Maltese e-Newsletter

The Journal of Maltese Living Abroad

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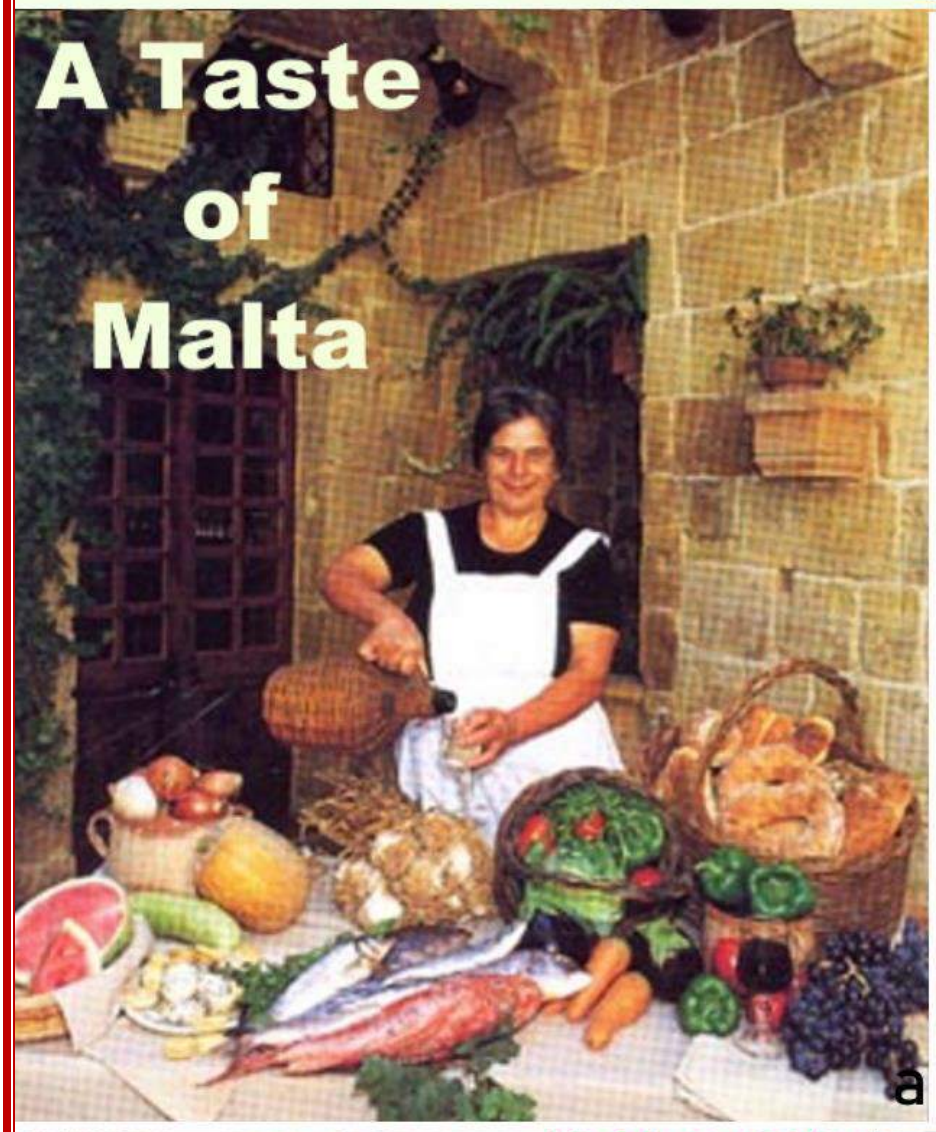


TELL OUR YOUNG ONES TO READ THIS. IT IS SO PRECIOUS

Joe Rizzo – NOSTALGIA MALTA

These are the boys and girls of Cameron Street Gzira.

My upbringing : when I was young mum used to send me to buy a block of ice for our ice box. Making a piece of toast on the kerosene spiritira, only butter to spread

After we had a kerosene fridge, God helps you when it starts soothing!! Meat used to be placed in Guarda Carne !

We used to inherit clothes from the eldest to the youngest, we were five boys! Buy milk in a jar from the shepherd who used to come near our house with a herd of goats! It was so good when warm.

Had a kerosene cooker, black and green with glass bottle on the side and a spiritira ta' bi- tlieta for stews and frying.

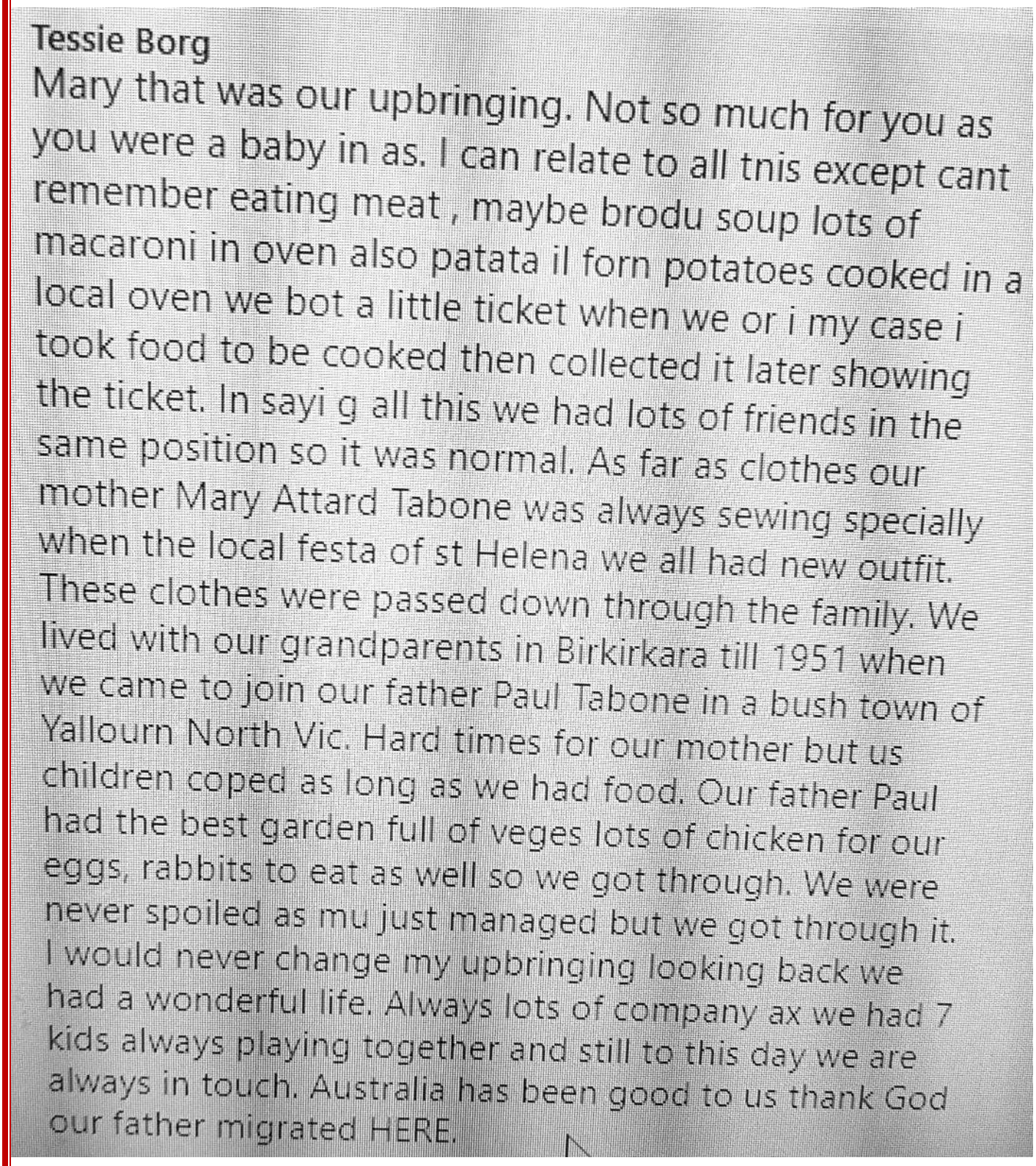
Mum used to send me to buy " sonza"? To fry and then make lard for cooking. Baker was in front of us, Sundays we used to take our roasts or 'mqarrun' for baking to the public bakery, giving us a metal number to recognise our dish. In the afternoon we used to get warm freshly baked bread.

A warm slice with salted butter was a real treat. No cars in the streets. In the evening we used to play all sorts of folklore games, nearly all forgotten now like passju, harba, noli, habel, xixu, and our mothers used to stay "qaqocca" outside one of the neighbour's house on a chair or stool reciting first the rosary and then gossiping. What a simple and beautiful life, of course there was poverty and lack of hygiene but still we managed and survived.

The mobile phone was the destruction of physical dialogue. Good day my old folks, hope I was not boring.

This photo was taken around 1955 and I am standing first right. it was the party of Stephen Saliba celebrating his first Holy Communion on their roof.

PS. Forgot to mention that my mother used to send us to mass daily at 6.45am before we go to school, also in the evening we used to attend the catechism classes at Muzew.



Tessie Borg

Mary that was our upbringing. Not so much for you as you were a baby in as. I can relate to all tnis except cant remember eating meat , maybe brodu soup lots of macaroni in oven also patata il forn potatoes cooked in a local oven we bot a little ticket when we or i my case i took food to be cooked then collected it later showing the ticket. In sayi g all this we had lots of friends in the same position so it was normal. As far as clothes our mother Mary Attard Tabone was always sewing specially when the local festa of st Helena we all had new outfit. These clothes were passed down through the family. We lived with our grandparents in Birkirkara till 1951 when we came to join our father Paul Tabone in a bush town of Yallourn North Vic. Hard times for our mother but us children coped as long as we had food. Our father Paul had the best garden full of veges lots of chicken for our eggs, rabbits to eat as well so we got through. We were never spoiled as mu just managed but we got through it. I would never change my upbringing looking back we had a wonderful life. Always lots of company ax we had 7 kids always playing together and still to this day we are always in touch. Australia has been good to us thank God our father migrated HERE.

If you have a story like these, please send it to me.
Our beautiful memories will never fade away
and ought to be preserved

Project MEMORJA, which is an oral and audio-visual archive of the National Archives, can now also be accessed by the general public via the website www.memorja.com.

After registering as a user, you will be able to search for digitised material which is preserved and catalogued. As well as viewing the material, you can also be a protagonist and contribute yourself, ensuring the continued growth of this project.

The MEMORJA project was established as the oral and audio-visual archive of the National Archives in 2017. The mission in this project is to record stories of the lives of people and groups who have had low representation in the country's documented history.

MEMORJA uses advanced methods in oral history, ethnography and archives to collect, record, preserve and make accessible the individual and collective stories that have been delivered to us orally and via audio and video. The project seeks a diversity of memories, biographical stories, community experiences and historical events of the Maltese people.

Trained in oral history, the workers and volunteers of the MEMORJA project do ongoing ethnographic work in the community, enriching our archives with memories and souvenirs, personal photos, documents, ephemera, objects, audio, video and film footage that have been deposited and preserved. Their work is made accessible to all.

Oral history interviews, being conducted by our workers, help to increase the visibility of the National Archives and thus generate more friendships and a unique relationship of trust between the National Archives and the public.

METSOLA MEETS OBAMA

European Parliament President Roberta Metsola met with former U.S. President Barack Obama on the fringes of the Summit on Democracy being held in Copenhagen.

In a Twitter post, Metsola uploaded a photo of the meeting with Obama, saying that the world should be reminded that 'yes we can', with reference to the renowned phrase used by the former President during his presidential campaign in 2008.

Metsola stated that the European Parliament is solid following Ukraine's request to seek EU membership, adding that Ukraine is already part of the European family however the time is ripe for giving the country a real opportunity to participate in the European project. TVMNEWS

Natalia Galea crowned Miss World Malta 2022

Miss World Malta organization held the coronation night of the 2022 edition of Miss World Malta on 8th June 2022 at Fort St. Elmo where **Natalia Galea** was crowned Miss World Malta 2022. She became the official representative of Malta at the upcoming edition of Miss World.

On her win, Natalia took to her official social media and thanked her sponsors, correspondents, friends, family and boyfriend for their support. She also went on to write that she will do her 'absolute best to keep the crown in Europe' as the reigning Miss World hails from Poland.

Not new to the pageantry, Natalia previously took part in various pageants since 2015; In 2019, she was adjudged second runner-up at Miss Mediterranean 2019 and in 2018, Natalia represented Malta at Miss Supranational 2018 where she placed in the Top 30 with her stellar performance.

The newly crowned Miss World Malta 2022 Natalia Galea's court included –

1st Runner-up – Amy Spiteri

2nd Runner-up – Pearl Maria Micallef

Galea's final gown was inspired by 'a fusion of the national soul of Malta'. The top is bead embroidered with wings of the blue rock thrush bird, making it a perfect symbol to soar success while the skirt is a purely handcrafted glass bead fringes imitating the National Flower Maltese Centaury depicting the blossoming of new beginnings. The impressive dress was handcrafted out of a whopping 600,000 hand beads by Rian Fernandez – a designer from the Philippines - www.angelopedia.com/

Government of Malta

SERVIZZ PUBBLIKU

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www.publicservice.gov.mt/en/Pages/Home.aspx

*** SPECIAL EVENT ***

at

La Valette Social Centre Blacktown NSW

Saturday, 11 June 2022

LIVE BAND

from 6.30pm

"PAUL FALZON'S TRIO"

Plus

Other Guests

Bring your dancing shoes
And enjoy the night

Please support this band
and hopefully they will become a
regular monthly feature
at our Centre.

The Cave in Buskett has been restored

The thousands of people who will be heading to Buskett for the Mnarja at the end of this month will enjoy the Knights' legacy which has been restored after years in danger of collapse, specifically the Cave located in the middle of the gardens.

The project has not only involved the strengthening and restoration of this structure but also has great environmental value as it has used running water and will ensure that it is not lost and continues to flow to Luqa Valley.

This video takes us back to February 2020 when TVMnews showed how a large 300-year-old structure in Buskett was in danger of collapsing.The upper part of this building was detached from the rest and was protruding perilously with the risk of imminent collapse which could have been tragic.

Two years later, the situation has changed drastically. different. The structure known as the Cave was restored in a project that cost Ambjent Malta € 325,000.

Architect Daniel Cordina explained that after the structure was propped up from the façade, excavation began on the road that passes over the Grotto where there are some residences including a place that the Knights used to hunt. All the material that formed the base of the road was removed by excavation.

"We have created a structure of beams and a concrete slab so that the vehicles that pass to service the residences can pass over this slab which is working as a bridge so that the load is not transferred to the dome, thus prolonging its life span. We removed the trusses and carried out major restoration work and repaired major damage to the interior."

Architect Daniel Cordina

The cave was lit and a new system was installed for the fountain to start operating. The water from the fountain comes from a reservoir below the structure that is filled with running water that comes naturally from the floodplains and the upper fields.

During a visit to the recently completed works, the Minister for the Environment Miriam Dalli pointed out that running water gives a strong environmental value to this restoration project.

""We want the water that flows through to end up in the valley and help the vegetation of this valley. With this project we are taking another step to salvage this running water, we will bring it to this point but eventually we want the running water to go down into the valley to continue to Buskett which I know will reach different types of flora and Fauna."

Environmental Minister Miriam Dalli

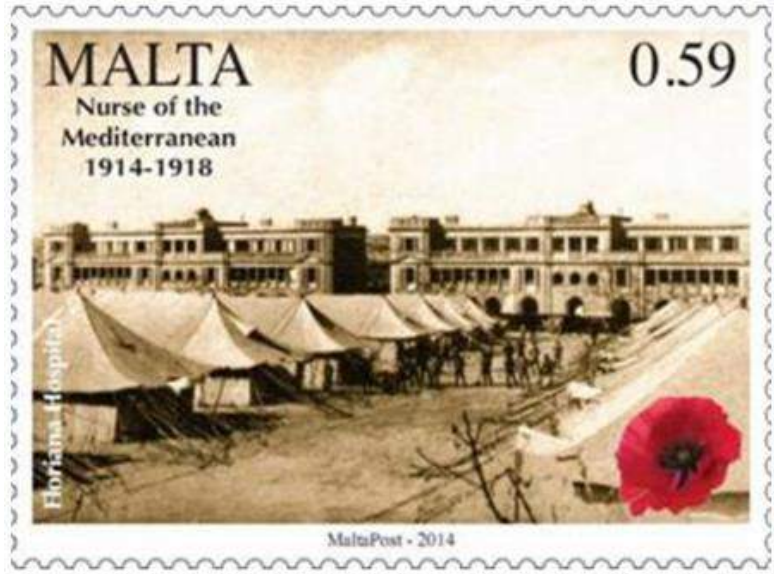
Malta's Director General of the Environment Herman Galea explained that the agency is conducting studies to ensure that this water reaches the Luqa Valley.

This is running water, natural water that comes from the ground. The amount of water that is coming in is currently limited and we are conducting our own studies to see how we can increase its volume. The water comes from behind the cave.

Director General for the Environment Herman Galea

Built in the mid-17th century by Grandmaster Lascaris, Buskett Cave is lined with tombstones commemorating major events connected with the gardens and was used in the past as an aviary for exotic birds such as peacocks. Outside, between the arches, there is a large stalactite, which is said to have been brought from Għar il-Kbir. TVMnews

MALTAPOST - Stamps commemorating WW1



Malta Post issued a set of 3 stamps depicting military hospitals that were instrumental in saving the lives of tens of thousands of sick and wounded that were brought to and cared for in Malta during World War I. During that war a total of 27 hospitals and camps were set-up across Malta and Gozo to accommodate thousands of wounded Allied servicemen. The first group of 600 casualties arrived from Gallipoli on 4th of May 1915. Initially, numerous wounded men were disembarked on the quayside by Valletta's ancient Sacra Infermeria hospital. They were then moved on to other hospitals around the Island.

This activity earned Malta the title: 'Nurse of the Mediterranean.'

The stamps carry a face value of €0.10 and €0.59 and€2.00 and portray the images of Bighi Hospital, Floriana Hospital and HMHS Rewa respectively. The stamps have been designed by Paul Psaila and are issued in sheets of 10 stamps.

Each stamp measures 44mm x 31mm with a perforation of 13.9 x 14.0 (comb.), while the sheets measures 119mm x 186mm.The Malta stamps bear the Maltese Crosses watermark. Printex Limited produced the set in offset and the issue consists of 240,000 of the €0.10 stamp, 300,000of the €0.59 and 72,000 of the €2.00.

This Philatelic Issue are available These unique stamps where issued to commemorate the centenary of World War I and the connection Malta had with

the ANZACS – Australian and New Zealand soldiers wounded at Gallipoli, Turkey **email: info@maltaphilately.com.**

The Domvs Romana sheds light on the private life and habits of an ancient Roman aristocrat. Very little was recovered of the noble Roman town house (domvs) itself, but the intricate mosaics and other artefacts that survived for centuries are testimony enough to the original richness of this dwelling.

Accidentally discovered in 1881, this site and the mosaics within, had the first ever purposely-built structure in the Maltese Islands meant to protect an archaeological site and collection within it.

Most of the Roman artefacts and antiquities, including the few remaining marble pieces scattered in the streets of Mdina, were transferred to this museum, officially opened in 1882. The museum then continued to serve as a repository for all the Roman artefacts found around the Island.

Throughout the years, the museum went through various renovations which included the addition of a façade with a triangular pediment and a large rectangular display room. The museum was closed during World War II, during which it was used as a small restoration centre. It was eventually re-opened to the public in 1945.

The Victorian-style displays were also modernised along the time. Apart from showing the complex history of the site, the current museum display is in fact designed to take the visitor through the various aspects of a Roman aristocratic family and household, with aspects ranging from the actual division of roles in a Roman family, to fashion, education, entertainment, and food and drink.

A highlight at this museum is the only set of marble statues portraying the **Emperor Claudius and his family** – artworks usually found in public spaces – that can be seen in a private house.

Let's unite and work together UNITY MEANS STRENGTH

She started baking them for fun. Then the Maltese found out…Maltese woman's pastizzi are proving a great hit in Florida

Giulia Magri Times of Malta

Krystle Bezzina with her husband Jeff Reese holding a tray of the delicious Maltese snack in Florida. Photos: Krystle Bezzina

Grazio Darmanin (left) originally from a family of bakers in Żabbar, taught Krystle and Jeff (right) how to make pastizzi.

Growing up, Krystle Bezzina would wake up to the delicious smells of her great-aunt's baking every day during the sunny summer holidays.

Memories of her home in Naxxar full of fresh *ftajjar*, piping hot *timpana* and large pies all made by her great-aunt, who lived to the age of 100, left a lasting impression on young Krystle.

In adulthood, she has learnt all those recipes as well as the tricks of the trade for making one of the country's most beloved snacks – *pastizzi*.

But it wasn't until last February that Krystle, now 38, finally fulfilled her dream – alongside her husband Jeff Reese – and began baking and selling *pastizzi* in their home town in that other sunshine state, Florida.

"It's all quite exciting, we never expected the business to grow so fast, but so many Maltese communities have reached out to us to make their order. Sometimes we have orders for over 50 *pastizzi*," Krystle told *Times of Malta*.

The baker-teacher from Tal-Grazzja

Back in 2011, Krystle moved to Michigan for work but shortly after her arrival she was diagnosed with cancer. She was just 27. She moved to Florida for her treatment.

It was there, during her cancer treatment, that she met her husband Jeff Reese, who was suffering from the same kind of cancer.

With a new outlook on life, Krystle sought a Maltese community.

"In Michigan there is a huge Maltese community and a club, so I never missed the culture or food," she said.

But there were none in Florida, and Krystle did not know any Maltese expats there. Until one day when the couple met Grazio Darmanin, who goes by the nickname Gus.

Gus came from a family of bakers from Żabbar who owned the Tal-Grazzja bakery on Sanctuary Street. In the 1960s his family moved to New York and later opened two other bakeries there. As she recovered, Krystle wanted to learn how to make proper pastizzi and Gus was the right teacher.

"By the time we became friends, Gus was retired but most of our time together was spent in the kitchen, where he would teach us how to improve on my great aunt's *pastizzi* recipe and how to work with the dough," she recalled. The couple would then take their Maltese treats to parties or work, and word got around of the delicious delicacies

Chocolate and marshmallow *pastizzi*?

"People started to ask us to prepare orders for them, so we decided to set up our own online shop, where people can order our products frozen. They can then simply pop them in the oven when they need their *pastizzi* fix," Krystle said.

The couple set up their online shop 'TasteMalta Bakery' back in February, and prepared orders on their days off.

She said some customers weren't big fans of the classic *irkotta* or *piżelli*.

"People would ask us to make *pastizzi* with venison, seafood, rice. Children would ask us to fill the pastry with marshmallows and chocolate."

But their Maltese customers wanted the real deal.

"Those born and raised in Malta and who live in Florida and other states would reach out to us and ask us to make *pastizzi*, and also make them rabbit stew, honey rings and ricotta pie with *ful* – it's very exciting."

They were swamped with orders in May when many Maltese-American families hosted 'Pastizzi night' to watch the Eurovision.

Those born and raised in Malta and who live in Florida and other states would reach out to us and ask us to make pastizzi, and also make them rabbit stew, honey rings and ricotta pie with ful – it's very exciting.- Krystle

"We had families ordering over 80 *pastizzi*. It may sound like a lot, but don't forget, in Malta you turn any corner and buy these treats, but here we don't have that option," Jeff said.

The couple ship a minimum of 36 frozen *pastizzi* at the price of $99 (€92). Those who live in Florida can buy 12 *pastizzi* for $33 (€31).

While the price may seem high here, orders keep flooding in for the couple, from right across the states. One night they spent till 2am making over 100 *pastizzi*, ready to be frozen and shipped out. Jeff and Krystle will continue to work on their online business but plan to open their own Maltese bakery in Florida in the near future. Jeff believes they could be the next bar food in Florida.

"People here love to drink in outdoor bars, and we believe crunchy *pastizzi* would be a great snack to go with a cold beer." People just keep coming back for more. Krystle's own father paid a visit in December and made sure he had some hot *pastizzi* prepared for him.

"My dad came to Florida from Malta to eat *pastizzi*! He thinks they're delicious," Krystle said.

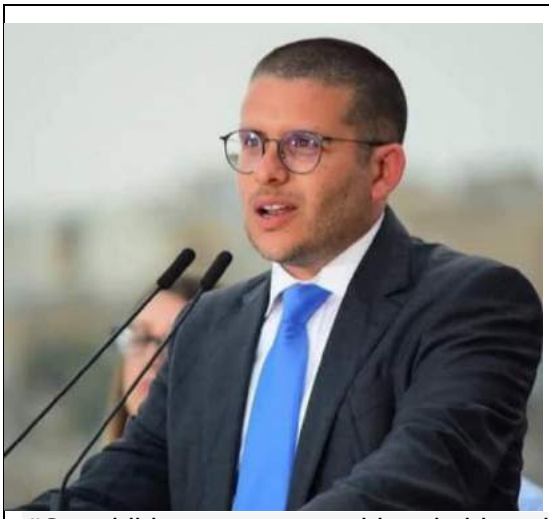
TAXI MARY D'Amato Records

· Many ask us which record sold the most in Malta… Without a doubt it was Taxi Mary. by Freddy Abela AND George Azzopardi. On the day of release we sold 751 records! That is a record (in both senses) for Malta that will never ever be matched. That week my Grandfather William D'Amato gave all staff a 1£ weekly increase. On thé day, police had to be called in to control a large crowd outside the shop where the queue of people reached right up to St. John's Cathedral ⛪The record sold tens of thousands from Malta to Australia & Canada and still sells today.

Emmanuele Cilia. The Complete Studio Recordings
1931-1932. A joint project between the Friends of the National Archives and Filfla Records.

This compilation, Emmanuele Cilia - The Complete Studio Recordings (1931-32) was released on the 50th anniversary since the passing away of the renowned folk singer Emmanuele Cilia.

Originally published by Anthony D'Amato on HMV records, the full set of recordings made by Emmanuele Cilia and captured on disc in Milan in June 1931 and August 1932, were transferred from the original 78 rpm shellac records and 45 rpm vinyl discs to digital format for their preservation. In this collaboration between the Friends of the National Archives and Filfla Records the works of Cilia are compiled in a new compilation and appear on 12" vinyl LP, CD and digital download, formats which Cilia never knew. Prices: 12" vinyl LP + download card : 25 EUR Double CD: 8 EUR Both formats are available for sale from the Main Office of the National Archives in Rabat and from Anthony D'Amato Records Shop in Valletta. For more information send an email on fnamalta@gmail.com



"Biex ngħallmu l-Ingliż lit-tfal m'hemmx bżonn ninsew il-Malti" – Daniel Micallef

Labor Party deputy leader Daniel Micallef said that in order to teach Maltese children English there is no need to forget the Maltese language. This was stated during the discussion at the State of the Nation conference organized by the Office of the President. Micallef went on to say that he had never seen an Italian boy who could not speak Italian.

"Our children are not stupid and able to learn more than two languages," said Micallef. He called for more audio-visual productions in Maltese. Micallef said this after a survey by Dr Vincent Marmara which revealed that the language most considered the main language of the Maltese is Maltese (81.6%). 1.6% of respondents to this survey said that English is their primary language.

Sixteen percent of people consider both Maltese and English to be their primary languages. During the discussion, the General Secretary of the Nationalist Party Michael Piccinino said that the Opposition Party wants to say what is wrong but also wants to say how it can be done better.

He said that as politicians they should see to it that children have critical thinking. "A political party has an obligation to open up to more people to join."

Maltese Translation

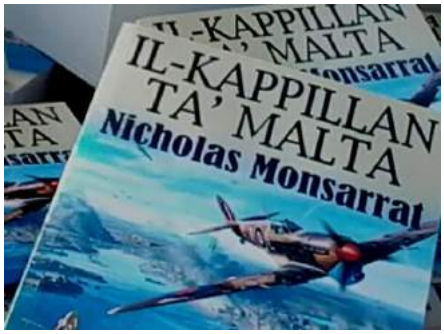
Id-deputat mexxej tal-Partit Laburista Daniel Micallef qal li biex ngħallmu lit-tfal Maltin l-Ingliż m'hemmx bżonn li ninsew il-lingwa Maltija.

Dan intqal waqt id-diskussjoni fil-konferenza tal-Istat tan-Nazzjon organizzata mill-Uffiċċju tal-President. Micallef kompla jgħid li qatt ma ra tifel Taljan li ma jafx jitkellem bit-Taljan.

"It-tfal tagħna mhux stupidi u kapaċi jitgħallmu aktar minn żewġ lingwi" qal Micallef. Huwa appella biex ikun hawn aktar produzzjonijiet adjo viżivi bil-Malti. Micallef qal dan wara stħarriġ ta' Dr Vincent Marmara li ħareġ li l-iktar lingwa kkunsidrata bħala l-lingwa prinċipali tal-Maltin hija l-Malti (81.6%). 1.6% tan-nies li wieġbu għal dan l-istħarriġ qalu li l-Ingliż hija l-lingwa primarja tagħhom. Sittax fil-mija tan-nies iqisu kemm il-Malti u kemm l-Ingliż bħala l-lingwi primarji tagħhom.

Waqt id-diskussjoni s-Segretarju Ġenerali tal-Partit Nazzjonalista Michael Piccinino qal li Partit fl-oppożizzjoni jrid jgħid dak li hemm ħazin iżda jrid jgħid ukoll kif jista' jsir aħjar. Huwa qal li bħala politiċi għandhom jaraw li t-tfal ikollhom ħsieb kritiku. "Partit politiku għandu obbligu li jinfetaħ għal aktar nies biex jidħlu n-nies fih."

Our journal may be read at:
The Malta Migration Museum-Valletta; Maltese Canadian Archives - Toronto; www.ozmalta.com; the websites of the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs-Malta; Maltese Community Council of Victoria; schools, libraries, clubs in Victoria, New South Wales and South Australia Facebook: frankscicluna.3.com/



THE KAPPILLAN OF MALTA

Dwejra Tower - Have you read this book? The Kappillan of Malta by... | Facebook

The Kappillan of Malta by Nicholas Monsarrat.

As bombs pound Malta to dust, a priest finds himself caught up in the drama of World War Two. Arguably the most famous English language novel about Malta's history and traditions, it tells the story of Father Salvatore, a humble parish priest, or kappillan, serving the poor and homeless of Valletta during the dramatic times for the Maltese Islands during 1940 - 1942.

Although it is a work of fiction, some of the story is set in this part of #Gozo, and the places described in the book will be recognisable to visitors to #Dwejra.

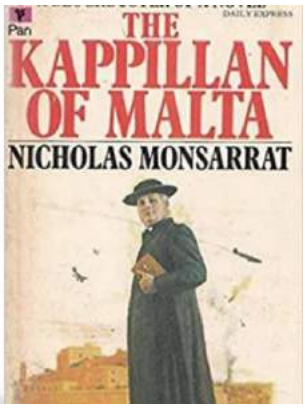
"The structure of Monsarrat's novel is masterly -- many subplots being carefully interwoven. But what really holds the reader's attention and admiration is the story of Malta itself which has been conquered many times in its long history" (Kirkus Review)

https://www.kirkusreviews.com/book-reviews/a/nicholas-monsarrat-7/the-kappillan-of-malta/

After serving in the Royal Navy during the Second World War, the Liverpool-born author, Nicholas Monsarrat, wrote the book in 1973 while living in the village of #SanLawrenz, just a short distance away from #Dwejra on #Gozo. There is a statue dedicated to the author in the Council offices site within the village.

Journalist and author Ann Monsarrat
The widow of Nicholas Monsarrat was a long-time Gozo resident

GozoNationalArtSan Lawrenz



Ann Monsarrat, a journalist and author lived in Gozo for over 40 years.

The British-born author was the widow of the late diplomat and novelist Nicholas Monsarrat, who wrote The Kappillan of Malta.

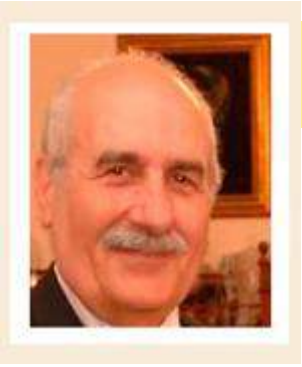
The couple, who met in London and married in 1961, spent many years residing in San Lawrenz in Gozo where Ann flourished into a beloved member of the community, frequently hosting writers and artists from Gozo and all around the world.

At 19, Monserrat was already working for her local newspaper but quickly moved on to Fleet Street in London, where she wrote for British national newspaper The Daily Mail.

Later in her career, Monsarrat authored two books, And the Bride wore ... in 1973, which documented the history of wedding traditions and garments, going on to write An Uneasy Victorian, a biography of the novelist William Makepeace Thackeray, of Vanity Fair and Barry Lyndon fame.

Ann was passionate about her home in a converted farmhouse, which she restored with gusto together with her husband and a constant patron of the arts, even appointed to the board of the Saint James Cavalier Centre for Creativity (now known as Spazju Kreattiv) at it's inception in 2000.

"Malta, and Gozo in particular, was undoubtedly Ann's true spiritual home. She felt strongly about the preservation of the Maltese artistic and cultural heritage," Monsarrat's brother, Richard Griffiths, told Times of Malta.
After a long and stimulating life and, sadly, following a debilitating illness, during which she was cared for with extraordinary devotion by her Maltese friends, she dued and had her final resting place in the cemetery in San Lawrenz."



Give credit where credit is due

Good morning Frank and thanks for latest edition 427 of Newsletter. I like what you write as introduction to this issue. You have managed to put together various articles and material from different countries.
People of the world all have different ideas and all share from similar wishes and thoughts that make them human beings. Nationality makes no difference where life exists.
The letter written by a young boy under the age of ten, is so real and draws attention to the authorities for the safeguarding of an environment that we are to bequeath to a coming generation. It is certainly an eye opener to all who really love the world.
We are living in times of great difficulty, maybe even on the brink of war. Our elderly population may still recall the hardship they went through during the second world war. God forbid the Maltese Islands will suffer a repeat of such conflict, that can involve the surrounding countries in the Mediterranean Sea. We are supposed to be living in a sea of peace but with the continued threats that are uttered every day, we are notso certain of our future.
Your mission of spreading news from around the world, reporting about many Maltese who have taken up residence in different countries is so very interesting to read.

Very sincerely *George Stagno Navarra* (Sliema - Malta)

Hello Frank,
It has been a while since I communicated with you, but rest assured, I receive and enjoy reading the journals religiously! There are always so many interesting articles! I love the historical pieces! I never tire of the history of our beautiful islands, and what they have endured throughout history. We are such a resilient nation, and I am very proud to be Maltese. Thank you for all your hard work in preparing these precious journals. I love reading them especially, when I am in bed with a cuppa, especially on cold nights like we are having here!
Kind Regards **Ross Pulo from Melbourne Australia.**

Bongu Mr Scicluna, Hello from France. I'm Maltese and I've been living in France for these last 28 years. I received the June 2022 edition of your newsletter via a friend of mine who forwarded it to me. Your newsletter is very interesting. May you please add me to your distribution list for future editions. Thanks and regards, **Mario Vella Haber France**

Your Newsletter 427 was a wonderful edition like all the others. You are really keeping the Maltese living abroad together. I never miss it and I send it to all my family and friends in Canada, France and USA. It appeals also to our younger generation**. V. Parnis**

Bongu Mr Scicluna, Hello from France. I'm Maltese and I've been living in France for these last 28 years. I received the June 2022 edition of your newsletter via a friend of mine who forwarded it to me.
Your newsletter is very interesting. May you please add me to your distribution list for future editions.
Mario Vella Haber - France

Boxer With Maltese Heritage Joe Cordina Wins Super Featherweight

By Tim Diacono -lovinmalta.vom

Joe Cordina, a professional Welsh boxer with Maltese heritage, claimed the IBF super featherweight title ON June 4, 2022 after knocking out the previous champion, Japan's Kenichi Ogawa.

At the Motorpoint Arena in his hometown of Cardiff, Cordina showed great dexterity by knocking Ogawa out with a right-hand punch in the first half of the second round.

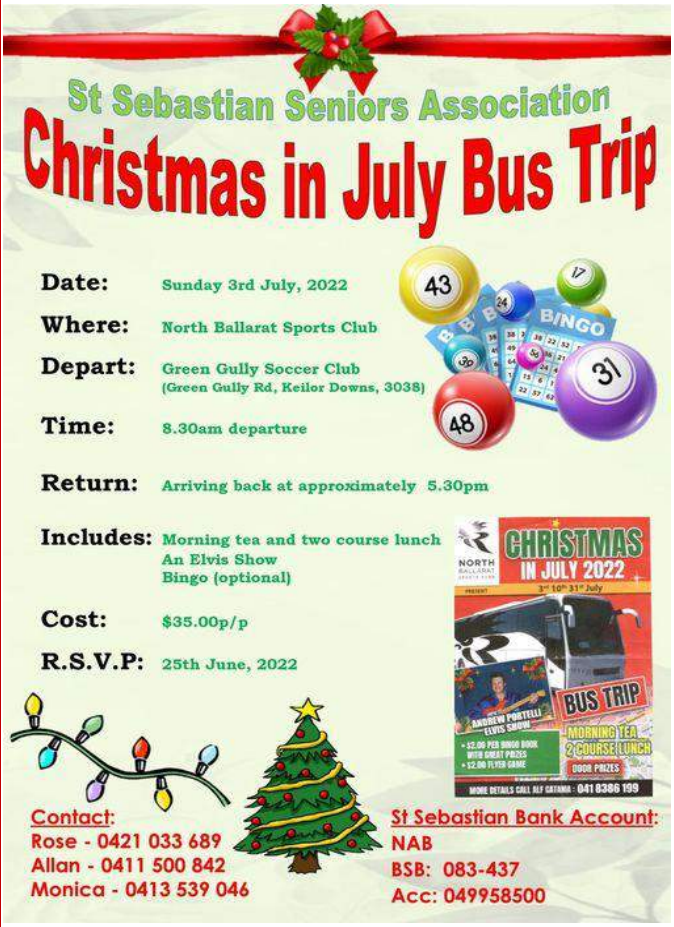
Cordina has therefore won the belt from Ogawa and will be expected to fight to maintain it next year.

"It's a lifetime of work gone into five-and-a-half minutes; I'm just so thankful," Cordina said afterwards. "I've been throwing some big punches in this camp; we've been working hard in the gym."

"We've been working on that punch all camp and it's an amazing feeling when you put hours and hours into it and it comes off in the fight and it's lights out."

Although Cordina is Welsh, he has spoken in the past about feeling a connection with his Maltese heritage.

"It is a weight on my shoulders but it is a good feeling for me to represent the Maltese people," he said in a 2019 interview with Times of Malta.



The St Sebastian Seniors Association Victoria

. Australia was set up in 1990 and is still going strong.

The committee and club members are predominantly of Maltese descent, yet welcome anyone and everyone from various cultures and ages to take part in the monthly events. Events include family social nights, bus day trips and weekends away. We start the year off with our Liturgical Mass and we celebrate special occasions throughout the year including Mother's Day, Father's Day and Christmas. To keep with our Maltese tradition, we host our two-day festivities mid-year.

Our committee is dedicated in supporting its members, so please feel free to contact us with any enquiries.

Monica: 0413 539 046, Rose: 0421 033 689 or Lorraine: 0435 097 398

Email Address: st.sebastian@outlook.com.au

FAREWELL TO AMAZING SISTER GRACE

The clergy, religious and parishioners of St. Patrick parish of of Kembla, NSW gathered after Mass to farewell Sr Grace Cini FCJ who will be leaving the community and the Illawarra to retire in Adelaide, South Australia.

They gave great thanks for Sr Grace and her ministry in the Illawarra, especially in the community of St Francis of Assisi Catholic Parish Warrawong where Sr Grace devoted over 50 years of her religious life to teaching thousands upon thousands of young children. Later in her ministry she moved to St Patrick's Parish, Port Kembla where she has brought her caring heart and great Christ-like warmth to our community.

Sr Grace, we give great thanks to God for you and pray that the next chapter will be a beautiful one. Thank you to the many people who visited today from our Parish and across the Diocese, and special thanks to guests Fr Leonard Testa, Monsignor Bryan Jones, Tim Gilmour, Paul Scully MP, and Alison Byrnes MP.

Il-Ħalfa tad-Destin - HORIZON

Michael Cini

Where did I ever know that Grand Master De Valette had a daughter, and that she would come to Malta in the midst of the Great Siege? And what's more, who was to tell me that in this hurricane of death, fierce battles and heartbreak, she and I were going to fall in love? It is true that I was one of De Valette's bodyguards entrusted with the secret mission that at all costs, even in my own life, I had to seek to protect and flee Isabella from Malta… before the Turks seized her

! But tell me, how would we manage to get her out of St. Angelo's when we couldn't see her except for the Turkish soldiers on guard? How were we going to escape it to Mdina and take it to Gozo Castle and then sail to Sicily when the Turkish boats were constantly patrolling, carefully guarding all the surrounding seas? And above all, who was willing to stay with her until after all these dangers… to also free her from that tyrant who would be forced to marry against her

Joint Celebration of
MALTA NATIONAL DAY
and
QUEEN OF VICTORIES FEAST

To be held at
CHRIST THE KING PARISH HALL
456 HENLEY BEACH ROAD
LOCKLEYS
on
SATURDAY 10TH SEPTEMBER 2022 AT 6:30PM
Admission:
$40.00 Per Head includes 4 Course meal
Entertainment by:
- STACEY SALIBA and DJ ERIC
Refreshments are available from the Bar at moderate prices
For Admission Tickets please contact:
MARTHESE KEHOE: 0404094170
CARMEN SPITERI: 0401136673
MALTESE GUILD OF SA: 0435797487

Maltese eNewsletter
The Journal of Maltese Living Abroad
connecting communities
around the world

SPARK hosts first-ever Refugee Festival at Floriana's Argotti Gardens

Festival kicks off on 19 June at 4pm, with bands from the local scene and refugee community.

The first SPARK refugee festival will bring Maltese, refugees and other ex-pats together to get to know each other and enjoy in a relaxed environment with music and international food at Floriana's beautiful Argotti Gardens.

"People from refugee backgrounds make significant contributions to Maltese society. As Spark15 we believe that this is something we should celebrate," president Dursa Mama Kadu said."Refugees contribute to Maltese society in many different ways. Many Maltese appreciate this fact and have given a warm welcome to people seeking sanctuary. So please join us to celebrate the refugee day together and make new friends."

The festival will kick off on 19 June at 16:00 with bands from the local scene and refugee community playing music till 22:00. Former president of Malta, Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca will also honour the festival. Different NGOs working with asylum seekers and refugees will also have their own stands at the festival for people who would like to learn more about their work and volunteering opportunities. Participants can also enjoy food from different countries in collaboration with the restaurant Afrodeli Rest & Bar**.**

heart…? Except me! (HORIZON PUBLICATION-MALTA_

IL-FESTA TAN-NAR

Il-qaddis tar-raħal tagħna
iħobb bħalna l-ġmiel tan-nar
u kull ħoss qalil li jdamdam
fit-triqat minn dar għal dar.

Aħna għalih nagħtu ħajjitna,
lesti nbatu l-mewt tal-ħruq;
hemm jinsab il-ġieh u l-ħila
malli n-nar itir 'il fuq.

U 'l fuq darba l-kamra taret
u l-prezz għoli ħallasnieh;
trietaq sar il-ġisem w aħna
biċċa biċċa fittixnieh.

U ntremew il-bombi b'luttu
u s-smewwiet baqgħu fid-dlam,
u ġiet festa wara oħra
iżda Masu qatt ma qam.

The Maltese Folk-dance Group of Adelaide SA - 1985

Tiftakru meta tal-haxix kien ikollu l-fniek u kien joqtolhom fuq il bankina u jqaxxru quddiem kulhadd? Hekk jaghmel hekk illum jarrestawh

Do you remember when the vegetable vendor used to sell rabbits and he would kill them on the pavement and skinned them in front of everyone? If he does that today he will be arrested.

NOSTALGIA

WEDDING DRESS TO BE DONATED TO MUSEUM

FRED AQUILINA WRITES

This item is a WWII parachute whose origin may be British, German or Italian. I am trying to determine the nationality which has been difficult thus far as those who know, have passed on.

Also, this is no ordinary parachute. As you may know, during the War years in Malta it was difficult to obtain most supplies, and silk was impossible to purchase. Here is the provenance. My oldest sister, Mary, was engaged to a Maltese who served in the RAF during the War.

They were married in 1945 until his death at 55 in 1979. Attached is their wedding photo. What's unusual about the wedding photo is that the wedding dress was hand tailored by my sister and mother who had taught her 5 daughters how to sew and make their own clothes.

As they could not obtain silk for the dress, they got hold of a parachute and fashioned the wedding dress that you see from the 'chute. I believe that my sister received it from her RAF beau who would have had access to parachute. What I am trying to determine is the chute's nationality.

Like my brother's model, I had tried to obtain the dress years ago, but neither her children nor my siblings knew where the dress was. Just by chance, a few weeks ago, I sent a cousin some family photos that the cousin was in. When she called to thank me, we ended up talking about my sister Mary who was a close friend of this cousin.

Without me asking, she told me that her and my sister were so close, that my sister had given her the wedding dress many, many years ago. As the cousin never married, it was stored in her closet all these years and she was thinking of finally donating it to a local museum. What? I discouraged her from doing that, and told her that I would find a proper home for it, hopefully in Malta. She agreed to donate it to me. (Photos attached of current state of the dress).

In my research I found that an American Army museum has a wedding dress in a mannequin on display, and that dress has a similar story except it was an American bride and an Army soldier.

I truly believe that this would be a worthwhile acquisition for a WWII Maltese museum. I hope you agree. I would bring it with me on my trip to Malta (though it may need pressing before it's put on display).

Il-Bewsa tan-Nanna

Waqt li Toninu
Kien qieghed jaqra
B'qattus ma genbu
U kelb daqs naqra.
Dahlet in-nanna
Inkiss inkiss
U tghatu bews
'Ma kif imiss

ĠBEJNA MALTIJA – MALTESE CHEESELET

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Ġbejna (plural *ġbejniet*) is the diminutive of the Maltese word ġobna, which means "cheese"; it is synonymous with the Maltese English word "cheeselet", i.e. "little cheese". The rest of the article describes 'Ġbejna tan-nagħaġ', a type of Maltese cheeselet made in Malta and Gozo.

Ġbejna tan-nagħaġ is a small round cheese made in Malta[1] from sheep milk, salt and rennet.[2] Most sheep's milk produced in Malta is used for the production of these small cheeses.

Milk in Malta was traditionally sold by milking goats on the streets and sold immediately as is.[4] The unpasteurised milk sold was one of the causes of the spread of brucellosis (Maltese: *Deni Irqiq*; "The Maltese Fever") in the late 19th to the early 20th century. Themistocles Zammit is credited with stopping the pandemic.

Prior to Malta's accession to the European Union, the EU accepted Malta's request to protect the ġbejna along with the traditional variant of ricotta

Preparation and varieties Ġbejna is shaped in a cheese hurdle made of dried reeds, although now plastic ones are also used. They are traditionally dried in small ventilated rooms, with windows protected by a special mesh mosquito net. It is said that in the past sea water, rather than rennet, was used as a curdling agent. The cheese is available both from pasteurised and unpasteurised milk.

Ġbejniet are prepared and served in a variety of forms: fresh (*friski* or *tal-ilma*), sundried (*moxxa*, *bajda* or *t'Għawdex*), salt cured (*maħsula*), or peppered (*tal-bżar*). The fresh variety have a smooth texture and a milky flavour and are kept in their own whey in a similar manner to mozzarella. The sundried variety have a more definite, nutty almost musky taste, and are fairly hard. The peppered variety are covered in crushed black pepper and cured, after which they may be stored in oil or pickled in vinegar. Their sharp taste becomes more piquant the more they age, and they also develop a crumbly texture.

In Maltese cuisine Ġbejna is an important element in a number of dishes such as *soppa tal-armla*. It is often added to pasta dishes or soup to enhance flavour, as a pizza topping or the filling for ħobż biż-żejt.

Gbejniet are sold in fresh, dried, or cured forms and may be seasoned with pepper or other herbs. You may find it deep-fried as an appetizer, cured on a mezze platter or even fresh as a filling for pasta. It is found on restaurant menus, or at a Maltese grocery or supermarket.

RADIO CALYPSO 101.8 FM www.calypsomalta.com

Hello! Welcome to the Home of the Classics. This is Calypso Radio 101.8.

We are Music! Calypso Radio 101.8 is Malta's second most listened to station and the only local retro music station. We're also the only station broadcasting live 24/7. Our playlists vary daily and include the likes of ABBA, KISS, Led Zeppelin, The Beatles, U2, Duran Duran, Sting, and the crème de la crème of the Golden Oldies.

Launched as a community station in 2004 and nationwide in 2005 Calypso Radio gained its popularity throughout the years. Our DJ line-up includes a mix of established broadcasters and new, upcoming, Radio stars.

Various surveys published by the Malta Broadcasting Authority show that an ever-increasing number of people keep choosing Calypso Radio as their favourite station. Today Calypso Radio enjoys Malta's second-largest audience share and is an absolute leader within the 40 to 60 age bracket. We aim to entertain…in fact we're probably playing a track you know right now.

ARCHBISHOP SCICLUNA WILL LEAD A PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES

THE 90th PILGRIMAGE ORGANISED BY UMTAL

Archbishop Charles Scicluna will lead the 90th annual pilgrimage to Lourdes organised by the Malta Society for the Transport of the Sick in Lourdes (UMTAL) between 18 and 22 July 2022. The Archbishop will be accompanied by Fr Joe Mizzi, the spiritual director of UMTAL and the Archpriest of Rabat Parish. This will also be the first pilgrimage under the guidance of UMTAL's new president, Dr Joseph Debono, consultant surgeon and Mater Dei Hospital director.

Applications are now open and everyone is welcome to join. A team of doctors, nurses, carers and lay volunteers are giving up their free time and enrolling at their own expense, to look after patients and ensure a safe and comfortable experience for all.

Every year since 1930, UMTAL (*Unione Maltese Trasporto Ammalati a Lourdes*), a non-profit, voluntary organization, makes this pilgrimage possible for people who would not otherwise be able to visit this Holy Sanctuary. Together with patients and volunteers, pilgrims attend all the various religious functions celebrated by the Universal Church such as the international Mass, the Adoration of the Holy Eucharist and the Aux Flambeaux evening procession. Other Mass celebrations where the congregation participates in the Sacraments of Reconciliation and the Anointing of the Sick are organized in Maltese. One of the highlights of this pilgrimage is the celebration of Mass in Maltese at Our Lady's Grotto.

Patients, volunteers or pilgrims wishing to join Archbishop Scicluna on this pilgrimage can send an email to info@umtalmalta.org or call on 79226606.

Lydia Abela has words of praise and gratitude for the nuns who look after Maltese patients in London

Dr Lydia Abela had a meeting with the Maltese Sisters of the Sacred Heart who care for Maltese and Gozitan patients who go to the UK for treatment. The Prime Minister's wife said that these sisters left everything behind to carry out this beneficial work with Maltese patients.She said that she had the opportunity to spend some time with these sisters and was able to see first hand, their love and dedication towards each patient.

She said that the sense of family was helping them a lot during these difficult times. Dr Abela said that when you come across these experiences you can only have words of gratitude for these people who are doing so much good.

CHRISTMAS IN JULY

THE MALTESE SENIOR CITIZENS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Godwin Gauci - Adelaide

Christmas is celebrated in December all over the world. In the northern hemisphere it comes in winter and it is cold and snowy, but downunder, in Australia, it is our summer.

We watch the traditional Christmas festivities in movies, on Television and on the internet where people enjoy skiing on the snow and making snowman, the kids having snowball fights in front yard. We see Father Christmas in his sleigh pulled by his reindeers as they deliver presents to the children.

On a sad note, we watch TV and witness severe blizzards of snow blowing causing multiple car accidents with pile ups on the roads and highways, snow blocking driveways were people can't go to work.

But here in Australia, it is the opposite, we have the festive season in summer and generally very hot and dry. We go to the beach to swim and to cool off and light up the barbeque and cook, steak, sausages and prawns and drinking wine and beer. We love to have the same Christmas in the snow and doing the same things as our fellow Maltese in the north. So, our solution is to have another cold Christmas during our winter (June, July and August). We now celebrate "CHRISTMAS IN JULY".

Here in South Australia, in Adelaide, as in many parts of Australia. There have been very rare times when we have had a small amount of snow fall on our mountain, Mt Lofty, and the amount of snow that falls, melts away before anyone can enjoy it. So here in Adelaide, as in many parts of Australia, we celebrate Christmas in July. Even restaurants and hotels put on special dinner deals for the patrons for a special Christmas banquet.

'The Maltese Senior Citizens Association of South Australia the committee members are doing just that, celebrate this special occasion in the middle of July. We decorate the club hall with Christmas decorations. We also have a live band 'The Godfather' to entertain those who attend. We have dancing as well. We have a two course meal with the traditional Roast meat, potatoes and steamed vegetables followed by a Christmas pudding with custard. And also a visit from Father Christmas.

We are fortunate here in the southern hemisphere because we celebrate Christmas twice, one in the month of July and once again on the 25 December with the rest of the world. for the purpose of a wintery season to match the northern hemisphere, and we also have the traditional one at the end of the year 25 December, with the rest of the world.

DO YOU KNOW THAT

THE MULTICULTURAL AGED CARE (South Australian Government) prints this journal every week and distribute it to the members of the Maltese Senior Citizens Association during their luncheon every week at the Progressive Community Hall, LeHunte Street, Kilburn, SA.

From my Maltese family album

Anthony Zarb Dimech

As with many old Maltese family albums, it is incredibly amazing how many historical sketches may be retrieved providing readers not only with rare photos but enriching information about political, social and cultural events as well as places visited. This is a case in point with the Family Aquilina album. Dione Aquilina, who hails from San Gwann is a fraternal twin with his sister Doris and is the owner of such album. These are some photos and accompanying stories.

Maltese employment with the Canadian Pacific Rail Company

Background information about Dione gives interesting aspects of his working career in Canada where he migrated in the 1950s and later on when he returned to his home country, Malta. He enjoys his retirement years after spending the last 22 years of his working life in Canada.

During his working career in Canada, Dione worked with the *Canadian Pacific Rail Company* which later became the *Via Rail.* Starting off as a *Soda Jerk* (which is another name for an ice-cream and salad maker), he progressed in his career being promoted to several positions and terminating his career in Canada as a *Train Steward*.

Other Family Members

Dione's father, Gaetano was a butler to Lord Strickland before the Second World War and Gaetano's siblings numbered 24. Maltese family size was large before the war as it was influenced by the Catholic church's teaching on sexual morality.

Gerald Paul Joseph Cajetan Carmel Antony Martin Strickland, 6th Count della Catena, 1st Baron Strickland, GCMG (24 May 1861 - 22 August 1940) was a Maltese and British politician and peer, who served as Prime Minister of Malta, Governor of the Leeward Islands, Governor of Tasmania, Governor of Western Australia and Governor of New South Wales, in addition to sitting successively in the House of Commons and House of Lords in the Parliament of the United Kingdom.

Dione Aquilina reading one of his wife's letters at the Dortmund Barracks

The Territorials

Dione had aslo a stint with the local *Territorials* in 1959. These were part-time soldiers attached with the *King's Own Malta Regiment*. The *Territorials* trained twice a week and learned the skills similar to those of the Scouts such as making knots, camping and other tasks plus the military tasks of cleaning and maintaining a uniform, firing a rifle, tossing a grenade and preparing camouflage.

Between 1961-65, Dione was posted in *Dortmund Barracks* at Camp 10 serving in the R*oyal Malta Artillery* (RMA) as part of the peace-keeping force. Still remembering his army serial number as 18136026, he vividly recalls his experience when he was on duty with the RMA when they were attached to the *32nd Regiment Royal Artillery*. The Barracks was divided into different sectors for the British, French and American forces. One of the first tasks of the RMA was to assist in the transport and disposal into the sea of the remaining German *Panzers* (tanks) and military trucks from the Second World War which had been stored in the said compound. Dione remembers clearly the British vehicles towing these trucks and tanks and the long convoy that made its way to the coast to dump these vehicles far away offshore, to rid a sore reminder of the Second World War.

The RMA, at the time formed part of the British Army and was used as a transport wing for the British and US Army. The main role was to transport missiles. The average age of a soldier in the Regiment was just 20 years of age. The *1st Regiment, Royal Malta Artillery* arrived in Baor during 1960 where they were accommodated at *Moore Barracks*, Dortmund. They then moved on to *Wrexham Barracks*, Mülheim, where they served until 1978. Unfortunately, on being recalled to Malta the Regiment was disbanded, with the crown being removed from the badge. The Maltese Army is now called *Armed Forces Malta* (AFM).

Old Maltese postcard showing Maltese Milk Seller. The person in the photo milking the goat is Emmanuel Aquilina

The Maltese Goat Postcard

Dione's grandfather, Emmanuel was a milk agent and he would be aged over 100 if still alive. Interestingly, Emmanuel is shown on a Maltese postcard milking a goat. It is very rare that one comes across someone who knows the person pictured in a Maltese postcard that was sold in thousands as a souvenir. Emmanuel was also an agent of the shoe-shine nugget brand. He was a familiar face at *'Piazza Regina'* in Valletta until before he died in his 90s. He plied his trade bent on his knees polishing shoes at Republic Square (also known as Queen's Square or Piazza Regina) which is the small square found in front of the National Library of Malta.

Sir Paul Boffa Dockyard Photo

The then Prime Minister Paul Boffa (Gaetano Aquilina is the first to the right of Paul Boffa holding work gloves in hand)

Perhaps, the most historical photo is the one which showing Dione's father, Gaetano together with a group of other Dockyard workers posing with the then Prime Minister of Malta, Paul Boffa (later Sir).

The Prime Minister is wearing his familiar hat and in his characteristic pose with one hand in the right pocket of his suit jacket. The flames can be seen emerging out of the forge on the far right of the photo.

The photo was taken after the Second World War at a time when Contino L. Preziosi formed the *National Assembly*. During the period following the Second World War, the Labour party won the elections in 1945 but in 1946 resigned *en masse* due to the layoffs at the *HM Dockyard*. On 10th September 1947, Douglas Governor-in-chief pushed the new constitution which took effect on 22 September 1947. With this, the senate was abolished and the legislative body which the Labour Party won. Dr. Paul Boffa M.D became Prime Minister but the split in 1949 brought the party to a downfall and Mr. Dominic Mintoff was elected leader of the labour Party, which he then styled as *Malta Workers Party*. Dione remembers his father saying that the photo was taken during Boffa's visit to the Dockyard during October as Gaetano celebrated his birthday during that month.

Prior to the commencement of the Second Word War hostilities, Gaetano had been asked together with other Dockyard workers to work in North Africa. During service in North Africa, war broke out and Gaetano was one of the workers who had escaped capture by the Germans when they advanced on Benghazi. His family had already abandoned hopes of seeing him again him, but providentially he made it back home to Malta. He suffered shell shock as a result of the bombardments and other close calls from the German and Italian artillery and air force shells.

After the war, Gaetano was employed as a blacksmith at HM Dockyard producing rivets for ships and boilers and other equipment. This trade died out with the advent of welding. As a blacksmith the work consisted also of creating objects from wrought iron or steel by forging the metal, using tools to hammer, bend, and cut.

Blacksmiths in Malta also produced objects such as gates, grilles, railings, light fixtures, furniture, sculpture, tools, agricultural implements, decorative and religious items, cooking utensils and weapons. This was the case during wartime Malta, when the local availability of such items was scarce due to supply convoys not reaching the island.

It is hoped through this feature that anyone holding family albums and wishes to share them with others send the editor an email on maltesejournal@gmail.com.

RECENTLY directly intervened to remove deckchairs and umbrellas at Blue Lagoon, Comino.

The movement said in a statement that the deckchairs are mounted by private operators in every inch of space on the coast, sand, rocks and even before the first boat tourists arrive on the small island. It said that these operators have taken possession of the Blue Lagoon.

This situation, Graffitti said, is depriving many Maltese from visiting Comino, that the Blue Lagoon is a public space and should be enjoyed by everyone without being forced to pay for things that they do not want.

Moviment Graffitti members

The movement added that, as Tourism Minister did not specify when or how the situation will be controlled, they took it upon themselves as another summer is approaching and the same problems persist. Graffitti presented a letter to five ministers on the Blue Lagoon, including that umbrellas and deckchairs should be rented only to person who are physically on site and that private companies' deckchairs should never occupy more than the stipulated percentage and not hinder access and enjoyment of the coast.

They also requested a reduction in kiosks around the bay and a government policy on Comino to eliminate congestion and extra commercialisation of the area; the adequate supply of bins for waste which should be collected every weekend; a ban on music by kiosks and boats; and the amount of people that the bay may accommodate according to the recommendation of the Comino Management Plan.

Hello. I very much appreciate your journal – THE MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER - as much as I enjoy Joe Cutajar's (The Voice of the Maltese) and my cousin Paul's literature and broadcasts. You three really love our little island. Thanks. Godfrey Magri

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