



The Voice of the Maltese

(driven by the voice of its readers)

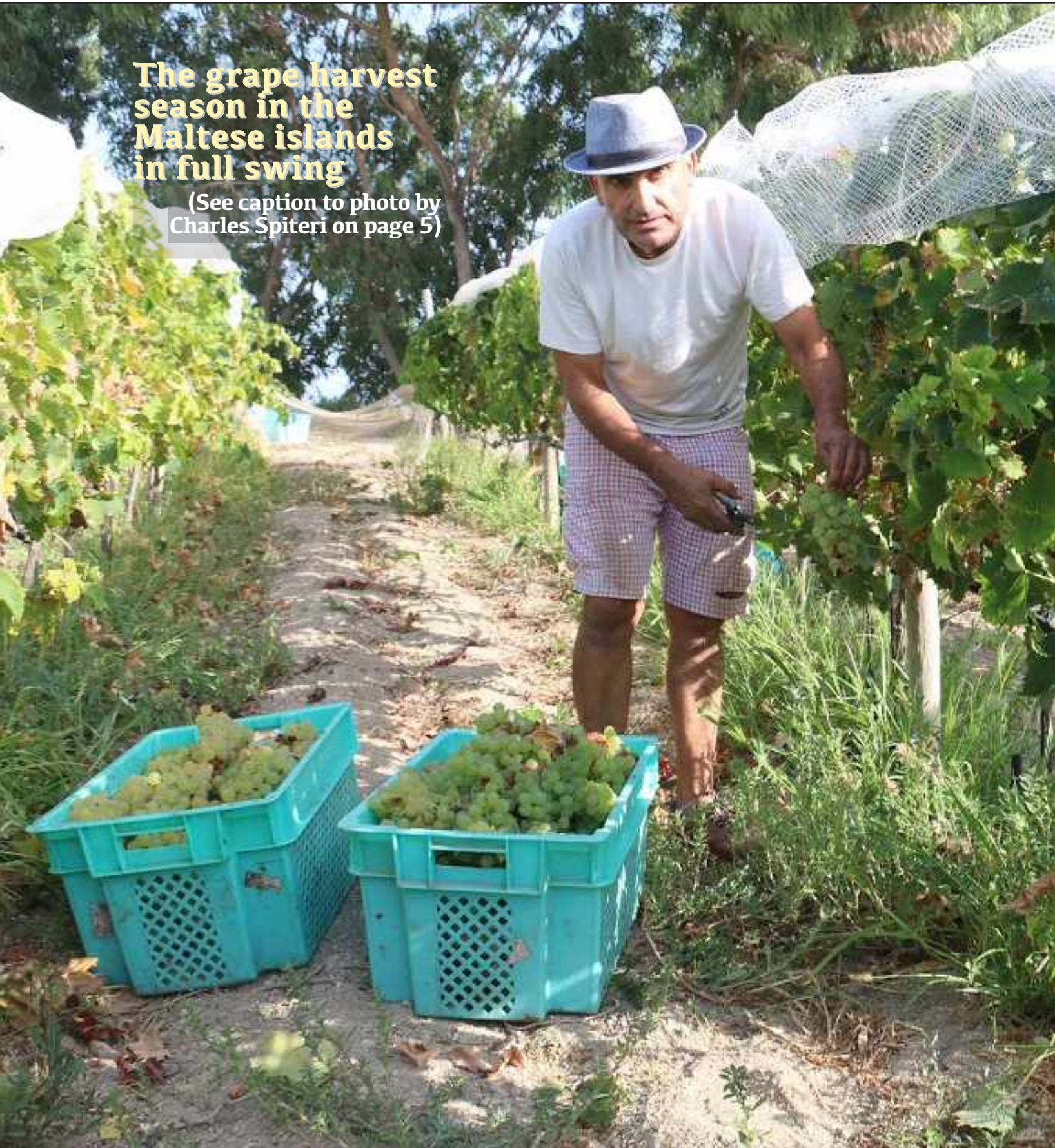
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The grape harvest season in the Maltese islands in full swing

(See caption to photo by Charles Spiteri on page 5)



*Bi tweġiba għal**Kumment Editorjali*

L-iskejjel komunitarji tal-Malti fl-Awstralja altru milli huma irrilevanti!

Kien b'sorpriza mhux żgħira li qrajna l-Kumment Editorjali ta' *The Voice of the Maltese* Nru. 234, li ahna nifhemu li hija l-pożizzjoni uffiċjali tal-gazzetta, dwar id-deċiżjoni tal-awtoritajiet Awstraljani li jaqgħu il-Malti bħala suġġett mis-sistema tal-HSC/VCE/SACE (*Higher School Certificate / Victorian Certificate of Education / South Australian Certificate of Education*).

Konna wkoll imweġġgħin nindunaw li t-tort ta' din is-sitwazzjoni, li fil-bidu nkiteb li hu tal-komunità Maltija, fil-fatt tinduna li ntefa' direttament u esklussivament fuq dawkl li jgħallmu l-Malti fl-Awstralja, speċjalment l-iskejjel tal-komunità, l-għalliema tagħhom u individwi indipendenti fl-istati differenti tal-pajjiż, li ahna hawn taht iffirmiti nirrappreżentaw.

Inkiteb li għandu jhammilna wiċċna li din it-telfa tar-rikonoxximent mill-awtoritajiet uffiċjali saret. Hemm xi haġa li thammrinna wiċċna żgħir, u din hi li meta, fi kliem il-Kumment Editorjali, im-morru nispejgaw b'passjoni għaliex importanti li l-Malti jitgħallm fl-Awstralja, nigu mistoqsijin mill-istudenti għaliex l-użu tal-Malti qiegħed jonqos sew, mill-Maltin f'Malta stess, u għaliex mhux biss qegħdin nassimilaw kliem barrani fil-Malti, li huwa proċess naturali, imma qegħdin naċċettaw li nispelluhom eżattament kif miktuba fil-lingwa barranija, jiġifieri ninjoraw it-tiswir tal-lingwa Maltija, u mingħajr ma talinqas nuru b'xi mod li qegħdin nagħmlu dan!

Il-Malti mhux l-uniku lingwa li se jitwaqqaf l-eżami tiegħu f'dan il-livell (l-Ukrajn, l-Isvediż u l-Ungeriz qegħdin fl-istess ilma) għalkemm ġejna nfurmati li t-tagħlim tiegħu mhux se jieqaf, anke fis-sistema edukattiva tal-istat. Hemm hafna raġunijiet għalfajn l-istudenti tal-Malti naqsu:

- assimilazzjoni shiħa tal-komunità Maltija fis-soċjetà, b'hafna studenti anke tat-tielet u r-raba' ġenerazzjoni li m'għadhomx esposti għal-lingwa kif kienu wlied l-ewwel ġenerazzjoni;
- ġenituri u nanniet jipprijorizzaw l-Ingliz, l-isport u attivatajiet oħra fuq il-Malti għax ma jifhemux il-vantaġġ ta' lingwa sekondarja;
- il-problema tad-distanza bejn l-istudent u l-post tat-tagħlim, li hija bil-wisq ikbar fl-Awstralja, li kibret meta t-tieni u t-tielet ġenerazzjoni tbiegħdet miċ-ċentri tal-Maltin, u l-klassijiet tal-Malti fl-iskejjel sempliċement ma baqgħux vijabbli;
- is-sistema edukattiva tal-Awstralja, li tipprioritizza suġġetti li jaffettwaw il-karrieri, u qiegħda tippenalizza l-lingwi komunitarji kollha;¹
- in-nuqqas ta' biżżejjed għalliema tal-lingwi bil-kwalifiki neċessarji.

Partikularment, kien diżappuntanti għall-aħhar naqraw il-kritika li l-għalliema tal-Malti mhumix familjari hafna ma' dan it-tagħlim, mal-aġġornamenti tal-lingwa eċċ.

Veru li hemm min fostna li hu hekk, bħalma mill-banda l-oħra hemm min hu kwalifikat sew, jattendi seminars u korsijiet professjonali inklużi fuq il-tagħlim ta' lingwi komunitarji, uħud huma anke akkreditati mill-awtoritajiet edukattivi u bi snin kbar ta' esperjenza fil-qasam.

Uħud minna huma haddiema f'oqsma differenti tal-hajja, inġiniera, ġenituri d-dar, pensjonanti u l-bqija, apparti għalliema kkwalifikati ta' suġġetti oħra. Allura għax inhobbu lil-ilsien, ngħollu idejna meta ssir sejhja, hafna drabi noħorġu flus mill-but, u mmiddu dirgħajna għax-xogħol minkejja li għal uħud mhix il-professjoni tagħna, għandu jingħad li kuntenti li noqogħdu 'in-ċekku', 'aħjar mix-xejn' u 'mill-hażin tiehu li tista'?

Mhux biżżejjed li tgħid fil-konkluzjoni li ma tridx tkun kritiku żżejjed u taqta' qalb xi whud li genwinament qed jagħmlu l-almu tagħhom, wara li tkun għamilt artiklu shiħ tagħmel preċizament dan.

L-iskejjel komunitarji kollha, għalliema u tuturi oħra joffru tagħlim tal-Malti lil studenti ġodda u oħrajn li qed ikomplu l-istudji tagħhom, kemm tfa' tal-iskola u dawkl adulti.

Żewġ skejkel minnhom hadmu għal hafna snin id f'id mal-iskola tal-lingwa tal-istat tagħhom, b'korsijiet akkreditati, biex studenti jkun jista' jkollhom ċertifikat rikonoxxut mill-pajjiż: Skola Maltija mas-Saturday School of Community Languages (SSCL) f'Sydney għall-HSC, u *Maltese Language Teachers Association* mal-Victorian School of Languages (VSL) għall-VCE.

Dan kien ta' suċċess għal numru ta' snin għalkemm in-numru ta' studenti f'dak il-livell kien dejjem żgħir, u dis-sena in-numru kien sempliċement żgħir wisq.

L-operaturi tat-tagħlim tal-Malti fl-Awstralja, li tagħhom ahna parti, bħalissa qegħdin jaħdmu flimkien, b'kooperazzjoni li qatt ma kellhom, biex jaraw x'inizjattivi jistgħu jittiehdu fiċ-ċirkus-tanzi, biex jissahhah it-tagħlim tal-Malti, u forsi għad 'il quddiem iwassal biex id-deċiżjoni li ttiehdet titregga' lura maż-żmien.

Fost l-oħrajn, bħalissa fi NSW l-iskejjel tal-komunità li l-Kumment Editorjali sejjah 'irrelevanti' u individwi oħra msejja 'dilettanti', qegħdin f'taħdidiet mad-dirigenti tat-tagħlim tal-Malti hawnhekk, proċess irreferut bħala 'bla skop', fuq il-possibiltà li d-Dipartiment tal-Edukazzjoni fi NSW għall-ewwel darba joffri kors tal-Malti onlajn, apparti dak li jsir wiċċ imb'wiċċ, miftuħ għal studenti tas-sekondarja fi NSW kollha.

Bħalissa qiegħed isir stħarriġ dwar dan is-suġġett għal min jgħix fi NSW, ara: <https://tinyurl.com/y5dhtq3j>.

Jekk dan il-kors onlajn isehh, ikun ifisser li l-Malti jkun jista' jiġi mitgħallm b'mod uffiċjali mhux biss minn dawkl li joqogħdu fil-vicinanzi ta' Seven Hills f'Sydney, l-uniku post fejn hemm klassijiet organizzati mid-Dipartiment tal-Edukazzjoni fi NSW illum, imma minn NSW kollha.

Innutajna l-pożizzjoni dikjarata tal-Kumment Editorjali li t-tagħlim tal-Malti onlajn/virtwali mill-Awstralja huwa bla skop, ahna nahsbu mod ieħor.

Mhix l-ewwel darba li sar tentattiv simili, għax il-problema ta' nuqqas ta' studenti ilha tinħass fil-Malti hafna snin, u mhux ilsienna biss. Per eżempju, fl-2007, il-Maltese Community Council ta' Victoria u l-VSL kienu għamlu petizzjoni mal-Prim Ministru Malti ta' dakinhar għal, fost l-oħrajn, edukazzjoni mill-bogħod onlajn u interattiv mill-Università ta' Malta, stabbiliment ta' laboratorju ta' lingwistika Maltija fl-istati tal-Awstralja u inizjattivi oħra.

Huwa biss f'dawn il-ġranet li kien hemm żvilupp, bl-Università ta' Malta tibda toffri korsijiet qosra għal dawkl li għadhom jibdw il-lingwa, bl-ghotja ta' *credits* għal min ilesti b'suċċess. Dan huwa pozzittiv, għalkemm wiehed irid jara kemm il-prezz meqjus għali u l-hinijiet ikunu attraenti għal studenti Awstraljani, speċjalment dawkl li għadhom l-iskola.

Bħalissa, fil-COVID-19, l-iskejjel komunitarji kollha tal-Malti fl-Awstralja, tuturi u għalliema xi fit jew wisq għadhom jgħallmu l-Malti ġeneralment b'mod virtwali. Il-VSL qiegħed jagħmel dan ukoll filwaqt li s-SSCL għandha eżenzjoni biex tibqa' tghallm wiċċ imb'wiċċ. Hemm madwar 250 student jgħallmu l-Malti b'kollox.

Huwa ironiku li l-Kumment Editorjali kkritika saħansitra t-tagħlim tal-kultura mill-iskejjel tal-komunità, meta dan kultant isir bl-Ingliz. Wara kollox, l-iskejjel tal-Malti qegħdin jimlew vojta kbira tat-tifrix tal-kultura Maltija.

L-Inglizi għandhom il-British Council, il-Franċiżi l-Alliance Française, l-Ispanjoli l-Istituto Cervantes u nistgħu nibqgħu sejrjn. Fejn hija l-istituzzjoni Maltija ddedikata għal dan l-għan fid-dijaspori? Jekk *The Voice* tixtieq suġġett rilevanti biex tiftah il-kanuni fuqu bħal m'għamlu l-Inglizi fuq Filfla, hawn hu fuq platt.

Jiddispaċina hafna, u qatt ma stennejna, li naqraw editorjal bħal dan li tefa' hafna ġebel minn fuq il-pultruna, kritika offra kemm trid imma soluzzjonijiet xejn, li ma jistax jiġi deskritt hliet distruttiv u xejn kostruttiv.

Madankollu, jekk hemm xi suggerimenti, ahna nwieghdu li nikkunsidrawhom b'attenzjoni.

Iffirmit:

Isem	Pożizzjoni	Organizzazzjoni
Ivan Cauchi	Tutur	Dwejret il-Malti
Edwidge Borg	President	Federation of Maltese Language Schools, Australia
Maria de Carlo	Prinċipal	Maltese Language School of NSW
Emanuel Camilleri	President	Maltese Community Council of NSW
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Marlene Ebejer	President	Maltese Community Council of Victoria
Mark Bonello	President	Maltese Language Teachers Association of Victoria
Rose-Mary Cummi	Għalliema	Gozo Chit-Chat Maltese Online

1. <https://www.smh.com.au/education/atar-scaling-wiping-out-hsc-languages-study-finds-20180417-p42a3k.html>, retrieved 22/8/2020

Kumment editorjali: L- iskejjel tal-lingwa Maltija (2)

Lil-kumment editorjali dwar l-iskejjel tal-lingwa Maltija li ppubblikajna fil-harga Nru 234 ta' The Voice tal-11 ta' Awwissu qajjem interess kbir, b'rizultat li digá rçevejna twegiba b'reazzjoni ghalih li kif xieraq qed nippubblikaw fil-pagna 2 ta' din il-harga.

Il-hsieb taghna wara dak il-kumment editorjali kien li nippruvaw inqajjmu kuxjenza billi analizzajna dak li sehħ dan l-ahħar meta l-awtoritajiet edukattivi fl-Awstralja nehew l-istudji dwar il-lingwa Maltija bhala sugġett fil-livell sekondarju.

Qed niehdu gost naraw li qed isir sforz u li qed jiġu studjati

metodi ġodda halli dak l-iskoss fatali li qlajna jigi rranġat. Qed naraw ukoll sforz biex dawk li jmxexxu l-iskejjel tal-Kunsilli tal-Komunità u wkoll dawk li jghallmu għal rashom jahdmu flimkien biex ikollna forza waħda u riżultati aħjar.

The Voice of the Maltese minn dejjem konna, u nibqgħu tarka fejn jidhol it-tagħlim tal-ilsien u l-kultura Maltija barra x-xtut Maltin, għalhekk hu ta' sodisfazzjoni naraw li fost il-komunità Maltija qam entużjażmu ġdid biex b'rieda tajba u magħqudin, naslu fejn fallejna fl-imghoddi bis-sospensjoni tal-Malti fil-livell sekondarju.

Minkejja l-pandemija ...

Jum il-Vitorja 2020 imfakkar xorta waħda



Minkejja l-pandemija COVID-19, Malta xorta waħda ma naqsitx li tfakkar il-festa tat-8 ta' Settembru, Jum il-Vitorja, u għalkemm mhux b'pompa daqs is-soltu, il-Kumitat tal-Festi Nazzjonali xorta waħda għamel minn kollox biex it-tifsira tas-sinifikat tibqa' hemm.

Għalkemm mhux daqs is-soltu, imma ċ-ċerimonja fuq il-Monument tal-Assedju l-Kbir fl-belt Valletta xorta sehħet u spikkat, l-istess ir-Regatta Nazzjonali tad-Dghajjes fil-Port il-Kbir, anke jekk minghajr il-folol li din id-darba setgħu jseguw biss permezz ta' trasmissjoni fuq l-istazzjon tat-televizjoni Nazzjonali.

It-8 ta' Settembru, festa pubblika, tfakkar l-Assedju l-Kbir tal-1565, u tmiem t-Tieni Gwerra Dinjija meta fl-1943 l-Italja ċediet u b'hekk twaqqaf l-assesdju u l-attakki kontinwi bil-baħar u bl-ajru fuq il-gżira.

Dan il-jum ifakkar ukoll it-twelid tal-Vergni Marija, magħrufa bhala l-Bambina Il-ftuh tat-tifkira sar erbat ijiem qabel fuq il-Monument f'Misraħ l-Assedju, fejn

minbarra s-solitu diskors għall-okkażjoni, li din id-darba sar mis-Sinjura Pauline Miceli, il-Kummissarju tat-Tfal, sar ukoll it-tqeghid tal-kuruni mill-oghla awtoritajiet tal-pajjiż, fosthom il-President ta' Malta l-ET George Vella, id-Deputat Prim Ministru Chris Fearne f'isem il-gvern, l-I-speaker tal-Kamra tar-Rappreżentanti Anglu Farrugia u l-Kap tal-Oppożizzjoni Adrian Delia. Hadu sehem koll il-Forzi Armati ta' Malta li daqqew marċi għall-okkażjoni.

Fid-diskors tagħha s-Sinjura Miceli xebbet l-assedji l-imghoddija mal-pandemija COVID-19 li bħalissa qed taħkem id-dinja u lil Malta. Qalet li din gieghlet li għal darb'ohra kellna nerġgħu ninqafu wara s-swar għall-kenn.

Sahqet li minkejja l-iżviluppi kollha pozzittivi li saru, għad hemm hafna oqsma fil-hajja tat-tfal li fihom ftit li xejn jinghataw widen. Semmiet bhala eżempju meta jkun hemm każi ta' separazzjoni.

Qalet li fil-fehma tagħha jkun żball jekk it-

tfal ikunu jistgħu jsemmgħu lehinom biss dwar kwestjonijiet li għandhom x'jaqsmu mal-logħob u mal-edukazzjoni.

It-tifkira tal-festa tal-Vitorja ssoktat lejlet il-festa proprja b'quddiesa pontifikali mill-Isqof Anton Teuma fil-bażilka Kollegjata Maria Bambina fix-Xagħra Għawdex.

Wara, il-Forzi Armati ta' Malta fformaw gwardja tal-unur u flimkien mal-banda tal-armata taw salut ġenerali lill-Kap Kmandant, lill-Prim Ministru Robert Abela, u lill-President ta' Malta, George Vella, li spezzjona l-gwardja tal-unur.

F'Jum il-Vitorja saret ċerimonja ta' tifkira mmexxija mill-ET l-President ta' Malta George Vella, l-Arċisqof Charles Scicluna qaddes pontifikal fil-knisja tan-Naxxar, u wara nofsinhar fil-Port il-Kbir saret ir-Regatta Nazzjonali tad-dghajjes fejn ix-Shield intrebhet mil-Marsa. (Ara pagina 24).

Li hassret għal kollox il-pandemija kienu l-festi esterni tal-Vitorja li ġeneralment isiru b'tant briju, fl-Isla, ifl-Mellieħa, in-Naxxar u x-Xagħra f'Għawdex.

Q. I am 63 and planning to retire in the next few years. I will not be entitled to the age pension until age 67. I have an investment property in Queensland worth around \$330,000. Should I sell it now or should I wait until I retire?

A. There are a few things to consider. If you plan to invest the proceeds from the property into superannuation, then you may need to sell the property before you turn 65. Prior to turning 65 you can invest up to \$300,000 in super in the one year. After age 65 you are only able to invest \$100,000 in super each year and after 67, if you are no longer working, you cannot make contributions into superannuation at all.

However, if you think you will have a large capital gain, half of the gain needs to be shown on your tax return and you will pay tax at your marginal tax rate. These are things to consider prior to selling the property. If a good opportunity comes along and you are made a very good offer for the property, then this offer may prove to be too good to miss.

Q. I am a widower, 69 years old and on the full age pension. I have been offered 10 hours per week work earning around \$250 per week. Is this going to affect my pension and if so by how much?

A. As you are a pensioner you are entitled to a work bonus. This means that the first \$300 per fortnight, or \$7,800 per annum of work income is not treated as income by the Centrelink Income Test.

Therefore only \$200 per fortnight will be affecting your pension. As a single pensioner is entitled to earn \$178 per fortnight from financial assets without affecting the age pension, if you have no other income apart from the age pension, your age pension will reduce very little.

Q. I retired from the workforce 18 months ago. I thought that as my main source of income is from my account-based pension, I do not need to lodge a tax return any more. I do however have two small parcels of direct shares that pay franked dividends. Am I able to claim the franking credits on these securities or do I still need to lodge a tax return which would cost me as much as my refund?

A. As you no longer work and your main income is non-taxable income, you should contact the Australian Taxation Office and let them know that the last tax return you lodged was your last tax return and you will not be lodging any more tax returns. Ask them also to mail you a Claim

This is a monthly service offered by The Voice of the Maltese in which Marie Louise Muscat from the Fiducian Financial Services helps our readers understand the complexities associated with financial planning. If you need more advice send an email to Marie Louise via: maltesevoice@gmail.com.



for Franking Credits form which you can fill in yourself and claim the franking credits. You will be able to do this every year in the future.

Q. My mother is a widow and lives in her own home. Her sister (my aunt) is not married and lives in her own home. They are always visiting each other and have been talking about my aunt moving in with my mother as they are extremely close. They are still in their early 70s and at present both on the age pension. My aunt's house is worth around \$500,000. If she sells her home, does she lose the age pension completely? She does not have many other assets apart from \$55,000 in her bank account?

A. If your aunt sells her home, the proceeds from the house will be treated as an asset. She will be able to invest \$300,000 in superannuation and if she plans to pay rent to your mother she may also qualify for rental assistance. However, the proceeds from the sale of the house will all be treated as an asset and she will be treated as a non-homeowner. She will lose a good part of the age pension. She will be able to replace the income lost by the reduction in the age pension with income from her superannuation.

I would however recommend that they try moving in together for a period of six months prior to selling her house to see whether this is what they really want as sometimes such a move may not work out in the long term. Another option is for your aunt to rent out her house. Therefore, she will have a house to return to if things do not work out.

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AMCC general meet confirms Sydney JP Borg as its President

Sydney JP Borg (*second from right sitting in above picture*) has been confirmed for another year as National President of the executive committee of the Australian Maltese Chamber of Commerce. He has been leading it for 15 years. The confirmation results from the election at the recent annual general meeting held at the La Valette Centre in Blacktown NSW.

The meeting also elected nine other members to make up the full compliment of the 2020/21 executive committee:

National President: Sydney JP Borg

National V/President: Neville Zammit

National Treasurer: Michael Zammit

National Secretary: Clive Desira

Members: Joseph Borg, Chanel Borg, Rod Wade, Jonathan Agius, Martin Perigen: (President Victoria), and Sandra Micallef (President Queensland).

The meeting was also attended by Lawrence Buhagiar, the Consul General for Malta in NSW.

The Australian Maltese Chamber of Commerce (AMCC), established in 1994, is a national body that seeks to connect its members commercially and culturally. It consists of a network of Maltese Australian business owners and business professionals from across Australia.

We understand the AMCC has applied to become members of the Maltese Community Council of NSW, which we believe is a very important step towards achieving more unity in the community.

Although the MCC of NSW has not physically met for a while due to the Covid-19 restrictions, The Voice believes that the application will be approved, and that at least one other Maltese association could soon follow.

The members of the AMCC meet bi-monthly to network and gain insights on business related topics from invited guest speakers and also organises various activities for members, their partners and guests including network and social events.

The new AMCC executive and other members of the association that attended the general meeting at the La Valette Social Centre.

PLEASE NOTE:

In the last issue of *The Voice of the Maltese* (No. 235), we inadvertently left out the byeline for the article titled: *Alfred Asciak 1934-2020: A Tribute*. The write-up should be attributed to Carmen Calleya Capp and Emmanuel Brincat.

Caption to grapes harvest picture on front page



The grape harvest season is in full swing in the Maltese islands. A good yield from the vineyard would be a great satisfaction to winemakers who face nerve-racking seasons, where just the right amount of sun and rain are needed to grow grapes of the highest possible quality.

It is no wonder that when a harvest finally occurs winemakers are jubilant. At Tal-Massar vineyard at Għarb in Gozo, harvest is done by hand so that grapes are picked gently without sustaining any damages. Grapes are then sorted for quality, crushed and destemmed. Then fermentation follows and winemaking begins.

Our photographer Charles Spiteri, was on the spot to witness the harvest and in particular Mario Attard, from Xagħra (*picture*).

The Advancement of Maltese Women



Lino Debono

People like myself, blessed with being born at almost the end of the Second World War, are privileged to live and see the enormous progress that has occurred in our Maltese Islands from that time to the present. I am dedicating this article to the enormous advancements made by the female sector in our Islands despite past and present enormous hardships, the discriminations, humiliations and abuse it had to go through.

Before, during and after World War II women were classified as underprivileged citizens and possessed no voting rights. They were expected to obey and follow the wishes of their husbands in almost everything. They were also expected to raise their families, cook and do all the other chores. Most were illiterate, as was most of the population. One of the popular descriptions for women at the time was, that "they were only good for the kitchen".

As women had no income whatsoever except those employed as maids in well to do families and usually had to sleep over for six whole days with only Sundays off, women were forced to suffer all sorts of abusive behaviour and lots of intimidation, in particular those who had made bad choices in their marriage.

These women had to accept suffering from their husbands and to bear it. They could not seek separation (divorce at that time was not permitted), nor could they choose to leave their husbands, as they had no income of their own to fall on. When they eventually felt brave enough to seek advice, the usual comments were for them "to be patient and offer their suffering to God so they could be rewarded later in

heaven."

I don't remember the old tradition of a family putting a flower pot on the window ledge by announcing that the family had a young girl of marriageable age and seeking a husband. The middlemen or women would then intervene by finding a suitable spouse for the girl.

The only positive thing in this for women was that by this inadequate system, they became the real patrons of the extended family, especially the kids, who whenever they entered home the first thing they would do is call "Mum." The Mother was the beginning and the end of Family life.

Women's Right to Vote

In 1947 the Labour Government led by Dr Paul Boffa introduced the first voting



**HE Ms Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca
Malta's second woman president**

rights for women. It was also that same year that Ms Agatha Barbara became the first woman to be elected and hold a seat in parliament. Three years later, in 1950, women Parliamentarians increased to three. Ms Mable Strickland and Ms Cecil De Trafford, who was elected from Gozo, followed Ms Agatha Barbara.

In the same 1950 elections, there were also four other women who decided to contest for a seat in Parliament. They were, Ms Fanny Attard Bezzina, Ms Borg Dingli, Ms Boffa and Ms Marie Therese Vassallo. It was evidently clear that after getting the

right to vote, women decided to come forward and to participate in a male-dominated country.

However, on the national level, women were still regarded as second-class citizens. As education at



HE Ms Agatha Barbara, the first woman President of Malta

this particular time was still in rudimentary level, boys were preferred to girls as they were being considered as assets in helping their parents in farming/trade, family business. The business was solely passed on to the male gender, while girls were considered to be just family helpers, looking after the cooking, the washing and after the sick and elderly relatives.

Till the mid-seventies, the few women that were gainfully employed in governmental departments were forced to quit their jobs as soon as they got married. The man was regarded as the main breadwinner even if a woman was, in fact, paid a better wage.

Until 1971 all workers were on a 48-hour week. Women who worked in the Gozo Industrial Area were paid £1.5 shillings per week, while men were paid five shillings more.

This discriminatory aspect was terminated during the 1971-76 legislation when the Government introduced the 40-hour week and equal pay for equal work. In effect, this measure also gave 52 additional days leave to all the workers.

In my view, although the pay was minimal, it marked the beginning of women starting to acquire their own independence. They began to earn and manage their own income, became more independent and therefore more able to fend for themselves.

Furthermore, when Social Services were largely spread to everybody, all women, even those who had never worked for pay, and who were previously dependent on male relatives, were given the chance to become more independent.

**Continued on page 7*



Ms Mable Strickland, then leader of the Progressive Constitutional Party

The Advancement of Maltese Women

**from page 6*

One other important discriminatory law that was repealed during the '70s was that preventing women from working as soon as they got married. Therefore women who had previously held government jobs were given the opportunity to resume their employment, and many jumped on the opportunity.

Women in Professions

So much progress has been made. Women eligible by their scholastic knowledge have found employment in all sectors of society, and attendance by the fairer sex in the fourteen Faculties and the eighteen Institutes at the Malta University, that last year celebrated its 250th anniversary as a State university has become more widespread than ever.

Last year, the Univesity also commemorated the centenary of the enrolment of its first two female undergraduate students.



Lucia Levanzin Inglott (*above*) was the first Maltese woman to follow a course at the University of Malta. She gained her diploma in midwifery in 1918 following a two-year course.

In October a year later, two female students, Tessie Camilleri (Arts) and Blanche Huber (Medicine) joined the University.

Since then, a number of other women also managed to become researchers and Professors at the University where they even head a number of faculties. The Vice-Rector is also a woman. Ms Carmen Sammut, is Associate Professor within the International Relations Department and occupies the position of Pro Rector.

The professions, high positions in employment and better wages are easily available to girls, and women's rights activists have become more vociferous, more frequent and successful.

Today Malta has more women in Parliament and even more equality. Three of the European Parliamentarians (MEPs) in Brussels are also women. They were elected to represent the Maltese nation on



EU Commissioner Helena Dalli

their own steam. Another woman, is also representing Malta in the European Courts, while yet another, Helena Dalli, occupies the role of European Commissioner for Equality in the EU.

Malta's House of Representatives has been having not only women members of parliament but also women ministers for quite some time. They hail from both Maltese islands.

A Gozitan woman, Dr Miriam Spiteri Debono also held the position of Speaker of the House of Representatives, responsible for controlling the flow of House business and acting as "referee" during debates, while the current legislature also has a woman as Deputy Speaker, Claudette Buttigieg.

In two five-year terms, Malta also had two women occupying the position of President, the constitutional head of state of Malta. The first was Ms Agatha Barbara (from 1982 to 1987), and Dr Marie-Louise Colerio Preca. Both had previously also occupied Ministerial positions under Labour administrations. On countless occasions, in the absence from Malta of the President, another woman, a former Minister, Dolores Cristina, also administered the role of Acting President.

When it comes to the judiciary, equality is also practised at the Law Courts nowadays with male and female judges carrying the burden of responsibility for the implementation of justice. So one can imagine the tremendous advancement the female

sector has achieved in our Islands.

Women automatically elected to Parliament

What I do question though is the proposed introduction of more women in parliament simply to make up the quota between male and female participants.

The European Union does question our islands and some others about the lack of female MPs compared to the number of males who dominate our parliament.

In my view, however, this is not the way forward. I do believe that evolution takes time. Maturity in mentality takes time, effort and hard work. Those that succeed will then gather the benefits of success through their own personal achievement, especially today when the Maltese islands have more female university students than male. This in itself shows that females are more than capable of holding their own and achieving their goals.

Good Initiative

Recently a political party successfully introduced a political programme for prospective women candidates. This is the proper way forward in preparing women for political candidacy. Providing a clear understanding of what the real prospects of politics, parliament and constitutional laws are in reality is the right attitude.

Women have already shown they can be more than capable administrators in the political arena. We've been enjoying female ministers as far back as the '50s.

I believe women are more meticulous, are more conscious and have a better eye for detail and preparation. Being a Gozitan myself, I have followed closely the career of former Gozo Minister the Hon Dr Justyne Caruana. During her tenure, she performed admirably.

We now have a new Minister for Gozo, Clint Camilleri, an architect by profession. I wish him well and hope that Gozo would continue to prosper under his guidance.

I commend the vast improvements by the female sector of society on the Maltese islands since World War II.



Former Ministers: Justyn Caruana (left), and Dolores Cristina

Have your say/Xi trid tgħid?



The Voice of the Maltese

fortnightly magazine

This is a bi-lingual (in English and Maltese) fortnightly magazine that specifically targets all Maltese living abroad with emphasis on the Australian and Maltese scenes.

The magazine can be read in flip-book or PDF format online. A pdf copy is sent via email on request.

Hard copy subscription is also available at a cost.

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Letters for publication in *The Voice* magazine, either in Maltese or English should include name, e-mail address and residence of the writer, and be e-mailed to: maltesevoice@gmail.com.



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Your letters/ L-ittri tagħkom ...

The race for the vaccine

Frank Pace from Rockingham, WA writes:

In the race to develop a COVID-19 vaccine, a lot of attention is being paid to what happens after regulators approve a vaccine. Therefore Governments need to start planning how they will distribute it efficiently and fairly, because we have been told that when a vaccine is approved, most countries won't have enough doses for everyone.

They also have to decide now so that vaccine allocation can begin as soon as one becomes available and also who should be the first people to get it. Without a clear plan, valuable time will be lost and governments may be forced into quick decisions that fail to realise the full potential of a vaccine.

Having said that, an item in Maltese about the vaccine published in the last issue of *The Voice of the Maltese* (Malta news section-page 15) caught my eye. Malta's Minister for Health Chris Fearnside was quoted

saying that Malta would be among the first countries to acquire the vaccine and that it is already assured of 330,000 doses it could use, to protect, first, the frontliners and the most vulnerable. He also assured that enough doses would follow to be used for the rest of the population.

Malta is such a small country, but when it comes to health it is so far ahead.

In Australia we have been told that if it proves successful the government has secured early access for every one of the 25 million Australians, all well and good, but we have not yet heard anything about priorities, and whether preferential access would be given to frontliners and the vulnerable, and not others of some status.

Are we too alarmist?

Joe Marks from Harvey, Western Australia writes:

Have we gotten carried away with the COVID-19 pandemic? There is no doubt that the health authorities in Australia are doing all they can to prevent the spread of this latest virus.

The Government is trying to balance the health of the people with the need to keep the economy going. As I write, after massive lockdowns, quarantines, borders control and what's not, the number of deaths from COVID-19 in the whole of Australia is 748.

Are we too, alarmist? As I write, we have close to 900,000 deaths from COVID globally, yet there have been 5.4 million deaths from cancer, 8.6 million from communicable diseases and 1.6 million from grog. Every day, 450 Australians die of natural causes, 150 die in nursing homes, 136 die of cancer and 45 of heart disease.

One aspect that is not often mentioned is that most COVID-19 cases are very mild. Notwithstanding, we still need to be very careful, and heed the advice and instructions of the health authorities.

Quo Vadis SBS TV?

G. Fabri from Sheffield, Tasmania writes:

So much for Tony Mangion's item (VOM No. 235). The so-called ethnic station SBS TV has lost its soul. It was established to promote ethnic minorities and give them a voice.

As the correspondent wrote, it was also the soccer channel, but this is gone as well. Now we have a Vice channel promoting productions from the "elite" countries.

SBS has become a bloated experience. They cannot call themselves "special broadcasters" anymore.

Stirring up memories

Tony Felice from Kleinburg, Ontario Canada writes:

The article in the last issue of *The Voice* by Lawrence Dimech with memories of his participation (administratively) in the 2000 Olympiad is excellent. It also stirs up memories of our journey to Melbourne in 1956. It was 64 years ago but the memories still run vividly through my mind as age affords me more of those "vacant or pensive moods, I flash upon that inward eye, which is the bliss of solitude" (Wordsworth).

That was one of the most memorable events in my lifetime. I enjoyed the article. Keep writing and feeding me these pleasant and happy thoughts that I can enjoy as I sit in my backyard with a glass of wine and a cigar. Lord knows there is not much else to do during these dreadful months with COVID.



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Il-flus Maltin matul iż-żmien

Kull min hu minn ta' żmien wara t-Tieni Gwerra Dinjija żgur li jiftakar sewwa diversi muniti ta' flus li l-poplu Malti kien juża għall-qadi u x-xiri tiegħu, għax għalkemm il-flus mhumieq kollox, imma min-naħa l-oħra, bħal ma jgħid il-Malti ... 'bla flus la tgħannaq u lanqas tbus'.

Il-flus huma biċċa għodda f'idejk li jgħinuk tikseb mingħand haddiehor dak li tixtieq; għaldaqstant, kulhadd jaf li l-flus għandhom sehem importanti fil-ħajja tal-bniedem. Bis-saħħa tal-flus, pajjiż imur 'il quddiem jew lura. Bil-flus il-bniedem jgħix tajjeb. u jekk m'għandux jgħix fil-faqar. Is-saħħa biss hija aqua mill-flus.

Il-flus minn dejjem kienu għall-użu tal-bniedem, saħansitra dan jidher anke fiż-żmien primitiv tal-istorja. Fil-fatt, studjuji tal-istorja tal-muniti jgħabblu l-flus maż-żmien jew l-epoka, għax kull ħakma għida kienet iddaħħal il-flus tagħha.

Niftakar sewwa l-programm li kont nippreżenta jien stess fuq Radju Malta Nazzjonali (xi tletin sena ilu) dwar l-antikittajiet. Fis-sezzjoni tan-numismatika (l-istudju tal-muniti)



Muniti fi żmien ir-Renju Inġliż: Is-sold (xellug), u t-tmintax-irbiegħi

Dan l-artiklu jagħti biss stampa fil-qosor tal-'flus Maltin'. Hemm ħafna akar x'jingħad u l-Editur qalli li għall-quddiem hemm maħsub artiklu aktar komplut dwar is-suġġett.

Bejn l-1530 to 1798 waqt li kienu f'Mala, il-Kavallieri ta' San Gwann ukoll kienu jistampaw il-flus tagħhom. Marbuta mal-istorja tal-muniti f'pajjiżna wiehed isemmi z-Zekka ta' Malta li għandha storja kbira. L-użu tagħha ntemm mal-wasla tal-Inġliżi f'Malta. Dawn kienu qatgħuha li ma kellhomx għalfajn jahdmu aktar flus f'Malta għax setgħu jgibuhom lesti mill-Inġilterra.

Izda għalkemm seħħ dan, jigifieri li l-Inġliżi bdew igibu l-flus tagħhom u f'Malta konna nużaw l-istess muniti tagħhom, il-flus ta' żmien il-kavallieri kellhom l-aktar effett fuq il-flus Inġliżi, tant li bdew jitqabblu ma' xulxin fil-valur tagħhom.

Min għandu l-età ta' sebgħin jew aktar jiftakar sewwa li meta konna tfal konna nisimgħu fost l-oħrajn bil-kelma skdu. Din il-munita kienet tfisser xelin u tmien soldi. Kien hemm oħrajn, bħal disa' rbajja' għal xelin u tliet soldi; jew tmintax irbiegħi għal żewġ xelini (dix-xelini) u sikspenz. Kien hemm ukoll is-Sitt ħabbiet, u tliet karnijiet għal żewġ soldi u sitt ħabbiet.

Dawn li semmejt kienu termini ta' flus li jiena (u ħafna oħrajn tal-età tiegħi) niftakru sewwa ta' meta konna għadna tfal. Ħafna niftakru wkoll bis-sitt ħabbiet li kont tagħti lis-sagristan għas-siggu tal-quddiesa. Jekk kont ittih sold kien jagħtik sitta bqija.

Niftakar sewwa lil missieri jgħidli li b'sitt ħabbiet kien jixtri l-inċova mingħand tal-ħanut ta' Randi fi Triq Mamo, f'Haż-Zebbuġ.

It-tmintax irbiegħi ukoll niftakarha sewwa. Fil-fatt, kull bidu tas-sena għall-Istrina, iz-zija xwejha Ġużeppe kienet tagħtini tmintax irbiegħi 'bil-mohbi' għal xi qadi li nkun għamiltilha matul is-sena.



PeterPaulCiantar



Il-munita tal-25 cent-żmu bil-kliem Malti

Insomma, memorji ta' tfuliti – il-flus tal-Inġliżi bil-famuża nofs lira tal-karti (hadra) bil-wieċ tar-Re, u wara tar-Regina, jew inkella dik tal-lira b'dak il-kulur kannella ħamrani sabiħ fuq sfond abjad Għadni niftakar lin-nannu Mikiel jgħidli li kien jaqla' lira paga għal gimgħa xogħol. Aktar tard kulhadd jiftakar l-użu tal-karta tal-ħames liri li dahlet fil-bidu ta' Ġunju tal-1961.

Biex inkomplu bl-istorja tal-munita, fi żminijietna wiehed jiftakar ukoll meta fil-bidu ta' Jannar tal-1973, il-Bank Ċentrali ta' Malta ħareġ għall-ewwel darba l-karti tal-flus b'-

valur ta' għaxar liri. Dakinhar ħarġu wkoll karti godda tal-lira u tal-ħames liri li fuqhom għall-ewwel darba kellhom il-kitba bil-Malti.

Ftit qabel, fis-16 ta' Mejju tal-1972 seħħet taqliba kbira fil-grajja tal-flus Maltin meta l-Gvern qaleb għas-sistema decimali ... sistema li bis-saħħa tagħha l-lira Maltija giet maqsuma f'mitt cent-żmu u għaldaqstant il-flus Maltin ma baqgħux iżjed soldi u xelini, imma saru cent-żmi u milleżmi.

Għalkemm din is-sistema ma damitx ma ndrat grazzi għal ħafna fuljetti u tagħrif li bbumbardjawni bih biex nifhmuhom, mohlhna xorta waħda baqa' jittrasferixxi l-ammont tal-flus decimali għas-sistema l-antika tal-lira Maltija (bix-xelini). Xi ħaga li anke għadek isib min jagħmel dan illum.

Tajjeb wiehed jgħid li din il-bidla kellha sseħħ minħabba li fl-1971 l-Inġilterra qalbet għas-sistema decimali u kellha wkoll tiġi introdotta f'pajjiżi oħra kolonji Inġliżi. Għalhekk iffacilitat sewwa s-sistema ta' kummerċ Malti mal-barrani.

L-istorja dejjem tirrepeti ruħha u meta pajjiżna daħal fl-Unjoni Ewropea u dhalna wkoll fiż-żona Ewro, għal darb' oħra Malta kellha terġa' taqleb il-flus tagħha għall-Ewro. Din iddahlet f'pajjiżna f'Mejju tal-2008, erba' snin wara li pajjiżna sar membru sħiħ tal-Unjoni Ewropea.

Xejn ma kienet faċli, l-aktar għal dawk l-anzjani li jponggu din is-sistema fl-imħu u fil-bwiet tagħhom, imma mas-snin il-poplu Malti tgħallimha sew dis-sistema ta' flus u saret sempliċi ħafna għalih.

Issa bl-użu tal-Ewro l-Malti seta' jivvjaġġa wkoll lejn il-pajjiżi kollha msieħba fl-Unjoni Ewropea u li huma wkoll addottaw il-munita Ewro. Stajt tista' tagħzel fejn trid tmur u tuża l-Ewro li tiġi aċċettata mhux biss minn min għamilha l-munita tiegħu, imma wkoll minn oħrajn li saru anke jippreferuha mid-dollaru Amerikan li qabel kien l-aktar munita wżata.

Huma ħafna dawk li jiftakru li biex isiefu kien ikollhom imorru l-bank sabiex isarrfu l-flus Maltin għal xi munita tal-pajjiż fejn kien beħsiebhom li jivvjaġġaw u jqattgħu l-btajjel. Dan illum spicċa u sar parti mill-istorja tal-munita Maltija ... jew aħjar tal-flus 'Maltin'.

L-istampi juru xi muniti li kienu jintużaw f'Malta qabel pajjiżna ssieħbet fiż-Żona Ewro, fosthom l-ewwel decimali



Perspettiva

A version of this series in English may be found in the author's blog at:
<https://ivancauchi.blogspot.com>

Kitba ta' IVAN CAUCHI



Telefonata fantazma

Dan l-aħħar sibt ruhi niehu hafna iktar interess mis-soltu fl-aħbarijiet minn Malta, speċjalment dawk dwar ġustizzja kriminali. Bħalma forsi tistgħu tobsru, is-suġġett li kkawża dan l-interess huwa l-qtil makabru tal-ġurnalista Daphne Caruana Galizia tliet snin ilu x-xahar id-diehel.

Attività kien hemm kemm trid f'dawn l-aħħar xhur, b'inkjesta pubblika dwar l-assassinju, każ konstituzzjonali mill-akkuzat Jorgen Fenech kontra l-ispettur ewlieni Keith Arnaud, u l-kumpilazzjoni tal-evidenza kontra l-imsemmi Fenech.

Dan huwa drammi li min jaf kemm se jinħadmu films u serje televiżivi dwaru 'l quddiem, b'ismijiet magħrufa fil-hajja politika ta' Malta u oħrajn li qatt ma ssemmev qabel jinstemgħu taht ġurament, b'konnessjonijiet li ma kinux magħrufa jtilgħu għad-dawl, li jwasslu għal riżenji ta' ministri u oħrajn, ix-xhud ewlieni allegatament jipprova jagħmel suwiċidju, u tista' tibqa' sejjer.

Telenovela shiha, fil-hajja ta' vera.

Ftit biss jiemi ilu, sehhet haġa kurjuża hafna, li qajmet furur, ċioe qajmet furur iehor. Ġie żvelat li l-mara ta' Fenech, Marlene, fit-28 ta' Awwissu ta' din is-sena, irċeviet ċempila min-numru tal-mowbajl ta' żewġha, wiehed li kien ikkonfiskat meta kien arrestat fuq il-jott tiegħu meta kien allegatament se jaħrab mill-pajjiż f'Novembru tal-2019.

Dan il-mowbajl kien qiegħed jinżamm għall-analiżi mill-Ewropol, l-aġenzija tal-infurzar tal-liġi tal-Unjoni Ewropeja.

Il-mistoqsija naturalment tqum kif inhu possibbli li dan il-mowbajl ta' Fenech qed jagħmel telefonati meta suppost qiegħed jinżamm b'mod sigur mill-awtoritajiet. Il-midja ċertament li staqsiet din il-mistoqsija, u d-difiża ta' Fenech għamlet l-istess.¹

Jekk tassumi li hu minnu li din it-telefonata saret, wiehed irid jgħid li huwa ċertament possibbli li dan sar b'dan il-mod, forsi bi żball, għalkemm dan ikun ifisser nuqqas serju ta' l-infurzar tal-protokoll ta' sigurtà tal-evidenza f'każijiet kriminali.

Però bqajt nistenna f'it iehor biex nara jekk kienx hemm iktar żviluppi, u bqajt sorpriż li l-istorja baqghet fuq dan il-livell, jiġifieri li kulhadd (taliqas fil-pubbliku) jassumi li din l-allegata telefonata saret mill-mowbajl ta' Jorgen Fenech.

Għax fil-fatt hemm possibbiltà oħra kif setgħet saret din it-telefonata.

Illum hawn hafna kumpaniji li joffru servizz ta' vuċi li jiġi tterminat fuq telefoni konvenzjonali jew mowbajl, imma li jkun inbeda minn fuq l-internet. Dan is-servizz jissejjah VOIP (*Voice Over Internet Protocol*).

Kumpaniji ta' dan it-tip, meta klijent jirreġistra magħhom, aktarx joffru l-faċilità li meta ċċempel lil haddiehor dak li jirċievi t-telefonata jkun jista' jara numru konvenzjonali tat-telefoni li jsejwi



standard internazzjonali tal-ITU (*International Telecommunications Union*) irreferut bħala E.164, li hija sensiela ta' numri diġitali, l-ewwel f'it jirrapreżentaw il-pajjiż (Malta għandha n-numri 356) imbagħad jiġi n-numru tat-telefoni lokali li kulhadd imdorri bih.

Dawn il-kumpaniji tal-VOIP, jekk huma serji, jivverifikaw li l-klijenti tagħhom fil-fatt huma s-sidien tan-numri li jridu jużaw (billi per eżempju jċempluhom lura, jew jibagħtulhom messaġġ SMS), qabel ma jaċċettaw li juru dan in-numru f'telefonati 'l barra li jkun saru fuq is-sistema VOIP.

Allura wiehed jista' faċilment jara xenarji oħra fejn din it-telefonata partikolari lis-Sinjura Fenech setgħet saret. Per eżempju, Jorgen Fenech seta' diġà kellu kont ma' kumpanija tal-VOIP u kien irreġistra n-numru tat-telefoni tiegħu magħha, u xi hadd uża dan il-kont (bil-jew mingħajr il-permess tiegħu) biex issir din it-telefonata.

Xenarju iehor hu li hemm xi kumpanija tal-VOIP li ma tivverifika l-ebda numru, u xi hadd malizzjożament irreġistra n-numru tal-mowbajl ta' Fenech u pproċeda billi jagħmel din it-telefonata lill-mara tiegħu.

Mod wiehed kif jista' jinqata' l-misteru ta' liema xenarju huwa t-tajjeb huwa jekk il-kumpanija tal-mowbajl tas-Sinjura Fenech iżomm il-messaġġi (*signalling*) li jiġu mibdula sabiex jinbdew, jtkomplew u jspicċaw it-telefonati, u tidentifika minn fejn ġiet it-telefonata.

Ikun interessanti jekk dan il-misteru zgħir jiġi solvut.

Ikun iktar utli li dawk kollha meqjusa kriminalment responsabbli għall-assassinju jkun identifikati b'mod li jispira fiduċja mill-popolazzjoni Maltija kollha.

Referenzi

1. <https://lovinmalta.com/news/yorgen-fenechs-confiscated-mobile-phone-made-phone-call-to-his-wife-this-weekend/>, retrieved 7/9/2020



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Haġar Qim (left) and the Ta' Kola Windmill are among the attractions singled out by Tripadvisor for its 2020 Award

Based on the quality and quantity of the millions of reviews, opinions and ratings collected on Tripadvisor in 2019, prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, Heritage Malta attractions, including four historical sites administered by *Fondazzjoni Wirt Artna*, Gozo's Cittadella and the Cittadella Visitors' Centre have received Tripadvisor's 2020 Travellers' Choice Award.

The award is made in recognition of outstanding service and quality. The results of this coveted award programme were based on ratings collected prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.

These awards form part of the ongoing effort of Tripadvisor, the world's largest travel platform, to support the recovery of the tourism and hospitality industry following the difficulties currently experienced by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Heritage Malta attractions that have received this prestigious award are the megalithic temples of Haġar

Malta attractions receive Tripadvisor's 2020 Travellers' Choice Award

Qim and Ġgantija, the Hal Saflieni Hypogeum, St Paul's Catacombs, Forts St Angelo and St Elmo (including the National War Museum), the National Museum of Archaeology, the Palace Armoury and Ta' Kola Windmill.

Fondazzjoni Wirt Artna's four sites that have been rewarded the accolade are, the War Museum in Vittoriosa, Fort Rinella in Kalkara, the Saluting Battery in Valletta and the Lascaris War Rooms under the same Battery.

In Tripadvisor's view, through this programme, travellers can benefit from the real-life experiences of other people so that they can plan their perfect trip that meets their needs, budget and style.

Winners of the Travellers' Choice Awards consistently earn great re-

views from travellers and are ranked within the top 10% of the sites on Tripadvisor.

In his reaction to the prestigious award, Heritage Malta CEO, Noel Zammit said,

"When considering how tough this year has been to our industry, such news encourages us to strive harder in order to keep ensuring the best service to our visitors. We're passionate about our cultural heritage and these awards reflect our aim to excel in what we do."

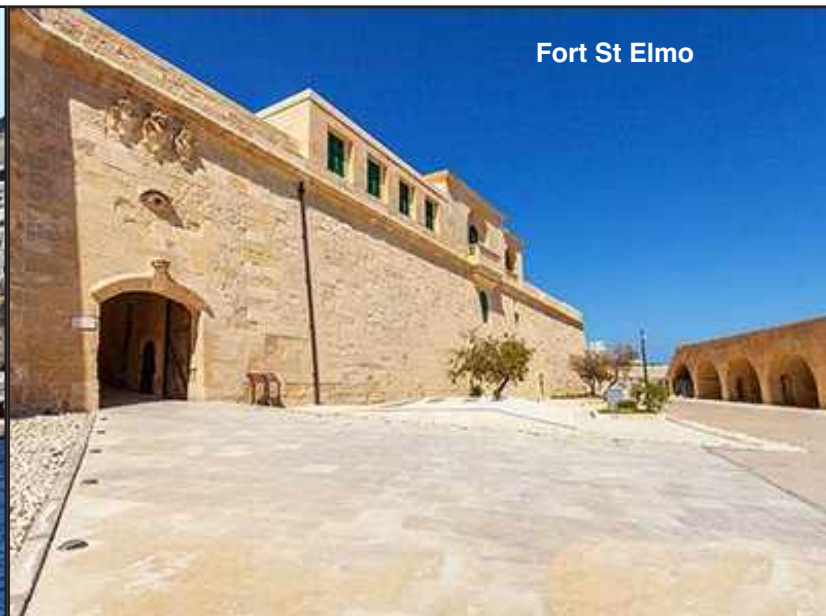
The Chairman and Chief Executive of Fondazzjoni Wirt Artna Mario Farrugia said that this acknowledgement rewards their association's continuous efforts for Malta's history and heritage to be displayed to visitors in the best possible manner.

Tourism Minister Julia Farrugia Portelli said that the Tourism Authority has been giving assistance for these sites to continue to improve the experience they offer to visitors.

Fort St Angelo



Fort St Elmo





Roundup of News About Malta



PM Abela tells Med summit EU not giving immigration crisis importance it deserves

At a joint press conference with leaders of southern EU member states at the end of a Med 7 Summit organised by the French Presidency on the island of Corsica, Malta Prime Minister Robert Abela said that European countries can no longer keep facing the immigration crisis boat by boat, and that the European Union can no longer leave Malta and Italy to fend for themselves.

The meeting in Corsica held amid fears of open conflict between Turkey and Greece, was attended by the Heads of states and government of France, Greece, Cyprus, Malta, Italy, Spain and Portugal.

Malta's Prime Minister said that although some countries are giving some assistance in the immigration crisis, it is not being given the importance it deserves on the European agenda. The situation where frequent groups of immigrants are allowed to sail into the Central Mediterranean, often for a lack of agreement cannot continue, Abela said.

France, a chief opponent of Turkish interests in the Eastern Mediterranean, pushed for the summit to be dominated by discussion on escalating tensions in

Turkey's relations with EU member states. Macron used it to send a strong message of support for Greece, while Turkey was urged to end "unilateral and illegal activities" in the eastern Mediterranean.

While stating that Malta is a neutral country, Robert Abela added, "We are looking at what is happening in the Eastern Mediterranean and our position is clear: that is, that the sovereignty of countries must be respected as required by international law". Referring to Greek and Turkish tensions, and since Libya extended its exclusive economic zone to Turkey; he said, "Dialogue is the key strategy in this situation."

The Prime Minister said that Turkey has allied itself formally to the United Nations

Prime Minister Robert Abela addressing the Med 7 summit in Corsica



Malta confirmed as leader in the field of LGBTIQ equality

Ms Rosianne Cutajar, the Parliamentary Secretary for Equality and Reforms said that Malta continues to be regarded as a leader in the field of LGBTIQ equality, ranking first in the ILGA-Europe Rainbow Index for the fifth consecutive year. She said this at the 'Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity, Gender Expression and Sexual Characteristics (SOGIGESC) Unit Annual Conference'.

Opening the conference, Minister for Justice, Equality and Governance Edward Zammit Lewis said that equality for all in all aspects remains the government's priority. He stressed upon the importance of continuous and more holistic efforts in the LGBTIQ sensitive sector that affects the life of thousands and is a priority for the government.

He said that was the reason why the 2018-2022 strategy was launched, and emphasised that more work is needed in education and health in relation to this sector.

The Minister said that along with Rosianne Cutajar and the cabinet he is committed to continue working on the necessary reforms to improve peoples' lives.

Ms Cutajar referred to the FRA report that noted that the experience of LGBTIQ persons in Malta is better than in the rest of EU.



Ms Rosianne Cutajar at SOGIGESC conference

She is pleased to be championing the enactment of the Equality Bill and the Human Rights and Equality Commission Bill, two decisive legislative proposals in the field of human rights and non-discrimination.

Ms Cutajar welcomed the publication of the second annual report relating to the implementation of the LGBTIQ Equality Strategy and Action Plan that comes at the halfway point in the implementation of the LGBTIQ Equality Strategy and Action Plan 2018-2022. The document has considerably advanced on the vision of ensuring that being LGBTIQ, as with not being LGBTIQ, becomes simply a fact of life, and not a determining factor in one's movement in society.

recognised Libyan GNA, as has Malta, therefore also reminded other members that seeing to Libya's civil conflict and economic recovery was important. Malta believes support to the GNA is also essential to curb continued flows of illegal migration by militias and traffickers in Libya.

In their final statement, the Med leaders reaffirmed their "full support and solidarity with Cyprus and Greece" who they said, are facing Turkey's "confrontational actions." They said they regretted that Turkey has not responded to the repeated calls by the European Union to end its unilateral and illegal activities.

Island's first female AG

Malta has its first female Attorney General (State Prosecutor). She is Victoria Buttigieg who was selected by an independent selection committee presided by three retired judges to fill the post vacated by former AG Peter Grech after 10 years. For the first time the position was filled after a public call for applications.

Ms Buttigieg, 43, a former AG employee had been made Malta's first State Advocate, in December 2019 following the formal separation of the AG's office between its primary role as State Prosecutor and the role of the government's legal advisor.

Prime Minister Robert Abela accepted the recommendation from the committee, which was confirmed by the President of the Republic. Opposition Leader Dr Adrian Delia also accepted the appointment and congratulated Ms Buttigieg.



Roundup of News About Malta

Finance Minister unveils pre-budget document

Malta's finance minister Edward Scicluna said the government has no plans to increase taxes to offset deficits the country will be incurring this year and the next as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, but it would be taking the necessary steps to continue mitigating the economic and social impact of the pandemic.

Speaking at the unveiling of the pre-budget document with the theme, "Towards a Sustainable Economy" in preparation for this year's Budget slated for next month, Minister Scicluna said that a deficit was unavoidable in battling the COVID-19 pandemic, but the government has no plans to increase taxes, though his no-tax increase pledge was also conditional.

For the past few years Malta registered budget surpluses without the need to raise taxes, and the coming Budget would be a continuation of the economic recovery plan announced at the start of summer.

The Minister said this Budget is being prepared at a crucial stage because of two factors: the Coronavirus pandemic and Malta's reputation. He pointed out that during a time of crisis it is not possible to reap a surplus but it must still provide oxygen. In his understanding the forthcoming Budget will be a test for the Government. In his understanding the Budget will be a test for the Government.

He maintained that a balance has to be

kept between the strength of the economy and health welfare, and that the next Budget will use funds that have been recovered from the EU.

He explained that the proposed measures are based on five principles: good Governance; economic growth; educational investment; infrastructural upgrading, and a carbon neutral economy by the year 2050.

The Finance Minister said that in spite of the crisis, Malta has been faring far better than its European counterparts, its unemployment rate has remained fairly steady, but the blow to the local tourism sector has had a significant impact on GDP.

He admitted that a deficit would occur again in 2021. The question is how big of a deficit Malta can afford. "The more measures we implement, the more the deficit will increase and the more work we will have in the future to decrease it," Scicluna said.

Minister Scicluna said that from the outset, after gaining power in 2013, the Labour Government always planned for a sustainable economy and that for the past seven years, since then, the Government's efforts "were directed at strengthening the economy for what may happen and the crisis found us to be well-prepared".



Finance Minister Edward Scicluna

He said that measures have been studied that might be needed if this phase of the crisis is slightly different from the previous months.

He promised that the Government would continue to support those in need, and that a number of priority areas feature in the pre-budget document, including economic growth in Gozo, environment protection, rule-of-law measures and sustaining existing economic sectors and helping them to expand.

Strengthening ties with Cyprus

Meeting in Nicosia, Malta's Minister for Foreign and European Affairs Evarist Bartolo and his Cyprus counterpart Nikos Christodoulides discussed ways to strengthen ties between the two countries in the political and commercial sectors, and agreed to continue to open embassies jointly in a number of countries to help each other.

Minister Bartolo said he understood Cyprus's difficult situation and its problems with Turkey because of ownership of the seas as well as gas and oil in the surrounding seas.

He reiterated that Malta wants the issues to be solved fairly and that both should seek a compromise for everyone's sake, according to in-



The two Ministers in Nicosia (left: Evarist Bartolo)

ternational laws and sovereignty.

Bartolo explained the major difficulties Malta faces from irregular migration, and said EU countries had only taken eight per cent of migrants that landed in Malta.

In meeting with the Secretary-General of the Cypriot Parliament, Socrates Socratous, they stressed on a commitment to strengthen relations between both countries in the migration sector and peace in the Mediterranean.

Malta only EU member state to register increase in employment

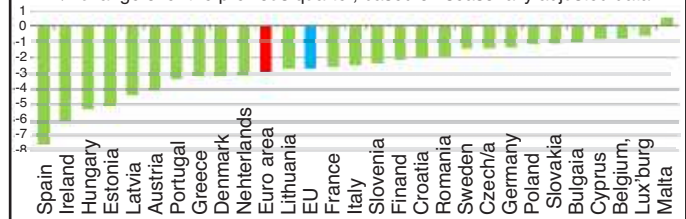
According to the European Union's statistical office, Eurostat, in the second quarter of 2020 (April-June still marked by COVID-19 containment measures in most Member States), employment in persons decreased in all Member States compared with the previous quarter, except in Malta. The island registered an increase in employment of 0.6%.

The largest decreases were recorded in Spain (-7.5%), Ireland (-6.1%), Hungary (-5.3%) and Estonia (-5.1%).

Based on seasonally adjusted figures, Eurostat estimates that in the second quarter of 2020, 203.1 million people were employed in the EU, of which 155.6 million were in the euro area.

In relation to the COVID-19 pandemic, employment in persons decreased by 5.1 million in the euro area (-3.2%) and by 6.1 million (-2.9%) in the EU compared with the highest levels of the fourth quarter of 2019. These are the lowest levels since the first quarter of 2017 for both areas.

Growth rates of employment in persons in the second quarter of 2020
% change over the previous quarter, based on seasonally adjusted data



Mix-xena tal-hajja Maltija

minn Ġużè Camilleri

Tkompli s-saga tal-immigranti

Bhalissa l-Awtoritajiet Maltin qed jagħmlu minn kollox biex kemm jista' jkun ma jifthux il-portijiet Maltin għal dawk l-immigranti li jgħidliq mix-xtut tal-Libja, bil-Prim Ministru jagħmilha ċara li Malta hija lesta biss li tati għajjnuna lil dawk li jsibu ruħhom f'diffikultajiet għax ma rridux naraw nies jgħidliq hajjithom. Fl-istess hin qed jiehdu l-miżuri kollha possibbli biex iżomm milli Malta tispicċa tilqa' mijiet jekk mhux eluf ta' emigranti li żgur johlqu problemi serji għall-Gżejjer Maltin.

Fil-fatt, bil-miżuri li tiegħu, mis-sena li għaddiet l-għadd ta' immigranti li waslu Malta bejn Marzu u Awwissu li għadda naqsu bin-nofs.

L-għadd ta' immigranti li ddaħhlu Malta fil-perjodu bejn Marzu u Awwissu din is-sena naqsu kien ta' 1,093. filwaqt li fl-istess perjodu fl-2019 kienu waslu Malta 2,216. Waslu Malta 1,123 immigrant inqas.

Il-Ministru tal-Affarijiet Barranin Evarist Bartolo attribwixxa dan it-tnaqqis għal żewġ raġunijiet ewlenin. L-ewwel kien ix-xogħol li l-Gvern għamel ma' dak tal-Għaqda tal-Libja u mat-Turkija, bl-impenn tal-Gwardja tal-Kosta Libjana, biex mat-3,500 immigrant irregolari li telqu mil-Libja ngabru u tiegħu lura.

Qal li kieku ma kienx għal din il-hidma, minflok 1,093 kienu jaslu 5,593 immigrant.

It-tieni raġuni kienet id-deċiżjoni tal-Gvern li vapuri ta' għaqdiet mhux governattivi ma jgħidliq inizjazzjoni immigranti irregolari Malta.

Skont Bartolo, bejn Marzu u Awwissu ma

L-iżvilluppi fil-qasam tal-immigrazzjoni ma jiegħu qatt



thalla jidhol ebda vapur, għalhekk ma niżlu l-ebda immigrant irregolari fostna. Dawn is-sena l-oħra kienu gaħbi Malta 771 immigrant irregolari. Dan jikkuntrasta hafna ma dak li qed jgħidliq f'Lampedusa fejn waslu aktar minn 7,000 immigrant irregolari, li whud minnhom żgur kienu jispicċaw Malta.

Skont il-Ministru Bartolo l-Gvern se jibqa' jinsisti mal-Unjoni Ewropea biex tghim lil-Gwardja tal-Kosta Libjana biex l-immigrazzjoni irregolari titwaqqaf.

L-AI tixli lil Malta

Sintendi, dil-hidma hija apprezzata minn hafna Maltin li jgħidliq l-immigrazzjoni illegali bħala waħda mill-problemi ewlenin li għandha Malta.

Imma mhux l-istess jagħmlu ċerti għaqdiet u organizzazzjonijiet, fosthom Amnesty International (AI), b'tal-aħħar titlob li ssir investigazzjoni kriminali dwar kif Malta trattat immigranti b'mod speċifiku dwar każ ta' sal-

vataġġ li kien hemm fl-Għid il-Kbir u li fih 51 persuna fosthom seba' nisa u tlett itfal kienu intbagħtu lura lejn il-Libja fuq dgħajsa tas-sajd.

AI tghid li kien hemm hames persuni li instabu mejtin. L-l-investigazzjoni trid issir, u hemm bżonn li ssir mhux għall-pushbacks biss, imma wkoll għad-detenzjoni ta' xejn inqas minn 45 immigrant li rajna f'Mejju u Gunju.

L-AI qed tishaq li Malta qed tuża prattiċi mhux legali billi "fis-sena 2020 Malta bidlet il-mod kif titratta ma' salvataġġi ta' immigranti. It-tattiċi l-godda

jinkludu push backs lejn il-Libja, dgħajjes jintbagħtu lejn l-Italja flok ikunu salvati, immigranti jinżammu illegalment fuq dgħajjes 'l barra minn Malta u ffirmar ta' ftehim għid mal-Libja biex iżomm milli immigranti jidhlu f'Malta."

L-AI qalet li xi azzjonijiet minn Malta jista' jkun li jnvolvu atti kriminali u li dawn setgħu rriżultaw fi mwiet, detenzjoni arbitrarja twila u ritorn illegali lejn il-Libja.

Iżid tishaq li l-awtoritajiet użaw il-COVID-19 biex jiddikjaraw li Malta mhix post sigur għall-immigranti u dan sar biex jiskoraġixxu persuni milli jfittxu hajja għida fl-Ewropa.

Hafna Maltin haduha qatta bla habel kontra Amnesty International.

MEP ieħor mfahħar

Deputat Malti fil-Parlament Ewropew, din id-darba Laburista laqat il-għajn tal-midja fi Brussell.

Il-magazin influwenti tal-Parlament Ewropew għażel lill-MPE Alex Agius Saliba minn 705 Membru Parlamentari Ewropew bħala wieħed mill-għaxar plejers ewlenin fix-xena diġitali, li hi meqjusa mportanti hafna fiż-żmienijiet tal-llum.

Ftit gimgħat wara l-istess deputat Malti gie wkoll magħżul mis-sit awtorevoli Politico bħala wieħed mill-protagonisti fl-arena diġitali.

Agius Saliba qal li dan kienu unur kbir għalih u kien qed inhares 'il quddiem sabiex "inkompli nahdem bis-shif fuq ir-rapport, anke bħala rappreżentant tal-iżgħar stat membru tal-UE."



Il-mejtin ... Issa serħan il-mohħ

Wara snin ta' stennija, x'aktarx min-habba li l-Knisja ma kienetx entużjasta, f'it taz-żmien ilu l-Gvern għadda l-ligi li tippermetti li l-Maltin jagħzlu jekk iridux li dawk li jmutu jingħataw difna tradizzjonali jew inkella jagħzlu l-kremazzjoni.

Il-biża' ta' hafna, li kienu jippreferu l-kremazzjoni, kienet li ladarba persuna tagħzel li tkun kremata, il-Knisja Kattolika f'Malta ma tagħmilx il-quddies tal-funeral tal-mejjet.

Biss fuq mistoqsija tas-sit elettroniku, iNews kelliema għall-Kurja sqarret li l-Knisja tippermetti kremazzjoni, "sakemm l-għażla għall-kremazzjoni ma tkunx riżul-

tat ta' ċahda ta' fidi fil-qawmien mill-imwiet, jew inkella għal raġunijiet li jmorru kontra t-tagħlim Nisrani".

Għalhekk il-Kurja kienet tippermetti li jsiru funerali f'każi ta' kremazzjoni, iżda idealment u dejjem jekk ikun possibbli, il-kremazzjoni ssir wara l-funeral. Insistiet ukoll li l-irmied jitqiegħed f'post sagru bħalma huwa ċimiterju.

Iżda anke wara dan is-serħan tal-mohħ, xorta waħda jidher li se jdm ma jibda dan is-servizz, għaliex minkejja li għadda żmien mhux hażin minn meta għaddiet il-ligi, xorta għad ma kien hemm l-ebda operatur li qed joffri dan is-servizz f'Malta

Mix-xena tal-hajja Maltija

minn Ġużè Camilleri

Għalkemm uffiċjalment il-kampanja elettorali għat-tmexxija tal-Partit Nazzjonalista kienet għada ma bdiex (se tibda wara l-ivverifikar dwar iż-żewġ kandidati u jiġu approvati bħala kontestanti), xorta attwalment it-tigrija kienet bdiet qabel nhar is-Sibt thabbar li l-elezzjoni għall-Kap se ssir fit-3 ta' Ottubru.

U mal-bidu ta' din it-tigrija l-midja bdiet tagħmel tagħha wkoll b'ċerti ġurnali saħansitra, jekk mhux direttament, tal-inqas indirettament jidher fiċ-ċar li qed jimbutta xi wiehed mill-kandidati.

Hekk *The Times* qed tiġi mixlija li qed tappoġġa lil Bernard Grech. Min-naħa l-oħra qed jidhru akkużi li l-Laburisti qed jaqbuż għal Delia, għalkemm din tista' tkun tattika ta' dawk fil-Partit Nazzjonalista li huma kontra Delia biex ipoġġu lil dan f'dell ikrah.

Attwalment meta sar stħarriġ instab li 23% ta' dawk li vvutaw Labour fl-aħhar elezzjoni, kienu jippreferu lil Grech, bi 12% biss jappoġġjaw lil Delia.

Il-kampanja għall-ghażla ta' mexxej tal-PN - l-elezzjoni se ssir fit-3 ta' Ottubru

Hallas fl-aħhar

Forsi l-akbar daqqa ta' harta li nġhatat lil Bernard Grech s'issa kienet dak li ħarġet bih il-gazzetta *illum*.

Il-vantagġ li Grech kellu fuq Delia kien li ma kien igorr l-ebda baġalja kontra Delia li matul l-aħhar snin ġie mixli saħansitra minn shabu stess, dwar diversi nuqqasijiet.

Ir-rapportat ta' *illum*, ikkonfermat u żvillupat f'*The Times*, u l-*Malta Today*, biddel xi ftit is-sitwazzjoni.

Skont l-illum Grech kellu kontijiet pendenti kemm ta' taxxa tad-dhul (Income Tax) sal-2011 u anke tal-VAT, sal-2019 li b'kol-lox laħqu għal ftit aktar minn €62,000.

Kif irrappurtat, għall-pagament tat-Taxxa tad-Dhul fl-2012 Grech kien innotifikat bil-Qorti jhallas €33,684. ġie notifikat ukoll fl-2006.

Minhabba li f'Ottubru 2006 il-hlasijiet ma sarux id-Dipartiment ha l-materja fil-Qorti. Sitt snin wara Grech ġie mitlub iħallas €33,684 f'taxxa għas-snin 1999-2011 li ma kienx hallas. Hu waqa' lura wkoll fil-hlas tal-VAT mill-2014-2019 b'xi €29,000.

Imma propju kif Grech iddeċieda li jikkontesta għat-tmexxija tal-PN hallas id-djun kollha u hekk seta' jipprezenta ċertifikat lil dawk li qed jindagaw liz-żewġ kandidati, ċertifikat li ma kellu l-ebda dejn mad-Dipartiment tat-Taxxi Interni.

Imma l-kwestjoni ma ġietx solvuta, għax immedjatament bdew il-mistoqsijiet, fosthom mill-istess gazzetta *illum* li staqsietu kif saru l-pagamenti. Grech ma wegħib bil-gazzetta jghid li sorsi li tkellmu magħha staqsew kif avukat tal-familja li iddikjara biss dhul modest, seta' hallas ammont hekk kbir ta' flus f'daqqa.

Oħrajn staqsew jekk hallasx id-djun għax qed jikkontesta din l-elezzjoni u x'kien jagħmel li ma kkontestax. Grech innifsu kkonferma li kien jinsab imħasseb dwar ir-reazzjoni u ammetta li seta' kien aktar attent biex din is-sitwazzjoni ma sseħħ.

"Gimghat ilu, qabel ma bdejt din il-mixja jiena hađt ħsieb li nivverifika kull pendenza li seta' kelli. Nifhem ukoll li bħala politiku rrid inkun hafna aħjar minn hekk. Nemmen li l-politici għandhom riga aktar għolja ta' kif għandhom iġibu ruħhom fil-hajja pubblika u jiena lest u rrid li nagħmel dan ukoll," sahaq Grech.



Bernard Grech

Bernard Grech għamel gabra

Il-maġġoranza tagħhom dawk li joħorġu għal xi elezzjoni iridu jiffaċċjaw ċerti spejjeż biex imexxu l-kampanja elettorali tagħhom. F'dawn l-aħhar snin saħansitra kellna kandidati li ħarġu għat-tmexxija ta' xi partit jonfqu flejjes kbar mhux biss fil-propaganda stampata, filmati, eċċ, imma wkoll f'riċevimenti kbar fejn l-ikel u xorb ma jonqosx.

Iżda din id-darba, propju fil-bidu tal-kampanja elettorali għall-mexxej tal-Partit Nazzjonalista (li fil-fatt għad ma bdiex), kellna xi haġa differenti b'Bernard Grech joħroġ bl-idea ta' crowd funding: sistema ta' għir



Adrian Delia

ta' flus permezz ta' pjattaforma online.

Hawn il-massimu ta' kontribuzzjoni waħda li wiehed seta' jagħti ma setgħetx taqbeż il-€250, għalkemm ġie rrappurat li fost l-oħrajn kien hemm għota ta' €1,000.

Min din il-gabra Grech irnexxielu jiġbor €50,000 u qal li l-fatt li qed jintuża l-Crowd Funding huwa sinjal li hu qed jagħti eżempju ta' trasparenza f'dak li jirrigwarda donazzjonijiet. Issokta jghid li kampanja bħal dik ta' kap ta' partit se tiswa l-flus u wiegħed ukoll li kull ċenteżmu li ma jintużax se jkun qed imur donazzjoni lill-Partit Nazzjonalista.

Imma ma naqasx li kien hemm min li rrimarka li din il-gabra ġiet f'waqtha, għax wara li hallas it-taxxi li kellu b'lura, Grech żgur li ma tantx kien se jkollu biex jagħmel il-kampanja elettorali tiegħu.



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A quick glimpse at Australia



Officially: Australia in its first recession

Australia is officially in its first recession for almost three decades, with the June quarter GDP numbers showing the economy went backwards by 7 per cent — the worst fall on record and slightly worse than most economists had predicted.

The Bureau of Statistics numbers also confirmed the March quarter's 0.3 per cent decline, meaning Australia's economy has gone backwards for two consecutive quarters, meeting a common definition of a recession.

It is the first time this has happened since 1991, although the scale of the downturn is vastly greater than “the recession we had to have”, where the economy shrank 1.3 and 0.1 per cent. The 7 per cent quarterly GDP slump was also more than three times worse than the previous biggest fall of 2 per cent in June 1974.

Borders decisions cause confusion

All states and territories except Western Australia, will aim to lift their hard border closures by Christmas. All but one of Australia's states and territories have agreed to look at a 'hotspot model' to guide travel across most of the country as part of a goal to ease coronavirus-related border restrictions by Christmas.

Western Australia did not agree to the agreement struck at the national cabinet meeting, with Prime Minister Scott Morrison flagging the bloc would also move away from a consensus-based decision-making process.

WA Premier Mark McGowan (*pictured right*) said he had made it clear his state would not agree to a hotspot model to re-

place its successful border controls. “Unlike the rest of the country, WA is not currently in a recession. So we won't be prematurely reopening our borders,” Mr McGowan told reporters after the meeting.

Premiers and chief ministers - except for WA - also endorsed the idea of defining coronavirus hotspots. But they rejected a complex definition provided by the nation's acting chief medical officer.

That definition says the starting point for a hotspot is 10 locally acquired cases a day over three consecutive days in metropolitan areas and three locally acquired cases daily over the same period in regional Australia.

Many Australians are confused about the

opening and closing of borders. We are the Commonwealth of Australia, making us one country, not a divided Commonwealth.



Mobile phones to be banned from centres

Proposed changes to the Migration Act would allow Home Affairs Minister Peter Dutton and acting Immigration Minister Alan Tudge to declare certain items, including mobile phones and sim cards, prohibited and grant Australian Border Force officials additional powers to search detainees.

Asylum-seeker advocates, including former Soccerroo Craig Foster, launched a renewed campaign against the proposed changes. More than 30,000 people had signed a petition organised by the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre (ASRC) calling for the bill to be scrapped.

Australian Human Rights Commission caseworker Nina Field said mobile phones are a “lifeline” for people in detention, connecting them with lawyers, doctors, caseworkers as well as friends and family. Many detainees also had children in the community, she said.

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, visitors have been banned from immigration detention centres since March, meaning mobile phones are often the only way detainees can connect with their loved ones.

Free vaccines early next year

Prime Minister Scott Morrison announced free COVID-19 vaccines would be made available progressively through 2021, should promising trials prove successful in two deals worth \$1.7 billion.

The Oxford vaccine is to be available from early 2021 while the University of Queensland version is on track for midyear. Some 84.8 million vaccine doses would be manufactured, primarily in Melbourne by CSL, which plans to produce 51 million doses of a UQ vaccine and 33.8 million doses of an Oxford vaccine under a head of agreement signed with the government.

“By securing the production and supply agreements, Australians will be among the first in the world to receive a safe and effective vaccine, should it pass late-stage testing,” Mr Morrison said.

Experts believe the vaccination of at least



two-thirds of the population will be required to have a chance of halting the spread of COVID-19.



A quick glimpse at Australia

Barbieri granted parole over manslaughter of police officer

Fiona Barbieri, who is in her early 50s, was experiencing an ongoing psychotic illness in late 2012 which was marked by conspiracy theories and persecutory delusions involving her neighbour in the semi-rural suburb of Oakville, a suburb of Sydney, located 49 kilometres north-west of the Sydney CBD in the local government area of the City of Hawkesbury.

She violently lashed out at police when they attempted to arrest her son Mitchell eight years ago, has been granted parole over the manslaughter of Detective Inspector Bryson Anderson.

Ms Barbieri believed to be of Maltese descent, pleaded guilty to manslaughter on the basis there was an unspoken agreement between herself and her son to resist the entry of police with armed force. She was originally charged with murder but was found to have a substantial impairment due to abnormality of mind.

She was jailed for 10 years, with her non-parole period of seven years and six months expiring in June.

State Parole Authority chairman David Frearson, SC, noted Ms Barbieri has demonstrated “exemplary behaviour in custody”, is stable on medication, and has been “unfailing compliant with mental health interventions”.

The NSW Police Commissioner and members of Mr Anderson’s family, in-

cluding his brother Warwick, opposed parole.

Ms Barbieri’s lawyer Stephen Alexander said his client is no longer a risk to the community or herself.

“Ms Barbieri apologises to the family and friends of the late Inspector Anderson and to the Commissioner and to NSW Police and is sorry for their loss,” Mr Alexander said.

Judge Frearson said the parole authority “expresses its sincere sympathy to both the family and colleagues of Bryson Anderson”.

“Your loss is immeasurable and eternal, and it is acknowledged that the legislated process of consideration of parole must be extremely difficult and traumatic for you,” he said.

“The crime was particularly reprehensible and resulted in the senseless and tragic loss of human life ... no sentence could ever compensate for the loss of a precious human life.”

Mitchell Barbieri, the son of Fiona, who pleaded guilty to murder, was initially jailed for 35 years, which was reduced on appeal. He is eligible for parole in December 2027. A 2018 inquest into Detective Anderson’s death revealed the disturbing relationship between the mother and son.



Fiona Barbieri



Mitchell Barbieri

Litany of failures in Victoria

Six out of every ten of the 2.24 million people set to be on JobKeeper in the December quarter are expected to be in the State of Victoria, according to estimates issued by Federal Treasurer Josh Frydenberg.

“Restrictions imposed by the Victorian government have had a devastating impact on the economy. The number of Victorians on unemployment benefits has significantly increased with the impost of restrictions while numbers in other states have declined”.

Since late June Victorians on unemployment benefits rose by 27,600 (7.2 %). More than half the increase was in the three weeks

to 21st August, when stage four lockdown was operating. Mr Frydenberg said there had been a “litany” of failures in Victoria.

Meanwhile, a six months extension to the Victorian Government’s state of emergency powers has passed parliament after a surprise intervention by the Greens.

Reason Party MP Fiona Patten and Ani-

mal Justice Party MP Andy Meddick also voted in favour of the six-month extension, giving the government 20 votes in the 40-member upper house.19 were against.

Victorian Premier Daniel Andrews released his much-awaited roadmap out of coronavirus restrictions. Restrictions in Melbourne and regional Victoria will be lifted in five stages at different paces, concluding with a ‘COVID-normal’ step when there are no new cases recorded in the state in 28 days.



Premier Daniel Andrews



Michelle Rowland MP

Shadow Minister for Communications
Federal Member for Greenway



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Tagħrif dwar il-kitba Maltija

IL-WARDA TAL-IRJIEĦ

Huma hafna l-Maltin, kemm jekk jgħixu f'Malta, u aktar u aktar barra, li jsibuha bi tqila li jsemmu l-irjiegħ bil-Malti f'dik magħrufa bħala 'Il-Warda tal-Irjiegħ' m u anke jekk jixtiequ, imma jsibuha ferm aktar faċli li jsemmuhom bil-lingwa Ingliża.

Illum għalhekk bil-għajnuna tal-istampa fuq il-lemin se nagħtu ċ-ċans li wiehed jitgħallimhom bil-Malti.

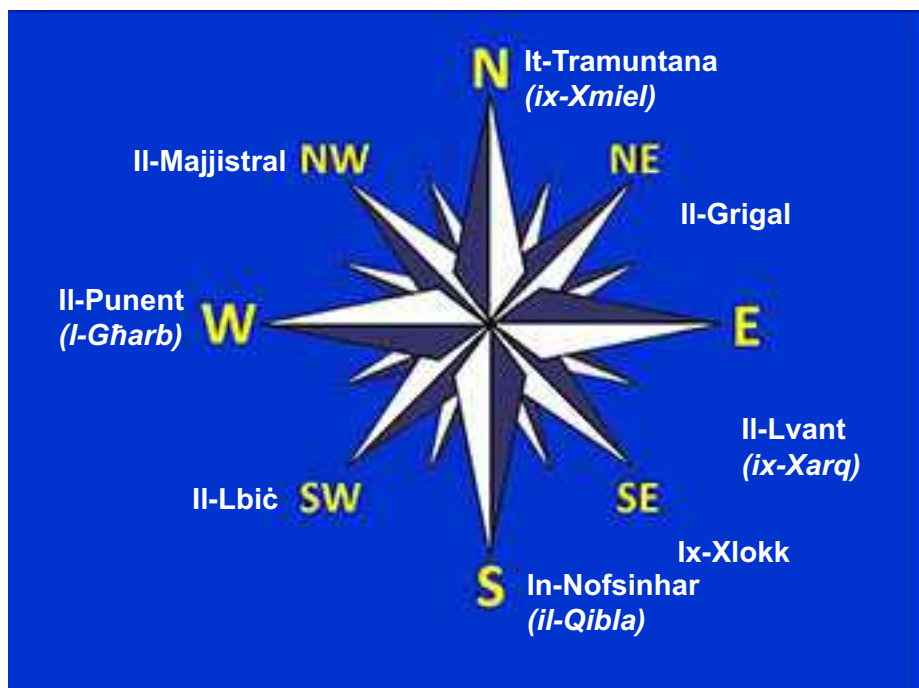
Dawk ewlenin huma: It-Tramuntana (jew Xmiel) għan-North; In-Nofsinhar (jew il-Qibla) għas-South; Il-Lvant (jew ix-Xarq) għall-East, u Il-Punent (jew l-Għarb) għall-West.

Barra minn dan hemm oħrajn li jużawhom l-aktar il-baħħara, jew dawk li jpassru t-temp.

Biex insemmu ftit minnu:

Bejn N u NE: Grieg it-Tramuntana; bejn NE u E: Grieg il-Lvant; bejn E u SE: Xlokk il-Lvant; bejn SE u S: Nofsinhar x-Xlokk; bejn S u SW: Nofsinhar il-Lbiċ; bejn SW u W: Punent il-Lbiċ; bejn W u NW: Punent Majjistru, u bejn NW u N: Majjistral it-Tramuntana.

Barra minhekk, l-erba' kantunieri jsibuhom ukoll, Bir-Riĥ Fuq (xellug fuq); Riĥ Barra (lemin fuq); Riĥ l-Art (xellug taħt) u Riĥ Isfel (lemin taħt).



Snajja Maltin: L-arluġġar

Iva ftit, imma għadek issib arluġġara Maltin, u wisq inqas dawk li dan fil-att hu x-xogħol li minnu jaqilghu l-għajxien tagħhom.

L-arluġġara mhumieq biss dawk li jbiegħu l-arluġġi jew li tmur għandhom biex ibiddulek il-batterija tal-arluġġ tal-idejn. meta jieqaflek. Is-sengħa tal-arluġġar hi waħda ta' hila, anke jekk għadek issib l-hekk imsejja dilet-tanti li wkoll għandhom il-hila li jsibu tarf l-arluġġ li jkun waqaflek habta u sabta.

Fost dawn jiġini f'rasi Mario l-parrukkier ħabib tiegħi li kellu wkoll fih l-arti. Kien anke kapaċi jsewwi l-arluġġi.



Imma f'Malta għad għandna wkoll dawk li għal snin twal hadmu, u għadhom, fuq arluġġi kbar tal-hin, speċjalment dawk li ssib f'hafna kampnari ta' knejjes Maltin li b'sengħa kbira u b'teknika għandhom hila jżarmaw u jarmaw il-mekkaniżmu ta' dawn l-arluġġi. Qisek għandek mekkaniċ biex ihaddimlek l-apparat.

Fl-antik dawn l-arluġġi kienu jingħataw il-habel kull jum minn fuq il-kampnar billi ddawwar manku ta' rota li miegħu jkollu marbuta ma' pendlu toqol tul il-kampnar kollu. Meta tkebbeb il-'habel', il-mazzra titla' sa fuq. Imbagħad tibda tisma' tektika sekonda sekonda u l-mazzra tinzel s'isfel. Kif tasal isfel wara siegħat, ikollok terġa' tkebbeb u tagħti l-habel mill-ġdid.

Daż-żmien, il-habel tal-arluġġ isir bl-elettriku.

Hemm imbagħad oħrajn, ukoll magħruha bħala arluġġara, imma s-sengħa tagħhom hi aktar tal-injam, li jagħmlu l-arluġġi mgħrufa bħala "tal-lira", li jingħad li jisejju hekk għax jixbaħ lil strument mużikali tal-kordi, qisu arpa forma ta' 'U'.

Mogħdija taż-żmien: MINN FRÉDDIE FALZON

Xi 'qaddisin' popolari li ma ssibhomx fi knejjes

Jien ngħix f'Melbourne, fl-istat ta' Victoria fejn bħalissa ninsabu nkwetati hafna minhabba l-mewġa li reġgħet feġġet, tal-qerriedi Covid-19 li qed tfixxek hafna ħajjitna u dak li konna nagħmlu qabel.

Imma minflok iddisprajt għax kelli noqgħod ġewwa aktar milli kont nagħmel qabel minhabba l-pandemija, ergajt bdejt nimpenna ruhi f'hafna passatempi li kont għoddni abbandunajt.

Fost dawn hemm il-kitba u l-umorizmu. Għalhekk hsibt li nibgħat kitba qasira lil *The Voice* biex forsi min jaqra l-kontribut tiegħi jinsa xi ftit il-mument li bħalissa għad-dejja minnu d-dinja.

Hadst gost naqra l-artiklu dwar il-mogħdija taż-żmien u t-taħbil il-moħħ ta' AJ Borg (*The Voice* Nru 234). Biex inkompli fuq l-istess vena, qed nippreżenta xi ħaġa żgħira lill-qarrejja li nittama li min jaqra jifhem l-ispiritu (mod sarkastiku) li bih ktibt.

Ma skoprejtux jien imma ċert li l-aktar 'qaddis' popolari mal-Maltin huwa: *San Gorr*. Nahseb li iehor mill-istess familja u li hu l-padrin

ta' dawk li jkun se jibdlu d-dar, huwa *San Gorr*.

Iehor popolari hafna ma' dawk li jhobbu żaqqhom huwa, *San Ikol*.

Hemm imbagħad wiehed li jirrikorru għalih dawk li jsibuha ftit diffiċli biex jid-deċiedu. Dan hu *San Karkar*.

Xi hadd li jwaqqa' l-affarijiet u jrid jirkuprahom jitolb lil *San Iġbor*. Imma min jiddejjaq b'xi ħaġa u jrid jeqridha jħares lejn *San Kisser* u min irid isib jir-ranga xi ħaġa jirrikorri għal *San Sewwi*. Jekk ma jogħ-ġbokx xi ħaġa dejjem tista' titlob lil *San Hassar*.

Anke min fis-sajf iħobb joqgħod fix-xemx għandu lil *San Lxxemmex*, filwaqt li min joqgħod wisq fix-xemx jew li jersaq lejn in-nar jaf li hemm *San Inħaraq*.

Intemm billi nsemmi lil x'aktarx l-inqas 'qaddis' li l-Maltin jirrikorru lejha, *San Gisuk*.

Ċert li l-qarrejja faċli jsibu oħrajn li jafu dwarhom u li bħal ma għadu lili jgħibu wkoll lilhom tbissima f'dan iż-żmien li wiehed jixtieq jinsab l-koronavirus u jibda jderri aktar.



Making scuba diving in Malta safer

With their clear waters and rocky scenery the Maltese islands, comprising Malta, Gozo and Comino are very good for diving and two of the sites, the Blue Hole in Gozo and Cirkewwa in Malta are regarded as two of the dive sites in Europe.

Diving is possible in Malta all year round, although water temperature drops dramatically in the winter months.

Therefore, particularly in the summer months the country is extremely popular with divers, thanks to the incredible visibility, abundance of easily accessible shore diving sites and many sunken wrecks.

More individuals are keen to take advantage of the unique position of the Maltese Islands, and diving becomes a way of discovering the rich underwater life.

Now, more than ever, following the decision for Heritage Malta, the national agency for cultural heritage, to manage three more underwater sites in Malta's seas, bringing the total of underwater sites available to divers to fifteen.

Malta is renowned for the quality of its underwater sites, and the latest decision consolidates its position on the map for international divers. Even more sites could be added next year.

The Maltese Islands offer a wide choice of dive centres, located across the Islands, with a track record of some 30 years in the industry. Professional, qualified diving staff is trained to teach all levels, from beginners to instructor courses, with most centres running courses leading to internationally-

recognised diving qualifications.

Yet every year, Malta sees a small but significant amount of diving fatalities every summer, with foreign divers the main victims, the most recent one that of a 53-year-old Austrian diver who lost his life in Xatt l-Ahmar, Gozo.

Alessandro Marroni, founder and president of the Malta-based Divers Alert Network (DAN) Europe says that diving is about challenging an extreme environment so there will always be accidents, but adds that many of these accidents would be avoidable with proper preventative action, education and standards in duty of care, hazard identification and risk assessment.

The fact that diving incidents and fatalities are reported on the news each year might become a deterrent for some, but diving enthusiasts say that shouldn't be the case.

An exploratory study held jointly by the University of Malta and KU Leuven, finalised in April 2020, took a closer look at the activity of sports diving and, more specifically, how the safety and wellbeing of divers in Malta can be improved.

The role of the four academics that participated in the project on behalf of the University of Malta that was financed by the Malta Tourism Authority included collect-

ing field data through focus groups with 15 local diving centre operators. Recommendations were made based on both the field data and the scoping literature review.

Whilst divers are being strongly urged to monitor their own physical condition and increase the incidence of monitoring of their air supply through the use of nudging devices, diving instructors are advised to be more familiar with diving sites prior to organising diving trips, and they should conduct a thorough risk assessment, screening of divers and a maximum number of group-size per dive.

Dive centre operators who participated in the focus group, and who considered the current general level of safety of divers as good, addressed the need for related legislation to be updated, and expressed their willingness to work with the government to make a well-informed decision.

The more detailed recommendations may be read in the study, available upon request from any of the authors, namely, Prof. Vincent Cassar and Dr Vincent Marmara from the Faculty of Economics, Management & Accountancy, Prof. Mark Borg from the Faculty of Education and Prof. Sandra Buttigieg from the Faculty of Health Sciences.



Radd ta' hajr ghal 15-il sena Isqof ta' Mario Grech f'Ghawdex

F'Konċelebrazzjoni Solenni ta' Radd il-Hajr lil Alla, għall-ħmistax-il sena tal-ministeru ta' Monsinjur Isqof Mario Grech bhala Isqof ta' Ghawdex, fil-Knisja Rotunda tax-Xewkija, l-Isqof Grech talab mahfra lil kull min seta' naqas, imma qal li dan qatt m'għamlu bi skop li jwegġa' lil xi hadd.

F'isem il-kleru, il-Monsinjur Pawlu Cardona, Vigarju Episkopali għall-Kleru, ippreżent lill-Isqof rigal bil-kitba: *'bi gratitudni shiha u b'awgurju sinċier mill-kleru tad-djoċesi'*.

Ir-rigal (*lemin*) jikkonsisi f'inkwadru tal-istained-glass maħdum fuq disinn originali, li jirrappreżenta l-Knisja Sinodali fix-xbihat ta' Kristu li mexa mad-dixxipli tagħhom u qasam magħhom il-Hobż. (il-motto ta' l-Isqof Grech In Fractione Panis).

Hadu sehem ukoll l-Isqof Anton Teuma, l-Arċisqof Charles J. Scicluna, l-Isqof Carmel Zammit ta' Gibiltà, u n-Nunzju Appostoliku Alessandro D'Er-rico.

Attendew ukoll, il-President ta' Malta l-ET George Vella, kif ukoll s-Sinjura Vella.

Il-Quddiesa kienet animata bil-kant mill-*Cappella Sanctae Mariae Assumptae* tal-Katidral ta' Ghawdex, taht immexxija minn Mro Carmel P. Grech, akkumpanjat

mill-organista ċelebri Ingliż Wayne Marshall.

Ta' min jgħid li F'Ottubru li għadda l-

Mill-Gżira
Ghawdexija
Charles Spiteri



Papa Franġisku sejjaħ lill-Isqof Grech biex ikun is-Segretarju Generali tas-Sinodu tal-Isqfijiet f'Ruma.

Restawr tal-makkanizmu tal-arloġġ tas-Seklu 18 fiċ-Ċittadella



Zewġ uċuh tal-arloġġ storiku taċ-Ċittadella



Id-Direttorat għall-Wirt Kulturali fi l-ħdan il-Ministeru għal Ghawdex lesta x-xogħlijiet ta' restawr fuq il-mekkanizmu tal-arloġġ tas-seklu 18 li hemm fit-torri tal-Bastjun ta' San Mikiel fiċ-Ċittadella. L-arloġġ inħadem minn Giuseppe Muscat fl-1774.

Ix-xogħlijiet li bdew fit-tieni gim-gha ta' Jannar b'valur ta' madwar €12,000, iffinanzjat mill-Ministeru għal Ghawdex, kien fdat f'idejn id-ditta C. Schembri Watchmakers tar-Rabat, Ghawdex. Dawk li hadmu fuqu kienu l-arluġġara Ċelestina xebba Schembri u Oliver Sciberras.

L-arloġġ jdoqq il-kwarti u s-sigħat. Hemm persuna li tiehu ħsieb li tagħtih il-habel kuljum.

L-inawgurazzjoni tar-restawr saret mill-Ministru għal Ghawdex Clint Camilleri.

Knights of Malta: 900th anniversary Mass

On September 3, knights and dames of the Order of Malta attended a mass to mark the 900th anniversary of the death of the Order's founder Blessed Fra' Gerard (pictured right) at St Mary's Cathedral, Sydney. Archbishop Fisher, who is also one of the Order of Malta's honorary conventual chaplains, celebrated the mass.

Whilst attendance at the Cathedral was limited due to Covid-19 social distancing precautions, hundreds of Order of Malta members, volunteers and supporters worldwide were able to join the mass via livestream.

Fra' Gerard died in Jerusalem on September 3, 1120. He was the founder and first Grand Master of the Order of Malta, one of the oldest religious orders of the Catholic Church.

His hospital for pilgrims to the Holy Land accepted everyone, regardless of origin or religion. For nine centuries members and volunteers of the Order have put his ideals of faith and charity into practice.

This mission is today more relevant than ever as testified by medical, social and humanitarian commitments the Order has in 120 countries.

A poignant example of the Order's work is that being performed now by the Lebanese branch and Malteser International, the international relief service, in Beirut. The effects of the terrible explosion there - close to the origins in Jerusalem and the modern maternity hospital in Bethlehem - are contemporary examples of the misery of the world that Fra' Gerard's followers seek to reduce.

In Australia and New Zealand, the 300 members of the Order of Malta together with enthusiastic volunteers provide per-

sonal service to the homeless, the dying, the poor and those who continue their struggle rebuilding their lives after the bushfires that started in late 2019. The work of the Order continues in spite of restrictions from COVID-19.

Hon James Douglas KHD President, Australian Association said, "To serve the sick and the poor is the gift that Fra' Gerard left us and for which we remember him on this important 900th anniversary of his death".

The Order also wishes to thank Archbishop Fisher for celebrating the Mass and making St Mary's Cathedral available for the occasion. He is one of our honorary conventual chaplains, both supportive of and interested in our work and history, something we appreciate greatly.

Three prominent members of the Australian-Maltese community attended the service in their capacity as Knights of Malta, namely: Confrere Paul Sant... KMG, Confrere Steve Gatt OAM KMG and Confrere Paul Zammit OAM KMG.



Catholica getting involved in election?

The bishops of Queensland's five Catholic dioceses launched a combined statement ahead of next month's election, calling for the state to discover "a new kind of solidarity" to cope with the impacts of COVID-19.

The Common Good in a COVID World statement is the first of its kind in the state's modern political era and pinpoints eight areas for special focus ahead of the October 31 poll.

"As bishops, we offer this statement as a way of sharing key points of Catholic teaching ... as we prepare for the state election," the bishops write. "No political party fully aligns with Catholic teaching, but we can point to clear and enduring principles which can help us make the kind of responsible judgements that allow us to be both faithful Catholics and good citizens.

"The COVID-19 crisis has shown more clearly than ever the need for a new kind of solidarity both to deal with the pandemic and find a way beyond it."

The bishops explained that Catholic social teaching has a preference for the poor and vulnerable, underpinned by the principles of the dignity of the human person, the common good, subsidiarity and solidarity.

Creating the new solidarity drives the bishops' statement that urges the policymakers of the next Queensland Parliament to focus on: employment, health care, Catholic school funding, Indigenous issues, palliative care, aged care, mental health and climate change.

A new member of CMLA

In the last issue of The Voice of the Maltese on September 1 (No. 235) we announced the resignation of Shane Delia from the Council of Maltese Living Abroad. According to Article 5(1) (C) of the Act, although a resident of Victoria Mr Delia, was representing other states in the Commonwealth of Australia but not Victoria or NSW.

Mr Delia's replacement has now been announced. He is John Vassallo, 66 years, who was born in Rabat Gozo. He was educated at the Lyceum (Gozo) and the University of Malta. He started his career as a secondary school teacher and also worked with Farsons.

In 1978 Mr Vassallo married Marylin Grech, an Australian born and soon after migrated to Sydney. He settled in Canberra where he obtained a BA (IT Systems) and a post-graduate diploma (IT Business Solutions) from Canberra University, worked in the Public Service and ventured on his own. He retired in 2018.

He is a Justice of the Peace and the President of the Maltese Australian Association of Canberra and Queanbeyan. He is also a Knight of the Order of Malta (SMHO).

Ensuring the health and wellbeing of the most vulnerable



In a message, the Maltese Community Council of Victoria (MCCV) mentioned the many challenges and uncertainties this year has presented to the Maltese community in the State, mainly the bushfires in January and then the COVID-19 pandemic declared in March, that forced it to close its centres, and to cancel all programmes and events indefinitely.

The Council's primary focus during this difficult time has been to ensure the health and wellbeing of its most vulnerable clients, therefore within days of closing, the council's staff commenced phone contact, perform welfare checks to determine support needs, and to identify clients that are isolated due to no family support or services.

Staff has been providing clients with socialisation and the information on various support services such as Beyond Blue, COVID-19 hotline, Foodbank and other services as required.

This service was also extended to carers of its Dementia Group, who were also identified as requiring support, and the introduction of conference calls that allowed multiple clients to interact became increasingly popular, with some clients even making contact with each other.

As restrictions eased, window and in home visits including shopping assistance commenced, and MCCV staff even managed to surprise clients with Mother's Day flowers, birthday cards and follow-up phone calls. Cheryle Lupa, the

MCCV manager said this received very positive feedback.

To enable a more personalised service, the MCCV even commenced an iPad lending service, loaning iPads to its clients for a whole week. Staff has been providing the necessary training to each client and other weekly activities are scheduled.

Until the stage 4 lockdown, the delivery of morning tea to clients to enjoy whilst on Facetime sessions with approximately other six clients also became common practice.

Clients have also been updated with fortnightly newsletters that provide a suite of information and activities, Maltese recipes, prayers, photos of activity participation, client interviews and updated information on keeping safe and dealing with COVID-19. Weekly calls are also made as a reminder for mass times, Maltese news on TV and radio.

Unfortunately however, due to stage 4 restrictions their visits ceased, and staff has

had to resume welfare checks by phone. Through them clients' needs were seen to.

During this difficult time the MCCV is continuing to operate its business remotely. Executive members, staff and affiliated associations have stayed connected using many digital platforms.

It even went as far as to introduce free bingo that was run using the Zoom platform. Other activities, like puzzles, medical talks and online cooking classes are also planned.

For obvious reasons, the Council is unable to hold the annual Independence Day event at the Melrose Reception Centre on September 20, but it has been working on an alternative event being advertised on its Facebook page and website.

Cheryle Lupa said that the MCCV is to be guided by Government and the Department of Health on when it can resume visits and further the re-commencement of its programmes and events.

New dates for Joseph Calleja's concerts in 2021

The organisers of the concerts by popular Maltese tenor Joseph Calleja who were forced by COVID-19 to cancel the concerts scheduled for this year in Australia, have now set new dates for Calleja's concerts in five states in September 2021.

Perth: Perth Concert Hall

Wednesday September 1 – 7:30pm

<https://perthconcerthall.com.au/events/event/joseph-calleja-n>

Presented by Andrew McKinnon in association with West Australian Opera

Sydney: City Recital Hall

Sunday September 5 – 5:00pm

<https://www.cityrecitalhall.com/whats-on/events/joseph-calleja-the-maltese-tenor/>

Presented by Andrew McKinnon in association with Opera Australia

Brisbane: Concert Hall, Queensland Performing Arts Centre

Thursday September 9 – 7:30pm

https://www.qpac.com.au/event/joseph_calleja_20/

Presented by Andrew McKinnon in association with Opera Queensland

Adelaide: Adelaide Town Hall

Saturday September 11 – 7:30pm

<https://www.bass.net.au/events/sosa20-joseph-calleja-in-recital/>

Presented by Andrew McKinnon in association with State Opera South Australia

Melbourne: Hamer Hall, Arts Centre Melbourne

Monday September 13 – 7:30pm

<https://www.artscentremelbourne.com.au/whats-on/2020/classical-music/joseph-calleja>

Presented by Andrew McKinnon in association with Opera Australia

<http://www.amckinnon.com.au/production/joseph-calleja-the-maltese-tenor/>



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- Maltese Property matters.

*Marlene Ebejer (speaks Maltese) is
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Community News

Tune in to Radio and Television

Some Radio stations may be off air due to covid-19 restrictions

MELBOURNE: on 3ZZZ 92.3FM or on www.3zzz.com.au. Mondays 5-6 pm, Fridays 5-6 pm and Saturdays 10-11am.

MELBOURNE: on 98.9 North West FM, every Friday 6.00 - 7.00p.m. and Mondays 7.00 to 8.00pm. Presenter: Emmanuel Brincat.

On SBS Radio

Day Time Analogue and Digital Tuesdays and Fridays: 12:00-13:00 97.7fm SBS 2.

To tune into digital radio you need a receiver or device with a DAB+ chip. Tuning in is by station name not frequency. Digital radio can also be heard via digital TV.



SYDNEY: listen to the MCC radio programmes on 2GLF FM 89.3. Isma' l-programm tar-radju bil-Malti mill-Kunsill Malti ta' NSW minn fuq l-istazzjon 2GLF 89.3FM. Also *On Demand* on l-Internet: www.893fm.com.au

On Demand: Ethnic Maltese Council 11am) Il-Hadd 11.00 am: l-ahhar ahbarijiet minn Malta, muzika, tagħrif, kultura, avvizi u suġġetti ta' interess.

SBS Radio 2 on Channel 38. Programmes can be accessed online (live/catch up) at: sbs.com.au/maltese (mobile), using the SBS Radio app.

For television news from Malta - **SBS2 TV 32** (Viceland) on Thurs-

days and Sundays at 8am.

VIVA MALTA on COAST FM 96.3 Community Radio in Gosford Central Coast NSW. Aired on Thursdays every fortnight from 6 pm - 7 pm. Presenter: Nathalie Gatt. Web streaming: www.coastfm.org.au

SBS MALTESE NEWS: L-Ahbarijiet are now on SBSTV Viceland HD Channel 32 every Sunday at 8.00 a.m. and on Thursday at 8.00 a.m.

BRISBANE listen to the Maltese Programme on 4EB on Tuesdays 6.00 - 8.15am; Sundays 4.15pm to 5.15pm.

Maltese Community Radio Adelaide: Maltese Programmes on 5EBI 103.1fm: **Sunday:** 7.30am; **Monday:** 8.00 am; **Monday:** 6.00pm. Contact: Bernadette Buhagiar: 0420 944 205. Email bernadettebuhagiar@gmail.com Ron Borg: 0418 843 850. Email ronborg@mac.com

97.9 FM Melton Tuesday Maltese Programme: 6.00 To 8.00 pm Presenter Miriam Vella

Important Notice

If you are unable to buy the next issues of *The Voice* from the usual sources, you can inquire about our subscription at: maltesevoice@gmail.com

We will deliver *The Voice* by mail to your address anywhere in Australia.

Avviż lill-qarrejja

Tixtieq li jkollok kopja f'idejk ta' The Voice?

Infakkru lill-qarrejja li *The Voice of the Maltese*, mhux biss magazine online, iżda wkoll l-uniku tax-xorta tiegħu fl-Awstralja li wkoll jiġi ippubblikat. Huma ħafna dawk li ilhom li appoġġaw ruħhom minn dan u abbonaw biex anke jibdw jirċevu kopja pprintjata bil-posta d-dar bi ħlas.

Dawk kollha li jixtiequ li jibdw jirċevu kopja pprintjata tal-magazine kull darba li joħroġ biex ikunu jistgħu jzommuha f'idejhom, huma mhegga li jabbonaw għal sena halli jagħmlu żgur mill-kopja

Biex dan isir wiehied l-ewwel jibgħat email lil maltesevoice@gmail.com fejn jitlob tagħrif dwar il-ħlas ta' abbonament għal sena fl-istat fejn jgħix. Imbagħad jekk ikun irid jissieheb ma' dawk kollha li mhumix kuntenti biss li jaqraw il-magazine online, imma wkoll li jkollhom kopja tiegħu, jgħarrafna u jkunu moqdijin.

Għall-attenzjoni tal-qarrejja

Il-qarrejja li jixtiequ juru l-fehmiet tagħhom dwar xi suġġett huma mhegga li ma jhallux għall-ahhar. Indirizzaw l-emails lil maltesevoice@gmail.com.

L-ittri għall-pubblikazzjoni indikawhom: *Letters to the editor*.

Please Note:

If interested in advertising on *The Voice of the Maltese* magazine in order to reach the widest audience possible, particularly among the Maltese diaspora is requested to write for details to:

Maltesevoice@gmail.com



Maltese Community Council of Victoria Inc.

L-MCCV qed jilqa' applikazzjoni jiet għall-pożizzjoni ta' għalliem/a part-time tal-ilsien Malti fil-binja tagħhom f'14 Watt Street, Sunshine, Victoria.

L-applikanti għandu jkollhom għarfien sew tal-Malti kemm miktub kif ukoll mitkellem.

Ibghat applikazzjoni bid-dettalji akkademiċi lill:

admin@mccv.org.au

Għal tagħrif ieħor ċempel fuq: **0412 115 919**. Halli n-numru tat-telefon u nċemplulek lura.



Events for 2020

Sunday October 18:
Fete

Saturday November 14
Dinner Dance

Sunday December 6
Festa San Nikola



Malta on the defensive against Faroe Islands



Malta concedes equaliser against Latvia

A point is all Malta gets from first two UEFA ties

It wasn't the debut Devis Mangia had hoped for as national football team coach when Malta played its first game in the UEFA Nations League Group D1 in Torshavn against Faroe Islands. It disappointingly lost 3-2. Then three days later at the National Stadium, Malta failed to bank on its home advantage and drew 1-1 with Latvia.

Malta led 2-1 with goals by Jurgen Degabriele, who equalised in the 38th minute, and Andrei Agius (74th), but Faroe struck twice in the last three minutes to take all three points the points.

Against Latvia three days later, Malta showed an improvement and gained its first point in the campaign by drawing 1-1 draw

against Latvia.

Malta started well and went close on seven minutes when Ryan Camenzuli hit the base of the upright with the goalkeeper beaten. But in the 15th minute, Malta deservedly went ahead through Kyrlian Nwoko who tapped in from close range after good work on the flank by Joseph Mbong.

Latvia made a swift reaction and levelled the score on 25 minutes when Matthew Guillaumier deflected Kaspars Dobra's corner past his own keeper.

From then on play was well balanced and the two sides settled for a share the spoils.

Marsa win 8th Sept. Victory Day Regatta

Marsa dominated the afternoon to win the National Victory Day (September 8) Regatta at the Grand Harbour for the 14th time in their history.

They won the Open category and the Shield by 64 point, six ahead of runners-up and last year's winners Bormla. Next followed Senglea, third with 22; 4. Birzebbuga 16; 5. Vittoriosa 12.

Birzebbuga dominated and won the B category with 84 points. Second were Bormla (34), 3. Senglea (26); 4. Kalkara (20). Marsa and Marsamxett finished joint fifth with four points.

Vittoriosa's Glynnis Mizzi and Rachel Gialanze maintained their stranglehold on the women's race by winning it for the third year in succession ahead of Birzebbuga and Cospicua.

Hayley Bugeja makes her mark in Italian football

Sixteen-year-old footballer Haley Bugeja (right) took the Italian women's football scene by storm when she made her debut for Serie A club US Sassuolo. She chinked her way past opposing defenders to score two spectacular goals in her side's 3-1 victory over Napoli. After scoring her second goal the Italian TV commentator described her as "phenomenon Hayley".



Marsa receiving the Shield from Parliamentary Secretary for Sports Clifton Grima

Premier kicks off September 19

Malta's Premier Football League for season 2020/21 kicks off on September 19.

First round matches taking place on three consecutive days will be: Zejtun v Sta Lucia; Mosta v Gudja; Tarxien R. v Balzan; Lija A. v Senglea; Floriana v Gżira U; Sliema W v Hibernians; Hamrun S. v Sirens and Valletta v Birkirkara.

The Challenge League (formerly Division 1) starts on September 25.

Matches are to be played behind closed doors until further notice.

***Parramatta suffered two other defeats in the NSW NPL4. In Round 8: Nepean FC 5 Parramatta1; Round 9: Parramatta 1 Fraser Park 3**