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Editor: Frank Scicluna OAM MQR

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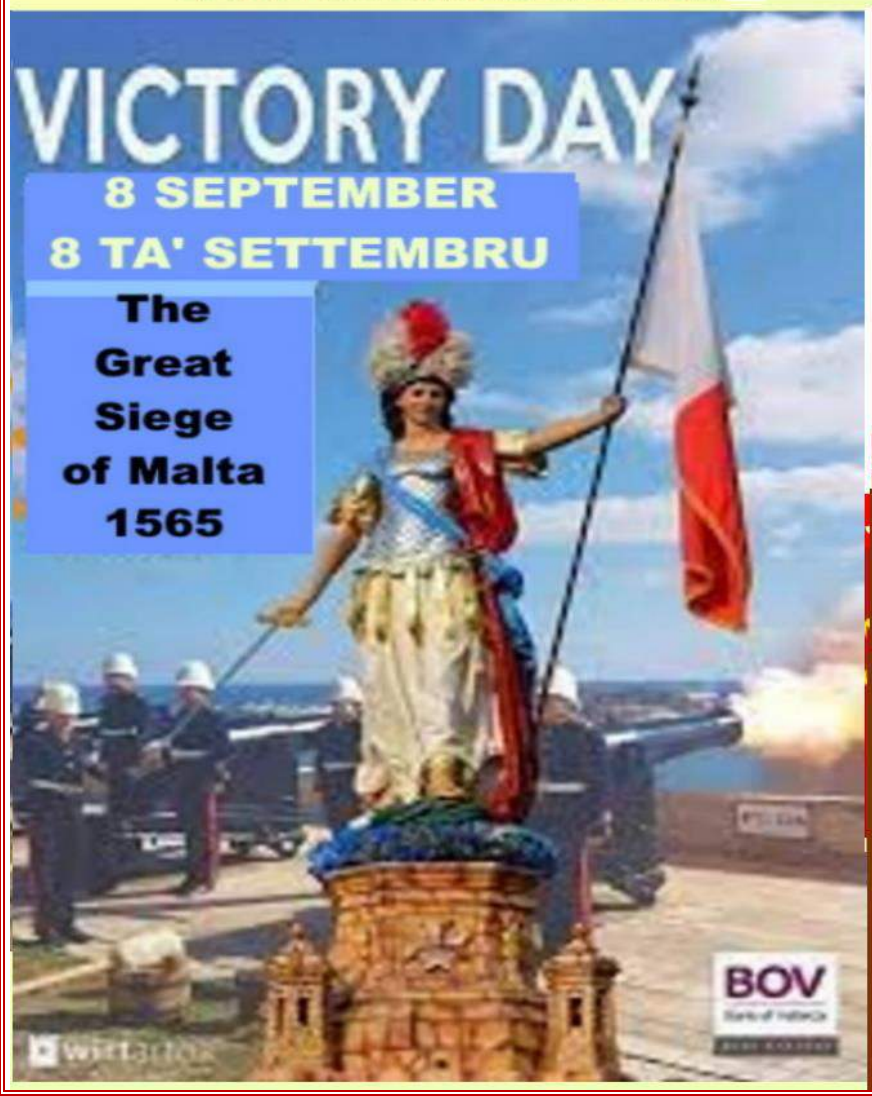


MALTESE-AMERICAN HERITAGE DAY

Michigan State Capitol Building

September 22 at 11 am

George Anthony Frendo O.P Archbishop of Tirana-Durres, Albania

Mons George Anthony Frendo is a Maltese prelate who serves as the Archbishop of Tiranë-Durrës in Albania.

George Frendo was born in Qormi Malta on April 4, 1946. At the age of 15 he was professed as a member of the order of preachers. In 1963, Frendo started his studies for the priesthood together with Paul Cremona, later the Archbishop of Malta. Both Frendo and Cremona were ordained priests by Emanuele Gerada on April 2, 1969. Frendo served eight years as the parish priest of Gwardamanġa.

In 2006 Pope Benedict XVI appointed Frendo Auxiliary Bishop of Tiranë-Durrës in Albania with the titular see of Buthrotum. He was consecrated on September 23, 2006 by Rrok Kola Mirdita the Archbishop of Tiranë-Durrës and co-consecrated by the Apostolic Nuncio John Bulaitis and Archbishop Joseph Mercieca of Malta.

In November16 Pope Francis appointed Bishop Frendo as the Archbishop of Tiranë-Durrës in Albania. He was installed on 3 December 2016. On 20 April 2018, George Frendo obtained Albanian citizenship.

Dear Frank, Every weekend I look forward to read your interesting Newsletter. I find it very interesting as it brings to mind certain local traditions, past and present events, etc. It creates in us, who are away from our homeland, a certain nostalgia for our beloved country and its beauties. Thank you for your patience in presenting us with this very important link.
Mons. George Frendo O.P., Archbishop of Tirana-Durres, Albania

Dear Mr Scicluna, I wish to express my delight and gratitude for producing your monthly e-newsletters which are normally passed on to me via email by Sr Doris Falzon, at Rosary Home, Keilor Downs in Victoria. I reside in Ringwood, am of Maltese origin and came to Australia which I now call home in 1981. I was in my 20s when I left Malta so many of the places you write about are quite familiar to me. All my family members and relatives still live there and the last time I visited was 4 years ago nearly to the day. The articles you write about are so interesting and this is just a word of encouragement to ask you to 'please keep up the good and wonderful work'/ It is people like yourself who make such a significant difference to those who are dispersed throughout the globe and wish to continue to be part of this rich inheritance of the Islands of Malta. Kind regards THANK YOU
Bridget Petty – Victoria, Australia

VICTORY DAY IN THE MALTESE ISLANDS By Greg Caruana NSW

Victory Day or *Otto Settembre*, is a narional day in the Maltese islands. On the 8th of September commemorates the story of two sieges that took place on the Maltese islands. This day also coincides with the commemoration of the Birth of the Virgin Mary, or rather il-Bambina, a feast that is celebrated in the city of Senglea, and in the villages of Naxxar Mellieha and Xaghra (Gozo.

The first siege was that of 1565, after more than three months of siege, the Ottomans who werebesieging Vittoriosa and Senglea withdrew and left that part of the island. Even if the battles had not ended, since there was still an ongoing battle in the of St. Paul's Bay region, it could be said that this was the last day of the Great Siege. A day before September 8, on the 7th of September, the ***Gran Soccorso*** arrived, the help from Sicily to Malta, this was a blow to the Turkish soldiers.

In the second Siege, it is said that Italy withdrew from World War II, and turned against Germany; which was its former ally. This wonderful news was heard just while some processions of *il-Bambina* were on their way. And of course, the Italian bombing of Malta ceased and this also meant the end of the war for the Maltese islands.

During this day various events normally take place, in addition to the activities that take place during the day of the Feast. The activities start the day before with a cultural activity that takes place in the Siege Square in Valletta, which includes a literary reading, music and art exhibitions. In the past, Maltese Ghana singing sessions were organised on the eve of Victory Day in Mellieha.

In Valletta, on Republic Street, a parade is held by the Maltese Armed Forces that will pass in front of St. John's Co-Cathedral. The Prime Minister of Malta is greeted at the venue while the Maltese National Anthem is played.

A pontifical mass is celebrated later with the presence of the highest authorities of the country.

A wreath is laid by the President of Malta on the Great Siege Monument on this day. In the afternoon there will be the traditional Regatta in the Grand Harbor which is organized by the Malta Sports Council. The societies of Cospicua, Vittoriosa, Birzebbuga, Marsa, Marsamxett, Kalkara and Senglea partici pate in several boat races divided into two categories, with the winning club taking the Shield.

On the island of Gozo, in addition to the solemn celebration of the feast of *il-Bambina* in Xaghra, celebrations are held which include a commemorative evening held in Independence Square, Victoria, presided over by the Minister for Gozo.

During this same evening in addition to a service by the Armed Forces band, wreaths are placed on the war memorial, next to the statue of Christ the King

. Malta and Tunisia, shared stories and common heritage

From Malta ħanina to the African coasts and neighbouring islands

www.timesofmalta.com

Abdellatif Taboubi

Għorfas or menzels in Djerba

If we go back in time, the ancient authors say that a king of Malta called Battus was on good terms with Queen Elyssa of Carthage. When she died by throwing herself into a blaze, her sister, Anna found refuge in Malta, sheltered by this king.

St Joseph church in Houmt el-Souk, in Djerba.

In reality, it's as a Phoenician colony that Malta appears in written history. Diodorus of Sicily is the first to mention the islands of Malta and Gozo. They offered Phoenician traders an ideal stopover on the road to Carthage, Djerba or Motyé, well away from eastern Sicily which was then colonised by the Greeks.

This explains how Malta later on passed into the hands of Carthage, before submitting to Roman domination.

Children playing in a typical street of the locality.

Malta, Djerba, Kerkennah... stories of islands

Malta has a lot in common with the big Tunisian islands, starting with its ancient name, Melita, that we find in our two Mellita of Jerba and Kerkennah but also in other Mediterranean islands like Mljet (or Meleda) in Croatia. The medieval history of these islands has often crossed paths. Malta and Djerba have long had a reputation as 'pirate haunts'.

The islands remained, for many centuries, the stake of battles between rival powers: Aragonese against Hafsides, then Spaniards against Ottomans.

Social and cultural dynamics in Tunisia

A considerable human and cultural mixing took place in the first half of the 20th century in Tunisia and the Maltese community in Tunisia contributed actively to the tangible and intangible enrichment of the country.

Ancient currency of Carthage

From Tunis to Djerba via Cape Bon, Sousse and Sfax, we could easily identify some Maltese family names: Abelto, Barbara, Bartolo, Bastianini, Bondin, Borg, Briffa, Cacchia, Caruana Damato, Debono, Ellul, Farrugia, Fenech, Gili, Gutilla, Lupo, Micallef, Montalano, Muniglia, Phillipi, Spiteri, Vella, Vitale, Xuereb, Zammit and Zarb.

They were doctors, lawyers, teachers, architect traders, entrepreneurs, bar owners, breeders, fishermen... Between 1926 and 1936, almost 3.7 per cent of the Maltese population in Tunis consisted of doctors, architects, pharmacists and lawyers.

It's as a Phoenician colony that Malta appears in written history

J. G. Ellul, architect of the famous Villa Boublil, designed in art deco style in the heart of the Tunis-Belvédère district, was the grandson of a Maltese immigrant who arrived in Tunisia around 1850.

The Maltese landed first in Ghar El Melah (Porto Farina) located in the north of the country and Jerba in the south side to gradually and peacefully indulge in farming and sponge-fishing activities.

Traditional Maltese boats or luzzi, which characterise the Phoenician port of Marsaxlokk nowadays, remind us of the feluccas or flûka that are found in Tunisian fishing villages.

Local fishermen

The fishermen are called sayeda or bahara in Tunisian language or sajjieda in Maltese and the marine know-how and the techniques of ancestral fishing are practically the same.

In Djerba, the Maltese, which were more numerous than the other Europeans, gathered around Fondouk al-Malti. They built the church of St Joseph in Houmt el-Souk, in the beautiful baroque style that characterises their own Catholic churches, then much appreciated by the community.

The Maltese represented more than half of the Christians that settled in Tunisia and up to three-quarters in some coastal cities. They easily mixed with Tunisians thanks to their linguistic proximity. Presumably, the Maltese language is originally a Tunisian dialect.

In Malta, as in Djerba, water is scarce and precious, to the point that seawater desalination plants are needed. And, in traditional farms called razzett, the upstairs rooms are called għorfa − as in the menzels of Djerba − a family home or farm space including all agricultural and livestock activities and the houch or the home of the family that live and work there.

Abdellatif Taboubi is an expert in Mediterranean heritage and cultural tourism. He contributed to the implementation of projects financed by the Euromed Heritage IV programme, mainly on approaches related to shared heritage as well as the formulation of the EU programme Tounes Wejhatouna 2019-2025, a support programme for the diversification of tourism, the development of crafts and the enhancement of cultural heritage.

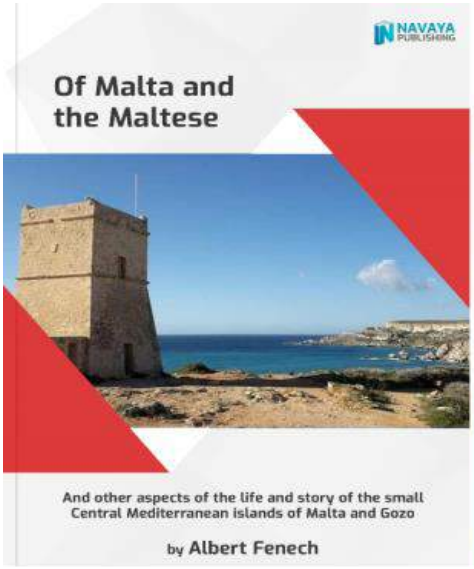
Acknowledgements

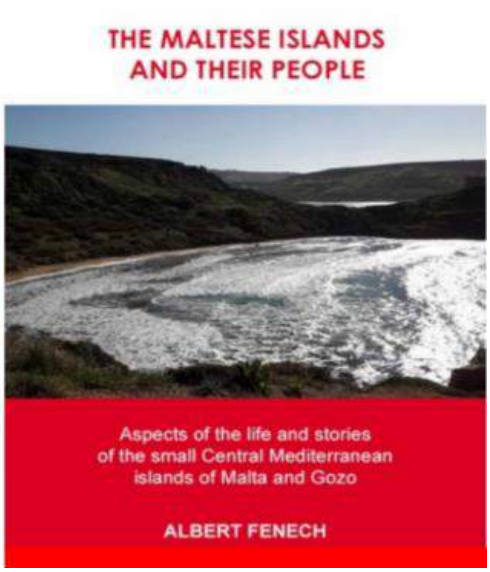
The article was written in collaboration with Ray Bondin, whom the author met in 2009 at the University of Florence during the kick-off meeting of the Euromed Heritage programme − Mare Nostrum project.

WE THANK ALL OUR CONTRIBUTORS

If you have a story to tell, send it to us and share it with others

ALBERT FENECH





Over the last three months I have had published two E/books promoting the names of Malta and Gozo. I have been writing a weekly article on our Islands called Malta Diary since 2015 on the international site b-c-ing-u.com
The articles have an extensive worldwide readership and I was thus urged to collate them and have them printed as E/books.
Their greatest appeal is of course to the Maltese diaspora and those of Maltese descent, particularly in Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the United States and the United Kingdom.
Several more books will follow.
The first book, "The Maltese Islands and their People" shows aspects of the lives and stories of our small Mediterranean Islands. The second book, "Of Malta and the Maltese" are other aspects of the life and story of our small Mediterranean Islands.
Both the books are available on Rakuten Kobo United Kingdom, on Nook Book (E/book) Barnes & Noble and also payhip. Many, many thanks and very best regards, ALBERT FENECH (Qawra, Malta)

Honey produced at Heritage Malta sites gains gold at international awards

A local brand of gourmet raw honey, some of which is produced from hives maintained at various Heritage Malta sites, has won gold at the 2021 London International Honey Awards (LIHA).The brand – Golden Island – manages apiaries at several locations across Malta, including the Heritage Malta sites at Tas-Silġ, Għar Dalam and San Pawl Milqi. Along with these sites, its hives are also situated at the San Anton and Verdala Palaces and Malta International Airport. It has been producing honey since 2008 and its products are well sought after, both locally and overseas.
The apiaries produce three harvests annually – spring (multifloral from borage, clover, citrus, and wild thistle), summer (monofloral – wild thyme), and autumn (multifloral – carob and eucalyptus). For the London International Honey Awards, Golden Island entered samples from its summer harvest. The awards are judged by a panel of experts in a blind tasting. Eligible honey must pass extensive testing by an independent accredited laboratory. There are four awards ranging from bronze to platinum, with gold being reserved for honey that scores from 85.5 to 95.0 out of a maximum possible score of 100.

MALTESE CANADIANS WELCOME

Fr Giovann Tabone MSSP to Canada

Whilst thanking Fr Jimmy Zammit MSSP for his service to the Maltese Canadian Community and wishing him all the best in his new appointment in the Vatican for the next six years, Maltese Canadians has just welcomed Fr Giovann Tabone MSSP.

MALTESE CANADIAN COMMUNITY NEWS

'Maltese eNewsletter - 'The Journal of the Maltese Diaspora'

The 388th Edition of The Maltese eNewsletter - The Journal of the Maltese Diaspora has been published and can be obtained by emailing the editor Frank L. Scicluna on maltesejournal@gmail.com

Copies can now be obtained from Malta Info Stations at the Consulate General of the Republic of Malta to Canada, Malta Bake Shop, the Melita Soccer Club and the Malta Band Club.

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FESTA SANTA MARIJA AND IL-VITORJA

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DOORS OPEN AT 6.00pm
DINNER SERVED AT 7.00pm
MENU

HOBZ BIZ-ZEJT, ROAST BEEF, POTATOES AND VEG.
PASTRY AND COFFEE
PRICE $35
PLEASE, BOOK BY SEPT 5th, 2021
NOTE THAT COVID VACCINATION IS A REQUIREMENT

CANADA CALLS

It's been a while since we last connected. I hope you are very well and healthy and enjoying a wonderful, restful summer (or winter, depending on where you happen to be!)

Quite a bit going on at my end, namely the reason for my communication absence. To make a long, meandering story short, I was recently diagnosed with an intestinal tear that has made life a daily lesson in pain.

However, I am now two weeks into a prescribed six-week treatment and am noticing micro improvements each day (IE, the need to openly sob for two hours diminishing). I'm actually writing to you now while seated on my special memory foam cushion designed for conditions such as mine. Best. Cushion. Ever.

Fortunately, I've had some wonderful things to distract me. My hubby (who has taken really good care of me), my doggo (who has also taken really good care of me), and celebrating our ten year anniversary with an incredible ten days in the sublime Rockies of Western Canada (though our schedule mostly revolved around pain management). Still, we managed to tackle some of the most amazing hikes I've ever experienced.

And, I got to spend time with my dear friend, sensational Canadian author, Darcie Friesen Hossack, who lives with her delightful Chef-Husband and two beautiful cats just outside magnificent Jasper.

I've also put many hours into further developing my script for the pilot episode of the television series based on my novels which has been named a finalist in the Toronto Lift Off Film Festival. Things are moving! For an update on what's going on, I invite you to check out my blog post, On Adapting a Novel. And for anyone keen on adapting their own work, this post provides links to the excellent Book to Script course I took.

I am excited and honoured to share that my first novel, *Eight Pointed Cross*, is a top ten finalist in the **Author Elite Awards** in the category of **Historical Fiction**. I would be eternally grateful for your vote! If you are so inclined, you can vote here (my category is on **PAGE 6**): https://authoreliteawards.com/finalists2021/

Most of all, I'd like to show ***you*** my gratitude for actually opening and reading my emails. Your support means everything. And so, anyone who responds to this note will be entered into a draw to win a limited edition, hardcover copy of *Eight Pointed Cross* or *Falcon's Shadow*.

Finally, the third instalment of my trilogy is still on track for a May 2022 release. I've narrowed prospective titles down to two and am currently having the cover designed by profoundly talented artist, Andrei Xuereb. Very much looking forward to sharing the cover art soon!

Until next time, thank you so much, stay safe, and have fun. Warmly, Marthese Fenech (Canada)

Backfilling the mosaic floor in the Apodyterium or changing room. Photo: Heritage Malta

Backfilling the floor in the room next to the Forica or latrine. Photo: Heritage Malta

Għajn Tuffieħa Roman baths backfilled for conservation purposes

Intervention will slow down deterioration

The Għajn Tuffieħa Roman baths have been backfilled with layers of protective materials to conserve them for future generations, in the first-ever intervention of its kind by Heritage Malta.

Structures on site provide shelter from sun and rain, however, they do not offer protection against heat, wind and water seeping beneath.

Besides erosion caused by the elements, damage has also been caused by small animals foraging in the area, plant roots, and people's footsteps in spite of the fact that the site is not open to the public except occasionally.

It was therefore decided to preserve the site in its current state to slow down the deterioration process and ensure stability.

This could only be achieved by backfilling it temporarily to provide a similar environment to that where it lay for some 2,000 years prior to its discovery, so as to avoid further loss of material.

Plans for the conservation of the Roman Baths had been drafted for quite some time. In fact, two years ago, as a precautionary measure, a trial was conducted by backfilling a small area on site, devoid of Roman mosaic, with the same materials used in the latter intervention.

Backfilling the natatio or piscina. Photo: Heritage Malta

Following a detailed analysis of the site, emergency conservation works were carried out by Heritage Malta's conservator-restorers in the month prior to this intervention. These included consolidation works, plastering of cracks and plant removal.

Detached mosaic pieces were put back in place not to be lost and to recreate the pattern. Every step was documented, including 3D modelling by Heritage Malta's archaeologists.

The stratigraphy employed in the site's backfilling is recognisable and reversible, enabling future archaeologists and conservator-restorers to distinguish the materials from the original site.

Both local and imported materials were used. These were separated from the original surface and from each other through the use of geotextile.

The Għajn Tuffieħa Roman baths were discovered by accident in 1929, when workers were digging a trench to supply nearby fields with fresh water from a natural spring in the area.

They informed Sir Temi Zammit, the Museums Director at the time, who excavated the site in 1929 and 1930 and who believed that the bathing complex dates back to the first or second century after Christ.

The complex, whose location was probably chosen to fully exploit the natural source of water in the vicinity, consists of pools and chambers. One of the chambers was kept warm and is, in fact, elevated, resting on a number of arches where fire would heat up the water.

Heritage Malta's chief executive officer Noel Zammit said this is a clear and practical example of how the national agency for cultural heritage gives a future to the nation's past.

"The current situation was not allowing the site to be preserved properly, leading us to decide to deprive ourselves of it to enable future generations to enjoy it instead.

"We cannot retrieve what has been lost from the site with the passage of time, but we can prevent further losses."

He stressed that the backfilling is only a temporary measure and that Heritage Malta will not disregard this site but will continue to take care of its upkeep until the time comes for it to be uncovered again without any risk to its preservation.

VICTOR V. VELLA

THE. V'S. IN MY LIFE

I was born a Vella in Malta and I was born very close to April fool's day but in Malta everything is very close. I was given the name Victor as I was baptised very close to the village feast which is O.L. of Victories , nothing much to do with the Latin connotation but very close to that day the Maltese and the Knights of St. John managed to defeat the Turks in the Siege of Malta , ... all because of an ill-wind which did not bring the Turks any good. So the Turks retired to Turkey of all places before Erdogan took over and tried hard to join the European Union.

Yes I was born close to The end of W. W 1. and to the beginning of WW 2, and I remember it well.... Hitler and Mussolini both wanted to take over Malta for some unknown reason or unbeknown to me at that time as I was born at a very early age. And I never looked back...mostly for something wrong in my collar bone.. So I kept looking forward and came to face with WW 2. which was a very exciting times: it was the first time we saw fireworks and planes in the air and parachutes coming down from the sky...And we thought and believed: There is a God... And now I am still looking forward… most probably to W. W3. Oh Aren't we I living in exciting times.

At a very early age it was decided I was a boy: I could not care less till I reached the age of 10 or 12.. and felt I was a boy.... see I was a late developer.. I could have decided otherwise....but as I said that was at a very early age. And modern operations have not yet been invented... They used to make you drink scotch before they chop off your right sorry...wrong leg.... And that is how and why I developed a predilection for the stuff. I got off the practice of operations but kept the predilection!

As I entered the age of reason I lost all my rational powers. Feelings and inclinations took over and to tell you the truth I nearly lost the age of reason.... But I had to regain it a short time after.....after a period of warnings and disappointments and broken hearts..

And then I woke up from a dreadful dream of a Prime Minister showing the V. sign. No it was not on TV. as TV came to my village a few years later...remember I was born at an early. age.....We were still using kerosene lamps in the dark and in those days it used to get dark very early. And in the adjoining island they used to have longer nights ...it was a mile closer to the North Pole .... See in the northern hemisphere everything is closer not like Australia! And somehow I realised that my first name and my surname started with a V. And as my brain came out of the torpid state I found out that we were living in Victory Street, and the parish Square was Victory Square and the feast day was Our Lady l of Victories and I was living near a viaduct and the next suburb was named Santa Venera ...and the capital city was Valletta and my mother was Philomena which was generally pronounced Vilomena. And I started singing: Oh what a wonderful World. Actually that came later as my vocal chords took a while to develop into a vibrant pizzicato.

As I was growing up. We started our travels. Not as Robert Stevenson on a donkey in the Cevennes but around Malta and its suburb.. We used to venture out on an old puffing billy of a bus to Vittoriosa which took virtually a whole day travelling to the other side of the island . Therefore as soon as we got there we had to leave to catch the only and last bus.. And as I said in those parts of the world it used to get dark very early not only in the morning but early at night if you see what I mean. It was a short meeting with auntie Virginia who lost the first part of her name early in the piece as there were many British sailors around who though naval, they spend most of their time in the dark valleys sorry alleys of Vittoriosa one of the three cities conveniently built right on the water. Poor Virginia she died an. early death of vertigo as she did not know where to turn to.

We loved to visit a bearded uncle who they said was a classics scholar. He was Maltese but he was always

looking for wider horizons and used to spend his holidays on the sister Island of Gozo, half an hour away by ferry. He used to do a lot of undersea exploration by a hook and sinker.....and lying naked on the beach in the early hours of the morning. It would be beneficial to add that in Gozo they have early mornings and the naked observance of the universe was introduced by some foreigners who became residents after ww2.

You must realise by now that in Malta everything is measured by wars. Not that we are a belligerent nation. We are very friendly and peaceful to foreigners: internally it is a different story. And going back to the the wars, yes wars are the focal points of our life. If your are not very. political which is quite rare... because politics is the bread and butter of life there together with wars.. So everything has to fit in before WW 1or between the two world wars, or right after WW2 or during the war of Abyssinia or a reminder by an old uncle that, ...'the war would not have started by then'... And now we are looking forward to WW 3. And they have already started talking about in between WW 2 and the beginning of. No 3.

I nearly forgot to tell you that my uncle's name was Vitrius, shortened to Vit.... as his grandfather came to Malta before WW1 from Viterbo in Italy.

Sundays were visiting days when we used to visit grandparents and get together with some cousins and aunties and uncles. My favourite auntie was Victoria. One set of grandparents had a hound given the name of Vercingetorix given to him by. my 'classic' uncle. It was too long a name for a small island so he got used to answer to the shortened version Vercin, which was not quite to the liking of my auntie Virginia.

I too was looking for wider horizons and took to the stars, or rather to look up to the stars. During my astrological wonderings I discovered that I was born under the sixth zodiacal sign a constellation called Virgo which chimed in so well my my aunties name , the one who lived at Vittoriosa. By the way she used to spend her holidays away from maritime air in the capital of Gozo by the name of Victoria.

And now coming back to earth as flying is becoming an ordeal, I find myself surrounded by virtual reality, and that there is not much difference between a violin and a virago, or a Viennese and a Victorian and a villain and a Viking.

I keep realising that life works in wondrous ways.... And strange to say when I grew to marriageable age. and a young lass came into my ken and I did not even bother about her age or name as the lady in question had more prominent features. And as Jane Austen so well expressed in the very first sentence of her novel Pride and Prejudice. that...It is a truth universally acknowledged 'that a single man in possession of a good fortune must be in want of a wife".... I felt I fitted the picture..... And to cut a long story short ....I got married to the lady I had met in Victory Square at the church of our Lady of Victories and surprise . I soon discovered that .... her name was .Victoria.

The Royal Opera House Bombed to Ruins by the Luftwaffe On April 7, 1942

Our journal was also attacked by certain individuals and they tried to silence us and they wanted us to stop publishing it. We know the names of these malicious people. Instead of silencing us and with the support of our readers, we kept growing from strength to strength.

A shock to the nation: It's been 61 years since the brutal murder of Twanny Aquilina

It's possibly the most mysterious case on our islands.
Jillian Mallia

What was a typical summer's day on our islands quickly turned into a haunting case that is still talked about today. On 23rd August 1960, the police issued a statement that shocked the nation to its core, announcing that eight-year-old Anthony "Twanny" Aquilina "was found dead at his residence in St Dominic Street, Valletta, in circumstances which indicated that he died as a result of wilful violence committed with an irregular weapon by some person unknown."

The gruesome murder The announcement instilled widespread rage and horror at the atrocity committed on an innocent child. Twanny was supposedly murdered between 5.30pm and 6.30pm on that fateful day, and was found partially beheaded at about 7.45pm by Police Constable Carmelo Attard.

The constable was on duty in Strait Street, Valletta when a panic-striken Joseph Schembri informed him that Leli's son had died in a fall. Attard rushed to the scene in St Dominic Street, which naturally drew curious residents and passers-by. Upon investigating the scene, the officer quickly shot down the report of a fall after finding a bloodstained bread knife in a kitchen drawer. The primary suspects were Twanny's own relatives: his mother Giga and his stepfather Leli.

The suspects' accounts Both relatives denied any responsibility, both claiming they weren't at the scene of the crime at that time, but had quite similar statements. Leli had seen multiple people outside his home and ran in to see what had happened. "I continued to the apartment, saw the kitchen door ajar, went in through that door and found the boy on the floor behind the door, in a pool of blood. I touched him on his back to see whether he was still alive and, as I moved his head, it came off, and I realised that his neck was cut."

Giga had a similar story to tell, stating that she sent her daughter Carmen to check on Twanny but there was no reply. But someone informed Carmen and her friend who had accompanied her to the scene that there was blood in the building and the girls immediately ran to fetch Giga. "I climbed the stairs to see if there really was blood. When I arrived upstairs, I saw light through a crack in the kitchen door. I pushed the door slightly open and saw Twanny full of blood," Giga said.

Leli Camilleri

The court case It wasn't until 1st November when Scotland Yard was roped into the case and forensic evidence began emerging against them that they gave their statements again and were formally arrested. The public was in uproar against the ban issued on the publication of proceedings, naturally wanting to know about the shocking case. The gory details of the murder began to emerge when the ban was officially lifted at the start of the trial on 25th February 1961.

Court-appointed medical doctors revealed that Twanny had actually first been fatally beaten with a deadbolt, a fact that shocked many. And it wasn't the three lacerations in his skull that resulted in his death, but the partial beheading. And, while no one actually saw the murder happen, witnesses soon began to piece things together.

Witness accounts 14-year-old Alfred Fitzpatrick remembers seeing Giga carry a motionless Twanny from the stairs into her apartment. He said he was heading up to his apartment when he heard a faint moan and two or more people running, as well as the sound of a metal object hitting the ground.

Freddy, as he was known, left his apartment for a while, but upon returning saw Giga's kitchen door ajar. Curiosity killing him, he stepped inside and found Twanny lying on the floor. He called out to him and touched him, attempting to wake him up, but when the young boy didn't reply, Freddy washed his hands and left the apartment.

RAS TWANNIE INQATGHET B'SIKKINA TAL-HOBZ U KIENET IMDENDLA
BEDA LĠURI TA' OMMU U ŻEWĠHA AKKUŻATI BIL-QTIL TA'
Il-Berqa

Twanny's eight-year-old sister Carmen was the witness who shed most light, filing in gaps left in the trial. Carmen recounts that Twanny was washing the floor when he took his father's tools to repair his shoes. Seeing him, his mother scolded him and snatched the tools away but, overcome with anger, struck Twanny with a leather strap. The boy attempted to run out of the apartment but Giga caught up as Twanny shouted, "Carmen, Carmen," to his sister. Carmen saw her mother walking back inside carrying the boy, who she laid on the bed.

Giga instructed her daughter to fetch Leli and when he arrived, Giga said she found him dead. The couple moved the young boy off the bed and lay him down on the floor as Giga drew a bread knife from a drawer and knelt next to him. Despite having been sent outside, Carmen said she saw her parents changing their clothes and putting those they had taken off in the washing machine together with the bedspread.

Eventually, Leli and Giga were both found guilty of murdering the eight-year-old. Leli was imprisoned for 20 years while Giga was sentenced to death. Her lawyer appealed and petitions to the Government were made in order to spare her life. The death sentence was lifted two weeks later, and she was instead jailed for life. Ten years later, she walked out as a free woman.

To this day, details of what actually went down in the apartment are still hazy, and Giga's release just 10 years into her sentence doesn't quite add up. It's a Maltese tale that is probably going to be talked about for years to come, as it has done these past 61 years.

Details of that unbelievable day were reported in a Times of Malta anniversary article back in 2010 - a story that still sends chills down every local's spine.

Torri Mamo Marsascala Malta

Although referred to as a tower this building was a fortified country residence built by the Mamo family in 1657 as protection against invading pirates from nearby St Thomas Bay.

The building has a unique shape with sixteen sides. On entering one finds a beautiful round domical-roofed room leading to four smaller rooms forming the four arms of the cross. On the left-hand side a staircase leads to the roof with wide views over the bay and surrounding countryside.

A two-metre ditch surrounds the Tower and there was formerly a draw-bridge. In the ditch there is a 4th-century Roman tomb which was probably originally from the Phoenician period. Over the years the Tower has had many owners. It was inherited by Lord Strickland, Prime Minister of Malta from 1927-33 and was then sold. In 1940 it was taken over by the British military authorities as a regional headquarters, and a pill box was constructed on the roof. It was subsequently rented to a family from Zejtun but due to severe deterioration they gave up the lease in 1987. It was then handed over to Din l-Art Helwa by the Ministry for Culture, and a study of repairs required to the external walls was made in 1988, and deteriorated stone masonry was replaced. Pilasters were erected to be able to install a gate at the entrance from the road. Between 1994-95 flagstones were laid on the floor and the restoration of the external walls as well as the installation of internal and external lighting was completed.

The world-famous BBC Concert Orchestra is back in Malta

Performance followed by concert from Pete Tong and the Heritage Orchestra

It's a Kind of Magic' tells the story of Freddie Mercury, Brian May, Roger Taylor and John Deacon.

The granaries in Floriana will once again welcome the world-famous BBC Concert Orchestra on September 24 for an extravaganza of sound as they tell the story of one of the world's greatest rock bands, the Malta Tourism Authority said.

It's a Kind of Magic – The Queen Story is a spectacular concert that tells the story of Freddie Mercury, Brian May, Roger Taylor and John Deacon through their extraordinary hit songs, and through the songs of the music legends who inspired them.

The 60-piece BBC Concert Orchestra and a dynamic rock band, together with a cast of star singers will perform songs by Jimi Hendrix, Led Zeppelin, Aretha Franklin, John Lennon and more, together with Queen classics, including a re-creation of the whole of the legendary Live Aid set from Wembley Stadium.

Hosted by Tony Hadley, lead singer of the iconic 80's band Spandau Ballet, Tony will also pay tribute to Queen lending his voice to one of their most iconic hits.

Tony Vincent, star of the hit Queen musical *We Will Rock You*, along with leading vocalists Vanessa Haynes, Rachael Wooding, Ashton Jones, Tim Howar and leading vocal group Capital Voices, will perform a line-up of Queen hits including *Killer Queen, Somebody To Love, Don't Stop Me Now, Under Pressure, We Are the Champions, Bohemian Rhapsody* and more !

Pete Tong Classics, on September 28, 2021, promises to be an iconic classical electronic music event that is inventively bold and brightly reimagined.

'Pete Tong Classics' promises to be an electronic music event which is inventively bold.

Three albums in with *Classic House, Ibiza Classics* and *Chilled Classics*, Tong and co are owning the dancefloor and the concert arena.

Minister for Tourism and Consumer Protection Clayton Bartolo stated: "The return of the BBC Concert Orchestra and the addition of Pete Tong and the Heritage Orchestra are of sterling news for the entertainment industry."

Johann Buttigieg, CEO of the Malta Tourism Authority, said: "Although it feels surreal, but we are more than happy to have reached this important milestone.

"We are proud to welcome back the world-famous BBC Concert Orchestra for their second concert on the granaries. We are also honoured to be bringing Pete Tong and the Heritage Orchestra to Malta in what promises to be an innovative experience for all those attending."

Tickets for *It's A Kind of Magic – The Queen Story* and for *Pete Tong Classics* are available at www.visitmalta.com. Early Booking is highly recommended since the number of available tickets is limited.

When booking tickets online at visitmalta.com, a booking can be up to a maximum of six people per group, people will also be asked to confirm that they are in possession of a valid COVID-19 Vaccination Certificate.

There will be maximum of six seats per group with two-metre distance between groups, and overall bubbles will be of a maximum of 340 people. bubble will have its own queuing system and amenities. The temperature will be checked upon entrance and an approved vaccine certificate needs to be presented together with an identification document.

INAWGURAT IR-RESTAWR FUQ ZEWG KAPPELLI ANTIKI F'HAL GHARGHUR

Tlesta x-xogħol ta' restawr u konservazzjoni fuq żewġ kappelli ddedikati lil Marija Assunta, magħrufa bħala 'taż-Żellieqa' u 'ta' Bernarda', żewġ kappelli tas-seklu 17 li jinsabu f'Ħal Għargħur. Dan sar mill-Fondazzjoni għall-Patrimonju Kulturali tal-Arċidjoċesi ta' Malta, b'kofinanzjament ta' 80% minn fondi tal-Unjoni Ewropea. Il-proġetti ġew inawgurati mill-Isqof Awżiljarju Joseph Galea-Curmi u mis-Segretarju Parlamentari għall-Fondi Ewropej Stefan Zrinzo Azzopardi. Preżenti wkoll is-Segretarju Amministrattiv tal-Arċidjoċesi ta' Malta Michael Pace Ross, u l-kappillan Dun Christopher Galea.

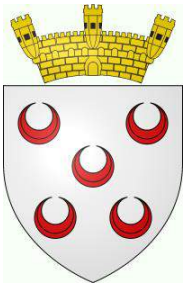
Iż-żewġ kappellli sarilhom xogħol ta' restawr estensiv minn barra u minn ġewwa minħabba d-deterjorazzjoni matul is-snin. L-investiment fuq il-Kappella taż-Żellieqa, li tinsab fil-periferija ta' Ħal Għargħur u tħares fuq Wied il-Faħam, kien ta' kważi €121,000. Il-proġett kien jinkludi wkoll l-irranġar taz-zuntier. Fil-każ tal-Kappella ta' Bernarda, li tinsab f'wieħed mill-isqaqien antiki tar-raħal, saru mill-ġdid sistema ta' dawl u awdjo biex il-kappella tkun tista' taqdi aħjar il-ħtiġijiet tal-komunità. Ix-xogħol ammonta għal ftit aktar minn €50,000.

L-Isqof Joseph Galea-Curmi qal li hu ta' sodisfazzjon li fil-parroċċi f'Malta qed jikber l-impenn biex il-poplu jgħożż il-patrimonju kulturali Kattoliku, li jfakkar fl-istorja reliġjuża antika u sabiħa tal-poplu Malti. "Jalla dan li qed nagħmlu llum iservi bħala stedina biex inkomplu napprezzaw il-wirt sabiħ li għandna, biex dawk li jiġu warajna jistgħu jagħrfu aħjar il-valuri umani li tassew jgħinu bil-bini tas-soċjetà Maltija." L-Isqof Awżiljarju rringrazzja lil kull min kien involut f'dawn il-proġetti. Irringrazzja wkoll lill-kappillan Dun Christopher Galea u lill-parruċċani ta' Ħal Għargħur tas-sehem tagħhom.

Is-Segretarju Parlamentari għall-Fondi Ewropej Stefan Zrinzo Azzopardi qal kif fil-lokalità ta' Ħal Għargħur ġew irrestawrati żewġ kappelli b'investiment ta' aktar minn €170,000 kofinanzjati b'fondi Ewropej. Dr Zrinzo Azzopardi qal li "grazzi għal dan il-proġett u proġetti oħra simili qed inkomplu nħarsu l-wirt storiku ta' pajjiżna u nipprovdu lit-turisti esperjenza aktar komprensiva, fejn kulħadd għandu l-opportunità jżur u japprezza dawn l-opri arkitettoniċi li jżewqu l-pajsaġġ Malti".

Michael Pace Ross qal li sabiex il-pubbliku Malti u t-turisti li se jżuru l-kappella taż-Żellieqa jkollhom esperjenza ħolistika, il-parroċċa ħadet l-opportunità tirrestawra minn flusha l-inkwatru titulari li juri t-Tlugħ tal-Verġni Marija fis-Sema. Qal ukoll li aktar 'il quddiem se jiġu rrestawrati wkoll żewġ pitturi li jinsabu fil-kappella ta' Bernarda. Pace Ross faħħar il-koperazzjoni li teżisti bejn il-Fondazzjoni għall-Patrimonju Kulturali tal-Arċidjoċesi ta' Malta u s-Segretarjat għall-Fondi Ewropej li permezz tagħhom qed jitħares dejjem aktar il-patrimonju Malti. Il-kappella taż-Żellieqa u ta' Bernarda qed jibbenefikaw mill-Fond Ewropew għall-Iżvilupp Reġjonali 2014-2020

QORMI – CITTA PINTO (City of Pinto}



Qormi also known by its title **Città Pinto**, is a city in the Southern Region of Malta, southwest of Valletta in the centre of the island. It has a population of 16,324 (as of March 2018), making it Malta's the fifth-largest city. Its bordering towns are Marsa, Luqa, Żebbuġ, Siġġiewi, Ħamrun, Birkirkara, Attard, Santa Venera and Balzan.

Qormi has two parishes, one dedicated to Saint George and one to Saint Sebastian. It contains two valleys: Wied *il-Kbir* (The Large Valley) and *Wied is-Sewda* (Black Valley). Elder inhabitants of Qormi speak a broad Qormi Dialect, which is now in decline

Etymology The name Qormi is most likely derived from the surname *Curmi*, which is documented in Sicily as of 1095. Several other places in Malta derive their names from surnames, including Balzan, Attard and Ghaxaq. When Qormi is mentioned for the first time in the year 1419, only two of twenty people with the surname Curmi lived in the village.

Alternative folk etymologies have been put forward since the 17th century. Domenico Magri connects the toponym to the word *curmi* as drink. G.F. Abela refers to *carm* or *carme* as the Arabic term for vine as origin of the village name. Agius de Soldanis proposed the Greek *crumi*, collection of water.[6] Finally C. Scicluna likens it to the Greek *hormos*, harbour, as the Great Harbour used to go inland as far as Qormi.[7] In both latter cases, there is no documentary evidence for any Greek origin of the toponym.[3]

History Pinto's Loggia There are indications of it being inhabited in antiquity. Bronze Age pottery was found in the area known as *Stabal* indicating presence of humans as early as 1500-800 BC. Punic tombs have been found at St Edward's Street and Tal-Bajjada. Also, some Ancient Roman remains were found in the valley of *Wied il-Kbir*. However, chances are that in these times, there were only small communities in the whereabouts of Qormi.

It was only in the Middle Ages that Qormi started to grow and prosper, probably thanks to its proximity to the Grand Harbour and its central position. The first written reference to the town is made in 1417 where it is recorded that the town provided some 100 men to serve in the Dejma, the national guard.

Qormi is likely to have suffered a period of decline during the Great Siege of Malta due to the proximity of the Turkish camp in Marsa.

When Mons. Pietro Dusina, Malta's first Inquisitor and Apostolic Delegate, wrote his report of 1575 he records Qormi as being one of the active parishes administering a large area which today includes Ħamrun and even Valletta. The present St George Parish church was completed in 1684.

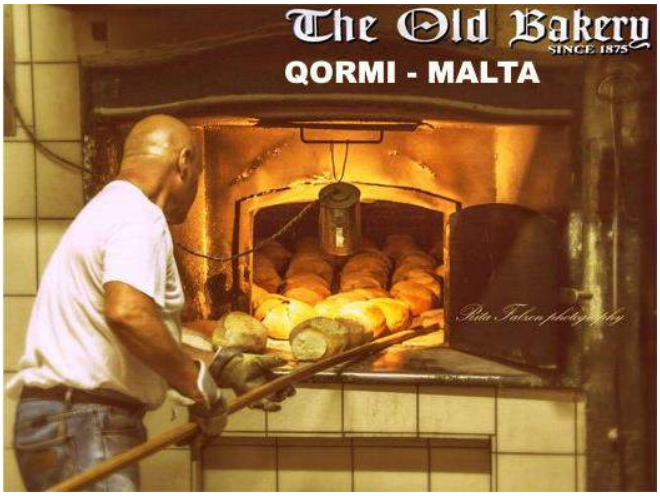
In 1743 the town made a plea to Grand Master Manuel Pinto da Fonseca to elevate it to the level of a "city". This was granted and the town received the title of *Città Pinto* on 25 May 1743.[9] The decree issued by Pinto said "*Habita relatione, Terra Curmi erigmus In Civitatem, Imponentes el nomen Pinto*", which means that the land of Qormi, to which he gave his own name Pinto, was then given higher dignity from a piece of land to a city, a fact which is now preserved in the locality's Latin motto: "*Altior Ab Imo*" (which means, rising from the low). Qormi's bakers served most of the island's bread supplies.

Palazzo Stagno 1589

Qormi also experienced plague, which led to some declines throughout its history. However, during the British rule, Qormi moved on with new institutions opening up, mainly schools. Following 1850 Qormi became one of the largest inhabited centres in Malta, with amenities such as water and electricity, which were somewhat rare in those times. Trade and crafts grew, especially Horse racing which is a hobby that Maltese often attribute to people from Qormi.

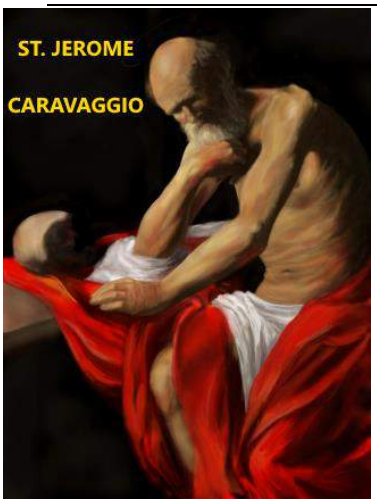
During the World Wars, Qormi played a small part as well. In World War I, many people from Qormi were employed at several British bases such as in Thessaloniki, and the ones in Qormi as well, such as the airship station in the area known as Saint Sebastian, which would later become a parish itself. In World War II, people from Qormi formed part of the Armed Forces. Qormi also became a refuge to many people from the Cottonera area, which was badly hit because this area sits off the Grand Harbour, and area which was fiercely attacked by the Axis powers. Qormi, although close, is not exactly in the Grand Harbour region, making it ideal for refuge in those times.

Qormi has two parishes, dedicated to Saint George and Saint Sebastian. Saint George's parish was the first one. However, when Qormi was growing, there was the need for the city to be split into two parishes to facilitate growth. Saint Sebastian was chosen because Qormi had turned to him during times of plague infestation, since he is the protector and patron saint of people ill from plague, according to Catholic tradition. This led to many Qormi citizens carrying the name of *Ġorġ* (George) and *Bastjan* (Sebastian) and their equivalents and derivatives.



Nowadays Qormi is the third largest locality in the nation of Malta, with two parishes, several institutions and a local council that governs the locality.

Governance Local governance existed during the French occupation of Malta in 1798.



Next to the St Jerome Room in St John's Cathedral in Valletta, visitors can watch 'Meet Caravaggio' – a short docu-drama on the life of the artist in Malta between July 1607 and October 1608, first as a novice, later as a Knight of Obedience and his dramatic escape from imprisonment in Fort St Angelo.

In 2019, when the historic doorway that once led to the Grand Prior's house was opened, the former premises were reunited with the oratory. The Caravaggio Wing project was part-financed by the European Regional Development Fund – 80 percent funded by the European Union, and 20 percent by the St John's Co-Cathedral Foundation. The movie 'Meet Caravaggio' was produced by Stargate Studios Malta Ltd. *This content was supplied by the St John's Cathedral Foundation*

11 Most Significant Moments in Maltese History

1. THE TEMPLE PERIOD BEGINS

Our list of the most significant moments in Maltese history begins with Malta and Gozo's world-famous megalithic temples, built by a pre-historic people believed to have originated from Sicily, begin to be constructed. There are 11 sites dotted around the Maltese Islands which were constructed between 3600 and 2500 BC and are among the oldest free-standing structures in the world (only the recently-discovered Gobekli-Tepe complex in Turkey is said to pre-date them).

2. ROMANS WREST MALTA FROM THE CARTHAGINIANS

The Roman Empire, still in its infancy, conquered Malta from Carthage in 218 BC. Malta remained under Roman rule for over 1,000 years and the island prospered during that period, becoming known for its fine cloth, honey and as a trading post. Evidence of the latter exists in the form of Rabat's Roman Villa, excavated in the late 19th Century.

3. ST. PAUL THE APOSTLE IS SHIPWRECKED

St. Paul the Apostle was on his way by sea from Jerusalem to Rome in order to appeal to Julius Caesar for his rights as a Roman citizen. He was doing so because the elders of Jerusalem wanted him executed after telling the city's people to forsake Jewish customs. He was shipwrecked at St. Paul's Islands in 60 AD, along with approximately 270 others. The Maltese people welcomed him with "unusual kindness" (in his own words) and they converted to Christianity after witnessing him suffer no ill-effects when he was bitten by a snake.

4. THE ARAB INVASION

Although not much is known about over 200 years of Arab rule in Malta, the Maltese language itself is of Semitic origin and heavily influenced by Arabic. The names for many settlements throughout the Maltese Islands have clear Arab influences and were believed to have been founded during this period. The conquerors also imposed Islam upon the Christian population. They are also believed to have introduced citrus fruits and cotton to the islands.

5. MALTA WINS THE GREAT SIEGE

The Ottoman Empire desperately wanted Malta to further its military ambitions during the 16th Century. It sent an army of about 40,000 men to the island in 1565, and proceeded to besiege it for four long months during that year. Vastly outnumbered, the Knights of Malta, locals and others fighting alongside them held on until the Ottomans gave up their relentless assault and left Malta on September 11 of that year.

6. VALLETTA IS COMPLETED

The capital city of Malta, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and the first planned city in Europe, was designed by the Knights of Malta's pre-eminent military engineer and built in honour of Grand Master Jean de Valette. Intended as both a fortress city and a world cultural centre, Valletta was conceived with the aim of warding off a rumoured Ottoman invasion which never materialised. The beautiful Baroque city was completed in 1581.

7. THE BRITISH ARRIVE

In 1798, the Maltese people were trying to retake Valletta from a French general and his forces garrisoned inside the city's walls following the surrender of the Knights of Malta to Napoleon. The Maltese were rebelling against the French who had made themselves deeply unpopular with the locals in the space of a few months following their assumption of control of the island. The Maltese requested assistance from the British, who helped kick the French out in 1800 by means of a blockade. It was the beginning of 164 years of British rule during which infrastructure, fortresses and significant cultural influences were contributed.

8. SS OHIO MAKES IT TO GRAND HARBOUR

15th August 1942 is a date firmly etched in the Maltese conscience. The SS Ohio, a tanker operated by the British navy, limped into Grand Harbour to the sound of Rule Britannia and cheering crowds. She had been bombed mercilessly by Axis fighters and was listing badly, snapping the towlines of the boats helping her to her destination. On-board were vital supplies needed to sustain Malta's starving population for at least a few more months. The feast of Santa Marija is one of the most significant in the Maltese calendar.

9. MALTA GAINS ITS INDEPENDENCE

The Maltese people voted for their future in a constitutional referendum held between 2nd and 4th May 1964, becoming an independent constitutional monarchy on 21st September 1964, Malta's Independence Day. Gorg Borg Olivier was Prime Minister at the time Malta became independent, while Queen Elizabeth II was the ceremonial head of state. Anthony Mamo was the first President of Malta when it became a republic some 10 years later.

10. MALTA BECOMES A REPUBLIC

The 13th of December 1974 commemorates one of the historic events in Malta's constitutionl progress. Parliament approved amends to the Constitution for Malta to become a Republic within the Commonwealth.

The Queen of England did not remain Malta's Head of State, and was replaced by **Sir Anthony Mamo** as the First President of the Republic. This event continued to strengthen what had been acquired ten years earlier through Independence.

11. MALTA JOINS THE EUROPEAN UNION

A referendum on whether to join the European Union was held in Malta in 2003, with the yes vote passing by a slim majority. Malta became a fully-fledged EU member on 1st May 2004. It joined the common currency some four years later.

This Maltese Journal is archived at the MALTA MIGRATION MUSEUM - Valletta
Maltese-Canadian Museume - Toronto, several schools and libraries
websites; ozmalta.com., Maltese Community Council of Victoria
Ministry for Foreign and European Affairs, Maltese Clubs in Australia, NZ, UK and USA
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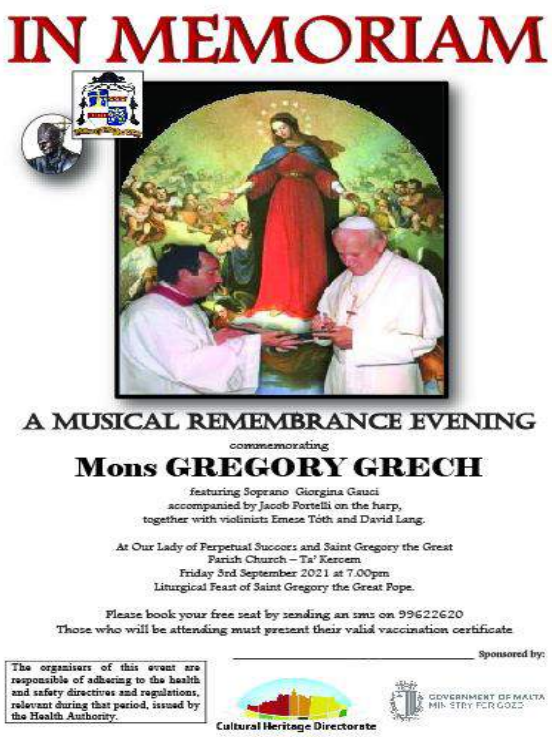


MMG Concert Band of Victoria – Australia

We are so excited to be able to share that one of our Conductors, Mro. Tanya Schembri has written a Maltese March, that has been performed and recorded by a band in Malta.

Congratulations on this marvelous achievement in your music journey. We are so proud to have you as one of our Conductors at MMG.

Tanya's march was aired last night on the Radju Santa Katarina - 90.6FM performed by Soċjeta Filarmonika Marija Mtellgħa s-Sema tal-Imġarr! The March is called 'Taħbit ta 'qalbi (Beat of my heart)'

We can't wait to be back playing music and performing your march to our community.

To listen to the march, view the below video and forward to 54.41 minutes.

Enjoy!! www.facebook.com/radjusantakatarina906fm/videos/451752525830110

Book about the 300 years of Floriana

9 May marks the foundation of the suburban town of Floriana and the 300th anniversary of this locality will be celebrated in 2024.

For this historical landmark the local gazette, *Il-Furjana* will be publishing a book about the locality. It is anticipated that this publication will be of interest not only to the Florianites but also to *Melitensia* collectors.

The 300 years Floriana project was officially launched on 7 February and the production team is being led by Dr Joan Abela, editor of the publication. Renowned accademics and writers participating in this venture include: Dr Joan Abela, Eddie Attard, Judge Emeritus Giovanni Bonello, Dr Andre P. DeBattista, Dr Sandro Debono, Rev. Dr Nicholas Doublet, Prof. Henry Frendo, Dr Albert Ganado, Joseph Schiro, Prof. Raymond Mangion, Rev. Dr Martin Micallef, Prof. Charles Savona Ventura, Dr Giannantonio Scaglione, Dr Stephen C. Spiteri, Prof. Conrad Thake, Rev. Dr David Torpiano, Dr Theresa Vella, Prof. William Zammit, Dr Julian Zarb, Tony Terribile and Mario Xuereb.

The book, replete with hundreds of historical photos many of which have never been published, contains 400 pages. It also includes specialised historical articles about various aspects of Floriana.

Pre-publication special offer

A pre-publication booking order is being offered where the book price will be reduced to €60 instead of the post publication price of €75.

Those who do not want to pay €60 in a lump sum, a payment scheme, over four years, is being launched – €20 to be paid with the pre-booking form this year; €10 next year and €10 the following year (2023). The last €20 will be paid when the book is collected in 2024.

Payments by cheque are to be made payable to "Il-Furjana" and addressed to Il-Furjana, 44, Capuchins Street, Floriana FRN 1053

For further infomation phone on 7933 9649 or send an email to: sanpublju@gmail.com

Mackay Maltese Club Inc.

The Mackay Maltese Club has presented a $500 donation to John Vella and his team for their adventure in the Variety Bash. The Variety Children's Charity helps support thousands of kids each year who are sick, disadvantaged or have special needs.

Variety's mission is to empower Aussie kids who are sick, disadvantaged or have special needs, to live, laugh and learn. If you too would like to donate, please follow the link below:

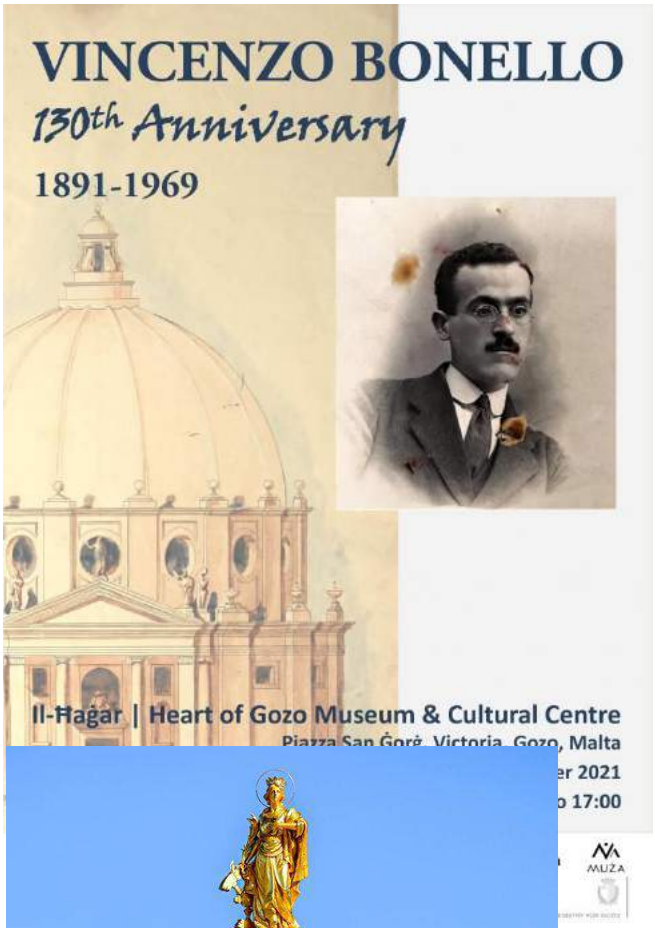
https://www.varietybashqld.com.au/t/car-3412

SOLEMN CELEBRATION OF THE FEAST OF OUR LADY QUEEN OF VICTORIES IN ADELAIDE

Friday 1st October at 7.00pm - Reciting of the Rosary starting at the Sisters' Regional House,]procession with the statue of Our Lady accompanied by the Maltese Queen of Victories Band. Fr. Gabriel Micallef will be speaking to us live from Gozo, Malta and giving us a sermon.

Saturday 2nd October at 6.30pm Social Night in the Lockleys Parish Hall with a 3-course-meal and some surprise guests to entertain us. Tickets available from Mary Saliba (0422 388 423) or Jane Agius (8268 7168) .

Sunday 3rd October at 2.30pm Holy Mass at the Christ the King Church, Lockleys celebrated by Father Alfred, followed by a procession with the artistic statue of Our Lady around the Church grounds. Afterwards, we will all meet in the hall and there will be plenty of Maltese traditional food and entertainment and band marches



Il-Ħaġar museum, located in Saint George's square,Victoria is honoured to be holding an important temporary exhibition featuring a substantial amount of designs that architect Vincenzo Bonello carried out for Gozitan churches, including Ta' Pinu, Mġarr and the parishes at Kerċem, Qala and Xewkija. A portrait and a bust of the exhibition's protagonist will also be on display during this exhibition. Essential support for this project was forthcoming from Wignacourt and Muża museums, together with the National Archives and Ta' Pinu Basilica. Judge Emeritus Giovanni Bonello, the architect's son, will be leading the inauguration on Friday 3rd September at 7.30 pm on the exact 130th anniversary of his father's birth.

This opening will also be coupled with the release of yet another publication in the Il-Ħaġar GEMS series (#13). The exhibition "Vincenzo Bonello: 130th Anniversary" will run until the 28 September from 9am to 5pm every day including weekends and entrance is completely free of charge.

STATUE OF ST. CATHERINE - ZURRIEQ

A monument of St. Catherine at the entrance of the town of Żurrieq in Vjal ix-Xarolla

The monument is located in an ideal spot to greet all those who enter Żurrieq from various arterial roads. The monument is made from marble and bronze and gilded in gold. It is built in a classic style and perfectly represents the Żurrieq parish church dedicated to St. Catherine of Lisandra.

The monument was built for the 200-year anniversary of the arrival of the parish's titular statue of St. Catherine V.M. But above all its creation shows the sheer love and devotion that the people of Żurrieq have towards their patron saint and protectress.

The monument was inaugurated on the 23rd of August 2019 during a ceremony carried out in the presence of several locals from Żurrieq (Maltese: Żrieraq) and distinct personalites including the President of Malta Dr. George Vella and his wife. The monument was blessed by the Archbishop emeritus of Malta Mons. Pawlu Cremona. The band of the Soċjetá Santa Katarina V.M. (Verġni u Martri) carried out a traditional march for the occasion.

THANKS TO… This monument was created through the initiative and hard work of the Soċjetà Mużikali Santa Katarina V.M. and the great generosity of Manwel Zahra (ta' Vaxxella).

REPRESENTING ŻURRIEQ The monument was built in a classic style that is liked by many while perfectly integrating with the old town of Żurrieq. The statue is made of Bianco Carrara marble, a precious material often used for making the finest monuments.

HARD WORK The project had its ups and downs. The marble company that was initially chosen for the creation of the statue did not achieve satisfactory results so everything had to be started from scratch again. It was decided to assign the work to local marble company Halmann Vella Ltd. and this time the results were of the highest level.

DESIGNED BY… Gozitan artist Adonai Camilleri Cauchi designed the statue. The monument designs are the work of Jeremy Cachia.

BRONZE WORK DONE IN ROME

After several discussions it was decided to make all the bronze in Rome at the Domus Dei company. The bronze work included all the statue, the emblems of the saint and other signs related to the parish of Żurrieq, and the flowers in the vases present on the upper part of the pedestal.

The local committee behind the project flew to Rome to personally attend this process and assure it met the highest of standards. Thankfully, the results obtained were those everyone in the team expected.

GILDED IN 24-CARAT GOLD The statue, together with other details in certain parts of the sculpture, were gilded in 24-carat gold by the expert gilder Francis Xuereb from Żurrieq together with his team.

Photo Copyright © Kappa Vision / Jean-Paul Borg.

Information for this article was gathered from the following sources:

- Sancta Catharina - Zurricanorum Patrona;
- Soċjeta Mużikali Santa Katarina V.M.

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Pope Francis set to visit Malta by end of the yargo

Pope Francis may be in line to fulfil his visit to Malta this coming December, Italian media station RAI reported on Wednesday morning.

The news aired during a feature on RAI Uno's TG1 news bulletin on Wednesday morning. The report said that the Pope is expected to carry out an Apostolic voyage towards Greece, Cyprus, and Malta.

There has been speculation over the date of the Pope's visit, with local reports indicating that it may happen towards the end of November.

Pope Francis was set to visit Malta in May last year, but had to postpone the trip due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

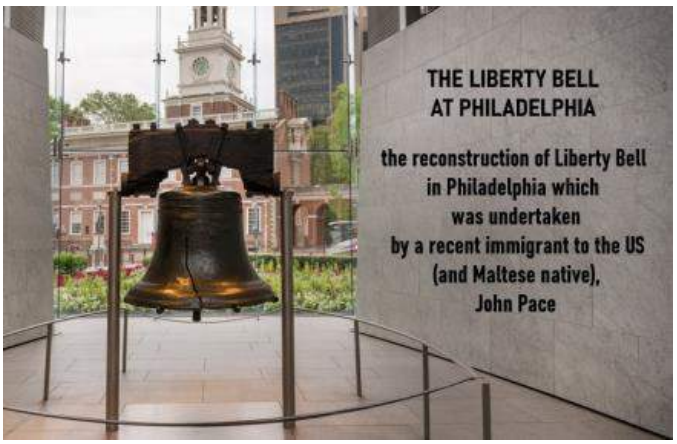
The State of Michigan celebrates a Maltese-American Heritage Day!

This City is the home of the largest number of Maltese in USA

It seems like no matter where you are in the world, there will always be a Maltese community nearby. From North America, Canada, UK and Australia, Maltese have emigrated far and wide, and just last week, the state of Michigan officially recognised September 19th as 'Maltese-American Heritage Day.'

Now, Malta's got its very own Heritage Day in the State of Michigan, as declared by Rep. Darrin Quiroz Camilleri, who is a Latino and Maltese-American national himself. Darrin is a Michigan House Democratic Whip and State Representative for the 23rd District who moved for this day to be approved last week. "We recognise this day to honour Malta's Independence which we are celebrating the 58th anniversary of this year. Although Malta is one of the smallest countries in the world, it has had a large impact on our state and our country," Darrin says.

"Metro Detorit is home to the largest concentration of Maltese-American citizens in the United States," he notes. "I am lucky and honoured to be the first Maltese-American to serve in this legislature and I'm thankful that we have a few other Maltese-Americans serving in public office as well, like Justice Brian Zahra, Judge Rosemarie Aquilina, and maybe even Pete Buttigieg."



Darrin goes on to mention the incredibly history Malta has in connection with Michigan and the US as a whole. "Maltese-Americans have had a long history in the United States, dating back to our founding. During the Revolutionary War, 1800 Maltese and Knights of the Order enlisted in the French Navy." This was to assist the Americans in their war for independence.

He also mentions the reconstruction of Liberty Bell in Philadelphia which was undertaken by a recent immigrant to the US (and Maltese native), John Pace. And obviously, he mentions the pivotal role our islands had during World War II. "My *nanna* tells stories of the sheer destruction she saw as a teenager. But the island was resilient and beat back the German and Italian armies, helping us to secure a victory. FDR called Malta 'a beacon of hope.'"

Darrin goes on to mention the meeting between President George H.W. Bush and Mikhaill Gorbachev held in Malta (particularly in the town of Marsaxlokk) to put an end to the Cold War. Having shared so much through history, Darrin says, "it is clear that freedom and opportunity are shared values that we have."

"The Maltese diaspora is all over the world and we are proud of our home here in Michigan where many moved to find opportunity in our factories and build their families here. Colleagues, please join me in celebrating these contributions by supporting this resolution to declare September 19th as Maltese-American Heritage Day in the State of Michigan."