September 2020

THE JOURNAL THAT IS LOVED AND RESPECTED BY EVERYONE



Maltese e-Rewsletter Journal of Maltese Living Abroad

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We don't always have to agree with one another, but it is important that we learn to respect each other.





Stay Safe Wear a mask

Lil din I-art helwa, I-Omm Ii tatna isimha, Hares, Mulej, kif dejjem Int harist: Ftakar Ii lilha bil-ohla dawl libbist. Aghti, kbir Alla, Id-dehen III min jahkimha, Rodd il-hniena lis-sid, sahha 'I-haddiem: Seddaq il-ghaqda fil-Maltin u s-sliem.

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Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP and the Order of Malta

I had the great pleasure this week of celebrating a Mass at St Mary's Cathedral, Sydney, marking the 900th anniversary of the death of the Founder of the Order of Malta, Blessed Fra' Gerard. As one of the order's honorary conventual chaplains, I am very proud of the remarkable work the Order of Malta does to serve the sick and the poor around the world. We are currently seeing this first hand in Lebanon following last month's devastating explosion in Beirut.

As it approaches its millenium, the Order still seeks like Blessed Gerard to defend the faith and serve Christ in the sick poor. God bless the Order of Malta!

New scheme with an investment of €90,000 for restoration and conservation work in parish churches launched



Published on Thursday 30 July 2020

Minister for National Heritage, the Arts and Local Government José Herrera has launched a €90,000 investment scheme for restoration and conservation work in parish churches. The scheme aims to provide financial support for the restoration and conservation work on altars, architectural decoration, gilding and frescoes of the parish churches of the Archdiocese of Malta and the Diocese of

Gozo.

Minister Herrera said that the Ministry of National

Heritage, the Arts and Local Government is showing full commitment in helping to preserve and restore our churches. He stated that, "the churches of our country are an integral and essential part of our heritage. We are therefore working to invest as much as we can in order to preserve them for future generations." Minister Herrera stressed that this fund complements a number of works carried

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out by the Restoration Directorate on various sites, including a stretch of 850 meters restoration project completed in the bastions of the MICAS project, as well as a restoration program worth €7.6 million launched for the bastions of Cottonera.

The chairman of the Arts Council Malta Albert Marshall said that, through this scheme, the Council is for the first time collaborating with the Restoration Directorate in order to administer these funds, which are intended to further strengthen the cultural heritage of our country.

The Director of Restoration, Architect Norbert Gatt, explained that this scheme can cover up to 100% or a maximum of €15,000 of the total costs of the projects.

For more info click here. Applications are open until 12:00 on the 16th of September.

Press Release by the Ministry for the National Heritage, the Arts and Local Government.



Валдай Maltese professor Joseph Mifsud denies offering information to Trump campaign

Jesmond Saliba

Professor Joseph Mifsud has denied making offers on 'dirt' about Hillary Clinton to the former Trump campaign strategist,

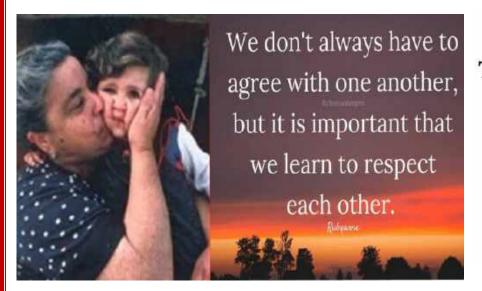
George Papadopoulos. New FBI documents have also shown that denied prior knowledge of any information originating from Russia on Clinton.

Mifsud was considered to be a key player in the allegations levied at Russia, that it interfered and helped the Trump campaign with information on his opponent during the 2016 presidential election.

Former Special Counsel Robert Mueller had singled out Mifsud as the informant who told Papadopoulos that Russia had e-mails that could deter Clinton's chance of winning the election.

According to newly-leaked FBI documents, Mifsud insists that he had "no advance knowledge Russia was in possession of emails from the Democratic National Committee and, therefore, did not make any offers or offer any information" to Papadopoulos.

Papodopoulos had plead guilty to lying to FBI agents about if he had started working with the Trump campaign when he first met Mifsud. He had also lied about the extent of communications between him and Mifsud, Mueller said.



IF PEOPLE ARE TRYING TO BRING YOU DOWN, BE PROUD OF IT. IT ONLY CONFIRMS THAT YOU'RE ABOVE THEM.

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Kappa Vision

ĠNIEN IL-QARI (THE READING GARDEN) IN BIR MIFTUH, GUDJA.

The garden is located within the Lieutenants' Garden (Ġnien tal-Kutnent) or the Commands' Garden (Ġnien tal-Kmand) - a set of gardens in various localities in Malta. They were built in the early years of the 19th century when the island was a British protectorate. The Gudja Lieutenants' Garden also features this barumbara (dovecote).

THE LIEUTENANTS' GARDENS

The gardens were commissioned by Civil Commissioner Alexander Ball between 1802 and 1805, and were given to the Luogotenenti, or lieutenants, in charge of the towns or villages. They were also sometimes known as the Ball Gardens. A total of 21 gardens were established. Unfortunately, about half of these were destroyed in the 20th century, while the others have survived in various states of maintenance. Well-preserved gardens include those at Gudja, Għargħur, Qrendi and Żejtun.

THE GUDJA LIEUTENANT'S GARDEN

A fine example of one of the Lieutenant's gardens is this one, located on the outskirts of the Gudja residential area. This garden stands on the road to the old parish church of Bir Miftuh. It is the best kept of the gardens formed during the administration of the Maltese islands by Sir Alexander John Ball. After the insurrection against the French, Ball restored the administritive system of the Order of St. John by appointing Village Lieutenants, or Mayors. This garden and the small building inside served as the office of the mayor of Gudja until the reform of the islands' administration. Adorning the facade is an escutcheon on the main door and a commemorative marble plaque. View the photo of the door and the facade here

: https://www.facebook.com/kappavision/

ALEXANDER BALL From Wikipedia.

Sir Alexander Ball was Civil Commissioner of Malta from 1799 to 1801, and again from 1802 until his death in 1809. During his second term, between 1802 and 1805, he commissioned 21 gardens to be built in various casali (towns or villages) around Malta. Ball meant that the gardens would be accessible to the public, and he gave them to the temporary Luogotenenti (lieutenants) who were responsible for the administration of the casali. The Luogotenenti did not open the gardens to the public but kept them for their own use, and the

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gardens subsequently became known as Il-Ġonna tal-Kmand, which means "Commander's Garden" in Maltese. ARCHITECTURE Several architects were involved in the design and construction of the gardens, including the cousins Antonio and Michele Cachia. Their layout is influenced by 18th century Italian gardens. Each garden was surrounded by high boundary walls, and they had stone pathways flanked with pillars.Stone water conduits were built for irrigation.

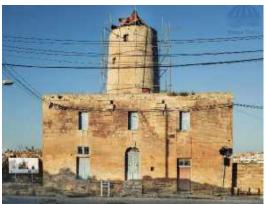
Most of them also had some service rooms which incorporated pigeon holes. All of them are governmentowned, and some are leased to private individuals while others are maintained by the local council. Eight gardens, together with the remains of the Żabbar garden, were scheduled as Grade 1 national monuments by the Malta Environment and Planning Authority in 2009, while the remaining three gardens were scheduled in 2010. The remains of the Għaxaq garden were scheduled as a Grade 2 property in 2013. The gardens of Gudja, Safi, Siġġiewi, Żebbuġ and Żejtun are also listed on the National Inventory of the Cultural Property of the Maltese Islands.

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Halfway through St. Lucy Street in Naxxar one finds this pretty little chapel. Which in fact are two chapels built right next to each other! One is dedicated to St. Lucy. This chapel is among the oldest chapels on the island, dating back to the 15th century. It was rebuilt in 1659 and since then it has always been taken care of with great love and care by the locals of the village. It is still regularly used today. The feast is celebrated on the 13th of December each year. Attached to the chapel of St. Lucy is its twin, the chapel Our Lady Of Victories (il-

Vitorja). This second chapel was rebuilt in 1628. Originally, the chapel was dedicated to the Assumption, but from 1588 onwards it had its dedication changed to the Nativity of Our Lady.



Restoration project to bring back to life a 1710 windmill.

Built by Grand Master Perellos in 1710, the windmill in Naxxar, Malta, known as 'Tal-Għaqba' has had a project for its restoration approved recently. Once complete, the windmill will be used by the local council for community activities, while a permanent exhibition featuring the industrial history of the windmill and artefacts found within the site will be set up in the upper floor. In addition, two lifts are to be installed in the tower to ensure proper accessibility for all.

The windmill is located in close proximity of the Giovanni Curmi Higher Secondary School in Naxxar. It is constructed

entirely of stone, has two storeys around a central tower and houses a spiral staircase and timber intermediate floors. It has been a protected building since 2012.

THE MALTESE JOURNAL OUR AIM IS TO REEP THE MALTESE DIASPORA UNITED AND TO STRENGTHEN COMMUNICATION, COOPERATION AND COORDINATION BETWEEN COMMUNITIES IN MALTA AND ABROAD



MALTESE ARE EVERYWHERE Written by Andrew Caruana Debono

Most Maltese stay put, but you will still find them the world over. Despite Malta having a small population, it is not unusual to stumble across a Maltese person in the most unexpected of places around the world. Perhaps the claustrophobia of life on a tiny island makes some get itchy feet and roam the world. Having been on the move overseas working on international human rights issues, I have often found myself in the remotest of places yet even then, I have come across a Maltese person or someone who knows one.

They say that there are six degrees of separation between every person on earth. At times like those, I think there are even fewer. Once, I was on a secluded beach in northern Colombia. I had iust come back from a conflict zone and decided to chill out a bit. Getting to the Tayrona area required a very long journey on some rickety buses. Once I got to my chosen secluded bus stop, I walked for about four hours and arrived at a beach. Without piped water and electricity, it was totally cut off from the world... or so I thought!. I met an Irish girl who was living in a nearby little village and when I told her, I was Maltese, she said: "Yeah, I know a Maltese guy who lives in the nearby village of Taganga. He's a diving instructor!" The guy turned out to be the son of a friend of mine who owns the bar next to my house in Malta. I had once shared a hospital room with him after smashing my knee. Another time through my job, I met a Maltese priest who working in Burundi with the same was humanitarian agency I was. While in Africa, he had met a Maltese nun who was working in Tanzania – the sister of my mum's best friend. I was once in London for a meeting, and since I was working for a low-budget NGO, I decided to stay at the house of a former colleague; an Australian who would worked with me in India. As I was preparing to go to the airport, an English

friend of her flatmate walked through the door. During a brief chat, he said he was pleasantly surprised to find out I was from Malta, and told me he knew a Maltese person very well.

It turned out his friend is the brother of a former classmate of mine. On a train in London, without me even opening my mouth, a little Maltese kid looked at me and told his mum: that guy looks Maltese! But how can a Maltese person be recognisable from other Mediterranean people without us even opening our mouths? Indeed, I can generally tell a Maltese person from a Sicilian or a Tunisian (our closest neighbours - but somehow the only people I mistake for Maltese without them being so are the Lebanese. Perhaps our Phoenician roots are evident after all. Maltese people are everywhere! Soon we may also have the first Maltese on Everest. It is probably the only spot on earth never to have been set foot on by a Maltese person; but not for long.



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THE DEADLY VIRUS OF 1675 Sarria Church - Floriana

Sarria Church is a Roman Catholic

Rotunda church in Floriana dedicated to the Immaculate Conception.

In December 1675 there was an outbreak of plague in Marsamxetto which quickly spread to Valletta, to Senglea and by April 1676 had spread to Zurrieq. Malta lost a third of its population. Grand Master Nicholas Cottoner felt that only the divine intercession of the Immaculate Conception, with her renowned power over evil, could stop the plague and he ordered that Sarria's small church be rebuilt in grander style as a vote of thanksgiving for her intercession. The church was build in 1676, on the site of an earlier church constructed in 1574.

The most precious possession of this church are the seven large canvases that surround the interior, painted by Mattia Preti. The altarpiece, by Mattia Preti, depicts the Immaculate Conception with angels sheltering their swords after defeating the plague of 1675.

The outbreak of the plague began in the Valletta house of Matteo Bonnici, a successful trader and importer of cloth. On Christmas Eve 1675, his 11year-old daughter Anna started showing symptoms that alarmed the family doctor. She died four days later. When most of her family and a neighbouring one as well, succumbed to this mystery illness, it became evident that some terrible disease had reached our shores. The purveyor of this devastating outbreak was most probably an English squadron that had previously visited Tripoli.

The Order of St. John soon set its famed medical organisational skills to work, but the plague soon got out of control. The effect was enormous; a few who could afford to, left the island, while others sought refuge in the country, with some even choosing to live and sleep in the open. Others locked themselves inside their houses or chose places in the countryside or by the sea.

The four-man commission of public health issued stringent laws, even though there were serious disagreements among the doctors as to the nature of the illness and the various treatments that could be given. Strict measures were enforced to limit contact between the villages, and especially with Gozo and abroad.

Eventually foreign doctors were brought over to help in a situation which was rapidly running out of control. These medical practitioners confirmed that the disease was the plague, and even more stringent rules were enacted, including much stricter quarantine laws and sectioning off of particular areas. Only one person per household was allowed to go out in the streets, and women could not walk outside with their head covered, even with the traditional black ghonnella.

The plague brought out heroic behaviour, especially among the clergy and the medical and the nursing professions, not a few of whom paid for their devotion to duty with their lives. Some others made hay while the sun shone and demanded no little recompense in money or goods. Yet others succumbed to cowardly or egoistic deeds, sometimes looting the houses of the victims and imperilling their own lives.

Almost all turned to the divine for protection in those months of desperation, with many pledging gifts of money, the erection of niches and churches, and pilgrimages, if they were to be delivered from the illness. Many of these mementoes still survive around us and Micallef's book will open the eyes of many to this aspect of our heritage.

Perhaps the most notable relic of the plague is the elegant Sarria rotunda church, the only church that Mattia Preti ever actually designed. Preti himself was then a long-term resident of the island and he is reputed to have sought a safe haven in Żurrieq The plague started in Rabat, where the first case was reported on March 11, and the efforts of the Universitas to control its spread. Rabat, where there were 88 deaths, had the best organisation in the island.

Gozo was not infected at all, as were Mdina and Safi. The cities were, of course, the worst to suffer, with over 41 per cent of the fatalities, with the poor and the indigent being particularly badly hit. Overall, over 22 per cent of the population of the island succumbed to this terrible disease, which was the universal fear in medieval and early modern times.

Only 10 knights died of the plague, but they included Giovanni Bighi, the nephew of Pope Alexander VII. The Order interpreted as a divine sign the fact that the plague started to abate on June 24, the feast of its protector, St John the Baptist, but the prattica universale was only granted exactly three

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VILLA FRERE - PIETA

Paul Cassar published an excellent biography on Frère in Melita Historica in 1984. Frère was born in 1769 and was considered a diplomat, poet and scholar. After a career in the Foreign Service, during which he served in Portugal and later in Spain where he was involved in a dispute concerning Sir John Moore's retreat to La Coruna. He left the diplomatic service in 1810 after declining the offer of a peerage and the post of Ambassador to St Petersburg.

Frère was married to Elizabeth née Blake, the Dowager Countess of Errol whose health was deteriorating, so much so that he sought a warm climate, first in Palermo and later in Malta, where he settled in April 1821. His first few years in Malta were spent at Palazzo Correa in Old Bakery Street,

Valletta, but he also rented a summer house in Pietà.

The contract for this lease is recorded in the 1828 register of English notary William Stevens. It was drawn up on June 21, 1828, between Thomas Southwood, acting on behalf of the owners, Solomon Benzimura and Brothers, and "John Hookham Frère, gentleman".

The lease was for a period of two years and concerned "a certain dwelling house situated at and on the Pietà No. 33 at the angle of the public road, near the bathing house". All associated outhouses and gardens were included in the lease.

The rent was 200 scudi per annum payable every six months and the contract stipulated that Frère "binds and obliges himself to take particular care of the trees, shrubs, etc in and about the said gardens". Such care was to include lopping, pruning and watering.

The Frère siblings were known not only for their scholarship and dedication to local education and culture but also for their great benevolence

Frère eventually moved permanently to Pietà where he lived with his wife and his spinster sister Susan. The



household also included his wife's niece, Miss Honoria Blake (later Lady Honoria Hamilton Chichester), and a young girl he had rescued from hostilities in Greece.

This is not just a garden and an old building. It is a national monument! Villa Frere was recently scheduled as a Grade 1 heritage monument. This is the highest scheduling a building can get in Malta. Buildings at this grade have great historical and architectonical value and may not be altered. After that the house was abandoned for decades. In 1876 Count Rosario Messina took up

the lease, renovated the house and gave it to his daughter Josephine, who married Capt. Edward Noble Price in 1886, and took up residence at the Villa.

They got married here and lived in the house for 47 years. Captain Price was a keen gardener and extremely interested in horticulture (the art or practice of garden cultivation and management). He was indeed an active member of the Royal Horticulture Society and Villa Frere was its Headquarters. Thanks to his profession, Capt Price had a lot of friends around the world, who would send him exotic plants. Which resulted into the garden receiving the title of a botanic garden.

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Captain Price restored the garden to its former glory and added a cactus garden and a Japanese garden, which included a stream, a footbridge, a pagoda gateway, stone laterns, a Buddha shrine and a plum tree. The garden was nominated as one of the most beautiful gardens of Europe.

It was also profiled by Country Life Magazine, a world-leading landscaping periodical, in 1930. It was the first time ever, when Country Life Magazine left the UK, to take a full place photo shoot of a garden outside Great Britain. After which this phenomenal garden of Villa Frere gained international attention. While the Price family was living in Villa Frere three Queens visited the garden: Queen Mary in 1912, Queen Marie of Romania in 1924 and British Dowager Queen Adelaine in 1929.

During WWII the garden was unfortunately also bombed and most of what remained was destroyed in the early 1950s to make way for the construction of Pieta Primary School, a nursing school, and extension of St Luke's Hospital including a helipad and a parking area, which ate away two thirds of the garden! The destruction of such a unique garden is shameful to say the least!

From 1952 the house and what remains of the garden are in the hands of the Spiteri family (tal-Klee Klamps). However NGO Friends of Villa Frere together with Heritage Malta have the title of the place and will be soon taking over the premises. Their intention is to restore it and open it fully to the public.

This is Villa Hay. This is the building where Hookman Frere, his sister and wife lived in when they first moved to Pieta. We refer to this house as Villa Hay, as at that time it wasn't called Villa Frere. If you're wondering where is the name coming from, it's because Frere's wife's first husband was George Hay.

Now we're looking at what used to be the gardener's cottage. This was the house of the head gardener with the stables underneath it. Can you guess how many gardeners both Frere and Capt. Price needed for the upkeep of the 14-tumoli of land? Ten full time gardeners were required to keep the garden in prestige condition!

When Frere was creating the upper garden his workers discovered a doline in 1839, very similar to Maqluba but on a smaller scale. It went down to a depth of 19 metres, all the way to sea level, it was filled with clay and he cleaned it all up. To be able to enjoy it from 'the inside', Frere opened a tunnel though the rock which led to the doline. Captain Price, however, described this discovery as the 'dreadful and awful pit'.

When you visit the garden, you can go to the tunnel, but the doline at the end is unfortunately buried it, but the plan is to open it and make it accessible once again.

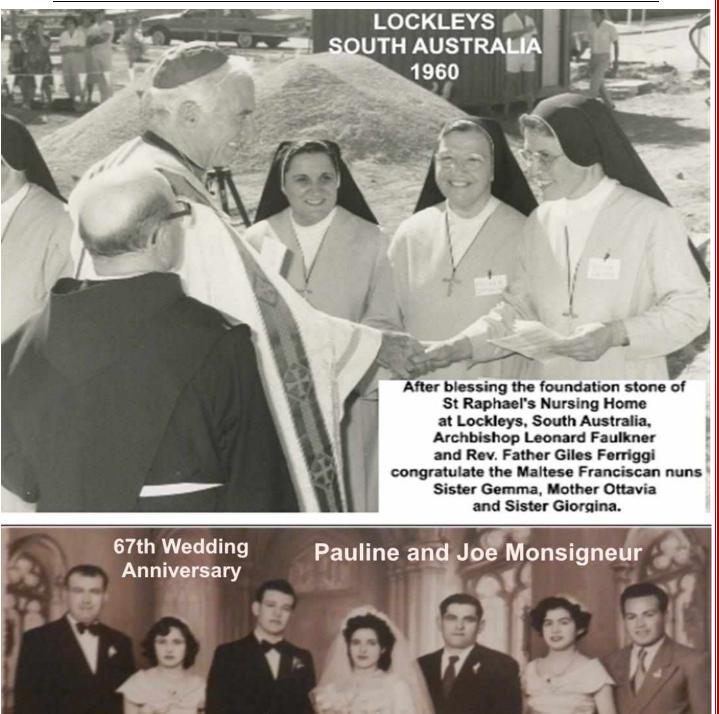
The critical situation of Villa Frere was largely unknown to the public until an architecture student Perit Edward Said stumbled upon it in 2013. He is the founder of the voluntary organisation 'Friends of Villa Frere' and their mission is to save what remains of this historic estate. Fernando Mifsud, a landscaper and garden designer has been for the past few years, along with Perit Edward Said co-ordinating the ongoing restoration efforts.

ALTHOUGH WE DON'T LIVE IN MALTA WE ARE CONCERNED ABOUT WHAT IS HAPPENING ON THE ISLANDS. WE PRAY THAT ALL MALTESE REMAIN SAFE AND LIVE IN PEACE AND HARMONY

THE JOURNAL THAT IS CONNECTING MALTESE IN MALTA, GOZO AND THE REST OF THE WORLD

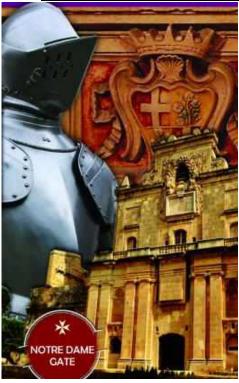
2013 - 2020 - SEVEN YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITIE BUILDING BRIDGES maltesjournal@gmail.com

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We congratulate Pauline and Joe Monsigneur from Adelaide who: are celebrating their 67th Wedding Anniversary on 19 September 2020. They were the first couple to be married in the new Christ the King Parish Lockleys in 1953

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Notre Dame Gate Cottonera

Built in 1675 by the Order of St. John as part of the Cottonera Lines to serve as its main gate for the Eastern Provinces, this grand baroque building survives complete and includes some marvellous architectural features which are not found anywhere else in Malta. It stands on four levels which makes it still the highest peak in the region. From its roof one can enjoy stunning views of most of the island. It consists of four large bomb-proof casemates standing upon each other flanking the roadway and crowned by a large gatehouse which originally housed the lifting mechanism for its portcullis gate. This building has a very rich and colourful history most of which is still visible in its stone in the shape of musket ball indentations and many graffiti left behind by soldiers of the Order's navy, the French and the British.

Following the nearby building of the Cottonera Military Hospital in 1870, the gate gradually started serving as an adjunct to the new military medical establishment. Following the debacle at Gallipoli in 1915, thousands of wounded troops were brought to Malta for treatment and convalescence and some of these were accommodated at Notre Dame Gate for the duration of the Great War. Today Notre Dame Gate serves as the Headquarters of Fondazzjoni Wirt Artna - the Malta Heritage



CULTURAL CENTRE IN ALBION, BRIMBANK, VICTORIA The 8th September is a National Day in Malta. It is also the feast of Our Lady of Victories which is associated with a number of historical events. This feast is also celebrated in the village of Xaghra where I originally come from. A Big Thank you to the Australia Xaghra Association for organizing this memorable event. Viva Maria Bambin Dr. Victoria Borg - Australia Trust and is available for visiting on an exclusive basis every Wednesday as part of a guided tour of the gate and the nearby former Cottonera Military Hospital. This tour also gives access to parts of the Cottonera Lines, the early 18th century gunpowder magazine and WW2 defences. This property is available for visiting by prior booking only by telephone 00356 21800992 during office hours or by email.

ONCE THEY PROMISED US THAT THEY ARE INCLUDING THE HISTORY OF MALTESE EMIGRATION IN THE SCHOOLS' CURRICULUM

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Pastizzi recipe, make your own Maltese traditional cheesecakes with ricotta or peas

Pastizzi is probably the **most popular snack** on the entire islands of Malta and Gozo. The **traditional ricotta cheesecake** is sold for a **really cheap** price in all the **Pastizzerias across the islands** and is always warm as the high demand requires to bake them continuously during the day. The most common pastizzi are made with ricotta, but there are also two other varieties: one made with peas and onions and the other with anchovies. Your holiday in Malta won't be complete if you don't try at least one out!

love

Maltese

Pastizzi

Ingredients to make your own Pastizzi:

For the dough

- 500 grams of flour
- 1 tsp of salt
- 180 grams of softened butter
- Chilled Water
- •

For the filling

- 300 grams of Ricotta
- 3 Eggs
- Handful of chopped parsley
- Generous amount of salt and pepper to taste

Instructions

- 1. Sift flour and salt together in a bowl and make a well in the center. Add small amounts of the chilled water and mix until the dough is soft but not sticky. Turn out on a lightly floured surface and knead until it all comes together consistently.
- 2. Lightly oil your surface and roll out your dough as thin as possible . You also want to roll it out long as you can and not too wide. Smear the softened butter evenly over the dough.
- 3. Starting from the end closest to you, stretch and roll the dough upwards. Continue to stretch and roll the dough. If the dough gets long and thin at the sides, just fold it into the middle and keep rolling. This will just end up creating more layers in the pastry. Once you have finished rolling it, place it on a plate, cover it with glad wrap and leave it in the fridge for 24 hours.
- 4. Mash all the filling ingredients together until really well mixed. After 24 hours, place dough on a lightly floured surface and cut into thick slices about 2 cm wide. Stretch the outer edges of each section until you have an oval shape. Try not to press down on the dough as it inhibits it becoming flaky.
- 5. Place dough in the palm of your hand and fill with your chosen filling. Stretch the sides out. Press sides together all the way around. Pinch the ends flat and gently push inwards to shape the Pastizzi. Bake on a baking paper lined tray at 220 until golden brown for about 20 minutes.



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maltese in Detroit

COMMUNITY ARCHIVES

Youth Honour Guard -

Title: Youth Honor Guard

Description: This picture from 1917 features the Vittoriosa Youth Honor Guard. Vincent Muliett, brother of Emmanuel Muliett, is pictured middle, top row. Vincent migrated to the United States in the 1920s, shortly after his brother left for Detroit in 1920. This photograph was donated digitally in 2013 by Rose Mifsud.

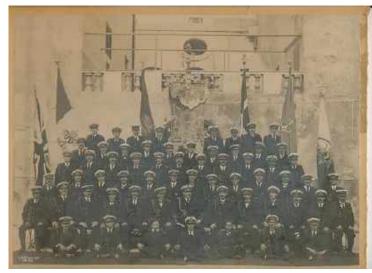
Citation "Youth Honor Guard," Maltese American Benevolent Society, Inc. Digital Archive, accessed *September 2020,

Giorgio (George) Brincat

Description: A server in the British Army during World War I, Giorgio Brincat was deployed to Constatinople as an orderly for a British Officer. Born in 1897 in Rabat, he returned to Malta after the war taking up his old civilian position as a butcher. In 1919, he married Carmela Grech and soon emigrated to Detroit. Once in Detroit he also took up a position as a butcher at the Hygrade plant on Michigan Avenue, opposite the former Western Market. Settled in Detroit, he sent for his wife and infant son (Joseph Brincat). By 1923, Giorgio followed his fellow Maltese compatriots into the factories of Ford Motor Company, where he worked until his retirement. Giorgio passed away in Detroit in 1967. This photograph was donated digitally in 2013 by Joseph Brincat Jr.

Citation "Giorgio (George) Brincat," Maltese American Benevolent Society, Inc. Digital Archive,

Duke of Edinburgh Band -



Description:

The Duke of

Edinburgh Band, later renamed the *Banda Vittoriosana San Lawrenz* in 1976, is pictured here. Local bands play a major role in Maltese festivals and this one, located in Vittoriosa was led by Giovanni Giumarra (center, second row). Giumarra was the father of Francesca Muliett who later emigrated to Detroit. He remained a *Maestro di Musica* in Malta and never migrated himself. This photograph was donated digitally in 2013 by Rose Mifsud.

Citation "Duke of Edinburgh Band,"

Maltese American Benevolent Society, Inc. Digital Archive.



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http://www.maritimedirectory.com.mt/

Times of Malta, Thursday 23rd December 1965 In the age of Pele, Denis Law, Jimmy Graves and many other brilliant footballers, the professional status is unfortunately sometimes declared to be the be all and end of all of the footballer's career. It is very gratifying to know, however, that there are a host of footballers who are

keener on doing justice to the game than on money for money's sake.

Budding Footballers At College: (L. to R.) Ronnie Saliba, Charles Miceli, Louis Arpa and Wilfred Sultana This obviously starts in the school where budding footballers are not lacking. Stella Maris College is no exception.

The above pictured footballers, three of whom are under the age of seventeen, have been attending this College for quite a number of years. They hail from Floriana, Gzira and Valletta – places which have behind them a deep-rooted tradition of football that goes back to the early years of the game in Malta.

On the football pitch they play intelligent football delightful to watch. Thus Louis Arpa is a dribbler and with Ronnie Saliba besides him, can penetrate any solid defence. Whereas the former is very refined, the latter is a very forceful attacker. Charles Miceli, who has played several times for the Valletta Under-21 and First Division Reserves, is better in defence than in the forward line. Very well built, he possesses a hard shot and a very difficult to beat him. Wilfred Sultana is a quieter sort of player but in the half-back line he is a dominating figure.

Their qualities as footballers have been acclaimed and made use of by several people. Together they form the backbone of the defence and the spearhead of thee forward line of the College First XI. A couple of years ago they were chosen for the N.S.B Schoolboys Tournament and now they are automatic choices for the N.S.B. Eleven.

Under the expert guidance of three qualified coaches we cannot doubt that they will have a brilliant soccer career ahead of them.



THE TRAGEDY OF MV STAR OF MALTA

29 JULY 1955

The ferry from Sicily, the MV Star of Malta, ran aground and capsized off what is now the Westin Dragonara Hotel, killing two people. The ferry hit patch of thick fog as it was returning from Syracuse in the early morning. The ship hit the Merkanti Reef, about 80 metres off Paceville. Arounf 60 passengers swim to the shore.

Second Cook A. Grech was pronounced dead and the other victim, Mary Borg, a passenger, remained unaccounted for. A large amount of fruit that was part of the cargo floated around the ship and a lot of it was washed up to the shores. An inquiry later blamed the ship's master, Commodore S.G. Kent, for the tragedy and his master's licence was suspended for 12 months. The vessel was refloated within a few weeks and towed to Messina for repairs. Two months later, it was back in service and back in Malta.

September 2020

Malta National animal Pharaoh Hound (Kelb tal-Fenek)

The Pharaoh Hound is a breed of dog and the national hound of Malta. Its native name is Kelb tal-Fenek (plural: Klieb tal-Fenek) in Maltese, which means "Rabbit dog". The dog is traditionally used by some Maltese men for hunting. Based on DNA analysis, the breed has no link with Ancient Egypt. However, the popular myth holds that the breed is descended from the Tesem, one of the ancient Egyptian hunting dogs. The similarities of the breed to images of dogs found on the walls of ancient Egyptian tombs is striking. This myth proposes that the Pharaoh Hound was brought by the Phoenicians to Malta, where it has existed for over 2,000 years. It has variously been classified as a member of the sighthound group, yet its fieldwork description clearly determines it as a hound.

They usually come in tan or chestnut colors. A white tail-tip is commonly admired. (Most commonly seen) is any solid white spot on their necks (back)or shoulders. Mainly seen on the back or sides of the dog. Pharaoh Hounds tend to weigh up to 45-55 pounds on average. Weight depends on the sex of the dog, or its eating habits. Male Pharaoh Hounds are normally considered larger than the females. Males usually are 23-25", while females are 21-24". Size and weight also relate to the amount of exercise it receives.

The coat is fine and short with no feathering. The texture varies from silky to somewhat hard and it must never be so profuse as to stand away from the dog's skin. The coat can also be glossy and short in most cases. The only colour accepted by most kennel clubs is red; though the shades of red colour varies, and accepted shades range from a tan to a deep chestnut and all shades in between. White markings on the chest, toes, tail-tip, centre of forehead, and the bridge of the muzzle are accepted, but not required. Pharaoh's eyes are always amber, and should complement the coat colour. They are born with blue eyes, which change to a light gold or yellow colour during early puppyhood and then begin to darken well into adulthood. The nose, whiskers, nails, paw-pads, and eve-rims should also be the same colour as the coat. Pharaohs also have a unique trait of "blushing" when excited or happy, with their ears and nose becoming bright pink.

The first recorded mention of a Maltese hunting dog, which could have been identical with the



modern Kelb tal-Fenek, was issued by Commendatore Fra. G. Fran. Abela (Maltese historian and Vice Chancellor of the Order of St. John) in 1647 who wrote 'There are dogs called 'Cernechi' esteemed for the hunting of rabbits, and as far as France are in demand primarily for stony, mountainous and steep locations'. The use of the word 'Cernechi' to name the breed should be no surprise as Italian was the language of scholars and the courts in Malta from at least 1091 up to WWII. The first two specimens of the breed were brought to Britain from Malta in the 1920s, but at that time, no litter was bred. Again, some dogs were imported to the UK in the early 1960s, and the first litter was born in 1963. The breed standard was recognised by The Kennel Club in 1974. The breed was called the Pharaoh Hound although this name was already used by the FCI as an alternative name for the Ibizan Hound at that time. When the FCI abolished this name in 1977 and decided to call the Ibizan Hound exclusively by its original Spanish name Podenco Ibicenco, the term Pharaoh Hound was transferred to the Kelb tal-Fenek. whose breed standard had been recognised by the FCI at the same time.

A number of other breeds that are similar to the Pharaoh Hound exist in different regions of the Mediterranean. One is the Cirneco dell'Etna from neighbouring Sicily, which is very similar in structure and appearance, but somewhat smaller (43–51 cm/17-20in). Other similar breeds include the Ibizan Hound, Podenco Canario, Podengo Português and other local breeds from the Mediterranean—each breed is slightly different with physical characteristics that match the terrain the dogs hunt on. It is not clear whether those breeds have descended from the same ancestral lines, or whether their similarities have developed due to similar environmental conditions.

September 2020



Maltese wrestler 'Gianni Valletta' gains a cult following in Japan

At 6ft 4in and packed with muscle, you might be quick to dismiss the shaggy-maned Wayne Pace, a nefarious menace who disregards his opponents and fights to win by any means necessary.

For the past two years, Pace, 31, has been a full-time pro-wrestler, touring all over Europe, the United States and, more prominently, Japan, where his participation in the All Japan Pro Wrestling league has gained him a cult following.

But how do you go from lifting weights in Żurrieq to having Japanese children sending you chibi fan art? According to Pace, a passion for the sport sent him out looking for his own opportunities in the world.

"When I was growing up, there were no opportunities in Malta with little awareness of the sport," Pace told *Times of Malta*.

"Then, in the mid-2000s, WWE wrestling started being shown on television and it had a bit of a moment locally. I was enraptured and I decided that if there were no opportunities for me, then I would have to make my own."

In 2010, aged just 20, Pace decided to travel to the UK to train and see if he could make a go of competing in professional wrestling. Joining an academy in Portsmouth, he spent four years training hard four times a week until he felt confident enough to make his debut.

"There is this idea among people who don't really follow the sport that it is all fake, but at the end of the day we really are athletes," Pace says.

"It's not just a matter of having a certain physique; this is a high-risk sport. We must have a lot of control over our bodies, how we project them and how we use our strength."

"It's a huge physical burden, learning how to fall, how to protect yourself, how to attack your opponent without injuring them seriously. We have to remember that this is a contact sport and can be dangerous, and while rare, it's not unheard of to see serious injury, and yes, even death in the ring."

It's more fun to be the bad guy... it's the complete opposite of my personality

What often baffles detractors of the sport is the larger than life personas that often dominate the ring more than the actual technique of the sport.

In pro wrestling, heroes and villains with narrative arcs are just as much part of the story of a circuit as any given wrestler's preferred finishing moves. "The entertainment side is just as an important factor to being a good wrestler as the physical aspect," Pace says.

"You can be athletically fit and capable of doing a bunch of cool moves, but you have to find that ability to be able to connect with the crowd, to talk to people and be charismatic and present a relatable persona in the ring."

Pace's 'Gianni Valletta' has found himself becoming something of a serial antagonist, appearing in the ring covered in furs and chains and followed by heavy metal music blasting at full volume.

Valletta is a wild man and he doesn't care who knows it. He wants to win and will let nothing get in the way of his victories, least of all the rules.

"Maybe it's because of the way I look but Gianni has always been cast as the villain. Honestly, it's more fun to be the bad guy, it's the complete opposite of my personality," he says in a chuckle.

September 2020

"It's more of a challenge to get people to actively dislike you, so if I get into the ring and people are already booing, it's satisfying because they're buying into it and I'm doing a good job."

"You can be whoever you want to be in the ring. If you're comfortable and can commit to a certain kind of look, there isn't really any limit to where imagination can take your character."

Winning two heavyweight pro wrestling championships, Pace has also founded the first professional wrestling academy in Malta, and says the space for young athletes with an interest in an unconventional sport is growing daily.

"I am so lucky to have had the opportunity to go to Japan and integrate well into a wrestling community that is tight-knit and really invitation-only. It made a world of difference in my professional development and the scope of my contacts," Pace notes.

"So now, if I can give a leg up to those who were in my shoes 10 years ago, then I want to do it."

While COVID-19 has pumped the brakes on his return to Japan, it hasn't put a damper on his enthusiasm and eagerly awaits his return to the ring as much as his fans.

"I wouldn't change what I have for anything. Obviously this year the sports industry took a big hit across the board," Pace says.

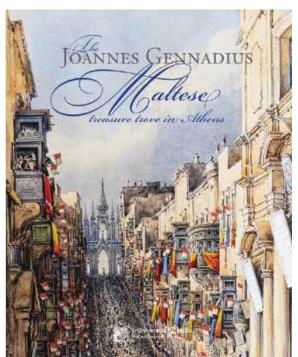
"The dream is to get to WWE. I've followed it since I was young and that's what I aim for.

"But I'm so happy in Japan right now and as long as I'm making my living wrestling, I'm meeting my goals as far as I'm concerned."



Written by Jessica Arena – Times of Malta (https://timesofmalta.com/) 10 Sept. 2020

September 2020



THE JOANNES GENNADIUS MALTESE TREASURE TROVE IN ATHENS - Arnold Cassola Malta University Press

Finalist - Premju Nazzjonali tal-Ktieb 2020 /

The Gennadius Library in Athens has a rich trove of holdings of Maltese interest, ranging from 16th century prints to 19th century original watercolours and photos of disappearing Malta, a veritable feast for the eyes of the Melitensia afficionado. This handsome volume is testament to the breadth of the materials collected by the bibliophile Joannes Gennadius (1844-1932), which are now part of the Gennadius Library of the American School of Classical Studies at Athens. The Library houses a richly diverse

collection of books and rare bindings, archives, manuscripts, and works of art illuminating Greek culture and civilization from antiquity to modern times. A Greek Ambassador to Great Britain in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, Joannes Gennadius formed a unique collection that focused on the history of Hellenism and on the appeal that Greece had on early modern travellers. The Mediterranean played a central part in his collecting, and Joannes had a particlarly soft spot for Malta where he studied as a young boy at the English Protestant College, a school chosen by many of the leading families of Athens for their sons' education.

While in Malta, Joannes perfected his English to such an extent that he carried off more school prizes than any of the English-speaking students. He must have retained great memories of his time there. Not only did he collect paintings, engravings, and photographs that reminded him of his favourite landscapes on the islands of Malta and Gozo, but his library contained many Greek volumes printed at the missionary presses of Malta. In fact, the Gennadius Library actively pursues the acquisition of rare imprints of the Maltese nineteenth-century printing houses to complement the original holdings of the collection. You may buy this book at: https://midseabooks.com/shop/history/joannes-gennadius-maltese-treasure-trove-in-athens/



We thank all our readers for supporting this journal and especially those who contact us to thank us and also those who send us contributions, stories, suggestions and ideas

September 2020

MALTESE COMMUNITY COUNCIL OF VICTORIA PRIZES TO BE WON!

> EVERY SATURDAY STARTING AT 2PM

Register at admin@mccv.org.au

before 5pm Friday

ONLINE MALTESE LANGUAGE LESSONS with the **NSW Department of Education** SATURDAY SCHOOL OF

COMMUNITY LANGUAGES

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST Online classes for students in Years 7-10

commencing 2021 with NO COST to attend

Or study in class at the SSCL Seven Hills Centre Benefits of learning Maltese Learn about your heritage and language Open up opportunities in a range of occupations

Your gateway to Malta and Europe for travel, study and work The NSW Deptartment of Education is providing the Maltese community with the opportunity to run online Maltese language classes for Years 7-10 students who would like to learn the language of their parents and strengthen

their connection to their culture. The SSCL currently offers a face-to-face Maltese language class on Saturday mornings but due to a number of factors, many students cannot attend.

albert_vella@optusnet.com.au

This online class is a unique opportunity for students of Maltese background, no matter where they live in NSW. So if you're interested and would like to know more please contact Albert Vella on 0407 925 151 DEAN ATTARD

Dean is one of our 10 committee members at MMG Concert Band of Victoria and also plays the trumpet. He started playing the trumpet in 1990, learning at Kings Park Secondary College through their music program.

Dean joined the St Albans Melita Band in 1993, then moved to the Malta Gozo Concert Band and then Maltese Own Band. Yes he has played with all of the Maltese Melbourne based bands.

Dean enjoys playing music, as he is lucky enough to play alongside his children. He has grown up playing music and loves It. He shared a funny story with us, telling us that he came home after school one day and asked his mum to buy him a trumpet, she laughed and told him, "You won't even play for 6 months." He has now been playing 30 years and can report she still hasn't bought him a trumpet.

Dean had the opportunity to perform with a few bands in Malta when he visited. Those bands included the Is-Socjetà Filarmonika Marija Mteligha s-Sema L-Imgarr (Imgarr Malta) and Banda Queen Victoria, Zurrieq Malta.

His favourite feast is St Maria, and was lucky enough to play in the band at this Feast in Malta a couple of times.

Dean enjoys MMG as the team is fantastic, hardworking and they all love music.

IN SPITE OF COVID-19 OUR

SOCIETIES

ARE

STILL ACTIVE

AND

VIBRANT

WE SUPPORT ALL OUR ASSOCIATION SCATTERED AROUND THE WORLD

WORKING TOGETHER WE GET STRONGER

September 2020



R U OK? Day is held each year in September to remind all Australians that every day is a good day to check on people you care about by asking "Are you OK?"

2020 has been a very challenging year for all of us, with the COVID-19 pandemic continuing to impact our livelihoods and the way we live and interact with each other. Today on R U OK? Day, it is more important than ever for us all to stay connected and reach out to those who may be struggling particularly through difficulties caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

R U OK? inspires and empowers everyone to meaningfully connect with the people around them and start a conversation with anyone who may be

struggling with life. R U OK?'s vision is a world where we're all connected and are protected from suicide. A Conversation Can Change A Life

The key goals of R U OK? Day are to:

- 1. Boost our confidence to meaningfully connect and ask about life's ups and downs
- 2. Nurture our sense of responsibility to regularly connect and support others
- 3. Strengthen our sense of belonging because we know people are there for us
- 4. Be relevant, strong and dynamic

You don't need to be an expert to reach out - just a good friend and a great listener.

Use these four steps and have a conversation that could change a life:

1. Ask R U OK? 2. Listen 3. Encourage action 4. Check in



GERMAN-MALTESE CIRCLE DEUTSCH-MALTESISCHER ZIRKEL

Language Courses Learn German with Malta's market leader in German tuition. The German-Maltese Circle is your qualified partner. Choose from the range of courses we offer to find your focus that suits your objectives



the best. Learn German successfully for day-to-day or leisure use, or suitable for professionals and students. You can record your language skills by taking a Goethe Institute German examination.

The German-Maltese Circle is the only Goethe Institute approved centre in Malta for the holding of all Goethe Institute examinations. All Goethe Institute certificates are internationally accepted as proof of German language ability by employers and further education institutions in many countries. http://www.germanmaltesecircle.org/

September 2020



& new ideas

MELTON COUNCIL ELECTION 2020 Candidate for Watts Ward Bonnie Brook • Diggers Rest • Grangefields Hillside • Plumpton • Taylors Hill • Toolern Vale

It's never been more important, to know who you are voting for. A vote for me is a vote for someone who has grown up in the WEST, understands our struggles, strengths & wants the best for our community as we move into a challenging time.



Shawn Saliba from Mosta made this statue

Lehen Malti are pleased to announce their award of a \$2000 Scholarship for the 2020/21 scholastic year.

Qualification Details:

· Applicants must be of Maltese descent & live in Canada

- Submissions must be applicable for enrollment to Post Secondary Education or Training programs of Education Institutions recognized by the Ministry of Colleges, Training & Universities in Canada
- Applicants must submit a paper of no less than 1000 words on the Maltese Migration to Canada
- Applicants are also required to submit a personal video of no more than 5 minutes explaining why he/she are deserving of this scholarship.
- Deadline for receipt of applications is October 31st, 2020. All applications and videos must be submitted and receive by Lehen Malti by this date.
- · Applications and videos can be sent electronically to Lehen Malti at:

lehenmalti@hotmail.com

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September 2020

979 MIRIAM VELLA Bejnietna

Every Tuesday from 6 pm to 8 pm and every Wednesday from 6 to 7 pm. <u>http://www.979fm.com.au/program-guide/bejnietna/</u>

Miriam Vella presents Bejnietna – Maltese Radio. MIRIAM VELLA is a prominent figure in Melbourne's Maltese community. Miriam's also been teaching Maltese upper primary and lower secondary school students every Saturday for the last 20 years. "I am proud to say I started with just six students and now there are four teachers and over 100 students studying Maltese at Brimbank Secondary College," she says.

Miriam came from a family that was involved in music, dancing and the arts. "After starting in community radio, I knew it was my calling –I should have done it years ago."

In her show 'Bejnietna', which means 'togetherness'; she presents news, current affairs, talkback and interviews with members of the local community.

She also encourages listeners to share poetry, short stories and traditional recipes.

"I like to involve the younger generation and encourage them to speak Maltese so the language won't die out." A segment in which she plays the cries of hawkers selling their wares at markets – which she recorded while visiting Malta – has proved to be very popular. Bejnietna provides you with all the latest Maltese news and community information. Also on the show is a variety of Maltese interviews and talk-back discussion.



George Galea NSW

https://www.facebook.com/george.galea

Owner Operator at

Sydney's Live Entertainment Agency ELVIS FAN CLUB

Thursday 17th September A Special Show On Our Maltese Classic Hit's & Memories Lunch Break With George Galea.

In Our Central Coast Studio

A Sound Stage.Guest Maltese Performer Our Very Own

<u>Charlie Camilleri</u> More Information During This

Thursday's Show <u>https://www.facebook.com/www.sydneyslive.com.au/</u>



September 2020



Alan Scott – World War II Spitfire pilot who defended Malta, dies aged 99

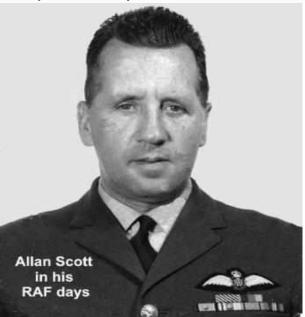
Allan Scott earned honours for shooting down five enemy aircraft timesofmalta.com - Jessica Arena

One of the last remaining Spitfire fighter pilots to patrol the Maltese skies at the height of World War II bombing, has died aged 99.

Squadron Leader Allan Scott, who flew for the Royal Air Force, is best remembered in Malta for defending Operation Pedestal, also known as II-Konvoj ta' Santa Marija, as ships with vital supplies struggled to make port amidst the heavy bombardment by the Axis Powers.

Fascinated about flying since childhood, Scott skipped his studies to join the 124 squadron at London's Biggin Hill airfield.

While just nineteen years old, he shot down his first German bomber during the Battle of Britain in



1941. His second tour was in Malta a year later, where he ultimately won a Distinguished Flying Medal after shooting down five enemy aircraft during the siege of Malta. He has spoken of the hardships of the campaign where starving fighter pilots faced stark odds.

"Life was quite hectic in Malta because there was no food but you flew, whether you were starving or otherwise," he said.

"Life of a fighter pilot in Malta was given as 15 minutes. At the height of the war, we were scrambled four times a day. They pushed everything into that theatre to try to finish us: we were a real thorn in their side."

On his last visit to Malta in 2017, Scott <u>spoke of</u> <u>the horrors</u> he witnessed during the siege of Malta, where the island experienced 154 days of

continuous bombing.

Scott, along with the Prince of Wales, was in Malta at the time marking the 75th anniversary of King George VI awarding the Maltese the gallantry honour for enduring the siege.

"Malta was the most bombed place on earth," Scott had said.

"They had a target the size of the Isle of Wight and they flattened it."

Despite his age, he was still flying well into retirement from the small airfield next to his home in Shropshire. He had planned to fly his final flight on his 100th birthday next year.

At the age of 96, Scott flew a spitfire once again in 2018 as part of a formation of Spitfires and Hurricanes in a celebration to mark a century since the founding of the RAF.

September 2020

10 paddlers complete record breaking circumnavigation of Gozo



10 paddlers from the Malta Canoe Racing Club have successfullv circumnavigated the island of Gozo on surfskis, starting and ending at Mgarr harbour, with two completing the course in record breaking time.

The paddlers started at 8am and went round the island in a clockwise direction, with the aim of attempting to complete the challenging cliff

section first. A mild south easterly breeze aided the athletes complete the first half of the island.

However, as the paddlers passed Wied Mielah, this same breeze became a strong head wind that made conditions exceptionally challenging at Qala point where the paddlers had already completed 30km out of the 35km required to complete the event. Chris Camilleri and Matthew Schembri, paddling in a doubles surfski, managed to complete the course in a record 3:09.

Karl Borg and Luca Pace soon followed, finishing in 4:16 and 4:26 respectively. 16-year-old Karolyn Joy Thomas, Szabina Toth and David Abela completed the course in 4:43, 4:47 and 4:48 respectively.

Impressively, Jonathan Cassar Torregiani and his son 16-year-old Luke Cassar Torregiani completed the course in a doubles surfski in 7:05,16-year-old Maria Cassar Torregiani also single handedly finished the course in 7:05.

Photos: Top – From left to Right, Chris Camilleri and Matthew Schembri (in distance), Luca Pace, David Abela, Karolyn Joy Thomas, Karl Borg and Szabina Toth; and below – Luke Cassar Torregiani (left), Jonathan Cassar Torregiani (right); Chris Camilleri (left), Matthew Schembri (Right) and Karolyn Joy Thomas (Left), Szabina Toth (right).



September 2020



Prime Minister Paul Boffa and Archbishop Michael Gonzi (standing, centre) seeing off the emigrants about to board the Vulcania.



Maltese emigrant Edward Scicluna kissing the hand of Archbishop Michael Gonzi as he blessed those about to board the Vulcania. Photo: Joe Pace



The Maltese emigrants in front of Customs House before boarding the Vulcania on June 17, 1948on their way to Canada.

Maltese Migration to Canada



The first contingent, consisting of 131 men, left Malta for Canada on board the *Marine Perch*.

On May 8, 1948,

They were joined by another 380, on board the *Vulcania,* which departed from Grand Harbour on June 17, 1948

September 2020

Deritage Malta Fridays in the City - September 2020 How

does the below sound to you?

Art Jazz live music Food Aperitif

All good? If the answer is yes, join us for '**Fridays in the City**', next Friday at **MUŻA**. Visit the **National Community Art Museum** which will be open for the general public until 9PM and once your visit is done, head to the courtyard where you can claim your free drink while being accompanied with a selection of **live jazz music** by Alex Bezzina Group. Having fun? Order dinner and maybe more drinks, and stay a bit more!

We don't think your Fridays in the City can get any better than this - so get ready for some **art**, **music**, food and aperitif!



Live Music: 8.30PM to 11.00PM MUŻA: closes at 9.00PM MUŻAAdmission Fee: Adults \in 5.00, Seniors/ Concessions/ Youths \in 3.50, Children \in 2.50



WHEN THE MALTESE EMIGRANTS HAD TO LEAVE MALTA Mr and Mrs John Manche' with their family of eight left Malta on the migrant ship, Castel Felice, to settle at Wentworthville, NSW. Date: 26 January 1955 The children are Tony 12, Monica 9, Marie 8, Rose 6, Francis 4, George 3, Charlotte 1 and Jeanette 5 months. Source: Fairfax Photography. Photo: Argus