Maltese e-Newsletter
The Journal of Maltese Living Abroad

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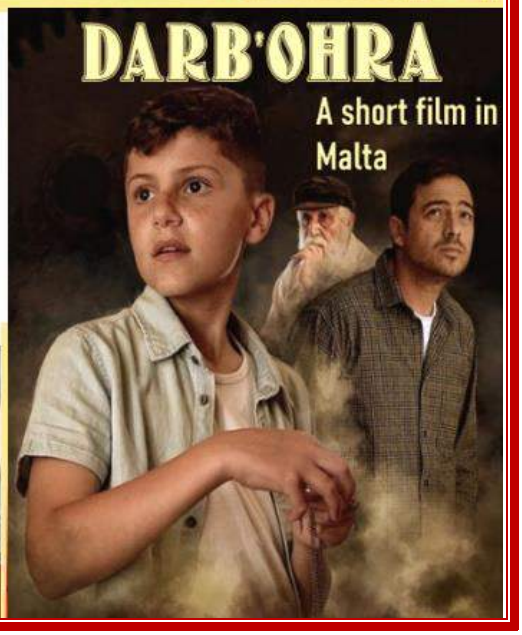
Welcome to Malta –2022

No matter where you are in the world you're never too far from home!

IMBULJUTA TAL-QASTAN - CHESTNUT SOUP



Malta Is Reopen for Summer Travelling

Almost all COVID-19 Restrictions are Removed

By Sandra Dragosavac

Masks are also no longer necessary, with hospitals being the only exception.

The Maltese islands will be reopening for summer 2022 restriction-free, with all of the COVID-19 rules that have been in place since 2021 being relaxed or completely removed.

Malta's current COVID-19 numbers are at less than one percent of what they were during the peak of the pandemic. Over 90 percent of Maltese island residents have been fully vaccinated, with nearly 80 percent of them have also received a booster, making Malta one of the safest summer destinations in Europe.

Countries Will No Longer Be Classified as Red or Dark Red

For summer 2022, travel to Malta will only depend on the immunity of the person, as countries will no longer be classified as Red or Dark Red. If the visitor has been fully vaccinated, has recovered from COVID-19 in the past six months, or presents a negative COVID-19 test taken within 72 hours for the PCR, and 24 hours for the Rapid Test before arriving, there will be no need for quarantine of any kind.

Both the PCR and Rapid Tests are considered to be equally valid for travel purposes. If either of these documents are not presented upon arrival, a 10-day mandatory quarantine will apply, which is reduced to 7 days following a negative test.

The above-mentioned documentation requirement does not apply to children under the age of six at the moment, and from Monday, 6 June, it will no longer be a requirement for children under 12.

Masks Are Removed From Indoor and Outdoor Settings

In addition to the easing of these rules, it is also no longer necessary to wear a mask of any kind on flights to Malta, as well as in any indoor or outdoor settings upon arrival, with hospitals being the only exception.

The same rule applies to events in Malta as well. Seating restrictions have been removed and the maximum capacities for public meeting spaces have been restored to their pre-COVID-19 limits.

Passenger Locator Forms for those arriving within Europe on flights are now a thing of the past as well, but always be sure to check with your specific airline to see if it has any other requirements you may need to meet.

Events, Festivals and Feasts Have Returned in Full Swing Malta summer 2022

June starts off with the Malta International Arts festival where audiences can expect musical events, theatre productions, and other visual art, as well as the International Wine Festival for the connoisseurs who'd like to taste wine from Malta and the rest of the world.

July will expand on the musical events, with award-winning pop singer Lewis Capaldi taking the stage, a Classic Rock Anthems concert with 20 hit songs played by BBC Concert Orchestra, and the 32nd incarnation of Malta's Jazz Festival.

For fans who prefer the latest in popular music, the Isle of MTV 2022 music festival will take place in Il-Fosos Square on 19 July. Headliners include singer/humanitarian/entrepreneur French Montana and internationally renowned DJ Marshmello, who will each take the stage and perform their greatest hits.

It is clear that Malta is more than ready to welcome the world back in and finally get back to normal after the pandemic – something that appeals to both Maltese citizens and tourists alike.

More telecom, roaming and travel related news see at: https://alertify.eu

A quarter of Malta's workforce are foreign nationals

Number of foreign workers up from 9,500 in 2009 to nearly 78,000 by end 2021

Jacob Borg - Times of Malta

Non-Maltese make up over a quarter of the total labour force on the island, the employment agency JobsPlus says in its annual report. The employment agency put the overall percentage of foreign workers in the labour market at 27.9% as of September last year. This reflects the extent of the government's policy to import non-Maltese nationals to make up for gaps in the local labour supply.

The policy has seen the number of foreign workers in Malta shoot up from 9,500 in 2009 to around 67,000 a decade later. In the private sector alone in 2018, 30 per cent of employees were foreign nationals. By the end of 2021, the number of employed foreign nationals across all sectors amounted to 77,825, JobsPlus says on its website.

"Since the joining of the Maltese Islands in the European Union, employment of foreign nationals increased drastically," the agency says in a section titled 'Foreign Nationals Employment Trends'. In its annual report, JobsPlus says the increase in non-Maltese nationals has been reflected in employment positions across all sectors.

The gambling and betting sector came out as the top employer of foreign workers last year, with 58.6% of people in the industry being non-Maltese. A 2019 paper by the Central Bank said this sector tends to rely on EU nationals, whereas industries like construction rely more on non-EU workers.

Nearly half construction workers are foreign

The construction industry ranked in third place, with 44.6% of its workforce made up of foreign nations in 2021. This was just below the accommodation and food industry, where just under half the workers, 48.9%, are foreign. JobsPlus said most sectors gravitate towards the 27.9% average, with the public sector having the least number of non-Maltese in its labour force at just 2.7%.

It has become "critical" for the economy to sustain the levels of foreign workers and to support the administrative processes needed for them, JobsPlus said.

JobsPlus chairperson Charmaine Cristiano Grech acknowledged in the annual report that staff shortages are still a "daily issue" for businesses and matching the right talent for the available jobs is also a challenge. Last year, Finance Minister Clyde Caruana highlighted how falling fertility rates in Malta, resulting in fewer youngsters entering the workforce, means the government will not be doing away with its policy of facilitating the entry of foreign workers.

A new employment policy launched last October will better protect these workers, Caruana said, to stop them from being exploited, particularly by temporary working agencies that charge them exorbitant fees to move and settle in Malta.

The minister said one way to cut abuse was to directly enter into bilateral agreements with third countries.

Migrant workers in the sector were found to be at a higher risk of workplace accidents and fatalities.

Malta's workplace safety watchdog, the OHSA, said last month that migrant workers are a particularly vulnerable group in Maltese society when it comes to work safety.

The actual number of foreign workers in construction is likely higher than the official figure of 44 per cent, as the OHSA says it is a "well-known fact" that not all construction workers are officially registered with JobsPlus. Top five nationalities

Italy – 10,038 Philippines – 6,031 India – 5,817 UK – 4,642 Serbia – 3,992

My boss calls me "the computer".

Nothing to do with intelligence, I go to sleep if left unattended for 15 minutes.

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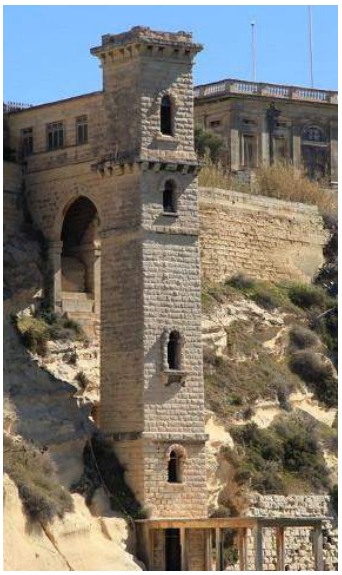
HISTORY - Malta Diary Malta's lengthy medical history is an integral part of its national heritage

ALBERT FENECH

Thermal-baths-used-to-operated-by-Bighi-Hospital

Thanks to the presence in Malta for three-and-a-half centuries of the Knights of the Order of St John of Jerusalem, also known as The Knight Hospitaliers, the country has a long and experienced medical history and in World War I was regarded as "The nurse of the Mediterranean" for its medical treatment of wounded and injured British and Australian military personnel.

The role and importance of the Order has today declined but their presence is still felt by the work of the St John Ambulance Brigade, the role they perform and the insignia they use – its central focus being the Maltese Cross.



Bighi-was-a-British-military-hospital

The Knights first came to Malta in the early years of the 15th century after being expelled by the Turkish Moors from Rhodes. The source of their foundation was a Nobility Order dedicated to treating the injured and wounded during the Crusades in the Holy Land and later treating Christian pilgrims.

By 1530 they had arrived and begun to settle in Malta which was "given" to them by the Sicilian King Charles I of Spain and his mother in exchange for a rent of a Maltese Falcon annually!

Now-fallen-into-disrepair-and-urgently-needing-renovation

One of their tasks was to construct an Infirmary Hospital in Valletta after this city was constructed and inaugurated in 1568 following the great victory in 1565 after the Great Siege imposed by the Turkish Moors.

Right down to World War II this hospital continued to function but later was sadly abandoned until the 1970s when the Maltese Government renovated and converted the building into what is now known as The Mediterranean Conference Centre.

The-building-now-converted-into-a-science-and-technology-centre-ESPLORA

The Knights remained in Malta until 1798 until they were expelled by Napoleon Bonaparte and his French military who had taken over the island and whose one of the first actions was to expel the Knights because of their nobility heritage, a major blot in French Republican eyes.

By 1803 the British under Lord Horatio Nelson had dispelled the French and following Malta's request, Malta became a part of the British Empire. At British behest an old and decrepit villa built by the Knights at Bighi was converted into a military hospital and became Bighi Hospital.

The-insignia-used-by-the-St-Johns-Ambulance-Brigade

Bighi lies on the inner northern part of the Grand Harbour rim near Kalkara and The Three Cities of Cospicua, Senglea and Vittoriosa and was chosen so that naval vessels could immediately deliver their wounded and injured directly into the hospital. Its conversion to a hospital took place around 1827.

However, was there another reason?

Many people in Malta itself do not know that at the tip of Bighi, at water level, there are structured thermal baths and these were highly utilised by the British for patients with joint and muscle pains and other related illnesses and thus requiring thermal cures.

Admiral-Lord-Horatio-Nelson-who-resided-in-Malta-for-a-while

The coastal terrain in the area was ideal for the structuring of such baths,

The baths used to be filled with cold or warm sea water as required and produced by a pumping room with water being directly drawn from the sea. Seawater contains magnesium, zinc, iron and potassium and helps cure inflamed skin and protect it.

With the introduction of more sophisticated treatment, the baths were abandoned and the years of lying directly on the sea shore began to take their toll. The structures began to crumble and were in danger of being lost completely.

The-Malta-Cross-the-centrepiece-of-the-insignia-of-the-St-John-Ambulance-Brigade

However, the heritage foundation FWA has now stepped in and has applied great pressure for these to be renovated and preserved as they are part of the Grand Harbour panorama and are depicted in many paintings of the area.

This is once more proof that Malta and Gozo are resplendent in historical heritage and although being among the smallest countries in the world their contribution to humanity has been great and by far out-reaching their geographical dimensions.

The Bighi Hospital has now been converted into the ESPLORA science and technology centre to maintain the utility of its importance to the history of Valletta's Grand Harbour.

French-Emporer-Napoleon-Bonaparte-resided-in-Malta-for-a-few-days-and-carried-out-many-changes

Thanks Frank for this most interesting (as always) issue. I showed the photo on page 2 to my wife and as she is from Gzira, she recognized most of those, then, children. The article accompanying the photo is also very interesting. I also liked the write up about the pastizzi and the rest. All the best and thanks again. Freddie Tonna

CULTURE

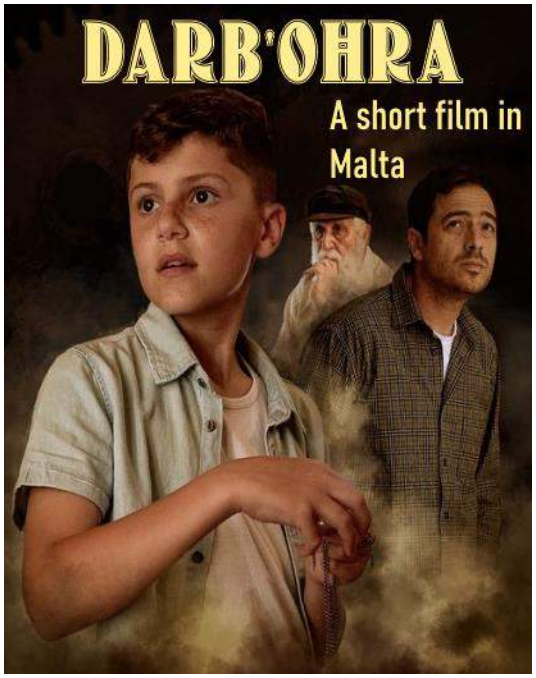
Imnarja returns to Buskett after a two-year absence

After an absence of two years as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, the traditional Imnarja feast is making a return to Buskett Gardens on 29 June.

Agriculture, Fisheries and Animal Rights Minister Anton Refalo stated during a media conference that the activities will be spread over Imnarja eve and on the day itself and will also be given a modern twist, with greater emphasis on the educational aspect, research and innovation.

Minister Refalo added that through these activities the Government is continuing to implement the proposals from its electoral manifesto, to continue giving life to agricultural activities and feasts that serve as a showcase for local products.

This year's programme will once again include an exhibition of fruit and vegetables, poultry, rabbits, dogs, horses and indigenous animals. Other highlights will include the traditional folk singing and competitions for sheep, goats and cows.



DARB'OHRA (ANOTHER TIME)

Filmed in Malta

"Darb'oħra" was a short film shown at **The Malta Experience**. Produced by students reading for an **M.A. in Film Studies** at the **University of Malta**,
"Darb'oħra" features **Aidan Cauchi**, Mark Mifsud, Joseph Quattromani, **Nadine Borg** and **Naomi Knight**.
"Darb'oħra" was Written and Directed by **Sarah Zammit** with **Jean Pierre Borg** as Creative Producer, **Julian Guillaumier** as Associate Producer, Michele Nerreter as Director of Photography and Andrea Zammit as Sound Supervisor.
Description - "Darb'oħra"
Ben, a young boy with a keen and curious mind, stumbles upon a charming little toyshop in the heart of a Maltese village. Intrigued by its potential mysteries, he wanders in. Among the mechanical treasures and skilled woodwork lying inside, Ben's attention lingers on a mysterious hidden object on one of the shelves. Overwhelmed by his curiosity, he discovers something he could never have imagined, that will take him on a journey into the captivating mysteries of Time and Space.

ARCHDIOCESE OF MALTA - COMMUNICATION OFFICE

16th June 2022 80/2022
LIVING FOR BROTHERLY LOVE, TOLERANCE AND MUTUAL ACCEPTANCE MESSAGE BY ARCHBISHOP CHARLES JUDE SCICLUNA IN MEMORY OF LASSANA CISSE

First of all I would like to thank you, dear Imam Mohammed El Sadi, for welcoming us here in this mosque and for leading the Muslim prayer for our dear friend, Lassana Cisse. We all feel very touched but also very sad that we had to meet today to bid farewell on this earth to a man who had his own dreams, his own hopes and his own projects that were shattered by bullets, shot in an insane attitude of disrespect, if not hatred.

We leave human justice to take its course but we are also here to beg forgiveness to the Lord, Father of all creatures, as brothers and sisters. Let the death of Lassana show us how terrible disrespect to one another truly is, how terrible hatred can be. We pray with you, my brother Imam, for the eternal repose of our brother, Lassana, and we ask forgiveness for our sins of negligence, disrespect, and hatred.

We Maltese are proud of our heritage, of being a welcoming nation and this is a very sad day for us, where this high ideal is shattered and we are called to be a better people. The Holy Father Pope Francis met migrants in Malta not very far from where Lassana was killed and other brothers of his were also shot at a few months earlier.

This is a call for a change of path and may we take this day, in memory of Lassana, as a commitment to do whatever we can as civil societies, faith communities like ours, that we may really and truly commit ourselves and live for that brotherly love and respect, tolerance and mutual acceptance that make life on this earth beautiful, at peace and in harmony

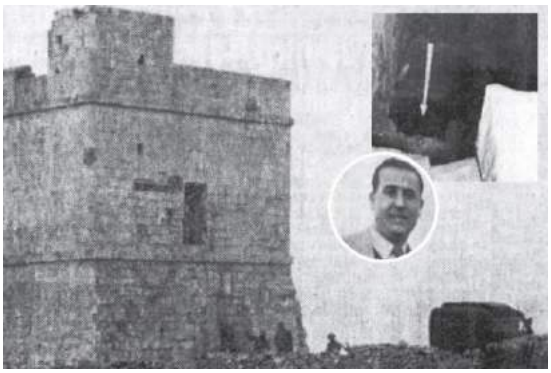
European Parliament President Roberta Metsola welcomes move to grant Ukraine candidate status

Candidate status for Ukraine sends "a strong political signal against autocracy and in favour of freedom", Roberta Metsola said on Friday.

She welcomed the European Commission's decision to recommend candidate status for Ukraine in their bid to join the EU. The commission also recommended candidate status for Moldova.

Metsola said the European Parliament welcomes the move. "Today's decision puts us on track for the European Council to grant Ukraine EU candidate status," she said, adding the EU stands with Ukraine. Metsola was the first high profile EU official to visit Kyiv in April in a show of EU solidarity with Ukraine.

The murder that changed the Malta Police Force



Toninu Aquilina's death led to a radical overhaul of criminal justice in Malta

Sarah Carabott

Għallis Tower, site of the murder, including the well where the corpse of Toninu Aquilina was found. Photos provided by Eddie Attard. Inset: Toninu Aquilina

One Thursday morning 67 years ago, Toninu Aquilina left Valletta's South Street with over £15,300 in cheques and £1 notes.It was a trip to the national bank on Republic Street that the Malta Millers Association messenger had done numerous times.

However, on February 24, 1955, Aquilina did not make it to the bank. He did not make it home either. The police first suspected he had run away with the money. The air and seaports were put on the alert.

"Sadly, his body was discovered two weeks later by members of the Civil Defence on a training exercise near the Għallis Tower at Baħar iċ-Ċagħaq. Aquilina had been shot in the back of the head," crime historian and former police officer Eddie Attard recounts.

Aquilina's was the first murder that Dom Mintoff was faced with soon after he was elected premier and became minister responsible for the police.

"The police force was in a very bad state back then. Once Aquilina's body was lifted out of a well, the police abandoned the place. This was their first mistake as hundreds of people went to the site afterwards. The suspect's interrogation was delayed – he was arrested, interrogated and released multiple times.

ADVERTISING

Prime Minister Dom Mintoff, pictured here leaving Auberge d'Aragon, then office of the Prime Minister in 1956, asked Scotland Yard for backup in the murder case. Photo provided by the National Archives of Malta

"This worried Dom Mintoff… and in May 1955 he told parliament that since no one in the police force had scientific knowledge of crime, he had asked Scotland Yard for backup. At the time Mintoff had an excellent relationship with the British."

The investigation into the murder took a turn with the arrival of Inspector Albert Victor Griffin, Sergeant Henry William Pugh and Lewis Nicholls, director of the Metropolitan Police Laboratory of Scotland Yard. Nicholls found fibres in a car with registration number 12764, which a bank cashier, George Terreni, had hired on February 23. The fibres matched those of the sack that covered Aquilina's corpse.

The investigating team also found flakes of red and white paint on some of Terreni's clothing that matched paint at the entrance to Għallis Tower. However, the most important circumstantial evidence was a piece of plywood found near the body that belonged to a box found in the rented car.

In 1956 a jury – split eight to one – found the accused guilty.

"I am informed that one juror was not actually convinced that the man was not guilty. He voted in that manner as he was against the death penalty and knew that a death penalty can only be handed down in the case of a unanimous vote," Attard added.

Terreni was out of jail after eight years, following a series of amnesties in his favour.

Following the Għallis Tower murder, Mintoff commissioned a report by WA Muller, Inspector General of Colonial Police, about how the government could reform the police force.

The extensive report, which also suggested the employment of female officers, kicked off a process for a forensic laboratory in Malta, among others.

The Għallis Tower case was the first murder that Attard remembers quite vividly. It was also possibly the one that majorly influenced his future career choice.

"I was eight years old at the time of the murder. I remember listening to a programme on the Rediffusion, when, all of a sudden, broadcast pioneer Effie Ciantar says 'F.A.T. fat, F.A.T. fat'.

"The public had no idea what the code meant, but at the time it was the police's only way to send an alert across the island about the Għallis Tower murder. It was only wrapping up the Għallis Tower murder case that the force's cars were equipped with a wireless communication system."

As a teenager, Attard also collected *True Detective* magazines, and by the time he completed school at the age of 16, he knew he wanted to enrol in the force. He made it past the minimum height requirement by a quarter of an inch, and in 1966, aged 18, Attard joined the force.

Pictured: news featuring Toninu Aquilina's murder case. Photo: Karl Andrew Micallef

He spent some months as a constable in the community, but also worked at the contraventions' department, and separately, the human resources department at the Floriana headquarters. By 1976, he was roped into the team behind the police force's monthly magazine.

When he was tasked with writing about crime cases, he realised that while the force lacked an archive, the government did not keep statistics on crime.

And that is how Attard set about reading every article published in every local newspaper since 1800, painstakingly documenting every little detail about crime cases in Malta. He has since published 48 books and numerous articles about crime in Malta.

Għallis Tower murder's 12 firsts:

1. First time a murder was mentioned in parliament
2. First trial built on circumstantial evidence
3. First trial by jury that lasted 15 days (until then, trials would, at most, take a week)
4. First time a reward (£3,000 equivalent of 10 years' worth of a constable's salary) was offered for information on the murderer
5. First time a body was exhumed for an autopsy
6. First time Scotland Yard flew to Malta to help with the investigation
7. First Maltese crime covered by the British Press
8. First time police statements were documented
9. First time the Attorney General carried out the compilation of evidence
10. First time evidence was sent abroad (Italy) for investigation
11. First time the word 'fibres' was used in a local murder investigation
12. First trial by jury, with 100 court exhibits

This article is being published as part of a series called Malta's hidden treasures, a collaboration between the National Archives of Malta and Times of Malta*. The project, forming part of the European Digital Treasures co-funded by the European Union through the Creative Europe programme, allows readers to gain an insight into Maltese history, society through our archives.*

You can discover more at the National Archives of Malta headquartered at the historical building of Santo Spirito in Rabat and other archives. If you are unable to visit the archives in person, you can access an online oral and visual archive on www.memorja.com

The website is the main repository of recent Maltese national and public memory and hosts hundreds of recollections dating back to the 1920s.

More information about the national archives on 2145 9863 or customercare.archives@gov.mt

A WIDOW AND A POLICE OFFICER PLOTTED A MURDER IN A LOVE AFFAIR

Murdered woman Lela Vella. Photo provided by Eddie Attard

In 1946, Police Constable Karmenu Vella, 45, was involved in a vicious love triangle murder after he fell in love with a 34-year-old widow, Kalċidonja Abdilla from Qrendi, the village where constable Vella was posted.

Late in the evening of November 22, 1946, Vella reported that his wife, Lela, 42, had not returned home in Marsa. Vella said that, at his request, she visited him at Qrendi police station but at about 1pm she went for a walk in the village and did not return.

The constable had been engaged to Lela while she was still staying in an orphanage. Lela had been living at the orphanage since she was four.

St Matthew's Lane, Qrendi, where Lela Vella's corpse was found

On November 24 at about noon, while two boys were strolling along St Matthew Lane, commonly known by the inhabitants of Qrendi as L-Isqaq tal-Bottijiet, they found the corpse of Lela Vella. The post-mortem examination revealed that Vella had been dead about two days and that she died as a result of grievous head injuries after being hit by a hard object.

Police enquiries revealed that some boys who were in the fields adjacent to the lane where the corpse had been found, saw Abdilla walking behind another woman whom they did not know. The boys, however, gave the police a graphic description of the unknown woman and gave details of the clothes she was wearing.

Kalċidonja Abdilla with police and court officers at Sqaq San Mattew where the corpse of Lela Vella was found. Photo: Sir Anthony Mamo Collection at the National Archives of Malta. Mamo was the Crown Advocate at the time and prosecutor in the murder case.

Eventually, Abdilla was charged with homicide and her trial began on May 5, 1947. During her testimony, the accused mentioned how she came to know Karmenu Vella and admitted that there was a love affair between them. The accused also admitted that she had thrown a stone at the deceased but insisted that it was a small stone. She claimed that she just wanted to frighten Lela so that she would go and tell her husband about the matter. Abdilla said she had done so although she knew there were some boys watching.

Dr Joseph Flores, an eminent criminal lawyer who acted as defence for Kalċidonja Abdilla.

During Abdilla's trial the prosecution went along with the court's ruling and did not make reference to Karmenu Vella's statement. Moreover, Dr Flores, on behalf of the defence, reminded the jury that Abdilla was accused of murder, and the fact that she committed adultery, a crime in 1946, did not fall within the cognisance of the court. In fact, the accused was pregnant and gave birth to a child some weeks before the trial while she was detained in prison.

The accused was found guilty and sentenced to 16 years' imprisonment.

Then, on December 2, 1947, the trial of Karmenu Vella began after the plea of insanity was dismissed by Dr Vincent Xerri, who acted as defence. Vella was charged as an accomplice in the crime.

During Vella's trial Kalċidonja was summoned as a witness. In her testimony she repeated what she had said during her trial. The accused also gave his version of the love affair and the murder of his wife. He was found guilty by eight votes against one and received a life sentence.

Malta Cycling Federation National Time Trial Championship 2022 Second race Aidan Buttigieg wins the main race

The Maltese/Australian rider Aidan Buttigieg showed his potential when he finished first in the main category of the Elite when he finished his four laps over a distance of 16 km in the Zebbug Bypass in a time of 24 minutes. This was the second victory for Buttigieg in a few days in our country when last Monday he also won the Time Trail organized by the Gozo Cycling Club on the hill of Ghajn Mhelhel, Zebbug Gozo where he also set a new record for that race.

Meanwhile, Aiden Buttigieg was followed by two Team Greens cyclists, Clive Ebejer (24:18:92) and Etienne Bonello (24:23:08) respectively. The Women's race resulted dominated by Team Greens cyclists, with reigning champion Marie Claire Aquilina finishing again in the lead in 27:29:28. She was followed by Juleanne Vassallo (27:56:29) and Michelle Vella Wood (28:36:02).

Luke Borg of The Cyclist won again the Under 23 category in a time of 26:35:10. B'kara St Joseph's debutant Daniel Briffa finished in second place (28:21:38). Ivan Zammit of B'kara St Joseph won the Masters 40+ category again in a time of 25:18:70. He was followed by two Team Greens cyclists respectively, Nicholas Schembri (26:10:27) and Gordon Howe (26:37:46). Kevin Muscat of Mosta AF Sign Studio CC won the Masters 50+ Category for the second time in a time of 26:39:13.

Jacob Schembri of Mosta AF Sign Studio CC won again the Junior category in 26:28:70. Shamrock Stars debutant Ishmael Grima finished first in the Under 16 category where he finished his three laps in a time of 25:33:58. He was followed by Matthew Galea of Gozo Cycling Club (27:05:27). There were also the boys and girls races on a one-lap race, where Ryan Gatt of The Cyclist finished first in the Under-14 category (07:09:36). He was followed

by two Mosta AF Sign Studio CC cyclists, Sean Mercieca (08:04:62) and Jonas Micallef (08:05:29). In the Under-12 category, three cyclists from Mosta AF Sign Studio CC finished in the first place, with Samuel Gatt winning (08:49:29). He was followed by Ethan Grech (09:09:95) and Benjamin Bugeja (09:19:90) respectively. Shamrock Stars' Nina Debono finished first in the Women's category at 08:03:80. She was followed by Katie Vella Wood of Team Greens (09:01:52).

At the end of these races, the medal awards were given by John Zammit and Joe Bajada, President and Secretary-General respectively of the Malta Cycling Federation.

IL-BAGALJA TAN-NANNA GHAL KANADA

Niftakar Meta...
Ġabra ta' tifkiriet nostalġiċi

Sibna fuq FACEBOOK

Niftakar meta n-Nanna kienet tibda' tippjana sabiex iżżur liz-zija li snin qabel kienet emigrat u kabbret familja ġewwa l-Kanada.

Bħal ħafna, darba kienet telqgħet minn din il-gzira, għamlet minn kollox sabiex tirnexxi f'dik l-art barranija. Oħrajn, u forsi xi ftit iz-zija, kien ikollhom ħafna nostalġija tal-art li ħallew warajhom. In-Nanna minn naħa tagħha kienet forsi għadha taħseb li z-zija forsi għal-fatt li telqgħet minn Malta, kienet qed tbati, allura kellha bżonn tmur ħdejha.

U din il-miġja f'art daqstant 'il bogħod għal mara mhux żgħira fl-eta, kienet tqabqal lil bqija tal-familja. Minn ġranet qabel ommi u l-bqija taz-zijiet kienu jmorru jgħinuha fil-preparazzjoni ta' kollox. Ma kienx hawn mezzi bħal tal-llum...Internet...mobiles...u x'naf jien. Kollox preparat permezz ta' aġent li jieħu ħsieb kollox fejn jidħol biljetti. Il-bqija, trid taħseb int, imma fuq kollox dak iż-żmien ma kien hemm restrizzjonijiet ta' xejn. U meta ngħid ta' xejn.... vera ta' xejn.

Il-bagalja tan-Nanna konna narawha qisha l-bagalja ta' Mary Poppins. F'bagalja mdaqqsa kien jsib postu kollox. Naħseb kien hemm mumenti li n-Nanna kienet taħseb li ġewwa l-Kanada, iz-zija qieghda tbati l-ġuħ u l-għaks. Pakketti u luminati....pastizzi friżati....u darba minnhom anke fenek ifriżat. Ridt tara biex temmen, kif din l-anzjana li bil-kemm kienet tidher, ser tgħaddi minn pajjiż barrani b'bagalja kważi ikbar minnha u mimlija b'dan kollu.

Il-ġlieda ta' dejjem kienet kif l-imniefaħ ser tingħalaq din il-bagalja. Hawn konna nidħlu jien u l-bqija tal-kuġini naqbżu fuqha sakemm kienet tkun mitluqa fuq sodda tat-tiben. Ma' kull qabża kont tisma' lilna nidku b'dak kollu li qiegħda iġġorr n-Nanna lejn il-Kanada.... u mad-daħk tisma' elf ħoss li la taf kienux saqajn il-fenek, jew xi flixkun...jew xi ħaġa oħra. Dik il-kamra mudlama kienet timtela' daħk u trab tat-tiben mis-saqqu... sakemm fl-aħħar dik il-bagalja kienet tingħalaq!

Żgur li n-Nanna dejjem waslet kollox qawwi u sħiħ sal-Kanada...u z-Zija dejjem ferħet bl-affarijiet li kienet tkun ġarret magħha n-Nanna... u aħna?

Aħna dejjem bqajna nistaqsu kif kien jirnexxielha dan kollu n-Nanna.... u probabilment, min kien il-vittma li kienet tqabbad sabiex iġorrielha tul dak il-vjaġġ kollu!

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The editor, staff and contributors are all volunteers,
and we don't publish this newsletter for money.
Everything is free of charge even the advertisements
and articles. Our aim is solely to promote Malta
and its history and culture and
assist our Maltese communities all around the world.**

==== GASTRONOMY ====

MALTESE IN MALTA AND ABROAD LIKE THEIR 'FTIRA'

Ftira is a traditional Maltese specialty that is packed with flavour. Make your own from home today! Discover more…

The Maltese *Ftira* is something that the Maltese hold dearly as part of their history and culture. A disc-shaped semi-flat bread made with flour, water and salt is reminiscent of a ciabatta in both texture and taste, but is uniquely different at the same time. The Maltese *ftira* makes for a simple, fast and delicious snack, especially when filled with the right fresh ingredients. If you're thinking of booking flights to Malta and want to experience the island like a local then a *ftira* sandwich is a must-try!

Ftira, like most simple bread foods around the world, takes its origins from the working people hundreds of years ago who made the most of the resources they had. Most towns and villages in Malta had a communal oven at the time where everyone from the area would bake their breads. The communal ovens may have been lost through the ages but the delectable *ftira* bread that was made there certainly hasn't.

The process involved in making a *ftira* sandwich can be quite time-consuming, especially if you want to make it from scratch. Luckily though, every bakery you come across on the island will sell it. All you need to do is fill it with traditional Maltese fillings, and like most things in life, it's what's on the inside that counts. In Malta, the most typical ftira sandwich is that of *ħobz biż-żejt*, which literally translates to "bread with oil" but it is so much more than just that.

To make ħobz biż-żejt:

- First, take the *ftira*, slice it in half and dip the slices in olive oil until they are covered in a generous coating of oil. Maltese olive oil is some of the best in the world so don't be tempted to eat it as is!
- Next, you'll need fresh tomatoes. Slice the tomatoes in half and rub the cut side over the bread until it's red.
- Sprinkle to taste with sea salt and pepper
- After this you can add anything that tickles your fancy. Typically, ingredients such as pickled capers, ripe olives, tuna, and pickled onion are added.
- An abundance of other ingredients such as sundried tomatoes and lettuce can also be added.

Every locality has its own preferences so be creative and come up with something that appeals to you. And there you have it: an easy, delicious snack that you can enjoy wherever you are – perfect for a day at the beach!

The traditional "Imbuljuta tal-Qastan" - Chestnut Soup

The traditional 'Imbuljuta tal-Qastan', to quote the full name, is a Maltese style hot chocolate full of home-warming spirit, It is something we look forward to every year, as much as we love our Christmas breakfasts!

The proper English name for this drink is 'chestnut and cocoa soup', but let's face it, it doesn't really feel like a soup. It reminds me more of a dense hot chocolate, so I always make sure to serve mine in mugs, wrapping my hands around it to enjoy it's warmth.

The Imbuljuta tal-Qastan is a traditional Maltese drink, normally associated with Christmas and wintry days .! If you are planning on entertaining guests and creating special moments with your loved ones this winter (in the Southern hemisphere) this recipe is a must-have.

Chestnuts are the main ingredient here, soaked overnight. Added with the rest of the ingredients we're giving you below, the combination with citrus and spices creates the perfect aroma.
Put aside those thoughts of using some sachet of hot chocolate full of saccherine! Give the process a bit of love and we promise it will be worth the wait. Boil the mixture on a medium heat, stirring occasionally.
The traditional 'Imbuljuta tal-Qastan' is a heart-warming beverage for everyone but for those of you who want to add some kick and move on to being more naughty than nice, we've got you!
If you feel you need that bit of extra fortification, go ahead and add that extra tot of Coffee liquor, whisky, rum, baileys. All of these options go very well with your Imbuljuta tal Qastan. So go ahead and reward yourself (responsibly). You have definitely deserved it. Happy Christmas everyone!

INGREDIENTS:

2 cups (350g) dried peeled chestnuts
1 cup brown sugar
1 cup cocoa powder
1 cinnamon stick
6 cloves
1.5 litre of water
1 tsp mixed spice
½ tsp cinnamon
½ tsp nutmeg
½ tsp ground cloves
rind or zest of 1 mandarin
rind or zest of 1 orange
1 tbsp of cornstarch dissolved in 1/8 cup of cold water
3 tbsp of Coffee liquor/whisk(e)y/rum/Baileys (optional for an adult-only version)

INSTRUCTIONS

Soak chestnuts overnight.
Drain the chestnuts and add to a pot together with all of the ingredients, excluding the cornflour mixture. Stir well. Bring to boil and simmer for about 1 hour.
Break the chestnuts into smaller pieces with a spoon, leaving a chunky texture to your beverage.
Add in the cornstarch mixture and stir well until combined.
Srve in a bowl or mug and garnish with orange zest or rin

FEDERATION SQUARE SCREENING

Cats of Malta celebrates the island's stray cats and the people who, through volunteering, art and folklore show the cats unconditional love and support.

www.catsofmaltafilm.com

ORDER OF MALTA
Australian Association's President visits Darwin operations

At the beginning of May, the President of the Australian Association, the Hon. James Douglas, KHD visited the Order of Malta's operations in the Northern Territory. As part of this visit, he presented our Conventual Chaplain Ad Honorem Bishop Charles Victor Gauci with his cross as a Chaplain of the Order.

The President also participated in the Eucharist celebration on the feast day of St Catherine of Siena where we also offered mass on the anniversary of the death of our now deceased Grand Master Fra Giacomo on the anniversary of his death. This was celebrated by our Chaplain Fr Malcolm.

Pictured above: Conventual Chaplain Ad Honorem Bishop Charles Gauchi with Australian Association President, The Hon. James Douglas KHD.

Tour of the National Critical Care and Trauma Centre with Professor Len Notaras AM

During the visit, the President also met with the Director of the National Critical Care and Trauma Centre, Professor Len Notaras AM, who recently donated urgently needed medical supplies to our medical clinic in Dili.

The President and Mrs Douglas were provided with a tour of the facility, after which they presented Professor Notaras with a Certificate of Appreciation from the Order of Malta Australia for his generous assistance. The President and Regional Hospitaller, Sean Parnell, had the opportunity to assist the Order of Malta's delivery of hygiene packs to the homeless around the Darwin.

The President sat and talked with Simeon from Groote Eylandt and Bobby and Anita from Ngukurr during the distribution. They were most appreciative of their packages and thanked him profusely for taking the time to sit with them and talk about the work of the Order.

"It was a great experience to meet so many people from the indigenous communities of the NT in the company of such a good guide, our regional hospitaller, Sean Parnell. His long career as a police officer in the Territory has given him so much understanding of and regard for the different communities and individuals there. It was also just such a pleasant thing to do, sitting in a shady spot and having a yarn with the locals who were all enjoying themselves. Unforgettable."

The Hon James Douglas, KHD

Emanuel Camilleri **Vince Aquilina**

Two Maltese Australians shine at art Exhibition

Emanuel Camilleri and Vince Aquilina showed their talent at the Community Connection Through Art Exhibition, on Saturday at the PTY Hall Fairfield NSW.

The program was organized by the "Core" an initiative of Liverpool and Fairfield Councils. The community attended to Explore the creative work of all the students of class 2022, run by Vince Aquilina who is a local artist. Emanuel Camilleri who is a student, showed off his talent art by supplying some of his paintings. He also gave a speech on how he chose to take up art as part of his retirement, Emanuel is well known in the Maltese Community. "Trough art I find creativity and great satisfaction" Emanuel told the audience. He thanked all students, and staff of the Core, gave praise to his teacher Vince Aquilina and the Councils who run the senior art class.

Press Release HPM4HC 17 June 2022
Happy Parenting - Malta (For Happier Children) supports National Dialogue on Parental Alienation

The Minister for Justice and the Minister for Social Policy and Children's Rights have together initiated a dialogue on the issue of Parental Alienation.

Happy Parenting - Malta (For Happier Children) [HPM4HC] welcomes this initiative.

Parental Alienation is a controversial, disputed, and highly contested concept.

HMP4HC for the last three years has been reiterating its call for the legal recognition of Parental Alienation, as well as ground-roots reform in the composition of the Family Court, and the setting up of an Agency solely dedicated to child upbringing issues.

HMP4HC is an organisation dedicated to increasing the awareness and the education of the public and professionals who work with families and children, with regard to the causes and effects of Parental Alienation.

Our NGO works closely with experts, including Chief Judge (retired) Philip Marcus whom we recommended to both Family and Justice

Ministers and who actually directed the training for the Malta Technical Committee on Parental Alienation.

We also organize an annual seminar on Family Well-being. This year we brought Judge Philip Marcus to Malta as a keynote speaker and also to offer further guidance and follow-ups with Ministers, Judges, University staff and other key persons.

Our NGO therefore strongly welcomes such discussions on a national level.

HMP4HC urges the authorities to raise awareness of and to campaign against Parental Alienation. With awareness comes education, understanding, and the power to stop the abuse of innocent children who are caught in the crossfire of people they love.

Parental Alienation is a sad reality that, unfortunately, is very common in our society. This term defines the situation where one parent attempts to influence negatively their children against the other parent, referred to as the targeted parent. Though very common in our society, it is not yet recognised in Maltese Law.

HPM4HC is insisting with the state to change this and also to combat 3rd party alienation by some professionals within the legal and the social care system.

Happy Parenting - Malta (For Happier Children)
seminar2022@happyparentingmalta.com (+356) 7760 3330

Royal Opera House "rebuilt" virtually

Artists and members of the public can now appreciate the architectural beauty of the Royal Opera House in Valletta. Although it was never rebuilt, thanks to technology it has been recreated virtually. Right now the Royal Opera House is being used as one of the projects which promote Malta during the Mediterranean Tourism Forum. Although it no longer exists after it was destroyed in the war and today is being used as an open air theatre, technology has given artists the opportunity to get up on the stage of this marvellous theatre and for audiences to enjoy its architecture. The CEO of the Malta Hotels and Restaurants Association, MHRA, Andrew Agius Muscat said that over the last two years of the pandemic they have worked together with experts in various sectors to rebuild the theatre virtually. We have brought a team of experts from different camps, architects, historians, and IT to re-create the Royal Opera House but we didn't just throw it together haphazardly…we studied the original blueprints, the photos which exist and where there is no available information, we studied the style of the architect who designed the theatre. Today we have the first virtual theatre built on a structure which used to exist which will be online to give young people a chance to exhibit their talents on a virtual stage.Andrew Agius Muscat

San Ġorġ tagħna baqa' ġewwa!

Kav. Joe M Attard - Gozo,Malta Lulju 21-22

San Ġorġ tagħna din is-sena
Mintix ser iddur mat-toroq
Imma sejjer tibqa' ġewwa
Mirfud sewwa taħt ix-xoroq

Għaliex din il-pandemija
Ħolqitilna bosta nkwiet
Ħarbtitilna r-rutina
U ma ħalliet lil ħadd bil-kwiet.

Għadd ta' xhur tgerbu u marru
Magħluqin ġewwa d-dar
Għaliex bżajna li ningidmu
Minn dal-virus, minn dal-far.

Tgħid il-poplu tagħna nesa
Lill-maħbub Sid il-Ħolqien
U waddbu f'xi kantuniera
Ġewwa rokna ta' xi ġnien!

Lil Dak illi ħalaq kollox
Neħtiġuh kuljum, kull ħin
Flimkien ma' dik l-Omm imbierka
Max-Xirka tal-Qaddisin

Illi fosthom żgur jispikka
Il-martri Gorġi ta' Lidda
L-isplendur, it-Tribun qawwi
Li mal-globu dejjem idda.

Li matul it-tielet ġimgħa
Kif xahar Lulju jfeġġ fuqna
Arah lil kulħadd iġennen
Lejn il-knisja dlonk isuqna!

Iktar mis-snin l-imgħoddija
Għad-dell tat-Tribuna mmorru;
Muż'ka, dwal u ferħ inġarrbu
Lil San Gorġ f'qalbna nġorru.

Maħniex ser naraw it-tlielaq
Jew nisimgħu l-isparar
Lanqas ser nimxu mal-banda
Kif fl-imgħoddi dejjem sar!

Imma xorta se nifirħu
U nżejnu t-toroq tagħna
U bosta mill-emigranti
Bla dubju jingħaqdu magħna.

Għaliex dan il-patrun tagħna
Lil ħadd ma jħalli bil-kwiet
Warajh saħħar ġnus kotrana
Bil-eluf u bil-mijiet.

Maż-żmien bnejnielu żewġ tempji
Ta' rħam u deheb zekkin
Illi għaġġbu 'l-poplu tagħna
U miegħu tant barranin.

Għalkemm sejjer tibqa'ġewwa
Minħabba l-pandemija
Gorġi tagħna itfa' ħarstek
Fuqna b'dil-pesta mifnija

Reġġa' fuqna t-tbissima
Mal-innu tal-'Ġorġi tagħna'
Jiġri x'jiġri int ser tibqa
Minn ġos-sema tindukrana!

O kemm għandna għax nifirħu
Għax tbiddlu l-affarijiet!
Festa kbira sejrin nagħmlu
F'ħakka t'għajn din l-aħbar ġriet.

Il-ħajja r-rittmu qabdet
Kollox reġa' għan-normal -
Bil-ferħ tilmaħ it-tbissima
Fuq il-kbar u fuq it-tfal.

San Gorġ mela l-Ħadd fl-għaxija
Erġa' dur mat-toroq tagħna
Iżra' l-ferħ, il-paċi, l-għaqda
U tinfired qatt minn magħna.

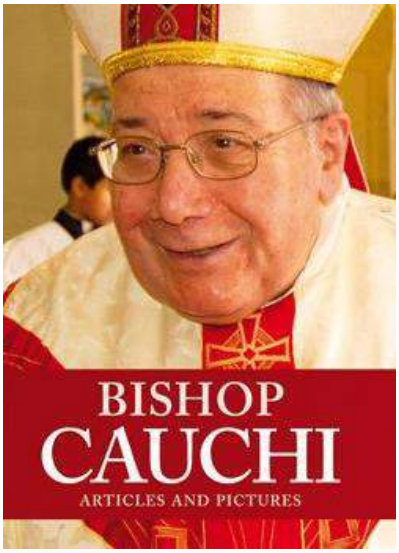
Fuq dan Għawdex li tant jgħożżok
Ġib il-għaqda w l-armonija
Inti biss timla lil qlubna
Bl-hena, s-sliem u tgawdija.

Thank you again from Brisbane, for another wonderful, colourful and enjoyable newsletter full of amazing information. I was especially interested in the article written by my cousin Fred Aquilina. What an amazing story as are many others in this journal. I am sure, that I would speak for thousands, thank you for your journal – for the wonderful information and accounts from times past and present. All so very much appreciated. Take care – keep safe and well and again, my sincere thanks,
Marion - Brisbane

Maltese eNewsletter
Read, Enjoy, Support and Share this Journal

NOSTALGIA

A book featuring Bishop Nikol Cauchi's articles



A commemorative book comprising all the articles written in The Times and The Sunday Times by the late Bishop Nikol Cauchi entitled Bishop Cauchi was published in Victoria in 2011

Vicar General of Gozo Mgr Giovanni Bosco Gauci said that Mgr Cauchi was and still is an inspiration to all those who knew him during his life. He said that through this book they could also remember him through his writings.

Fr Jimmy Xerri, Mgr Cauchi's private secretary for eight years, said the late bishop firmly believed in the resemblance of man and God and the importance of each and every individual.

There were certain issues "Nikol" did not pay great attention to because he did not deem them important. However, he used to act and react to what he strongly believed in "with an iron fist, a clear mind and an apostolic zest".

A documentary by Alvin Scicluna was also shown, featuring excerpts of interviews carried out with the bishop which included some of his comments over the past 25 years.

Mgr Cauchi was also seen speaking about his childhood years in Għarb, the priesthood and his episcopate. The documentary ended with a message from the bishop to Gozitans – to forever embrace Christian values.

Gozo Bishop (now cardinal) Mario Grech and The Sunday Times editor Steve Mallia, who compiled the book, also addressed the guests.

One of Mgr Cauchi's brothers, Canon Achilles, and his two sisters Teresina and Ġemma , cousins and other relatives were also present. His other brother, Maurice Cauchi, who lives in Australia, could not attend. Among other guests were the late bishop's private secretary for 19 years, Fr Renato Borg; Gozo Minister Giovanna Debono; Parliamentary Secretary Chris Said; former Speaker Anton Tabone; and Frederick Azzopardi, parliamentary assistant.

Bishop Cauchi – Articles and Pictures was published by the Bishop Nikol Cauchi Foundation, which aims to promote dialogue through socio-cultural and religious activities.

The publication also includes a number of photographs detailing the bishop's life.

THIS IS YOUR JOURNAL, IF YOU HAVE A STORY TO TELL SHARE IT WITH OTHERS LIKE YOU SEND IT TO ME

Would it be possible to subscribe to your publication?

My father was born in Malta and moved to the UK in the 1960's as a teenager but took me back to his homeland regularly when I was young.

Sadly he recently passed away after a long illness and he had limited capacity for many years that affected his memory. I am researching my family history and found that my ancestors are in fact Maltese. I found your publication online and loved reading it. It gave me a sense of the history of the Island that I'm struggling to find anywhere else. Warmest regards Steve Pace

West Haddon United Kingdom.

On Guatemala's Atlantic coast, a Gozitan priest does good deeds

Dun Anton Grech leads GuateMalta and Casa Isabel in Puerto Barrios

CommunityCharitySouth America

12 hours ago| Francesco Frendo|03 min read

One of the clean stoves sponsored by St Sebastian parish church, Qormi.

It was a damp, mundane and gloomy day in Malta when I overheard an acquaintance recalling his dreaded predicament of being stranded in Guatemala, while doing voluntary work, when the border was unprecedentedly closed due to the pandemic outbreak.

In a foreign country at the time, and desperately hankering the need for a new experience, I took the leap of faith and contacted Dun Anton Grech, a Gozitan priest and founder of the GuateMalta Foundation.

Despite having never heard or met Dun Anton, he welcomed the opportunity with open arms. As fast as greased lightning, I booked my flight, packed my bags, and set for pastures new.

At the time of writing, I find myself just short of a month's stay in a spacious, clean and comfortable room in *Casa Isabel,* run by GuateMalta in Puerto Barrios, a port city on the Atlantic coast of Guatemala.

Casa Isabel is a women's shelter, administered by Dun Anton and his colleagues, for victims of domestic violence. The shelter also provides vital medical services, including ultrasounds, psychological counselling and pharmaceutical supplies.

Francesco Fenech with young members of the community in Guatemala.

Over the past 12 years, GuateMalta has extended its grounds to include a sizeable playground, a church and is currently finishing off a hostel to host guests and future volunteers.On a daily basis, I have accompanied Dun Anton to the jungle to visit remote Q'eqchi and Ladina villages, as he sees to his priestly duties.

As an avid enthusiast of symbolic rituals, I have been fortunate enough to witness a melting pot of religious customs; a syncretic blend between the traditional Roman Catholic ceremony – delivered by Dun Anton in Spanish and the native Q'eqchi tongue – amalgamated with Mayan shamanic prayers, offerings and traditional attire.

One significant project, one that has been a roaring success, is the supply of clean stoves. Many rural families deep within the jungle still utilise open fires to cook, thus inhaling toxic fumes and risking the possibility of treacherous fires. I have aided in assembling and dispersing these clean stoves, sponsored by St Sebastian parish church, Qormi, that have flourished like a green bay tree among such communities.

Guatemala offers a lifetime of experiences, and over the past month, it has been nothing short of an experience of a lifetime.

During my stay so far, I have also visited the local prison, recorded a soundtrack for the local television station Stella Maris TV and have had a short stint as a teacher's assistant in English classes offered by the GuateMalta Foundation.

Yet, despite the deep and rich history the Mayan culture boasts, the current economic situation is a far cry from a pretty picture. Poverty and lack of basic supplies remain rife, due to political instability, civil wars and aggravated hardships because of the pandemic.

GuateMalta is accepting donations and, after a hiatus due to the pandemic, the organisation has reopened its doors to volunteers who are willing to partake in such programmes.

Remembering Ta' Bistra fil-Mosta

A curious play of forgetfulness and rediscovery seems to form an intriguing part of the destiny of the site of Ta' Bistra Catacombs. A series of uses followed by temporary abandonment might have been one of the factors. Likewise, is its uncanny connection with roads. Currently located at the limits of Mosta, this archaeological site is in plain view of a very busy road and yet most of the public appears to be unaware of its existence.

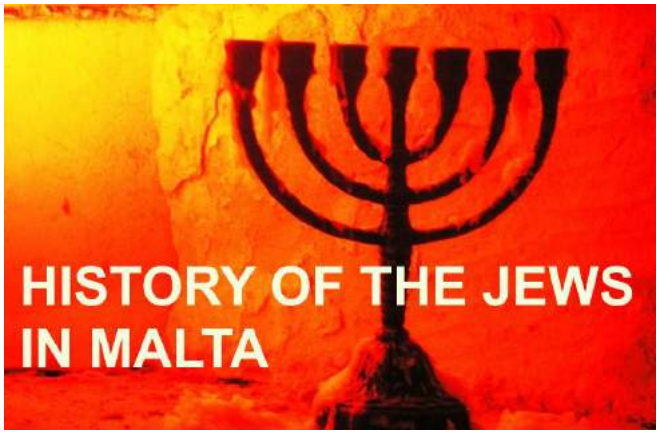
A farm, which was built over the catacombs in the post-war period, today serves as the entrance to this archaeological site. A certain Indrì had built this rural residence in the hope that his wife would join him but she did not want to have anything to do with this place and preferred to stay in the nearby town of Mosta. Finding himself alone in this strange abode, the man let his imagination run. Besides adjusting some of the deathly chambers to his personal use and to accommodate some farm animals, he also engraved a number of faces in different parts of the catacombs. These awkward sentinels now seem to be watching over the catacombs which managed to survive up to these days.

It seems that originally, this site was close to the main route through the Great Fault, in line with the Roman custom of placing cemeteries along the main roads, outside of the residential areas. After it was abandoned, the site seems to have remained partially exposed. It was documented for the first time by a drawn plan and a number of photos taken by E. Magri in 1886 and F. Vassalli in 1891. The site was mentioned again by E. Becker in 1913. Through descriptions left by Sir T. Zammit in 1914 and Bellanti in 1920, we know that the large quarry, which also formed part of the site, had already been transformed into arable land.

The site was archaeologically investigated for the first time by Capt. C. Zammit in 1933 as part of the documentation process of four sets of burials that were meant to be destroyed by a new road leading to Burmarrad. Ta' Bistra came back into the spotlight in 2004, when archaeological monitoring during road works rediscovered the four groups that were supposedly removed in 1933. This discovery eventually culminated in extensive archaeological excavations between 2013 and 2014. Three lamps were unearthed during the latter excavations which are now exhibited on site.

Bones are usually expected to be found in large quantities in tombs. However, in 1933, very few bones were uncovered and all disintegrated upon excavation. Remarkably, a skull which is now also exhibited at Ta' Bistra, was reputedly recovered from this area and was donated to Heritage Malta by Dr Joseph H. Vincenti M.D. Sqd Leader RAF (Retrd.) in 2014.

Ironically, this place of death is said to have served also to protect the living when it was used as an air-raid shelter during the Second World War.



Malta and the Jewish Connection

Saint-Paul. Photo by G.Mannaerts – Wikipedia

It seems that the Jewish presence on the island of Malta dates back more than 3000 years! Sailors descended from the tribes of Zevouloun and Asher accompanied Phoenician sailors. An ancient union between Jews and Phoenicians, which prospered and grew stronger over the centuries.

Traces of this link can be found in particular on the island of Gozo in the north-west of Malta, where sailors landed at the time. Similar traces are also present in the Jewish catacombs of the Greek and Roman eras. Some of the catacombs still standing today showcase Jewish symbols, including menoroths. The most famous being the **catacombs of St Paul** in Rabat.

Following the Arab and Norman conquests, the island's Jews remained integrated in Malta and participated in civil society. In 1240, 25 Jewish families lived on the main island of Malta and 8 in Gozo.

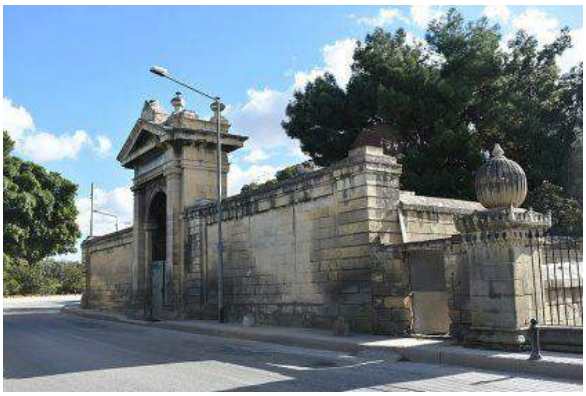
During the Middle Ages, there were Jewish communities in Mdina, Birgu, Valletta and Zejtun. Thus, we find in Mdina a "Jewish silk market", in Birgu a **Jewish street** and in Zejtun a Judaic place. There are also "Gates of the Jews" in several cities, the only places where Jews were allowed to enter the city.

Chabad House in Malta. Photo by Frank Vincentz – Wikipedia

Among the figures of the period was the mystical author Avraham Abulafia who resided in Comino between 1285 and his death a few years later. There he wrote his "Sefer ha Ot" and "Imrei Shefer".

The Jews came mainly from Sardinia, Sicily, Spain and North Africa. And their living conditions were relatively less difficult than in most Mediterranean regions at the time. Sometimes occupying prestigious positions such as that of Chief Physician. Position held in particular by two members of the Safaradi family, Bracone and Abraham.

The Jewish population increased under Spanish rule. At the beginning of the 15th century, the Bishop of Malta as well as civil authorities removed discrimination against Jews. Xilorun, a Jew from Gozo was even appointed Ambassador of Malta to Sicily. However, the Inquisition of 1492 led to the confiscation of their property and their expulsion. Some fled and others were converted. Many Maltese are still found today with surnames of Jewish origin.



Jewish Cemetery, Marsa. Photo by Contineltaleurope – Wikipedia

During the reign of the Knights of the Order of St. John, which lasted until the defeat by France in 1798, the population was subjected to martial politics. Without distinction, all kinds of populations found themselves victims of military raids on sea and land, liable to be captured and enslaved. This was particularly the case with the Jews, who were also obliged to wear distinctive signs. There are many accounts of the looting, murder and sale of slaves during these centuries.

On the road to Egypt, Napoleon conquered Malta in 1798 and therefore applied French law there, including the abolition of slavery and equality between all citizens. This acquired freedom was maintained by the British conquerors soon after. In 1846, the community had its first official rabbi since the time of the Inquisition: Josef Tajar.

Many Maltese Jews enlisted in the British Army at the time.

During World War II, Jews fleeing Nazism did not have to have a visa to arrive in Malta, which allowed thousands of them to seek refuge there.

Ta'Braxia Cemetery, Malta. Photo by No swan so fine – Wikipedia

The country gained its independence in 1964. Following neighborhood renovation projects, the old synagogue in Malta was destroyed in 1979. But thanks to the support of English and American Jews, a **new synagogue** also serving as a community center was built in 2000 In 2013, a **Chabad House** was also established on the island.

In 2012, according to demographer Sergio DellaPergola's estimate, there were between 100 and 300 Jews in Malta. Most Maltese Jews live in Valletta.

There are three Jewish cemeteries in Malta. The oldest cemetery in Kalkara dates from the 18th century. In the suburbs of Marsa is the second, which dates from the mid-20th century. The third is located in Tal-Brexia and is abandoned. www.jguideeurope.org/

IL-ĦAĠAR
HEART OF GOZO

Pjazza San Ġorġ, Victoria VCT 1101

Gozo Philatelic Society

PO Box 10 VCT 1000 Gozo - MALTA www.stamps-gozo.org

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Media release

JUDAICA PHILATELY @ IL-ĦAĠAR

Concurrently with a temporary exhibition about Anne Frank at Il-Ħaġar museum in Victoria's Pjazza San Ġorġ, the Gozo Philatelic Society has set up a new display in its showcase on level -1.

It shows examples of Maltese Judaica: Jewish connections on stamps. The range of covers and other material should be interesting even for those who are not really into stampcollecting.

Visiting hours remain 9am – 5pm seven days a week, still with no entrance fee. The Malta Tourism Authority and the Gozo Ministry's Culture Directorate have extended their support.

Filatelija b'konnessjonijiet Lhud fil-ĦAĠAR

Fl-okkażjoni ta' wirja temporanja dwar Anne Frank fil-mużew Il-Ħaġar fi Pjazza San Ġorġ (ir-Rabat), is-Soċjetà Filatelika t'Għawdex tellgħet preżentazzjoni ġdida fil-vetrina li għandha fil-livell -1.

Fiha eżempji ta' Judaica, konnessjonijiet Lhud fil-bolol Maltin. Din il-firxa ta' materjal filateliku għandha tinteressa anki lil dawk li ma jġemmgħux.

Il-ħinijiet tad-dħul – bla ħlas – jibqgħu mid-9am sal-5pm sebat ijiem fil ġimgħa. Għajnuna ngħatat mill-Awtorità Maltija tat-Turiżmu u d-Direttorat tal-Kultura fil-Ministeru għal Għawdex.

St Sebastian Seniors Association Victoria Australia Dinner Dance Festa Saturday 18 June 2022

It was a fantastic night to remember

Thank you to everyone who joined us last night for our Annual Dinner Dance. We had a fantastic night. The food, entertainment and the venue were incredible. A special thank you to our guests: Father Gerald, Danial Mulino MP - Federal State Minister, Natalie Suleyman MP - State Member for St. Albans, Dr. Victoria Borg, Miriam Cassar and Gioconda Schembri who represented the Maltese Consulate General. Also, a special thank you to all our entertainers: DJ Dominic, The Legends Band, Kelli Brogan, Carmen the Maltese, and the Maltese Own Band. A special thank you to the St Sebastian Committee for all their hard work and dedication. The President Patrick Caruana-Smith and his team worked behind the scenes to make this incredible night happen

St Gaetan Society

44th Anniversary Ball

Celebrating our Maltese-Australian heritage 1978-2022

Saturday 6th August 2022, 6pm-late
at
Ultima Function Centre, Keilor Park

Adults: $75 Children (10 and Over): $40

Includes a live band, four course meal and drinks (beer, wine and soft drinks)

Join us for a night of festivities, food and fun!

Call Jim 0403 743 674
Rita 9331 1430
for bookings and enquiries

MNARJA

26th June at 2.30pm

Mass at Christ the King Lockleys followed by
Social in the parish hall afterwards.

Fish, chips and salad

Only $10.00

Also, pastizzi for sale.

Please bring your Maltese artefacts, arts and crafts for exhibition

Maltese Community of Adelaide

Raffle and Prizes

Bookings Essential

Mary Saliba on 0422 388 423

JOIN US FOR IMNARJA 2022 @ LA VALETTE

The traditional Maltese folk feast of St Peter & St Paul

SUNDAY 26 JUNE FROM 10AM

FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT

Jumping Castle
Face Painting
Free Popcorn & Fairy Floss for the kids
Farm Animals
Arts, Crafts & Produce Exhibition & Stalls
Cool & Classic Cars - show off your car and win People's Choice Prizes

LIVE MUSIC

Ghana (Folk Singing) with Saver Bonanno & Friends
The Maltese Concert Band

MALTESE FOOD & DRINKS

To exhibit or hold a stall call Joe: 0416 971 484
or La Valette Office: 9622 5847

Antoine Mangion and La Valette Social Centre
175 Walters Road, Blacktown New South Wales 2148

Mackay Maltese Community Group Queensland

Maltese Corner Fundraising Group Inc.

High Tea in the hills

Saturday 9th July

1pm at 234 Rogers Road Mount Charlton Whispering Grove

$50 per ticket

Includes High Tea selection of sweet and savoury treats, tea, coffee and refreshments.
Lucky door prize and Raffles

Barb Baretta
0419 423 124

Raising funds to erect a monument at "the Maltese Corner" in Mackay, to commemorate and acknowledge the contribution of the Maltese to the Mackay and District.

IMNARJA Maltese Canadian Community

MALTA FEST

A MALTESE CANADIAN FEDERATION EVENT IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE MCBNA JUNE252022

The annual **Imnarja** Festival is going to be held on **Saturday June 25, at Runnymede Park, between 2:00 and 10:00 pm. A celebration of Malteseness!!** This is the traditional Maltese festival celebrating the feast of St Peter and St Paul. Music and singing, food - plenty of it! - (our Parish Youth Group will be there with their BBQ),

I would like to express my profound gratitude and appreciation on behalf of myself, my family and the nearly one million Maltese and Gozitan diaspora spread in 190 countries for your steadfast dedication and hard work over the past lifetime, not only the 17 years you have served as Honorary Consul of Malta to our community in the State of South Australia with such love, passion and dedication but to your unique service to Global Malta.

Global Malta is indebted to you and your team for your sterling service by bridging our diaspora communities everywhere. Our 'Maltese E-Newsletter - The Journal of the Maltese Diaspora' which you edit, has increased the much needed awareness in the Maltese Islands, in continental Europea and around the world that the country of Malta is not just the population of the Maltese in Malta and Gozitans in Gozo, but we are a Global Malta, a global nation with roots and presence everywhere, like any other country around the world.