We, Maltese living abroad, are waiting anxiously to visit Malta and Gozo

Maltese eNewsletter

Journal of Maltese Living Abroad

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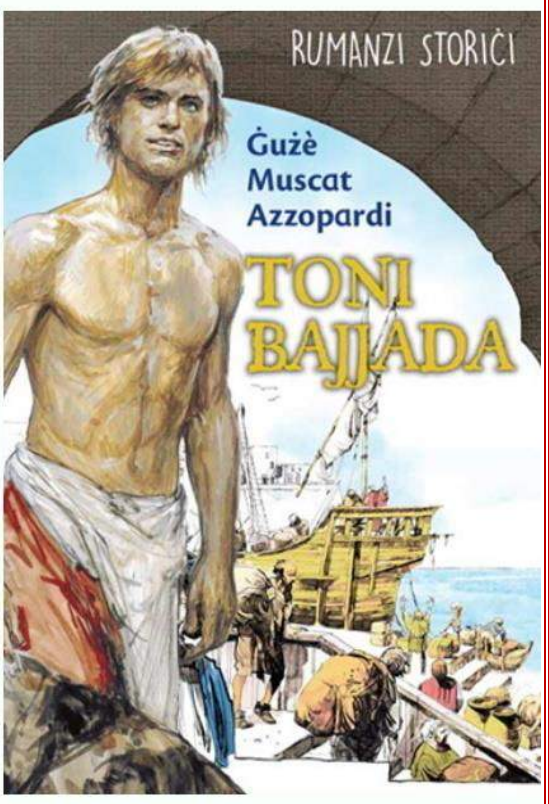


PROUDLY CELEBRATING

NAIDOC WEEK

CELEBRATING NAIDOC WEEK

HEAL COUNTRY!

4-11 JULY 2021

AUSTRALIA

Fr. Gabriel Stephen Micallef OFM

A LETTER FROM FR. GABRIEL S MICALLEF

Dear Frank and all members of the Maltese Community of Adelaide,

It's almost two years that I was bound to pack up and go home. Something I never dreamt of. But man proposes and God disposes. Some reasons are not to be publicised. With the way things came to happen, there was no alternative for me but to leave behind the flock I had so much at heart and who for so many years– were my family, together with Franciscan sisters and parishioners both english and Italian speaking and most at heart all the Maltese Community of South Australia. Often times I look back at the almost twenty four years I spent in Adeleide as shepherd of the Maltesese Community. His Grace Mons Leonard Anthony Faulkner accepeted me with open hands and later Archbishop Philip Wilson was a next father to me. Strength and mostly mental health forced me to leave behind the big loving family of South Australia. It expanded from Broken Hill in N.S.W. to Mt. Gambier in the South.

For the first few months, beleive it or not, I didn't want to hear anymore about Adelaide and our community anymore. I was suffering from a severe break-down. I never dreamt of being the one to close the Franciscan Mission at Lockleys - I came to the point of not even renewing my Australian passport, of which I was so proud of.

Not that I detest being Gozitan and Maltese – am so proud of it - it was my father who instilled in me the love for Australia. He served with the Australian Forces in Tessalonika during the First Worl War and they promised him heaven on earth in Australia. War finished he came to Australia and was stationed at Murray Bridge joining a throng of Gozitans and Maltese in the construction of the bridge. But, leaving behing his sweetheart on Gozo, he returned to Malta two years later by way of land ans sea. Depression hit hard Australia, then and after he had joined some of his mates working in a tuna-factory in Port Pirie they had no choice but to walk all the way to Brisbane as "a helping hand" on farms - wherefrom he got papers (which I still got) enabling him to travel to Malta by sea. He kept telling us how beautiful and welcoming Adelaide is, that I decided one day to come over there and serve the Maltese Catholic Community.

I happened to be In Brisbane, at my sister Toni's house when on Christmas 1995 I phone my Provincial, Fr. Raymond, who happened to be in Adelaide, to give him the Christmas Greetings. He told me that he was there to close the Mission. There and then, I offered myself to come to Adelaide and continue with the Mission the Franciscans had started some fifty years earlier. I had some experience working with expatriots when I was in Libya, some of whom were Aussies, mostly from Perth, tending the sheep flocks ordered by the then Colonel Gheddafi. Immediately the next July I was there. I took it at heart to care for the Maltese over there, and also the parishioners at Lockleys both English and Italian speaking. These, together with other nationalities, formed part of who I was and still am.

Thank God my health is recovering, even though I still have to undergo some further operations. This coronavirus kept me from being operated upon and hopefully in the near future there might be a ray of light on this taking place. I really keep my tears when I look backwards and relive the experience I have left behind, especially the ageing Maltese community, who now, more that ever, are in need of spiritual assistance and sustinance, not only in South Australia but also up north in Brisbane, Queensland.

What a pity, that most of our religious and social activities are not taking place anymore!! That's what made us **Maltese** and made expats look upon us and join us. Christmas Midnight Mass, Holy Week Devotions, weekly devotions, Our Lady Queen of Victories Festa, Patron of the Maltese, etc, etc. I'm so sorry for those who have passed away from our Community - may I extend my condolonces to their family members. May they rest in peace*. Il-Mulej jagħtihom il-Mistrieħ ta' Dejjem. Amen*.

Thank God, my superiors here in Malta have treated me very well. I'm staying at our St Anthony Friary in Ghajnsielem, Gozo. My room has a bay window overlooking the channel between Malta and Gozo, with Comino in the centre. Ferries are crossing continually, especially with the addition of the catamaran service which takes you form here to Valletta in less than 45 minutes.

It's a small community of Friars, and my nephews and nieces make sure that I am well taken care of. I can't promise you to visit you in Australia, but I still hope, with the pandemic over, to entertain you in Gozo.May I take this opportunity to send my regards and say ***Thank You*** to all those who write or ring me from time to time. May God bless you all and keep you in his love.

We thank you for all you have done for us

Road to the Euros final

The final of Euro 2020 will take place on Sunday 11 July 2021.

The match will bring the curtain down on a 30-day football festival at this year's Euros, which could spark big money moves for the top performing players and coaches.

The Euros tournament was delayed a year due to the Covid pandemic but maintained its original branding to celebrate 60 years of the UEFA European Championships.

What time does the Euros final kick off?

The Euro 2020 final will kick off at 8pm (BST) on 11 July 2021.

The UK's British Summer Time (BST) is an hour behind the Central European Summer Time (CEST) due to the different time zones around the world.

Which city will host the Euro 2020 final?

Wembley Stadium has been selected as the venue to host the Euro 2020 final from the remaining cities where tournament matches are being played.

Located in London, England, the new Wembley is a 90,000-seater stadium but not all of the ground will be full for the final due to ongoing Covid regulations.

The UK government has confirmed Wembley can run at 75% capacity for the final as part of its testing programme to allow large crowds back to live sporting and music events.

There had been speculation the final would be moved from Wembley to Budapest if overseas fans travelling to London would be forced to quarantine for 10 days, with talks ongoing.

UEFA, European football's governing body, confirmed a contingency plan was in place but had no plans to move the semi-finals or the final away from Wembley.

PROPOSALS FROM MALTESE LIVING ABROAD

to whom in may concern

OFFERING E-ID

This journal, that speaks on behalf of Maltese living abroad, would like to propose the creation of an e-ID for Maltese living overseas through which they can access government services. Identity Malta has not excluded this request but explained that it will be too complicated one, as it would require an additional cost and the creation of new software to cater for a new tier of people who are technically not eligible for an ID card.

MALTESE CHAPLAINS

Another problem facing Maltese communities living in other countries is the declining of priests and religious serving in the diaspora. But a call for expression of interest issued by the Maltese Curia has not been successful. Since the church faces a similar problem at home, it is unlikely that more Maltese priests will be willing to serve in countries where Maltese live.

MALTESE LANGUAGE

We would like to see the creation of a digital platform for the teaching of the Maltese language for the younger generations to maintain the native language. The current courses offered by the University are too expensive to entice third-generation Maltese who have lost touch with their language.

NAIDOC Week 2021 in AUSTRALIA

NAIDOC Week celebrations are held across Australia each July to celebrate the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. NAIDOC is celebrated not only in Indigenous communities, but by Australians from all walks of life. The week is a great opportunity to participate in a range of activities and to support your local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community. Each year, Australians come together to celebrate NAIDOC Week and to honour the history, cultures, contribution and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. This year, NAIDOC Week is celebrated from 4 - 11 July and the theme is Heal Country, heal our nation. This theme recognises that, for First Nations, 'Country' is more than a place and is inherent to Aboriginal identity.

Country' sustains lives in every sense - spiritually, physically and culturally.NAIDOC Week 2021 invites the nation to embrace First Nations' cultural knowledge and understanding of Country as part of Australia's national heritage. 'Country' sustains lives in every sense - spiritually, physically and culturally.NAIDOC Week 2021 invites the nation to embrace First Nations' cultural knowledge and understanding of Country as part of Australia's national heritage.

Ruben Zahra Artistic Director's Foreword

As the measures surrounding the pandemic are gradually lifted, the Malta International Arts Festival (MIAF) is pioneering what it means to safely produce cultural events in keeping with the continued measures against COVID-19. MIAF does not only 'programme' events but also 'curates' productions by proposing new collaborations, fostering interdisciplinary expression and connecting local talent with international artists. The programming for MIAF is driven by artistic excellence and embraces all demographics – leading to family friendly productions as well as community events. This past year has taught us that the online video format is a highly creative medium with the capacity to engage wide audiences and therefore we are including new video productions in this year's edition of the festival whereby each production is curated, directed, filmed and edited as an artwork. We invite you to join us on an exciting and eclectic journey … which may take you out of your comfort zone ... but that will certainly captivate and entertain.

Annabelle Stivala - CEO Foreword

It is my pleasure to welcome you this edition of the Malta International Arts Festival.

Arts festivals are held all throughout different parts of the world, with the aim of creating an experience of diverse artistic cultures, and Malta's International Arts Festival is no exception. Through MIAF we manage to offer a holistic cultural experience through an artistically rich performing arts programme. We take great pride in the fact that MIAF offers local artists the unique opportunity to collaborate with some of the most talented international artists through residencies and other projects.

Given the restrictions brought forth by the global pandemic, this year the MIAF will mainly focus on local artists, in effort to promote their work, while providing them with an opportunity to perform and showcase their talents after such challenging times.

We hope you enjoy this year's programme of events as much as we have enjoyed programming it!

News agency Reuters reports Pope Francis may visit Malta later this year

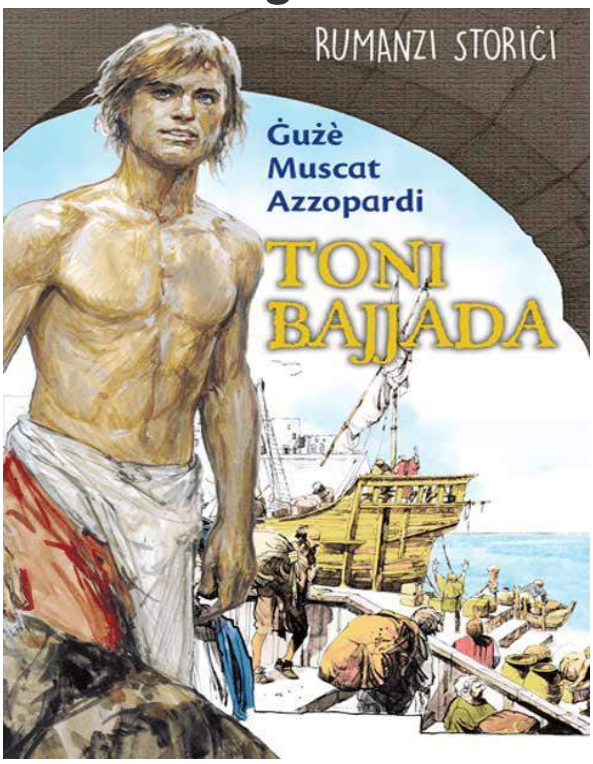
Pope Francis has announced during today's Angelus from his quarters in The Vatican that in September he will be carrying out official visits to Slovakia and the Hungarian capital, Budapest.

These will be his second visits outside Italy this year following his visit to Iraq in February. All his planned visits last year had to be postponed because of the pandemic.

The Pope is expected to celebrate Holy Mass in Budapest on 12th September and then proceed to Slovakia where he will visit Bratislava, Presov, Kosice, and Sastin.

In the meanwhile the international news agency Reuters quoted its sources within The Vatican that later in the year Pope Francis will be visiting Malta and Cyprus. The Pope had to visit Malta in May of last year but this had to be postponed because of the pandemic.

A hero whose tactics helped the Knights of Malta win the 1565 siege



Several streets in Malta have been named after him!

Caroline Curmi *guidmemalta.com*

Spying tactics have evolved during the ages, but they have always been a significant part of warfare. For a group of local men, this involved infiltrating Turkish camps and carefully seeking out information which could later be relayed to the Grand Master Jean de la Vallette in the hopes of securing a win against Ottoman forces.

Four Maltese men played an instrumental role in this operation; Andrew Zahra, James Pace, Anton Cascia and Francis Xerri, but it is the fifth man of the group, Toni Bajada, that went down in popular history for his feats of bravery.

Once a prisoner of the Turks, Toni had used his time in captivity wisely and picked up the language. Little did he know that this skill would become invaluably useful during the Great Siege. Hand-picked by La Vallette himself, Toni, along with the other four spies would pass themselves off as Turkish soldiers, with his knowledge of the language undoubtedly facilitating the task of eavesdropping and siphoning crucial information from the enemies.

He is most celebrated for his incredible physical feats – not with a sword or bow, but with swimming. Indeed, during the sieges on Birgu and Senglea, he would swim between the two cities under the cover of darkness, relaying crucial information to the Knights and Maltese people. This arrangement continued for an extended period of time, after which he'd swim back to his original post to continue his mission for another day.

As popular history dictates, Toni is often remembered as the ultimate (but unofficial) Maltese hero during the Great Siege. Several streets across the islands have in fact been named after him, most notably an alley in Valletta while a book was published about his feats, penned by Emilio Lombardi. While the role he and his team mates played was instrumental in spinning a win for the Knights of Malta, there were many other Maltese civilians who served their cause with equal bravery.

Over 3,000 Maltese men joined the Maltese defence as soldiers, with many them falling in battle. Total civilian casualties reach 7,000 and the Knights of Malta too suffered great losses, with a bit more than a third of their troops succumbing to their injuries.

Here's a thanks to all the brave men that risked and laid down their lives for us!

Facts about Dragut the man who ALMOST conquered Malta

Caroline Curmi

The greatest pirate warrior of all time lay two official sieges on the Maltese islands

Many locals smirk at the mention of Dragut's name: known as the pirate lord who enslaved the majority of Gozo's population in 1551, he also almost destroyed Malta during the Great Siege in 1565, before perishing during the same war.

For all locals know, Dragut was the prime terrorizing force in the Mediterranean in the 16th century, a belief enhanced by popular references to Dragut as 'the uncrowned king of the Mediterranean' and 'the Greatest Pirate warrior of all time.' But what else is there to know about the Turkish corsair?

HIS ORIGINS ARE UNCLEAR Infamous for being a brilliant tactician and fighter within the Ottoman Empire's fleet, historians are having trouble confirming the religion he was born into. Nevertheless, it is believed that Dragut was a practising Muslim throughout his adult life. Dragut was spotted by an Ottoman army commander when he was only 12 years old. Extremely talented with handling spears and arrows, he was recruited by the army and became a skilled sailor, gunner, cannoneer and master of siege artillery.

DRAGUT IS NOT HIS REAL NAME In popular culture today, and even amongst his peers back in the day, he was referred to by the nickname Dragut. His birth name is actually Turgut Reis. A pirate's best friend is rum, but Dragut was no ordinary corsair. His best friend was Hayredin Barbarossa, a fellow Ottoman corsair who later beame Admiral of the Ottoman Navy, securing Ottoman dominance over the Mediterranean throughout the mid-16th century.

THE SLAVER WAS ENSLAVED HIMSELF There are some parallels between Grand Master La Vallette and nemesis Dragut, and the main connection is that both were slaves at some point during their lives. Caught off guard as he was fixing his ships in Girolata, Dragut was imprisoned during a surprise ambush and spent four years as a galley slave.

There were multiple attempts by Barbarossa to free Dragut from slavery, but offers of ransoms were always rejected. It took a siege threat to secure a deal, and Barbarossa paid 3.500 gold ducats for his best friend's freedom. That's in excess of €500,000 in today's money! During his lifetime, Dragut was appointed Bej, or ruler, of Algiers and Djerba, Beylerbey of the Mediterranean and Tripoli. In March 1556, the Turkish corsair was appointed Pasha (governor-general) of Tripoli where he strengthened the city and extended the Ottoman empire's hold over North Africa.

DRAGUT HAD A THING FOR GOZO Prior to the infamous siege of Gozo in 1551, Dragut had landed on the island at least twice before, raiding and ransacking the island every time.

Contrary to popular belief, Dragut was not a young(ish) soldier, but was almost an octogenarian at the time of his death. Although the year of his birth is known, the exact day and month are not recorded, meaning he would have been either 79 or 80 when he perished during the Great Siege of Malta.

HIS DEATH GRANTED THE KNIGHTS OF ST JOHN A VICTORY Dragut's death was a major loss for the Ottoman empire, and caused internal squabbles amongst the remaining commanders, leading to a string of bad tactical decisions which led to a Maltese victory. Many historians believe that had he survived, the Great Siege's outcome would have been completely different.

DRAGUT'S HOMETOWN WAS RENAMED TO HONOUR HIS GREAT FEATS Dragut's hometown was named Turgutreis, and he continues to enjoy fame and respect in Turkey to this day. In Malta, a place within the Tigne area in Sliema was also named after him. Referred to as Il-Ponta ta' Dragut, or Dragut Point, to mark the place where he established his first battery for the bombardment of Fort St Elmo in 1565, we doubt locals share the same admiration for the brilliant military strategist as his countrymen do.

The National Book Council is proud to present the official poster of the 2021 Malta Book Festival to be held between Wednesday 3 and Sunday 7 November at the Malta Fairs & Conventions Centre (MFCC), Ta' Qali.

Illustrated by Emma Galea Naudi, this year's vibrant Festival poster features a number of Easter eggs – look closely to find them! – referencing classic works of children's literature such as *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, *Alice in Wonderland*, and the *Harry Potter* series, as well as fairy tales including *Rapunzel* and *Jack and the Beanstalk*.

Much like the protagonists of these stories grow to overcome their isolation, the poster is built around the idea of overcoming the one we've experienced over the past year, propped up by a good book as the greatest source of inspiration. Graphic design work on the poster is by BloomCreative.

For the 2021 edition, the Festival will be making use of an expanded exhibition space for publishers, booksellers and NGOs, and activity areas for the numerous book presentations and discussions. With over 8,000 square metres of footage, book stands will be larger and corridors wider, thus allowing for a more comfortable book browsing and purchasing experience at the MFCC (as well as hassle-free parking).

In the coming weeks the National Book Council will be revealing the name of the Festival's renowned international guest, and closer to the date will be announcing the Festival's cultural programme with events for all ages. As in previous years, the 2021 Malta Book Festival will be inaugurated with the awards ceremony for the winners of the Terramaxka Prize for children and adolescents' literature held on the eve of the public opening.

While preparations for this year's Malta Book Festival are well underway, the National Book Council will be adhering to the national health authorities' directives on public gatherings to ensure the safest possible experience.

Prospective exhibitors are reminded that they can apply for exhibition stands on the website- www.ktieb.org.mt/malta-book-festival-2021-exhibitors-application-form/ by Monday 9 August at 12.00pm (noon).

For further updates on the 2021 Malta Book Festival follow the Malta Book Festival page on www.ktieb.org.mt/ and the NBC Facebook page.

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Maltese-Canadian Museume - Toronto, several schools and libraries
websites; ozmalta.com., Maltese Community Council of Victoria
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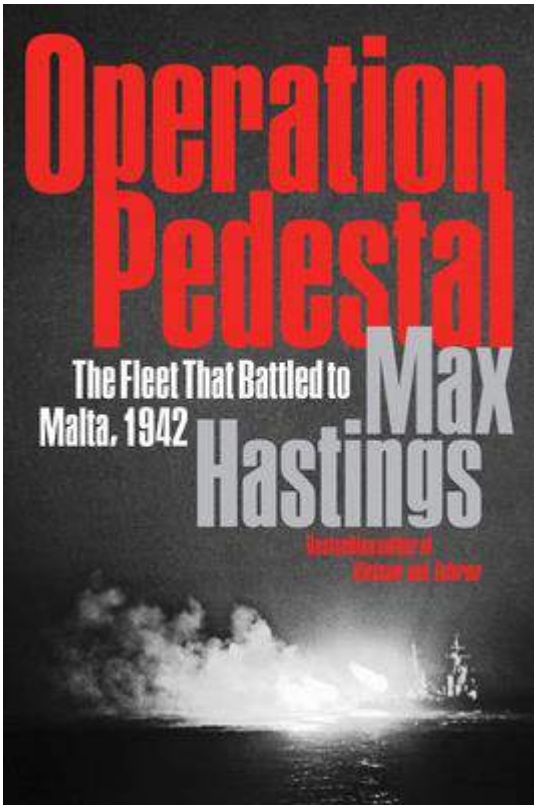


Operation Pedestal

The Fleet That Battled to Malta, 1942

By Max Hastings
Hardback, 464 pages
Published 1 June 2021

Renowned historian Max Hastings recreates one of the most thrilling events of World War II: Operation Pedestal, the British action to save its troops from starvation on Malta--an action-packed tale of courage, fortitude, loss, and triumph against all odds.

In 1940, Hitler had two choices when it came to the Mediterranean region: stay out, or commit sufficient forces to expel the British from the Middle East. Against his generals' advice, the Fuhrer committed a major strategic blunder. He ordered the Wehrmacht to seize Crete, allowing the longtime British bastion of Malta to remain in Allied hands. Over the fall of 1941, the Royal Navy and RAF, aided by British intelligence, used the island to launch a punishing campaign against the Germans, sinking more than 75 percent of their supply ships destined for North Africa.

But by spring 1942, the British lost their advantage. In April and May, the Luftwaffe dropped more bombs on Malta than London received in the blitz. A succession of British attempts to supply and reinforce the island by convoy during the spring and summer of 1942 failed. British submarines and surface warships were withdrawn, and the remaining forces were on the brink of starvation.

Operation Pedestal chronicles the ensuing British mission to save those troops. Over twelve days in August, German and Italian forces faced off against British air and naval fleets in one of the fiercest battles of the war, while ships packed with supplies were painstakingly divided and dispersed. In the end only a handful of the Allied ships made it, most important among them the SS Ohio, carrying the much-needed fuel to the men on Malta.

As Hastings makes clear, while the Germans claimed victory, it was the British who ultimately prevailed, for Malta remained a crucial asset that helped lead to the Nazis' eventual defeat. While the Royal Navy never again attempted an operation on such scale, Hasting argues that without that August convoy the British on Malta would not have survived. In the cruel accountancy of war, the price was worth paying. www.fishpond.com.au/Books/Operation-Pedestal-Max-Hastings

IF YOU HAVE A STORY TO TELL AND A PHOTO TO SHOW SEND THEM TO US

MALTESE-FRENCH - Laura Besançon (Infrastructures of Care)

Laura Besançon (b:1993, Malta) is a Maltese-French multidisciplinary artist. During her undergraduate degree in Communications and Psychology at the University of Malta, Laura began to turn towards a fine art approach in researching her fields of studies. In 2017-2019 she pursued an MA Photography degree at the Royal College of Art where she developed a multifaceted practice. Central to Laura's practice are notions of play, connectivity and place explored through a playful approach which often utilises various communication tools as part of the process. She is also interested in turning things around through appropriation, reconfiguration, shifting perspectives and playful action. Her work also explores the concept of the in-between and seeming dualities. She was a finalist for the 2019 MTV RE:DEFINE Award by the Goss-Michael Foundation and the 2020 Aesthetica Art Prize.

Recent works include *Alone, Together* (2018-) where residents living in tower blocks are invited to participate in a live work. www.laurabesancon.com

Fuse - fuse is a collaborative visual arts and research project developed by Elyse Tonna and produced by the Valletta Cultural Agency, which responds to the communities and contexts surrounding the Biċċerija area (Old Abattoir) building in Valletta. Eight artists and collectives are exhibiting their works including Aaron Bezzina, Victor Agius, Tom van Malderen, Laura Besancon, Noah Fabri, Fatima AM and Chakib Zidi, Text Catalogue and Andrea Zerafa, Samuel Ciantar, Giola Cassar and Aprille Zammit.

Maskarat
tini perlina
għax warajk
għandek xadina.
Minflok waħda
tini tnejn
għax tiddobba
xi daqqtejn.

Johnny Ġonta
fi mnieħru
għandu ponta
ponta mhux musmar
naqqarhielu
d-dundjan

tar-rizzi waqa' l-baħar
tal-imħar qabeż għalih
tar-rizzi tela' jiġri
tal-imħar baqa' fil-qiegħ

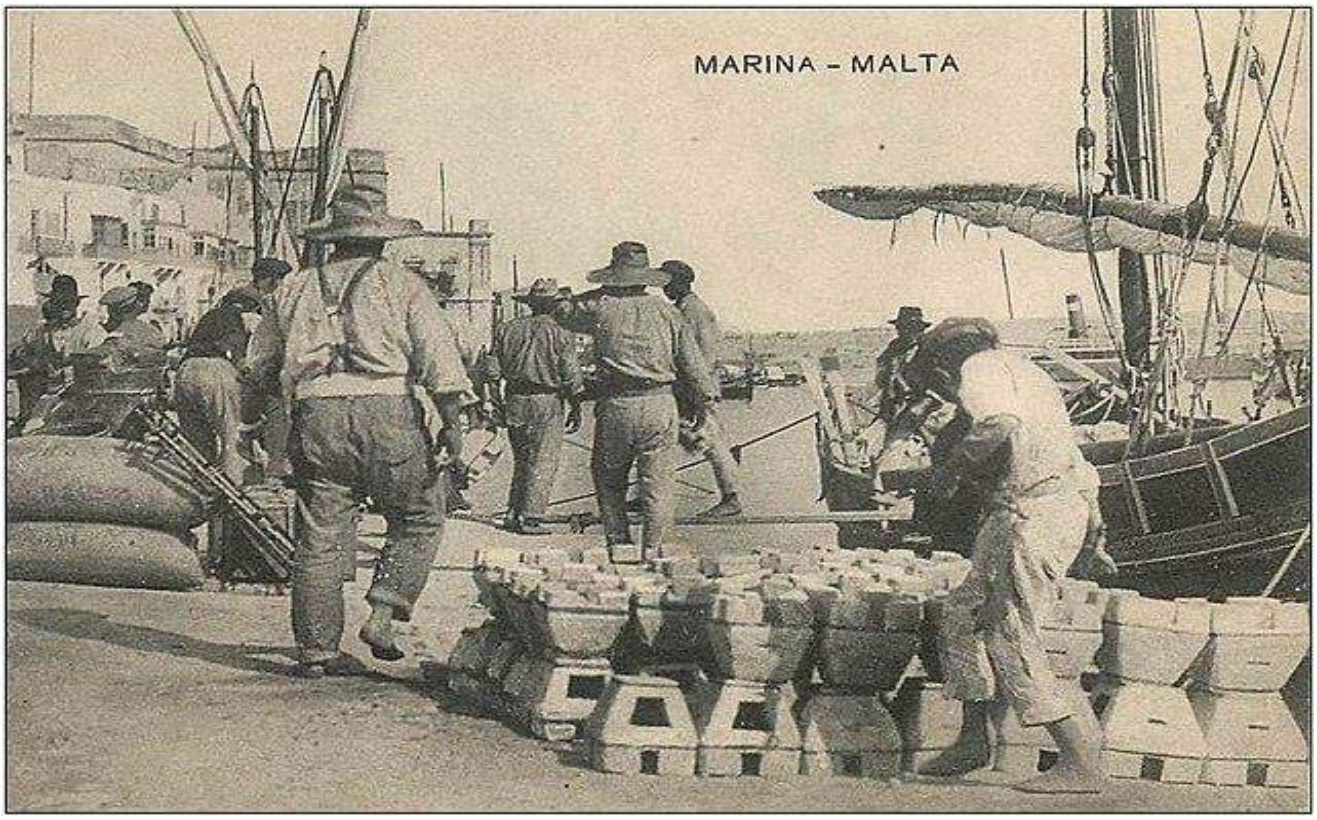
Lanċa ġejja u oħra sejra
minn Tas-Sliema għal Marsamxett
il-kaptan bil-pipa f'ħalqu
jidderieġi l-bastiment.
Sewwa sewwa f'nofs ta' baħar
il-kaptan ħassu ħażin
ma kellux min idur miegħu
daru miegħu l-baħrin.
Agħmillu karta, agħmillu karta,
agħmillu karta għal tax-xjuħ!

FACEBOOK - kelmakelma.mt

DAWRA DURELLA

This is a Maltese rhyme which the children used to sing whilst going round and round. When the rhyme comes to an end they all sit down.

Dawra durella
qabża żigarella
ċoff tal-bellus
ċaqċaqhielu lill- għarus
axxa, axxa
missieru mastrudaxxa
mela wieħed, tnejn, tlieta !



"Marina Malta" postcard: Maltese stoves, *kenur*, being offloaded from boats at Lascaris Wharf, now part of Pinto Wharf. Kwiener were made in Gozo, somewhere in St Dominica Street, Victoria.

COOKING ON A KENUR

Due to the lack of fire-wood ovens in centuries past, a slow cooking method was used to prepare most Maltese dishes. Food was placed in earthenware pots over a little stone hearth called "kenur" The Stone Cooker was a cooking implement made from a Maltese stone and worked very effectively for many years, The cooker or firebox had a hole in the bottom where the firewood is placed.

On the top, a grate was cut from the stone itself allowing the heat to rise and heat the pots or pans. which needed constant tending and fanning. Subsequently, slow simmering became something of the hallmark of many Maltese dishes and despite the introduction of gas and electric cookers, slow cooking is still the housewife's favourite.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS IN ADELAIDE, SOUTH AUSTRALIA

ADELAIDE
SOUTH AUSTRALIA

1. Maltese Guild of SA – 1 August 2021
2. Maltese Senior Citizens Association – 6 August 2021
3. Maltese Community Radio – 15 August 2021
4. St. Catherine Society 22 August 2021

HUMBLE HOBZA, THE STAPLE OF LIFE FOR MALTESE SOCIETY

The knife slices through the dark crusty outer of the bread. The serrated knife explodes the hard crisp loaf sending dark brown shards rippling across the board. Warm in your hand, the dense interior, the soft inside is punctured with holes formed by air bubbles. Slicing through the Hobza is cutting into hundreds of years of Maltese and European history.

The significance of bread to the Maltese people was brought to life in Episode two of *For the Love of Bread*, recently broadcast on SBS TV.

The interviewer discussed with Doctors Rachel Radmilli and Noel Buttegieg from the University of Malta, about how the association with bread is more than just a food in the Maltese society and how Hobz has played a critical role in Maltese life over hundreds of years.

The show fired my desire to find out more about the role this baked dough played in Maltese history. I took a deeper dive into the significance of bread with Doctor Radmilli and her colleague Professor Carmel Cassar.

Hobz has been integral to the Maltese culture from history through the middle-ages to the modern day, finding its central role in religion, language, rituals and societal constructs.

The humble Hobz through the lens of its colour, has defined poverty, denoted class and illustrated personal situations. Until the twentieth century, the darker bread, less refined, was eaten mainly by the working class and the white or refined bread typically associated with the upper classes. Asking the question "Tell me what bread you eat." Identified a person's status in the structures of Maltese society.

Bread could be used to assess a person's character with certain types of bread being associated with different socio-economic classes, but the boundaries are blurred nowadays, so the context has changed. To ask someone for a character reference of a friend of theirs: *dak (or dik) x'ħobż jiekol (or tiekol)?* Another related expression is: *dak ħobżu maħbuż!* Which literally means his bread has been kneaded, that can be interpreted as a person having his bed laid for him, ie someone has paved the way for him/her. For example if someone inherits a job or property. A person who has lost their job has *tilef hobzu* (he has lost his bread).

Bread could also be used as a metaphor. The expression of *Il-ħobż tiħ lill min jaf jieklu,* loosely meaning to give the job to the person who knows how, or has the skill to do the job through to its conclusion.

People's strongly held beliefs on the importance of bread were expressed through actions. For example, if bread was dropped to the floor, it was to be picked up, kissed and the sign of the cross made before the cutting. In a religious context, bread would not be touched with a knife but instead only broken by hand.

Being an integral part of Maltese society over hundreds of years, bread has evolved with the island's many influences. Papal reports from the 1500's noted "the people ate bread made from a mixture of barley and wheat". There was a great difference between country and harbour area bread. The country bread was prepared in a floor oven made from baked clay which was often heated by thistle or cow dung and flattened bread stuck on the side, which could have been an early version of Ftira.

The modern round bread was baked in proper ovens and was widely popularised by the Knights. The form is similar to other bread to be found in many parts of south west Europe particularly Italy, France and Spain. Until the 1920s it was made from four ingredients namely flour, water, salt and sour dough (starter or *tinsila*). The British tried to introduce other ingredients but the bakers refused the new methods such as using brewer's yeast.

The humble hobz has driven governments of all persuasions to maintain social cohesion, the Government realised its obligations to keep the people fed with bread lest they provoke a social uprising. When harvest failure meant famine and death the poor wanted a cheap price for bread. Bread needs a steady supply of grain and in Malta all grain needed to be imported with a heavy reliance on Sicily. During the late middle-ages, large amounts of wheat and other cereals were imported from Sicily free of the export duties. Civil disturbances occurred due to food shortages during the *reign of austerity* by Grand master Texada

between 1773 and 1775. Economic mismanagement started in 1728 under Grand Master Vilhena, whose responsibility it was to import duty free grain. Instead he used the country's funds to build a palace and undertake repairs at Mdina. This became a precursor to large debts under later Grand Masters, which lead to out of season wheat purchases from Sicily, at prohibitive prices or at times grains could not be purchased at all, leading to the reduced availability of grain for the population, further fomenting the discontent.

Granaries were built to manage potential disruptions to this crucial supply and ensure Malta's grain security. The island was sometimes at the mercy of pirates, suffered adverse weather conditions and in WW2 was devastated by the German blockade. Seventy four deep silos can still be found in the square known as il-Fosos, in Floriana. The granaries were extremely important historically as a small island like Malta always had a food security issue. Nowadays the granaries are more often used for mass gatherings, such as for the celebrations of the feast of St Publius (The patron saint of Floriana), for political mass meetings and concerts such as the Isle of MTV music festival.

Historically, the grain was taken from the Granaries in Floriana and Valletta to Qormi. Qormi being close to Marsa, adjacent to the Grand Harbour, was a logistical convenience for trading. The Grand Harbour was a vital economic hub for the island during the Knight's period as well as being a military base for many years, where there was a good market for bread.

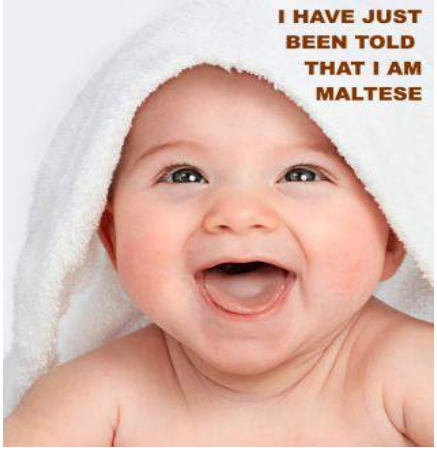
Qormi's proximity to the grain storage at Valletta and Floriana led to Qormi's reputation as being the baking town, where the best and more famous bakeries are still located. There are other locales with well known bakeries such as in Rabat, Mgarr (Malta) and Xaghra in Gozo. Qormi holds the annual bread festival, Lejl f'Casal Fornaro, an excellent evening to roam the traditionally decorated streets of the village, not only to sample its bread-making but also an opportunity to appreciate artistic displays, performances and agricultural exhibitions.

In the sweltering heat of the bakery, as the Maltese baker pulls the loaves from the wood fired oven, the baker is providing people with more than a tasty staple, it is a thread to bind a society. The local baker provides a social service to allow the use of the same ovens, by local families for baking large dishes that needed roasting (like potatoes or pork or *mqarrun il-forn* etc).

The Maltese bread is based on a sourdough starter, the *tinsila*, which in some bakeries has been carefully nurtured over generations. The starter is included in the flour and dough mixture. The careful mixing and resting creates the air bubbles to be later baked at high temperatures often in the traditional wood fired ovens, to produce the Hobza's distinctive hard crust, the hint of a sour flavour and the chewy air pocketed interior.

Observations from visitors to Malta in the late 1700 and early 1800 recorded that the Maltese regularly ate bread with oil, anchovies and onion or garlic. So, the next time in Malta, when you slice into a freshly baked loaf of bread, drizzle the olive oil, smother on the Kunserva and apply a topping of green olives and crunch through the crust, you could be savouring a loaf that was borne from a starter linking over two hundred years of Maltese history.

Acknowledgments: thanks to Doctor Rachel Radmilli (Lecturer, Department of Management, Mediterranean Foodways Platform) and Professor Carmel Cassar (Professor of Cultural History) both from University of Malta. For the Love of Bread available on SBS



CHILD MIGRANTS FROM MALTA TO AUSTRALIA

(In) sensitivity to suffering

Fr Frankie Cini

The monument at the Valletta Waterfront recalling child emigration from Malta. Photo: Shutterstock.com

When Mgr Keenan of Mississauga, Ontario, extolled the "good done" done in residential schools in Canada, a huge outcry followed. His homily's timing showed insensitivity at a particular moment in Canada: the discovery of massive burial sites with unmarked graves of hundreds of children from residential schools that received First Nations children in the 1900s.

Since then, Mgr Keenen has resigned his post as pastor, and the Toronto archdiocese has apologised for the "pain caused by his recent remarks". More than the content of the comments, it was the relative ill-timing of the remarks at a time of raw anger and grief that rankled.

Lest we think this story is far from our shores, we also need to remember that Malta too has its small sad slice of this sordid story. Between 1950 and 1965, 310 children were sent from Malta to Australia in similar residential structures: some of the children recount harrowing experiences of extreme forms of labour and all kinds of abuse. Governments are on record apologising for the suffering caused to this generation of children. Last week's article in this section by Fr Alfred Micallef about this subject amply covered the need for acknowledgement and repentance.

For this to happen, a deep sense of empathy and sensitivity is needed. In the Archdiocese of Malta this year marks the first step in a four-year pastoral plan with the theme for this year being 'A Church that listens'. Here is a clear invitation to truly listen to the pain and suffering being expressed in cases being dug up from the graves of our past systemic failures. Listening is not only about hearing content, but also about keeping ears to the ground for context, nuance, subtlety, and complexity. The plan quotes the Pope's Evangelii Gaudium: "We need to practise the art of listening, which is more than simply hearing. Listening, in communication, is an openness of heart which makes possible that closeness without which genuine spiritual encounter cannot occur." (EG 171).

When does a will to educate become oppressive? As Christians with a message, we tend to jump to the answers before we hear the questions. One of the hardest things to do is to sit in someone's woundedness without saying a word. It's easy to be insensitive, intolerant and downright offensive. Locally we have had our own incendiary Te Deums and other intransigent interventions showing anything but sensitivity to nuance and context.

This does not mean abdicating the truths we hold dear in our faith, or simple kowtowing to extreme forms of political correctness. The Pope has led the way in this, never shying away from addressing pressing concerns in the world without being insensitive or dismissive. Whether by sending a personal note to a Jesuit priest working with the LGBTQ community or arguing for the value of life without being incongruently militant, he strikes a delicate balance between the Gospel imperatives and a sensitivity to the present. When listening is done well, there is a better chance for reconciliation, dialogue and journeying to happen. *Fr Frankie Cini, member, Missionary Society of St Paul*

Source: Time of Malta

We are proud of our Maltese Achievers

A TRIBUTE - A PIONEER OF THE ELDERLY AND OF MIGRANTS

By Dr. George M. Boffa Patron Maltese Elderly Thanksgiving Day
Sister Mary Ann Grima F.M.M. (Franciscan Missionaries of Mary)
4th May !938, Casal Paola, Malta - 30th May 2021, Sydney , Australia

Three years ago, in 2018, the Maltese Elderly Thanksgiving Day Committee organised the 25th Anniversary of this remarkable festival of the Maltese Community and its Senior Citizens.

The Foundress, Sister Mary Anne Grima, was not there She was ill.

Recently, she passed away. Her Funeral Mass was celebrated at St Patrick's Cathedral in Parramatta.

Many of the thousands of Maltese, particularly, the elderly who had benefited from her good works, and many migrants whose settlement in Australia she helped greatly, would have liked to attend.

But circumstances and COVID stifled the genuine desire to show gratitude and to honour her.

Those of us who attended and some who kept away did not need to be reminded who she was and what good she had done.

The Maltese Elderly Thanksgiving Day is but one of her legacies to the elderly, the needy and the uncared for in the Maltese Community.

Like a good Catholic Nun of these modern times, she did much work outside the convent amongst the people of Jesus. She had the social virtues, skills and capabilities, religious conviction, energy, enterprise and courage, to be effective. Beneficially effective she definitely was!

In this brief but heartfelt tribute to her, not many names will be mentioned. Her activities as head of the Maltese Transcultural Mental Health Committee and the enthusiastic ladies who rallied to her call for the Maltese Elderly Thanksgiving Day remain as an example of teamwork under a dedicated inspired leader. Sister Mary Ann had the charisma, like most good leaders, to gather capable people willing to work as a team.

With others she gained grants for the good of the Maltese, organised seminars and proved of great benefit to many. Her courage and conviction led her without fear to appeal to
Maltese businessmen reminding them that their success was built on the support of Maltese Migrants and that they owed something back. Many gave . Some still do with exemplary generosity. Maltese artists and others from other walks of life generously rallied to contribute their talents.

It is all a credit not only to Sister Mary Ann and to those stalwarts who keep her memory and good work alive, but also to the Maltese Community as a whole.

Whenever a need appeared she was forward in improving matters, even venturing into old age facilities to point out necessary improvements. The same goes for dealing with self appointed and self certified leaders among us. It made her unpopular with some but she accepted that as the price personally paid for the greater good.

She worked without the need or desire for recognition, praise or personal advancement and gain. As, admirably, do those who carry on her good work. She did not boast. She did not fuss. She served! As do those who follow her! She served the community and God. We do not see many of her like.

We pray that the Maltese Elderly Thanksgiving will outlive our time. The 25th Anniversary occasion, three years ago, was a milestone. A letter was sent to Ken Wyatt, Minister for Aged Care Services, who sent a gracious reply which was much appreciated.

Another letter was sent to higher authority in Malta. Like several others I am privileged to support her work which I humbly continue as Patron of the Maltese Elderly Thanksgiving Day.
I had first met the Grima family only a short time after I arrived in Sydney to take up a senior appointment at Lewisham Hospital. Mr Grima, Sister Mary Ann's father was unwell in the Mary Potter Wing of that remarkable
hospital of the Blue Sisters. He smiled as I introduced myself. His smile reflected his friendship with my uncle at Casal Paola, in Malta, where Sister Mary Ann was born, and a sense of loyalty and gratitude.
It is with the inheritance and remembrance of those early emotions and the experience of Sister Mary Ann's example that I pay this brief tribute. I am only reflecting the wishes and emotions of worthy people who are grateful to her.

Opera vs Pop Under the Stars

It-13-il Edizzjoni **Kav Joe M Attard** **Rabat Għawdex**

Sa mill-bidu tagħha fl-2002, il-*Gozo Youth Wind Band & Orchestra,* li tikkonsisti f'żewġ gruppi separati ta' mużiċisti żgħażagħ u promettenti, din minn dejjem kellha l-għan li tferraħ u tiddeverti lill-pubbliku inġenerali b'għażla kbira u varjata ta' mużika li tilħaq l-etajiet kollha. Ġejjin minn kull rokna t'Għawdex u mgħejjuna minn xi elementi ta' esperjenza anke dawk residenti barranin li jgħixu fostna, dawn il-mużiċisti jiltaqgħu regularment biex ihejju għażla kbira ta' mużika ta' livell għoli li tindaqq kemm f'Malta kif ukoll f'Għawdex. Kienet żjara f'Għawdex mid-'Derbyshire City & County Youth Band & Orchestra' fl-2001 li tat il-bidu għal dawn iż-żewġ gruppi mużikali Għawdxin taħt id-direzzjoni ta' Mro Dr Joseph Grech.

'Opera vs Pop under the Stars' se tkun it-13-il darba li ser tippreżenta il-'Gozo Youth Orchestra' bl-appoġġ sħiħ tal-Ministeru għal Għawdex u l-Ambaxxata Amerikana għal Malta. Bil-problema tal-pandemija ma' saqajna, dan l-ispettaklu mużikali ta' bħal lum sena kellu jitħassar. Il-kunċert ta' din is-sena se jsir nhar it-Tnejn 2 ta' Awwissu 2021 u jibda fit-8.30pm u dawk li ser jattendu, dejjem skont ir-regulamenti u d-direzzjoi tal-Awtoritajiet tas-Saħħa, għandhom ikunu fil-bitħa tal-Ministeru għal Għawdex, Pjazza San Franġisk Victoria, fit-8.15pm. Il-programm ser isir taħt il-Patroċinju tal-Ministru għal Għawdex l-Onor il-perit Clint Camilleri u x-Charge d'Affairs tal-Ambaxxata Amerikana għal Malta Gwendolyn Wendy Green.

Fil-kunċert se jieħdu sehem s-solisti is-Sopran maltija Nicola Said, il-Baxx minn Għawdex Noel Galea, it-Tenuri Pop Ludwig Galea u Francesco Nicodeme u l-Pop Singer żagħżugħa Għawdxija Sarah Bonnici. Fl-ewwel parti tas-Serata l-orchestra dejjem taħt id-direzzjoni tal-Fundatur tagħha Mro Dr Joseph Grech se tippreżenta siltiet mużikali mill-opri u mużika klassika filwaqt li fit-tieni parti se nkunu nistgħu ngawdu arranġamenti Pop u mużika minn sound tracks tal-films u musicals popolari.

Biljetti jistgħu jiġu rriservati biss billi wieħed jikteb f'dan l-email: gozowindbandorchestra@yahoo.co.uk inkella jċempel 99421611.

Opera vs Pop under the Stars – it-13-il Edizzjoni qed issir bil-kolloborazzjoi sħiħa tal-Ministeru għal Għawdex, l-Ambaxxata Amerikana għal Malta, is-Sezzjoni tal-Kultura fi ħdan il-Ministeru għal Għawdex, Cisk Lager, Kinnie, Duke Boutique Hotel u l-MTA.

Belgian woman, Frenchman came to Malta with laptop to work literally anywhere

Report: Glen Falzon
www.tvm.com.mt/

Can you imagine yourself working from the village square instead of an office? Can you imagine offering your services to clients through the internet from your mobile or laptop?

This is the work reality that is slowly coming into Malta through so-called digital nomads. These are workers whose offices are public places in various countries around the world.

Television Malta spoke with two digital nomads based in Malta.

“Hi. How are you? I’ve recently moved to Malta. The infrastructure is better here. The climate. It’s pretty amazing. You should visit soon. Talk soon. Bye.”

Belgian national Evelin Smit is a digital nomad who said she is trying to entice her friends to take the same step she took and come over to Malta. The digital nomad community in Europe totals 125 million persons.

“I’ve been trying to get my co-workers to move here as well instead of living in Belgium, UK and Poland and it’s beginning to work a bit. Yes. I would definitely promote Malta. I love it here. Yes.”

Instead of working in an office or a factory, these workers work from literally anywhere.

“I just need my computer which is just there. I can work from there and everywhere in the world.”

This young lady has been living in Mellieħa for the last three years. She set up a company offering services for others who require a presence on the internet, particularly after they have been affected by the pandemic.

“More and more companies are interested in expanding their services online, creating e-commerce stores. Right now it’s picking up a lot.”

A French nomad who considers Malta as the ideal country for workers like him offering various services to local companies works and thinks along the same lines.

“We couldn’t go to the shops and we’re helping them to set up websites, we’re helping them in communication and basically to get more clients.”

Both nomads feel very welcomed by the Maltese, although they have visited several other countries all over the world.

“During December and January, I usually spend a month or two months in Bali or in Thailand so that’s my nomad setting. But I like to keep Malta as my nomad base.”

“I travelled the world in Thailand, Japan, Germany, Canary Islands. And at some point, I really wanted to create my company and I came back to Malta and I felt really welcome.”

These two persons did not need a residence permit in Malta. As they are Europeans they enjoy free movement. Residenza Malta Chief Executive Charles Mizzi explained that one month ago Malta opened its doors to digital nomads from countries outside the European Union with the launching of a residence permit for them. The majority of these nomads work in the gaming industry and in informatics.

“There is heavy demand, particularly from the UK, because there is now another market for them, particularly because of Brexit. We are seeing applications from people wishing to work remotely in Malta.”

Mr Mizzi explained that digital nomads pay tax in the country where their employing company is based. Tax is also paid in Malta if these workers provide services to local companies.

Ta' Kola Windmill – XAGHRA, GOZO

Ta' Kola Windmill is open every day EXCEPT for Tuesday between 10:00hrs and 16:30hrs.
During the month of July (ONLY) Ta' Kola Windmill will also be open on Tuesdays
Due to Covid-19, opening times may change and it is advisable to check prior to visiting.

The windmill's name **Ta' Kola** is connected to the last miller, Ġuzeppi Grech, who was popularly known as Żeppu ta' Kola. Yet, this is one of the few surviving windmills on the Maltese Islands dating to the Knights' Period.

Located in Xagħra, Gozo, the origins of this windmill go back to 1725, during the magistracy of **Grand Master Manoel de Vilhena (1722-36)**. Apparently, the use of bad quality stones and mortar, led to its dismantling and reconstruction in the 1780s.

Photo: *Alain Salvary Ta' Kola Windmill by Heritage Malta*

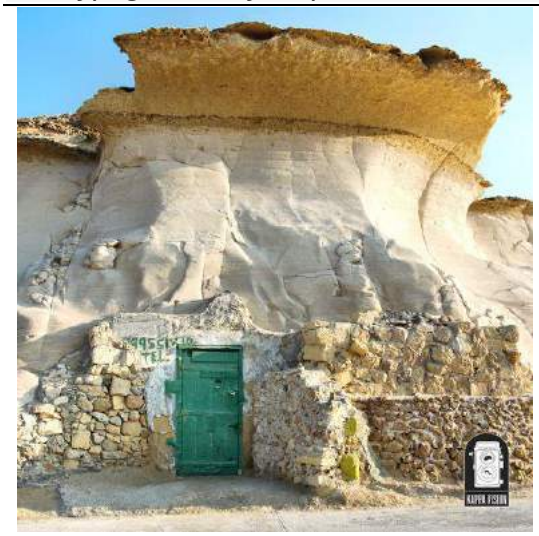
Its construction follows a plan which is echoed in most Maltese windmills of the period consisting of a number of rooms on two floors surrounding the centrally-placed cylindrical stone tower. The latter houses the wooden milling mechanism that still incorporates the original circular grinding stones between which grain is crushed into flour.

When the wind was favourable for the mill to be operated, the miller would let the locals know by blowing through a triton-shell, and villagers would then bring their cereals to be ground into flour. During bad weather, when it was impossible to employ the mill, the miller would have probably dedicated himself to other secondary jobs in order to earn his living.

At the ground floor of this historical windmill, visitors can observe the workshop premises that holds a vast array of tools, some of which were manufactured by the last owners of the mill. On the first floor, the living quarters of the miller, including the kitchen, dining room and bedrooms, were recreated using traditional furniture and items related to Gozitan crafts, to provide a glimpse of this island's local traditional rural life in the past centuries. Various traditional utensils and cooking ware, which today are hard to come across, are exhibited in the kitchen of this windmill.

www.heritagemalta.org/ta-kola-windmill/ Other Heritage Malta sites in the vicinity: Ġgantija Temples.

Heritage Malta said that as usual, the Hal Saflieni Hypogeum will also be open daily. Last minute tickets for the Hypogeum may be purchased from Fort St Elmo as well as on site.



Xwejni Salt Pans Leli tal-Melh

www.facebook.com/kappavision

A salt storage chamber cut into the rock found in Xwejni bay, Żebbuġ, Gozo.

This room for salt storage is found next to the historic salt pans that line the coast of this popular bay. Its crest has eroded over time, leaving a curious mushroom-like top.

THE XWEJNI SALT PANS

Arguably the most famous salt pans on the Maltese islands are the ones at Xwejni in Żebbuġ, Gozo.

Covering several kilometres of the island's northern coastal area, only a small part of them are used these days. One of very few families in the industry is the Xuereb family, who continue this tradition in Gozo, which dates back to Phoenician times. After collecting the summer's harvest, the salt is stored in storage rooms like these, carved into the coastal rock

TV marathon raises €512,870 for Dar tal-Providenza

€512,870 were raised during a TV marathon on Sunday in aid of Dar tal-Providenza.

Homes director Fr Martin Micallef thanked donors and organisers for their help to the institution and its residents. Funds raised during this marathon will be going towards a refurbishing project for four flats in Villa Papa Giovanni so that every resident will have a more dignified environment with private rooms and amenities.

The event included a thanksgiving Mass celebrated by Archbishop Charles J. Scicluna on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of Fr Micallef's priestly ordination. He was joined by Fr Marco Portelli, Fr Charles Attard, Fr Mark Ciantar OFM and Fr Stephen Sciberras OFM, also marking their anniversary. Fr Alex Cauchi could not attend.

Guests in the studios included President George Vella and Mrs. Vella, President Emeritus Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca, Auxiliary Bishop Mgr. Joseph Galea-Curmi and the Leader of the Opposition and the Nationalist Party, Dr Bernard Grech and Mrs. Grech, ministers, parliamentary secretaries and MPs.

Anyone still wishing to make a donation may do so by clicking on the website www.sabihlitaghti.com

TASMANIA (AUSTRALIA) IS 2016 TIMES AS BIG AS MALTA

Malta Malta, officially known as the Republic of Malta, is a Southern European island country consisting of an archipelago in the Mediterranean Sea. It lies 80 km (50 mi) south of Italy, 284 km (176 mi) east of Tunisia, and 333 km (207 mi) north of Libya. With a population of about 515,000 over an area of 316 km^2 (122 sq mi), Malta is the world's tenth smallest country in area and fourth most densely populated sovereign country. Its capital is Valletta, which is the smallest national capital in the European Union by area at 0.8 km2 (0.31 sq mi).

Tasmania (Australia) Tasmania (nicknamed Tassie) is an island state of Australia. It is located 240 km (150 mi) to the south of the Australian mainland, separated by Bass Strait. The state encompasses the main island of Tasmania, the 26th-largest island in the world, and the surrounding 334 islands.

Tasmania's area is 68,401 sq km (26,410 sq mi), of which the main island covers 64,519 sq km (24,911 sq mi) 13 Maltas fit in the Kangaroo Island (South Australia).

MAR FENECH

Recently, Mar had the honour of being the European Union Book Club featured guest on the invitation of the High Commission of Malta (with special thanks to Keith Azzopardi, Melanie Bonnici Bennett, and Raymond C. Xerri). For an hour and a half, she had the opportunity to answer some wonderful questions from readers of my novels from many corners of the globe. www.facebook.com/embassymt

Embassy of the Republic of Malta to the United States

Partners do what needs to be done, end of story

We've all heard the stories, either firsthand or through friends, of a partner who refers to watching his children as "babysitting" or refuses to help around the house because they work or feel as if it is "woman's work." Men are amazing, intelligent, capable creatures but there are *some* men (and yes, some women as well) who, for one reason or another, aren't willing to share in the physical or "mental" load.

John Hoxie shared a poignant message on his Facebook page aimed at partners who feel as if they are somehow deserving of being taken care of without actually taking care of those they love. Hoxie said he was sitting with a friend at home and said, "I'm going to wash the dishes and I'll be right back."

Hoxie said his friend gave him a funny look and said, "I'm glad you help your wife, I do not help because when I do, my wife does not praise me. Last week I washed the floor and no thanks." Hoxie quickly replied, "Actually, my wife does not need help, she needs a partner."

Hoxie explains that when he is contributing to running the household, he's not "helping" his wife — he's taking on his fair share. "I do not help my wife clean the house because I live here too and I need to clean it too," he explains. "I do not help my wife to cook because I also want to eat and I need to cook too. I do not help my wife wash the dishes after eating because I also use those dishes. I do not help my wife with her children because they are also my children and my job is to be a father."

Hallelujah, and thank you, fine sir. I have chosen a partner who does not hesitate to do *whatever* needs to be done. Sometimes he carries a bigger load and sometimes I do. It's not a contest. We are not keeping score. We're parents and we have a family — there are responsibilities that need to be taken care of. But I can't tell you the number of times I've been told how "lucky" I am for all that he does, regardless of the fact that I also have a full time job and fully participate in all that is our life together. Why is that an expectation of most women?

His friend's expectation of praise is also puzzling. Being an adult means taking care of all the things that come with adulting. And while it would be fun to have balloons drop from the sky and a marching band sing, "We Are The Champions" every time we vacuum the floor, we probably shouldn't hold our breath.

"Perhaps you have been taught that all this must be done without having to move a finger? Then praise her as you wanted to be praised, in the same way, with the same intensity," Hoxie writes. "Give her a hand, behave like a true companion, not as a guest who only comes to eat, sleep, bathe and satisfy needs …

"Feel at home. In his house."

IF HYACINTH BUCKET WERE MALTESE

In February 2016, the BBC had confirmed that *Keeping Up Appearances* has so far been the most popular overseas show for the broadcasting service; audiences relate to it because everyone knows a Hyacinth Bucket. And possibly, no other nation has an abundance of Hyacinths more than Malta does.

Imagine if we plucked Mrs Bouquet and her kin out of the Northern suburbs of the UK and planted her here on this isle…

Firstly, she'd reside in the respectable town of Attard in a house called *Cherry Blossom*, right on the cusp of Ħal Balzan, making sure that everyone knows that Her Excellency Marie Louise Coleiro Preca is her neighbour…

She'll probably make Richard drive back and forth in front of San Anton Palace, in order to bump into Her Excellency and invite her to one of her candlelight suppers. But then again, she might just as well start getting competitive over their sense of style…

She'd also have a summer house in High Ridge, where she'd often host outdoors indoors luxury barbecues with finger buffet, but it would be nowhere near as grand as Violet's villa in Santa Maria Estates with her Mercedes, sauna and room for a pony.

She'd have a white slim-line telephone with automatic redial provided by Melita, whose representatives quake in the knees upon reaching her for customer support…

… especially if she's complaining about being mistaken for a Chinese takeaway.

She'd still be just as house proud, with her Royal Doulton with the hand-painted periwinkles bought from Palazzo Parisio. Although, we do suspect that like the upper-class of Malta, she'll make sure she gets herself a Philippina. And now, she'll be able to have a look through other people's washing on the roof, and if she comes across any plastic sofa covers, you know she'll be giving you this face of distaste:

Actually, she'll be giving that face to a number of things, such as *festi*, pastizzi, the buses, names like Xanaja and Shenizienne, people who vote Labour…

Onslow, Daisy and Rose would live in the South, and she'd be just as terrified to visit them. Also, Onslow's TV would have been bought from the *monti*.

She won't be very welcoming about Emmet's divorce, as she'd have probably voted against it. However, upon hearing that Emmet is a musical director, she'll be heading straight to the MADC to try out for their latest Shakespeare at San Anton Palace, reminding everyone that she's neighbours with Her Excellency. She'll be just as overbearing and interfering as many Maltese matriarchs…

… But Sheridan, whom she sent to St Aloysius or San Andrea from infancy, can still do no wrong in mummy's eyes, and he'll probably still be living with her till the age of 35.

Just like his British counterpart, the Maltese Richard would also work *mal-gvern*, but he's still forceful and executive in Hyacinth's eyes. Eve.com.au

MEMORIES.....*Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth delivering the speech at the State opening of Malta Parliament in 1967*

At the Grandmaster's Place, Valletta, Malta

A very rare photo sent to us by C. Walsh (USA)

Procession of St. Gregory in the past

The Origin of St. Gregory's Procession at Zejtun, Malta

The first Wednesday after Easter Sunday is considered a holiday by many, particularly those living at iż-Żejtun and Marsaxlokk. This is the day when the feast of St Gregory is celebrated by many in these localities.

The feast is mainly a religious one, focus around a pilgrimage which up to some decades ago used to start at dawn from Mdina. However today, many flock to Marsaxlokk to spend a whole day playing tombola, listening to *Għana* and eating all sorts of food without knowing anything about the true meaning of this celebration.

But how did this feast originated? There are various theories shared by different historians about this. A number of such theories have been gathered by the historian Cannon Rev Joe Abela in his book *The Parish of Zejtun through the ages.*

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Some suggested that it all started as a vow after the plague of the year 1519. Others thought that it originated as a thanksgiving when Malta was saved from a Turkish attack of 1452. There is also reference to a devastating thunderstorm which occurred in the year 1343. There are some who even said that it was Bishop Birando who started this annual pilgrimage when he walked barefooted all the way from Imdina to Zejtun. The oldest date of origin referred to it the year 1120, when on Good Friday of that year the Arabs tried to take back the possession of the island.

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The only historical document discovered so far about this procession is a decree which was issued by Bishop Cubelles in 1543 calling for an annual pilgrimage to be held on 12th March, feast of St. Gregory. This decree was registered in the Acts of the Curia's Notary Vincenzo Bonaventura de Bonetis on that same day. The call for this pilgrimage was aimed as a prayer to the Almighty God to bring peace among the Christian Powers of Europe and to enlighten the Pope to carry out the necessary reforms within the church. This was the time of the Protestant Reformation which brought the worst crisis in the modern history of the Catholic Church.

MMG Concert Band of Victoria Australia

Ma Taghlu Xejn

Can you believe it has been a year since we came together for our first virtual performance and recorded the well known Maltese march, First Anniversary also known as Ma Tagħmlu Xejn!!
We have missed getting together with our band family and entertaining you with our music! So we decided, why not come together in the virtual world as we know it today!
We are excited to be able to share with you our virtual band performance of First Anniversary, also know as '**Ma Tagħmlu Xejn**,' which is a very popular Maltese song.
A huge THANK YOU to our conductor, Harrison Merrifield and Lanicah Dabu for putting this virtual performance together. Enjoy and share. Hit play, to re-listen to this fantastic virtual performance!!
www.facebook.com/MMGConcertBandofVictoria/videos/554590891888689

Malta participates in the 21st edition of the European festival in Algiers

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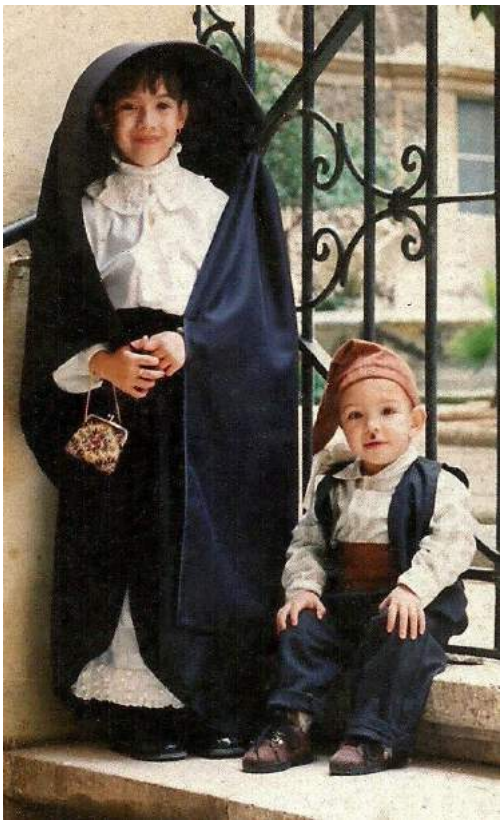
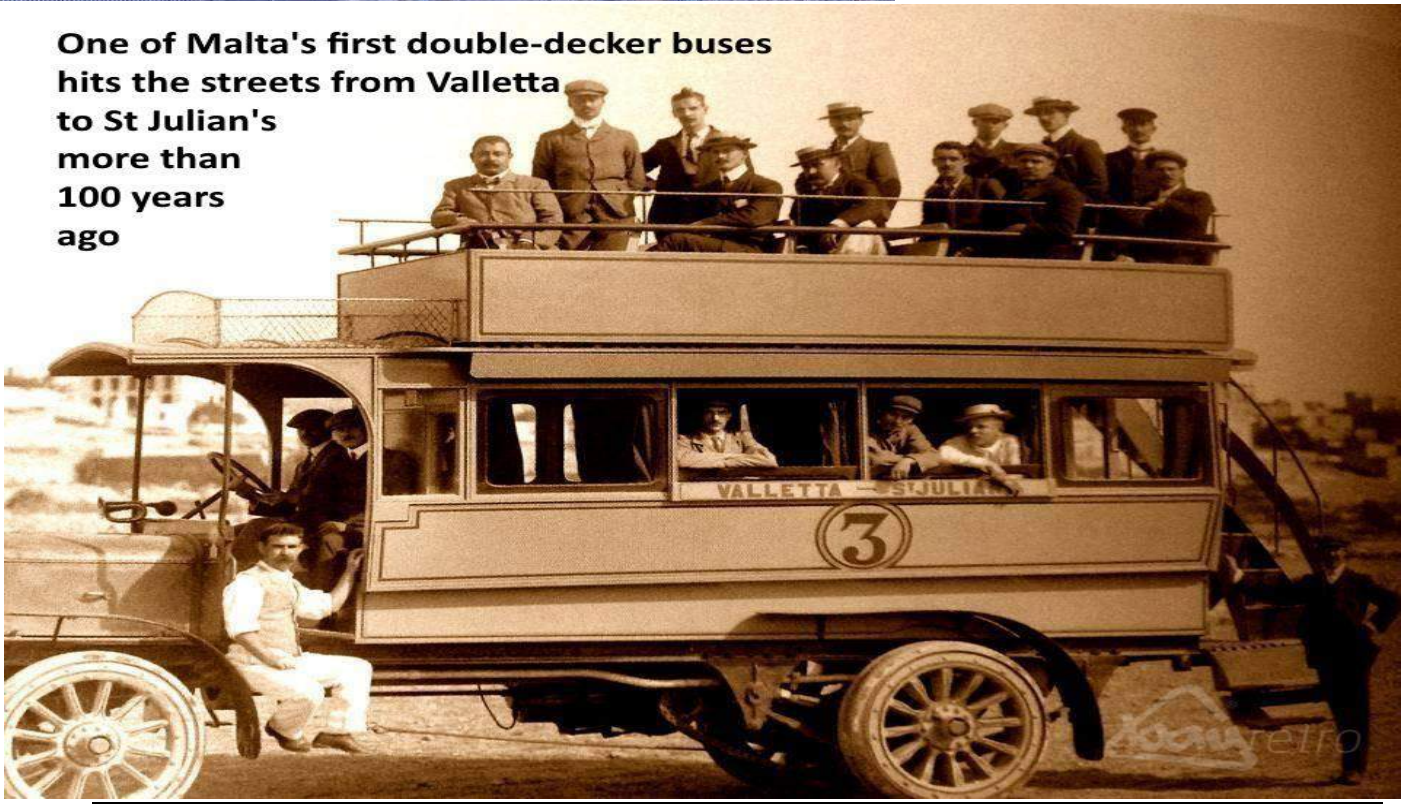
On 27 June 2021, the Consulate of Malta in Algiers participated for the first time in the 21st edition of the European Festival at the National Theatre of Algiers. The festival, organized by the Delegation of the European Union to Algeria, traditionally brings together musical talents from Europe to perform in Algeria. In this year's edition given the present travel restrictions, European Union member states assigned amongst themselves Algerian artists who will play part of their repertoire and a song from the country which they are to represent.

On this occasion the Consulate of Malta was assigned the IWAL an energetic and talented band which sings music inspired by the native Amazigh populations from the east of Algeria. Together with music from their repertoire, IWAL also performed the song "Lament" by Frans Baldacchino known as 'il-Budaj' with the kind and professional assistance of Mr Andrew Alamango.
The Maltese participation was also enhanced by the participation of singer Mr Fayçal Belattar. He gave a short monologue on Malta's history and culture and recited Pietro Caxaro's 'Cantilena' – the oldest written poem in Maltese – whilst playing the Kora, a traditional west African string instrument.
At the beginning of the event, the Consul Mr. Ivan Vassallo gave a short speech where he showed appreciation to the Delegation of the European Union for this cultural initiative. He also thanked the artists and stressed how Malta strives to enhance cooperation and fraternity between the peoples of the Mediterranean by also being a cultural bridge between Europe and North Africa.



YOUR CAN'T FORGET

THINGS LIKE THESE



THE FOUNDING COMMITTEE MEMBERS OF LA VALETTE SOCIAL CENTRE – BLAKTOWN NSW

(Photo courtesy Mr Pinu Micallef, Blacktown NSW)

The Founding Committee of La Valette Social Centre, then known as Maltese Community Western Suburbs Association - 11 October 1964.
L-R (standing): Bill Aquilina, Leli Mifsud, Anthony Fenech, Emidio Camilleri, Paul Galea, Freddie Taylor, Charlie Catania, Pinu Micallef, Joe Catania, Reno Caruana, Vince Galea.
L-R (sitting): Sam Grech, Jessie Borg, Fr. Paul Baron OFM Cap., Adeline Grech, Roger Borg, Joe Ebejer

VINCE ZAMMIT (27) Toolmaker at General Motor Holden, ADELAIDE, working on a complicated die which is part of a unit to punch holes in the interior of car doors. Mrs Zammit (22) works at Gerrad Industries.

(Dept of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs photograph)

A TRIP DOWN MEMORY LANE