluna, Lawrie Caruana, Kimberley White, Charles Calleja, Charles Farrugia, John Mangion u Jane Agius. Nghataw ukoll certifikati lil Charles Zarb, l-ewwel koordinatur tal-iskola, is-sinjura Cettina Marsh u rrebieha tal-kompetizzjoni tas-70 anniversarju tal-George Cross li giet innieda mill-iskola tal-Malti u l-Konsulat Malti tas-South Australia.

Ir-rebbieha kienu Ron Borg, Bethany Marsh u Rebecca Freer. Lawrie Caruana f'isem l-kumitat fahhar u rringrazzja lill-membri tal-kumitat speċjalment lill-principal Frank Scicluna, lill-mistednin specjali u lil dawk kollha li laqghu l-istendina u gew bi għarhom għal din is-serata. Wara l-gheluq tas-serata kien hemm ikel tradizzjonali Malti għal kulhadd – hobz biz-zejt, bigilla, galletti u pastizzi. Issa nisperaw li kemm s-socjetajiet u kemm l-membri tal-Komunita' Maltija jkomplu jissaportjaw l-iskola tal-Malti li minn dejjem kienet il-mimmi t'ghajnejn tal-komunita'. **Dan l-artiklu gie ippublikat fil-MALTESE HERALD TA' SYDNEY li illum spiccat.**

L-iskola sfortunatament kellha tagħlaq minhabba li kienx hemm għalliema bizzejjed biex ikompli jahdmu f'din l-unika skola Maltija gewwa Adelaide. Dnub li wara 32 sena kellha tispicca hekk, ghax eluf kienu dawk il-Maltin, kbar u tfal, li gew edukati f'din l-iskola Maltija għal dawn is-snin kollha. Forsi għad xi darba jkun hemm xi hadd interessat li jerga jiftah skola gdida Maltija gewwa Adelaide.



## **Parents Send Their Son To Catholic School To Get Better At Math. Then This Happens:**

A boy named Zachary was doing very badly in math. His parents had tried everything: tutors, mentors, flash cards, special learning centers. In short, everything they could think of to help his math. Finally, in a last ditch effort, they took Zachary down and enrolled him in the local Catholic school. After the first day, little Zachary came home with a very serious look on his face. He didn't even kiss his mother hello. Instead, he went straight to his room and started studying. Books and papers were spread out all over the room and little Zachary was hard at work. His mother was amazed.

She called him down to dinner. To her shock, the minute he was done, he marched back to his room without a word, and in no time, he was back hitting the books as hard as before. This went on for some time, day after day, while the mother tried to understand what made all the difference.

Finally, little Zachary brought home his report card. He quietly laid it on the table, went up to his room and hit the books. With great trepidation, his Mom looked at it and to her great surprise, little Zachary got an "A" in math.

She could no longer hold her curiosity. She went to his room and said, "Son, what was it? Was it the nuns?" Little Zachary looked at her and shook his head, no. "Well, then," she replied, "was it the books, the discipline, the structure, the uniforms? WHAT WAS IT?" Little Zachary looked at her and said, "Well, on the first day of school when I saw that guy nailed to the plus sign, I knew they weren't fooling around!"

## The Controversial Renzo Piano City Gate

You may have heard all about Valletta's most recent face lift. The Renzo Piano project, which began in 2011 has reached it's final stages with the opera house, city gate, and parliament finalised. The project cost approximately 80 million, however that's not what sparked controversy!

The modern, and according to some, bland features of the gate caused many to frown in disagreement. Mainly due to the fact that the new city gate may appear to be lacking in any resemblance to the baroque architecture of the rest of the city. Even more controversy was caused by the plans for the Opera House. Many disagreed with the 'semi complete' look of the theatre, and last but not least, some Maltese were completely unimpressed with the new parliament, which they felt didn't at all represent Valletta's history and culture.

Of course, when you've got a capital city with 320 monuments within an area of 55 hectares – making it 'one of the most concentrated historic areas in the world' as stated by **UNESCO** – it can be hard to introduce change without ruffling a few feathers.

### The City Gate

Technically, the first ever 'City gate' wasn't actually a gate – it was in fact a passageway dug into the fortifications. However between 1566 and 1569 Francesco Laparelli de Carotona built a gateway known as *Porta San Giorgio*. This was replaced in 1632 by Tommaso Dingli's design which involved a central arch with two smaller ones at each side, along with a wooden drawbridge going across what is known as 'the ditch'.

During the British rule this design was once again changed, this time by Col. Thompson in 1853. This time the entrance featured two large arches along with two small ones on each side. The gate also featured two statues, one of Grandmaster Jean De La Vallette, the valiant man responsible for winning the Great Siege and building the capital, and the other was Grandmaster L'Isle Adam – the first Grandmaster of Malta.



This gate, known as Porta Reali or King's Gate was later replaced by the 1964 City Gate which was part of the Italian Modernist movement. The 1964 gate was part of a large scale project to redesign Valletta's entrance along with the Royal Opera House. This project however was never finalised due to public displeasure.

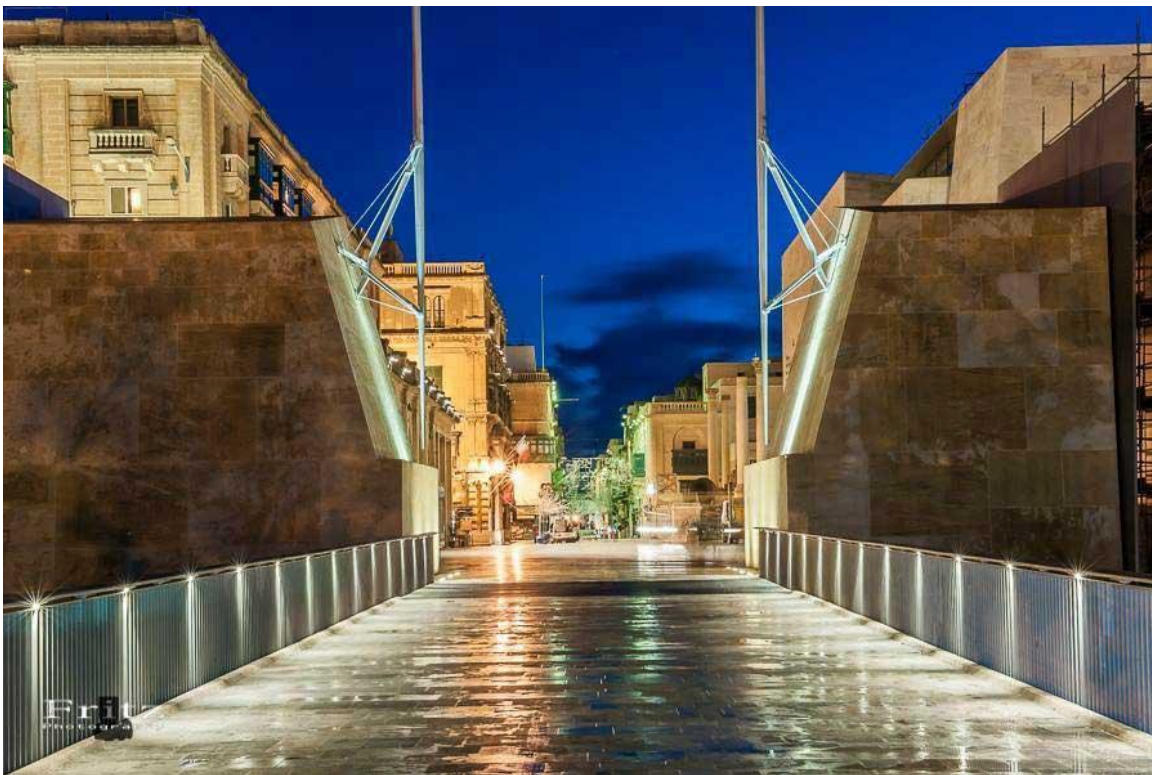




It was therefore in 2011 that Renzo Piano's designs were approved.

His plan for the entrance was one of reorganisation with a return to the initial entrance's style. Over the years the bridge into Valletta had come to resemble a normal passageway rather than an actual bridge, for this reason Renzo Piano's design worked at recreating the feeling of crossing a bridge, imitating the 1633 Dingli design. Moreover, the plans serve to reinstate the original feeling of depth as you walk into the city. This was a nod to the fortification's main purpose – that of protection and strength.

Image Source: Fritz photography



The open air aspect of the entrance meant that the above road could no longer be used, the road was connected with the entrance to the capital through the 2 side staircases, similar to the King's gate's design. This also allowed for the fortifications to become more visible – giving them primary attention, whilst also acting as a memory of an older design.

In short – the new entrance to Valletta is in many ways a

look back at the original function of the entrance along with the original design. The entrance looks much like a passageway cut into the fortifications, just like the original gateway, and the many features hinting at older times serve to act as a reminder that our history and culture will follow us wherever we go.

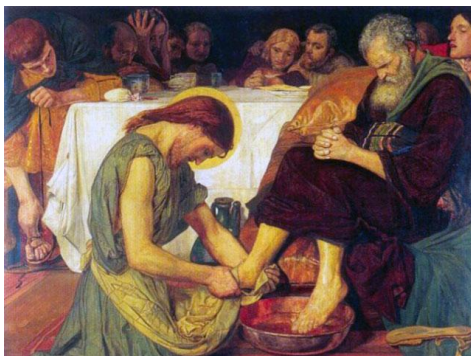




Often we try to avoid fatigue and discomfort, so we use the elevator rather than climb any stairs. Sometimes it's worth changing that habit. Here's a picture of unique staircases worth seeing :Portugal - staircase at Lello Bookshop.- This interesting grand staircase in a bookshop in Portugal looks quite intimidating to climb, but it has a great view of the book store. The steps are like two channels of red wine pouring and swirling down to a single point.

## Easter in Malta: What to do and see?

It's no secret that Malta is very religious, and Easter is one of the biggest events here after Christmas. With all of the activity and parades it will be very hard for you not to be pulled into the spirit of the moment. Moreover during this period the weather starts to clear and the sun comes out more often as it begins to get warm, so don't miss it!



Here's all the information you need!

This year Easter events take place from Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> of March to Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> of April and you can already book your ticket and **your hotel** at good price!

The agenda is the following

### 29th March: Palm Sunday

This is clearly the beginning of the Holy Week. Various celebrations take place and are dedicated to Holy Mary on this day. The number of participants is impressive and it's all about religion and respect. You can feel how religious the atmosphere is. Festivities take place in most villages, with processions during the morning and palm leaves decorating buildings.

### Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April: Holy Thursday

During this day the faithful gather together in every parish to participate in the foot washing ceremony in memory of the washing of the feet of the apostles by Christ before his Passion and before the Last Supper. Families also visit 7 churches in tribute to the 7 altars.

**Friday 3rd April : Good Friday**

This day is one of the most important, and is a day of remembrance of the memory of the crucifixion. There are various processions and biblical figures in the streets and many villagers are highly dedicated to the procession, spending lots of money and time creating authentic looking costumes so as to recreate the events that took place on the day of Jesus' crucifixion. Many gather in the streets to watch the procession and the air is full of solemn respect. For one of the best processions on the island head down to the village of Zejtun (five minutes away from Marsaxlokk) during the afternoon This day the Priory of St. Dominic organized reconstitution of the Last Supper in Valetta

**5<sup>th</sup> April: Easter Sunday**

This is how the holy week ends, bells are ringing everywhere and you'll enjoy the happiness you'll feel through songs of celebration. People celebrate Christ's Resurrection all day long with processions of the risen Christ and a traditional Easter Sunday Lunch.

Easter events predominantly take place in Valetta and the 3 cities Vittoriosa, Senglea and Cospicua, but you can also visit Gozo parishes. In Senglea villagers run up a long hill with the statue of the risen Christ on their shoulders – a tradition which happens every year and requires great skill!



Since good weather is coming at this period you will only need a light jacket, wear sunglasses and a hat and do not forget your camera for these spectacular events. Take some cash with you to try food specialities and to have a relaxing coffee between one procession and another. It's better not to take too many belongings with you as there are many people in the crowds and you can easily drop something and lose it. We recommend that you put

belongings in a shoulder bag thus you have easy access to what you need. Children are welcome but keep your eyes on them as they will be excited by all this enthusiasm and could run off into the crowd!

<http://blog.choosemalta.com/>





## Confraternity of the Knights of St. Peter & St. Paul Inc

Seat of the Confraternity: 49 Botanic Drive, Hillside 3037, Melbourne, Vic. Australia. Tel. (03) 9449 0492

Reg. No. A0053063J



The Confraternity of the Knights of St. Peter & St. Paul, was established in June, 1997 to honour members of the Christian Faith for their tireless benevolent work in the community. Founded by its Grand Master Peter Paul Portelli in Melbourne, Australia, today the Confraternity have twenty five chapters around the world, including Malta, Italy, Austria, Portugal, Canada and Africa.

The main objective of the Confraternity is to help people in need and sick children in hospitals. The Grand Chapter of Melbourne also supports the Royal Melbourne Children's Hospital, cancer foundations and local charities. The Seat of the Confraternity is in Melbourne, Australia. A Supreme Council of 13 knights and ladies governs the Confraternity. The Supreme Council approves

the appointments of knights, priors and new chapters. The Confraternity has a vice grand master in Melbourne and another in Portugal. **The Grand Chapter of Melbourne 29 June, 2014. Feast of St. Peter & St. Paul.**



## MISSION OF MALINDI IN KENYA

The Grand Chapter of Melbourne is committed to help the Catholic Mission of Malindi in Kenya. Mgr. Emanuel Barbara OFM Cap. is the bishop of Malindi.





## Grand Chapter of Vienna

The Grand Chapter of Vienna has opened its new offices early this month. Now they have the facilities to provide welfare to the local people and to the Christians who escaped persecution in war torn Syria.

The Knights of St. Peter & St. Paul in Vienna attended Mass at St. Clement Mary Hofbauer before they officially opened their new office.

## CHAPTER OF PORTUGAL

By Cav. Dr. Pedro Laranjeira, Secretary/ Public Relations.  
The Chapter of Portugal



The Chapel of Apparitions, a place usually reserved for high dignitaries, bishops and popes, where the Grand Master and the Portuguese Knights took part in the celebration.

On Tuesday 29 July, 2014, Portugal felt highly honoured with an extraordinary dignifying visit from the opposite side of the planet, which linked Australia and Europe in the common humanitarian goals and moral principles embraced by the Confraternity of the Knights of St. Peter and St. Paul, a Confraternity with its World Headquarters in the City of Melbourne. Grand Master Peter Paul Portelli represented the Confraternity in a Pilgrimage to Portugal, which included a ceremony of great dignity in one of the holiest places on Earth, the Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima, to impose Insignia to the Portuguese Knights of the Confraternity.

H.E. Grand Master Peter Paul Portelli presiding on the investiture in the chapel of the Apparitions in Fatima.



## GRAND CHAPTER OF MALTA

The Grand Master Peter Paul Portelli presided on the investiture ceremony of the Grand Chapter of Malta. The ceremony took place at the Local Council Hall, afterwards the knights took part in the novena Mass in the Basilica of St. Peter and Paul of Nadur, Gozo.

If you wish to know more about the Confraternity of the Knights of St. Peter & St. Paul you are welcome to visit our website:

<https://sites.google.com/site/knightsofstpeterandstpaul/>  
Email: [grandmaster.knightststpeterpaul@zoho.com](mailto:grandmaster.knightststpeterpaul@zoho.com)

Submitted by Peter Paul Portelli – Grand Master



## A LETTER OF APPRECIATION FROM....

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21 March 2015

Dear Frank,

On behalf of myself, the committee and members of the Maltese Guild of SA Inc. which it is also the Maltese Cultural Centre of SA, we very much appreciate your electronic **newsletter and information** you publishing frequently and posting to all members on your roll. We find it very informative in education to the Maltese and every person of all nationality that read it.

You also bring out from our hearts old memories from back home of our lovely great **Maltese Islands**, and many times tears are shed due reminding us of our childhood and younger age living there with our dear families that most of them passed away or still living. Thank you Frank, it is greatly appreciated, keep up the good work, we wish you good health and happiness.

God Bless you

Joseph Briffa President



I enjoyed reading the article on Ggantija, in particular because one of my university projects was to create a 3D model of the place :-). I created a short video which can be viewed on YOUTUBE

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eZ8FsWhHnbc>

Specifically, the legend has it that a giantess suckling a baby lay down to sleep on the plateau one night and the next morning the temples had been magically built.

As far as the increase in languages spoken - I would hazard a guess that the spectacular rise in Italian is due to the number of Italian television channels available - I know a lot of people who watch more Italian programming than Maltese TV. Also, in his books "Rajt Malta Tinbidel" (I saw Malta Change) Dr Ganado states that the decision to make English rather than Italian a national language was a direct result of political intrigues (eg by declaring that lessons in school should be held in English) and eventually this was successful. kind regards Ros

MANY ARE THOSE WHO WRITE TO ACKNOWLEDGE  
THE RECEIPT OF THE MALTESE NEWSLETTER

If you have articles, stories, pictures, jokes or graphics  
mark them 'for publication' and send them to me

TOGETHER WE BUILD BRIDGES AND DESTROY BARRIERS

## Maltese Folklore

- This is what Maltese folklore is all about, exploring the history, literature, folktales, old wives tales, children's rhymes and games, traditional medicine, nicknames, birth and death rituals, feasts, and old customs from Malta and Gozo.

*Josephine Ebejer Guzek*

*Il-Life Jamrun  
San (or) Preca B.J.L.  
Malta*

## The stuff that legends are made of

The word 'legend' is one of those words which unfortunately has for many in today's fame-obsessed age lost its original exotic meaning.

As a child, on hearing this word, I would immediately get a dreamy look in my eyes as castles, ogres, dwarves and other mythical creatures sprang to mind. I know my mind was colonised with these images from British lore but these were the only legends I could find to read at the time.

Fortunately, we grew up in a story-telling community which in the summer evenings used to meet outside our homes among the adults' chairs and the children's adventurous play acting. There was one particular woman who had such a natural gift for narrating stories that silence would fall since all listeners felt pity for the Mosta bride, was petrified in the darkness of Hassan's cave, and together went on other exciting exploits.

These stories raised a strange sense of nostalgia for things we had not really experienced but which seemed thrilling enough to make us want them to be true. It was with the same yearning that I picked up Joseph Camilleri's *Gabra ta' Leggend*, which promised to take me back not only to these tales' past but also to my innocent childhood days.

Legends are obviously stories which, according to folklore expert Guze Cassar Pullicino, spring from people's fantasy. It is not important whether these legends have in reality happened or not. What is important is these narratives are connected with a situation or character which is real. In fact, this is what distinguishes legends from fables.

Although fables too are entirely made up, they are not connected with reality, although they reflect it. Such anecdotes call for a suspension of belief and what is interesting about them is the creative imagination involved in spinning a stirring tale.

Many legends have in fact come down through generations by word of mouth as they were retold by adults to the young ones. Such 'loose' repetition has indeed led to variations on the original stories but this too is of interest as it divulges how people's outlook on life changes through the ages.

In fact, such legends present a good anthropological study of any society as at their core they have the main people's beliefs and fears. Camilleri's book is divided into various parts which present a cross-section of the Maltese psyche. Some of the stories deal with the roots of the Maltese population which give very imaginative possibilities of how the first people came to these islands.

According to Camilleri, there are stories stemming from Tripoli, Tunisia, Algeria and Morocco that have left great influence on the Maltese legends, which might indicate that our origins can be traced back to any of these countries. Moreover, the importance of religion for these islands is evident in the many sections dedicated to stories which tend to revolve either around statues representing Christ, Our Lady and other saints.



Obviously, there could not but be a whole batch of anecdotes dedicated to St Paul and the fact that he brought the Roman Catholic religion to our shores. Another section deals with stories connected to the historical figure of Count Roger and his famous flag which many believe inspired the Maltese flag.

It is understandable that since Malta is an island, many of these tales also deal with the sea. It is interesting that some stories tend to change even from village to village and that some tend to be localised to particular villages rather than connected with general Maltese history. What is important is that from each legend a moral message is derived.

It is crucial that such books are published as they collect stories which would otherwise be lost to future generations. Young children will enjoy listening and eventually reading these stories which present to them an overview of their ancestors and how they viewed life.

Unfortunately, in our fast paced cynical times the tendency to overlook such stories as a waste of time would be a pity as we lose touch with where we came from and that which has made us who we are as Maltese.



### **The Legend of tal-Maqluba**

Another interesting legend in Malta which I was recently told is that of tal-Maqluba. The legend states that once the area of tal-Maqluba, just south of the Maltese village of Qrendi, there once was an evil village. The people were so bad that God punished them by opening the ground and the whole village was swallowed by the Earth. The opening in the ground stopped exactly in front of a chapel, which is still present just by the edge of this enormous hole. The crater is 50 meters in circumference and around 40 meters deep.

### **il-GawGaw**

In the past, December 24th was considered a most unfavorable day for birth. According to a superstitious belief that lingered among the Maltese up until the end of the 19th Century. Any person born on Christmas Eve was transformed into a ghost called "il-GawGaw". On that specific night, in the form of a "Gawgaw", they wandered about frightening people. Children were told that if they misbehaved, the "Gawgaw" would kidnap them and take them far far away to a distant land, where they would die of hunger and loneliness. Towards dawn the persons transformed in a "Gawgaw" returned home exhausted. By the time they woke up in the morning they would have resumed their human form, quite unaware of their nocturnal peregrinations. The remedy against this transformation consisted of inducing the sufferer to sit up all night and to count the holes of a sieve from eleven o' clock at night to the following Christmas morning.

## Over 1000 candles will illuminate the Via Crucis at Ta' Ghammar Hill

The Minister for Gozo Dr Anton Refalo, today presented a contribution of financial support for the Diocesan Via



Crucis, to the rector of the National Shrine of Ta' Pinu Fr Gerald Buhagiar, who was accompanied by Fr. Eddie Zammit.

The Diocesan Via Crucis is being held on the Way of the Cross on Ghammar Hill, next to Ta' Pinu Sanctuary in Gozo, this Sunday, the 22nd of March,

starting at 6.30pm and is taking place as part of the Easter initiative Gozo – Faith and Tradition

During the presentation, The Minister for Gozo said that, “this Sanctuary attracts more people throughout the year than any other tourist attraction in Gozo.” He added that, “it attracts many pilgrims from overseas, and it is therefore very important that the infrastructure of the surrounding areas has been improved and refurbished, to make it more attractive to those who visit.”

Fr Gerald Buhagiar said that this is the ninth year of the Viz Crucis, which will be led by H.L. Mgr Mario Grech, Bishop of Gozo, and is organised in collaboration with the Ministry for Gozo.

“The meditations for this year were written by various religious orders and institutes of consecrated life from within the Diocese of Gozo, and it is becoming a year that is dedicated to people who have consecrated their lives to God for serving the Church and humanity,” he said.

Fr Buhagiar also said that for this this occasion the the stations along the Way of the Cross will be illuminated with special lighting, along with more than 1000 candles guiding the way, so as to create a unique atmosphere.

At the end of the Via Crucis, which will be broadcast live on Radju Marija for those who are unable to attend, the Bishop will give a short message, followed by the Eucharistic Benediction.

The television stations, TVM, Net and One TV, will all record this unique event to be able to broadcast it, during Holy Week. This has been made possible thanks to the support of the Ministry for Gozo and the work of the Foundation and religious broadcasting partners together with the Ta' Pinu Sanctuary.

This weekend Gozo Channel will be offering reduced ferry fares between Friday and Sunday, to encourage visitors to cross to the sister island.

More information on Gozo – Faith and Tradition can be found on the [Easter in Gozo](#) facebook page which is being constantly being updated.

### Via Crucis Ta' Ghammar Hill

The Blessed Virgin of Ta' Pinu had asked Frangisk Portelli to advocate devotion towards the hidden wound on Christ's shoulder caused by the heavy wooden cross. Because of this, after the end of World War II, a small number of devotees began to make a repentance walk up the steep path to the top of Ghammar Hill, situated opposite Ta' Pinu Sanctuary.

A proposal was made for the transformation of the hillside into a Via Crucis thus making it possible to pilgrim, to walk uphill and meditate the passion, death and resurrection of the Lord.

The original models of the statues were wrought by Alfred Camilleri Cauchi and where commissioned by the rector Mgr. Lawrence Portelli in 1970, to the Italian Firm Tiemistocle Sarti, under the direction of the artist Gualtiero Luisi.

Mgr. Benedict Camilleri who succeeded Mgr. Portelli as rector of the Basilica on 15 June 1970, took a keen interest in the setting up of the Via Crucis, widening the path leading from Ta' Pinu Parvis to the hilltop of Ghammar, the plantation of trees alongside the way and the open-air amphitheatre on the summit of



the hill.

Now days during the Holy Week, a meditation of the Way of the Cross is organised on the Ghammar Hill and is led by H.E. Mgr Mario Grech, Bishop of Gozo, together with the participation of faithful from the diocese of Gozo and also from that of Malta.

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## It's never too old to learn



*Lora Baldacchino giving an oral presentation during a Maltese lesson at the school in Australia. Lora Baldacchino, née Mifsud, is the eldest student sitting for the Maltese Year 12 exam in Australia in 2013.*

She attended the Maltese Language School of Adelaide during the year to undertake the Maltese Continuers course of the South Australian Certificate of Education Board of South Australia. Baldacchino was born in Floriana in 1935, the first of seven children. Her parents later moved to Żejtun, and although she was not educated beyond primary school, this never dampened her enthusiasm for academic achievement.

When she was 15, Baldacchino and her family emigrated to Adelaide, South Australia. In 1952, she married and had five children over the next 13 years, and worked whenever she could. She now has 15 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren and keeps herself busy with hobbies. Her latest challenge was studying Year 12 Maltese in 2013 and sitting secondary school exams for the first time in her life. She enjoyed the course and was fascinated by the culture, language and history of Malta.

