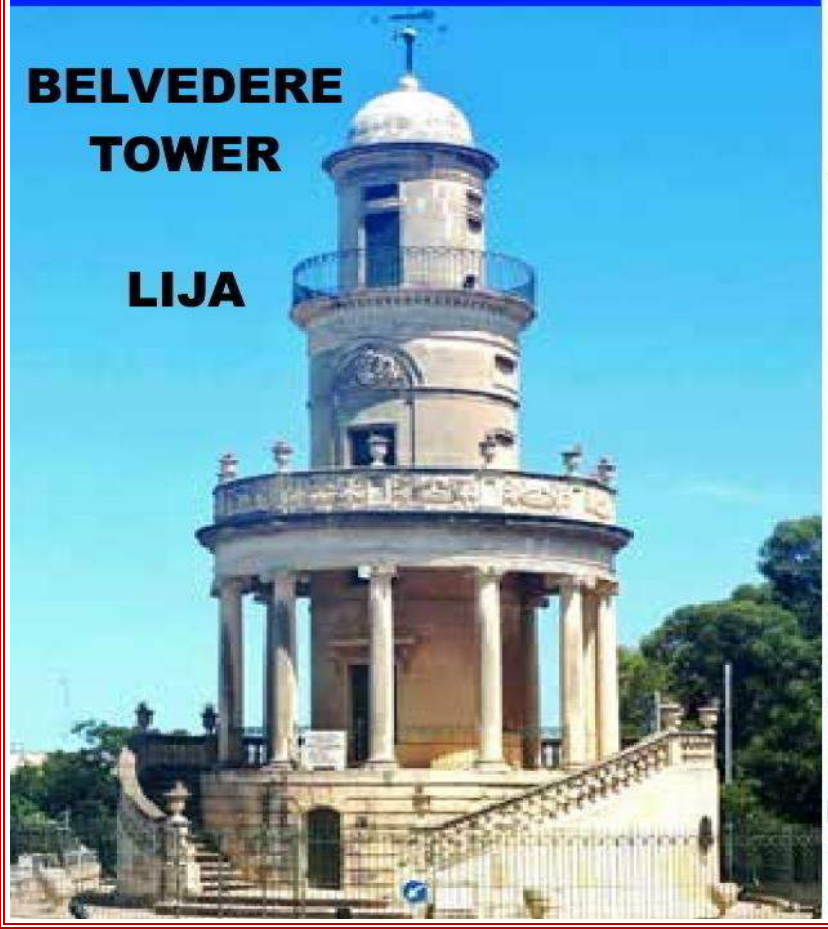
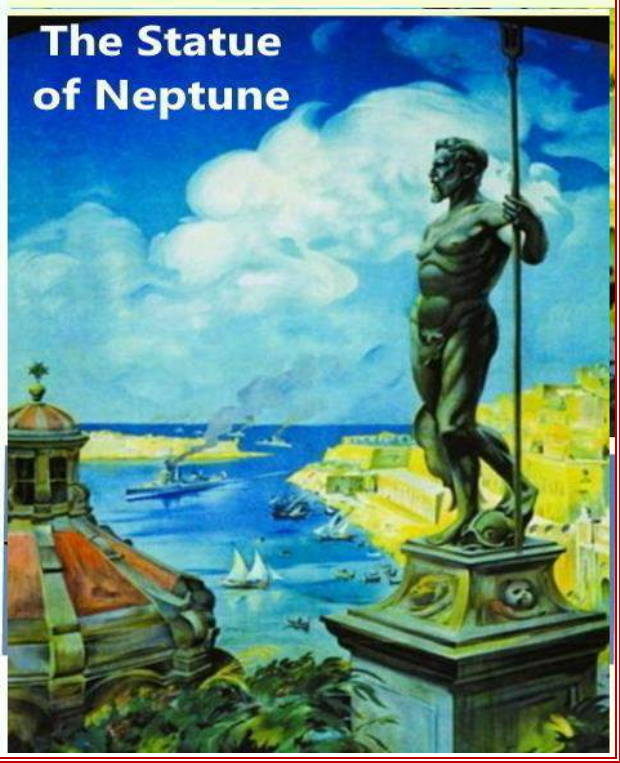
Maltese Personalities featured in this issue

Malta to start accepting Australian vaccine certificates





Malta to start accepting Australian vaccine certificates from Friday

The Deputy Prime Minister Chris Fearne has announced.that Malta will start accepting Australian Covid-19 vaccine certificates as from Friday. The move will be welcomed by many Maltese who have relatives living in Australia.
Malta currently accepts vaccine certificates originating from the EU, Albania, Qatar, Dubai, Serbia, Turkey, United States, United Kingdom and Gibraltar, Jersey and Guernsey.

L-Istrina BOV Piggy Bank Campaign

More than 140 students took part in a drawing competition organised with the aim of selecting the designs for the piggy banks of this year's edition of L-istrina BOV Piggy Bank Campaign.
This year's theme was 'Seeking what unites us', and the drawings were submitted by the end of last July.
Mrs Miriam Vella, wife of the President of Malta, thanked the children for participating in this competition, and presented a certificate of participation to each child.
all schoolchildren of Malta and Gozo were invited to participate in the drawing competition launched for the selection of the designs for the piggy banks, which this year will once again be made of recycled cardboard.

Minister Evarist Bartolo appoints Malta's first ever United Nations Youth Delegates

Reference Number: PR211484, Press Release Issue Date: Aug 06, 2021

Minister for Foreign and European Affairs Evarist Bartolo officially appointed Mr Matthew Micallef St John and Ms Emma De Gabriele as Malta's first ever United Nations Youth Delegates during a ceremony at the Ministry for Foreign and European Affairs, while presenting them with their certificate of appointment.

The minister and the permanent secretary congratulated both delegates on their accomplishment in being selected as Malta's Youth Delegates following a public call and a competitive selection process.

The minister reflected on the added value in entrusting youth to contribute towards enhancing dialogue and cooperation at an international level and extended his best wishes to Matthew and Emma. He also stated that the Ministry for Foreign and European Affairs is fully committed to empower the youth also within the realm of

international relations by providing them with opportunities to contribute towards peace and security at an international level.

Permanent Secretary Christopher Cutajar stated that through this appointment the ministry is committed to invest in youth to help them reach their potential, an initiative which is based on the ministry's conviction that youth have a valuable contribution to make. He also emphasised the need to cultivate the potential and qualities of youth by offering them such opportunities.

As UN Youth Delegates, and with the support of the Ministry for Foreign and European Affairs, Matthew and Emma will be in a position to engage with young people in Malta and with their counterparts at the United Nations in New York as well as other international fora, particularly on issues related to achieving Sustainable Development Goals and the United Nations' global mission and objectives. Their participation in such events will continue to raise the profile and awareness of the opinions of the Maltese youth regarding global issues and provide an opportunity to reflect their concerns in global discussions.

The United Nations Youth Delegates will be expected to represent a wide spectrum of youth interests in cooperation with the different Malta-based youth agencies and organisations. Representatives of Aġenzija Żgħażagħ, MALTMUN and Kunsill Nazzjonali Żgħażagħ attended the ceremony.

Vibrant Valletta: what to see in Malta's capital

A three hour direct flight from the UK, Valletta's a bit further than your typical European mini break, but it's very doable as a long weekend. Here are our top tips.

Given its strategic position in the Mediterranean, Malta has been inhabited, governed and fought over by many, including the Phoenicians, Ottomans, Romans and British. As a result, you can be wandering around the island's centuries-old fortified walls in the morning, eating in an upmarket Italian restaurant for lunch, and checking out the gold, Baroque interior of the city's Catholic cathedral in the afternoon.

Mined by architects over the centuries, the rich limestone rock on which Malta sits has given the entire capital a silken, magnolia sheen. Long recognised by UNESCO, Valletta's status as European Capital of Culture in 2018 wasn't a day overdue.

Here's what to do on a weekend in Valletta.

Check into: 10 Strait Street. It's hard to believe that this quaint, cobbled street of grandiose limestone properties was formerly a red-light district where women greeted newly arrived sailors. 10 Strait Street has sumptuous high ceilinged, split-level apartments that feel more synonymous with the upper classes.

The bathtubs are big enough to have a party in, and with great kitchens and palatial sitting rooms you might just be tempted to stay indoors all weekend. Don't, though: right in the heart of Valletta, there are restaurants, bars and shops on your very doorstep, as well as all the major historical and architectural gems.

Catch the sunset: at Upper Barrakka Gardens. Head up to the city's fortress walls next to Fort St Elmo and the National War Museum and wind your way around to Upper Barrakka Gardens. With views over to Fort St Angelo and Birgu, known now as Vittoriosa, you'll find yourself among courting

couples and possibly even a wedding party, taking snaps between the colonnades that frame the glorious view.
There may even be a gun salute from the Saluting Battery on the terrace below – these were once used to welcome visiting naval vessels and are still fired regularly.
Dine at: The Harbour Club. Save your legs and a bit of time by taking the adjacent lift down to the Grand Harbour waterfront. Eat at The Harbour Club for dishes like risotto with butternut squash, chèvre cheese and rosemary froth or sous-vide corn-fed chicken, spiced chickpeas and chorizo.
Drink an Aperol spritz or bellini – cocktail hour has a distinctly Italian flavour in this part of the Med. You can also bar-hop along the waterfront – there are many here to choose from, all looking out onto the water – though, be warned, visiting cruise liners may block your view.
Get breakfast at: Caffe Cordina. Set in an old palazzo on Valletta's main thoroughfare, Republic Street, Caffe Cordina is the place to meet. It probably hasn't changed much in style since Cesare Cordina started his business in Malta in 1837.

Facing Piazza Regina and the Biblioteca, the terrace is a popular place to sit under white parasols and take some shade. Inside though, a vaulted ceiling is lovingly covered in paintings by Giuseppe Cali, a renowned Maltese artist, and embellished with colourful glass chandeliers. Caffe Cordina retains the romance of a bygone age, and you might just want to keep popping back for a coffee or gelato during your stay. A sticky pastry for breakfast feels just right here, but there's a varied menu to choose from.
Explore: St John's Co-Cathedral. You can't visit Malta without learning about the significance of the Knights of St John. With funding from the Vatican to ward off attacks by the Ottoman Empire, Grandmaster Jean Parisot de Valette founded the city in 1566. The Knights of St John fortified the little island as a Roman Catholic stronghold, and this co-cathedral is their spiritual home, full of opulent gilt-edged walls, ornate marble flooring and valuable works of art, including Caravaggio's 1608 *Beheading of St John the Baptist*.
Lunch at: Malata. The nearby terrace of the fabulous Malata restaurant on St George's Square offers great views of the Grandmaster's Palace, former home of the Knights of St John, which has pride of place along the entire right-hand side of the square. The restaurant has a range of French and Mediterranean dishes, using fresh, Maltese ingredients. Try the local fish, cooked to order, and watch the world go by.
Visit: Casa Rocca Piccola. It's a short walk down Republic Street to Casa Rocca Piccola, a 16th-century palace where on regular daily tours the incumbent noble de Piro family show you around themselves. Chat to the resident parrot and nose through the family silver, furniture and heirlooms – you'll be welcomed with open arms by the friendly aristocrats who still call this home.
Shop at: the silversmiths on Republic Street**.** A number of shops next to Casa Rocca Piccola sell Malta's famous filigree jewellery at a snip of the normal price. The artisan shop owners are usually squinting through an eye-piece at work on something finickity – taking something home from the person who made it is always more rewarding than a last-minute gift from the airport shop.
Dinner at: Rampila, With a modern Mediterranean menu and a lovely atmosphere, it's probably about time to try Malta's much loved rabbit dishes, from tortellacci rabbit-filled pasta to the more traditional Maltese braised rabbit in a date and raisin jus. A glass of one of the local vineyard's reds will do nicely, too.
Drink at: Tico Tico. Have a night cap at Tico Tico on Strait Street on the way back to your apartment. The tiny but hugely atmospheric bar is open to until the early hours and also serves food like deep fried squid if you're out long enough to get hungry again.
Eat: a pastizzi. You can't leave Malta without trying the pastizzi, often eaten on the hoof from cafes all over Malta, this pastry filled with cheese or mushy peas is a local favourite – and a good way to fill up if you have museum to get to.
Explore: the National Museum of Archaeology. See all of Malta's history laid out before you at this excellent museum. Artefacts from all the major historic periods in Malta's past are here, from surrounding temples like Tarxien and the Hal Saflieni Hypogeum. One of the highlights is the 'Sleeping Lady', a tiny, but beautifully formed Neolithic clay sculpture.
Walk: to the City Gate, where Renzo Piano, architect of the Shard, has redesigned Valletta's main entrance and parliament building.

A HIGHLY DECORATED MALTESE PERSONALITY

Cav. Dr. Tonio Portughese B.A. (Hons.) M.A., OMRI (Italia), MOM

Dr. Tonio Portughese is one of the highest decorated citizens in Malta. Tonio was appointed chairman of PBS in 2013 and he was a director of PBS in the early 1990s. Over the years he conducted numerous television and radio programs on various broadcasting stations.

In 2001 he was given the decoration of " Cavaliere Dottore al Merito della Repubblica Italiana" by President Carlo Azeglio Ciampi.

In 2010 the President of Malta dr George Abela awarded him the "Gieh ir-Repubblika" as Member of the National Order of Merit.

In 2015 he was appointed *Representative in Malta* of ANCRI. Membership of Italian Govt Register, Albo ex Alumni, personalities promoting Italian language and culture He was also awarded ''Ġieħ Għawdex'' – Gozo's Recognition by President of Malta

In 2016 he became the advisor to the STMicroelectronics Senior Executive VP Worldwide Manufacturing and Technology. European Broadcasting Union election by the General Assembly on the Executive Board (2017 – 2018) and Appointment on the Members' Reference Group addressing Business Models and the Audit Committee

In 2017 the President of France, Francois Hollande, conferred its highest decoration of the National Order of the Legion d'Honneur to Tonio Portughese in recognition of his long standing career and promotion of the French,European and universal values of dialogue,diversity and tolerance and for his promotion of excellent business and cultural relations between France and Malta.

In 2019 he was given special recognition by the 'Societa' Filarmonica Nazionale LA VALETTE", Valletta, Malta

In 2020 Tonio was appointed chairman, National Selection Committee of the Employees of the Year

In 2021 He received conferment of the decoration of UFFICIALE, Ordine al Merito della Repubblica Italiana, by HE Sergio Mattarella, President of Italy

Mr Portughese is a member of the Associazione Nazionale Cavalieri Al Merito della Repubblica Italiana, Delegate in Malta; Casino' Maltese (Valletta); Sliema Lions Club; Rotary International Italian Cultural Institute. He is also a member of the Malta Society for Arts, Manufactures and Commerce, Valletta.

Tonio is also an Honorary Life Member, of the Aurora Opera House and of the Leone" Philharmonic Society, Victoria, Gozo. He is also the Honorary President of the "Maria Assunta" Band Club, Gudja and the ''12th May'' Band, Zebbug as well as of the "Societa' Filarmonica Nazionale La Valette",and director of FIESOLE Artistic Productions

Ta' Ċangura and San Lawrenz GOZO

Photos: Charles Spiteri

The village of San Lawrenz in Gozo celebrates the feast of its patron saint St. Lawrnece on Tuesday 10 August.

According to an entry in his book Gozo – Mediterranean colours, European dream, Gozo historian Joseph Bezzina records that this small village to the west of Gozo was for centuries known as Ta' Ċangura, a term that is now relegated to the name of its main street.

The present toponym is derived from an old chapel dedicated to St Laurence that stood in the midst of that area since at least 1575. The saint hails from Hispania Tarraconensis, the present-day region of Aragon, then one of the three Roman provinces of Spain. He eventually moved to Rome where he served the papacy as a deacon. He was martyred on August 10, 258 during one of the harshest persecutions in the early Christian Church when he was about 32 years old.

The territory of San Lawrenz was dismembered from that of Għarb and established a separate parish on March 15, 1893. The foundation stone of the parish church was laid on November 21, 1886 and works were concluded in 1897. It was consecrated on September 26, 1897.

The altarpiece, a very good work by the well-known Maltese painter Giuseppe Calì, was raised in position in June 1889. It depicts the saint with his eyes raised towards heaven and the palm of martyrdom in his left hand. The calmness of the figure emerging from this depiction emphasises his complete unison with the will of God.

A COURTESY VISIT BY THE LEBANESE AMBASSADOR

H.E. Mr Milad Raad, Ambassador of Lebanon to Australia and New Zealand paid a courtesy visit to H.E. Mario Farrugia Borg, the High Commissioner for Malta recently in Canberra ACT.

They discussed the effects of COVID-19 on their respective countries and the close relations of their respective countries. Malta's position serves as a bridge not only between Europe and Africa but also Arab countries who respect Malta as an ally and a friend.

We thank all our Readers, Clubs, Schools, Libraries, Museums, Aged Care Facilities, Maltese Associations and others for their continuous support of this journal

St John Rescue Corps adds boat and fire truck to its fleet

Vehicles to be used for land and sea rescue operations

The inflatable rigid hull boat added to the Corps' fleet.

The St John Rescue Corps has added an inflatable boat and fire truck to its fleet of vehicles.

The additional vehicles will be used by its rescue crews working at events on land and at sea, with a new 21-foot rigid-hull inflatable boat purchased thanks to fundraising efforts and a first-line fire attack truck donated by Merseyside Fire and Rescue Services.

The boat, which is equipped with lifesaving and advanced life support equipment, becomes the second vessel in the Corps' fleet. It was in large part funded through the efforts of eight activists who kayaked around Malta in July 2020: Alberta Gambina, David Abela, Karl Borg, Alan Borg, Chris Mercieca, Luca Arrigo, Dorian Vassallo, and Cami Appelgren.

Apart from sea rescue operations, the boat will also be used to provide safety at marine-related events such as sporting events and other lifeguard duties.

St John Rescue Corps has been actively involved in water rescue for over 24 years and is an Associate Member of the International Life Saving Federation. The corps, which was set up in 1986 and is entirely run by volunteers, provides backup rescue services to the Civil Protection Department.

The new fire truck can carry up to five firefighters fully equipped with personal protective equipment and breathing apparatus, carries ladders, special heavy rescue equipment for use at road traffic incidents, Urban Search and Rescue operations and Life Support Equipment.

It replaces another fist-line fire truck that has been decommissioned. The Corps now has two first-line fire engines and two small fire units that can be used for rescues in less accessible areas.

Photo: St John Rescue Corps.

This was not the first time that Merseyside Fire and Rescue Services has donated rescue vehicles to St John Rescue Corps. This collaboration has been ongoing since 2007, with the Corps also receiving support in specialised training to its volunteers and rescue equipment.

"Having the right equipment and vehicles to ensure that the rescuers can respond to emergencies in a timely way is extremely important. As such, these additions to our fleet increase our capability to offer safety coverage during public events as well as sports events and to assist the Civil Protection Department as required in emergencies and stand-by duties," deputy commissioner Christopher Borg Cardona said.

potatoes. Here, try the Ta' Nenu, which is a ftira base topped with sundried tomatoes, black olives, goat's cheese and local sausages, capers and thyme.

Belvedere Tower in Lija restored

Report: Ruth Castillo

The Belvedere Tower is a landmark as one enters the village of Lija. In the past it used to form part of a villa where 100 years ago the discussion on the 1921 Constitution was discussed which made Malta responsible for leadership of its own Government.

The iconic tower has now been restored and in future it will be on the map of a historic walking tour between the three villages, which will give the public a chance to enter it.

Lija, which is currently festively decorated for the feast of Our Saviour, celebrated the restoration of the tower on Friday which gave this village the look of a postcard.

In 1857, Marquis Depiro and his family, commissioned Maltese architect Giuseppe Bonavia to design and build a tower in the middle of the gardens which formed part of Villa Gourigon. In 1921, the gardens and villa were used for a number of meetings between Maltese politicians to discuss the Bill for the Constitution which gave Malta autonomous leadership. The tower retained its place on the road which leads to the parish church – Vjal it-Rrasfigurazzjoni – which was built in the 1950s. This Belvedere is today considered an iconic building in Lija.

The restoration was carried out by the Malta Tourism Authority at an investment of €140,000. Lija Mayor, Anthony Dalli said that the need for this restoration had long been felt, and this has included changing the lighting system. He said the Belvedere Tower will now form part of a tourist attraction in a walking tour of Lija, Attard and Balzan, or as they are known, the three villages.

GZIRA: IL-MADONNA TAL-GEBLA

Back in 1902, in the locality of Gzira, a miracle is said to have happened. During one summer night on the 10th of July, three English sailors from the who were drunk wanted to get into a bar which was located on the waterfront near Manoel Island. However, the bar was closed and its owner refused to let them in. Feeling angry, the sailors started throwing rocks at the shop. Outside of the shop, there was a glass frame of the Madonna tal-Karmnu. The miracle happened when one of the rocks that the sailors were throwing hit the frame. It is said that although the rock hit the frame and it was very windy, the rock did not break the frame, but instead remained stuck in the middle of it. By morning, word had spread to Sliema as people were in awe of this mysterious event. Gzira was still under the parish of Sliema at the time. Dun Anton Manche, the brother of the parish priest in Sliema, put the frame in a chapel which had been built. When Gzira established a parish church of its own in 1921, Dun Anton Manche became its priest and the new church was dedicated to the Madonna Tal-Karmnu in respect of the miracle. The frame remains there to this day. In fact, this story is even mentioned in the chorus of the anthem of the parish church, which translates to 'if a foreigner profaned your reputation/when he threw a rock at you/we only have arrows of love/to throw at you'

The Ins and Outs Of The Tokyo Paralympic Games, As Told By Malta's Secretary-General

By Julian Beacom **www.lovinmalta.com**

The Tokyo Paralympics 2020 is just a few weeks away and Malta will be sending two Paralympians to the competition for the first time since 1980.

Track and field para-athlete Thomas Borg (aged 19) and para-swimmer Vladyslava Kravchenko (aged 29) will be representing Malta in Tokyo for the 2020 Paralympics, which runs from 24th August to 5th September 2021.

Lovin Malta spoke to Julian Bajada, the Chef De Mission of Malta's Paralympic Committee to learn a little bit more about the Paralympics.

This year marks the first year that Malta will be sending two Paralympians for the first time since 1980. Bajada revealed that Borg will be taking part in the male 'T47' para-athletics category in the 100m and 400m sprint track event.

Meanwhile, Kravchenko, who also represented Malta in the 2016 Paralympics, will be competing in the female 'S5' para-swimming category in the 50m backstroke and 50m butterfly respectively.

Misconceptions of the Paralympics

Asked about the misconceptions that surround the Paralympics, Bajada stated that while the list is plentiful, there tend to be three main ones at a local level.

One of the most common misconceptions is the difference between the Paralympics and the Special Olympics. The latter is focused "on athletes with an intellectual disability" such as down syndrome or autism while the Paralympics is for athletes with physical impairments.

"The second most common misconception is that para-athletes fall down in two buckets – amputees or wheelchair uses. This is not the case," Bajada highlighted.

On the contrary, he explained that it covers a wide range of physical impairments including the visually impaired or even those with cerebral palsy or who have short stature (dwarfism).

"Finally, many are still 'afraid' of the perceived dangers of an individual with physical impairments being involved in para-sport. Again, this myth should be busted", he said.

"Para-sport benefits individuals with physical impairments, strengthening them physically but also psychologically and socially."

DOWN MEMORY LANE
Photo - Joe Zammit Cordina (1929 – 2004), Josephine Zammit Cordina (85) and Karmenu Gruppetta (1922 – 1997).

Cup of tea and half a dozen pastizzi and qassatat please

GEORGE CROSS FALCONS COMMUNITY CENTRE
CRINGILA - NEW SOUTH WALES - AUSTRALIA
When one want to build a Club so Maltese can have a place to meet together under one roof this is how you build it. We thank the men in the photo and everyone that volunteered their time to help.

15 YEARS IN THE MAKING 2006-2021

Around 2003 the Maltese Club in Cringila known then as the George Cross Falcons Club, was in a financial peril and discussions commenced about the closure of the Club.

The Club was formed in 1951 by a group of Maltese migrants settling with their families to work in the industrial Wollongong region. The original committee bought a plot of land, consisting of 2 blocks in Lake Avenue, Cringila on which they built a clubhouse IN 1951.

Over time a room was built on the ground floor where men gathered to spend time together after a long day at work. It was fairly common in the 50's for workers to work a double shift.

During these last few decades until 2006, numerous committees and personnel managed to extend and renovate the premises and as such with the help of government grants today we have a three level structure.

On 9 August 2006, Carmen Bezzina, the mother-in-law of today's president, Louis Parnis, was asked to take his wife's father Emmanuel, a foundation member, to the Annual General Meeting in Cringila. Mr. Parnis had no connections with the club, except for playing friendly soccer games in the 80's.

At the meeting it became apparent by the shortfall of nominations to stand on the committee, that a change would be evident, and Mr. Parnis was approached to consider holding a position as a committee member, whom he accepted the following week after the AGM.

Around November 2006, a position of a president became vacant and for no reason Mr. Parnis approached the foundation members informing them, changes needed quickly, after inspecting the financial books and accepted to hold the position of the president of the community centre.

Louis held the position of President for the last 15 years and worked hand in hand with the committee for the benefit of the community. The association today is called **GEORGE CROSS FALCONS COMMUNITY CENTRE INC.** The Local, State and Federal members generously supported the centre.

Some of the great achievements thus far are renovating the building, adding extensions and Murals of Malta, commencing a Men's Shed. The Country Women Association held meetings at the Centre for the last eight years. We also introduced the teaching and learning of the Maltese Language, offered to students at no cost to the students

We continue to attract other Maltese and visitors from outside the region, offering them friendly and affordable lunches (Maltese style), with free coffee and biscuits and great entertainment.

During the printing of this article the President advise me that they just signed a contract to build toilet facilities for the disabled and another extension for members to meet and talk in comfort.

This is a great story and the future for this South Coast Community Centre looks bright. The President wishes to conclude by saying "that we achieved this milestone together and it was only possible due to the members' positive attitude, and willingness to support this vibrant community centre".

CYCLING - NATIONAL ROAD CHAMPIONSHIP 2021

Pierre Borg New National Champion; Marie Claire Aquilina holds the Feminine title – *Reports Joe Bajada*

The recent National Road Championship organized by the Malta Cycling Federation saw Pierre Borg of Mosta AF Sing Studio being declared as the New National Champion for the first time for the Mosta club to obtain this title after a failure. of fifteen years. On the Ladies' side, Marie Claire Aquilina of the Greens Team retained the title of National Champion. This Championship was strongly dominated by the Mosta AF Sing Studio Club where they won five championships.

This year 2021, due to the problems created by the Pandemic and to protect the health of cyclists and members, this Championship was also held on one race instead of the usual three, so that the national champions could emerge. In fact this Road Championship was not held last year for the same reasons. The decisive race of this Road Championship took place on Sunday 8th August 2021 on the Ta' Xħajma circuit in the limits of Nadur, Gozo. This was the first time in the history of local cycling that a National Championship was decided with a unique race in Gozo.

Pierre Borg of Mosta AF Sing Studio finished the National Champion for the first time in history when he finished his twelfth lap of 70Km in front in a time of 1:39:59.48, in a final sprint with Team Greens Cyclist Etienne Bonello who finished 0:00,41 seconds behind him. Mark Bonnici of Agones SFC came in third (1:40:03.80).

In the Ladies category, a dominance by Team Greens cyclists where Marie Claire Aquilina finished first her eight laps in a time of 1:11:44.76. For her, this was the fourth National Road title. Aquilina thus doubled this year's titles when she won also the Time Trial Championship weeks ago. She was followed by her teammates, Danica Bonello Spiteri (1:13:06.58) and Michelle Vella Wood (1:14:01.38), respectively.

Mosta also did very well in the Masters Category. In the 40+, Justin Gauci finished ahead of two The Cyclist riders when he finished ahead of his 8 laps in a time of 1:06:48.12. He was followed by Nicholas Schembri (1:06:48.36) and Antoine Sultana (1:06:48.63). The Masters 50+ category was won by Emmanuel Camilleri of Mosta AF Sign Studio CC (1:18:48.54).

The Under-23 category was won by Luke Borg of The Cyclist who doubled this year national titles where after winning the Time Trial Championship, he also won this Road Championship when he was first in a final sprint with Stefan Scerri of Gozo CC when he finished the tenth lap ahead in a time of 1:22:02.49, a minimum advantage of 0:00.29 seconds over the Gozitan Scerri. Brandon Sultana of Gozo CC (1:29:40.39) finished in third place. In the Juniors Category Daniel Schembri of Mosta

AF Sign Studio also made a double where after winning the Time Trial Championship, he also won this Championship when he finished his 8 laps first to be crowned as Juniors champion in a time of 1:06:34.36 in front of Darren Sultana of Gozo CC.

Jeaken Galea of Mosta AF Sign Studio won the Under 16 Men's Category where he finished his four laps ahead of Lyan Muscat of TriGozo and Miguel Galea of The Cyclist. Ryan Gatt of The Cyclist won the Men's Under-14

Category where he finished the three laps ahead of Chylen Fava and Sven Cini, both of TriGozo. The 2.5km Under-12 Boys category was dominated by Liam Daly of Shamrock Stars ahead of two TriGozo cyclists, Giuseppe Borg and Aiden Muscat respectively. The same Girls Category was won by Nina Debono Curmi, also of Shamrock Stars.

The Malta Cycling Federation would like to congratulate the winners while thanking all the cyclists for their participation and the club officials for all their cooperation, as well as the Police, ARRTS Timing System, the Gozo section of Transport Malta, especially to Senior Manager Reuben, Said for his indispensable help, to the Horse Racing Track Administration for their collaboration, as well as to the Emergency Response and Rescue Corps. Thanks also to the Xewkija Local Council for their cooperation, but above all a big thank you to the Nadur Local Council, Gozo, especially to Mayor Edward Said for his unreserved collaboration, as well as to the workers of the same Council, Savior Sciberras and photographer Alessio Sultana. The Malta Cycling Federation would like to take this opportunity to wish a speedy recovery to Jacob Schembri of Mosta AF Sign Studio after the recent accident at the Girgenti slope.

Il-festa tal-Vitorja St Mary's Cathedral 2021 Sydney

Rev Fr Tarciso Micallef MSSP kappillan tal-kommunita Maltija f'Sydney, jixtieq javza` li l-festa ta' Maria Bambina jew il-Vitorja fil-Kattidral ta' St Mary's Sydney, kellha tigi kkancellata minhabba ir-restrizzjonijiet tal-pandemija f'NSW. Huwa ta' dizzapunt kbir, imma huwa 'mportanti li nobdu dawn ir-regolamenti tas-sahha ghal gid ta' kulhadd. Grazzi lil dawk li kienu diga qed jiprepparraw biex jattendu jew jghinu biex jiehdu sehem f'din ic-celebrazzjoni li ssir kull sena mil-kappillani Maltin.

Nisperaw li sena ohra 2022 kollox ikun sew biex nergaw niccelebraw bhal snin orhra ghal aktar min sitta w'hamsin sena. Nawguraw sahha lil kulhadd. Tkun haga sabieha li kieku f'dan il-jum nitolbu lill Ommna Marija Bambina ghal xulxin ghal Malta u l-Awstralja fejn nghixu bhala kommunita Maltija-Awstraljana.Fr Tarcisio Micsllef MSSP

Archbishop Gonzi in Wollongong, NSW, AUSTRALIA
1953

The history of the Dominicans in Vittoriosa

A book launch of *Id-Dumnikani fil-Birgu* (The Dominicans in Vittoriosa) was recently held at the Grand Hotel Excelsior. The book is authored by Anton Attard and published by the Vittoriosa Organising Committee for the eighth centenary of the death of St Dominic.

Despite various attempts by many historians to document the history of the Dominicans in Vittoriosa, all their works were either limited to a particular era or too brief to do justice to the rich history behind the Dominican presence since their arrival in 1528.

After more than 30 years of research in the Conventual Archives of the Annunciation Priory of Vittoriosa and beyond, Attard succeeds in collecting together all the various facets surrounding the Dominican presence in Birgu. With great skill the author manages to harmonise various historical sources and joins them together in one consistent stream that quenches the desire for the complete articulation of the history of the Dominicans in Vittoriosa.

The book is divided into 12 chapters starting from the foundation of the first religious community in Malta outside the safety of the unassailable Mdina; moving on to survey how the Dominicans contributed to the pastoral care of the people of Birgu and the continual development of the structures of their priory and conventual church. The reader is reminded once again of the artistic legacy that the Dominicans in Vittoriosa managed to build through their commissions to some of the finest artists and artisans across the ages. The various historical landmarks, which carry significance to the Order of Preachers and the Church in Malta at large, that were achieved in the Dominican Church of the Annunciation are also noted with great detail. Among which, one reads about the establishment of the first Rosary Confraternity in Malta, which this year commemorates the 450th anniversary since its inception.

In this new publication Attard pays particular attention to the various artefacts that adorned the Dominican Church of the Annunciation prior to its destruction in 1941 during the blitzes of World War II. He also visits the beginning of the external festivities in honour of St Dominic in Vittoriosa and the original contribution that the many Dominican supporters of Birgu had given to the cultural development of the Maltese festa. To name a few, the first cloth decorations hanging in the streets, the hoisting of a statue onto a street pedestal and the celebratory parades on the eve of the feast known as Il-marċ tat-Te Deum. The unforgotten festivities held in Vittoriosa by the Dominicans in 1922, almost a hundred years ago, to mark the seventh centenary from the death of St Dominic are also revisited by Attard in great historical detail.

Yet the major contribution of this new publication is the collection of the post-war events that the Dominicans of Vittoriosa went through, after the destruction of their much-beloved church and priory. The author manages to gather the historical facts and complements them with various memoirs of the hardships faced by the Dominican friars and the bravery of their supporters, who contributed with skill, funding and devotion to the reconstruction of what was lost during the war.

Finally, the reader may also enjoy a supplementary chapter on the history of the Prince of Wales Own Band Club of Vittoriosa. The club, whose history has so far not yet been collected in one place, has always cherished strong ties with the Dominicans and the feast of St Dominic in Birgu.

The innovative contribution that is gained by Attard's work in this new book is the anthological and researched collection of all things relating to the Dominicans in Vittoriosa, accompanied by more than 85 historical and modern pictures. The history related in *Id-Dumnikani fil-Birgu* is not only presented as hard evidence, drawn from the manuscripts stored within the Conventual archives, but it is also at times seasoned by the memories of those who lived it.

A copy of the book may be acquired from the Convent of the Annunciation of Vittoriosa or by sending an email on birguop@gmail.com.

Written and researched by Greg Caruana NSW

The month of September for us here in Australia, is the beginning of Spring, where nature seems to be revived, the gardens start to flourish, small buds start to shoot and everything even the lawn with the help of some new fertilizer regains its strength and turns green.

But in Malta the month of September is best known for the Victory feast on the 8th September also known as *Otto Settembre* which until 1964 was the national day.

It reminds us of the victory of the two sieges, one of them being that of the Ottoman Empire in 1565. And this day reminds us of the feast of *il-Bambina* where in 1945 according to history, as the statue of il-Bambina was coming out of the Xaghra parish church, the news arrived that Italy had yielded. This was the only national feast day, unlike today when five national feast-days are celebrated in Malta.

In the Maltese islands we find four parishes that celebrate the feast of the Bambina. As mentioned earlier, we have the Xaghra parish in Gozo. Also the parish of Naxxar, which was one of the first ten main parishes on the Maltese islands. There is also the parish of Mellieha which is another of the ancient parishes in Malta. Mellieha was well known in the past for the traditional Maltese Ghana and even now the council of Mellieha organizes the *Lejliet Mellihin* (Mellieha nights). There is also *l-Isla* or Senglea with the title of (civitas invicta) which means 'invincible city'. In Senglea we find the Basilica and the sanctuary of the Virgin Mary, which was founded in 1581 and which was enlarged in 1595.

The statue of tal-Bambina is understood to have emerged out of the sea in an extraordinary way. It is said that two sailors from Senglea who were at sea, saw a *Pulena* (a decorative figurehead that is placed on the bow of a ship) floating on the water. They asked the captain to let them pick it up and salvage it. This ***pulena*** was the image of our Mother Mary, the statue of *il-Bambina.* Senglea together with Cospicua, Vittoriosa, Kalkara and Cottonera were almost completely destroyed along with the total destruction of the basilica of Senglea especially in the ferocious attack on HMS Illustrious which lasted for hours.

I remember my father saying that together with his mother (my Nanna) had once gone to talk to someone from the Navy on the side of the Grand Harbour, when in an attack, they had to run for cover in a dug-up shelter for four hours. And the dockyard area was completely destroyed and many lost their lives and many more were injured. So much so that many of them (from Cottonera) lost their homes and ended up as refugees in places like Hamrun, Birkirkara, Hal-Lija, Hal-Balzan, Mosta, Imgarr and other towns and villages. So much so that the *Redentur* (the statue of the Redeemer) and the statue of *il-Bambina* had to be taken to Birkirkara. In the last war not only the Cottonera was hit by enemy bombs, but other places such as Mosta which was close to the Ta' Qali aerodrome where the Mosta church was hit on 9 April 1942; the time was at four o'clock in the afternoon during the *Ora Santa* (Holy Hour) where was Fr Magro who went to meet the Lord at the age of 84 and my father and some three hundred other people, who were terrified when the bomb entered the church but miraculously did not injure anyone.

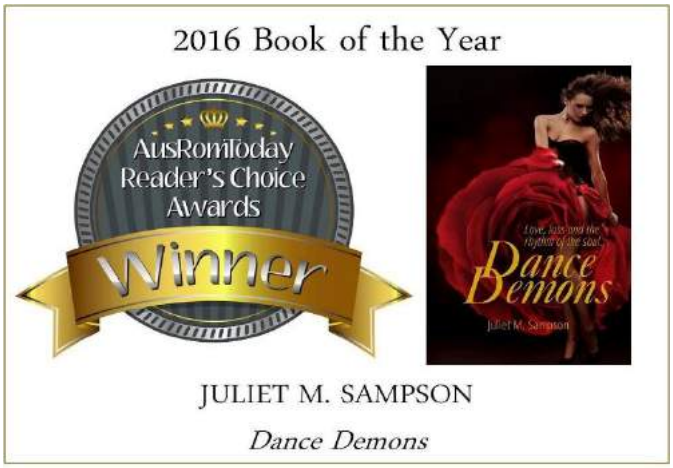
In the last war there were no families who did not have anyone who was not hit by death or was wounded in the war. And here I want to end with a statistic of how many people died in the last war. There were 1540 deaths, 1846 seriously wounded and 1932 who were lightly wounded.

The GRECH Coat of Arms

Painted or etched on the shields of numerous European families, cities and institutions, are large ferocious beasts of the wild as well as fearsome and marvelous monsters born from the fantasy of man. Adorning these coats of arms in equal numbers are also the smallest creatures, from the domestic dog and cat, to the tiniest insects such as ants and bees. Maltese heraldry is certainly not alien to these creatures and consists of a considerably large heraldic bestiary.

The Grech coat of arms introduces us to the scorpion. The scorpion is one of those few arthropods which make it into Maltese heraldry, making the Grech coat of arms an instantly recognisable one. Among the other arachnids, the scorpion, which is usually found in hot climates such as that of Malta, is surely one of the largest of its class. It is an extremely daring and vigilant creature, renowned for being terribly baleful. On setting one's eyes upon it, aside from bringing that person to a complete halt, it draws both fear and curiosity to closer inspect its rare beauty from a determinably safe distance. With its erect sting, tense in readiness, it does not bow nor stir at the approaching enemy, but waits with admirable boldness.

Maltese eNewsletter
Journal of Maltese Living Abroad
maltesejournal@gmail.com
Read, Enjoyed, Trusted,Shared and Support by many



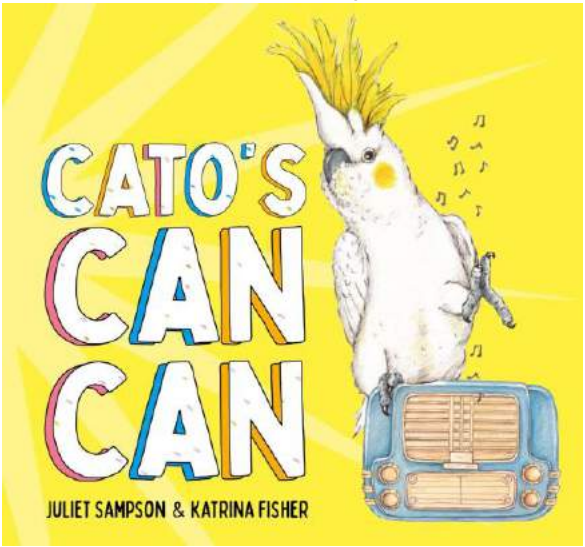
THE MALTESE-AUSTRALIAN JULIET M SMPSON

Author Teacher Dancer Sunflower lover

www.julietmsampson.com.au

Juliet M. Sampson is an international award-winning author. *Dance Demons*, her third novel won 2016 Book of the Year in the Reader's Choice Awards in the AusRomToday competition. She was also one of ten finalists for 2016 Author of the Year in the same competition. Her other young adult books are *Behind the Mask*, *Bon Voyage!* and *Outback Wonder*. *Grace's Mystery Seed* is her debut picture book and was honoured as a 'Finalist' in the 'Children's Picture Book: Softcover Fiction' category, 2019 International Book Awards. *Grace's Mystery Seed* has also been shortlisted for the 2019 Speech Pathology Award, 5 – 8 year old category. Cato's Can Can is Juliet's second picture book.

After working for several years as a primary teacher and sharing her love of stories with children, Juliet's first novel was published. She loves to inspire others and her quote 'spread sunshine and inspiration,' has reached a global audience. Juliet lives in Melbourne near the bay where she is surrounded by family and friends. Her other passions are travelling, dancing and sketching. Juliet M Sampson, a Maltese Australian writer living in Melbourne, just released her second picture book, Cato's Can Can. It is a beautifully illustrated story for three- to eight-year-olds. Unfortunately due to COVID lockdown she has been unable to launch or promote it in the usual way.



Bop! Bop! Bop! Hop! Hop! Hop! Cato the cockatoo loves to dance. But he can't find a dance partner. That is, until the day he follows some dancers inside…then everyone is in for a big surprise!

Other Book Launches

- *Grace's Mystery Seed* second launch Bayside Library Services Thursday 11th April 2019.
- *Grace's Mystery Seed* first launch Publishing House invitation only Sunday 24th March 2019.
- *Outback Wonder* was launched at Brighton Library on Saturday 7th October 2017. There was a full house in attendance.
- *Dance Demons* was launched at Brighton Library on Saturday 30th April 2016. The event had a full house.
- *Bon Voyage!* was launched at Bella Union, Melbourne, Australia. Over 100 people attended.
- *Behind the Mask* was launched at Bertha Brown, Melbourne, Australia. Over 100 people attended.

AUSTRALIAN AMERICAN ASSOCIATION (VICTORIA)

Dear Members and Friends,

Well we are now in lockdown number 6, I truly hope that you, your families and friends are all doing very well and although these lock downs effect as all in many ways, I pray that this lock down doesn't cause you any hardship .

Thank you to those in the State of Victoria filling in the Petition. I am absolutely sure that the Victorian Maritime Centres hard working committee and volunteers are very appreciative of your support. Please note that due to this lock down the Current Affair team have pushed the filming back a week to the following Monday 16th August at 12:30pm. Hopefully you can still attend and support this campaign to save the HMAS Otama Submarine. Once again thank you. Take care, stay well and be safe. Sam CJ Muscat JP President Australian American Association (Vic)

#

PEOPLE OF MALTA – FACEBOOK

"I am a Senior Lecturer at the University of Malta in the Department for Family Studies. When I was young I was determined to study medicine. But when the time came to enter University the degree in medicine was not available and that is when I realized that I was more interested in the mind than in the body. I had spoken to the much missed Fr Darmanin SJ and came to the conclusion that I could enter the Psychology course. I went on to obtain my masters in Canada. On my return I pursued my studies in Family Therapy. I achieved a PhD on the effect and influence of domestic violence on children. I am very passionate about children and the way domestic violence effects them. Through the Commission for Gender-Based and Domestic Violence, and through research I also work in this sector. I can really say I have dedicated my life to study. Psychology has and will always fascinate me. I am captivated by the way the human mind functions and I believe that a lot has still to be discovered. It is very complex and there are various branches which can be delved into.

The environment in which a person lives effects their mental health and unfortunately, in Malta, we are not planning for this in the long run.

Domestic violence comes in many shapes: physical, emotional, psychological, financial and sexual. In Malta, one in every four women experiences some kind of domestic violence. There are a number of initiatives, but more is needed in the area of prevention. What we are going through on account of Covid, has not helped. In fact it seems cases have increased.

The best therapy for the mind? The support of people who love and support you and managing to find time for oneself. Enjoy nature and go for a swim. We need to invest in the prevention of domestic violence. Education is paramount. The issues of respect and equality need to be taken more seriously. It is also crucial to give children due importance and to listen to them." - Dr Clarissa Sammut Scerri

Maltese-themed event at The Imperial

(Photos) 1. Melanie Jacobs, Sarah Cassar and Kulsoom Mushtaq 2. Marisa Baldacchino, activity coordinator at The Imperial 3. Resident Phyllis Vella with her daughter Christine Apap 4. The Paul Curmi Dance Company entertained residents and their guests during the Festin Malti event

The new care home for the elderly, located in the former Imperial Hotel, Sliema, has just opened its doors for residents. The home's team appreciates the importance of social and cultural events for the social and mental well-being of its residents. To this end, the Imperial held a Festin Malti (Maltese party) event for its residents and their guests in July, during which traditional food such as pastizzi and imqaret were served. Dancers from the Paul Curmi Dance Company performed traditional dances and The Happy Guitars Duo played Maltese and Italian songs. The event was held in line with health safety protocols. (Times of Malta)

In answer to your question, I can assure you I enjoy every second, particularly when you cover various aspects of historical Malta, which brings back many memories.
I always await your mail with great interest. Unfortunately the Maltese emigres in South Africa have reduced in numbers through age, as the bulk arrived in South Africa straight after the war up to 1950. Their dependants, which are now third generation, particularly through marriage, have lost interest in Malta.

It is sad scenario and it has become an issue of concern to me when these dependants want to go back to Malta, not knowing what to expect. The lifestyles are so different that eventually most move onto England. Keep up your good work.

Many thanks again, and God Bless. Regards Ronald Andrews

A MALTESE LEGEND

Enzo Gusman (born 9 August 1947) is a Maltese singer born in Sliema, Malta. It was Malta's late comic actor Johnnie Navarro who discovered Enzo and invited him as a resident singer on a programme called "TIC TAC" transmitted on the now-defunct Malta's Cable Radio system run by Rediffusion.[2] Enzo won the Malta Song Festival five times. In 1965, Enzo pursued a career in Banking, even when in 1979, Enzo emigrated to Canada. In later years, he again spent several years living in Malta.

As a singer, Enzo participated in several international song festivals, such as World Popular Song Festival, Tokyo, Japan; Festival Internacional De la Cancion, Vina del Mar, Chile; Olympiad De La Chanson, Athens, Greece; Alexandria International Song Festival, Alexandria Egypt; Castlebar International Song Festival, Castlebar, Ireland; Cavan International Song Festival Cavan, Ireland; Istanbul International Song Festival, Istanbul, Turkey; Festival Menschen und meer Rostock, DDR; and Festival Golden Orpheus Slantchev Bryag, Bulgaria.

His Major achievement was when he won the coveted 'First Prize' at the Golden Orpheus Festival in Bulgaria. In Ireland, he was awarded the Best Foreign Artist at The Cavan International Song Festival, and in Turkey he was declared as the Best Interpreter in the Istanbul International Song Festival.

Enzo wrote and composed several of his own songs, many of which are still very popular in Malta and in the Maltese diaspora. In Malta he is also a well known radio and television personality.

Enzo is married to Carmen Schembri, a well-known singer in the Maltese light music scene.

A year ago, Enzo was seriously injured in an accident and was released from hospital, after eight months and is now recovering at home. His wife Carmen (Schembri) who was a well known singer in the Maltese light music scene, stated that the accident fractured his body, however Enzo continues to fight daily because he has a great enthusiasm for life.

In a message transmitted from his recovery bed, Enzo paid tribute to all the Maltese and Gozitan people, and thanked those who always supported him with his music works.

Enzo is a Maltese who loves Malta and the Maltese. He spent years singing and presenting music in Malta, before he emigrated to Canada together with his wife, singer where he continued writing, singing and transmitting songs in the Maltese language.

Maltese artists and broadcasters paid tribute to Gusman for his contribution to the Maltese song and language and for the great support he gave them during their music career.

DONNA BORG – United Kingdom

Are you thinking about learning Maltese but you are not sure which course and approach would be best for you? Maybe you would like to meet the tutor before signing up for a course and get the opportunity to ask questions live? Or perhaps you would just like to spend some time learning a few phrases in Maltese and a meet other people interested in this exciting language?

If this applies to you, then join me for my next FREE MALTESE LANGUAGE TASTER SESSION on Thursday 12th August 2021 from 6.30 – 8.00pm (UTC +1). Next courses for complete beginners will start the week commencing 6th September. Morning and evening sessions available. Courses for those who have already covered the basics and who are looking to improve their grasp of the Maltese language are also available. Whether you are just looking to learn the basics or to keep learning and become fluent, these courses will definitely help you achieve your goals. To express your interest or for further details, email Donna on learnmalteseinfo@gmail.com , or send a DM or comment on this post. Places are limited so don't leave it too long!

Next Course starts in September 2021

Summer carnival cancelled due to Covid-19

Valletta Cultural Agency chairperson Jason Micallef has criticised COVID-19 restrictions that have forced the cancellation of Notte Bianca in October and the summer carnival.

Both mass events were cancelled by Festivals Malta in light of COVID-19 restrictions. Current restrictions forbid standing events and from 16 August only outdoor seated events can take place with 200 to 300 people.

Malta's summer carnival is the latest event to have to face the reality of the Covid-19 pandemic, with Festivals Malta announcing that it will not be taking place in 2021.

Festivals Malta announced on Monday that this year's edition of the Summer Carnival is cancelled in order to adhere to the guidelines issued by the health authorities pertaining to mass events.

Annabelle Stivala, Festivals Malta CEO commented, "Considering the measures taken on mass events, Festivals Malta has decided to cancel this event, as a precaution to not only safeguard the health of our staff, artists, carnival participants and technical crew but also that of our patrons. On behalf of Festivals Malta, I would like to thank all the artists, participants and those involved for all their work and cooperation." Despite the cancellation of this event, Festivals Malta is still working on various exciting projects, which include Mużika Mużika Sajf and the new television programme Mużika Mużika il-Vjaġġ Ikompli, amongst others. Festivals Malta had initially announced that Notte Bianca – which generally takes place in around October – was also cancelled, but they hastily edited their social media post and article to remove any references to the event.

EIGTH POINTED CROSS AND FALCON'S SHADOW

Maltese-Canadian bestselling author Marthese Fenech has worked hard to adapt her two novels, Eight Pointed Cross and Falcon's Shadow, set in sixteenth-century Malta, into a television series called Empires of Smoke.

Marthese signed with LA-based manager, Sherry Robb, who has since been pitching the script to producers. And now, her pilot script has been selected as a finalist in the **Toronto Lift-Off Film Festival** which is currently taking place.

The festival brings together the Canadian indie filmmaking community with a sole focus on the filmmakers, their teams, and their achievements.

Marthese Fenech is the number one bestselling author of epic historical novels set in sixteenth-century Malta and Istanbul. Research has taken her to the ancient streets her characters roamed, the fortresses they defended, the seas they sailed, and the dungeons they escaped.

Obstinate curiosity has led her to sixty-five countries across six continents. She does her best plot-weaving while hiking mountain trails, wandering local markets, paddle boarding cliff-sheltered bays, and sitting at home with her Siberian husky curled at her feet.

The youngest of five, Marthese was born in Toronto to Maltese parents. At twelve, she moved to Malta for six months and was enrolled in an all-girls private school run by nuns; she lasted three days before getting kicked out for talking too much. Back in Toronto, she started a business recording, editing, and selling bootleg heavy metal concerts. She later worked with special needs children and adults, witnessing small miracles daily.

Marthese has a Master's degree in Education and currently teaches high school English. She speaks fluent Maltese and French and knows how to ask where the bathroom is in Spanish and Italian. She took up archery and wound up accidentally becoming a licenced coach. A former kickboxing instructor, she surfs, snowboards, scuba-dives, climbs, skydives, throws axes, and practices yoga—which may sometimes include goats or puppies. She lives north of Toronto with her brilliant, mathematically-inclined husband and brilliant, musically-inclined dog, known to lead family howl sessions on occasion.

MALTESE VOICES

WITH MARTHESE CARUANA

SUNDAYS AT 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM
AN HOUR OF MUSIC FROM MALTESE ARTISTS

LISTEN FROM WHEREVER YOU ARE

2GLF-fm 89.3 893fm.com.au YOUR LOCAL STATION

WWW.893FM.COM.AU

LISTEN LIVE OR ON DEMAND.
ALSO AVAILABLE ON TUNEIN

MALTESE COMMUNITY COUNCIL OF NSW PROGRAM FOR THE MALTESE

MALTESE COMMUNITY COUNCIL OF NSW – STRENGTH IN UNITY

SUNDAYS AT 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM
AN HOUR FILLED WITH NEWS AND INFORMATION

Our journal is archived at the Malta Migration Museum in Valletta; the Maltese Canadian Museum in Toronto, Canada; in several Maltese schools, clubs, Aged Care Residential Homes, on FACEBOOK; on the website of the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs; on our website www.ozmalta.com

If you have an interesting story to tell share with others around the world. Please, send it to us maltesejournal@gmail.com

Salina Nature Reserve – St. Pauls' Bay

Salina Nature Reserve lies in the Burmarrad valley mouth (limits of St Paul's Bay in the north of Malta). Originally a harbour, the Salina site consists of 154,000 square metres of saline marshland and a number of salt pans built on a reclaimed island of clay surrounded by garrigue.

The site has recently been rehabilitated through a €7 million project partially financed with EU funds under the Agricultural Fund for Rural Development 2007-2013. The site's potential to attract a number of species has been proven repeatedly by birds alighting in the salt pans to rest during migration, among which the most spectacular; the flamingo – a bird synonymous with salt pans, especially in the Mediterranean. Salina is a protected area forming part of the Natura 2000 network and also a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) because of the endemic flora and fauna which can be found in the area.

History The Salina Salt Pans were constructed by the Knights of St John in the 16th century. The complex is home to three timber huts which were reconstructed on the same style of the original ones built by the British in the 18th century for salt production, one of which serves as the visitors' centre. It also includes the Ximenes Redoubt which was originally developed in 1715/16 during the reign of Grand Master Perellos as part of the Knights' strategy of defending the Maltese Islands against invasion with a network of coastal fortifications. During the course of the 18th century, the redoubt was partially converted into a salt magazine. Grand Master Ximenes added a second warehouse to the complex to increase its storage capacity.

Photto-Facebook

After many years, Salina is once again producing salt!

This is a long process that takes several months. After the bulk of the winter storms have come and gone, in March or April the salt pans earmarked for #salt production are pumped dry and cleaned by hand, first with shovels and then power-washed spotless. True, this latter part is arguably not very traditional, but we are sure that the Knights would have been jealous of the modern equipment! Then, a particular sequence of newly-installed water valves are opened and water is directed in from the sea, through the outer silt capture basins, through a distribution canal and into the clean salt pan, all by gravity. Once it is full, the valves are closed shut and the evaporation process starts. By June, salt starts crystallising, first in a thin crust, but by the end of the month a thick layer is clearly visible. Before the salt pan dries up completely, using shovels and a lot of elbow grease, the salt is heaped into mini pyramids and allowed to dry up even further for a couple of weeks. Now the salt is ready for harvest, calling all hands on deck, drawing support once again from staff of the other BirdLife Malta reserves. The salt is now carried up into the salt storage barns and put in large jumbo bags. In the coming weeks, we will be sending samples of the salt abroad for laboratory testing to confirm the quality. In the hay days of these salt pans, the salt produced was one of the best in the Mediterranean, and we hope that the results live up to that old standard! Based on the results, the salt will be packaged for sale.

AQUARIUS from 20th' January till 18th' February
Guidance for the zodiac sign of Aquarius: There can be much activity focuses on work, analysis, reorganization, fixing problems; still there is some room for pleasant diversions and rewards. Lifestyle improvements are strongly favoured after you're taking charge of your services, working environment, daily life, or health matters. Take stock of your plans and their developments. Namaste

PISCES from 19th' January till 20th' March
Guidance for the zodiac sign of Pisces: You have greater need to express yourself now. So while this is an important month for personality growth and liberation, there may be some backtracking or practical matters to manage. In fact, you can bring more harmony to your life. Limitations you deal with can open you up to freedoms later. Namaste

ARIES from 21st' March till 19th' April
Guidance for the zodiac sign of Aries: August continues to be a strong focus on your personal issues, but your attention is mostly drawn towards personal matters. You may be revisiting a work project or tying up loose ends to firm up your professional life, it's a good time for processing the lessons and attitude changes that have occurred and you would feel stronger in your career with your new responsibilities. Namaste

TAURUS from 20th' April till 20th' May
Guidance for the zodiac sign of Taurus: You're easily enthused about your plans, projects, and ideas. Focus on detoxifying and cleansing: out with the old, in with the new. There can be some indecision, but it's necessary now as it's a time for reviewing plans. However, you should definitely watch for committing to more of these than you can reasonably manage. Namaste

GEMINI from 21st' May till 20th' June
Guidance for the zodiac sign of Gemini: Now is important for settling in and focusing on comfort, financial, and security issues. Some backtracking or review of money may be in order, business deals or money matters begin to move forward. These things are stirred, as financial, ownership, and intimate matters can reach a turning point or even a point of resolution, focus on security and comfort matters. Namaste

CANCER from 21st' June till 22nd' July
Guidance for the zodiac sign of Cancer: You begin to set all that has been occurring around you, this can serve as a nudge towards change in a relationship or a final decision about a matter. Some confusing situations or problems begin to unravel. It won't be until mid-month when you feel more confident of your affections and needs , but it's important not to take on more than you can reasonably handle. Namaste

LEO from 23rd' July till 22nd' August
Guidance for the zodiac sign of Leo: Time for dusting off ideas you've previously put on the shelf ,attention turns to the past so that you can decide which projects or situations you might salvage or scrap, your energy is focused on supporting others ,you might often find yourself in a position as a mediator. People are warmer and more inclined to reach out to you as you are prompted to take care of unfinished business. Namaste

VIRGO from 23rd' August till 22nd' September
Guidance for the zodiac sign of Virgo: This is a socially focused time for you. However, it's a good period for sharing your time and expertise through feelings. You have been analysing many aspects of your life, including love or friendship, and this trend will continue. You can feel a little more content and focused, a relationship may be enhanced with increased attention to creativity and imagination. Namaste.

LIBRA from 23rd' September till 22nd' October
Guidance for the zodiac sign of Libra: Decisions come more easily, and you are likely to be clearer about what kind of changes you need to make to improve your life. You might improve relationships with colleges through increased understand. You might also feel more valued and valuable in the work you do, inspire to take better care of yourself. Namaste

SCORPIO from 23rd' October till 21st' November
Guidance for the zodiac sign of Scorpio: Although detailed work and errands are beginning to figure strongly in your life, your larger focus seems to be on the "big picture". You could be quite preoccupied with serious work or a rather heavy schedule; you may be a little less communicative with friends. Your imagination blossoms, creative writing, speaking, and other such pursuits can thrive. It's a good time to expand and connect with others. Namaste.

SAGITTARIUS from 22nd'Nov till 21st' Dec
Guidance for the zodiac sign of Sagittarius: You're getting in better touch with your inner power and recognizing and building support from others. There can be some matters from the past to settle, a change of heart, or some decrease in motivation experienced. Improving home life can tie in with a better income or a different attitude toward money and talents. Namaste

CAPRICORN from 22nd' Dec till 19th' Jan
Guidance for the zodiac sign of Capricorn: You're more invested than usual in the success of your relationships, negotiations and diplomacy is highlighted this more direct. However, keep in mind that you are in charge of your happiness. You might revisit some problems, but it's a strong time for strengthening the structures and routines. You can be sorting out some feelings and frustrations about a relationship, surely it will straighten out. Namaste