



Maltese e-Newsletter

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MaltaPost releases new set of stamps dedicated to COVID-19 frontliners



1908

THE PLAQUE ON AUSTRALIA HALL MALTA



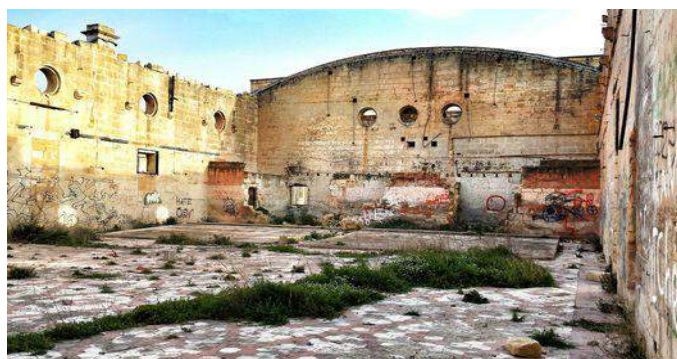
2021

The chiseled distinctive Australian Coat of Arms is still there, as is a stone declaration stating that it was built on donations from the public believed to be predominantly from New South Wales

Coat of arms of Australia



Maltese Traditional Costumes



How Pembroke's once-popular entertainment venue Australia Hall turned into a sad ruin

The 105-year-old building was buzzing with life in the first half of the 20th century

Caroline Curmi

If you've ever taken a stroll through Pembroke, you might have spotted a once majestic (but now a roofless and decaying) building within the parameters of the town.

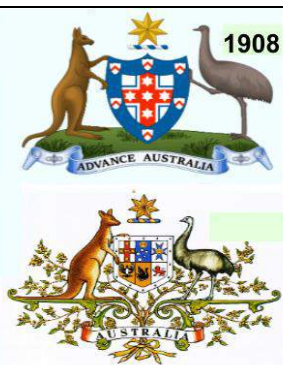
Built between 1915 and 1916 by the Australian branch of the British Red Cross Services, it was aptly christened as Australia Hall. Its original purpose had been to entertain wounded soldiers from the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps recuperating in Malta during WWI. Large and spacious, it could fit 2,000 people in its massive hall (which would sometimes double as a theatre) and even had its own library.

Later, it was passed on to a section of the British government in charge of overseeing recreational space for its troops, with the hall being subsequently fitted with a projector and transformed into a cinema in 1921. It would serve as an entertainment hall right till the last days of the British retreat from Malta.

After the islands' independence, the property passed on to the Maltese government and later to third parties, but it was never put back in operation.

In 1996, Australia Hall was listed as a Grade 2 National Monument but by December 1998, it suffered a catastrophic fire that destroyed its roof. Although it was believed to have been caused by an arsonist, the case was never solved, and repairs were never effected. As such, it became a target for vandals and now graffiti cover some of its walls.

However, in 2016, the Australian High Commissioner got in contact with the building's current owners for a possible restoration. Estimated to run into millions of Euros if this were to be effected, no word has yet been issued regarding if, or when, this would take place, and whether it would be rendered accessible to the public. *Would you like to see this piece of local history restored to its former glory? Please write to us and join our appeal.*



Coat of arms of Australia

An intriguing facet of Australia Hall is the coat of arms selected as an identifying motif above the main entrance to the hall. The coat of arms carved from limestone shows the 1908 Australia coat of arms, and not the more recent (at time of building construction) coat of arms.



Australia Hall in Pembroke Malta used to accommodate up to 2000 men

Australia Hall in Pembroke Malta could accommodate up to 2000 men. Australia's unlikely WW1 history in Malta where ANZAC troops enjoyed respite, recreation and rehabilitation. A long-forgotten relic that was part of the story of the original Anzacs is in danger of being lost to history unless money can be found to save it. Credit: Photo by Ella Pellegrini/news.com.au.

AUSTRALIA HALL – PEMBROKE - MALTA

From Wikipedia

Australia Hall is a former entertainment hall in [Pembroke, Malta](#), which was built by the [Australian Branch of the British Red Cross Society](#) in 1915. The building burnt down in 1998, and only its roofless shell remains today, the rebuilding of this site was cancelled.



History Australia Hall was built by the [Australian Branch of the British Red Cross Society](#) as an entertainment venue for wounded soldiers of the [Australian and New Zealand Army Corps](#) who were being treated in Malta during [World War I](#). The hall was built in November 1915,^[1] and was officially

opened on 22 January 1916 by Governor [Paul Methuen](#).^[2] The hall could accommodate up to 2000 people, and it was used as a [theatre](#), and also included a [library](#).^[3] The building was subsequently used by the [Navy, Army and Air Force Institutes](#), and it also served as a [cinema](#) after 1921.



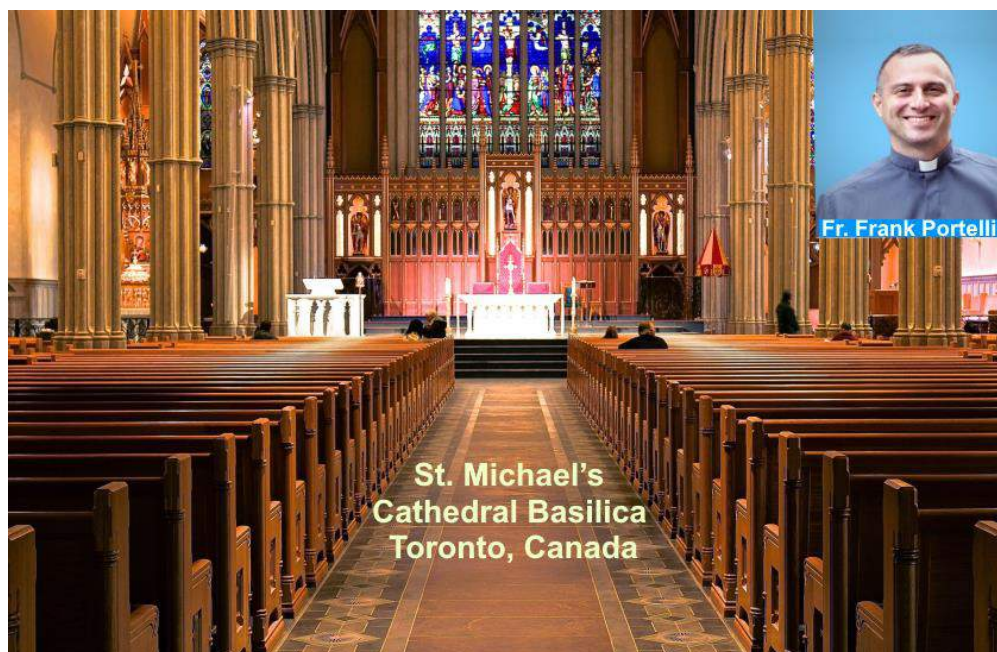
In 1978, the British military vacated Pembroke, and the hall became property of the Government of Malta. A year later, the building was transferred to the [Malta Labour Party](#) in exchange for some property in [Marsa](#). In

1996, the hall was listed as a Grade 2 National Monument by the [Malta Environment and Planning Authority](#).^[4] The building burnt down in December 1998, possibly in an [arson](#) attack.^[6] The fire destroyed the hall's roof and interior, but its roofless masonry shell is still intact, although it has been vandalized^[3] and its walls are covered in graffiti.

In 2010, the Labour Party was taken to court since it did not keep the hall in good condition, as was agreed upon in the 1979 contract. The charges were dropped in October 2013, when the [Labour Party was in government](#).^[8] In 2014, the Labour Party sold the hall and some surrounding land to A. H. Development Ltd for a sum of €582,343.^[9] This amount was described as "grossly far off the current market price" by property agents,^[10] and the sale of the building has been described as controversial. This has resulted in a court case, with the Labour Party appealing that it is exempt from paying the tax on the sale.^[11] It is estimated that the Australia Hall together with the surrounding gardens are actually worth €5.5 million.

In 2016, [Australian High Commissioner](#) Jane Lambert called for Australia Hall's restoration, and she is in contact with the building's owners, discussing possibilities for how to develop the site.^[1]

There are plans to destroy the flora and fauna around the Australia Hall to build a massive embassy for China. The move promoted criticism amongst residents and the general public for the take over of the open space which is owned by China. 19,000 sq metres will be developed and closed to public access. The mega project will be out of context of the historic environment of the Australia Hall.



St. Michael's
Cathedral Basilica
Toronto, Canada

Fr. [Mario Micallef](#)

St. Paul the Apostle Maltese- Canadian Parish

Our Parish community congratulates Fr Frank [Portelli](#) on his new assignment as Rector of St Michael's Basilica. In his younger days, Fr

Frank was a very active member of our parish, including giving his services in our liturgies and catechism classes. We keep Fr Frank in our prayers as he moves into his new role.

NB. We, the editor and readers of the Maltese Journal, congratulate Fr. Frank on his new appointment. Fr. Frank was ordained in 2009, has served previously at St. Luke's Parish (Thornhill), and most recently has served Office of Catholic Youth (OCY) as Director.

PANDEMIC SLOWS ACROSS THE WORLD

The Covid-19 pandemic slowed down for the third week in a row and new cases are now at their lowest level since the end of October, with new infections falling by half in South Africa, according to a specialised AFP database.

Here is the state of play worldwide:



FEWER THAN HALF A MILLION PER DAY - The number of new daily cases dipped below the half-million mark for the first time since late October, standing at 493,000, according to an AFP tally to Thursday.

New infections dropped by 13 percent over the week, after reaching a record 725,000 in mid-January.

Nearly every area of the world saw a slackening off, with new cases decreasing in Africa by 27 percent, by 17 percent in the United States and Canada, by 12 percent in Europe and Latin America and the Caribbean and by two percent in Asia.

The number of new cases picked up slightly, by four percent, in the Middle East, however, while there were only 14 cases per day (43 percent more) in Oceania.

The number of confirmed cases only reflects a fraction of the actual number of infections, as different countries have different counting practices and levels of testing.

STEEPEST FALLS - The biggest decrease was in South Africa, the continent's worst-hit country, where the number of new cases dropped by 49 percent, at 4,100 new cases per day, confirming a strong deceleration that started the previous week.

The country, where a more contagious variant of the coronavirus has been detected, in late 2020 saw an upsurge in cases, which led it to impose a curfew in late December.

Lithuania has the next big drop at minus 37 percent, (700 cases per day), Mexico (minus 35 percent, 10,600), Japan (31 percent fewer, 3,000), Panama (minus 31 percent, 1,100) and Portugal (30 percent fewer or 9,100 cases).

- BIGGEST SPIKES - Malaysia is the country where the epidemic is picking up most speed, with 30 percent more, or 4,800 new cases per day, among the countries which have registered more than 1,000 daily cases over the past week.

Jordan follows with 27 percent more, or 1,100 new cases, Peru (23 percent, 6,500), Iraq (21 percent, 1,000) and Turkey (16 percent more, or 7,400 cases).

US STILL HAS MOST CASES, DEATHS -

The US again had by far the highest number of new cases, with 133,500 per day on average, a 17-percent decrease over the previous week.

Brazil follows with 48,200, or minus seven percent and Spain (29,800, minus 16 percent).

Then come the United Kingdom with 21,200, or 26 percent fewer and France (20,600, one percent more).

On a per-capita basis, Portugal remains the country with the highest number of infections, at 622 cases per 100,000 people.

The US also again registered the most deaths over the past week, with 3,279 per day on average, followed by Mexico (1,111), Brazil (1,035), the United Kingdom (1,018), Germany (690), Russia (507) and France (450).



The War Memorial

(Maltese: Monument tal-Gwerra)

is a memorial obelisk in Floriana, Malta, which commemorates the dead of World War I and World War II. It was inaugurated on 11 November 1938 by Governor Charles Bonham-Carter to the memory of those killed in World War I, but in 1949 it was rededicated to those killed in both world wars. The monument was designed by Maltese artist Louis Naudi, who was influenced by Antonio Sciortino.

According to Mark G. Muscat, the War Memorial "is possibly the sole example of a work of art in Malta which up to a certain extent illustrates the idea of Futurism put forward by Marinetti and Sant'Elia in Italy... Naudi deserves credit for his successful attempt at breaking away from the British colonial architecture that was commonplace at the time

The monument is an obelisk in the form of a Latin cross, and it is built out of local globigerina limestone. It has four plaques showing the colonial badge of Malta and reproductions of a document issued by

King George V in 1918 acknowledging Malta's role in World War I, the letter by which King George VI awarded the George Cross to Malta in 1942, and a 1943 scroll by President Franklin D. Roosevelt saluting Malta for its role in World War II.^[3]

The War Memorial is located on a site which was used for public executions when Malta was under Hospitaller rule. It is close to the Malta Memorial which is dedicated to Commonwealth aircrew who died in World War II, and memorials to the Royal Malta Artillery and The King's Own Malta Regiment. It was originally positioned halfway between City Gate and Ġlormu Cassar Avenue, but was relocated during the realigning of St. Anne Street in 1954. The memorial was restored and the area around it landscaped in the early 2010s. An eternal flame was installed at this point.

The President and Prime Minister as well as other dignitaries lay wreathes at the monument at an annual remembrance ceremony. The memorial is scheduled as a Grade 1 national monument.



ONBOARD TOWARDS BRAZIL THE MALTESE IMMIGRATION

by Almir da Silveira



Beyond the line of grey cargo ships and the terrible heat, the SS. Province reached the port city of Santos. After a month on board, Father Charbon and a group of seventy three Maltese people had finally arrived in Brazil, their new homeland. In the same month of April, another ship left Malta bringing another 106 souls to work in the coffee plantations.

Immigrants working in the coffee plantations

Though they would also come to work in the plantations, their final destination would not be the same. The year was 1912 and the opening of the twentieth century which found Malta with an increasing population, a high rate of unemployment and the

absence of a developing industrial sector. With the detracting of Malta's naval importance, the problem became even worse, and a great number of Maltese started to leave Malta.

Most of the Maltese emigrants arrived in Brazil holding a British passport and were, therefore, considered by the Brazilian authorities to be British citizens, and not Maltese. Add to it the fact that some of the emigrants had their surnames changed to have an anglicized touch in them. Despite the lack of trustworthy statistics, as Dr Bonnici from Maringa State University explains in his article, we can divide the Maltese emigration to Brazil into three different periods with distinct purposes.

The first group of emigrants arrived in the first decade of the twentieth century to work in the coffee plantations. By that time Brazil's economy was heavily based on the coffee monoculture, and coffee was the

most valued asset of the nation. There was a demand for people to work in the plantations, and a great number of European emigrants came to Brazil. The first group of Maltese headed to the plantations in Sao Paulo, while the second group was sent to rural activities in Fortaleza, in Northern Brazil. From these two groups that arrived in Brazil, many of the families returned to Malta. **Mr. Colier (third from right) in one of his visits to the city of Londrina, along with priests and sisters who lived in the area at the time.**



The second group of emigrants arrived by the end of the 20's to work for the British enterprise of building and maintenance of Brazilian railroads. The few miles of Brazilian railroads were an impediment to the flow of the Brazilian production proceeding from other regions. It was in the twenties that the railway expansion boomed and President Washington Luis summarized its importance in his well known motto: "Governing is a railway building." Almost all the Maltese that came to Brazil at that time met Mr Dominic Collier from Floriana, who held an administrative position in the Sao Paulo-Parana railway company.



Visit of the bishop of Gozo to the family of Salvador Dimech (bald) and Nagela Dimech (red dress) in the city of Recife in 2009

The third and last Maltese immigration to Brazil in the 50's and 60's differed totally from the previous two and had a religious purpose. During the fifties the State of Parana experienced an economical development and the spiritual need of the population were increasing. The Franciscan Order of Malta had been required to send some sisters to help with the growing diocese of Jacarezinho.

In the residence of Fr. Francisco Tabone Adami (09/02/2016) Foto: Xavier Cutajar



Throughout the fifties and sixties a great number of priests proceeding from the islands of Malta and Gozo arrived to Brazil. Priests coming from Zebbug, Naxxar, Birkirkara, Floriana and many other Maltese and Gozotian cities were sent to a great number of dioceses, not only to the State of Parana but also to the States of Sao Paulo and Pernambuco.

In 1977 Fr. Walter Ebejer was consecrated bishop of the diocese of Vitoria do Sul. Father Ebejer is author Francis Ebejer's brother. Presently, many

families of Maltese background can be found in several Brazilian cities; quite a few remained from the first and second immigration groups and most of the others are priests in the clerical work. Among them we can find the Busuttils, the Zammits and many other Maltese descendants; and if we take a look at the telephone directory we will find many other Maltese surnames, such as Azzopardi, Balzan, Cutajar, and so many others which sound familiar to any Maltese. Among the priests, Father Xavier from Luqa is well know to all those who got married in the beautiful parish of Osasco

In 1992 we had the visit of the Prime Minister of Malta, Dr. Eddie Fenech Adami when he attended the Rio Ecological Conference 92. Photo in the Archdiocesan Seminary in Maringá. Photo: Edwin Parascandalo



Mgr. Joseph Mercieca, Archbishop of Malta when he visited the south of Brazil in 1995. Here at the residence of Don Jaime Luis Coelho, Archbishop of Maringá. Photo: Edwin Parascandalo



ST PAUL AND THE NON-EXISTENT VIPER LONG STANDING HERPETOLOGICAL MYSTERY



St Paul casts viper into fire, painting by Marten de Vos
It is recorded in the Acts of the Apostles (28: 3-6) within the Bible's New Testament that when a ship transporting St Paul and other prisoners to Rome was shipwrecked on the island of Melita (known now as Malta), St Paul was bitten by a viper:

"And when Paul had gathered a bundle of sticks, and laid them on the fire, there came a viper out of the heat, and fastened on his hand. And when the barbarians saw the venomous beast hang on his hand, they said among themselves, No doubt this man is a murderer, whom, though he hath escaped the sea, yet vengeance suffereth not to live. And he shook off the beast into the fire, and felt no harm.

Howbeit they looked when he should have swollen, or fallen down dead suddenly: but after they had looked a great while, and saw no harm come to him, they changed their minds, and said that he was a god." What makes this incident memorable not only from a theological but also from a herpetological standpoint is that there is no known species of viper living today on Malta. So how can St Paul's ophidian attacker be explained?

In their biblical commentary *The Acts of the Apostles* (1959), Charles W. Carter and Ralph Earle suggested that just because there are no vipers on Malta today does not necessarily mean that there were none in St Paul's day. Perhaps they died out due to the expanding human population here in later times. However, American cryptozoologist and scriptures scholar Chad Arment has pointed out that there is no physical evidence to confirm that vipers have ever existed on Malta. Nor does the viper family's zoogeographical distribution in this region of Europe provide much support for such a notion.

Consequently, Chad considers it more plausible that Malta's mystery 'viper' was in reality the cat snake *Telescopus fallax* - a species of venomous rear-fanged colubrid that usually measures up to 2.5 ft long and is native to Malta. As its mouth is too small for its fangs to be used effectively when biting humans (which it will sometimes do if handled), the cat snake is not deemed to be dangerous. However, in cases where a person is allergic to the proteins contained in its venom, anaphylaxia and various complications can occur if not treated rapidly. Bearing in mind that its preferred habitat includes dry stony areas overgrown with low shrubs in which it can climb, this fairly small, lithe snake could easily be picked up with a bundle of sticks (unlike any of Europe's larger, bulkier vipers).



A Maltese specimen of the European cat snake (© Jeffrey Skiberras/Wikipedia)

Having said that, this particular line of speculation is taking as granted that the snake which bit St Paul was indeed venomous - but was it? Perhaps St Luke (author of the Acts of the Apostles) and/or the native Maltese islanders mistakenly assumed that it was, when in actual fact it was a harmless species. Certainly, in many parts of the

world various non-venomous species of snake (and even lizards too) are erroneously deemed to be exceedingly venomous by their human neighbours.

Equally ambiguous is St Luke's description of St Paul's serpentine aggressor as fastening onto and then hanging from his hand. Might this mean that the snake did not actually bite St Paul's hand, but merely coiled around it, and that St Luke and the other observers only assumed that it had bitten him, when in fact it had not done so? Certainly there is no statement anywhere in the verses dealing with this incident in the Acts of the Apostles which claims that St Paul was miraculously cured of snakebite - only an assumption by St Luke and the others that he had been bitten.

And so, as it has been for many centuries, the non-existent viper of Malta remains a herpetological as well as a biblical mystery – indeed, an enigma. Consequently, any thoughts or opinions concerning it from ShukerNature readers would as always be very greatly appreciated.

<http://karlshuker.blogspot.com/2014/10/st-paul-and-non-existent-viper-of-malta.html>

A Rwandan proverb says: “Two people working together are better than eight fighting against each other”.

Congratulations on your 7th Anniversary. I always share the Maltese Journals with my family and friends . Very refreshing to read this Journal that is completely non political.

It's for all Maltese all over the world. As you mentioned in your introduction that there are more Maltese living abroad than in Malta itself, with the bigger bulk in Australia! I would like to take this opportunity to thank you on Behalf Of The Friends Of Providence House NSW for your continued support ! It is greatly appreciated. So once again PROSET Jim Borg NSW

St Bernadette's Aged Care Residence - Sunshine North - VICTORIA

Dear Frank, I've written previously to let you know how pleased our Maltese residents become when discussing articles from your e-newsletter. Often much remembering takes place accompanied by laughter (and sometimes, sadness). Could you please keep on sending your newsletter which is so valued not only by me but by the residents.

Sr Lorraine Testa Pastoral Care Practitioner

Thanks very much for dedicating so much of your time to send to our houses your very interesting "Maltese Journal". We, the Maltese diaspora, dispersed in so many different countries, feel somehow united thanks to this newsletter. I can assure you that you are not wasting your time. My regards. Msgr. George Frendo O.P. Archbishop of Tirana, Albania

Thank you

**Maltese
e-Newsletter**



**Journal of Maltese
Living Abroad**

I have been producing this journal for 7 years and distributed to thousands of Maltese around the world. I thank those readers who sent a donation to keep on providing this service.

If you would like to donate see below:

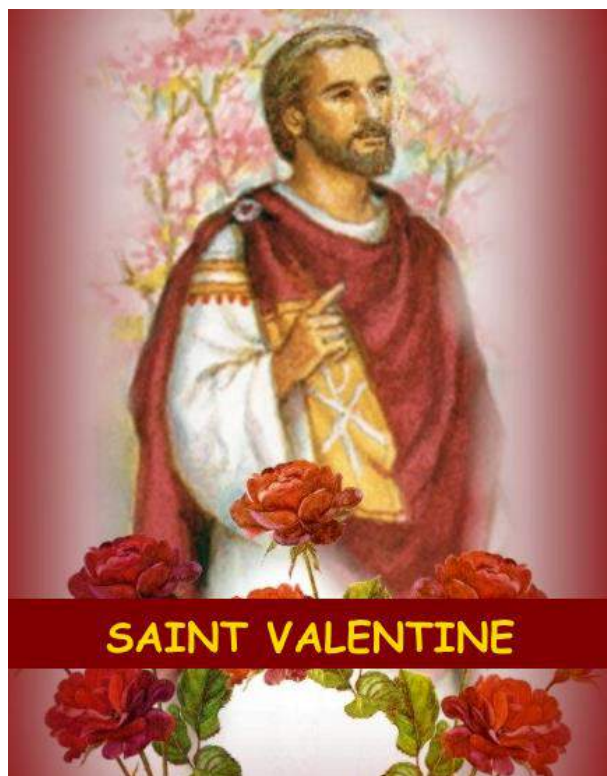
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Name: Frank Scicluna

Please, donate



F'JUM TA' SAN VALENTINO

Matul Frar għandna d-drawwa
 Illi nfakkru festa ħelwa
 Magħha izda din is-sena
 Ġabitilna ħafna dnewwa.

It-twajjeb San Valentino
 Ġie milqugħ minn maltemp kbir
 Fejn matul dil-festa s-soltu
 Qalbna bil-ferħ trid ittir!

Għal għarrieda giet imxija
 Li nizzlitna għarkubbtejna
 U gegħlitna d-dmugħ inxerrdu
 Gelgul sħun minn dawn għajnejna.

Ħafna kellhom l-isptar jidħlu
 Ohrajn qagħdu kwarantina
 Min qatt ħolom li dal-*Covid*
 Daqstant gwaj kellu jagħtina!

Ħtija tiegħu kbar, anzjani
 Sabu ruħhom taħt l-irhama -
 Li jingħaqdu lura magħna
 Żgur li issa ma hemmx tama!

Ma' dil-pandemija kellna
 Inħassru bosta attivita'
 Il-kummerċ ukoll mar lura
 Kulhadd ħass dil-gravita'!

Niesna kellha toqgħod ġewwa
 Biex dal-*Virus* ma jiġrix
 It-tobba għamlu minn kollox
 Biex kemm jista' ma jferix!

Issa għall-grazzja t'Alla tfaċċa
 Xi raġġ dawl fit-tarf tal-mina;
 Tinsewx ħbieb lil Sid il-ħlejjaq
 Jekk triduh jiftakar fina!

Inwiegħduk San Valentino
 O patrun tal-maħbubin
 Għalkemm imdawrin b'tant niket
 Xorta aħna ferħanin

Għaliex int tidhol għalina
 Ma tħallina qatt waħidna
 Izda f'wiċċ dan il-hemm kollu
 Hemm idek li żgur tinfidna.

U fi Frar ta' sena oħra
 Ħielsa lkoll minn dan l-imrar
 Nagħmlulek festa mill-isbaħ
 Bil-banda u l-isparar.

Maħbubin ta' Malta w Għawdex
 Nixteqilkom ferħ sincier
 Ħalluh jibqa' dieħel f'darkom
 Ġej mill-qalb ta' Kavallier!
Kav Joe M Attard Rabat – Għawdex



We don't usually think of Valentine's Day as an explicitly Christian holiday. Along with most holidays, Valentine's Day has suffered from its share of commercialization and confusion, yet the poignant story of the original Valentine's Day is worth remembering.

In the interest of full disclosure, after about 1,700 years of history, it's kind of hard to know exactly who Valentine was and what he did. The truth is, there were probably several Valentines. Also, the truth is probably not as highly dramatized as we may wish. The truth is embedded somewhere in the depths of history, never to be known until we get to heaven. What follows may be part tradition and part truth, but completely fascinating.

The year was 270. The Roman Empire was engaged in a desperate attempt to retain the *Pax Romana* that had endured for centuries. Christianity was active during the 3rd century. Although Christ had died over two centuries prior, Christians were eagerly propagating their faith and churches were springing up everywhere. These early centuries of the church were the times of the great apologists such as Clement, Ignatius, Origen, Polycarp, Athanasius, and Chrysostom. But the 3rd century was also the time of the Christian martyrs. Prior to Constantine, the empire was not friendly to Christianity—not at all. Claudius, the reigning emperor of the time, was a warlord, intent only upon preserving his empire and routing his enemies. Christianity was not on his like list. His primary interests were military, and he would stoop to nothing to ensure that his mighty army remained loyal to him.

It was Claudius's maniacal grip on the military that led him to install a very foolish policy empire-wide. Claudius had a problem on his hands when it came to the army. Believe it or not, his men would actually prefer to get married and stay home with their wives and families rather than risk their lives and sacrifice for their country! Military recruiting was suffering because of the petulant affection between man and wife. Love was getting in the

way of patriotism! Claudius would have none of it. Being the man with the big stick, he could make laws and enforce them, too.

So he did. Claudius passed a law forbidding anyone to get married. Obviously, this was an outrage. Was he serious? No marriage? Living in this anti-Christian and anti-marriage climate, was Valentine. Valentine was a Christian priest in Rome. He knew from the Bible that marriage was good and honored by God. He knew that marriage was lawful according to the Christian faith, so he took it upon himself to perform Christian marriages—contrary to the law. As a priest, he performed secret marriages for couples who desired to be married bravely defying the anti-marriage edict. It wasn't just marriages that Valentine was working on. He was also trying to protect persecuted Christians who were being chased down and haunted by the aggressive Roman leaders. Christians knew that they could flee to Valentine to find protection.

Valentine was taking a huge risk. Not only was it absolutely forbidden to marry or to perform marriages, but it was also a criminal offense to aid or abet Christians—especially ones whom the Roman Empire had on their hit list! Valentine was enmeshed in what the Roman Empire considered high treason and traitorous activity. Although he was being loyal to his faith, he was flying in the face of Roman law. The Roman government hunted him down and locked him up in prison. Now, Valentine—protector of Christians and performer of marriages—was himself suffering for his love and devotion to God.

It got worse. Valentine, true to his bold character, tried to convert Emperor Claudius to Christianity. This had gone too far. Claudius demanded that Valentine recant his faith and submit to the cruel and godless tyranny of Rome. Valentine staunchly refused. The Roman Prefect condemned him to torture and death. He was beaten violently, then beheaded.

Valentine was martyred for his faith. According to legend (and probably false), Valentine himself fell in love during his time of imprisonment. The daughter of the prison guard met Valentine and fell head over heels in love. As the story goes, their romance was the prototypical saga of steadfast love, broken only by the tragic death of Valentine. He wrote a note to her, allegedly penned on February 14, the day before he was beheaded. He signed the note, "Love from your Valentine." Henceforth, we have the first Valentine's Day card.



PAWLU XANDAR TA' "ALLA MHUX MAGHRUF"

Silta mill-panegierku li Mons. Gorg Frendo O.P., Arcisqof ta' Tirana, ghamel fil-Knisja ta' San Pawl, il-Belt, fl-10 ta' Frar 2011

Malta illum qed taghti gieh lil dak li, fi kliem San Tumas, kellu dejjem lil Gesù Kristu f'mohhu, f'qalbu, f'fommu, f'kitbietu, u f'hajtu. U Malta kollha ghandha biex tifrah illum. Ghax l-appostlu tal-gnus, li fl-Areopagu ta' Atena habbar lil "Alla mhux maghruf", illum fil-gzira ta' Malta habbar lil dan l-istess "Alla mhux maghruf".

Pawlu kien lhudi, cittadin ruman, u mrawwem fil-kultura griega. Bhala lhudi, qatt ma cahad l-origini u l-gens tieghu. Bhala cittadin ruman, aktar tard approfitta ruhu minn dan il-privilegg billi appella li jigi pprocessat f'Ruma. Bhala mrawwem fil-kultura griega, xejn ma sabha bi tqila jithaddet mal-ghorrief fl-Areopagu ta' Atena, fejn werja l-familjarità tieghu mal-kittieba griegi.

L-Areopagu kien il-post fejn kienu jiltaqqu l-ghorrief tal-belt ta' Atena. L-aktar punt interessanti fid-diskors ta' Pawlu kien il-mod kif introduca dan id-diskors tieghu. Huwa

impressjona ruhu hafna meta ra l-belt ta' Atena mizghuda bl-idoli. Ghalhekk fetah id-diskors tieghu b'dan il-kliem: "Qieghed nara li intom f'kolliex nies mill-aktar religjuzi. Jien u ghaddej u nhares lejn ix-xbihat qaddisa tal-qima taghkom, sibet ukoll artal b'din il-kitba fuqu: 'Lil Alla mhux maghruf'. Ghalhekk, dak li intom tqimuh bla ma taghruf, inhabbarhulkom jien". B'dan il-kliem Pawlu ma kienx qed jghaddihom biz-zmien. Izda waqt li wrihom li kien qed japprezza r-religjozità naturali taghkom, ried jurihom ukoll il-limitazzjoni ta' gherfhom waqt li jxandrilhom lil "Alla mhux maghruf".

Ma kinex ghaddew aktar minn ghaxar snin mindu Pawlu xandar lil "Alla mhux maghruf" fl-Areopagu ta' Atena, lil nies li, fir-religjozità naturali taghkom, kienu qed iqimu divnità, meta providenzjalment sab ruhu quddiem gemgha ohra ta' nies li huma wkoll fir-religjozità naturali taghkom, kienu jqimu divnità, imma kienu jehtiegu li xi hadd jurihom lil "Alla mhux maghruf". Il-post huwa l-gzira ta' Malta, post li la kien fil-pjan tal-vjaggi missjunarji ta' Pawlu, u, mid-dehra, lanqas biss kien jaf li jezisti.

Zgur li l-poplu malti kien poplu religjuż, kif jixhdu t-tempji neolitici li ghandna fi gżirietna. Barra minn hekk, l-istess kummenti li ghaddew missirijietna meta raw il-lifgha tiela' ghal id Pawlu u meta raw li ma ghamlitlu xejn, ikompli jixhdu li kienu profondament religjuzi. Ghalhekk San Gwann Krizostmu, huwa u jikkummenta l-grajja tan-nawfragju ta' Pawlu u shabu fuq il-gzira ta' Malta, jghid dwar il-maltin: "Kienu jemmu fil-providenza u kienu aktar filosfi mill-istess filosfi".

Lil dan il-poplu, issa Pawlu qed ixandarlu lil "Alla mhux maghruf". U forsi illum ukoll ghandna bzonn nisimghu mill-gdid lil Pawlu jxandrilna lil "Alla mhux maghruf". Fl-idolatrija gdida ta' zminijietna ma nistaghgbux jekk ngħidu li rega' wasal iz-zmien biex, bl-umiltà kollha, nieqfu u nisimghu. Ghandna bzonn nieqfu. U ghandna bzonn nisimghu.

.Illum m'ahniex niccelebraw nawfragju, izda grajja li tixhed il-pjan divin ta' mhabba lejn poplu ckejken li kien jghammar fuq din id-daqqejn ta' blata f'nofs il-Mediterran. Bil-predikazzjoni ta' Pawlu, Malta, art li rat

religjonijiet pagani, ghaddiet ghad-dawl tar-religjon kristjana. Il-gwida morali taghha ma baqghetx il-ligi naturali, izda saret l-evangelju. It-tempji taghha ma baqghux l-imkejjen fejn jigu meqjuma l-idoli, izda l-knejjes fejn jinghata qima Alla fl-ispirtu u l-verità. Is-sagrificcji taghha ma baqghux dawk ta' hruq ta' annimali, izda saru s-sagrificcju wahdieni ta' Kristu riprezentat fl-ewkaristija mqaddsa. Kien twelid gdid ghal Malta, u jalla l-istorja gejjiena ta' art twelidna tkun dejjem l-eku tan-nota li ndaqget dakinhar li Pawlu rifes ix-xtut ta' gziritna.

U fid-diskors tieghu lir-rapprezentanti tad-dinja tal-kultura, li ghamel fiz-zjara tieghu f'Malta f'Mejju 1990, l-istess Gwanni Pawlu II qalilna: "Intom werrieta ta' wirt antik: erfghu harsitkom lejn il-bahar Mediterran ta madwarkom u lejn il-popli li jghammru fix-xtut tieghu. Ghandkom quddiemkom sfida, biex tkunu ta' ezempju. Jalla l-imhabba taghkom ghal-libertà, l-imhabba taghkom ghall-verità, l-imhabba taghkom ghall-gustizzja jgahmlu minn dawn il-gzejjer fil-qalba tal-Mediterran santwarju ta' paci u ta' fraternità, imsejjsin fuq il-verità u l-imhabba li gabilna Kristu, il-Feddej tal-bnedmin".



Heritage Malta donates income from sale of replicas of Napoleon's letter to MCCFF

Last November, Heritage Malta had decided that all proceeds from the sale of the limited and numbered edition of copies of the letter by which Napoleon Bonaparte ordered the invasion of Malta in 1798 would go for the Malta Community Chest Fund Foundation.

Forty facsimiles have been sold and Heritage Malta was pleased to double this sum which was presented to George Vella, President of Malta, on behalf of The Malta Community Chest Fund Foundation. His Excellency would like to thank the public and Heritage Malta for this wonderful initiative.

EVENTS WHICH LED TO THE BIRTH and the FORMATION OF THE Maltese Queen of Victories Band

Joseph Chetcuti -Adelaide



The birth of the Maltese Queen of Victories band goes back to the year 1979. It was during this time, that the Maltese Franciscans Friars together with the Maltese Chaplaincy council under the direction of Father Edward Zammit had secured an opportunity to have Father David Azzopardia MSSP singing priest from Malta to perform a show for the Maltese Community as part of his Australian tour. Father David was a very popular entertainer at the time with hits like Tal- Pastizzi, Tini Idejk, Ta-l Pitrolju, Temperta etc. This task was not easy because of the cost involved. With the help of his cousin Andrew Borg a Chaplaincy Council member, local musicians including Ross Borg and George Vassallo and many other volunteers the cost were significantly reduced to making it possible for our guest entertainer to come to Adelaide.

The Father David Concert was held on the 5th August 1979 at the Castle Hotel at Edwardstown. I can still remember how nervous Fr. David was before the concert commenced, being here in Adelaide without his regular backing group and performing for the first time a cabaret style floorshow instead of his usual stage show. But by the time his concert was over the whole atmosphere had completely changed. He was so pleased and satisfied and said that he will never forget this show in Adelaide. The welcome reception he received from the Adelaide Maltese people was outstanding. After the show many present and others begged the organisers to bring him back for a second show, but due his tight schedule this was not possible. Left with no other

alternatives, the organisers decided to go to Melbourne and catch his last show before he returned to Malta, and so on the 16 November 1979 two coaches travelled to Melbourne to see his last show. I believe this was the first time a group from Adelaide travelled by coach for a weekend trip to Melbourne.

The concert was held at the Melbourne town hall and commenced with a supporting act. The Maltese Own Band established only 2 years prior. They looked magnificent in their Red and White uniform performed Maltese traditional marches which excited the many visiting Adelaide people. The Band music sounded so great and the Maltese marched stirred many that left Malta many years before and have not heard that type of music since.

It so happened that on the day we left Lockleys to go to Melbourne, a large box arrived from overseas, containing the beautiful and newly acquired statue of



Maltese of Victories Band play at the
ADELAIDE TOWN HALL
during the visit of
Prime Minister of Malta
Dr. Lawrence Gonzi

our Lady of Victories . We this in mind and inspired with the music of the Maltese Own Band we immediately saw a vision of a complete Maltese style feast with statue, band and fireworks.

We extended an invitation to the MOB committee to come to Adelaide and be part of celebrating our feast. This invitation was gladly accepted without any hesitation. The MOB arrived in Adelaide on Saturday

morning 11 October 1980 which was a Long weekend. There were many Maltese including several second generation Maltese to welcome our guests to Lockleys. I strongly believe that the seeds for the birth of our own Maltese Queen of Victories Band were sown during this weekend. Many people young and mature approached the Chaplaincy council to help to form our own band. This task was left with Francis Brincat Secretary of the council who had some knowledge about

Maltese bands to make the necessary inquiries and on the 8th February 1981 only 4 months after the Feast a general meeting was held at Lockleys for the Maltese community here in Adelaide to establish our Band .

An interim committee was elected and the rest is history. Here we are today 40 years later and the Maltese Queen of Victories Band Still alive and well.

ORANGE BLOSSOM WATER



"Doctors used to prescribe orange blossom water to patients who had a stomach ache, fever or abdominal pain. Many drink it with hot water or coffee. Some even use with kwarezimal. We make orange blossom water during this time of the year. We've been making it for the last 50 years. I learnt the trade from my husband who learnt it from his grandfather. My son and I continued the family business, one generation after the other. It's something inbred. Orange blossom water comes from bitter orange. With these oranges marmalade is also made. We take the flower blossom. You need steam distillation in special copper equipment known as a still. The distillation process takes about

10 hours. There's a very pleasant smell when it starts boiling. Then leave it to stand for 8 months. As far as I know, we're the only ones who still make it. Every year, we pay customs for the distillery license and for our products to be stored in customs or tax warehouses." - **SUNTA AND LAWRENCE - PEOPLE OF MALTA FACEBOOK**



BEST BREAD IN THE WORLD

"Maltese bread is my life and the life of all Maltese. Do you have any idea how hard you had to work for a slice of bread a few years ago? Life has taught me a lot. God has used me like a chess game. I look back and realize that we have gotten to where we are thanks to Him. He has put my wife and I through fire and ice, we have learnt and cried, but are happy with what we managed to achieve. My wife is my rock. She is just as important as I am; what I have done is a 50/50. She worked just as hard as I did. We brought up six children. During her pregnancy, that is where she

used to be, at the bakery. When the clients missed seeing her they used to ask: "Has she gone to the hospital to give birth?" How tough it was when we were alone in our first bakery **Maypole**

in Qormi. How many times we just had a piece of bread and some oil in Christmas and Easter so we could continue working. Or my wife used to prepare a dish of potatoes, and I used to bake it in the oven, whilst she goes to continue working at the shop.

My father was a baker. Him, his siblings and his aunts and uncles. A tradition that has been passed on from one generation to another. When I used to go to Gzira to work at the bakery, I had met this girl who is my wife today. My father was continuously talking about bread....how could i not grow to love bread? I had no choice but to allow my love for the Maltese bread to grow. I never gave much importance to the hardships because I loved my work. Malta has the best bread and whenever I am abroad it is always praised. Maltese bread has a lot of nutritional value. It is not important what type of oven is used. It is the recipe which is vital. Time its secret.

I have made mistakes and learnt from them. Experience is life's teacher. God has been merciful with us, whenever I tried something connected with my job, It was always a case of "the right person at the right time". I dream about Maltese bread continuously. Even though I am now retired my mind is still there. Because these things, bread, pastries we gave them life. We always were aware of the times and never got stuck in the past but evolved. Maltese bread is and will always be popular and sought after. There is a lot of misinformation about it. Tourists who try it take it back home with them. and succeed." - Nenu, **Maypoles**



If you are Maltese living abroad and have a story to tell share it with others.

Send it to us:

maltesejournal@gmail.com



I thank all those who made this journal of Maltese living abroad number 1



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

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Cynthia Caruana Turner remembered



The National Council of Women pays tribute

Cynthia Caruana-Turner | National Council of Women
One of Malta's

most celebrated musicians, Cynthia Turner, 88, passed away on Monday, having contracted the COVID-19 virus.

Cynthia Caruana Turner is recognised as one of Malta's best musicians both locally and internationally. Cynthia was awarded Hon Life Membership by the National Council of Women for her contribution to Music in Malta and especially her dedication to the Council's Music Committee.

In 1987 NCW set up the Bice Mizzi Vassallo Music Competition; Cynthia was greatly interested in this, joined the organising committee and chaired the adjudicating panel throughout all the competition editions.

The Bice Mizzi Vassallo Music biennial Competition was instrumental in recognising the potential of young artists and encouraging their careers. It also gave participants the opportunity of studying abroad as candidates had the opportunity to win a Scholarship at the Conservatoire National de Region Lyon, a Residential Course at the Lake District or a Masterclass in Vienna

Cynthia gave master classes to the pianoforte candidates and she also made available her studio in Gzira for the preliminary sessions. Many of the winners of the BMV Competition made a name in the music scene, among them Carmine Lauri, Rosetta De Battista, Alan Chircop, Gabi Sultana, Maria Elena Farrugia, Maria Blanco and many more, Cynthia and the BMV organising committee were proud of their achievements and of having played a role in their early development.

Cynthia continued to take an interest in the National Council of Women. She was proud of NCW's achievements and was always happy to be part of an organisation that never ceased to contribute and promote social and cultural values.

Cynthia Caruana Turner will always be remembered and her memory will live in the minds of all music lovers and members of the National Council of Women. On behalf of the Executive Committee and all NCW members, we send our heartfelt condolences to her husband, family and many friends.

This content was supplied by The National Council of Women.



IL-MALTIN TAGHNA

Sunday Feb 7 | 12pm | ZOOM - live online event

THE MALTESE CENTER (ASTORIA- NY) PRESENTS

MEMBER NICKY CONTI - She is a New York based street photographer. Her photography creates compelling narratives and intriguing ways of looking at streets. She often uses natural light to create visual aesthetics and painterly effect. During the COVID-19 pandemic she also used the streets to reflect her personal sense of solitude and grief. Nicky will be showing a selection of her street work as well as images from her "New York during Lockdown" series. This live online event will be hosted and moderated by Carmen Debono. A Q & A with audience participation will

be available after the discussion -<https://www.themaltesecenter.com/>

SGS-Ates Start-Up 40 Years

Tonio Portuguese

This year 2021 marks the 40th anniversary of the start-up in Kirkop, Malta of the Italian semiconductor company SGS-Ates.



This investment was spearheaded by Ingegnere Pasquale Pistorio who was recruited by the then President of IRI, Prof Romano Prodi. Mr Pistorio left his top post as Vice President with Motorola to return to Italy. In the mid seventies he had led the Motorola working

team in the negotiations with the Maltes Govt for a large industrial plant but those discussions had failed.

On joining SGS in 1980 he reactivated discussions with the Malta Govt to consider opening an offshore plant in the Mediterranean outside the Italian mainland. At the time I was managing the Italian desk at the Malta Development

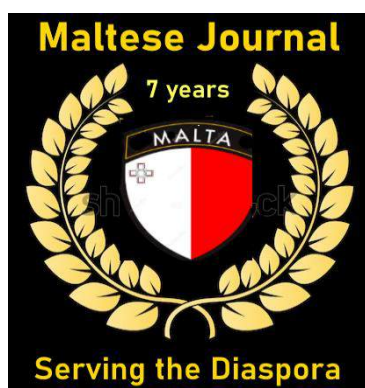
Corporation in charge of economic relations with Italy and I facilitated all the discussions - political, financial and infrastructural.

Mr Pistorio and Ing Ennio Filauro (Managing Director of the new SGS Malta company) enticed me to join SGS management in kickstarting an industrial operation in the ex GIE plant in Kirkop.

We succeeded in finalising negotiations with the Govt and the MDC.

In March 1981 the first batch of Versawatt TO220 power devices was produced and exported to Italian customers followed by other aggressive ramp-ups in production output for exports. Mr Pistorio had great faith in Malta's vocation for manufacturing excellence and his vision led to massive investments and regular growth of this operation that had started with 30 employees, myself employee no 1 and entrusted with Human Resources Development and the external relations with the Malta Govt and other financial, social and industrial institutions.

As a nation we owe a lot to Ing Pistorio. He was decorated with the Republic's National Order of Merit and received an Honoris Causa degree in Science by the University of Malta. Best regards and thanks to all.



Maltese eNewsletter
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MALTESE COMMUNITY OF CANADA

On the south side of Dundas Street West between Keele Street and Rummymede Road can be found Malta Park. In front of the park is this 2014 Heritage Toronto plaque. Here's what it says:

A small number of immigrants from Malta first arrived in Toronto in the late 19th century. By 1916, having fled overpopulation and unemployment, some 200 Maltese

had established themselves in Toronto in two communities. One was the area of Dundas and McCaul Streets, and the other here in The Junction, near present-day Malta Park. Many worked in this district's meat packing industry that was generated by the nearby Union Stock Yards (since demolished). The Maltese-Canadian Society of Toronto, established in 1922, supported the two growing communities. Predominantly Roman Catholics, the Maltese living in The Junction first attended nearby St. Cecilia Church. In 1930, with aid from the Maltese-Canadian Society of Toronto, the community built St. Paul the Apostle Church on Dundas Street West. It was one of the first Maltese churches in North America. After the Second World War, more Maltese emigrated to Canada and settled in this neighbourhood. The resulting density of Maltese homes, businesses, and community organizations gave this area the name "Little Malta".
HERITAGE TORONTO 2014



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Robert D'Amato is part of the team at Harcourts VennMillar located at 414 Goodwood Road, Cumberland Park SA. For all your local (South Australia) property needs in this area, get in touch with Robert.





MEGHAN MARKLE SHOW HER EXPLORING MALTESE ANCESTRY

MEGHAN Markle took a trip to the island of Malta to explore her heritage a year before she met Prince Harry – including trying on traditional headdresses.

This photo shows a relaxed and smiling Duchess back in 2015 as she explored the island and sampled local food and wine.

Meghan wore an għonnella national head-dress as she explored her ancestry.

Meghan visited Mdina, Valletta, Victoria and Dwejra during her stay in Malta and posted snaps on her now-deleted Instagram page.

George Merrill (right) was born in the state to parents who were born there too, and lived with his Malta-born



wife Mary Bird (Left) George David Merrill - born July 25, 1861

She called the countryside a piece of 'bucolic bliss' and she shared a photo of a herd of goats against a rural backdrop.

She was finding out more about her own ancestry and confessed the land had a special place in her heart as her great-great-grandmother, Mary, was born there in 1862.

She said of her trip: "Coming to Malta has been really important to me because my great-great-grandmother lived here, so we've been trying to trace the ancestry".

She travelled to the island to find out more about her ancestry.

"Before I

came, people were telling me, 'When you go to Malta, everyone will look like you,' and I started to say, 'Oh my gosh I do sort of blend in,' and it's the loveliest feeling." The Duchess of Sussex praised the people and the culture of the island, with her visit culminating in a photoshoot for ELLE.

As part of her stay she tried on a għonnella national head-dress and took with the Marquis de Piro and his wife Frances at their palace.

And ever the foodie, Meghan raved about



the cuisine and took time to sample local delicacies.

She praised the people and culture in Malta.

The Daily Mail quoted an interview with Meghan, where she said: "In Gozo I loved the fresh goat's milk cheeses, particularly the pickled ones with the black pepper on them.

"I'm about to have the spaghetti with rabbit, which I've been waiting to try. "This morning, for breakfast, I tried the pastizzi with peas and ricotta. "Oh my goodness they're delicious!

Meghan raved about her trip on her now deleted Instagram account "So my suitcase will be filled with all sorts of Maltese treats." Her trip to Malta happened in 2015, just four months before she met Prince Harry.



FROM GHONNELLA TO MINI-SKIRT

What would our **ancestors** say about the way we dress today?

Back when I was child and I still lived in Scotland, my mother would always make it a point to tell me stories about Malta and its history. She would explain the importance of the Great Siege of 1565, how Malta was considered to be 'the nurse of the Mediterranean' during WWI, and how her grandmother used to wear the *ghonnella* – or as some people may

refer to it, the *faldetta*.

Since then, **traditional** Maltese clothes have always fascinated me, particularly the ones worn by the general population rather than the nobility. The first thing that always hits me when looking at photos and drawings from the past, it's easy for us to think of our ancestors' clothing as **costumes**.



Seriously, what were they thinking when they designed the *ghonnella*? It looks absolutely bizarre. And why would men wear a colourful beanie-like hat made out of wool? Or the *terħa* – a girdle/belt?

Here's the thing. They were designed to be practical! Take the *ghonnella*, for example. Its sail-like structure helped capture the **breeze** during Malta's unforgiving summers. Its design also allowed for it to fit closer to the wearer should they want it to, providing more warmth in the winter. It was actually a genial invention and garment. Plus, can you imagine how **exotic** our streets must have looked with women billowing in them?

And that weird-shaped hat that hung down the back of our forefathers' heads? That was for warmth in the winter. It's easy to forget that just 100 years ago, many people didn't have **electricity** or **gas heaters**. Their bedding was also quite Spartan – no goose-feather duvets or electric blankets. And can

you imagine working in the field in the midst of winter?

Most of these things went out of fashion after the **war**, however – a time of unprecedented change for the Maltese, with greater influence from the outside world, independence and the advent of television and other technology.

That has slowly shifted us to today's fashions, and while you may still spot a **nanna** wearing a scarf over her head, most women wouldn't dream of wearing one nowadays. And that's not all; better pay and a decline in the church's influence has also got us to wear bolder outfits.

Would our ancestors approve of them? Hardly, but they'd have probably worn the same thing if they lived in this day and age! www.eve.com.mt/2016/04/12/from-ghonnella-to-hotpants/

MaltaPost releases new set of stamps dedicated to COVID-19 frontliners



MaltaPost has released a new stamp issue "to honour Malta's healthcare workers" in the fight against COVID-19. The philatelic issue is available as of today.

"This set is dedicated to the nurses, carers, doctors and other hospital staff who quarantine with their patients, who missed out on their personal life to ensure the safety and quality of care of their patients during the COVID-19 pandemic," MaltaPost shares on socials. "The issue is also dedicated to all the workers in the essential services."

Two of the three stamps are from paintings by Madeleine Gera and another by Andrew Micallef. The stamps will be available as sheets of 10, with each stamp carrying a face value of 30c. The entire issue consists of 500,000 stamps.

This philatelic issue is available as from today from all MaltaPost offices around the islands. Orders can be placed at www.maltaphilately.com or via mail at the Philatelic Bureau, MaltaPost p.l.c. 305, Qormi Road, Marsa, MTP 1



Written by Jillian Mallia

A book lover, writer and globetrotter who loves exploring new places and the local gems that the Maltese Islands have to offer. An avid foodie and arts fanatic, Jillian searches the island and beyond for the perfect settings to write about.

Eight Philippines stamps honours COVID-19 frontline heroes!



PHLPost introduced eight special stamps that honor the frontline workers who risk their lives while helping others during this difficult time. Entitled "Frontline Heroes - Fight Against Coronavirus, We Fight For You," the stamps were illustrated by in-house creative artist Rodine C. Teodoro, and

seeks to highlight the tireless efforts of the doctors, delivery personnel, medical technicians, chefs, nurses, military and grocery personnel, and police officers.

stuffat tal-qarnit octopus stew



Maltese traditional recipe

Ingredients:

- 1 octopus (600 - 800grms)
- 2 tbsp olive oil
- 3 chopped onions
- 10 olives
- 2 tablespoons tomato pure (kunserva)
- 3 large tomatoes chopped
- 1 tablespoon capers
- 1 tablespoon chopped fresh mint
- 2 tablespoons chopped fresh parsley
- 250ml red wine and Salt and pepper

Method:

This Mediterranean dish fits in perfectly with the Maltese cuisine. You should prepare the octopus stew only if you have plenty of time on your hands, since it requires long and slow simmering. The end result will be a very tender octopus in a stew which can be served as a main course or as a sauce with spaghetti or penne. A freshly baked and crispy Maltese loaf will come in handy to mop up the sauce.

Freshly caught octopus is readily available in most fish shops and open-air markets in Malta and Gozo. Very often the octopus would still be alive! If you are visiting Malta make sure you check out the Marsaxlokk Sunday open-air market, and you will find lots of freshly caught fish for sale

- 1) First clean the octopus by turning the head inside out. Make sure you remove the intestines, the beak and the eyes. You can use a metal hammer to tenderise the octopus meat. Ideally you should ask the fishmonger to clean the octopus for you, if you are not familiar with how it is done.
- 2) Place the octopus in a pot of boiling water which has already been salted and bring to the boil again for about 2 - 4 minutes.
- 3) Discard the water and cut the octopus into 5cm slices.
- 4) In another pot, heat some olive oil, and fry the chopped onions and the garlic for about 5 minutes or until they become soft and golden. Add the octopus and fry gently for another 3 minutes.
- 5) Add the wine and bring to the boil on high heat. Stir well and cook for another 3 minutes. At this point add the chopped tomatoes, some tomato paste (kunserva), some sea salt and fresh pepper to taste and a teaspoonful of sugar. Stir well, cover the pot and leave to simmer for 30 minutes.
- 6) Now add the olives, the capers, the mint and the parsley and leave to simmer for another 30 minutes.
- 7) 10 minutes before serving, uncover the pot and turn up the heat to thicken the sauce,

www.ilovefood.com.mt/



NEXT WEEK

**Ricetta tal-Qaghaq
tal-Ghasel
Honey Rings
Recipe**



Celebratory Events

**8th Anniversary of the Inauguration of
Il-Ħaġar | Heart of Gozo Museum and Cultural Centre
and Joseph Vella's Life and Legacy
on the 3rd Anniversary of his passing**



Il-Hagar museum will be celebrating its eighth anniversary this month with a programme of activities, it is also the third year from Maestro Joseph Vella's sudden demise.

The cultural centre said on Friday, the 26th, February there is the opening of an exhibition highlighting connections between Joseph Vella and Oliver Friggieri, another genius who left us recently – A meeting of Minds – at 6.30pm.

Then on Saturday, the 27th February there are three events planned, beginning with the Third Joseph Vella Memorial Lecture at 10.0am, by Rev Professor Saviour Caruana – about St Augustine's De Musica. This will be followed by the opening of an exhibition of Sacred Art by Aaron Formosa – Twilights. And in the evening at 8pm, St George's Basilica hosts a recital by the Laudate Pueri choir.

On Sunday the 27th February at 11am, there will be a Mass at the Basilica in suffrage of Il-Hagar's benefactors with the participation of the Laudate Pueri choir.

Also from the 22nd of February to the 6th of April, the cultural centre will be hosting a philatelic exhibition – Malta's First in Gozo. Opening hours are 9am to 5pm seven days a week.

Il-Hagar, which is located in St George's Square, Victoria, said that further details will be given in the coming days, but registration for any of the events is now open on events@heartofgozo.org.mt.

THE TRADITION OF BELL-RINGING IN MALTA

Malta's lengthy campanology history bells everywhere

ALBERT FENECH

Valletta's Victory Bell. George Gordon, 6th Baron Byron and more popularly known as Lord Byron (born 1788 and died 1824 with fever, aged 36) loved the Mediterranean, its romance and its climate. However, he detested Malta – and perhaps for his good personal reasons. He lived in Italy for seven years and is regarded still as a hero in Greece when he joined Greek forces and fought with them in the Greek War of Independence from the Ottoman Empire. One of England's greatest poets, a long-distance swimmer of great fame and with a notorious reputation as a womaniser, he paid two visits to Malta in the first years of the 19th Century. During the first, a stop-over on the way to Greece, he fretted and fumed on his ship's deck in harbour after being refused permission to land as the vessel was quarantined as the result of an outbreak of Yellow Fever on board. On his second, a return from Greece, he landed in Valletta and hated every moment and furiously described Malta's capital city as a place of "Hells, bells and smells".

Despite his splendid and rugged physique and his athletic feats he was disabled in one leg and walked with a heavy limp. Valletta is built on a slope, rising at the entrance and descending towards the Grand Harbour. Byron struggled with the ups and downs, including the stairs to be found in many streets as pavements – and hence his "hells".

Statue to Greek War of Independence hero Lord Byron in Athens. Malta has over 350 churches and chapels. Each town and village has its splendid Parish Church. Larger cities like Valletta have three parishes and a wealth of minor churches and chapels. All of them had and have their bells.

These played an important role in daily life. The poor had no pocket clocks on gold or silver chains to mark the time of day. Their day was apportioned by the angle of the sun and the tolling of church bells. These

chimed the Matins at the crack of dawn, the Angelus at Noon and Benediction in the evening – every evening, 24/7.

Malta's Archbishop Charles J. Scicluna blessing the new bell with olive twigs and leaves.



In addition, church clocks chimed the quarters and the hours. They peeled loudly when fresh news occurred – such as parish births or marriages (they were the news media of the time), tolled heavily to announce parish deaths and during funerals. They peeled joyously and loudly on Sundays and on feast days, at baptisms, First Holy Communion and Confirmation days, on the arrival of a dignitary such as a Bishop or a new Parish Priest and – in short – never stopped. On every Friday at precisely 15.00 they tolled

sombrely to mark Christ's Crucifixion and death. These obviously riled Lord Byron no end – and with good reason!

However, he seems to have been indifferent to the city's baroque structures, its parallel grid streets and many splendid palaces. Nowadays, much of this campanology has declined and almost all bells have been mechanised and have timers and melodious tones. Still, there are objections because it has become a human mission to find fault in everything and accusations of church bells disturbing night sleep and siesta snoozes, disturbing pet dogs, cats, budgies and anything else that can conceivably be disturbed.

This trend of thought came to mind during the week because a splendid new bell manufactured in a French foundry has been installed in the belfry at the Mdina Cathedral, replacing a bell that had been there working faithfully for 519 years – and was therefore a part of history! Even so, it was not the oldest bell at Mdina as this is a bell that was installed in the year 1370.

Think of it – these lived through the arrival and departure of the Knights, lived through the Great Siege of



BIRKIRKARA CHURCH- MALTA

1565, the building of Valletta to substitute Mdina as Malta's capital city, lived through the coming and going in Malta of Napoleon Bonaparte, the arrival of the British in Malta, the French and Russian revolutions, US independence, two World Wars, space travel, the conception of mobile 'phones and the internet and, so many, many other things.

These have now been retired to the cathedral's museum for a well-earned rest.

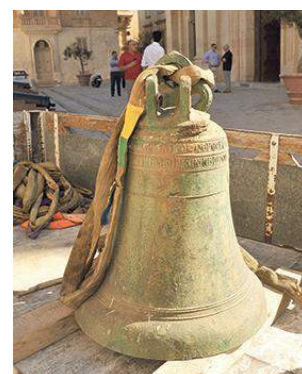
The Birkirkara Parish Church of St Helen prides itself as having the largest bell in Malta because there was an epoch of

pique and rivalry as to who owned the largest bell – as well as the largest dome, the tallest spire, the widest parvis and other such pettiness.

The old bell that gave 519 years of service. Remarkable too that most churches displayed not one but two clocks on their facade bearing Roman numerals. One was an accurate time-keeper and the other distorted time – designed to confuse the Devil as to the actual time!

In all, it is estimated that in Malta there are 44 bells dating back to the 17th Century, 169 from the 18th, 307 from the 19th Century and 288 from the 20th Century. The considerable increase during the 19th Century was the result of Maltese bell foundries that went into gradual decline. Birkirkara's St Helen Parish Church boasts the largest bell in Malta. One clock is always awry to confuse the devil!

And, as if these are not enough there was the recent construction of a Bell Tower in Valletta overlooking the Grand Harbour to commemorate victory in World War II. If only these bells could talk – what a rich history they have lived through to relate! Most bells nowadays run on clock mechanics. Mosta does not have the largest bell but certainly has the largest dome.



A Siggiewi fisherman, Jesmark Scicluna, the star of Maltese film "Luzzu", was awarded the World Cinema Dramatic Special Jury Award in Acting at the Sundance Film Festival on Tuesday night. Luzzu is directed by Maltese-American writer and director Alex Camilleri and produced by Rebecca Anastasi, Ramin Bahrani and Oliver Mallia,

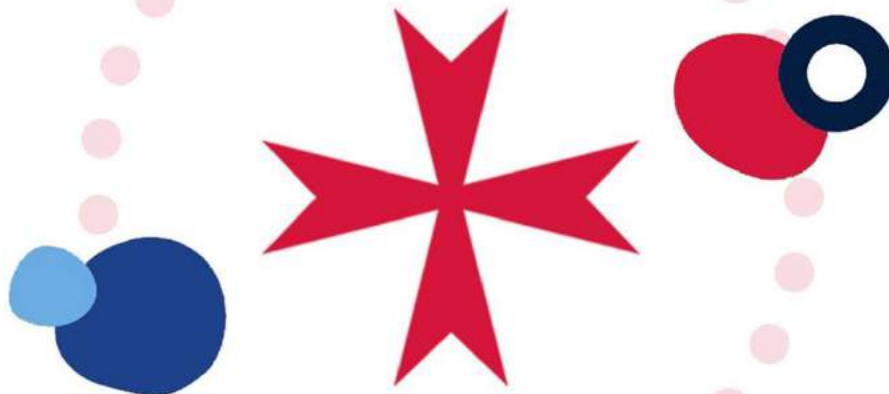


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