

Journal for Maltese around the world



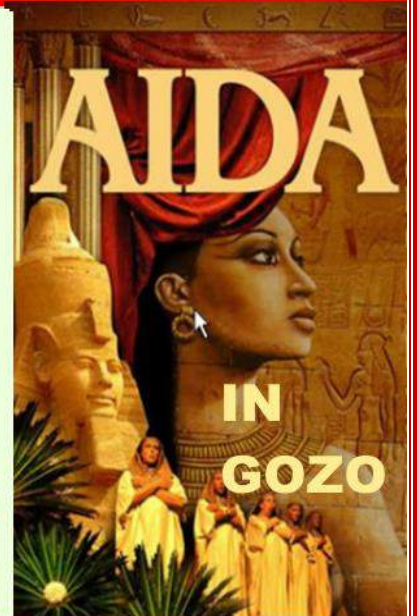
# MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER

Editor: Frank Scicluna OAM MQR JP

Maltese Canadian Community of Toronto



Celebrating the 58th anniversary of Malta's Independence.

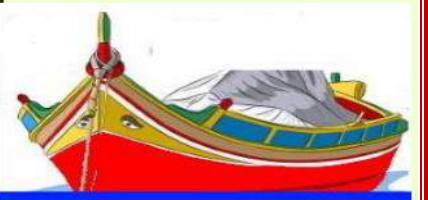


The Maltese Community of New York  
welcomes the Prime Minister of Malta  
Hon Dr. Robert Abela

The Maltese Website  
Making  
Our Language Great Again



[www.ikteb.mt](http://www.ikteb.mt)



**LET'S WORK  
TOGETHER**  
Unite or Perish





**Maltese Communities  
Abroad**

## **UNITE OR PERISH**

The Cringila Centre is taking the initiative to invite Maltese associations and groups to come together to support each other in harmony.

The idea is to share ideas, about how we can go about leaving a legacy for the next generation.

While numerous ethnic groups closed in recent times, we saw this happen in our own Maltese Community in several States. We need to start helping each others and think of the big picture, what is good for the Community.

There will be no fees or contracts but rather we come together in friendship. There is a need for formality, and everyone involved will have input on the way we go forward.

This idea needs to work as we will be judged on our commitments and changes securing a future for many generations to come after us. We asked all groups to have an open mind and positive attitude. As a beginning letter will be sent out to numerous groups to meet up in



## **LET'S WORK TOGETHER**



Wollongong NSW and start the ball rolling with an open and free discussion in an inclusive forum.

We thank you in advance and let's be positive and contribute in strengthen our Maltese Community culture and heritage.

Regards. LOUIS PARNIS - NSW

*PS: The editorial team of the Maltese eNewsletter supports this initiative and is prepared to help and co-operate with everyone to achieve unity and to be exemplary to our younger generation.*





**MALTESE LIVING ABROAD**  
Malta in the World

The Constitution of Malta was amended in 2011 to “facilitate the participation of Maltese citizens who live abroad in the political, social, economic and cultural life of Malta”, according to a Bill to establish a council for Maltese living abroad which Parliament unanimously approved.

The council was established to give advice to the minister of Foreign Affairs on any Bill that affected the rights, entitlements or interests of Maltese living abroad; budgetary and administrative measures affecting Maltese communities and any transmission on, and production of, public broadcasting services relating to programs for Maltese living abroad. The delegates of the 2010 convention for Maltese living abroad had agreed on the setting up of a permanent mechanism that represented their and which was recognised by the State.

The government had given new importance to Maltese communities abroad and embarked on citizenship reforms that led to the end of discrimination between Maltese living in Malta and Gozo and those living in other countries. It was agreed to set up two registers – one for Non-Government Organisations (NGOs) established outside Malta involved in the promotion and protection of the interests of Maltese living overseas, and another for prominent Maltese nationals living abroad who had distinguished themselves. The council is effective because it enjoys the support of Maltese communities around the world and of government department and agencies.

There is a need to let the Maltese living abroad feel as much Maltese as those who lived in Malta. One should not think that Maltese living abroad were only those in Australia: there were many others who live in Canada, the US, France and Egypt and in several other countries around the world. One should promote the idea of the greater Malta as

opening this vision would also be beneficial regarding tourism and promoting the history and culture of the Maltese islands overseas.

The council is available for Maltese overseas to have continuity in everyday contact. This also helps Maltese children to understand the circumstances that led Maltese to emigrate to far away countries. It helps them understand that Malta was not only a dot on a map but a beautiful country in Europe.

The Maltese living abroad feel more a part of Malta even though the Maltese never rejected them. Malta should make use of Maltese descendants' knowledge and expertise to export and promote the Maltese culture around the world.

One could see the concept of a greater Malta by visiting the large number of online websites Facebook pages and Instagrams of different Maltese organisations and individuals, Maltese museums, promoting the religious, social and cultural events in order to preserve the language, heritage and culture of Malta for future generations. There are also numerous businesses and electronic newsletters for Maltese living abroad. The biggest challenge is to spread Maltese culture with people who are not of Maltese descent. We should not forget the immense contribution to Malta's socio-political and cultural spheres by Maltese citizens living abroad. Information and promotional material should be sent to Maltese communities, and one should also create opportunities for Maltese to be taught as a foreign language in schools overseas and to encourage foreign universities in bringing foreigners to study in Malta university. Malta is truly an important part of the MALTESE DIASPORA.



**TELL US YOUR STORY  
WE LOVE TO HEAR  
FROM YOU  
SHARE AND  
CONNECT WITH  
OTHERS**



To the Members of the Maltese Community Council of Victoria, MCCV

## MESSAGE OF HIS EXCELLENCY DR GEORGE VELLA

Maltese Organizations under your umbrella,  
Members of the Maltese Community,

**Dear Maltese, Dear Maltese Australians.**

It gives me great pleasure to address to you this short message on the occasion of the celebration of our beloved country's Day of Independence. I am impressed with your determination and resolve to

keep commemorating events and more so, National Days that remind you of your country of origin.

I can understand that with second, third, and further generations, there is more and more tendency for such ties and feelings to become gradually lost in time and memory.

Let us hope this does not happen. Thus is why I salute the efforts done by different community councils to keep alive this connection with the mother country.

I commend the efforts done to keep alive our history, our culture, and if possible, our

beautiful language. I know this is difficult and could be you fighting a lost battle.

Be that as it may, I urge you all to do all in your power to keep the contacts between you and Malta the strongest possible. Grazzi talli qieghdin taghmlu dan.

Nawgurawlkom success fix-xoghol taghkom, u j' Alla trawmu ohrajn biex ikomplu x-xoghol fejjiedi taghkom. Nawguralkom l-Festa t-Tajba His Excellency Dr George William Vella - President **Notte Bianca is back for 2022, and here's everything that you need to know about this year's event!**



7 stages dedicated to different artistic disciplines will be dispersed all around Valletta on the 1st of October, with events kickstarting as early as 4pm! This year's programme features an eclectic variety of genres encompassing local and international artists across different artistic routes which include Music, Dance, Theatre, Kids, Classics, Alternative and the Red route.

**The 7 stages are the Upper Barrakka Gardens Stage, the Tat-Taraġ Stage (St. Lucia Street), the Castille Square Stage, the Pjazza Teatru Rjal Stage, the Market Square Stage, the Main Stage (St. George's Square) and the Alternative Stage – Down to Earth (Laparelli Gardens), all making their sonic presence in the festival!**

The night kicks off at 4pm at the Upper Barrakka Gardens Stage with an event targeted for families featuring fantastical stories, theatrical performances, arts and crafts, magic shows and more! Throughout the evening, the stage will also host Salt Creek, Marisa D'Amati and Marty Rivers for some country music. **Other performances to look out for:**

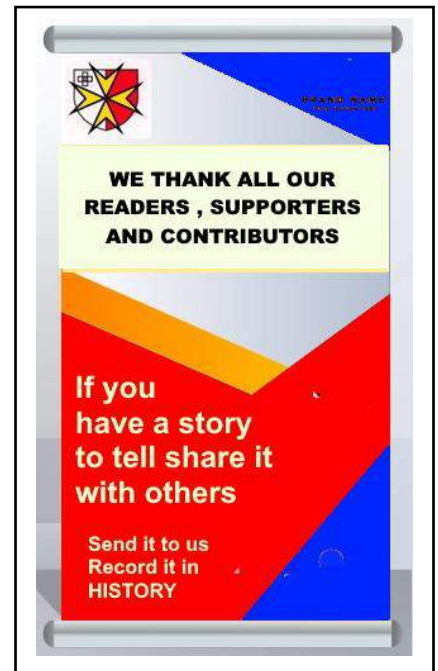
Violin virtuoso George Curmi Puse' and legend Freddie Portelli – Performing at 'Tat-Taraġ' Classical-crossover music, The Three Sopranos, folk band Skald, local pop band SterjoTipi and Versatile Brass – Performing at Castille Square Il Mare Minore, The Two Moons, Ivan Grech and the Voca Choir – Performing at Pjazza Teatru Rjal Spiteri Lucas Band and Umberto Porcaro – Performing at Market Square Trakadum, ManaTapu, Tribal, and Fakawi – Performing at the Alternative Stage Klinsmann and The Mel Collective featuring Matthew James and Karin D and 'The Kolors' – Performing at the 'Main Stage'

89.7 Bay will be the official radio station at Notte Bianca 2022. Come check out our stand to get some free Bay merch and to try out our 360° video booth





Our Lady of Victories il-Bambina celebrated at St Mary Star of the Sea West Melbourne by MSSP organised annually by Reskeon Maltese Association & Reskeon Seniors group.  
Maltese Own Band in concert afterwards Sept. 2022



**I HAVE FINALLY  
REACHED THE  
WONDER YEARS**

**Wonder** where  
I parked the car?

**Wonder** where  
I left my phone?

**Wonder** where  
my glasses are?

**Wonder** what  
day it is?





FMLS Newsletter 2022-7

### **FMLS 2022 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

This year's Federation of Maltese Language Schools INC. (Australia) AGM took place on the **13 September at 6.00 pm on ZOOM**. The following nominations for the positions of President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer were received and uncontested. I am pleased to announce the following members elected onto the committee for the year 2022/2024 year. **President – Edwidge Borg, Vice President – Miriam Friggieri, Secretary – Annemarie Thind, Treasurer – Alfred Flask**

We are very pleased to welcome a new committee member Annemarie Thind. Patricia Grech was voted to stay on the Committee to assist as Assistant Secretary and PRO. The meeting was well attended with Teachers/coordinators and advisors attending the FMLS zoom meeting.

### **SNAP SHOT OF STUDENTS ATTENDING MALTESE LANGUAGE CLASSES**

The following are the schools affiliated with FMLS and all benefit from their financial status with the FMLS. MAA Canberra & Queanbeyan Maltese and Culture school, MCCV Maltese Language Classes adult online; the new MCCV school age face to face classes held at Caroline Springs George Cross FC Function Room; Skola Maltija Sydney adult/school age, face to face/ online classes; Maltese Language School of NSW adult/school age online classes; Skola Maltija Mackay adult face to face classes and Dwejret il-Malti face to face/online classes. The school reports gave an insight on activities the schools had undertaken throughout year in attracting students both school age and adults to learn Maltese. Figures indicate that more females than males want to learn Maltese or else continue to improve on what was learnt during interaction with older members of the family. A snapshot taken of students learning Maltese throughout the year was a total of 253 students. Students learn about the Maltese Culture through language learning.

### **PROFESSIONAL LEARNING**

Some Teachers undertook courses such as the Faculty of Education, University of Malta - Expanding the Horizons in Teaching: Professional

development for teachers of Maltese as a Foreign Language. The course was presented by Prof Antoinette Camilleri Grima and Dr Jacqueline Żammit and financed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Malta. The course was fully subscribed. Annemarie Thind is nearing completion of a Master of Education at the University of Wollongong. Pauline Bonanno has completed a short course, Teaching and Learning Remotely, delivered by Macquarie University School of Education in partnership with the NSW Federation of Community Language Schools (NSW FCLS). Naomi Sant is nearing completion of a Bachelor of Education (Early Childhood and Primary) from the Australian Catholic University.

### **RECRUITMENT AND SUPPORT**

Lisa Bright was appointed School Administrator of the Maltese Language School of NSW in February 2022. Lisa took over from Miriam Friggieri who was interim administrator. The school runs 6 classes. Lorraine Stafford joined the MCCV Maltese Language Classes as a Tutor. The school now runs 4 classes. To provide supportive environments in Schools, assistance is always needed to update systems with consistent teaching practices through the hurdles that are faced, such as pandemics, bureaucracy or other elements. There is a need for continual personnel support to continue to change the process by modifying curriculum and improving the way teachers instruct and Principals lead. Structure and resources are important factors in the journey and all need human resource support. Therefore the FMLS encourages the Maltese Community to support the FMLS and the schools in your state by taking part in our teaching activities as there is still a potential for schools to engage new teachers to provide more class options.

### **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR TEACHERS**

Links to teaching apps and links as well as a PowerPoint "How to get your adult Learners talking Maltese: 15 tricks you should try" is attached. Edwidge Borg

President FMLS

[malteselanguageschools@yahoo.com](mailto:malteselanguageschools@yahoo.com)





## Multicultural, Multiethnic and Multilingual

### MALTA

from all over the world, from an estimated 151 different countries. There are also over 600 international students from 71 different countries studying at the University of Malta. The Maltese have always welcomed people from all walks of life, from different cultures, religions and continents. That remains true today.

Malta's economy depends a lot on tourism. They are fortunate that their national culture is naturally welcoming and the islands are rich and vibrant place to visit. The warm Mediterranean climate doesn't hurt either! Malta may be a small island but it casts a large shadow. Parts of the island is densely populated, offering all the benefits of urban life in an idyllic setting. Other parts of the island are quieter, offering the peace and tranquillity of island life to those who seek it. Wherever you go on the island, the feeling of warmth and community pervades. It also helps families feel welcome and safe when they are here. People are friendly and the old-fashioned way of life is still strong. People still greet each other, still help each other and work together to drive communities forward. Something that is missing in many countries.

The combination of lovely Mediterranean climate with its sunshine, warmth and beautiful sunsets along with a population who actively welcome people from different walks of life is why Malta is so popular. It isn't just the warmth of the sunshine that keeps people coming back for more though but also the warmth of its people.

Malta is no stranger to multiculturalism. Given our position in the Mediterranean Sea between Africa and Europe, Malta is a natural stepping stone between continents. From as far back as 800 BC, our small island has played host to the likes of the Phoenicians, Carthaginians, Romans, Byzantines, Arabs, Normans, Sicilians, French, Aragonese, the Knights of St John, the French and then the British.

Each has left a large impression on our culture and an acceptance of different civilisations and ways of life. It is something that remains with us today.

Thanks to an idyllic landscape, enviable geographic position and later, membership of the EU, Malta has always welcomed visitors. Our popularity as a holiday destination is as much a result of our climate as our relaxed way of life, warm welcome and central location.

Many commentators have said 'once you visit Malta, you won't want to leave.' While we may be biased, we have to say we agree! It seems many Europeans agree too, as many hundreds of people from across the EU come to Malta on holiday and then either return or stay on as permanent residents.

Currently, there are over 100,000 foreign nationals who call Malta home. They come

# LIRA TO EURO - Currency In Malta



## WHAT IS THE CURRENCY USED IN MALTA?

The currency in Malta is **Euro** and was adopted as the official currency since **1st January 2008**. Euro is the **only** currency used in Malta.

## Euro Coins And Paper Money Used

We have **seven banknotes** which are **€5 | €10 | €20 | €50 | €100 | €200 |**

**€500** and **eight coins** which are **1c | 2c | 5c | 10c | 20c | 50c | €1 | €2**.

There are different sizes for both coins and banknotes. They vary according to value. The Maltese banknotes have the same design as all the other countries using them. On one of the sides of the coins there is the value and on the other side there is an emblem of that particular country. For Malta you will find, the temples and the eight pointed cross.

The most commonly used banknotes in Malta are the €5, €10, €20 and €50. All the coins are used very frequently. The Institution of the European Union uses the Euro (€) (code EUR) as its official currency.

## EUROPEAN COUNTRIES USING EURO CURRENCY

There are **28 countries** in the **European Union**. Until now nineteen countries of the European Union's Member States share the single currency to form the Euro area.

They are **19 countries forming the Eurozone** members out of the 28 European Union members namely: Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, The Netherlands, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia and Spain.

## WHY HAVING A SINGLE CURRENCY IS GOOD

- Sharing a single currency makes **travelling for everyone much easier**.
- **Increases efficiency** to the single currency market.
- The **removal of additional expenses** for currency exchange rates.
- **Improves international trade** knowing that it is of a stable and known currency.
- It helps to **generate** a very **good economy** and **political sense**.
- A single currency helps people to think on the same lines when comparing product prices between countries.
- A single currency between the Euro members, strengthens the European Union monetary policy within the financial world.
- Finally, the Euro helps the citizens of all countries to feel part of a large community.

## MALTESE LIRA - MALTA CURRENCY BEFORE EURO

### *Currency in Malta*

- During 1972 a decimal system was introduced replacing the British currency that had been used since 1825 since Malta was under the British until 21st September 1964. It was the pound which had 20 shillings, and each shilling had 12 pence each.
- The currency was the **Lira** and abbreviated to **LM**, although the traditional £ sign was often used locally.
- During the LM currency we had **4 banknotes** and **7 coins**.

The decimal system had 100 cents and each cent has 10 mils each. This currency was used until 31st December 2007.



## Malta is a shared living space. Let us be kind to one another - Fr Anton D'Amato



### Too many people continue to be exploited or neglected in our society

Times of Malta

We just celebrated the 58th anniversary since independence. Is it high time we delve deeper into our understanding of who we have become as a society?

Evidently, Maltese society is today diverse and multicultural. It is an indisputable fact that it is not composed solely of Maltese citizens anymore, and really it was never like that either.

We need to embark on a challenging yet

necessary soul-searching feat, if we want to live up to the title Luke gave to the inhabitants of these islands, that of being “unusually kind” (Acts 28).

As today the Church remembers the World Day for Migrants and Refugees, we are called to work together towards an even wider we. This day of remembrance is a call to rekindle the flames of kindness and foster a welcoming attitude towards our neighbours, especially those who need refuge and are desperate enough to embark on a life-threatening journey to reach a safe place to live, work and participate in.

We do have an “us-and-them” mentality that has become more ingrained in our society, pushing us to view others as if they are our enemies. Such a world view blinds us from seeing the beauty of hospitality, that of being open to share life.

Worse than this is a growing culture of indifference which makes us turn our heads to the suffering of the most vulnerable. Albeit not the only issue, the low working standards of the most in need have become glaringly obvious.

A decent and humane life begins with having the opportunity to work and do so legally and earn a living wage. Many unfortunately are being exploited and forced to work illegally without the proper legal and health and safety safeguards. Although we pride ourselves to be a nation of hard-working people, we constantly meet people who are underpaid or work illegally, stuck between surviving and being exploited in the name of greed and “sustaining the economy”.

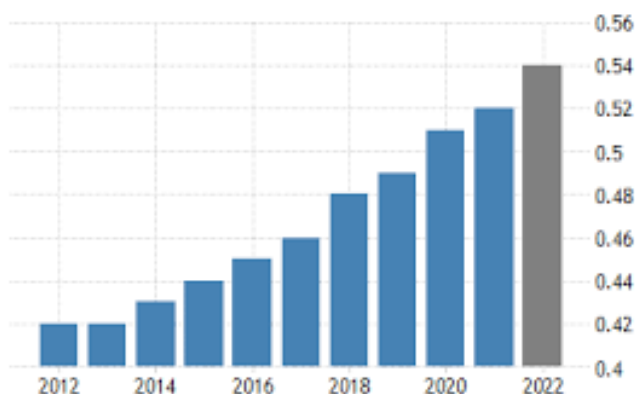
Sadly, on the matter, we often close our eyes, turn our heads and if possible, shut our ears, as if what we don't see or hear is not happening and does not exist.

It is we, today's inhabitants, who are called to exercise that same unusual kindness of 2000 years ago. One way of doing that is by raising our voices in their defence to ensure that a less bureaucratic system comes into place that allows all those living in Malta to work in a regular manner, instead of creating a climate that “encourages” labour in the informal market where exploitation often thrives.

If what Luke said of us is still valid, we cannot foster indifference but kindness, we cannot see the ‘other’ as a threat but as an opportunity to become a better version of who we are, and to reflect on who we want to become. Pope Francis said that “We are all in the same boat and we are called to commit ourselves so that no more walls separate us.” We share the same living space, our common home. Every person has something unique and beautiful to contribute to our Maltese society.

We are more aware today that Malta is a shared living space, a place where people in all their diversity coexist. Perhaps we need to foster a culture of encounter. We already share our space with ‘others’. We need to make sure that this coexistence is a peaceful and harmonious one.

## Malta's Population Officially is over 500,000



Immigration to Malta has increased significantly over the past decade.

In 2011, immigration contributed to 4.9% of the total population of the [Maltese islands](#) in 2011, i.e. 20,289 persons of non-Maltese citizenship, of whom 643 were born in Malta. In 2011, most of migrants in [Malta](#) were [EU citizens](#) (12,215 or 60.2 per cent), predominantly from the [United Kingdom](#) (6,652 persons).

In 2021, figures released by Malta's National Statistics Office showed that 20% of Maltese residents, or 103,718 people were

foreigners. According to Malta's national employment agency, 70,402 of these non Maltese nationals were employed. Workers from EU countries made up 44% of the employed foreigners resident in Malta, while non-EU nationals represented 56% of Malta's foreign workforce.

As of September 2021, foreign workers made up 27.9% of Malta's total workforce.<sup>[3]</sup> The top employer for these foreign workers is the gambling and betting sector, which in Malta is made up of 58.6% of non-Maltese nationals. Demographically, non-Maltese residents in Malta are predominantly males (52.5 per cent) and younger than average (40.6 years of average age).<sup>[1]</sup>

As of the end of 2020, the most popular location for foreigners to live in Malta was [St Paul's Bay](#), where non-Maltese nationals made up 52% of the population. [Sliema](#) also has a substantial foreign population, with 43% of residents holding foreign passports as of the end of 2020.

## Singlewide record-breaking 1,900 fjakkolata for Festa Gheneb

**Largest illumination ever with over 1,900 fire-torches produced individually and by hand**

The renowned *fjakkolata* illumination in St Nicholas square in Siggiewi will return this year for a special record-breaking edition this summer. Preparations for the event, which involve year-long planning, design and work by volunteers, will see over 1,900 fire-torches, which are produced individually, by hand and require hundreds of hours and dedication.

This will be the largest illumination with an artistic design to ever take place on the Maltese Islands. The illumination will be lighted at sunset and certified by Malta Records.

As part of the festivities for Festa Gheneb being held on Sunday 18th September, the village core of Siggiewi will be magically transformed with a sublime torch fire atmosphere.

Organised by Grupp tal-Armar 6 ta' Dicembru in collaboration with the Siggiewi Local Council, the stunning spectacle will feature over 1,900 fire torches. Each fire torch will be meticulously placed around the square and the Parish Church parvis to form an artistic design which will be revealed on the day.

For over 15 years, the 'fjakkolata' has been a hallmark event associated with the locality during holy week. Thousands flock to Siggiewi as the Maltese islands wind down into a sober state of reflection. This special edition however will be presented in a much more cheerful ambience. Various exhibitions and entertainment will be taking place in the same square as part of the Festa Gheneb (Grapes Festival) celebrations including a classic car show, artisan work and live music.





## Ta' Fuqha Senduqha

A new theatrical production in Maltese shines a light on poverty in Malta and lends a helping hand to YMCA

Inspired by real-life accounts of poverty in Malta, *Ta' Fuqha Senduqha* is an original play in Maltese penned by André Mangion and directed by Toni Attard.

Theatre and film actress Michela Farrugia, plays Ruth in the leading role of the production, a girl with a good head on her shoulders who finds herself homeless and straddling the poverty line. The play explores what it means to be poor

and goes beyond statistics, social benefits, low wages and inflation. Poverty is not always a question of wealth. Ruth's hopes and struggles are deeply affected by the characters that

surround her, brought to life by theatre favourites Josette Ciappara, Charles Sammut, Sharon Bezzina and Clint Chircop, that, at times, push her further down into the depths of poverty or offer some much needed support.

*Ta' Fuqha Senduqha* was conceived following an intense period of research and



development conducted by the author with a number of organisations that work closely with people who are in similar situations. This was the catalyst for the play. Though the story is a fictional one, the characters played by the stellar cast are inspired by everyday people that are deeply rooted in Maltese reality.

**Charles Sammut, Clint Chircop, Josette Ciappara and Sharon Bezzina. Photos: Elisa von Brockdorff**

In collaboration with YMCA, the production will be holding a food drive to help 150 people including 75 families with 55 people living in YMCA facilities. Ideally, donated products are to be long shelf life foods and may be handed in before the performances. Donations may also be sent to the Creative Incubator in Żurrieq from Monday to Friday between 9am to 1pm. *Ta' Fuqha Senduqha* will be staged at the Spazju Kreattiv Theatre between the 14 and 23 October with tickets available for purchase at [www.kreattivita.org](http://www.kreattivita.org) *Ta' Fuqha Senduqha* is an Udjenza and Spazju Kreattiv co-production with the support of Arts Council Malta.

For more information visit: [www.udjenza.com](http://www.udjenza.com)



for a thanksgiving mass celebrated in our language by Fr Mario Micallef, followed by a reception at St Paul the Apostle Church Hall - the heart and cradle of the Maltese community in Toronto. Maltese- Museum was also open on this occasion.

Thank you all for having joined the commemoration of the 58th anniversary of Malta's Independence. A special vote of gratitude to our members of staff and to the volunteers who made this event possible. Denise Demicoli -[Consulate General of Malta in Toronto](#)  
Committed to support local businesses, catering for the event was sourced from Malta Bake Shop Ltd., Malta's Finest Pastries, Nannu's Pastizzi in Mississauga & Right Choice Food Distributors. Maltese Canadian Business Network Association Lehen Malti



**Fr. Mario Micallef and Mr Joe Scerri together with Ms Denis Demicoli, the Consul General, at the celebration of Independence Day in Toronto**



## Water Services wants to turn British-era pumping station into cafe



WSC plans for structure overlooking Mgarr harbour slated for PA approval

1 hour ago | [Matthew Xuereb](#) | 73 min read

The historic water pumping station in Mgarr Harbour is set to become a cafeteria. Photo: Google Maps

The Water Services Corporation has applied to turn a British-era water pumping station overlooking Mgarr Harbour into a cafeteria.

The permit request, which is slated for approval, will see the embellishment of the building, the introduction of a mezzanine floor using lightweight material as well as other internal and external alterations.

The Planning Authority will decide on the application on Tuesday.

The Superintendence of Cultural Heritage did not object to the proposal despite pointing out that the pumping station “possibly dating to the British Period or even earlier” was located in the urban conservation area of Ghajnsielem and within the setting of a Grade 1 scheduled old storehouse.

It noted that the pumping station forms part of a cluster of historical buildings “that give a very specific character to this waterfront”.

The pumping station is a significant example of historical industrial architecture with significant machinery still on site. It has cultural heritage value, meriting preservation, and protection, it said.

The SCH expressed concern on the impact of the proposed mezzanine and proposed that any work is reversible to eliminate any impact on the building’s historical fabric.

**Call for maritime museum**

NGO *Wirt Ghawdex* objected to the proposed project, describing the building as “one of the most iconic historic structures in Mgarr Harbour” which has been drawn, painted and photographed repeatedly by both local and foreign artists.

It insisted that any attempt at restoring it should aim to preserve the original fabric in its entirety.

The façade and the frontal staircase should be left entirely unobstructed, it said, stressing that any remaining machinery and related structures were to be preserved and kept on-site and within their original context of a pumping station.

The NGO also objected to the commercialisation of the site, saying the proposed cafeteria will bring with it other demands that will override the historic importance of the building.

“The site would serve far better the purpose of a small, maritime-related museum, showcasing the historical use of the building and the maritime activity at Mgarr. The area is already well-served by numerous bars and restaurants,” it said.

The case officer, however, recommended the proposal for approval, quoting provisions that allow the PA to depart from policies if the project is seen to contribute to the upkeep and conservation of the site without compromising essential heritage features and their context.

He proposed a contribution of €11,000 to the PA’s Urban Improvements Fund for the locality to make up for the lack of provision of three parking spaces as well as a bank guarantee of €10,000 linked to clearance by the Commission for the Rights of the Disabled.

He also recommended another €7,000 bank guarantee requested by the SCH to ensure compliance with the monitoring condition and to ensure that the restoration works are carried out in conformity with the approved restoration method statement.

## 60 years of broadcasting in Malta

Rediffusion was the first radio broadcaster in Malta. The first broadcast happened in 1935. During World War II, Rediffusion played an important role whenever Malta was under enemy fire. Transmissions from Rediffusion radio would alert people about possible air raids, and again after these ended.

On the 11th of November 1935, radio broadcasting began in Malta by a company called Rediffusion (Malta) Limited. The Rediffusion broadcast a series of programmes to commemorate Remembrance Day. Previously that year, the company had been given the power and authority by the Government of Malta to operate sponsored radio programmes as well as ordinary commercial radio programmes. The license for it to operate was issued by the British Governor, since in 1935 Malta was still a British colony.

Initially, the station Rediffusion Radio was launched. Its aim was countering Fascist propaganda from Italy. It had been given a complete monopoly of broadcasting of news, features, music and entertainment to about 50,000 subscribers. Since not all the people had the Rediffusion service at home, loudspeakers were placed in public squares to transmit the news to the public.

The Rediffusion service in Malta initially consisted of two channels – one which used to transmit BBC programmes originating from the UK, which used to arrive in Malta via short wave, while the other used to broadcast programmes from other foreign stations, particularly Italian ones.

After the war, broadcasting in Malta started to become more organized. One of the two channels used to transmit only Maltese language programming while the other continued to transmit the BBC and other foreign stations. The popularity of this medium grew when the news in English and Maltese also began to be transmitted.

Twelve years after radio broadcasting began in Malta in 1947, the concept of advertising began. In 1955, the Rediffusion was also introduced in



**Joan Borg Cardona, an MTV announcer, on the cover of the first edition of TV Guide (Gwida) published by rediiffusion in 1964**

*Photo: National Library of Malta*

Gozo where a small station was opened. In the 50s, broadcasting started to give more importance to female listeners by dedicating special programmes for them. In fact, Carmen Carbonaro started these women's programmes over 70 years ago. In the 50s and 60s there was a musical explosion as great singers with different styles emerged.

On 23 January, 1958, broadcasting in Malta had its first official building with the opening of Rediffusion House in Guardamangia, the same building which today houses the PBS

In February 1960 the Government of Malta issued a statement on the future of television and sound broadcasting, saying that Malta should have its own television service as soon as it could be introduced. The Governor of Malta entered into discussions with Rediffusion Malta, Ltd., with a view to negotiating an agreement with them for the provision of a television service and the continuation of sound broadcasting in Malta and Gozo. This meant the Government decided that the firm which already had a monopoly of sound broadcasting was also to be given a



monopoly for television broadcasting.

Rediffusion Malta was to have the sole right of presenting news, views, entertainment, either on sound radio or television to the people of Malta.

In 1962, Television Malta was introduced, which at first used to transmit from the same building which housed the radio station, as the building known as Television House, did not yet exist. This was completed 16 months later, on 6 February

1964. Television sets were a very expensive luxury to the Maltese and radio was still the dominant form of entertainment well into the 1970s.

Among the various personalities who mesmerised Maltese and Gozitan listeners with their voices were Charles Arrigo, who used to read novels on air, described by many as a broadcaster per excellence. Charles Abela Mizzi. Effie Ciantar, Victor Galdes, Mgr Azzopardi, iz-Ziju Salv and many more."

One of the most listened to programs on the rediffusion was the Stage Commandos comedy program. The theatrical group Stage Commandos was born during World War II within the dockyards in Malta's Cottonera locality. This theatrical group was formed purely to entertain the dock workers, keeping their morale high and positive. The workers themselves built a stage out of wooden boxes and soon the performances attracted audiences from the areas around the docks.

But indeed the men on the stamps above were Commandos of a sort. (See photo) They were known as The Stage Commandos.

During the War, the Grand Harbour and its Cottonera hinterland were a specific target,



**Johnnie Catania (1925-1991), Laurie Bellizzi (1922-1993) and Charles Clews (1919-2009)**



**Johnny Navarro (1912-97), Armando Urso (1918-76), and Nosi Ghirlando (1908-64)**

suffering continuous aerial bombing. The Stage Commandos introduced an innovative style of comedy and laughter which helped the workers cope with the intense bombardments and related psychological pressure. This was the birth of the Stage Commandos – a name inspired by the war experience.

Once hostilities were over, the group moved beyond the walls of the dockyards as the Stage Commandos had become very popular, filling to capacity Malta's theatres almost every weekend. The names, Charles Clews, Johnny Catania, Laurie Bellizzi, Johnny Navarro, Armando Urso and Nosi Ghirlando nostalgically remain in the minds of many and this set of postage stamps seeks to pay tribute to these three much-loved personalities who are gone but will be remembered for many years to come. The stamps (and those shown below) were hand-drawn by cardio-thoracic surgeon, Alex Manché. Malta 2019. They entertained the Maltese nation for decades with their performance musicals, sketches, farces and one-act plays.

They were major contributors to Radju Muskettieri (Radio Musketeers) a multi-programme comedy radio production starting in 1948 and which ran into the early 1970s.

# ARCHAEOLOGY



**Remains of prehistoric structure at Xrobb I-Għaġin uncovered in a project that is the first of its kind**

Heritage Malta archaeologists have identified and started to expose the remains of a prehistoric structure at Xrobb I-Għaġin, more than a century after they were first investigated. The remains will be documented and studied and – if studies confirm the possibility – some of them may be

removed so as not to be lost as the cliff edge at Xrobb I-Għaġin gradually wears away. This project is the first of its kind for Malta.

The remains of a small prehistoric structure at Xrobb I-Għaġin were first discovered by Temi Zammit and Thomas Ashby at the start of the 20th century. When the structure was excavated, it was found to be very close to the cliff edge and parts of it had already collapsed. For this reason, the few decorated parts discovered were removed and the structure was gradually concealed again, probably through natural means.

The project being currently conducted by Heritage Malta is particular in that the spot where the structure was erected thousands of years ago is now on an eroding cliff edge. This posed quite a challenge for the archaeologists' safety during excavation works. In fact they had to be strapped to a tower crane during the whole process so as to be out of harm's way should the cliff edge give way. It was in this manner that, from September till December 2021, the archaeologists excavated two long trenches in order to identify the structure's exact location. In the preliminary phases of the project, Heritage Malta was also supported by the Restoration Directorate.

In this first season of excavations, the team identified parts of flooring and structures that, however, could not be compared to the specific parts of the structure documented by Ashby since they were only exposed in narrow trenches. Heritage Malta's Archaeological Excavations Department, in charge of these excavations, this year therefore embarked on a process whereby the area bearing the most interesting elements was excavated in quadrants.

This system yielded the desired results. The structure's remains have now been identified without any trace of doubt and have started to be uncovered again, more than a century after they were first investigated, so that they may be documented manually, digitally and virtually. By the end of this season of excavations, a condition assessment will also be conducted to inform the decision regarding which parts of the structure might be relocated at a safer spot in the park, away from the eroding cliff edge.

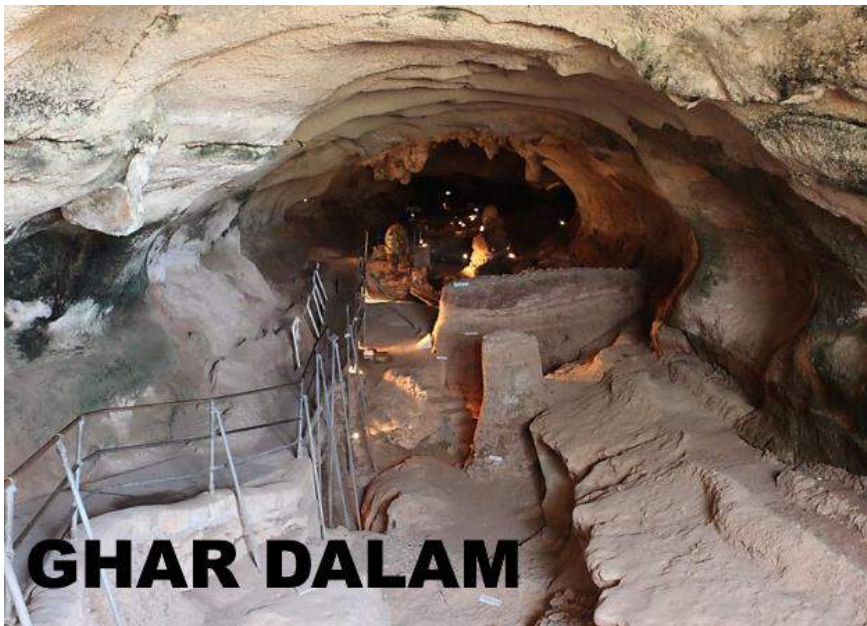
Minister Owen Bonnici said that this is another link in a chain of initiatives that give a new meaning to better accessibility for Malta's cultural heritage. He praised the efforts of the workers involved, highlighting that this was a complicated process where both the remains and the workers had to be kept constantly out of danger. This attests to the workers' dedication and professionalism.

Noel Zammit described the Xrobb I-Għaġin project as an ambitious endeavour which once again acknowledges the abilities and experience of Heritage Malta employees in their



respective fields and which puts the agency at the forefront of its sector. He mentioned the previous phases of the project, where in-depth studies aided the precise identification of the area to be researched, through remote sensing, geological analysis and seabed evaluation. Vincent Attard expressed Nature Trust's satisfaction at having an important site for the history of Malta forming part of this public park. The relocated remains will be accessible the hundreds of people visiting the park, which is in the south of the island and has a recreational and educational purpose. The plan is to have all works completed by the end of this year so that this place may once again be enjoyed by the public free of charge.

**Għar Dalam** ("Cave of Dalam (a fifteenth century family name), is a 144 metre long [phreatic](#) tube and cave,<sup>[1]</sup> or [cul-de-sac](#), located in the outskirts of [Birżebbuġa](#), [Malta](#). **Malta's oldest prehistoric site of Għar Dalam engages visitors to step back in time. Rows of ancient animal bones, unearthed from Għar Dalam cave, are exhibited in the Joseph Baldacchino's Hall, which**



**still retains one of a handful of Victorian style displays in Europe.**

No such animals have lived on the Maltese Islands for thousands of years.

The **George Zammit Maempel Hall** presents in a more didactic manner the historical aspects of the cave as well as detailed displays on the various species found in the Maltese Quaternary deposits. Even more bones of

the Ice Age animals are still visible inside the cave. A series of archaeological excavations held in the cave in the latter half of the 19th century have led to the discovery of five main layers of interest. Whereas no traces of any animal species were found in the **lowest layer** which consisted of clay, an extensive amount of animal bones were discovered in the '**Hippopotamus Layer**'. These bones were deposited at this site by water during the Pleistocene era, around 500,000 years ago. **Pebbles and sparse animal bones** belonging to species from the earlier layer were identified in the next one, while remains dating from 25,000 to 18,000 years ago were recovered from the '**Deer Layer**'. A sterile layer corresponding to a volcanic ash layer present outside, lies over the deer layer and the top layer. The '**Cultural Layer**' holds the earliest evidence of human presence in Malta, some 7,400 years ago. Għar Dalam is also renowned for its ecological value. A garden planted with indigenous plants and trees introduce visitors to local flora. The site forms part of the **Natura 2000** network of protected sites which includes **Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) of International Importance** and **Special Protection Areas (SPA)**. This conservation status is due to a small population of endemic cave woodlouse, *Armadillidium ghardalamensis*, and a roosting site for the Lesser Horse-shoe Bat, *Rhinolophus hipposideros*.



## IL-JUM INTERNAZZJONALI GĦALL-ANZJANI

Caritas Malta b'celebrazzjoni Ewkaristika f'Rahaġ Ġdid L-ewwel ta' Ottubru jimmarka l-Jum Internazzjonali għall-Anzjani, għurnata speċjali ferm fejn aktar mis-soltu jiġi ivvalutat is-sehem u l-integrazzjoni tal-persuni anzjani fis-soċjetà.

Isiru diversi attivitajiet biex jinholq iktar għarfien dwar

dak li l-aktar jolqot lill-anzjani b'mod speċjali l-integrazzjoni u sfortunatament l-abbuż. Fost kollox hija ċelebrazzjoni għall-kontribut kbir li taw u għadhom jagħtu fis-soċjetà din il-ġenerazzjoni.

Caritas Malta se tkun qed tistieden lill-anzjani li jgħixu fil-komunità kif ukoll fi djar tal-anzjani biex il-Hamis 29 ta' Settembru, fil-10:45 ta' filgħodu, jattendu ċelebrazzjoni Ewkaristika fl-okkażjoni ta' dan il-Jum dinji għall-anzjani.

Din se ssir fil-Bażilika ta' Kristu Re, f'Rahaġ Ġdid, fejn Monsinjur Charles Cordina Vigarju Episkopali għad-Djkonija se jkun qed jiċcelebra dan il-Jum tant speċjali.

L-ET il-President ta' Malta Dott. George Vella u s-Sinjura tiegħu se jkunu qed jattendu għal din iċ-ċelebrazzjoni flimkien ma' membri parlamentari u wkoll persuni oħra li jaħdmu qrib f'dan il-qasam. Caritas Malta tistieden lill-anzjani jattendu għal din iċ-ċelebrazzjoni ta' ferh. Wara l-quddiesa se jingħata tifikira tal-okkażjoni. Min jixtieq jattendi iċempel fuq 22199000 biex jirriserva post



Marsaxlokk Malta is a **small fishing village** with a **population of around 4,000** located on the **south-eastern coast of Malta** located at the shoreline of the **second largest port in Malta**.

The nearby village of Birzebbugia also forms part of this port however it offers a very different character. At present this important fishing village has the largest population of active fishermen with many traditional fishing boats of all sizes anchored in the port.

The Malta fishing village is a very quiet location compared to others,

with few cars passing through. But at the same time it has become a very touristic location with many fish restaurants and cafes lined along the promenade.

### FACTS ABOUT MARSAXLOKK MALTA

A population of close to **4,000 residents**. Marsaxlokk is the **largest and only fishing village** on the Maltese islands. **Many locals visit** this village, especially for Sunday lunc It is popular for the Sunday morning market where you find fresh fish and all sorts of other commodities.

The **patron saint feast** is **Our Lady of Pompeii** and is held on the last Sunday of July or 1st Sunday of August. A World War II Fact: Around the village of Marsaxlokk there were **military outposts** that were **constructed by the British** to defend the village's harbour. Some still stand around today.

Malta's power station is located around a couple of kilometers from the village. It is known as Delimara.

### MARSAXLOKK MALTA FISH MARKET AND STALLS

Street hawkers set up their **daily stalls** here selling **souvenirs, clothing and all kinds of things**. You will also notice there are stalls selling fresh fish. Marsaxlokk Malta is **busiest on Sunday** when many people flock to the **Sunday market**.

Many locals come on this day to buy their weekly supply of fish and vegetables.

You will still see the usual souvenir stalls and the Maltese lace table-cloths with crochet finishing many of them depicting the cross of the Knights of Malta. For those with a sweet tooth, one will find many locally baked sweets to savour and purchase.



The most popular fish in Malta are the Swordfish and blue fin tuna. During spring and autumn dolphin fish or Dorado, known locally as 'lampuki' is caught in abundance and is very popular with the locals. If you are lucky enough you might see the fishermen tending to their nets before they go out to sea for their next catch. It is indeed a village where you can relax and gently stroll around.

**When is the Market open during the week?** It is open everyday from 08:30 to 16:00 During this day there is the main market, especially the Fish market which is open from early morning until around 13:30. If you arrive at Marsaxlokk early in the morning you might catch the fisherman grabbing the catch of the day. It is something that is worth seeing.

#### **WHAT TO DO IN MARSAXLOKK MALTA**

Despite its importance in the history of Malta over the years and its reputation as the most picturesque seaside locality in Malta, Marsaxlokk fishing village remains a peaceful and touristic location. Despite having become very commercialized, the beauty is in its old houses laden with character. Various historic buildings can be still seen in the harbour, while the fishing nets are still spread on the quay to dry in the sun.

#### **EAT FISH AT ONE OF MARSAXLOKK'S RESTAURANTS**

Fish is one of the most popular dishes on the menu as it is fresh and locally caught. Most fish restaurants are open for lunch and dinner and are sought after by all types of persons, not least by foreigners who live or work in Malta. Click here to see all restaurants in Marsaxlokk.

#### **Buy Fresh Fish From The Market**

The most popular things to do in Marsaxlokk is to visit the daily stalls or the Sunday market. At the stalls you find **souvenirs, clothing and all kinds of things** while also seeing stalls selling **fresh Maltese fish**.

#### **Visit The Parish Church**

The Parish Church which is located in front of the promenade, was built in 1897 and is dedicated to our Lady of Pompei.

#### **HAVE A LOOK AT TAS-SILG ARCHAEOLOGICAL COMPLEX**

The **Tas-Silg historical site** is a living memory of generations of culture that have settled on this island over centuries. It is worth viewing a feature describing its' importance. While visiting the tas-Silg complex, you can also visit the church of Our lady of tas-silg which is a one-minute walk away.

#### **Walk Round The St. Lucian Tower**

It has been used for many centuries by inhabitants and invaders alike. In fact the Knights of St. John had constructed a large fortification which is called St. Lucian. It is located at the centre of the port on a peninsula. It's main purpose had been to protect this harbour from invaders to which often fell prey.

**VISIT FORT DELIMARA** It was built by the British Forces during their presence in Malta in the 1880's. Its principal scope was to protect Marsaxlokk Bay. Located at the mouth of the bay, it was built almost underground so as to camouflage it from unwanted invaders.

Marsaxlokk bay is the location mentioned on all Malta guide books.

#### **Walk Or Swim At Marsaxlokk**

Since Marsaxlokk fishing village is right by the sea, there are ample of places to swim or walk.

Inside the harbour of the village is **Marsaxlokk bay beach**. There are **no beach facilities** in the area. It is therefore advisable that one takes along the essentials.

**IL-HOFRA IŻ-ŻGHIRA** and **Il-Hofra L-Kbira** are two popular places where to swim which are just outside the village.

**KALANKA BAY** is at the very bottom of the island, the lowest tip of Malta. It is even further down than St. Peter's Pool. While here you can walk to the lighthouse of Kalanka and admire the beautiful view.

#### **ADMIRE THE MALTESE TRADITIONAL FISHING BOATS**

A **local characteristic** of these **wooden boats** is that they create a particular scenic effect, painted in **bright red, green, yellow and blue**. This fishing boat is called '**luzzu**' in Maltese and in themselves are an attraction to many tourists who visit this location all year round. At the front of the luzzu there are a couple of eyes which are called **eye of osiris**. The colours reflect beautifully in the blue sea of the bay. The fishing boat design is said to date back to 800 BC when the Phoenicians came to Malta.

**THANKS TO ALL OUR READERS AND CONTRIBUTORS**



## AN ISLAND THAT STILL ENCHANTS

**50 Reasons to Love Gozo:** Sometimes it takes a fresh look from the outside to rediscover the beauties and special features of a place. Gozo-based journalist Gabriele Spiller has dedicated a book to her adopted home and uncovered much to love. “There are probably 100 reasons to love Gozo” says Gabriele Spiller “but I had to draw the line somewhere.” For the past five years, the Swiss-German journalist has taken every opportunity to talk to Gozitan people. And she learned stories one can only discover on the fascinating little Mediterranean island.

“I found my visit to a fireworks factory and the conversation with the niece of the healer *Frenc ta’ l-Gharb* particularly interesting” she says. Since Gabriele loves music, the book also



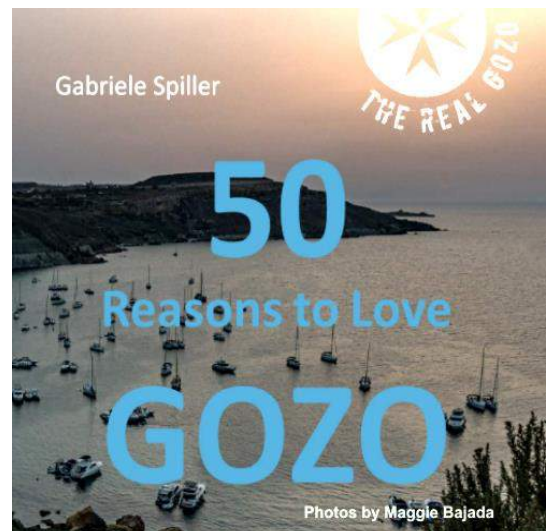
covers band clubs, festas and opera productions. But readers will equally find a recipe for **Gozitan ftira** or tips on handling prickly pears.

“Everything that makes Gozo special and so unique should be in the book,” Gabriele says.

She found a congenial partner in local photographer Maggie Bajada, who approached the project with verve. More than 70 colour photos illustrate the book, which contains a few surprises even for Gozitans. Interviews with the curators of the UNESCO World Heritage Ggantija Temple, the Cathedral or Cittadella Museums in Rabat complete the cultural chapters.

“50 Reasons to Love Gozo” gave me the impetus to think about the concept of double insularity,” says the author, who lives in Ghajnsielem. “Traditions like horse racing or Nadur’s spontaneous carnival continue to have a high significance here.” A contribution is even devoted to the Gozitan dialect.

One chapter explores emigration, which, as revealed in an interview with Qala Mayor Paul



Buttigieg and his wife Carmen, was quite normal in the past century – as was the return. “Above all, I am impressed by the cohesion of the families, that includes the elders in daily life,” says Gabriele. “Great achievements like the construction of the Xewkija Rotunda have always been done by the community – often several generations together.”

“50 Reasons to Love Gozo” can now be ordered via Amazon. The Look Inside feature is currently not supported for books on Amazon.com.au, but one can try this direct link: <https://amzn.to/2Zfcp88>. More about the author on [www.islandtexts.com](http://www.islandtexts.com).---

Photos: ©Maggie Bajada

### BONGU! GHANDI PJACIR. PLEASED TO MEET YOU.

*After worldwide travels and working in Germany, Switzerland and England I am happy to have discovered the Maltese Islands. Here I find everything I love: the sea & the sun, music and history, interesting people and delicious food. Digitization makes it possible that I can serve my international clients from Ghajnsielem. I studied culture journalism in Zürich (M.A. in Art Education) and social and economic communication in Berlin (Dipl.-Kommunikationswirtin). For my Executive MBA in Media Management, I attended classes in Munich, Berlin (Steinbeis University), Milano (Bocconi University) and New York (NYU: Stern School of Business). Recently I added a degree in Social Media Management from the leading German Social Media Academy SMA. – Gabriele Spiller – Gozo, Malta*



# The Maltese Website Making Our Language Great Again

By James



Visit almost any local social media page and you're likely to witness a butchering of the Maltese language. Whether it's spelling, grammar and syntax, or incorrect gender use, there's an endless list of mistakes being made.

However, for those willing to make the minimum effort of writing and speaking the language correctly, translator David Schembri came up with the website [ikteb.mt](http://ikteb.mt). Here you'll find the latest updates made to the Maltese linguistic rules, along

with correct spelling forms of localities. Gadgets met the man behind the movement to see where it all came from, where it's going and why.

## National language, but not dominant

"I was raised bilingual, and I was brought up to cherish our linguistic heritage", David says, explaining how languages were a passion of his from a young age. "Maltese is very close to heart both in terms of language as well as culture, but it pains me that despite being our national language, it is not always given the respect it deserves."

One point he makes is that even though Maltese is the most spoken language among the Maltese, this is not reflected in its visibility in writing, be it local publications, signs, and even on government websites. "For instance, one thing that annoys me is that there are elected politicians who will issue statements riddled with writing errors. Would another country stand for this disrespect for its national language?"

As uncomfortable as that question may be, it's also entirely fair. So, what resulted in him wanting to build this website? Which he did alone, by the way, through WordPress.

Having spent some time studying in the UK, on his return to Malta, David felt the need to write in Maltese. But there was one problem. "Despite having studied in Malta, and despite my love of the language, I had lost touch with the finer points of grammar and spelling, since in a professional or academic setting, English is by far the most written language," he says.

One of the main aims of the site was to make the "[Deċiżjonijiet 1](#)" easily accessible online. Schembri felt that they needed to be more accessible and easier to copy and paste, rather than only being available on a PDF on the "[Kunsill Nazzjonali tal-Ilsien Malti](#)" website.

"These decisions were taken in 2008, and yet many people still don't know about them; publishing them on a simple website rather than a PDF makes them more accessible, and hopefully easier to read", David explains.

After enrolling in a proofreading course at the University of Malta to brush up on his knowledge of Maltese, David came up with the idea of creating an online resource to help people who, like him, wanted to write in Maltese but struggled with some of the finer points. And so, the idea for [ikteb.mt](http://ikteb.mt) was born.

"Imagine a UK minister making basic spelling mistakes when writing or saying something in English; even we'd make fun of them. But we don't do the same with our language, we give people a free pass when making mistakes in Maltese. We need to give due respect to our national language."

A former journalist, David had his former trade in mind when creating the website. "I think it's shameful that English-language websites in Malta, very often staffed by Maltese people, seem to think it's perfectly fine to write placenames or quote in Maltese without using the Maltese alphabet," he laments.

Rather than just complaining, he included an easily copied list of Maltese placenames on the site, hoping that journalists would be able to copy and paste the correct names without having to change their device's language setting (although there are guides on how to do that too).

One thing that David makes clear is that this is not a website to teach beginners how to write in Maltese. Rather, it's for people who already know how to read and write in Maltese but just need some fine-tuning. "It cannot be a one-stop-shop for everything language-related, but I'm aiming to gather enough resources on it so that the most common difficulties are addressed".

How can written Maltese improve across the board, we ask him. "The first step would be for people to read more in Maltese – and that includes literature as well as news. Another step would be to buy a dictionary, even a small one, and use it," he says. Changing your devices keyboard language to Maltese is another helpful method, and as Schembri reveals from his own experience, it doesn't get in the way of writing in other languages.

For those wishing for a more thorough reference guide, he suggests "Nikteb il-Malti Tajjeb" orthography. Similar to ikteb.mt, it's intended for people who already have an understanding of the language.

So, as expected, the best way to get people writing correctly in Maltese again is by practising, making mistakes and learning from these mistakes.

If all of this has got you scared of writing in Maltese, then you've missed the point. In fact, the website's tag line reads "Tibżax, ikteb", which translates to "Don't be scared, write". For David, that was the case for a while, but he gained confidence after the initial mistakes.

"I was scared of making mistakes too, but that's how you learn", he says with a smile. "At the end of the day, I enjoy seeing Maltese written well and more often, and I hope that this site will help us get there."



## Teatru Aurora and Teatru Astra prepare epic shows for Opera is Gozo festival

Giuseppe Verdi's *Aida* at Teatru Aurora will be staged on October 15 and George Bizet's *Carmen* at Teatru Astra will be performed on October 27 and 29.

Two world-renowned operas will be the highlight of this year's 'Opera is Gozo', the month-long festival taking place in October.

Giuseppe Verdi's *Aida* at Teatru Aurora will be staged on October 15 and George Bizet's *Carmen* at Teatru Astra will be performed on October 27 and 29.

## Gozo opera festival

*Aida* will feature scenery by renowned Italian film director and stage designer Franco Zeffirelli (who died in 2019) with costumes by his lifelong colleague Anna Anni, in an adaptation of the original 2001 staging of *Aida* at the Aurora.

*Carmen* will have international as well as local talent on stage, including Noel Galea, Nicola Galea and Gozitan-born Charles Buttigieg. Concerts, theatre tours, city walking tours and art exhibitions will also be taking place throughout the month. The two Victoria theatres are a stone's throw away from one another. "Both theatres are responsible for bringing back opera to the country after the second world war as our rivalry has helped Gozo become synonymous with opera," said the president of Teatru Aurora Michael Caruana. Teatru Aurora and Teatru Astra have both received government backing in the form of €390,000 over three years to produce operas, Bonnici said.

Gozo Minister Clint Camilleri said the festival is expected to attract Maltese and foreign tourists after the summer months. This is in line with the government strategy to attract tourists throughout the year, he said. "The time when tourists come to Gozo in summer only is over," Camilleri said.



## The Stone House, A Maltese Castle Michigan USA



This whimsical beach-stone cottage tells of the persistent creativity and energy of Valentine Falzon. A Maltese immigrant skilled in stone cutting, Falzon imaginatively and painstakingly built this cobblestone cottage while unemployed during the Great Depression. He used such found materials as Lake Huron beach stones, cast-iron radiator sections, and wooden produce crates. A pentagonal porch with pointed-arched windows projects from the front of the one-story, square building, and a two-story, pentagonal wing with a balustrade roof and castellated tower extends from the side. A cobblestone fence marked with

gateposts topped with miniature replicas of the Eiffel Tower and the Leaning Tower of Pisa surrounds the house. Falzon ornamented the yard of this delightful personal fantasy with a three-tier planter and a wishing well of cobblestones.



**Maltese  
Stone  
Castle  
Women**

**Michigan  
1941  
USA**

## Maltese Stone Castle Women

Six Maltese girls enjoy a summer day on the beach of Lake Huron outside the iconic "Stone Castle" in Lexington, Michigan.

At the top of the picture is Eileen Saliba. Far left: Carmen Camilleri, Center-top: Mary Ann Sapiano, Center-middle: Anna Camilleri, Right: Mary Camilleri, Front: Rose Borg Cassar.

The "Stone Castle" is one of many cottages built in Lexington by Maltese immigrants as summer homes. It's all-stone design and intricate rooms are still admired today. Lexington became a "little Malta" of sorts in the summer with so many Maltese families living in close proximity to each other and the shores of Lake Huron.

This photograph was donated digitally in 2013 by Joseph Brincat. Source: Joseph Brincat

**Photograph date: 1941**

"Stone Castle Women," Maltese American Benevolent Society, Inc. Digital Archive, accessed \*today's date\*,

<http://www.detroitmaltese.com/stone-castle-women>





**23 September 2022**

**THE MALTESE CENTER WELCOMES  
THE PRIME MINISTER OF MALTA  
HON DR. ROBERT ABELA**

The Maltese Center of New York had the pleasure of welcoming the Prime Minister of Malta, Hon. Dr. Robert Abela and the Deputy Prime Minister of Malta, Hon. Dr. Chris Fearn and delegation. We are truly honored to have you visit our Center and meet with the Maltese Community of New York and show your support to the Maltese Center of NY. We would like to thank the entire delegation for your visit. A big thank you to our volunteers. It is with their time, dedication, and talents that make these events a true success



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& Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> morning  
September 2022  
at Żejtun Square*



**I am going  
to Malta  
this year  
and  
I find this  
journal  
very  
helpful  
to learn  
about  
Malta**

**Tony Vella**

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