

# MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER

March 2022



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Journal of Maltese Living Abroad

Editor: Frank L Scicluna OAM MQR

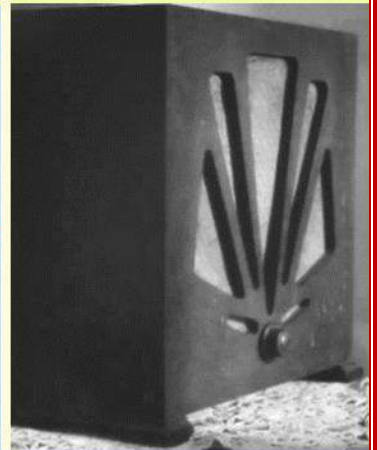


### HANDS OFF Ukraine



#### BIGILLA AND GALLETTI RECIPES

The Architecture of Poetry by Richard England  
He gifted Malta with post-modern architectures in pastel color



#### NOSTALGIA REDIFFUSION MALTA



#### Orlova talks about horror in Ukraine on return to Malta

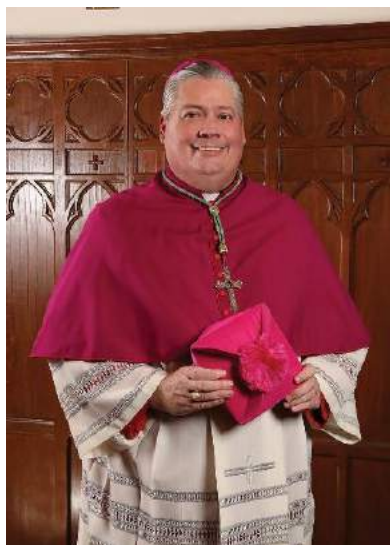


#### John Samuel Bonnici Auxiliary Bishop of New York

#### EASTER IN MALTA







## **Bishop John Samuel Bonnici Listens to Each Person's Story in Helping Them Reach Heaven**

**Auxiliary Bishops of New York**

*The new bishop's official portrait.*

JOE VERICKER/PHOTOBUREAU

**Bishop  
Bonnici is the  
younger of two  
children of the  
late John and**

***Gertrude Bonnici. His father was born in  
Malta and his mother, a native of  
Romania, grew up in Germany.***

**BY CHRISTIE L. CHICOINE**

"I'm very understanding." So says Bishop John Sam Bonnici, reflecting on what was supposed to be a crowning moment of his altar boy years, being selected to carry a statue of the Baby Jesus in a Christmas Eve Mass procession that, to his shock, awkwardly went awry.

"We had a tradition at St. Ann's," he said of his family's Manhattan parish. "One altar server was chosen every year to carry the Baby Jesus. It was this beautiful little porcelain statue.

"The year I had it, I was so nervous. We processed down the aisle and when we got to the sanctuary, there was a little step, and I missed the step.

"And the little baby went into the air, came down and just crashed into a thousand pieces," he recalled.

"It wasn't funny at the moment," he laughed at his fourth grade mishap. "I never got that role again." At the time, "I thought the world had come to an abrupt end," Bishop Bonnici said. But his pastor "was forgiving," he said, "after we swept Jesus back together and they put a plastic doll in the creche. Every time I came into the church after Christmas, I knew why that doll was there."

"That experience," he said, "made me very patient and understanding with young altar servers and people in general. We're all human." Bishop Bonnici, 57, has served since last July as pastor of SS. John and Paul and St. Augustine parishes in Larchmont.

He also was pastor of St. Columba's, Chester, 2008-2021, where he took on responsibility for St. Mary's, Washingtonville, late in his tenure, and St. Philip Neri, the Bronx, 2002-2008. His first parish assignment was as parochial vicar of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Elmsford, 1992-1994.

He was director of the archdiocese's Family Life/Respect Life Office, 1996-2002, which he also served as assistant director. He was also an adjunct professor of theology at St. Joseph's Seminary, Dunwoodie. A native of Manhattan, Bishop Bonnici is the son of immigrants, who are now deceased.

He was ordained in 1991 after studying for the priesthood at Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome. He holds a doctorate in moral theology from the John Paul II Institute for Marriage and Family at Lateran University in Rome. To be an effective bishop, he said, it is essential "to be a very good, listening servant." Over the last three decades, he has had a variety of priestly assignments, he said, "and I've enjoyed them all, frankly."

"Throughout all those experiences—as a priest, celebrating the sacraments, proclaiming God's word and serving the needs of God's people—the one thing that I've learned and cherish, and that's why parish ministry is so important to me, is I know that every person I encounter has a story."

Part of the role of a priest and all who are called to service, Bishop Bonnici said, is to "acknowledge that truth and then to take the time out and listen to the story, learn what that story is."

"Once you embrace that story, you embrace the person. You get to know them better; it becomes a true encounter. Then you're able to serve them more beautifully and bring God to them in a way that's going to make a difference in their life.

"And every story is different, every story is unique. No one has the same story."

Bishop Bonnici is looking forward to “basically giving God permission to use me as He has done in the past, for this new calling. And with His grace and help and guidance, through prayer, to do what is needed and to do it to the best of my ability. It’s a different role, it’s a new chapter, but the calling is similar, and it’s service to God’s people.”

***Bishop Bonnici is the younger of two children of the late John and Gertrude Bonnici. His father was born in Malta and his mother, a native of Romania, grew up in Germany. He has a sister, Erica, and a brother-in-law; three nieces, two great-nieces and a great-nephew. “They’re my source, my strength,” he said of his family. “We’re very close. My sister and I are incredibly close, we always have been.” To his family he is known as Johnny and Uncle Johnny. Bishop Bonnici is 6-foot 3-inches tall. He speaks three languages: English, Italian and Spanish, and can read French.***

He was baptized at St. Nicholas of Tolentine Church, the Bronx. A product of public elementary school, he attended religious education classes at the family’s home parish, St. Ann’s in Manhattan. The family later

worshiped at Immaculate Conception in Manhattan.

Bishop Bonnici’s earliest memory of being in a church was at age 4 or 5, he said, and “helping” his mother light a candle at St. Peter’s Church on Barclay Street in lower Manhattan. A pastime he and his mother, who was Lutheran, shared in his childhood was visiting churches when they went on walks.

“It’s amazing what your brain retains,” he said, referring to “the smell of the church, the wax—they were real candles, not electric,” he quipped—“and incense,” which he surmises was from a Funeral Mass before their arrival. Sharing his love of the sacraments, he said “the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass is the center to the priesthood.”

He is mindful there will be many new responsibilities to which he will be entrusted as a bishop. “My brother bishops already have been amazingly wonderful and helpful,” he said, and Cardinal Dolan “extraordinary.” “It’s really a continuation on a new level with the same goal,” Bishop Bonnici said, “and that is to help people, including myself, get to heaven.”

Posted: Austin Borg

## **President Vella slams 'atrocious' and 'unacceptable' Ukraine invasion**

*Warns of 'dangerous' passivism in face of conflict*



19 hours ago | [Times of Malta](#) | 152 min read

President George Vella addressing the forum. Photo: Office of the President

President George Vella has described the war in Ukraine as an “atrocious” attack on democracy that has led to an “unacceptable” humanitarian tragedy. The president, a former foreign minister, called for a quick ceasefire but also warned about the dangers of passivism in the face of conflict.

Vella told the World Forum for Culture of Peace that the world was witnessing “an atrocious attack on all notions of democracy, stability, sovereignty, and

territorial integrity”.

He characterised the situation as “a complete disregard of agreements and international institutions” and appealed for a quick ceasefire and a return to the negotiating table to find diplomatic solutions.

The “humanitarian tragedy unfolding in front of our eyes in Ukraine is unacceptable”, he said.

Peace could not be achieved in a world of inequality and added that passivism is also dangerous.

## Ukrainian resident back in Malta recounts horror of escape from Kyiv



**Says local COVID restrictions show lack of sentiment towards those escaping war -**

Claudia Calleja – TIMESOFMALTA.COM

Elena Orlova

A Ukrainian woman with Maltese residency has spoken of the “horror” of her journey from Ukraine to Romania, from where she returned to Malta.

Thanking the Maltese for their support, Elena Orlova, however, questioned why Ukrainians arriving here were still being made to comply with COVID restrictions when, in Romania, “they only asked about what help we needed”. Orlova, an orchestra conductor, was interviewed by video from her home in Birkirkara where she is in quarantine for 10 days. She has been living in Malta with her husband, also a musician, since 2018.

When Russia [launched](#) its attack on February 24 at

5am, she was in Kyiv visiting her parents. Her husband was in Malta. “I was woken up by the sound of bombing,” she recalled. At first, she hesitated to leave the city. ‘Difficult, dangerous’ road trip

“Maybe it’s difficult to understand. In such dark times we all think about how to help, how to support, what is useful to do to help our country to stand, to survive, to win.”

But her husband insisted she return. The following night, she left.

“One friend of mine was going to the west border and offered to pick me up.”

They drove for two days to the Romanian border, passing scenes of war and destruction along the way.

“Our way was pretty difficult and dangerous. Some days, I went without sleep and food. Actually, since the war beginning, all of us are without sleep.”

She said she got slightly hurt at the border “but it’s not very serious, so, in general, I am ok”.

Surrounded by thousands desperately trying to cross into Romania, she broke down in tears and even considered returning to Kyiv.



*I was standing at the border for about seven hours. I couldn’t breathe-* Elena Orlova

Each time the border gate opened to take in a few people at a time, people pushed and screamed.

“I was standing at the border for about seven hours. I couldn’t breathe and my shoulder was harmed by pushing. It was so tight that it was impossible to get my phone to call my husband.

Romanian assistance “When I managed to cross the Romanian border, I was so surprised. I saw a lot of police, ambulances, volunteers.

“They offered any help, they drove me to the city Piatra-Neamt for free, a three-hour drive from the

border, to a comfortable cottage, where I spent two nights. “They asked about all my needs, they fed me, cared for me and even gave me money on the way to Bucharest, where I boarded a plane...

“Nobody asked me for COVID test, or a green pass of COVID vaccination or PLF [passenger locator form]. They asked only about what help we needed...

“And, finally, I got to my ‘native’ Malta, at night [on February 28] and I was asked about PLF, about vaccination, about test. That’s all.



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"I am a resident of Malta. I have a complete Maltese vaccination and a booster. But I was sent to quarantine without any other questions or sentiments," she said.

"So I have a question: is Malta really Europe? Because Europe accepts Ukrainians even without passports. Because many Ukrainian people run out without anything or only with those things they have time to take." Orlova said she had it relatively easy because, as a Maltese resident, she had guaranteed entry to Malta. But many Ukrainians had it much harder. 'Ease the strict COVID requirements'

"I just want to ask the governments of all countries: help the people," she said as she called on the Maltese government to lift quarantine and ease the strict COVID requirements for those fleeing the trauma of war.

"To cancel quarantine for Ukrainians it's easy. It doesn't need thousands of euros but it is important for people who run from the war. "Even to go out from the house and just to stand under the peaceful sky and breathe... And feel free, without hiding.

"I still shudder with any sound of fireworks or sound of planes in the sky and with any sudden sound outside." She was not even asking for help, she said, but about giving Ukrainians the basic relief of staying in Malta "if the government understands at least a bit of what horror we are breaking out of and what we feel". She said she wanted to express sincere gratitude to all Maltese citizens who support Ukrainians, "who help, who worry and who understand us.

"There are so many kind people here, in Malta. Dear friends you are great.

"People in Ukraine experience now all the horrors of war... Our people spend days and nights in shelters...

"But the problem is that there are not enough shelters..."



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY, MARIA

"Life is in God's hands. There are no secrets."

- this is what Maria Farrugia had to say to us on this her 110th birthday. Maria, who hails from Hamrun, is the eldest person in Malta. She was born on the 7th of March 1912.

Maria has led a simple life. She has gone through everything. Her mother lived to a 100. They were 5 siblings some of whom died young. She remembers one of her siblings who died at 37 years old with a bomb during one of the first air

raids on Malta. Maria was born in Mosta, grew up in Msida and went to live in Hamrun during the war. She was widowed in 1962 and had three children, two of whom have passed away. Her daughter Carmen and her grandson Stephen now take care of her.

"Maria is a positive person. She tries to be as independent as she possibly can. We have never heard her grumble or complain except when she is in real pain.

She was a seamstress, it was her hobby together as a means of earning something for the family. She also used to crochet, making blankets. At the time she used to do everything, even go around with the family goat to sell milk. She also enjoys cooking and used to love going to play bingo!"

She lives day by day. If it was up to her she would help everyone. But we are careful, it is understandable that we are cautious. But we do sometimes ask her to help us fold some clothes."

She told us that life when she was younger was better. Maria remembers how every Thursday evening they used to go to the "Ora Santa". She lived through the Spanish Flu, but she was still young, and now again through the Covid-19 pandemic.

"Her family is very dear to her. She will not sleep without saying the rosary. She loves going through old photographs and recalling what she went through and recounting anecdotes. What does Maria like to eat? Simple food like vegetable soup and a slice of bread with oil and olives." - Maria's daughter Carmen and her grandson Stephen

### LEAVING MALTA FOR A BETTER FUTURE



remember starting the leaving process

Maltese families, looking through various leaflets trying to decide their future in another Country. It was a time when many Maltese felt the need to leave their Homeland, to better themselves. I personally went through the process in 1968 immigrating to England.

My father John Navarro as a Civil Servant worked in this Government Department, seen sitting at his desk slightly to the left just below the steps. Wonder how many like me still at this very same office.

[www.facebook.com/john.c.navarro.56](https://www.facebook.com/john.c.navarro.56)

I emigrated to Australia in December 1965 from Malta. I was lucky enough to travel by plane and the trip was only a day and a half. I left Malta on a very cold day in winter and when I arrived at Sydney airport the temperature was over 40 degrees. F.L. Scicluna – Adelaide

### MALTESE PARTICIPATION AT MMOMBA FESTIVAL 2022

[Maltese Community Council of Victoria, Inc.](#)



performance groups and more.

*performance groups and more.*

*Experience the spectacularly colourful Moomba Parade on Monday 14th March, 2022. The parade officially opens with a Welcome to Country address by the Wurundjeri Tribe with the route beginning at Birdwood Avenue then weaving through the picturesque Kings Domain parkland before finishing up on Linlithgow Avenue near Queen Victoria Gardens. The Moomba Parade will run from 10.45am - 12pm.*

*Since 1955, the Moomba Parade has captured the hearts and imaginations of Melburnians, bringing to life the vitality and energy of the beloved festival. The parade features dance troupes and community groups as well as the larger-than-life floats, which were designed by children. It's big colourful and fun. And it's all free.*

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## Welcome to AMCC Victoria Branch for 2022

Following a couple of years of Coronavirus, hopefully things are returning to normal for everyone.



**Martin Peregin**  
President



**Stephen Grech**  
Vice President



**Stephen Grech**  
Vice President



**George Grech**  
Secretary

The committee has been meeting recently and looking for ways to improve communications and the profile of AMCC Vic in this brave new world

Like other organisations, businesses etc, the last few years has seen a halt

to a lot activities impacting our membership and we look forward to improving that in this coming year.

### 2022 Objectives

- To re-establish and foster new links with other Maltese based organisations
- To re-establish and foster new links with other Multicultural Chamber of Commerces
- To increase our membership
- To continue to provide timely information about cultural and business events relevant to members and associates

Whilst activity slowed down in the past year due to the virus, we still managed to meet between lockdowns, particularly in the first half of the year.

Here is some of the activities.

Chamber Meetings

During the year we had 2 chamber meetings in March & July. Guest speakers at each meeting included:

**Chirelle Ellul Sciberras**

Consul General of the Republic of Malta for Victoria Australia



**Sasho Dimcevski**

Membership Support Consultant

Victorian Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Chamber Meetings

- These will be held every 2 months
  - On the first Wednesday of that particular month
  - These will now be joint meetings held in conjunction with the NSW branch
  - As in the past meetings will include a guest speaker
  - Meeting will be on-line via Microsoft Teams, so get an account created and loaded in preparation
  - You should have received details of the next meeting which is the AGM in an email from Clive Desira
  - We will send a calendar invite shortly with all the details in case you missed it
- Social Meetings
- These will be scheduled approximately every 2 months between Chamber Meetings
  - The aim of these events is to enable members to interact on a face-to-face basis in a casual atmosphere
  - Events will be open to non-members, and we encourage members to invite as many people as possible to attend. Looking forward to catching up with everyone at our first Chamber Meeting.





### 2022 OUR LADY OF LOURDES WORLD DAY OF THE SICK MASS IN ADELAIDE

Noel Mifsud, Southern  
Region Hospitaller [Order of  
Malta News]

The Catholic Church's World Day of the Sick, established by St John Paul II, is held annually on the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes. Consoeur Mary Kennedy, Confrère Tony Smith (and wife Helen) and I, attended the 2022 Our Lady of Lourdes World Day of the Sick Mass on Friday February 18. Over 300 sick and elderly parishioners gathered in St Francis Xavier's Cathedral.

In his Homily Fr Anthoni Adimai reminded us of Pope Francis' message to mark the 30th World Day of the Sick on February 11, recognising the importance of Health Workers across the globe as infection rates and deaths from COVID-19 continue to rise.

This year's theme was 'Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful', taken from Luke's Gospel. In a message from Pope Francis he said: "Dear healthcare workers, your service alongside the sick, carried out with love and competence, transcends the bounds of your profession and becomes a mission." Your hands, which touch the suffering flesh of Christ, can be a sign of the merciful hands of the Father. Be mindful of the great dignity of your profession, as well as the responsibility that it entails."

Bishop Karol  
Kulczycki SDS, the  
Bishop Delegate  
for Health for the  
Australian Catholic  
Bishops

Conference,  
said: "Fulfilling  
Jesus' call to the  
ministry of healing,

the Catholic Church was at the forefront of the development of hospitals around the world and remains at the forefront of providing care, including through the pandemic. We honour those who are carrying out the healing ministry in the name of Christ, the Divine Healer and the inspiration of our service for all through our hospitals, aged care and other services."

Members of the Order, ever mindful of our call to serve Our Lords the Sick and the Poor, humbly welcomed parishioners and visitors to the Mass. We participated in the opening procession and distributed over 200 bottles of Lourdes water after Mass. This service was a gentle reminder of our call to be *hands on* in our service as members of the Order. It was a deeply moving experience; to serve in solidarity with the Catholic community and members of the Order; to listen to the stories of the sick, to be agents of God's hope and unconditional love and to serve in solidarity with the sick and poor global



**The only bilingual  
and non-political  
journal for Maltese  
living abroad**

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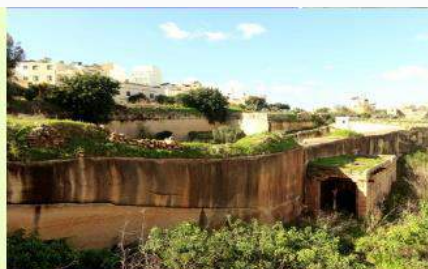


# Appeal filed against 'monstrous' wall of apartments approved in Birżebbuġa

NGOs say 'curtain' of 7-storey apartments breaches policy on open spaces



A visual supplied by the developer behind a seven-storey apartment block planned for Birżebbuġa



This quarry wall will be demolished and the site developed.  
Photo: Din L'Art Helwa.

Times of Malta

A visual supplied by the developer behind a seven-storey apartment block planned for Birżebbuġa

Campaigners have launched an appeal against a "monstrous" seven-storey apartment block approved by the Planning Authority in the Il-Girghien area of Birżebbuġa.

Din L'Art Helwa and The Archaeological Society Malta say the 161 apartments are in breach of a planning policy that states 20% of large sites must be open public space.

They said the an existing rock-cut chamber believed to be a WWII shelter and an old quarry rich in biodiversity would be "buried under a curtain of seven-storey apartments".

In a statement, they said the Planning Commission had justified its decision to approve the total sealing of the 4,000 square site (PA/04468/20) on a clause that allows developers to pay €20 for every square metre of floor area developed in lieu of the required open space.

"The Commission however failed to consider that this clause can in fact only be applied to sites of a smaller nature which are not developed comprehensively," they argued.

"In this case both the applicant and the PA confirmed that the site was being developed comprehensively, therefore the need to provide public open space could not be waived through the loophole applied by the Planning Commission."

They said that the planning policy also allows a height limitation of four floors for sites developed comprehensively, is lowered to three floors for sites that are not.

Through the application of the 'Annex 2' policy introduced in 2015, the 4 floor height limitation was further increased to 7 floors, "resulting in an unbroken row of solid buildings that allows no relief both visually and with no open spaces".

The Commission "blatantly" overlooked the wellbeing of the community and the preservation of "desperately needed" public open space as well as the preservation of cultural heritage and biodiversity.

"The Commission's decision is a further illustration of the Authority's systematic failure to protect the needs of the general public and is yet another reckless blow to the natural environment of Birżebbuġa and its landscape," the NGOs said.



## Tal-Mensija: The end of an era?

The Shift Team

*This is a guest post by André P. DeBattista, a researcher in the field of politics and international relations, and a Mensija resident.*

If you're driving towards St Julian's from San Gwann, you're likely to turn into Triq is-Santwarju. A belfry with the statue of

the Archangel Gabriel comes into view. This chapel, known as Tal-Mensija, gave its name to the surrounding area. The charm and the character of this area are now under threat.

In his book on the wayside chapels of Malta, Kilin recalls the legend of this chapel. In the fifteenth century, a farmer named Andrew was digging, and he saw a light shining through one of the numerous caves in the

area. As he dug further, he found a niche with a triptych of the Blessed Virgin Mary and a candlestick with a candle burning before it.

Legend has it that the parish priest of Birkirkara took the painting and kept it in his home. The following day, the painting found itself back in the cave. The parish priest remained undeterred, taking it back to his home, but each time the painting would somehow return to the cave. He decided to involve the Bishop, who took the painting to his palace. Again, the painting found itself in the cave. The Bishop then ordered the construction of a stone altar on site.

Communities are born out of such shared stories and legends. Mensija became a place of pilgrimage and, in 1877, Fr Gorg Debono took up residence next to the church to be able to say daily Mass. His nephew, Michael, built the present church – a simple structure which kept the original cave chancel.

After the end of World War II, a pilgrimage of thanksgiving was held to this sanctuary, according to a Times of Malta report. Perhaps the Sanctuary is no longer a place of devotion as it once was and its legend is dismissed as mere folklore. However, a lively community still gathers for Mass and other religious celebrations. Their spiritual needs are met by the wonderful Capuchin community in San Gwann.

Opposite the chapel, there's the imposing Torri Lanzun. This structure served various functions. It seems to have started out as a farmhouse, which was later fortified to provide for some shelter during attacks by marauding corsairs. During World War II, it served as an observation post before falling into disrepair. It was restored in the 1970s. Today it is in excellent condition, and the imposing structure is surrounded by beautiful oleander shrubs.

There are other sites nearby: cart ruts, caves, farms which are now lovingly restored, and the hamlet of Mensija with its small shops and lively community. The quiet residential area which grew around it shares in the life of this hamlet.

Some of the larger houses and villas were sold off, knocked down and turned into smaller dwelling units. However, most new developments preserved the style of the neighbourhood. All this is about to change.

A new residential block is being proposed close to Mensija Chapel that is reported to include 40 luxury apartments with pools. The site will overlook Wied Għomor which has also been the target of indiscriminate development over the past decades.

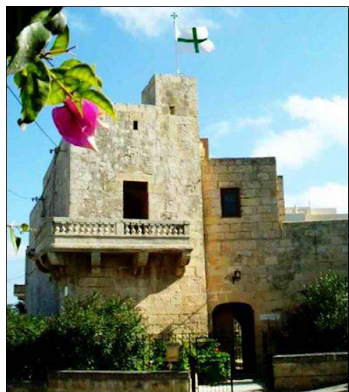
Various objections have been raised by both the Maltese Curia and the Superintendence of Cultural Heritage. The report by the cultural heritage watchdog is worth reading carefully:

"There is a risk that development in the area may pose a threat to known and unknown cultural heritage. The Superintendence notes the location of an existing cave and the distance set from the excavation within the site footprint. The nature of the cave requires further assessment." Whether these concerns will be heeded remains to be seen.

Many, myself included, are giving up on the hope that there might be some way out of this nightmare we are condemned to live through because of developers and their political backers. Developers claim that they are part of the solution rather than the problem. Evidently, they are beginning to believe the same lies they have been repeating for years. After running many an old village core, it is now time for them to turn to the smaller, more traditional hamlets.

Naturally, when marketing the new development, some very capable wordsmiths need to be employed. Somehow, they must come up with a euphemism for the 35 tower cranes (at the time of writing) which overlook the valley. These have now become the symbol that represents an island slowly being ruined by a surplus of greed and a deficit of good taste.

## Castello Lanzun, Mensija



**Home of the Grand Commandery of the Castello, Malta G.C.**

Built in the 18th Century, Castello Lanzun, or as it is locally known it-Torri ta' Lanzun, today stands at the head of a road from St Julian's and Spinola Bay and leads to the

higher land plateau forming much of Malta's geographic central interior. It is situated on the edge of a small hamlet called 'Mensija'.





In the Maltese language, Mensija means 'the forgotten' or 'the abandoned place' and so far no one knows for certain why it is so called. In this dominating position stands Castello Lanzun. More detailed architectural information is available in a researched paper by Chev Anton Valentino on this website.

The ground floor consists of an Entrance Hall, an ecumenical Chapel, and fairly large inner Courtyard set and adorned with abundant shrubs, flower beds and bougainvillea. The former stables at the opposite end of the Courtyard from the Chapel have been nicely and appropriately converted into a large meeting hall, now called the Knights' Hall decorated with a number of heraldic adornments, pictures and photos. Most events throughout the year are held in the Knights' Hall or in the Courtyard during the summer months. A Kitchen facility and a Store Room complete the ground floor.

. It was scheduled as a Grade 1 building by the Planning Authority in 1984 meaning it enjoys special protection.

On the first floor above the Chapel, there is the Grand Commandery's Council Chamber which leads into another room that holds the Archives of the Order. A flagpole with a green eight-pointed cross correctly adorns the top of the tower part.

The acquisition of Castello Lanzun was the first time that the Order of St Lazarus was able to re-establish a permanent headquarters since it was dispossessed as a result of the French Revolution.

In 1973, the Castello was formally opened by the late Grand Master, His Excellency Don Francisco de Borbón y de Borbón, as both the Home of the Grand Commandery of the Castello and the then official Headquarters of the Order of St Lazarus. Castello Lanzun is available to all Members of the Order.

Today, the Castello is recognized as one of the important historical buildings of Malta

## PRECA COMMUNITY IN MELBOURNE AUSTRALIA



**Daniel Attard leading the Friday night Preca Youth Group**



In 1952, Joseph Abela arrives in Melbourne

from Malta with an express wish from the Founder, St George Preca and the Superior General, Eugenio Borg to explore the possibilities and commence the work of the SDC. Another Member, Emmanuel Farrugia was also involved in this early beginning. In October of 1952 the first activity at West Melbourne began involving talks to adults. A class for young men was formed. Meetings continued formally until Joseph Abela left to join Corpus Christi seminary at Werribee.

It was an act of faith that enabled Maurice Mifsud, John Portelli and Joseph Sacco to leave Malta on 17 March 1956 to head for our shores here in Australia. It was an act of providence that the SDC officially began in Melbourne on 18 April 1956. This group of men formed the nucleus of the first group commissioned by the Founder to officially begin the

SDC in Australia. From the humble and poor conditioned premises at 183 Rosslyn Street, West Melbourne, and from the church crypt at St Mary's Parish in West Melbourne, the SDC has evolved into what it is today.

In 1958, a small weatherboard cottage at 7 Chetwyn Street, West Melbourne was used by the Members. This house close to St Mary's provided accommodation for those Members who wanted to live together. The main room in the house was given over to a Chapel for the West Melbourne activities.

Father L Egan, Administrator of the West Melbourne parish was appointed Parish Priest of North Sunshine where a great concentration of Maltese people lived. He requested that a Centre be established in North Sunshine. In 1961 a Centre was built in Westmoreland Road, North Sunshine. Following this in 1963, the West Sunshine SDC centre was officially formed.

### MISSION TODAY

The SDC has been instrumental for the experience and the life of our God to permeate in the lives of so many young people and adults of different nationalities. The Members in Melbourne minister in various parishes in the

west of Melbourne carrying out sacramental programs, RCIA programs and post-sacramental activities.

**For further information about the SDC in Melbourne, please contact:**  
[sdcprega@optusnet.com.au](mailto:sdcprega@optusnet.com.au)

## Two Maltese Children Strike Gold In Danish Martial Arts Tournament



By [Gianluca Barbara](#)

March 6, 2022 at 9:46 am

Two youngsters came, saw, and conquered an international martial arts tournament held in Denmark on the weekend of 26th February.

**The taekwondo tournament, known as the Esbjerg Cup, saw a 10-year-old Jean**

**Schembri and 12-year-old Michela Scerri overcome all opposition, to each return back home with gold medals wrapped around their necks.**

Scerri took to the battlefield in her respective category – the -37kg and literally steamrolled her way to the gold medal. Referees saw both fights end prematurely after the young athlete achieved what is known as a ‘twenty-point gap’ in each fight.

**In the sport of taekwondo, a twenty-point gap is a score difference that ends the match outright. A win declared ‘by superiority’.**

Battling it out in the male’s -37kg, Schembri showcased his skill in an exuberant final against a Danish athlete, with a close match that saw the scoreline drawn for the entirety of the match. In the final round, however, an illegal move performed by Schembri’s adversary disqualified him outright.

The team was led by National Coach Sajad Habibi, and attended by two other athletes in the Maltese team; a junior athlete, Nia Tabakova, and a senior Maltese national player, [Mamadou Balde](#), both of whom came home with a hard-fought bronze medal.

All four athletes are a product of [Santa Venera Taekwondo](#), a martial arts club currently managed by Habibi himself. They are also a product of the [National Fight League](#) – a fighting league that sees them combat Malta-based opposition on a weekly basis.



### Maltese National Athlete’s Dream Made Real After Donations Powered His First International Medal

When Malta welcomed Guinean Mamadou Balde, little had he known of what fate had in store for him.

And while it may have taken some blood, sweat, and the odd tear, who would have thought that there would come a day where Balde would achieve international honours for the Maltese Taekwondo national team? **The long was a road. But it all started with advice from a close friend.**

“My best friend told me that I looked strong, so I should try a fighting sport. I thought it sounded exciting, so I accompanied him to a Taekwondo club,” Balde stated.



### Children call on electoral candidates to “champion their rights”



BY [GOZO NEWS](#)

Children are calling on electoral candidates to commit to “championing their rights,” saying “we are not second-class citizens.”

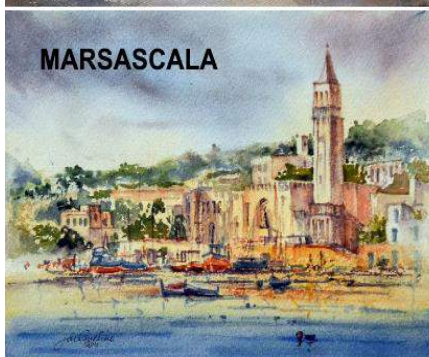
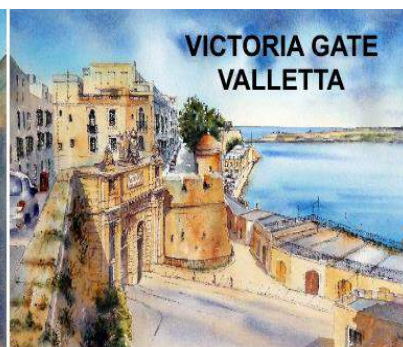
Electoral candidates from all political shades are being urged to sign a declaration committing to champion children’s aspirations ahead of this month’s general election.

**The Children’s Rights Observatory Malta (CROM)**, set up through an agreement between the University of

Malta and the Malta Foundation for the Wellbeing of Society, has said that it believes candidates should “openly declare their political intent to push children’s rights.”

They said that the declaration, which commits prospective MPs to work to create an inclusive safe space for child participation, takes on a deeper importance, as for the first time in Malta’s electoral history 16-year-olds will be able to cast their vote and make their voice heard. Wellbeing foundation chair Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca said, “for too long, policymakers have given scant importance to how their decisions directly impacted children. We hope this declaration to become a Children’s Rights Champion will be pressure electoral candidates to recognise that promoting children’s rights is a move that benefits them and our children’s present and future.”

### JAQUELINE AGIUS



A picture can tell a thousand words, which is good news because Malta must be one of the most photogenic islands in Europe.

From charming countryside views to street scenes, and incredible coastlines to rich history, Malta has it all in terms of stunning scenery.

Artist [Jacqueline Agius](#) from Attard has taken full advantage of Malta’s stunning views in her charming watercolour paintings. Her latest works of paintings of Malta are mind-blowingly beautiful.

The colours are vibrant and the light unmistakably that of sunny Malta.

Jacqueline describes her work as 'everyday scenes from Malta and Gozo'.

She said: 'I'm an artist specialising in watercolour painting. 'Through art I am primarily interested in depicting the beauty of the world around us. 'I love the landscape with its wide open spaces, the glittering sea and especially the warm stone buildings standing proud against the skyline.'

As a child growing up in a creative family art was never a difficult task.

She was highly influenced by her talented artistic father, Edwin Conti and cultivated a passion for architecture and a love for drawing and painting.

Her first formal artistic education began when she studied art at St Joseph School in Blata l-Bajda. Later she followed courses at the School of Art in Valletta.

Jacqueline's paintings of Malta developed as the years went by. However preferring watercolours she painted away at buildings and

landscapes, reflecting her everyday life and surroundings at the time. After the birth of her two sons, her creativity took the shape of murals in the children's bedrooms. It was only many years later that with the help of a couple of established artists she discovered that finding new ways of expressing herself through painting was exciting.

She embarked on a professional artist career and started exhibiting publicly in 2007.

Jacqueline loves the landscape with its wide open spaces, the glittering sea and particularly the warm stone buildings standing proud against the skyline.

Her works don't only capture recognisable landmarks, they capture the light, colour and forms of the locations whilst offering personal interpretations of those places.

Her watercolours can be found in private and corporate collections both in Malta and overseas.



Established in 1975, the The Malta School of Music – originally situated in Old Bakery Street in Valletta, has been the one of the most effective governmental schools in the music performance and artistic field. Over the years thousands of students have attended music lessons at the school and many of them furthered their studies both locally and abroad.

The Malta School of Music is now situated in the newly refurbished centralised premises in Hamrun and forms part of the Visual and Performing Arts Schools under the Directorate for Research, Lifelong Learning and Innovation. The School of Music engages of Malta's top musicians and pedagogues who constantly strive to help each students achieve

## The Malta School of Music

their highest potential in music appreciation, music knowledge and understanding, composition, performance and musicianship through exciting and effective music programmes and opportunities.

Furthermore the school endeavours to invite various foreign tutors to provide master classes and workshops for students and teachers in which new approaches and methodologies are experienced and explored. The main objective of the school is to prepare students for careers as creative musicians and performers who can successfully contribute to the further development and evolution of the musical heritage.

The School of Music offers forty-one different courses, which cater for the young learner and for the advanced student. Students at the school attend a weekly individual performance lesson on the instrument of their choice as well as a group music knowledge and understanding lesson. Our youngest students start their musical training through specially designed courses in Music and Movement, which provide a solid foundation for the years to come.

The school caters for the study of practically all the orchestral instruments as well as bagpipe,



accordion, saxophone, contemporary guitar, contemporary voice, bass guitar, pianoforte and classical voice. In addition to the study of the traditional concert repertoire, students are encouraged to work on various styles including contemporary and jazz, and to endorse works by local composers.

Students at the School of Music benefit from unique opportunities in which they can perform varied repertoire in chamber setting and also form part of the various ensembles that participate in various performances both at school level and in various venues around the island throughout the year. Some of these include the cello, clarinet, flute, guitar, saxophone and violin ensembles, jazz combos, the wind band and various other groups that are set up through the hard work of the respective teachers. All music performance courses are combined with the harmonic and historical background

gained during the music knowledge and understanding classes. Aural perception, harmony and counterpoint, musical history, orchestration, analysis, sight-singing and performance involve a wide range of activities and strategies for building up our students' musical profile.

The Malta School of Music respects and values the worth of each student, offering individualised and differentiated programmes in the pursuit of knowledge and learning through experience. The open communication between students, staff and administration helps us to achieve a better understanding of the needs of our school as a community whose individual members are a source of creative energy in a diverse and ever-changing musical world. The academics at the School of Music are very proud of the students' various accomplishments over the years and look forward to more years of creative output.



## NOSTAGLIA – REDIFFUSION – MALTA REDIFFJUXIN

The origins of broadcasting in Malta date back to the first broadcast transmitted from the Naval Wireless Station at Fort Rinella in 1933.

In 1934, an agreement was reached between the Maltese government and London-based broadcaster Rediffusion to set up a sound wired radio system in Malta and Gozo.

Rediffusion started its Malta broadcasting service on 11 November 1935.

The first radio broadcasts were primitive, yet highly ambitious for the time.

Technological constraints meant that almost all of the programmes had to be performed live by musicians and announcers such as Charles Arrigo.

He joined Rediffusion in 1947 and had a distinguished career as a broadcaster, best known for his commentaries on state occasions and for dramatised readings of Maltese novels.

On 23 January 1958, Rediffusion House opened on St Luke's Road in Guardamangia in the same building which today houses the PBS Creativity Hub. Television Malta was launched in 1962 and moved into a newly-built studio complex two years later.

The company enjoyed an almost absolute monopoly until the 8 January 1973 when Radio Malta was set up

and managed by the Malta Broadcasting Authority.

In 1975, the Telemalta corporation was established and became responsible for broadcasting and telephone services in Malta.

Known as Xandir Malta, it continued until 1991 when Public Broadcasting Services Limited was set up. In the 70s, the Maltese islands experienced historical events which were conveyed to the nation through radio and TV transmissions, while in the 80s and 90s, developments in the broadcasting sector continued to grow especially with the introduction of pluralism.

Today, PBS operates three radio stations and two television channels, namely TVM and TVM2.



# MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER

March 2022



1960 - Maltese boy presenting Dghajsa to the Queen

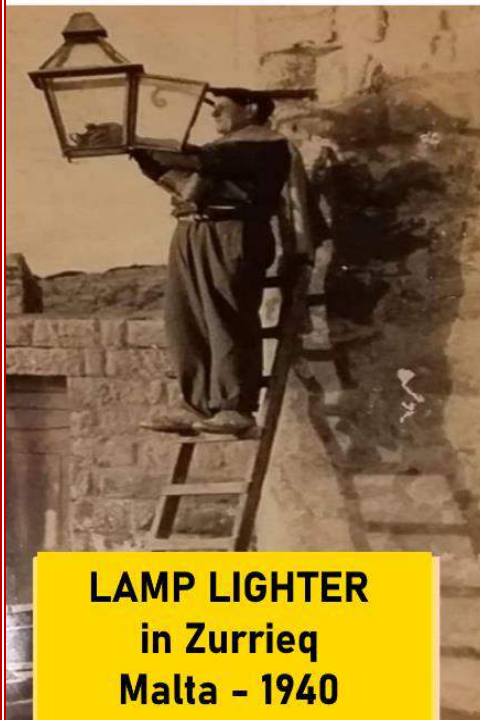


MOTHER AND HER THREE  
DAUGHTERS 1950  
WITH THE GHONNELLA

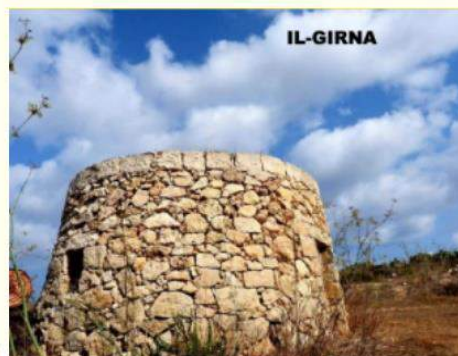
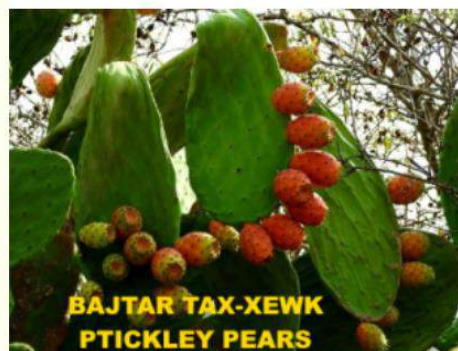


Peasant Girls of Imtahleb - Malta  
Photo Dr. J A King

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LAMP LIGHTER  
in Zurrieq  
Malta - 1940







### **Phoenician sarcophagus discovered in Rabat being conserved, will go up on permanent display**

[www.independent.com.mt/](http://www.independent.com.mt/)

the decision to investigate the burial site at Għajn Klieb was taken in view of the substantial infrastructural works planned for the area, which could compromise the site's integrity. He explained that the three entities will be collaborating on all the necessary studies, analysis and interventions. The studies will be extended to include other tombs discovered in the immediate area in recent years, to provide a more comprehensive perspective. Currently, the Superintendence is carrying out conservation and analysis of the pottery artefacts and skeletal remains found in these tombs.

Professor Nicholas Vella, from the Department of Classics and Archaeology at the University of Malta, spoke of the importance of this discovery. He said that the Għajn Klieb area in Rabat has long been known to be the site of a long-lived burial complex dating back to Phoenician times. Many of the tombs were explored a century ago, often without a clear record being kept of what was found. The University of Malta is delighted to have been invited to collaborate in the exploration and study of this tomb, with its unique stone sarcophagus and the goods that were placed to accompany the two individuals buried inside it. This research will throw light on the death rituals prevalent in Malta in the second half of the seventh century BC, said Prof. Vella.

Noel Zammit, Heritage Malta's Chief Executive Officer, said that Heritage Malta conservators are currently working on the sarcophagus and the metal objects discovered on site. Plans are underway for a temporary exhibition at the National Museum of Archaeology later this year, where some of the objects would be exhibited for the public to appreciate and enjoy them as soon as possible. The sarcophagus and the related artefacts will then be on permanent display – possibly at St Paul's Catacombs – for constant public accessibility.

The Superintendence of Cultural Heritage, Heritage Malta and the Department of Classics and Archaeology at the University of Malta have joined forces to work closely together on the research and conservation of a Phoenician stone sarcophagus discovered 21 years ago and excavated last summer at Għajn Klieb, on the outskirts of Rabat.

Sarcophagi feature very rarely in Maltese archaeology, so much so that the previous discovery happened some 300 years ago.

The tomb containing the sarcophagus was discovered by accident during trenching works in 2001. At the time, the decision was taken to preserve in situ but, notwithstanding, the Superintendence continued to monitor the area. In the past months, increased development pressures to improve infrastructural services in the area led to the decision by the Superintendence to investigate the site through a joint collaboration by the three mentioned entities to ensure the best use of the available resources in view of the rarity of the find.

When the sarcophagus was opened, it was found to contain the remains of two individuals, possibly a male and a female, one of whom was wearing jewellery made of a metal alloy. A small number of Phoenician pottery vessels and an animal inhumation were also discovered within the burial chamber.

All these objects, along with the sarcophagus itself, were extracted from the tomb chamber and transported to the Superintendence's laboratories in Valletta and Heritage Malta's laboratories in Bighi. A preliminary date of around 600 B.C. has been assigned to the tomb.

All the objects are also being analysed by specialists from the three entities so that the information extracted from the artefacts will eventually shed more light on the Phoenician culture to which the people buried here belonged.

Commenting about this project, Kurt Farrugia, the Superintendent of Cultural Heritage, said that

### KEMM INT ŻAQQIEQ

Tara l'ikel ghajnejk dberraq  
donnok qisek kelb bi-ġuh  
anke ġebba lest biex tiekol  
daqs qassata ssibha tfuh  
Minn dil marda mhux se tfieq  
pu, ghalik kemm int żaqqieq.

F'resturant tidhol biex tiekol  
lill kullhadd int taqbes tmur  
u lil-wejter tippretendi  
mieghek biss dan jibqa jdur  
Bil-ġuh halqek mimli b'żieq  
pu, ghalik kemm int żaqqieq

Int tkun trid platt wara l-iehor  
kirxa, torta w platt ghaġin  
u platt iehor bil-paella  
gambli kbar fuqha mqiedin  
Mussels magħha wkoll tixtieq  
pu, ghalik kemm int żaqqieq

Id-dar tidhol dritt għal kčina  
borma tikxef lilha xxomm  
u li kieku int kont tista  
din ma qalbek lilha żżomm  
Lilha xxomm minn barra triq  
pu, ghalik kemm int żaqqieq

Meta tmur tkun trid flok fjuri  
hamper mieghek fit-tebut  
mimli bl-ikel għal vjaġġ kollu  
jew bil-ġuh int terġa tmur  
Minn dal vizzju qatt ma tfieq  
pu, ghalik kemm int żaqqieq

### HOUSE VISITS

Jien ma nafx iżda fettilli  
nohroġ xtaqt għal parlament  
bdejt indur id-djar għal voti  
biex kif nitla nkun kuntent

L-ewwel fuq tellatni wahda  
illi xtaqt lili dduq  
iżda jien kif rajt xewqitha  
qbist mit-tieqa min hemm fuq

Bieb fetahli raġel b'sahhtu  
u kif resaq vicin hdeja  
dan induna x'kulur kelli  
u dabbartha fuq ghajnejja

Wahda xiha bieb fethitli  
jien ghidtilha ġejt biex ngħin  
f'idi din tatni l-ixkupa  
minghajr kliem, ma qalet xejn

Wahda mara kif ftaht halqi  
riedet hi titkellem biss  
ma tatnix infendi wahda  
bil b'żieq f'wicci kif imiss

Raġel iehor mar jiftahli  
dan jixxengel rajtu jien  
qalli x'gejtu t-tnejn thabbtuli  
ghax fis-sakra miskin kien

Dawwart denbi għarqan xraha  
ghax ghajjejt id-djar inżur  
ghidit ahjar sal każin nidhol  
u grokk whisky nordna mmur

### NERGU GHAN-NORMAL

Malli jitlaq u jhallina  
monument naghmlu għalih  
biex ilkoll f'Covid niftakru  
ma nibqawx noholmu bih

Minghajr maskra barra nkunu  
kullimkien folol bla qies  
u bhas-soltu nibdew ngħidu  
hafna xorti fuq in-nies

Coffee mornings' u 'line dancing'  
specjalment għalina l-kbar  
u iż-żażagh lejl shih jisfnu  
u jixorbu gewwa l-bar

Ghan-normal il-hajja tigi  
kif nafuha fil-passat  
hlief il-prezz ta' kull ma nixtru  
sahansitra l-qassatat.

Kaccatur ma qadx jistenna  
illi Covid jitlaq l'hemm,  
ghal-gamien bis-senter hareġ  
biex lil hajtu dan itemm.

U kulhadd jerga jiftahar  
jekk hux blu jew ahmar nar  
nergaw lura għall li konna  
u titbaqbaq jekk tkun hmar.

*Mill-Facebook page ta Joseph Scerri from Hamrun*

*Joseph Scerri mill-Hamrun*

IGBED IL-KATINA  
HA TIFFLAXXJA

NOSTALGIA

PULL CHAIN  
FLUSHING



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### Way to go! Leading Maltese marine biologist featured on Euronews



*'The sea is in trouble, and unfortunately, people are not aware'* Kim Vella  
Every year without fail, Malta's shores overflow with beach lovers catching some rays and snorkelers on the lookout for the next big hidden gem at the bottom of our seas.

Unfortunately, many are not aware of the hidden struggles our seas are facing, and it has thus become increasingly evident that ocean literacy is key to protecting our marine ecosystems.

Alan Deidun, a leading marine biologist and Malta's Ocean Ambassador, spoke to Euronews about this issue.

Image credit: [Euronews](#)

Alan noted that most people are detached from issues our seas and oceans are facing, and thus it is only through educational programmes that said gap can be bridged.

The Malta National Aquarium has, in fact, developed a programme in the shape of a free guided snorkelling tour in hopes of addressing this

issue.

"As we know, Europe has a blue growth strategy that we need to generate more economic activity from the sea. But we must make sure that that is done sustainably," Alan told Euronews.

"One way of doing that is to have more ocean literacy, not just for Joe citizen, for the man in the street, but also for policymakers because you would be amazed that some policymakers actually are very ocean illiterate," he continued. Thais Amaral, an Education Officer at the Malta National Aquarium, went on to explain that "the sea is in trouble, and unfortunately, people are not aware."

"You can have all of the beauty that there is. You can see how amazing all of these animals are. But at the same time, there's something that we need to do about it, especially for the younger generations," he concluded.

### Did you know? A 19th century railway lies beneath Floriana's 'Fosos'

*Il-Fosos lies directly above a 700-meter tunnel!*

The Granaries in Floriana, better known as *il-fosos*, have hosted many iconic events over the years, but did you ever question what lies beneath this historic landmark?

**A large grate at this spot actually lies directly above a 700-meter railway tunnel that was operational between 1883 and 1931.** That's right! All those times you were stomping away at the Isle of MTV, you were right above a railway station

"[The grate] covers a vent stack that let the soot-laden steam from the small locomotives escape," the Malta Underground Facebook page wrote. "Today, it is largely abandoned, serving only as a cable route," it continued.

According to The Malta Railway Foundation Facebook page this tunnel has further historical significance, "as during the Second World War [it] served as shelter from the air raid attacks by the German Luftwaffe and the Italians."

**The telephone lines hosted inside the tunnels served as communication lines between Valletta and the rest of the islands.** Right next to the underground railway, one can find a whopping 76 granaries, "likely First carved out of the rock in the 18<sup>th</sup> century under the Knights, expanded in the 19th century under the British, and functioned as late as 1962." century under the Knights, expanded in the 19th century under the British, and functioned as late as 1962."



## Traditional Maltese Bigilla and Galletti

Bigilla is a perfect savoury spicy dried broad bean dip, that is best enjoyed with these light and crispy traditional Maltese water crackers galletti.

If you've ever been to Malta or know about Maltese cuisine, you've for sure must've heard of this iconic duo. Found at every Maltese gathering these two are always a hit! Bigilla can have a love or hate debate and some might like it thicker whereas others might not, and the level of spiciness is also heavily discussed. However, one thing is for sure galletti are always a crowd pleaser.

**GALLETTI** Galletti can easily be found next to dips, or included to a platter, Maltese or not. Also, these little water crackers are definitely a great snack! Nowadays, these galletti have even evolved to different flavours such as sun-dried tomatoes, salt and pepper, rosemary and even ones flavoured with the traditional Maltese cheese, ġbenjiet tal-bżar (peppered cheeselets). They're all really good. However, one of my favourite ways of eating them is just smothering some butter on the plain ones. Optionally, I used to add some Maltese cheeselets on the side.

**BIGILLA** Bigilla is a traditional Maltese slightly spicy dip, made from mashed dried broad beans (ful ta' Ġirba), olive oil, salt and chili flakes. It's really similar to ful Medames which is really popular in Middle Eastern cuisine. It is probable that bigilla has actually the same origin of ful Medames, as the Maltese islands were under Arabic leadership for several centuries. This dip can be served cold or slightly warm. It's the perfect addition to a cheese and cold cuts platter, as it is also great as a spread on some warm bread. Another way which I love eating it, is by serving it as a pasta sauce by diluting it slightly with some pasta water.

Although this dip might be a bit time consuming to make, it's for sure worth all the waiting time during it's preparation process.

## Maltese Bigilla (Dried broad bean dip)

Servings: 4

### INGREDIENTS

dried fava beans *1 cup* 750 ml water *2 cups* 30 ml olive oil *2 tbsp* 1 tsp salt

1 garlic clove 1 tsp chili flakes 1/2 tbsp parsley *chopped*

To garnish

1 tbsp parsley *chopped* 1 chili pepper 1/2 tsp chili flakes olive oil *drizzle*

### INSTRUCTIONS

Start by soaking the dried fava beans from a day before you plan to cook the bigilla. In a large bowl place the dried beans and cover with water. Let it sit for a day whilst checking if more water is needed.

The next day, rinse the beans and add the beans to a large pot with the water. Bring the beans to a boil. While it is boiling, you'll notice some foam on the surface. Remove the foam with a slotted spoon.

Cover and let it simmer for about an hour. Check the beans if they need more water. Let it cook for another 30 minutes and check for doneness. If the beans are still a bit hard let them cook for another 30 minutes.

Once the beans are cooked, remove the excess water. Do not discard the water in which the beans cooked in for now. Add the beans to a food processor.

Together with the beans, add two tablespoons of the water in which the beans were cooked in, olive oil, salt, garlic, chili flakes and parsley. Pulse together until all the beans are broken and you have a thick paste. Add more water if the consistency is too thick.

To serve, simply place the dip into a bowl and top with parsley, chili flakes and a diced chili pepper. Finally drizzle a good quality olive oil on top. Serve with warm bread or galletti.



### Galletti (Maltese Water Crackers)

Maltese typical light and crispy water biscuit crackers.

Prep Time 20 mins

Cook Time 20 mins

Resting Time 1 hr

Total Time 1 hr 40 mins

Course: Appetizer, Snack

Cuisine: Maltese, Mediterranean

Keyword: Galletti, Maltese

Servings: 150 pieces

#### INGREDIENTS

400 g plain flour

100 g semolina

200 ml water *lukewarm*

30 g butter *melted*

1 tsp salt

1 tsp sugar

7 g dry active yeast *1 sachet*

#### INSTRUCTIONS

In a small bowl mix the lukewarm water, yeast and sugar. Let the mixture foam for about 15 minutes.

Combine all the dry ingredients together; flour, semolina, and salt. Once mixed together add the melted butter and the activated yeast and mix together.

Knead the dough for some minutes, until you get a smooth soft dough.

Place the dough in a bowl, cover and let it rest for an hour.

Preheat the oven to 180°C or 350°F. Line a baking tray with parchment paper. Set aside.

If you have a pasta machine you can use it, or else a normal rolling pin can do the job.

Divide the dough into about 8 pieces as it's best to work in small batches. Roll the dough to about 2mm thick.

With a narrow glass or a small cookie cutter cut the galletti and place them on the baking tray. With a toothpick or fork, make five holes in the middle of each galletta. This will help the dough not to fill with air and puff up while cooking.



Cook for about 15 to 20 minutes, until they get a golden colour. Let them cool. You might need to cook all the dough in several batches as this will depend on your oven and baking trays.

They can be enjoyed immediately or later. If stored in an air tight container these galletti can last for about a week as they'll keep their crunchiness.

Hi there! I'm Yesenia, a self-taught home cook. Born and raised in Malta, a tiny island in the middle of the Mediterranean, but living in Luxembourg. Work has in fact brought me to this other tiny (yet landlocked) country.

**[www.apronandwhisk.com](http://www.apronandwhisk.com)**



### DRAWWIET TRADIZZJONALI FI ŻMIEN L-GHID IL-KBIR Gregory

**Greg Caruana**



It-tradizzjoni antika u ferm popolari fiċ-ċelebrazzjonijiet ta' żmien l-Għid fil-ġurnata tas-Sibt kienet orġinat f'il-lokal tal-Birgu bosta snin ilu minn meta l-Griegi ta' Rhodi

ġew hawn Malta flimkien mal Kavallieri ta' San Ġwann. Dawn kienu ġew imkeċċija mill-gżira ta' Rhodi mal-Kavallieri fis-sena 1522.

Sabiex inkunu aktar preċiżi, fll fatt ma ġewx imkeċċija minn Suleiman ta' l-Imperu Ottoman mal-Kavallieri u setgħu li riedu jibqgħu fll-gżira ta' Rhodi iżda kienu jippreferu jgħixu fl-eżilju mal-Kavallieri u mhux taħt ħakma Musulmana. Ġewwa l-Birgu l-Għid il-Kbir kien jibda s-Sibt fllgħodu u l-istatwa ta' Kristu Rxoxt kienet tinġarr minn żgħażaġħ entużjasti f' purċissjoni li kienet tibda mixxatt mill-knisja tal-Madonna tal-Karmnu, dritt għad-diversi toroq tal-Birgu u lura għall-knisja parrokkjali San Lawrenz.

Din dejjem kienet tkun akkumpanjata minn banda ddoqq marċi trijonfali. L-ibliet li bdew jorganizzaw din il-festa kbira wara l-Birgu kienu l-Isla u Bormla. Wara li t-tradizzjoni infirxet sew ġewwa l-Kottonera, bliet u rħula oħra bdew jagħmlu l-istess u għadhom hekk sa llum.

IT-TBAĦĦIR FID-DJAR It-tradizzjoni li naħarqu weraq taż-żebbuġ sabiex inbaħħru d-djar ukoll orġinat fll-Birgu minn dawn l-istess Griegi Kattoliċi.

Dawn kellhom komunita u saħansitra anki bnew tliet kappelli fll-Birgu stess; dawn kienu tal-Madonna ta' Damaxxena (Damascus) li parti minnha għadha teżisti sa llum, dik ta' San Ġorġ li kienet quddiem il-kunvent tad-Dumnikani u biċċa minnha għadha teżisti speċjalment il-faċċata, u oħra ta' San Nikola li flbidu kienet dedikata lil

Sant' Agata u kienet nl pjazza kantuniera ma' Triq Hilda Tabone li qabel kienet Triq Brittanja u li ferm qabel kienet magħrufa bħala il Collacchio, fi żmien il-Kavallieri.

Din ta' l-aħħar spiċċat maż-żmien. Skond iddokumenti kien hemm oħra wkoll mibnija x' aktarx minn Nicolo Flavari li kien inġinier impjegat ma' l-Ordni ta' San Ġwann li ġie minn Rhodi mal-Griegi l-oħra. Dan it-tbaħħir kien isir b' devozzjoni iżda jservi wkoll bħala fumigazzjoni. Aktar tard beda jsir il-Ħadd nhar l-Għid il-Kbir minflok is-Sibt. Għadni niftakar lill-għażiża ommi tgħajjat "Glorja!" meta tisma' l-qniepen idoqqu fllgħodu minflok iċ-ċuqlajta li kienet tibda tinstama' minn Hamis ix-Xirka. Dan għadni niftakru sa llum f' Ħal Tarxien fejn qattajt tfuliti sa 17 il-sena.

Din ommi kienet iddur il-kmamar kollha li kellna f'kull rokna b'tilar tal metall bil-weraq jinħaraq u tgħid xi orazzjoni u aħna magħha nirrispondu xi Pater, Ave u Glorja. Xi Maltin oħra kienu anki jkantaw u jgħajtu "Alleluja! Kristu qam mill-mewt!". Din kienet ukoll u għadha l-użanza tal-Griegi. Dan il-weraq li jintuża fit-tbaħħir kien jiġi mbierek f'Ħadd il-Palm u x-aktarx illi r-raġuni ta' dan kienet tkun sabiex iżomm l-għajn ħażina 'l barra mid-dar u fl-istess waqt anki jkeċċi l-spirti ħżiena. Lużanza tal-Griegi ż-ur illi qiegħda għal hekk u dan ikkonfermajtu jien persunali meta kont ġewwa Cipru 'posted' ma' l-RAF għal sente.in.

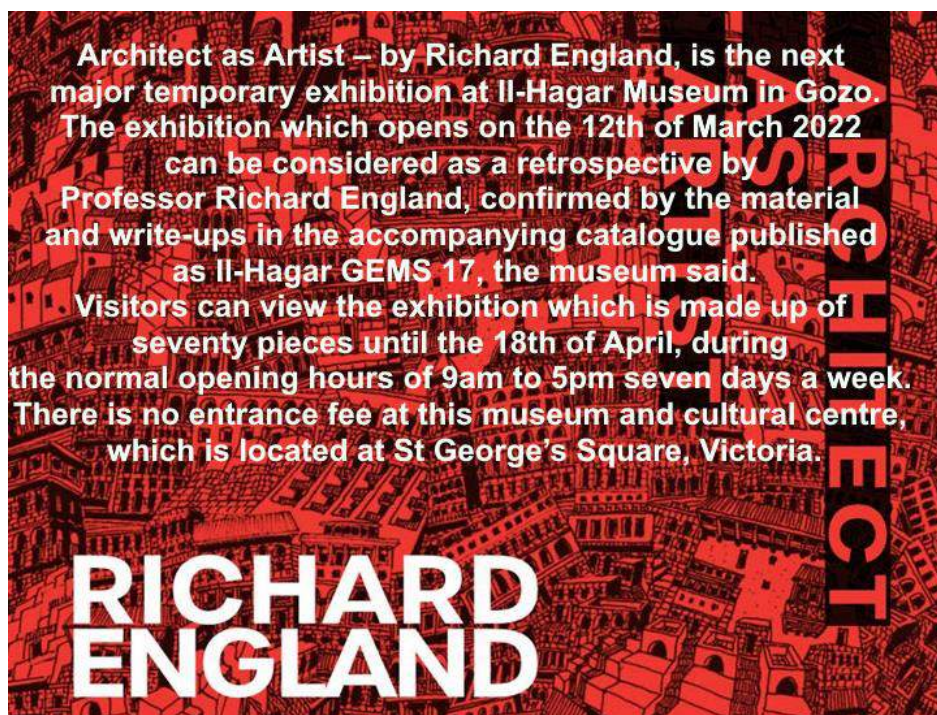
X'uħud kienu jqisu dan bħala superstizzjoni. Il-weraq taż-żebbuġ qatt ma kienu jiġu mitfugħa ġożżibel, dejjem nl-qsari sabiex jitħalltu mal-ħamrija. 103 Nafu li l-qniepen kienu jdoqqu biex ifakkru l-ferħ kbir ta' din il-festa li żgur meqjusa nl-liturġija bħala l-akbar festa tal-Knisja. Għall-kuntrarju, minn Hamis ix-Xirka, iċ-ċuqlajta tfakkar il-mewt ta' Kristu. Kulħadd jaf li Kristu mhux mejjet iżda qiegħed fis-Sema, allura ma nistgħux ngħidu li iċ-ċuqlajta tħabbar il-mewt ta' Kristu iżda tfakkar.



# MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER

March 2022

Architect as Artist – by Richard England, is the next major temporary exhibition at Il-Hagar Museum in Gozo. The exhibition which opens on the 12th of March 2022 can be considered as a retrospective by Professor Richard England, confirmed by the material and write-ups in the accompanying catalogue published as Il-Hagar GEMS 17, the museum said. Visitors can view the exhibition which is made up of seventy pieces until the 18th of April, during the normal opening hours of 9am to 5pm seven days a week. There is no entrance fee at this museum and cultural centre, which is located at St George's Square, Victoria.

A poster for the 'Architect as Artist' exhibition by Richard England. The background is a dense, red-toned architectural drawing of a cityscape. The word 'ARCHITECT' is written vertically in large, bold, white letters on the right side. The name 'RICHARD ENGLAND' is written in large, bold, white letters at the bottom left.

The global pandemic Covid-19 had a great effect on the Maltese communities around the world. Many events had to be cancelled or postponed. But slowly we are trying to get back to NORMAL

Pre-Match Function  
KO. 3.30pm



**JOIN US**



**75th ANNIVERSARY PRESIDENT'S LUNCHEON**

SATURDAY MARCH 26th, 2022  
1:30pm - 4:30pm  
3 Course Meal \$90  
DRINKS NOT INCLUDED

PURCHASE TICKETS BY FRIDAY MARCH 18, 2022

VENUE : GEORGIES ON VISTA  
46 CITY VISTA CCT, FRASER RISE, PLUMPTON

## CAROLINE SPRINGS GEORGE CROSS FC. Plumpton Victoria

Our first home game of season 2022 is in Rd:2 against Essendon Royals.

We will be holding our annual President's Luncheon before the game.

We are now taking bookings for the luncheon and hope you will join us to help us celebrate our 75th anniversary.

To book your tickets call Joyce on 7021 0555.

## MALTESE-CANADIAN COMMUNITY NEWS

St Paul the Apostle Parish

Will welcome Fr Mark Grima

(Superior General of the MSSP)

who will be visiting Canada on his way to Peru.

We shall be having a DINNER with him on Saturday, March 26th.

All proceeds will be donated to him for the Peru mission

Details to follow soon

IF YOU HAVE AN INTERESTING STORY TO TELL  
OR AN ARTICLE OR A PHOTO SHARE IT  
WITH OTHER READERS.  
SEND IT TO US



maltesejournal@gmail.com





# MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER

March 2022



## Malta Amateur Wrestling Federation

The Malta Wrestling Federation last month took part in the England Wrestling Championships at the Windsor Leisure Centre.

The team was formed by Gary Giordimaina (57kg), Adam Vella (57kg), Nico Zarb (74kg) and Nathaniel Buttigieg D'Ugo (74kg) with Jesmond Giordimaina acting

as coach while Abraham Vassallo was referee.

The championships brings together wrestlers from several countries, particularly from Iran, Russia and India who live in England, thus further increasing the level of competition.

For many wrestlers, these championships represented an opportunity to earn a place for this summer's Commonwealth Games in Birmingham.

Gary Giordimaina produced an impressive performance in the 57kg category as he managed to win four bouts to secure the gold medal in the category that featured nine wrestlers.

Giordimaina faced Constantine Neagu, of Romania, in the preliminary round and managed to come out on top through superiority. In the quarter-finals, he had the better of Iran's Saeed Saeedi to set up a semi-final showdown with another Iranian wrestler Farshad Raesi where he again prevailed with a pin.

In the final, he was up against Algerian-born Yahia Tehami who was representing England and is looking to earn a place in the Commonwealth Games. Giordimaina came out on top to win the bout on technical superiority. In the 74kg category, Malta had two representatives among the 20 participating wrestlers.

In the first round, Nico Zarb and Nathaniel Buttigieg lost their bout with Iranian wrestler Farhad Nouri. Zarb and Buttigieg faced each other in the repechage round that would earn them a shot for the bronze medal.

Zarb prevailed and set up a bout with Azrail Borziev but was beaten by the Russian wrestler.

Luck did not favour Adam Vella as he was drawn to face Russian wrestler Erfan Taghizadeh who won the bout and went on to clinch the bronze medal winner in the category that featured 17 wrestlers,

