


THE MALTESE NEWSLETTER

The Journal of the Maltese Diaspora

Our Motto: Building Bridges Not Walls

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NOSTALGIA

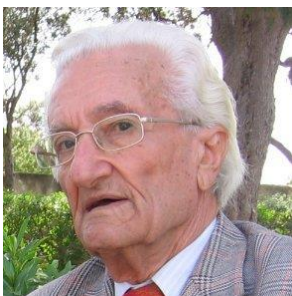
GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

The Maltese Herald was a Maltese newspaper published in Australia. The first edition of the newspaper was published on 28 July 1961, when three young men who loved football, Nicholas Bonello, Vincent Pisani and Lawrence Dimech, its first editor, got together to launch the newspaper intended to serve the Maltese community in Australia. The Maltese Herald succeeded two other Maltese publications, *Leħen il-Malti* and the *Malta News*, which were discontinued after a short life. Manwel Pisani and Lino Vella joined The Maltese Herald team in Australia, while Joseph Xerri provided assistance from Malta. The Maltese Herald ceased publication in April 2013. Lino Vella (left picture) was the last editor of TMH.

The publication of the newspaper followed the mass migration from Malta to Australia of the 1950s and 1960s. Thousands of Maltese immigrants settled on the eastern coast of the vast continent, particularly in Sydney and Melbourne. The Maltese formed their own social groups and football clubs, with Melita Eagles FC formed in Sydney and George Cross FC in Melbourne. These community organisations were critical in assisting the new immigrants to settle in their new country of adoption, following the traumatic experience of leaving their loved ones behind in Malta.

THE MALTESE HERALD played a very important role in providing the Maltese community with information that was of interest, voicing community concerns and fighting for the rights of the Maltese community in Australia, while also maintaining a link with Malta. The articles covered social services, housing schemes and dual-citizenship issues among other topics.

As the Maltese newspaper closed in 2013, however, many others have started up. The past two years have seen a number of multicultural newspapers start to meet the needs of newer communities such as Somali, Thai and Korean. *THE MALTESE HERALD* was published for over fifty years.



NICHOLAS BONELLO DIED

Mr. Nicholas Bonello from Birkirkara, Malta, passed away on December 1, 2016 at St. Vincent de Paul Residence, Marsa, Malta. He was chairman of the ANZAC Memorial Committee-Malta and High Commissioner for Malta to Australia. Mr. Bonello was co-founder of the Maltese Herald of Australia in 1961 and founder of the Maltese Australian Association-Malta in 1974. Mr. Bonello was honoured by the Government of Australia by the Order of Australia OAM. He was the originator of the idea to erect a memorial

to WW1 ANZAC's who are buried in Malta. Such Memorial was inaugurated on 25 May 2013 at the Argotti Botanical Gardens in Floriana - Malta.

Nicholas was an avid reader of *THE MALTESE NEWSLETTER* and a very good friend of the editor. We extend our sympathies to his family and friends in Malta and Australia. R.I.P.

Since the demise of The Maltese Herald your Newsletter filled a very important void.. I miss The Maltese Herald but I am very proud with your MALTESE NEWSLETTER together with The Voice you are keeping the Maltese Community around the world well informed with WHAT IS GOING ON IN MALTA and more. I take opportunity to wish you and your readers A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND A PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR. Regards, LINO VELLA ex-Editor and owner of The Maltese Herald NSW AUSTRALIA



CHRISTMAS IN MALTA AND GOZO 2016

Christmas is a highly celebrated festivity in Malta and Gozo, both for its religious significance as well as in its more social aspect. The season is celebrated to its fullest on the Maltese Islands, with the active participation of many; Nativity scenes, displays of cribs, carol services and other events are organised in each locality.

Christmas street decorations For a very special, spiritual evening, join the congregation at St. John's Co-Cathedral in Valletta for candlelit carol singing. Other

Baroque parish churches across the Islands are just as awe-inspiring during advent. Their interiors are decked out in papal crimson and altars are adorned with flowers. All churches have a calendar of events, ranging from the procession of Mary and Joseph, to streets with groups of children carol singing.

Cribs are positively everywhere, from private houses to small chapels. Visiting cribs is a popular activity at Christmastime and many locals spend time going round touring the various 'presepi' displays. Some are very artistic and elaborate, with figures moving around mechanically and a degree of detail that comes from hours of meticulous work by dedicated craftsmen.

A Christmas highlight, which is popular for children and adults alike, is the annual pantomime held at the Manoel Theatre and at other venues. It's a happy mix of good slapstick humour for children and satire for adults. Restaurants, hotels, bars and clubs all have their own entertainment, making for an abundant choice of what to do and see

NEXT EDITION IS THE CHRISTMAS SPECIAL ISSUE 2016

Please send your Christmas greetings to all the fellows readers

in Malta and Gozo and all those living abroad



The Maltese Bowlers Social Group

NSW, Australia, Inc.

Email: maltesebowlersnsw@hotmail.com

Committee 2016/17



Back Row (From L to R): Charles Cassar, Lilian Attard, Vivienne Bezzina and Carmen Mifsud

Front Row (From L to R): Carmen Samuel, Victor Fenech, Mary Pace-Feraud and Tony Pace-Feraud

Moses Mifsud had a dream of forming a group of New South Wales lawn bowlers of Maltese origin, who can get together on a regular basis to enjoy a game of bowls, socialize, create new friendships and have a good time. This would also give retirees an opportunity to get outdoors and make new friends with bowlers of the same background.

His dream became a reality on the 6th December 1998, when nine Maltese-Australian bowlers met for their first official game at the Bexley Bowling Club and gave birth to the Maltese Bowlers Social Group NSW. Thanks to those founding members and the great enthusiasm and continuous hard work of Moses, the association grew and matured having been built on sound foundations.

The following year, in July 1999, the association moved to the Auburn Bowling Club making it its first official home base. A couple of years later, on 22 June 2001, we were certified as an incorporated association by the Department of Fair Trading. After the closure of the Auburn Bowling Club on 1st May 2005 we moved to the present home base at the Rosehill Bowling Club. In December 2008 we celebrated our tenth anniversary.

We organize monthly friendly games of lawn bowls at different NSW bowling clubs and hold social functions for Australian lawn bowlers of Maltese origin, their partners and friends. Our activities are aimed to give opportunities to Maltese-Australians to regularly play and promote their favourite sport and uphold their culture and heritage and good standing in the community of which we are all very proud. We are well respected and proud to run a well-managed club.

We are combined member with The Royal NSW Bowling Association Inc. We support the Australian representatives of the Malta Lawn Bowls Federation. Our club is an active member of the Maltese Community Council of NSW. Our club logo incorporates the red and white colours of the Maltese flag, the Maltese cross and the Australian green and gold sporting colours.

We are honoured to have Lino Vella AM as our Patron and appreciate the assistance we receive from our major sponsor Breakaway Travel and Simplicity Funerals. We also receive good publicity support from a number of Maltese language radio programmes in Sydney that include 2RRR 88.5fm, 2GLF 89.3fm and SBS 97.7fm.

Annual Pairs and Triples Championships are held within the membership. Apart from many games at the Rosehill Bowling Club, our programme always includes a number of games at other NSW registered bowling clubs. At every game our bowlers wear the club's official club shirts and our flag is raised on the greens. Social functions and day trips are typical social activities that are organised. The main function of the year is the combined Annual Awards Presentations and Christmas Lunch.

A monthly newsletter is published and is available to all members free of charge. We provide free coaching and lending of bowls to new members. We are a non-profit organisation run by a nine-member management committee and depend financially on sponsorship and fundraising activities amongst our members.

Currently the club averages 80 members of both genders who also play at their respective registered bowling clubs in all grades. We have members that compete and have done well in major competitions including representing Malta in lawn bowls. by David Pace-Feraud



Christopher Morley
MGS Chairman 2016-

Malta Geographical Society

Malta Geographical Society (MGS) was founded in 1943 when the Second World War was practically over in Malta, although still going on in other European countries. A small group of Maltese internal refugees living in Mgarr decided to set up this society. The first committee was made up of G. Mangion, as Chairman; N. S. Leopardi as Vice-Chairman, J. Burgess as Hon Secretary, and (Ms) C. Aguis as Hon. Treasurer, as well as R. Cachia, S. Gatt, and W. Salomone.

There were initially about 18 members. Although it was still war time, the society had the foresight of the need to promote the culture of geography in the wide sense of cultural appreciation of the Maltese Islands and of promotion the Maltese environment. This was done from the very start by organising walks mainly in the countryside, as well as talks and showing of films. The Society organised several talks on the only local cable radio system (Rediffusion).

To-day, 73 years after its foundation, the MGS. is still going strong with nearly 400 members. It organises regularly monthly Saturday and Wednesday walks, as well as various lectures and social evenings. Activities include Quiz and Pasta nights, Christmas Dinners and BBQ's, excursions to Gozo and to Comino, visits (normally coupled with a walk) to various cultural and historic places. Evening walks are organised during the summer months.

Each year the Society is organising walks abroad. The Society publishes a monthly newsletter which is sent to all members, giving details of all its activities. <http://www.maltageographical.org/index.html>



Maskra | Taking Maltese Drama to a New Level

by Adrian Attard

Maskra, which is broadcasted on One Television, revolves around Deborah (Louise Doneo) and Eric James (Dorian Micallef); a separated couple with a young son named Aaron (Bradley Spiteri). Both Deborah and Eric James are in the Police Forces. After her separation with Eric James, Deborah seems to have found her perfect soul-mate in Nathaniel (Ray Abdilla), a humble school-teacher. Eric James and his partner, Dylan (John Peel) are on the look out for 'Venator', a serial killer who is abducting people and killing them after a week. Although Eric and Dylan are quite different from each other, the two manage to get along well.

On the other hand, Deborah and her colleague Robert (Simon Tabone) are keeping an eye on Sven (Alex Spagnol) as they are suspecting that he is engaged in some illegal activities with Kane (Mark Mifsud). Kane was adapted by Damian (Manuel Cauchi), but although Kane and Sven aren't biological brothers, there is a very strong bond between the two.

Meanwhile a young, ambitious reporter, Sarah (Stephanie Agius), is also interested in Venator's case, as she is writing articles about him. Sarah very often clashes with her co-worker Donna (Cristina Mifsud) and with her boss, Dominic (Martin Farrugia). During a night out with her best friend, Miram (Lindsey Brinciau), Sarah accidentally meets Alex (Jonathan Azzopardi). Alex lives with his sister Christine (Rebecca Paris), who in order to take care of her brother, is being deprived from finding a job. Alex is also a client of Wayne (John Dimech), who is helping him with psychological issues.

Maskra has a very fast tempo and, while during the whole season, the main theme is the serial-killer, there are various sub-themes such as the relationship between Alex and his sister Cristine, and the triangle between Damian, Sven and Kane. The difference between Maskra and other local productions is the fact that although its main genres are thriller and crime, it is not made up of just murders, but it also plays a lot around the different types of love, about lost love and about love that never was.

Written by Justin Sean and Ivan Xuereb, and directed by Jameson Cucciardi, Maskra is a journey of twenty episodes, with its original music being composed by Mario Sammut.

A brief interview was conducted with Jonathan Azzopardi, who apart from interpreting the role of Alex, was also one of the two producers, together with Jameson Cucciardi. In your opinion, what is the difference between Maskra and other local productions?

Maskra had a strong team of people who all had the project as their main aim. Apart from technicalities such as visuals and editing, it is evident that the script-writing is very intelligent and it was written in the proper way. The characters were very constant in their actions and all of them fitted perfectly into the plot. The music is original, which for the rest of the production and me is of utmost importance... one cannot listen to a piece of music and steal it for one's own production.

It is no big secret that locally it is somewhat difficult to make profit from a television production. What motivated you to produce a challenging production such as Maskra? The rest of the team and I worked with a lot of passion to see a different drama production locally. We didn't look at the production like a piece of business, but as an opportunity to express our talents. Maskra is a project between a group of friends.

What are the plans of the production team for the future? Primarily I would like to thank the director and producer, Jameson Cucciardi, who has been my partner throughout this project. I would also like to thank, Vanessa Marie Borg, the assistant director and co-producer of this project, the script-writers, Ivan Xuereb and Justin Sean. Our appreciation also goes towards our camera-person, John Nicholas Galea, the editor, Chris Goa Farrugia, the music composer, Mario Sammut, and the make-up artist, Daniela German. Furthermore, we would like to thank Shawn German, Vince Sammut, Joshua Said, Miriam Borg, Christina Gixti, Roberta Cacciatolo, and all those who gave a helping hand in the production. Obviously this project could not have been made possible without the actors, from the main roles to the extras. Finally, but not least, we would like to thank our audience for their amazing feedback. Regarding the question about our future projects, I would encourage people to wait and see. Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/maskra.one?fref=ts>

Episodes online: <http://vimeo.com/channels/maskra> Poster: Chris Goa Farrugia

STEDINA

Il-komunità' Maltija hija mistiedna
ghac-celebrazzjoni tal-Milied
nhar is-Sibt 24 ta' Dicembru 2016
fil-kappella ta San Pawl - DePiro House
19 Stanley Street, SYDNEY.

Fil-11.30pm nibdew
bil-kant tal-ghanjiet tal-Milied
mmexxija mis-Sur John Beale
F'nofs-il-lejl tibda l-quddiesa
bil-priedka tal-Milied bil-Malti
minn Noah Muscat

Wara kulhadd mistieden
ghall-kikkra kafe' jew te

Ghall-iktar informazzjoni cemplu lill-
Father Tarcisio Micallef MSSP
fuq (02) 9380 8398.

F'isem il-Fathers Maltin, Fr.Tarcisio
jixtieq il-Milied Hieni u Sena Gdida
mimlija hena u barka.

Huwa jiringrazza lil kul minn ikkopera mas-Socjeta'
Missjunarja ta' San Pawl u s-sacerdoti Maltin li
b'xi mod jew iehor ghenu matul is-sena 2016.

Grazzi wkoll lill-Media Maltija tal-appogg.

Merry Christmas

Maltese killed in the Battle of Jutland 1916

Many Maltese personnel served aboard warships lost during the famous naval Battle of Jutland. Several sources have their roll of honour, which also includes Maltese ratings. However, all sources differ from each other. The roll of honour compiled, which was published in the Government Gazette and inscribed on the War Memorial in Floriana inaugurated in 1938, does not match with other sources, such as the Daily Malta Chronicle and the website <http://www.naval-history.net>. Sometimes even the ranks differ from each other.

The following is an attempted list compiled from the Government Gazette and the above-mentioned website. Hopefully, no Maltese ratings are left out:



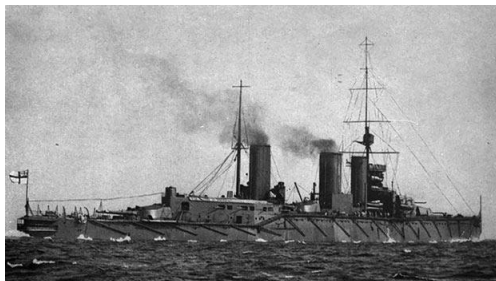
Battle-cruisers

HMS Indefatigable::

Antonio Borda (Canteen assistant, Admiralty civilian), Salvatore Cachia (Canteen assistant, Admiralty civilian), Carmelo Camilleri (Canteen assistant, Admiralty civilian), Emmanuele Chircop (3rd class officer's steward), Joseph Darmanin (1st class officer's steward), Guiseppi Farrugia (1st class officer's cook), James Long (2nd class officer's cook), Francis Mamo (3rd class officer's steward), Carmelo Micallef (1st class officer's steward), Salvatore Micallef (3rd class officer's steward), C. Monroe (Canteen assistant), C. Rogers (Steward), Giovanni Spiteri (3rd class officer's steward), Guiseppi Storaci (Cook), George Vella (Canteen assistant, Admiralty civilian) and Publius Viscoso (1st class officer's cook).

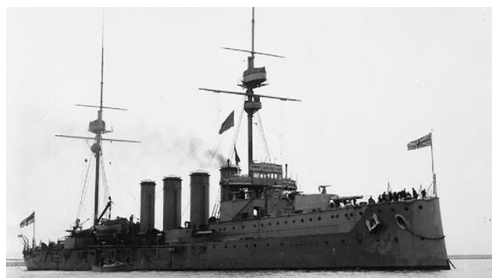
HMS Queen Mary.

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



Armoured cruisers HMS Black Prince.

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



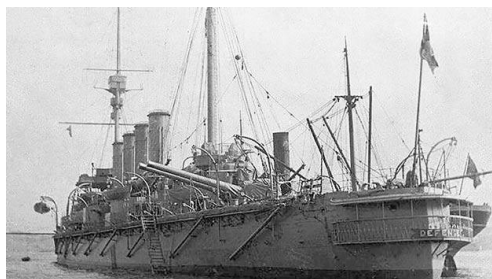
HMS Defence:

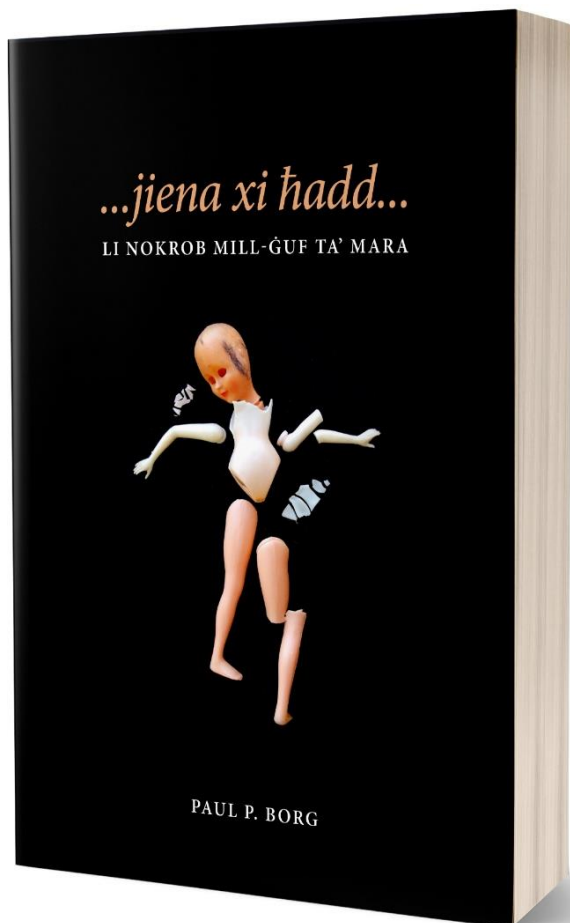
Alberto Baldacchino (Bandsman), Joseph Bonnici (Canteen server, Admiralty civilian), Nunzio Carmando (Bandsman), Agostino Cavallazzi (Bandsman), Gaetano Chircop (Canteen server, Admiralty civilian), Giovanni Consiglio (Bandsman), Virgilio di Mauro (Chief bandmaster), Nicolo Fondacaro (Band corporal), Abele Giglio (1st class officer's steward), Emanuele Ligrestischios (Bandsman), Angelo Magri (1st class

officer's cook), Carmelo Montesin (Bandsman), C. Micallef (Cook), William Minaldi (Bandsman), Paolo Patigniot, (Canteen server, Admiralty civilian), Antonio Polato (Bandsman), and Enrico Portelli (Bandsman), Charles Rodgers (2nd class officer's steward), Alfredo Ronsisvalle (Bandsman), John Triccas (1st class officer's steward) and Roberto Venturi (Bandman).

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

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





...jiena xi ħadd...
li jokrob mill-ġuf ta' mara
(Raw facts about abortion)

by Paul P. Borg

This is the name of a book by Paul P. Borg, published by Horizons. The author presents short stories and some poems in Maltese and in English. The stories deal with the raw facts of abortion and describes abortion methods openly as he believes readers have the right to be aware of what frequently goes on.

Borg does not mince his words in exposing the gruesome objects in a stainless steel dish inside the clinic, nor does he keep back from exposing the frequently business-as-usual attitude of some people involved whose job it is to protect life and not to destroy life. He delves into humanity's efforts to prolong life and the same humanity's crave to destroy life. He describes the crude factors facing a young pregnant woman leading to this momentous situation in her life. He uses literature as a medium to investigate her difficulties, her indecision and her helplessness.

Each story brings to light situations where everyone's interests are considered, except those of the little defenceless human inside the womb. One of the short stories shows the deep discussion eating at the mother, bringing to the forefront childhood fears and upbringing. The discussion stops being simply whether or not to stop a pregnancy, but digs deeply into her soul and values of life and her frightening inability to assume a responsibility that is solely hers. He brings to light a common situation in which a young mother-to-be has no more power over her own body, since both the person who rapes her and the person who removes her little baby, take advantage of her body. At the end it is her voiceless, tiny offspring who has to suffer.

The author describes the intimate moments of a young couple suddenly facing an unwanted pregnancy which frightens them. He shows the grave moment of a woman having to decide the verdict on the life of her own child who is unfortunate enough to have been conceived (of course through no fault if its own) inside her body with the wrong number of chromosomes.

The author expresses a dire need to give the little creature a voice it does not yet have. He makes it clear that although he is decidedly pro-life, the discussion does not simply question a woman's right on her own body, nor a simple vote *for* or *against* abortion. It is a deeper choice that digs profoundly into the soul of the mother, and should be re-phrased, using the terms *to love* or *not to love*. It is primarily an intimate and purely personal consideration that should be based exclusively on the great gift of infinite motherly love for the unique and awesome creation inside her tummy.

DIGITAL PRESERVATION OF THE MALTESE NEWSLETTERS

At the Malta Migration Museum – Dar l-Emigranti, MALTA

webpage: www.ozmalta.page4.me (Number of visitors 157124)

Lost Crusaders' Tunnels Found Near Palace in Malta

James Owen - [National Geographic News](#)



For centuries it's been said that the crusading Knights of Malta constructed an underground city on the Mediterranean island of [Malta](#), sparking rumors of secret carriageways and military labyrinths.

Now a tunnel network has been uncovered beneath the historic heart of the Maltese capital of Valletta, researchers say. But the tunnels—likely from an ahead-of-its-time water system—may render previous theories all wet.

The newfound tunnels are said to date back to the 16th and early 17th centuries, when the knights—one of the major Christian military orders of the 11th- to 13th-century Crusades—fortified Valletta against Muslim attack.

The tunnels were uncovered on February 24 during an archaeological survey of the city's Palace Square in advance of an underground-garage project.

"A lot of people say there are passages and a whole new city underground," said survey leader Claude Borg of the Valletta Rehabilitation Project. "But where are these underground tunnels? Do they exist? We've now found some of them, at least."

First Sign of Subterranean Valletta

Experts think the newly revealed tunnels—though tall enough to allow human passage—formed part of an extensive water system used to pipe vital supplies to the city.

The tunnels were found beneath Palace Square, opposite the Grandmaster's Palace. Once home to the leader of the Knights of Malta, the palace today houses Malta's legislature and the office of the Maltese president.

First, workers found what's believed to have been an underground reservoir just under the paving stones of Palace Square.

Near the bottom of the reservoir, some 40 feet (12 meters) down, they discovered a large opening in a reservoir wall—the entrance to a tunnel, which runs half the length of the square and connects to channels, some of which lead toward the palace.

Efforts to follow these branches have so far failed, as they were blocked off at some later date, Borg said. Restoration architect Edward Said, of the Fondazzjoni Wirt Artna (Malta Heritage Trust), describes the discovery as "just the tip of the iceberg."

Said suspects the tunnels formed part of a state-of-the-art plumbing system, complete with ancient passageways for access and maintenance.

Thousand-Year-Old Fighting Force

Also known as the Knights Hospitaller and the Order of St. John, the Knights of Malta, established in 1099, gained a formidable military reputation as enemies of Muslims during the Crusades, a series of Christian military campaigns that originally had the goal of capturing Jerusalem.

In 1530 Holy Roman Emperor Charles V offered the knights the island of Malta for the princely sum of one falcon a year.

The Christian order, though vastly outnumbered by Ottoman Turks, triumphed in the Great Siege of Malta in 1565.

The experience, though, inspired them to found the fortress city of Valletta on a high peninsula that was secure but lacking in natural water sources.

Water security was a major priority during the city's construction, the goal being to maintain the supply even during future sieges, according to Said.

"They soon realized that the rainwater and the wells they had were just not enough," he said.

Water was therefore transported to the city from valleys to the west via an aqueduct, the remains of which still stand.

The Palace Square location of the newfound tunnels supports the idea that the network was intended for water, the team said.

The tunnel apparently fed a grand fountain in Palace Square via the underground reservoir. The fountain was later moved when the British ruled the island, from 1814 to 1964.

"This fountain marked the very important achievement of getting water to the city," survey leader Borg said.

Centuries-old lead pipes and metal valves for operating the fountain have been found, according to Said. The tunnel's connecting branches may have included service passages used by the Knights' chief hydraulic engineer, or *fontaniere*.

"Together with his team, [the fontaniere] was in charge of monitoring and maintaining the fountains and conduits," Said added. "They were also responsible for switching off the fountains at night."

Knights of Sanitation

Other rumors of underground Valletta include a secret carriageway from the city to the palace of the Roman Catholic inquisitor—charged with rooting out heretics—under Valletta's harbor.

Such tales of secret military passages have more solid foundations, according to Said, since underground passages do run beneath the battlements protecting Valletta's landfront.

But Said suspects many of the subterranean legends spring from water-supply and drainage tunnels. Valletta was hit by plague in the 17th century, when the 1340s Black Death epidemic still loomed in people's minds, he said.

"They wanted to make sure this problem never happened again," Said added.

In fact, the city's plumbing system was highly advanced for the 16th and 17th centuries, he noted.

By comparison, major cities like [London](#) and [Vienna](#) "were still wallowing in their own muck."

The Knights of Malta Today

In 1798 Napoleon banished the knights from Malta. Today, based in Rome but still called the Order of Malta, they are involved mainly in humanitarian enterprises.

Still, this month the Maltese government announced that, following the discoveries, the underground-garage plan has been shelved.

A new fountain, based on the original, is slated for the square, and Said is hopeful that the secret tunnels will eventually

Maltese Cross and Sneeuberg Hut in South Africa



The trail to the Maltese Cross is very runnable with only a moderate amount of climbing. After 2.5 miles you reach the cross, which stands at 65 feet high and provides views that truly embody how expansive and remote the Cederberg mountain range is. Continue on an additional 3.2 miles to the Sneeuberg Hut—an enclosed basic sleep shelter roughly one third of the way up to the highest peak in the Cederberg. From the hut, you can either take the jeep track down toward Eikeboom (4.5 miles from hut) or run along singletrack toward Uitkyk Pass (about eight

miles from hut). The trailhead is located at the car park past the Dwarsrivier Observatory.



Tanya Bayona with members of the Dance Council Malta and guests of Honour
M. Jean Robin Milorad Miscovitch and Opera Director Joseph Baschetta

Ms Tanya Bayona F.I.S.T.D. London, Enrico Checchetti Diploma

Tanya Bayona, Fellow of the Imperial Society of Teachers of Dancing, London and holder of the Enrico Checchetti Diploma, directed the Tanya Bayona, Princess Poutiatine Academy of Ballet for 23 years. She started her training in classical ballet in Malta with Princess Nathalie Poutiatine and continued her professional training in dance academies in London, Rome and Paris.

Tanya's dancing and choreographic career began in London where she went on to work with examiners and teachers of the Imperial Society of Teachers of Dancing. She performed with several British Dance companies and appeared in a number of films such as *The Intelligence Men*, *Carry on Henry*, *The Life of Galileo*, and the internationally famous musical *Fiddler on the Roof*. She also auditioned successfully for Sadlers Wells Ballet Company directed by Pauline Grant.

Tanya Bayona has been invited to further her studies by several European Ministries of Culture, including three visits to the Bolshoi Theatre School in Moscow and the Vaganova Ballet Academy in Saint Petersburg. Her repertoire varies from classical to contemporary dance. In 1965, Tanya Bayona introduced the Enrico Cecchetti method in classical ballet in Malta and established her own ballet school. The method has now flourished and there are now some twelve ballet schools teaching it. She has worked extensively as a choreographer with her own dance company for local and international festivals in theatre and television productions and was responsible for the organisation of international artistic events in Malta. Between 1999 and 2001, Ms Bayona was the artistic director and choreographer for the dance performances given on the occasion of the National Day of France at the reception given by the Embassy of France in Malta 14th July.

Her love for opera resulted in working as a choreographer with opera stage director, Joseph Bascetta from New-York in three major productions, and most recently with renowned opera singer Miriam Gauci. She worked with Maltese composer, Charles Camilleri, in the creation and production of the modern ballets *The Elements*, *Unum Deum*, *Qolla* and *Requiem for the Massacred*, which have been performed with great success in Malta and France.

Tanya Bayona sat on the adjudicating panels of prestigious dance competitions such as the Julie Sedova Competition in Nice, France, Prix Lucienne Lambale in Bayonne France and several international video dance competitions held in France and Moscow. She has taught at various international summer schools in Italy and England.

Tanya Bayona is the founder President of the Dance Council Malta and a former member of the executive committee of the International Dance Council, UNESCO, Paris. In 1999, she was conferred with the Award "Citta di Valletta" for her lifelong commitment to the art of dance in Malta and the following year she was decorated as *Chevalier dans l'Ordre des Palmes Academiques* by the Prime Minister of France in recognition of the professional contribution to dance and the promotion of French culture in Malta. She has received several awards from England and Italy in recognition of her professional services towards the art of dance.

In 2005 Tanya Bayona celebrated together with other local ballet schools the fortieth anniversary of the Cecchetti Method in Malta. Tanya Bayona is still active as a choreographer, dance adjudicator and is regularly invited as guest teacher with local and foreign dance schools.

In 2008 she was elected Honorary Life President of the Dance Council Malta where she contributed in the organisation of local events and cultural exchanges between Malta and European countries. Yoga has become a part of her life and she is developing as a Yoga master working on an interesting programme for dancers and dance enthusiasts who wish to keep a healthy and balanced lifestyle. In June 2008 she was invited by the Director Signora Anna Razzi to sit on a prestigious panel of judges to examine the students from La Scuola di Ballo del Teatro di San Carlo Napoli. On the 13th of December, 2008 Ms. Tanya Bayona was decorated by the President of the Republic of Malta, Dr Edward Fenech Adami with the Medal for Service to the Republic - Midalja għall-Qadi tar-Repubblika (MQR)- of the National Order of Merit of Malta.



The Dance Workshop was founded by Theresa Lungaro-Mifsud in 1999 to provide a creative home for young bodies, minds and spirits. Since then, it established itself as a leading dance school committed to producing educated dance students of excellence.

The Dance Workshop offers outstanding dance tuition for children, youths and adults, nurturing creativity and spontaneity while providing a sound technical foundation. Children aged 3-6 years will thrive in creative ballet classes, while older students can choose from a wide selection of dance styles. With Classical Ballet

as its base, The Dance Workshop also specialises in Contemporary dance and Modern dance. Classes are also taught in Flamenco and Hiphop. This combination of dance forms is encouraged to equip our students and dancers with all the physical tools of their art, as well as the intellectual needs of the modern artist.

The teachers' dedication within the school's philosophy has produced excellent outcomes, with major students gaining outstanding results in their dance examinations. Every year, students from The Dance Workshop are successfully auditioning for international vocational academies. The Dance Workshop aims to set its mark as a stepping-stone towards vocational training. In 2005, The Dance Workshop became the first ballet school in Malta to be awarded recognition by the Imperial Society of Teachers of Dancing as an Approved Dance Centre. In April 2014, The Dance Workshop was licensed as a Further and Higher Education Institution by the NCFHE (Malta).

In every NEWSLETTER we explore what Malta and Valletta means to members of the Maltese diaspora. Past issues: ozmalta.page4.me



Beautiful skulls' in tombs from 2,000 years ago

(Photos) Some of the skeletons, skulls and decorative pottery found in Rabat November 2016.

A small tooth is almost all that remains of a 2,000-year-old baby discovered in an ancient burial site beneath a Rabat school. The series of catacombs, discovered during works to extend the playing fields of the St Paul's Missionary College, also revealed the remains of "at least eight" ancient island dwellers, decorative pottery – and new clues to unlocking the secrets of Malta's past.

"The area around Rabat is rich with remains. These tombs are the latest discovery we have made, with some interesting contents," Anthony Pace, the Superintendent of Cultural Heritage, told The Sunday Times of Malta. The site is open to the public today, and visitors can view the artefacts and even the human bones discovered there, previously unseen for thousands of years. Superintendence officials will guide the public around the site, briefing them on its contents.

A conservator and an osteologist (an anthropologist specialising in bones) will also explain the steps that follow in studying and preserving the discoveries. *Some of the skeletons are beautiful... We're not crazy, we're archeologists.* "Oh yes, this is just the beginning of the process. Discovering a site is definitely a thrilling experience, but so too is analysing skulls in the labs, for instance," Dr Pace said. Turning to his colleague, he said: "Some of the skeletons are beautiful, there's no other word for them." After a pause he added: "We're not crazy, we're archeologists". Walking into the Rabat school's grounds, children yesterday played football on a newly surfaced pitch, the schoolhouse looming large behind them. Leading the way to excavation works being done to extend the grounds, Dr Pace points past some mesh-wire and plastic piping along a gravel walkway.

"First we discovered this chamber and then we found more and more," he said, as the newly unearthed depths of the playing field's boundary wall revealed hand-chiselled crypts. Inside what looks like a small shelf carved out of the stone, about the size of an encyclopaedia, was one of several burial sites used for infants. "2,000 years ago, child mortality rates were high. They would lay them to rest in these miniature tombs, plaster it shut and then open it and use the site for a fresh burial as soon as they could. This would often be done over and over," said Bernardette Mercieca Spiteri, an anthropologist studying the remains. So who were these ancient people? Dr Pace shied away from calling them Maltese.

"'Malteseness' as we know it today is a relatively new invention. Malta would have been home to moving people from the Mediterranean, it would have also had settlers, and they would have considered themselves part of the empire, in this case, the Roman Empire," he said.

It was nearly impossible, he added, to place a precise date on the burial sites, but the contents and the location indicated they were probably from a time when Malta was transitioning between Carthaginian colony to Roman – a time, he said, when a strong Jewish community was present on the island, along

with merchants and colonial settlers. "These sites help us piece together that history, a time that we don't know enough about," Dr Pace said.



HELPING STUDENTS.....

Sarah Theuma, an LSA working at primary level for the past 4 years, tells us about her experiences.

What inspired you to be an LSA? I had wanted to work with children and experience working in a school. At first I wanted to be a child carer but decided to try something more challenging.

What is the best part about your job? Seeing a child progress and also how the children brighten your day. Another great part is

working within a team.

What is the worst part of your job? So far I have not seen a bad part of it. Of course each job has its ups and downs and sometimes I do feel tired but mostly it is quite satisfying.

What were your childhood dreams? As a child I always dreamt of having a family who loves me and a job that makes me happy. I also secretly dreamt of being a singer. Obviously, not a secret anymore.

Do you feel that you have had an impact on the students that you've taught? If so in what way? Well as far as I know I think I did make an impact, a positive one, on some students from what some parents have told me. I am glad to make my students happy and also be able to make a change in their lives, even the tiniest change.

PASO A PASO – ESTUDIO DI DANZA - MALTA



Estudio de Danza, under the direction of Deborah McNamara presents Paso a Paso. This lively production will be performed by students of the school showcasing Spanish Dance and NuevoFlamenco. Dancing with Fans, mantons and castanets to Spanish composers such as Bizet and Pablo Luna as well as modern day artists is sure to delight the audience. The performance will take place on the 8th of December at 6pm at the Blue Box Theatre in Msida.

Inicio, is the debut performance of Compañia Danza and special guests. The company, under the artistic direction of Deborah McNamara and Robert Scicluna takes on a fresh approach to Flamenco and Spanish Dance. Don't expect frilly spotted dresses and headcombs. Elegant and simple costumes are the order of the day, showing off the dancers bodylines and versatility enabling them to interpret the many different shades of Spanish Dance and Nuevo Flamenco. Special guest artists include Angel Muñoz and Charo Espino from Spain as well as local and international guests. The performance will take place on the 8th of December at 8pm.

Tickets for both shows can be bought online at www.bluebox.com.mt

Paso a Paso brings a taste of Spanish Dance and Nuevo Flamenco with original choreographies performed by students of Estudio de Danza Malta and guest participation of students from Malta, Italy and Russia.

BLUE BOX, M Space, Oscar Zammit Street • MSD 2918 • Msida • Malta

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FRA DIEGU BONANNO

Institute Founder



Gioacchino Bonanno was born in 1831 in Valletta and had a fairly good education for his day. He had just finished a tailor apprenticeship but felt the calling for a religious life. In 1858 at twenty-five he entered the Tertiary Order of St. Francis, and four years later he joined the Order of Friars Minor (Ta Giezu) as a lay-brother, taking solemn vows and the name of Diegu.

He was assigned to walk the streets asking for alms for his convent, and here Fra Diegu became aware of the needs around him. In 1860, following an incident in St. Julians, he asked for and was granted permission to begin to look for destitute girls, taking them in the shelter of a home he set up at Cospicua.

At this stage he also started work among orphan girls who begged for a living. In 1885 he opened another small house for them at Balzan under the care of his sister Giovanna Marmara. For the girls in these shelters Fra Diegu used to provide food and also dowries, all this from what he collected from benefactors.

With the ever-increasing numbers to care for, Diegu opened a shelter in Hamrun made up of two adjacent houses. He called it Institute of St. Francis of Assisi and the buildings gave service for a number of years. Meantime, the institute, because of the popularity of the founder, became more popularly known as Fra Diegu Institute.

Between 1898 and 1905, beautiful and spacious new premises on the plan of architect Lupi, were built in Villambrosa str. through the generosity of Marquis Joseph Scicluna. This edifice, which is still in use, has a large imposing iron gate as an entrance into a spacious garden through which the building is accessed. Nowadays, because of the size of the facilities, special parties for underprivileged children are sometimes organized and held here by philanthropic groups or companies. Fra Diegu Bonanno did not see the new institute ready because he died two years before it was finished on the 14th May 1902 and was taken privately to the Franciscan motherhouse.

On the occasion of his burial in the Franciscan church at Ta Giezu in Rabat, the most senior of the priests of the order carried the coffin. On the 16th October 1932, a statue of Fra Diegu made by Censu Apap was unveiled in the middle of St. Paul Square Hamrun in the presence of the Archbishop, Governor, clergy and other dignitaries. The St. Joseph Band Club played A special hymn composed by Mro C. Camilleri for the occasion.

WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK ALL OUR READERS AND CONTRIBUTORS AND ALL THOSE WHO SHARE THESE NEWSLETTERS WITH OTHERS. YOUR SUPPORT AND LOVE FOR THIS JOURNAL IS GREATLY APPRECIATED – The Editor

The Farmhouse - IR-RAZZETT



by Doris Fenech

Gradually farmhouses ("irziezet"), were erected surrounded by their fields ("raba"). A very simple building, with a functional layout. The roofs were flat, so they gathered the rain water in wells for the necessity of the family and their animals.

Pumpkins ("qara-ħamra") and winter melon ("bettieħ tax-xitwa"), were put in rows on the roof to mature with the heat of the sun.

A big yard ("bitha"), was made in the center, where housewives made most of

their domestic chores. They merrily sing folk-songs ("ghana"), handed down from one generation to another, while washing the clothes with their hands, using big heavy zinc tubs and well water.

With great patience they cooked their meals on the ("kenur"), using the fresh crops from their fields and washed the plates in a large earthenware basin ("zingla"). Other daily routine were - feeding the livestock, picking the eggs and milked ("taħleb"), the sheep and goats. They made cheeslets ("gbejniet"), using curdling milk with rennet ("tamis"), and put in small cheese-forms ("qwieleb"). When the cheese has not yet grown dry ("muxxi"), they put the cheeslet ("gbejniet"), in a cane cage ("qafas tal-gbejniet"), in the terrace ("setaħ"), for ventilation to dry faster.

Every morning the farmer's had the tasks to tend the animals in the shy ("maqjel"), take the cows, sheep, and goats to graze ("jirghu"), saddled ("sarrag"), the mule or the donkey with the field- cart ("karrettun"), and load the cart ("karrettun"), with the needs for their fields or with the crops for the vegetable market ("pitkalija"). They weighed the crop on a weigh-beam ("stasija"). From the yard a staircase led to the terrace ("setaħ"), which was always built looking South ("Nofsinhar"), so the sun will heat the rooms ("l-ghorof"), and prevent from cold wind. All rooms had one small window ("rewwieħa"). Farmhouses had one or two bed rooms with few simple furniture, a wooden chest, a bed, small table, two chairs, and a big religious picture hanging on the wall.

Another dry room was used for the storage of clover room ("l-ghorfa tas-silla"), and a small room was utilised as a store. On top of these rooms they had a pigeon loft ("barumbara"), which could only be reached by a ladder. Rooftops were used to store pumpkins, during the hot sunny months and brought in before the first rain starts. Pumpkins were stored in cool and dry rooms away from dampness.

At the back of the farmhouse they had a small plot ("il-mandra"), bounded with prickly-pears (bajtar tax-xewk) and cultivated fig trees (sigar tat-tin), grape-vines, lemon and orange trees. They planted a small area with celery ("karfus"), parsley ("tursin"), basal ("habaq"), and marjoram ("merqtux"), to add a variety of flavour or garnish their cooking.

Even the children gave a hand with the hen-coop ("gallinar"). They cared the water from the well ("bir"), and mixed the bran fed ("smid - noħħala"), for the roaster, chickens and ducks. Rabbits were kept in big cages and feed with clover ("silla"), barely ("furrajna"), and dry bread ("ħobz niexef"). During the day they let the animals roam in the yards ("biħħa"). They took great care of their animals since they produced their daily food - cheese, eggs, meat and supplies other needs - cotton for clothes and blankets, feathers for pillows and manure for the fields.

Donkeys and mules were the only help the peasants ("il-gabillott"), had in their fields - ploughing ("jahartu"), getting water from the water mills ("swieni"), or carrying heavy loads on carts ("karrettuni"), and to move from one place to another. In their fields peasants erected small corbel hut ("girna"), shaped like a dome, with double walls build of coralline limestone rock and a small door faces east or southeast to give more light and protect from strong wind.

With great skill they laid down the rubble fence ("ħajt tas-sejġieħ"), one next to an another until the required height. They ended the shape of a dome with a big slab and cover with fragmentary of rocks and gravel on top to give a convex-roof to allow rainwater to run off. A very small window was made for the farmer to watch the fields from the inside. Some huts ("giren"), had an enclose staircase or ramp on the side to provide a way to the top of the roof.

The huts were raise for the farmers necessities, as a shed for tools, to dry figs and tomatoes on the roof and to shelter from the summer heat or from the cold and rainy days.

MALTESE IN ALGERIA - Jonathan Barbara

"The Maltese, the poorest of the arrivals and a previously colonized people under British rule, were placed at the bottom of this settler hierarchy. They were targeted by terrible anti-Maltese sentiments as early as the 1840s, and these have lasted in some circles to this day in France." "The difficulty of finding work at home, coupled with the decrease in trade with foreign countries, made the Maltese worker look to emigration as a solution to this double problem. Maltese had been emigrating to the lands bordering on the Mediterranean for many years and there were Maltese colonies in Egypt, Tripolitania, Tunisia and Algeria"

"Like all newcomers, the Maltese in Algeria did at first encounter hostility from the French. Continental Europeans looked down on other Europeans who came from the islands such as the Sicilians and the Maltese. It is true to admit that most insular Europeans were poor and illiterate. Some did have a criminal record and were only too ready to carry on with their way of life in other parts of the Mediterranean where their names were not publicly known".

"Following the departure of the Knights of Malta (1798), the ensuing Anglo-French struggle in the Mediterranean led to considerable prosperity of the Maltese economy. However, by 1813 the economic boom was at an end. By the 1820s famine was rife. A cholera epidemic in 1837 killed nearly 5% of the population and the subsequent quarantine restrictions closed all Mediterranean ports to Maltese imports and produced great hardship. The conditions of life were miserable."

"The Maltese who crossed over to Algeria did establish a good rapport with their French rulers. Although poor and illiterate they were able to improve their lot through sheer hard work. Like their countrymen in Egypt, they realised the importance of a good education and they made sure that their offspring received

that kind of education which in Malta they never got." "The first free Maltese settlers came to Australia during the late 1830s. The Maltese did not leave home because of political or religious oppression. Most of them wanted to build a better economic future for their children and for themselves..."

"Meanwhile, however, the French made Algeria an integral part of France, a status that would end only with the collapse of the Fourth Republic in 1958. Tens of thousands of settlers from France, Spain, Italy, and Malta moved in to farm the Algerian coastal plain and occupy significant parts of Algeria's cities. These settlers benefited from the French government's confiscation of communal land, and the application of modern agriculture techniques that increased the amount of arable land. Algeria's social fabric suffered during the occupation: literacy plummeted, while land confiscation uprooted much of the population."

"Upon experiencing the primitive conditions in Algeria, colons with means fled home to France, or, at least, to Algiers or Oran, where they felt protected... Many of the colons who remained in Algeria complained bitterly about the deficiencies of their situations... Many colons soon became ill with local diseases.

..

By 1834, the Maltese were third in number of immigrants to Algeria, outnumbered only by Spaniards and Sicilians. Algeria was for many years the most important destination for Maltese migration within the zone of the Mediterranean.

By 1847, the number of Maltese living in Algeria calculated to 4,610 people, so many that the Maltese church dispatched two Catholic priests during Lent to deliver sermons in Maltese. By 1850, about half of all Maltese emigrants chose Algeria as their final destination. Most Maltese emigrated because of the high population density and unemployment on Malta and adjacent archipelago islands. Most were agricultural workers, which fit the needs of Algerian colonies"



MALTESE IN ALGERIA IN 1914

Photo taken at wedding of Joseph Mary Borg (left) to Catherine Chircop (2nd from left) in 1914, from Zebbug Malta. Also in picture are Joseph's brother Andrew (centre standing) who later emigrated to the USA and his sister Maria Saveria (rightmost seated) together with their parents Carmena and Carmelo (centre). Standing around Andrew are Carmena's sisters and rightmost standing is the bride's sister. Seated in front is the daughter of Maria Saveria

Notice how the seated ladies are lifting their skirts to show off their lace underskirt. Joseph and Catherine are my father's maternal grandparents.. My father was also the only relative to visit his great-uncle Andrew in the USA in 1976. On the right is a picture of Joseph Borg, the groom in the above picture.

Micallef Family in Algeria - 1908

The photo above depicts a mother (second from left, front) and her 10 children in a photo dated approximately 1908.

It is special in that the children at the back were not present for the photo - they were added later. At the time they had already emigrated to the United States of America. The family was never reunited. The young boy in front is Joe Micallef - father of Eda, who later married Albert Adreveno - also in the USA.

The girls on the right (the only two girls in the family) remained in Malta. The rightmost is 16 year old Teresa, who 9 years later married Carmelo Vassallo ([see below](#)). She is my great grandma - mother of Cristino and his siblings.

The other girl is Grace Micallef. Her son's son (my mother's second cousin) married my aunt Catherine Barbara, my father's sister. This relationship can be seen in the descendency chart below. Carmelo Barbara and Catherine Barbara are brother and sister.

**The Maltese Cross in Sweden**

This is a completely different cross, with no relation whatsoever to the Iron Cross. The Maltese Cross has a rich history indeed, is used in many countries and in Malta in particular. Above photos - the Swedish Order of the North

Star and Carl XVI Gustaf, King of Sweden: Proud wearer of at least four **Maltese Crosses**. The basis for most designs of the **Military Cross of Valour** is the Maltese Cross, with its distinctive wedge-shaped arms, which look very much like fish tails. The fish symbol was adopted by the early Christian Church and the design has long been used as a **Hospitaller Cross** and **Crusader Cross** (see Amalfi Cross, the Jerusalem Cross and the Knights Templar Cross). A **Vert** (green) version is the St. Lazarus Cross used by *The Military and Hospitaller Order of Saint Lazarus of Jerusalem*.



A man of cultural achievements: Honouring Joseph Attard Tabone

'A man of cultural achievements,' is the title of a new book published to honour – Mr Joseph Attard Tabone – who has this month celebrated his 80th birthday. The book was recently launched by the Minister for Gozo Dr Anton Refalo.

Mr Attard Tabone, has during his lifetime greatly contributed to Gozo in the field of archaeology, as well as in the protection of Gozo's heritage – a contribution already recognised and appreciated, when he was granted the Medal for Services to the Republic in 2001 and the

Gieh Ghawdex Award by Circolo Gozitano in 2008.

The book contains several writings by well-known authors – all experts in their field, of a historical, cultural and natural aspect, many of them related to our island.

Some of these writings are also about Xaghra, where Mr Attard Tabone was born and raised. The interesting biography of Mr Attard Tabone encompasses all the work he has undertaken to protect the historical and artistic heritage of Gozo. *Photographs: MGOZ/George Scerri*

Sundial at Augustinian Priory, Rabat, Gozo,



The Augustine Priory dedicated to Santu Wistin in Rabat (Victoria) on the island of Gozo has a historical sundial similar to the sundials in the larger Dominican Priory in Rabat, Malta. The references on "Maltese Sundials" including Paul Micallef's 1994 book and Sir Christopher Daniels article in "Antique Clocks" indicated the sundial to be in poor condition. This is no longer the case as the sundial has been restored within the last 10 years and is in excellent condition. Perhaps Paul Micallef had a hand in this restoration.

The sundial is on the south facing wall of the terrace around the cloister of the Priory. It is a very simple and stark design, just showing the hourly time lines. The declination is a bit east of south and there seems to be a longitude correction built in as

the meridian is not vertical. It showed clock time 10:10 am when we visited on 20 March 2010.

The cloister of the priory is normally closed to casual visitors but when we came by for the second time, the door was open as the housekeeper was cleaning the floor. She forwarded my request to visit to Fr. Peter who was in the library. He welcomed us and told us some of the history of the Priory. The surviving records show the priory existed since the 1550's. Earlier records were destroyed by the attacks by the Ottoman Moslems in 1551 when Gozo was sacked and over 1000 people taken as slaves. He did not know the date the original sundial was painted but it was probably before 1850. Nor did he know the precise date of the restoration, perhaps 10 years ago but he provided access to the cloister and the terrace to see the sundial. He said they welcome visitors. They are proud of their heritage as the Order of St Augustine and the Priory, or Convent to use his words. They welcome and provide accommodation for visitors seeking peace and spiritual renewal. It was a peaceful, spiritual place but we had a bus to catch at 10:30. So many sundials, so little time!



Distributing newspapers during the war (1942)

Newspaper World changes

by Lino Spiteri

Malta has always had a liking for print. The tradition dates back a long time, at least from the arrival in Malta of Italian exiles during the Garibaldi era, to virulent sheets published at the peak of the clash between

Strickland and the Nationalists. It prevails to this day.

Though the arrival of the internet and the social media has impacted and even killed off many newspapers in the rest of the world, Malta is still going strong. The last time two major newspapers folded, it had nothing to do with the social media, which had not even arrived on the scene.

One was **Il-Berqa**, (The Lightning) a long-standing Maltese daily published by Allied Newspapers, which succumbed to the competition offered by the new arrival, **I-Orizzont** of the Union Press, the brainchild of the late Joe Attard Kingswell and the recently departed tower of journalism Anton Cassar. The other was Malta News, also of the left, which started as a tabloid to fulfill the dream of the late Paul Carachi.

It was then turned into a quality paper but never really made inroads, even when published in a different guise. It has always been the idea of sections of the left to publish a daily newspaper in English. I remember many debates in the Labour Party national executive about it.

There was never much power behind the scheme. The Labour Party even lost its Maltese daily, **il-Helsien**, which had support during the politico-religious dispute of the 1960s.

It was killed off the scene by the burgeoning I-Orizzont, which offered better and more diversified coverage, initially thanks to the commitment and capabilities of Cassar and Carachi, and an enthusiastic youthful team of reporters led and inspired by Charles Mizzi.

Efforts to publish humorous and satirical newspapers also ended in failure, which is a pity because, if there is anything that Malta could take on it is sarcastic humour to help us learn how to take the mickey out of our pseudo-serious selves.

Not all stories were dark. The arrival of **Malta Today** over 10 years ago was greeted with scepticism at first. But the Sunday paper has flourished, aggressively led by Saviour Balzan and Roger Degiorgio, who got together a fine small team of commentators.

But the doyens of the newspaper world have remained **Times of Malta** and **The Sunday Times of Malta**. They may have been somewhat affected by the competition and the growth of the social media, yet their circulation and advertising revenue are second to none.

The varied and virulent attacks on the government at least confirm the extent of free journalism in Malta

That does not mean that increased competition, the accessibility of the internet and the social media have not had an impact. Thousands flocked to them, granted, but newspapers have responded strongly.





More exhibits and information at Migration Museum

Twelve information pods are housed at the Museum and Visitors' Centre, each offering multimedia information about destinations chosen by the

thousands of Maltese migrants over the past decades.

Bank of Valletta has sponsored the pod dedicated to Australia, a continent where the Maltese have made a tremendous impact. The Bank has a Representative Office in Melbourne, which is instrumental in helping the migrants there to retain their economic links with their home country.

At the museum in Dar l-Emigrant in Valletta, Monsignor Philip Calleja has painstakingly archived anything and everything related to emigration, chronicling the impact that migrants had on their environment. The museum's location is also fitting because it is at a perfect vantage point, just behind the Upper Barrakka gardens in Valletta, where one could have had a clear view of migrant ships leaving for faraway, unknown lands in the 1940s and 50s.

The digital museum assists in the easy dissemination of information among visitors, students, scholars and the public using the latest interactive multimedia technology. The information is brought to life via numerous touch screens, video projections and showcases, thereby enhancing the impact of the content on the visitors to the museum.

Monsignor Alfred Vella, Emigrants Commission Director, says special presentations, film screenings and academic conferences on migration problems in the past and present are being planned. Speaking to Fr Vella, one gets a sense of his enthusiasm for a campaign targeting school visits.

The museum's ultimate objectives will eventually serve to examine the history of Maltese emigration and encourage academic research in related fields of Maltese emigration amongst University students. The Museum will house the largest body of research material and memorabilia related to Maltese emigration. All visitors can expect an impressive combination of in-depth information and much food for thought.

The digital section on the top floor of the museum uses state-of-the-art audiovisuals while digital archiving of numerous documents and photos is also providing people with the opportunity to search for information quickly and easily.

MARSA JEWISH CEMETERY - MALTA

Location Information



Marsa is a village on Marsa Creek, a continuation in land of Grand Harbour, and the Cemetery is approximately 4.5 kilometres away by road from Valletta. The Cemetery is situated on the side of the main road that runs to Qormi, just at the south-eastern corner of the Marsa Sports Club. The Cemetery is easily located by following the signs to the airport within the vicinity of the sports club. Cemetery address: Triq L-Ingiered, Marsa.

Historical Information

From the spring of 1915, the hospitals and convalescent depots established on the islands of

Malta and Gozo dealt with over 135,000 sick and wounded, chiefly from the campaigns in Gallipoli and Salonika, although increased submarine activity in the Mediterranean meant that fewer hospital ships were sent to the island from May 1917.

During the Second World War, Malta's position in the Mediterranean was of enormous Allied strategic importance. Heavily fortified, the island was never invaded, but was subjected to continual bombardment and blockade between Italy's entry into the war in June 1940 and the Axis defeat at El Alamein in November 1942. At the height of Axis attempts to break Malta's resistance in April 1942, the island and her people were awarded the George Cross by King George VI.

Malta's defence relied upon a combined operation in which the contributions made by the three branches of the armed forces and Merchant Navy were equally crucial. Although heavily pressed in defence, offensive raids launched from the island by air and sea had a crippling effect on the Axis lines of communication with North Africa, and played a vital part in the eventual Allied success there.

Marsa Jewish Cemetery contains one Commonwealth burial of the First World War and two from the Second World War. The Commission also cares for one non-war burial in the cemetery, and two war graves of other nationalities.



NOSTALGIA

Karmen Mikallef Buhagar (right), a Maltese migrant in Egypt, collecting money for the Malta Relief Fund in the 1940s

Sliema Wanderers' 1955-56 quadruple crown



(standing) C. Mattocks, N. Calleja, S. Bonnici, J. Bonnici, V. Scerri, R. Cosby, L. Cuschieri, A. Gollcher, G. Muscat, J. Cuschieri. (Sitting) A. Scalpello (masseur), T. Nicholl, E. Pace (treasurer), E. Meli (president), G. Farrugia (secretary), S. Schembri, B. Gilmour (trainer). (Squatting) J. Xuereb, J. Farrugia (mascot), S. Nicholl.

Season 1955-56 was a most memorable one for Sliema Wanderers and Tony Nicholl.

Sixty years ago, the Blues won all four major honours going at the time and legendary captain Nicholl was celebrating his 25th year in top flight soccer with the Wanderers.

People were still recouping from the devastation of the war. Ration cards were still in vogue. There was no TV or radio. The only means of media was the local Rediffusion.

Local journalism was confined to The Times of Malta, Il-Berqa and their sister paper The Sunday Times of Malta with The Bullettin serving as a daily evening paper and the sports edition of the Times of Malta on Saturday nights.

Experiments in floodlighting and turf pitches were still in their initial stages. However, sporting pique and even at times fanaticism were at a high.

With football and the cinema, the main attractions at the weekend, it was quiet normal in the 50s to have annual figures of around 205,000 spectators for the 56 league games. A first round Sliema-Floriana match attracted over 13,000 spectators on one occasion.

The 1955-56 curtain rose in mid-September with the Cassar Cup. This competition was not played the season before. Sliema lifted the cup after beating Floriana 2-1 through goals by J. Xuereb and S. Nicholl.

When, at the end of the season, Sliema finished winning all the honours there were some who maintained that one of these had pertained to the season before.

But with Sliema again winning the Cassar Cup at the start of season 1956-57 that argument did not hold water any longer. Incidentally, the Sliema players finished up the recipients of two different medals each having the same year written on them.

The league commenced in the first weekend of October. All matches were played at Gzira Football Stadium. The championship was composed of eight teams. They finished in this order - Sliema, Floriana, Hamrun, Birkirkara, Hibernians, Valletta, Rabat and Vittoriosa. Two rounds were played. No substitutes were allowed at the time.



THE MALTESE SETTLERS IN WARRAWONG – WOLLONGONG NSW

The George Cross Falcons Hall is situated at Lake Avenue, Cringila. The club President is Mr Louis Parnis. The George Cross Falcons Club was built in 1951 to serve the Maltese community, which arrived in the Illawarra to work predominantly at the steelworks. In 2016 the George Cross Falcons Club celebrates its sixty-fifth anniversary. It has served the Maltese community as a place to welcome ministers, clergyman and others that have travelled to Australia from Malta to meet Maltese migrants to Australia.



St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church Warrawong church during the feast of Our Lady of Victories. Photo Lawrence Xerri

In the late 40s after the Second World War, the Maltese started to arrive in Australia in large numbers and a considerable number settled in the Illawarra. Most settled around Cringila, Warrawong, Lake Heights and Port Kembla, suburbs of Wollongong. In those days there was not the help and information for migrants as today; so the new arrivals had to fend for themselves or seek help from others that arrived before them. In June 1951, a few men got together and formed a society called “The Union” (L-Ghaqda).

“As there was no church in Warrawong, the members of this newly formed society decided to start donating a shilling each a week to hire a hall that was situated on the corner of Flagstaff and Bruce roads, to buy flowers and ask Fr. Gallagher the parish priest from Port Kembla to say mass for them on Sundays.

On special occasions like the feast of Our Lady of Victories which falls of the eight of September, the Maltese National Day, a Maltese priest from Sydney would be invited to say mass and officiate on this special occasion. These were the Maltese Carmelite friars, Fr. Robert Cassar O. Carm., Fr. Licari O. Carm., and Fr. Camilleri. A young Franciscan priest, from Xaghra, Gozo, arrived by boat from Malta on the 3rd of March 1956. Fr. Bonello was to stay at the residence of the Cathedral in Wollongong, but there was the proverbial saying “no room at the inn”, so he stayed with a Maltese family, the Cassars, for three months. Fr. Bonello became the first parish priest and Maltese Chaplain of St. Francis of Assisi’s parish at Warrawong.” (Bartolo, George 2006)

The George Cross Falcons Club members are proud of a great committee that understands the importance of solidarity. The club boasts a large painting of Malta harbour and Wollongong scenes on the front wall of the premises and on the other side of the building there is a huge steel ship with a Maltese family representing migration to the Illawarra. I am certain that those people who visit the George Cross Falcons Club in Cringila appreciate all that the club has achieved under the leadership of Mr Parnis, his committee, previous leaders and life members. They are to be congratulated on their dedication to ensuring the success of the club over the years and its celebration of the Maltese culture in Australia.

Every year the Maltese community celebrates the feast of Our Lady of Victories at St Francis of Assisi Church in Warrawong. The service starts with a procession of Our Lady around the surrounding streets of the church. The parishioners praying the Holy Rosary during the procession and are accompanied by the Wollongong brass band. The first priest for St Francis of Assisi Catholic Church in Warrawong, Father Victor Bonello, started this great cultural tradition. He was originally from Gozo, the second largest island in the Maltese archipelago, and his church in Gozo was dedicated to the nativity of Mary. The Maltese in Warrawong have always celebrated this event as their national feast day, providing the Maltese people with a yearly focal point and connection between their national identity and Catholic faith.



St Francis of Assisi Catholic Primary School

95 Flagstaff Rd, Warrawong NSW 2502

St Francis of Assisi School is a Catholic Primary School, a community of faith, based on a belief in Jesus Christ and His mission to build a better world. It is staffed by lay teachers, with a presence of the Franciscan Sisters of the Heart of Jesus, and our Parish community and Pastoral leaders, Franciscan Friars- Fr. Emmanuel Gatt, Fr. Leonard Testa and Brother Louis.

The School's Patron Saint is St Francis. The function of the school is not restricted to simply educating our children, but includes a pastoral role with both the children and their families, so that the true expression of our purpose can be achieved. St Francis of Assisi School is multicultural in its composition and is thereby influenced by the various traditions and aspirations of many nationalities. Our school has an approximate enrolment of 240 students ranging from Kindergarten to Year 6.

Properties featuring rare Muxrabija feature scheduled

The earliest version of the muxrabija in Maltese architecture dates to the late Middle Ages



The Planning Authority has recently scheduled, as a Grade 2 protection, 36 properties which incorporate within their facade the rare Mediterranean architectural feature consisting of a window-like element known as the muxrabija.

The properties are found in Balzan, Birkirkara, Lija, Marsascala, Naxxar, Qrendi, Qormi, Rabat, Siġġiewi, Żabbar, Żebbug and Żejtun in Malta and in Victoria, Għasri, Għarb and San Lawrenz in Gozo.



The *muxrabija* is a Mediterranean feature and its earliest records date back to the seventh century in the Middle East. They were developed around the Middle East and North Africa, mainly to cool the building interior by allowing the breeze to circulate through the trelliswork and also to allow women to look onto the street without being seen. They were also used as a cooling device for water storage and as a security measure to see who was at the door or on the approaching roads.

In Maltese architecture, the earliest version of the *muxrabija*, dates back to the late Middle Ages (1300-1400) and were probably introduced through cultural contacts the islands had with the Arab world.

Muxrabiji that carry a security component are most commonly found in the villages whose inhabitants lived away from the safety of Mdina and fortified cities around the harbour area. This is evident in the geographic distribution of the surviving specimen.

Submitted by Fr. G.S. Micallef



The Amadeus Chamber Choir.
presents
A Prelude to Christmas

an Orchestral & Choral concert
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in Aid of Id-Dar tal-Providenza
in collaboration with
the Cathedral Chapter
Special Guests

Marsa Scouts Pipes & Drums;
Saturday 17th December 2016
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For more information call 79200118
Guests are kindly asked to refrain from wearing stiletto/high heels



Amadeus Chamber Choir Malta

