



Maltese e-Newsletter

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**THOUSANDS OF MALTESE EMIGRATED
IN 50s TO 70s TO SEEK A BETTER FUTURE
IN FAR AWAY COUNTRIES**

**WE SALUTE
ALL LEADERS
OF MALTESE
COMMUNITIES
PAST AND
PRESENT**



**HISTORY MUST BE
PRESERVED**

**LEAVING MALTA
AND FAMILY BEHIND
WAS DIFFICULT
BUT MOST
MALTESE WERE VERY
SUCCESSFUL AND
MADE MALTA PROUD**

BORG	CAMILLERI	VELLA	FARRUGIA	ZAMMIT	SALIBA	AQUILINA	GRIMA	FALZON	VASSALLO
GALEA	MICALLEF	GRECH	ATTARD	SPITERI	BONNICI	PORTELLI	CALLEJA	SCICLUNA	SALIBA
CASSAR	AZZOPARDI	MIFSUD	CARUANA	MUSCAT	MIZZI	MALLIA	BUTTIGIEG	XUEREB	SCIBERRAS
AGIUS	ABELA	SCHEMBRI	FENECH	PACE	ELLUL	BUSUTTIL	MERCIECA	CAUCHI	BONELLO
BUGEJA	DESIRA	SAMMUT	GATT	CUTAJAR	TABONE	CACHIA	BUHAGIAR	BARTOLO	SCERRI

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Honouring veterans on Remembrance Day



**André Rieu's
Malta visit
Postponed**





Kummissjoni Għolja tar-Repubblika ta' Malta High Commission for the Republic of Malta

Press Release 18/2022 01/11/2022 High Commissioner' First Official visit to Perth Western Australia



Honorary Consul Joseph Calleja and High Commissioner Mario Farrugia Borg with the Governor of Western Australia H.E. the Hon Chris Dawson APM (L-R)

The High Commissioner of Malta, H. E. Mario Farrugia Borg embarked on a 4-day Official Visit to Perth, Western Australia on Monday 24 October 2022.

This is the High Commissioner's first time to visit Perth where he met officials of the Government of Western Australia and the Maltese Community in Perth. High Commissioner started his official visit in Perth with a meeting with the Chief Justice, the Hon Peter Quinlan at the Chief Justice's Chambers, accompanied by Malta's Honorary Consul for Western Australia, Mr Joseph Calleja. Hon Quinlan was keen to find out more about the history of Malta and Maltese migration to Australia.

HC and Hon Quinlan spoke at length about how the Maltese in WA have integrated in the most multicultural society in the world, and how the Maltese communities managed to keep their culture and values alive. Thereafter, the High Commissioner and the Honorary Consul were driven to the Council House, where they met the Rt Hon Lord Mayor Basil Zempilas. Discussions focused on further cooperation between Malta and Western Australia, mostly in the tourism industry and working holidays.

The Lord Mayor mentioned that recently direct flights have been introduced between Perth and Rome, facilitating traveling to Europe and, thus, the Maltese Islands. Immediately after, High Commissioner Farrugia Borg and Honorary Consul Calleja paid a

courtesy call on the Hon. Alanna Clohesy MLC, President of the Legislative Council, and the Hon. Michelle Roberts, MLC, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of WA at the Parliament House.

During the meeting, they discussed the excellent relations between the two countries and how these could be further developed, enhancing cooperation. The High Commissioner's penultimate meeting for the day was with Hon. Dr Tony Buti MLA, State Minister for Finance, Aboriginal Affairs, Racing & Gaming, Citizenship & Multicultural Interests. Minister Buti was interested to know about Malta's political system, whilst also focused on understanding the economic status and how Malta has been able to reduce its deficit in spite of the current international scenario.

The day's last official meeting was with the Hon Dr David Honey MLA, who was representing the Leader of the Opposition in WA. HC and Dr Honey discussed the working holiday agreement between the two countries. Additionally, Dr Honey was also very keen to know more about the excellent Maltese educational system, which was their main topic of discussion. On his second day, the High Commissioner and Honorary Consul met with Ms. Daisy Pope, Executive Director, Invest and Trade WA Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science & Innovation, who gave him an overview on WA's economy.

The discussion evolved around the present trade figures between Malta and WA, and any possible future avenues, especially in research and innovation. The High Commissioner also met with the State Director, Department of



THIS MEMORIAL IS JOINTLY FUNDED BY THE COMMONWEALTH AND WESTERN AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENTS AND IS DEDICATED TO THE MALTESE BOYS AND GIRLS WHO LEFT THEIR HOMELAND TO BRAVE AN UNKNOWN FUTURE IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA. HARDSHIPS WERE ENDURED, BENEFITS WERE DERIVED, THESE CHILD MIGRANTS PROVIDED VALUABLE CONTRIBUTIONS TO AUSTRALIA SOCIETY IN DIVERSE WAYS AS PARENTS, WORKERS AND CITIZENS. AUSTRALIA IS BETTER FOR COMING

Foreign Affairs and Trade of WA, Ms. Sally Dawkins. The High Commissioner briefed Ms Dawkins about the latest developments in Malta, including Malta's new budgetary measures for 2023, announced last week. Finally, the High Commissioner of Malta H.E. Mario Farrugia Borg paid a courtesy call on the Governor of Western Australia, H.E. the Hon Chris Dawson APM. Their discussions focused on Malta and Australia's people-to-people links, and the Maltese diaspora in Australia. H.E. the Hon Dawson was also interested to know about the current issues effecting Malta, such as the war in Ukraine and illegal migration, whilst also spoke about the Malta budget 2023 initiatives announced. Further to the official meetings, the High Commissioner visited Fremantle, where Maltese migrants landed and was the first point for entry to

Australia in the 1950s and 1960s, including the family of Hon Consul Joseph Calleja landed there.

Those destined for Melbourne and Sydney would then sail forward around the south of Australia towards those cities. The High Commissioner paid homage at the Welcome Walls and the Monument to the Child Migrant, where the inscription on the plaque reads, "To Maltese Boys and Girls who left their homeland to brave an unknown future in Western Australia".

The High Commissioner's visit to Perth concluded with an afternoon tea hosted by the committee and members of the Maltese Association of Western Australia (MAWA), led by their President, Mr. Anthony Sciberras. The Mayor of Bassendean, Councillor Kathryn Hamilton was also invited to meet the High Commissioner. -----

Discover lost Maltese treasures: The Sliema Chalet

Was once one of Malta's icons that is no more.

Melanie Drury

It may be long gone, but younger generations of Maltese are sure to have heard about the Sliema Chalet, for it represented the height of entertainment, pleasure and freedom of self-expression in Malta in the early to mid-20th century. The Chalet graced Ghar id-Dud, in the area of Qui-Si-Sana, by the Fortizza in Sliema between 1926 and 1963. Only the platform on which it once stood remains, triggering a reminder of its heyday in locals who are old enough to remember.

As this wonderful video about the Chalet shows, the beautiful building was truly a sight to behold. The Sliema Esplanade was developed at the end of the 19th century, attracting visitors from around the island. Bands played there regularly, and the area became a hot spot for entertainment. Mr Carmelo Axisa signed a 30 year lease for the building of a chalet in the area, and it was built in the contemporary neo-liberty/art nouveau style, inaugurated on 12th May 1926.

The Malta Chronicle of 15th May 1926 reported that, "(The Chalet) is beautifully constructed in reinforced concrete on a jutting

rock with two spacious storeys, having accommodation for refreshments, dancing, bathing, etc. for hundreds of people at one time. Enjoyable music is provided by an excellent orchestra."

Nowadays, one might also find it amusing that the fact that the Chalet was lit by electric bulbs was also reported on the newspaper. It was that very year that oil-lit street lighting was replaced by electric lamp posts.

The island's top bands performed regularly at the Chalet, patrons could dance in their swimwear and the windows would be obscured from external view. However, Sunday evenings were a sit-down, suit and tie affair. The venue was also hired out for weddings and private functions.

Sadly, while the Chalet began as an elegant venue, over time, it became more like a kiosk. When World War II hit in 1939, normal life came to a halt and the Chalet closed down temporarily. An air raid hit in 1942 continued to delay the potential reopening of the venue until repairs were undertaken. Eventually, the Chalet was repaired, sold and reopened in July 1944 under new management.

Unfortunately, some years later in 1959, the Chalet was declared structurally unsafe, and in 1963 it was permanently closed down. Strong north-easterly winds and rough seas battering against the structure continued the deterioration. Over the years, several attempts were made to give the Chalet a new lease on life, however, none of the proposals came to fruit.

The Chalet was completely demolished in 2006, after 43 years of complete abandon. Today, only the concrete base remains for use by swimmers and for fishing, thought it will forever live on in collective memory.

Melanie was born and raised in Malta and has spent a large chunk of her life travelling solo around the world. Back on the island with a new outlook, she realised just how much wealth her little island home possesses.

Chalet site in Sliema set for regeneration

The Malta Strategic Partnership Projects Ltd (MSPP) on Monday announced a call for proposals from the private sector to

rehabilitate the Chalet site in Tower Road, Sliema. The public call will close on 1st February 2023. This project is part of a wider strategy that MSPP has embarked on and which aims to rehabilitate

The Chalet project which was studied within the terms of the 2002 Chalet Development Brief, calls for proposals that will inject a minimum of €3.2 million through the initial capital investment

and green measures, apart from innovation and creativity should also form part of the proposed project. Interested parties are also informed to consider the weather conditions that the site is vulnerable to.

The proposals put forward will be assessed by a committee formed of senior public officials from the Civil Service and others within the public sector, and the recommended project will be put forward for approval by the highest institution in the country, by means of a parliamentary resolution.



'CHALET' - GHAR-ID-DUD - SLIEMA



followed by subsequent partial re-investments of €1.4 million every seven years, and complete reinvestment of €3.2 million between the 28th and the 30th year of the given concession.

The concession period set at 65 years, will also allow the government to generate ground-rent and a concession fee which

sites that have been in a state of abandon for years, the company said. Through the injection of private capital, the aim is to transform such sites into high quality projects.

The Chalet site is currently just a stretch of concrete and has been abandoned for almost 6 decades, with almost no accessibility to the public.

Studies carried out on this site demonstrate that the rehabilitation of this site through the reinstatement of its use, can create the equivalent of 53 fulltime jobs whilst contributing to a total of €2.5 million in value-added, and nearly €860,000 in income from taxes, the company said.

approximately total a quarter of a million euro, on an annual basis, as a minimum. Moreover, such project aims to continue investing in the country's tourism offer, as the call focuses not just on the rehabilitation of the Chalet site itself but also calls for bidders to submit corporate social responsibility plans.

Such plans should identify clear measures which aim to invest in the surrounding area, such as improving the accessibility to the foreshore for the general public, embellishing the area and marketing the locality. This will enable the proposed project to contribute tangibly to the Sliema Locality. Environment safeguards



**EX-PRIME MINISTER DIES
KARMENU MIFSUD BONNICI**

Former prime minister Karmenu Mifsud Bonnici has passed away on Saturday morning, aged 89. Mifsud Bonnici was born on 17 July 1933. He served as the ninth prime minister of Malta between December 1984 and May 1987. His niece, PN MP Paula Mifsud Bonnici, announced his passing on Facebook. Farewell dear uncle Karm. You were a great uncle to all of us. We shall surely miss your sense of humour, kindness and humbleness. You died peacefully surrounded by all your family. We will love you forever," she wrote. Mifsud Bonnici graduated as a lawyer in 1954. May he rest in peace.



Celebration Concert | Magia di Operette

The MAGIA DI OPERETTE CONCERT is organized by the Societa' Filarmonica Nazionale La Valette AD 1874 to celebrate the 95th anniversary of the victory by the La Valette Symphony Band in the international bands competition held in Como, Italy

- **19 November 2022**
- **From 4:30 am to 7:00 am**
- **Catholic Institute, Triq San Publiju, Floriana, Malta**

Italian Operetta singers from Milan, Italy (tenor Andrea Bragiotto and soprano Barbara Fasol) will perform solos and duettos from popular operettas: The Merry Widow, The White Horse Inn, Scugnizza, La Duchessa del Bal Tabarin, Il Paese dei Campanelli, La Principessa della Czarda, Cin ci La', La Danza delle Libellule, Il Paese del Sorriso and La Madama di Tebe, while the La Valette Band conducted by Mro Dominic Darmanin will perform the overtures of the operettas The Merry Widow by Franz Lehar; Die Fledermaus by Johann Strauss II and Orpheus in the Underworld by Jacques Offenbach.

This Celebration Concert is under the distinguished patronage of His Excellency Dr George Vella, President of Malta. PRICING €15 Donation

REFLECTION by Charles Gauci – Bishop of Darwin

I was still feeling a bit tired one morning last week. There were quite a few things on my mind. I did not feel very energetic and felt a bit introspective.

I went outside to water some young trees in the area between the Presbytery and the Cathedral.

As I was watering, I looked around at the morning light around me. The foliage on the trees looked bright as did the various colours that reflected from them. As I focused on what was around me, I felt energy surging in me and I heard the echo of Saint Francis of Assisi's prayer:

'help me not to search to be loved but to love...in giving we receive...' My lethargy left

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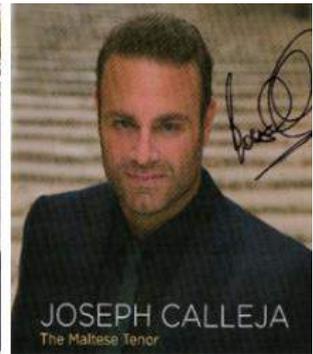


me, and I felt re-energised. We waste so much time focusing on ourselves instead of life-giving engagement! There is a healthy reflection and unhealthy introspection...

Living the Now remembering God's unconditional Love is so liberating

Darwin is the capital city of the Northern Territory, Australia. With an estimated population of 150,255 as of 2019, the city contains the majority of the residents of the sparsely populated Northern Territory. The Larrakia people are the Traditional Owners of the Darwin area and Aboriginal people make up a significant percentage of the population

WHEN JOSEPH MET JOSEPH IN ADELAIDE



The Concert of the amazing Maltese tenor Joseph Calleja was held at the Adelaide Town Hall in Adelaide, South Australia last Saturday night.

As we, Georgina, Judy and I, were walking down King William Street on our way to the theatre we were walking side by side with a man dressed in black together with his friend.

As he passed us, I said to the girls that gentleman must be Joseph Calleja from Malta., He

must have heard me because he turned to face us and said "that's who I am". He stopped. We had a short chat and told him of course that we are Maltese, and we were on our way to his concert. We asked him if we may have a photo taken with him which he gratefully accepted.

His warm smile melted the girls. Georgina met him later after the concert and he signed the program for her. There were many Maltese at the concert. It

was a great night and a very enjoyable concert!!!

One last thing - standing next to him I didn't realize how big and tall he is. Thank you, Joseph Calleja for making us proud to be Maltese. You are a wonderful gentleman and a great Maltese tenor.

Joe Chetcuti –
Adelaide.- South Australia

WENZU GABARETTA

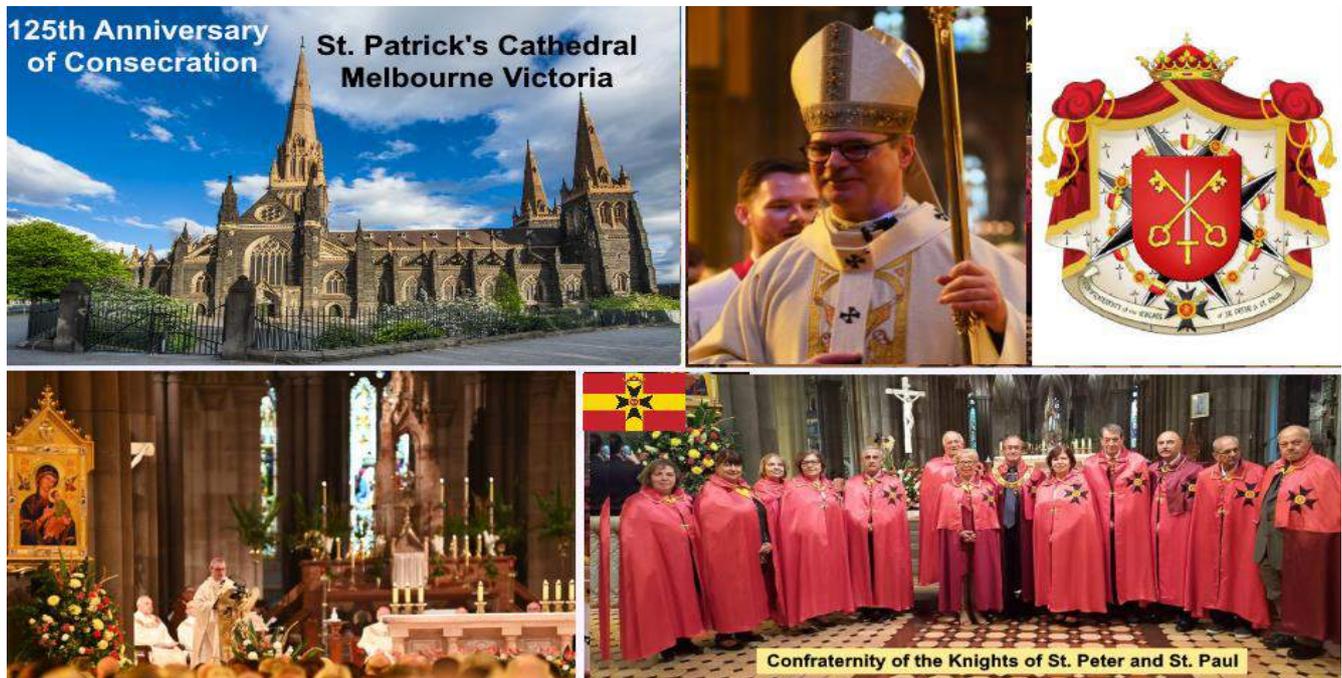
- One of the best goalkeepers

WENZU GABARETTA was born in Alexandria, Egypt in 1917 of Maltese Parents. Gabaretta originally played at centre forward, but he preferred to play in goal and on leaving school, he joined Melita FC of Alexandria as a goalkeeper. He was soon rated as the best goalkeeper in the city. In 1936 he felt the urge to return to his father's land and it was not long before his talents were recognised by the Tigers of Floriana. He was an instant success and at the end of the 1936-37 season, he was snapped up by St George's. Gabaretta's career really came into its own after the war when he established himself as the best goalkeeper on the island. His record speaks for itself and one would need a whole volume to describe all the exploits of this colourful personality. Yet, despite his great goalkeeping abilities, Gabaretta did not win many honours. This was

perhaps the only anti-climax of an otherwise illustrious career. In a career spanning over 15 seasons, he only won three major honours. An FA Trophy, a Cassar Cup and a Victory Cup medal are meagre rewards for such a great football personality. Apart from St George's Gabaretta played with Floriana Tigers, Floriana FC, Sliema Wanderers, Valletta FC and Rabat FC. Carmel Baldacchino.



St. Patrick's Cathedral - Melbourne, Victoria 125th Anniversary of its Consecration



THE CONFRATERNITY OF ST. PETER AND ST. PAUL

The bells of St Patrick's Cathedral rang in celebration through the streets of Melbourne on Thursday 27 October as the Archdiocese marked a momentous milestone: the 125th anniversary of the cathedral's consecration. On this day 125 years ago, in a solemn ritual lasting four hours, the cathedral was officially consecrated by Archbishop Thomas Carr, set aside for its sacred purpose of being the 'mother church' in Melbourne.

More than 1,200 people were in attendance for the anniversary Mass, including representatives of many different Catholic organisations, members of parliament, bishops, priests, religious and many of Melbourne's faithful. Members of the family of Mary Glowrey were also present for the occasion, her

great nieces Mary O'Shaughnessy and Louise McGrath.

Bathed in the soft yellow glow of the cathedral windows, this was a chance for the Catholics of Melbourne to joyfully give thanks for the cherished gift of St Patrick's Cathedral.

In a gesture of poignant symbolism, Archbishop Peter A Comensoli celebrated Mass bearing the crozier of Bishop James Alipius Goold, Melbourne's first bishop and arguably the man most responsible for the cathedral's existence. The pectoral cross he wore was that of Archbishop Thomas Carr, Melbourne's second archbishop, who oversaw the building's completion. The chalice, which was also used at the cathedral's consecration, was a gift from Pope Leo XIII.

The Confraternity of the Knights of St. Peter & St. Paul (Grand Chapter of Melbourne) was invited to participate in the joyful

and memorable event. Chev. Peter Paul Portelli, the Grandmaster, and a group of Knights and Dames of the Confraternity wearing their red robes with the Maltese Cross participated in the Holy Mass at the cathedral to celebrate the 125th anniversary of the consecration of our Cathedral.

The Confraternity would like to thank the Archbishop His Grace Peter Comensoli and the staff of the Archdiocese for inviting the confraternity to this joyous celebration.

The rain didn't dampen the faithful to travel to the city to be part of the celebration. Many priests concelebrated Mass together with the Archbishop to commemorate this special anniversary.

His Grace Archbishop Peter Comensoli is an Honorary Member of the Knights of St. Peter & St. Paul.

MAGGIE BAJADA: A GOZITAN PHOTOGRAPHER



Text: Gabriele Spiller

Reaching out to Maggie Bajada on her favourite things: Preparing trips and researching photo locations. "Next week, we are going to Morocco," she says. In Victoria, Gozo, she not only packs light clothes for the expected 25 degrees Celsius, but as always, her photo equipment has the most essential place in her luggage. "I keep on upgrading my equipment, buying new lenses."

To those who see her pictures, it's hard to believe that she's only been photographing for a few years and taught herself. "A friend of mine said, 'you have a good eye, you should start taking photos.' So I bought myself a small digital camera and began after my retirement." That was before the Australian relocated to Gozo in 2015. Although she was born in Melbourne, her Gozitan parents seem to have given her the Mediterranean gene. She simply fell in love with the island.

Of course, she can also realize her favourite photographic subject – landscape – particularly well there. "I want to capture the beauty of the scenery," she says. More than 70 of her best photos are gathered in the book "50 Reasons to Love Gozo." She has been featured in the Gozo Photography Association exhibitions at the Cittadella as well as in "The Essence of Gozo" presentation in Brussels, Belgium. A "Visit Gozo" booklet and various online media paid tribute to her photos.

"In November, my photo of the St. Margaret's Feast Fireworks is coming to the Blank Wall Gallery in Athens," she enthuses. Maggie pursues her continuing education via subscriptions on Youtube, always learning something new. Sometimes the mother and grandmother of two can't believe how far she has come artistically. Although she has now become the "family photographer," she still often searches Google for the

optimal location for a new place she wants to photograph. Then she considers the time for the best lighting conditions. "I plan well ahead," she says, "It keeps me busy during my retirement and I do lots of travelling."

You can follow Maggie on:

[instagram.com/mags11photography/](https://www.instagram.com/mags11photography/)

All photos are taken from "50 Reasons to Love Gozo", available via Amazon (Gabriele Spiller/Maggie Bajada).

Dinner Dance

ST. NICHOLAS FESTA COMMITTEE
PLUMPTON NSW

Come & Dance the Night away.

Live Entertainment
by: Charlie Muscat
& Joe Xuereb

3 Course Meal
Drinks purchased on the night.

Sat 19 Nov 2022 Doors open 7:00pm

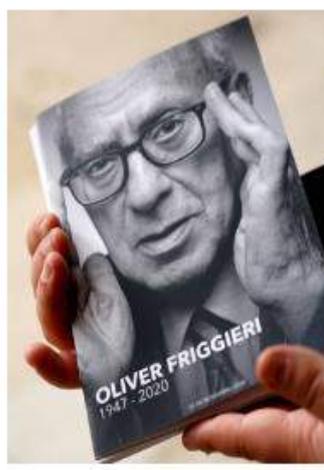
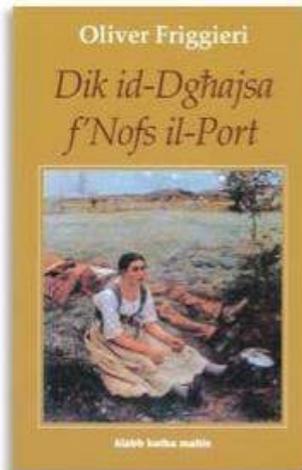
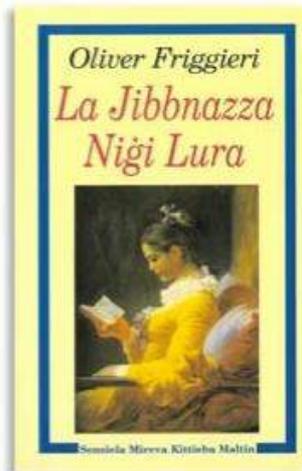
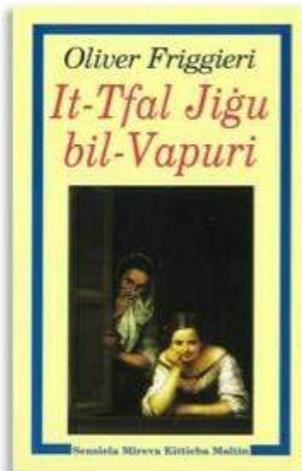
Good Shepherd Parish Hall
130-136 Hyatts Road, Plumpton NSW
(Plenty of Off Street Parking Available)

For more information please contact:
President: Emanuel Vella 0405 677 064
Public Relations Officer: Stella Vella 0414 188 226

Tickets: Adults \$45, Children Under 10: \$20
Kids Under 4 Free, No Door Sales
Tickets Non-refundable

Proudly Sponsored by: **CASTLE GROUP**

SETT TA' TLETT KOTBA TA' OLIVER FRIGGIERI



IT-TFAL JIĠU BIL-VAPURI

Dun Grejbel hu l-qassis ideali li l-qdusija tiegħu stess tkissru f'għajnejn il-bnedmin. Is-Sinjura, il-missier, u karattri oħrajn jiffurmaw epoka shiħa. Bi storja sempliċi r-rumanz jesplora sempliċi r-rumanz jesplora sitwazzjonijiet li ma jtbiddlux u m'għandhomx żmien. Oliver Friggieri hu l-awtur ta'għadd kbir ta' kotba li bosta minnhom deheru f'diversi pajjiżi barranin. Ir-rumanzi, in-novelli u l-poeziji tiegħu nqalbu f'diversi lingwi.

LA JIBBNAZZA NIĠI LURA

Rumanz li jkompli ma' It-Tfal Jigu bil-Vapuri. L-istorja sseħh f'ambjent rahli fil-bidu tas-seklu għoxrin: il-wied, il-kampanja, it-toroq, id-djar. Storja dwar Susanna, Arturu, is-Sinjura, Dun Grejbel, Katarina, Stiefnu, u oħrajn f'rahal zghir maqtugh għalih wahdu. Hemm ukoll il-hajja kulurita tal-port. Kollox idur madwar qassis twajjeb, maħbub u mwegga'.

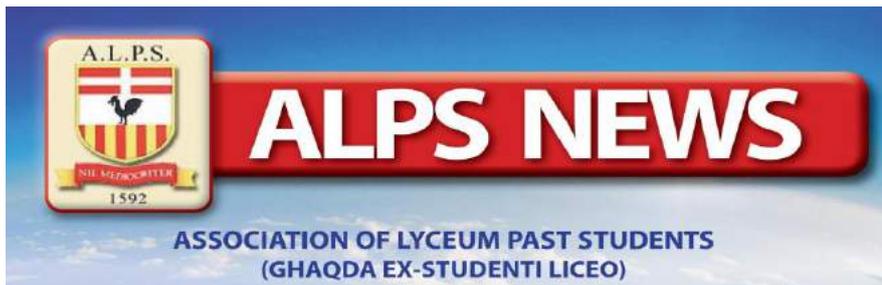
DIK ID-DGĦAJSA F'NOFS IL-PORT

Dik id-Dgħajsa f'Nofs il-Port hu rumanz li jkompli maż-żewġ rumanzi ta' qablu, It-Tfal Jigu bil-Vapuri u La Jibbnazza Niġi Lura. L-istorja sseħh f'rahal fil-bidu tas-seklu għoxrin: il-wied, il-kampanja, it-toroq, id-djar. Storja ta' nies vittmi tač-čirkustanzi: Susanna, Arturu, Dun Grejbel, Katarina, Stiefnu u oħrajn, fosthom Wistin li qiegħed ifittex il-passat tiegħu. Fl-ambjent tal-port tigrri wkoll parti kbira mir-rakkont. Kollox idur madwar Dun Grejbel, qassis twajjeb li jispičča biex ibati ħafna. Rumanz li permezz tal-passat jirakkonta sitwazzjonijiet ta' kull żmien.

Din il-ġrajja sseħh f'dinja raħlija fil-bidu tas-seklu għoxrin. Il-wied, il kampanja, it-toroq, id-dar, id-drawwiet: ambjent antik shiħ hu mfisser bir-reqqa. Susanna u Arturu huma vittmi tač-čirkustanzi.

Oliver Friggieri hu l-awtur ta' numru kbir ta' kotba, li aktar minn ħamsin minnhom ġew ippubblikati f'diversi pajjiżi barranin. Ir-rumanzi, in-novelli u l-poeziji tiegħu ġew maqlubin f'ħafna lingwi. Jikteb bil-Malti, bl-Ingliż u bit-Taljan. Kotba tiegħu oħra huma Fjuri li ma Jinxflux – Tifkiriet 1955-1990, Ġizimin li Qatt ma Jiftaħ. Oliver miet fil-21 ta' Novembru 2020

Nahseb li jekk ser nibqghu sejrin hekk il-lingwa Maltija tiehu daqqa ta' harta , u jekk m'għadx tispicča maz-zmien , (xi dnuv). Din il gimgha kont qed nara l-ahbarijiet, bdew jintervistaw lit-tfal. U dawn bdew iwiegħbu bl-Ingliż (X'harsa) .



Reporting after a successful ALPS reunion on

24th September 2022

The 24th September this year has seen quite a large number of ALPS members and friends getting together at The Jesuits church in Valletta for Holy Mass to mark a 28th Anniversary from foundation date of ALPS..

The Rev Dr. Nicholas Doublet celebrated mass to a large congregation who listened carefully to his well prepared sermon. The Rev. Mons. Lawrence Gatt was concelebrating with Fr. Nicholas and the church function lasted nearly one hour. Afterwards, our guests were treated to a nice party that was organised inside the Old Liceo Building (Universita l'Antika) Many favourable comments have been received from members and friends of the association telling us how wonderful it made them feel, after an absence of three years since we last organised for them a reunion in 2019.

Covid was the main culprit that has kept us waiting for this years' reunion. It should remind us, how happy we can feel when we are together, commemorating a big event that makes us proud to have been LICEO old boys. When the association President addressed the gathering, he truly emphasised on the continuity aspect and how important it is for ALPS to organise such events and making its members and friends to enjoy each other's company.

He went on to say that we are all getting on in age and the time is fast approaching for a younger generation of council members to be

elected for continuity. The ALPS members will be informed of names who will contest the next elections in February 2023. It is well expected from each member, to vote and to ensure that The Association of Lyceum Past Students shall continue on its successful course to a sound future for the benefit of us all. The present administrative council members promise to always remain available, to guide a newly formed council and to help with any problems that may surface from time to time.

Don't be afraid to change. Vote for the younger boys with more energy and vitality and who will continue to take the ALPS to greater success in the future. The success of every reunion depends on the satisfaction of our members and friends and this was not in the least lacking this year.

It has made the President and council members really happy to have managed to see big smiles again on your faces. Well done to those who have come to share this wonderful experience and to those who could not make it this time , we augur that they will do their very best to attend on a next occasion. Of course, one must not forget the members and friends who have wished to attend but sickness or old age precludes them from taking an active part. We shall never forget you and we do promise you our prayers to feel better.

PLANNED ACTIVITIES INCLUDING HOLY MASSES AT KAPPELLA PWALES IN THE COMING MONTHS

We continue to offer to our members and friends more events for the coming months:

- Cultural tour of Valletta with spot of light lunch on 26th November 2022.

- Holy Mass at Kappella Pwales on the 19th November 2022 time at 16.30hrs.

- ALPS Yuletide week-end 2nd to 4th December 2022 Golden Sands resort

- Thanksgiving Mass at Kappella Pwales on 13th December 2022 time at 11.00hrs.

- The ALPS Christmas dinner 3rd December in main ballroom at Radisson Resort

As mentioned in the President's message above, we are looking forward to large attendance at each one of the remaining events up to the month of December 2022.

Start pencilling your diaries and make sure that you come and join the ALPS in all the remaining events for this year.

NEWS FROM KAPPELLA PWALES

Much that the association was planning to organise the FESTA SANT'ANNA this year on the 9th day of July 2022 we again had to make a last-minute decision and cancel this event for this year.

Drinks and snacks were already prepared for this occasion, but Covid circumstances have made us change our plans and notify you, that the celebration was not taking place.

Many were those who were disappointed, but we simply could not take the risk of adding more Covid infections that were on the increase during the first days of July this year.

In the months of August and September the chapel was kept closed and our appointments at Pwales that have resumed on 22nd October. Next, on 19th November @ 16.30hrs, provided that the pandemic numbers remain under control with few or no infections. A thanksgiving mass is planned for Tuesday the 13th December 2022 at 11.00 am. Carols will be sung during mass in preparation for the Christmas festive season. Meanwhile our kind hearted chapel neighbours continue to look after and clean the place.

President;
George Stagno Navarra



One in four people residing in Malta in 2021 were born abroad

In 2021, one in every four persons residing in Malta was born in another country, according to Labour Force Survey module carried out during 2021 and partly financed through EU grants

by James Debono

In 2021, one in every four persons residing in Malta (25.7%) was born in another country, according to Labour Force Survey (LFS) module carried out during 2021 and partly financed through EU grants.

The LFS is a household-based survey and is used as a monitoring tool across the European Union for assessing progress made in various spheres of labour market and social statistics.

The survey shows that the share of females in Malta in 2021 who were born abroad stood at 51.0%, slightly higher than the share of males (49.0%).

The majority of migrants in Malta were aged between 25 and 54 years (78.1%). A further 7.2%

74 age cohort.

This is slightly different when compared to the persons born in Malta, where 51.9% were between 25 and 54 years, 14.2% were in the 15 to 24 age cohort while, the remaining 33.8% were between 55 and 74 years.

Over the past 10 years, the share of persons aged 15 to 74 years living in private households in Malta and who were born abroad increased significantly.

A difference of 20.1 percentage points was recorded from 2012 (5.6%) to 2021 (25.7%).

The largest increase was recorded in 2019 where the share of persons born abroad increased by 3.3 percentage points.

LFS results indicated that in 2021, the duration of stay for persons born abroad was on average 11 years.

The duration of stay was classified in two categories; recent migrants (residents for less than eight years) and settled migrants (resident for eight years or more).

Slightly more than 50% of persons born abroad were recent migrants, while 49.3% were settled migrants.

The duration of stay varied according to one's level of education. The larger share of persons born abroad with a secondary level of education or less were settled migrants (57.7%).

Meanwhile, 50.3% and 57.5% of persons with a post-secondary and with a tertiary level of education were recent migrants.

Results showed that the majority of migrants in Malta were born outside the EU as opposed to 36.2% of migrants who were born in the EU.

Almost 15% of migrants were born in Italy, followed by the United Kingdom (14.6%) and the Philippines (10.5%). A further 21.3% were born in another EU country while 38.7% were born in another country outside the EU.

This implied that the majority of immigration in Malta occurs from outside the EU (63.8%) as opposed to 36.2% of intra-EU migration.

Maltese authorities should never forget the many thousands of Maltese who left the islands' shores last centuries to seek work and better future for their families in other countries around the world. The exodus was so huge that in countries like Australia, Canada and America another Malta was established. The ultimate need to keep a close link with and lines of communication open between those that have left the islands and Malta is evident, whichever way you look. There is ample evidence that Maltese communities abroad kept the fire burning for all that is traditional. We salute and fondly remember those leaders of Maltese associations around the world, past and present, and from bottom of our hearts we say

'THANK YOU'.

The Malta Illuminated Trail is Back with a new Christmas Village at Verdala Palace



21/10/2022

Verdala Palace Gardens will once again be transformed with fantastic NEW glittering

structures, and now also introducing an all New Christmas Village.

The event will once again be held in aid of the Malta Community Chest Fund Foundation. A spectacular walkabout journey through the walkways of one of Malta's National Gem Palaces featuring hundreds of NEW larger-than-life lantern-illuminated sculptures, Light Installations, Projections and much more.

Spot glittering structures like Santa's Toy Shop, the North Pole, Sea Life, our cute Family of Pandas and much more! Walk through the enchanted forest, twinkling with thousands of fairy lights. The trail will also include some incredible showstoppers, amazingly illuminated paths, and irresistible selfie scenes around one of the Presidential Palace.

Once darkness sets in, the gardens will come to light and a controlled number of ticketed guests can then discover and enjoy the art of illumination and this magical festival of light in a safe and restricted manner "It is part of the Authority's commitment to assist and support the development and organisation of such events, which have the power to give added value to the experience of those who choose to visit Malta for their holidays, especially during the festive period, which makes this ideal also to boost the niche of family tourism, which keeps increasing in popularity, especially in this recovery period. Moreover, this also falls within our Corporate Social Responsibility endeavours, since this event is being once again organised in aid of the Malta Community Chest Fund Foundation, which provides assistance to all those in need throughout the year," Mr Carlo Micallef, CEO of the Malta Tourism Authority said.

"The Illuminated Trail is another opportunity for families and tourists to enjoy the Christmas period at one of Malta's picturesque locations. I am optimistic that this event will continue catapulting Malta's prospects as a diversified touristic destination throughout the year," outlined Minister for Tourism Clayton Bartolo

WE ARE BEAUTIFUL BLACK Rania Tajuri in Paola, Malta.

"A person's skin colour doesn't define him/her. Underneath that skin, is a soul, a heart, a personality. If we had to look beyond the physical appearance and look more carefully at the person underneath, we would be making a huge step forward.

About 28 years ago, when I was in primary school, I remember I felt very sad when I heard children saying: "We're not going to play with her because she's black." I used to go back home bitter and sad because the other children wouldn't play with me. Nowadays, I feel that the situation has improved significantly, in terms of how locals look at me equal than white-skinned folk."

and treat me. They're far more accepting.

Nowadays, my friends are happy when I'm around. Many still think that I'm a foreigner. Even when I'm working, as a nurse, some patients think that I'm a foreigner. Whenever I hear a racist comment from a patient who doesn't know that I've understood every single word, I try to reason with them. They're certainly shocked when I speak back in Maltese. Malta is starting



to embrace diversity. Do you know what my children say to me? "Mum, don't be sad because people say you're black. We are beautiful black." That's what their teacher taught them last year and they remembered it.

I believe that the younger generation are more accepting of people from different cultures. I think that the older generations are somewhat more sceptical. One has to bear in mind that we're no different or no less



ST. MARTIN
OF TOURS
11 November

IL-BORZA TA'
SAN MARTIN



On the Sunday nearest to November 11th, Maltese celebrate St. Martin.

Traditionally, for this feast children are given a string cloth bag filled with in season fruits and nuts

together with some sweets and a sweet bun; popularly known as 'il-Borża ta' San Martin' which translates to St. Martin's bag. Although in the past it was customary to give this to children by placing the bag on their bedside, unfortunately nowadays this practice has diminished abundantly. However, teachers are still keeping this tradition alive as most schools still provide this bag full of treats annually to the children.

What goes in the borża?

A guide to tell you what goes inside, is in the Maltese rhyme that children sing during this time: "Ġewz, Lewż, Qastan, Tin, Kemm inħobbu lil San Martin" – Walnut, Almonds, Chestnuts, Figs, How much I love St. Martin Therefore, the bag is filled with shelled walnuts, almonds, chestnuts, dried figs, in

season fruit such as; apples, oranges, tangerines and pomegranates, and lastly the sweet San Martin bun. Also, additional sweets can be included.

Hobża ta' San Martin

St. Martin's bun is a sweet soft bun spiced with aniseed which has a sugar glaze on the outside and a liquorice pastel placed on top in the middle. As soon as November hits, you'll see bakers and shops selling this sweet bun, so that people start preparing their borża or else to enjoy this little in season treat. Personally, this bun has always been my favourite part of the traditional borża ta' San Martin, and as a child I always begged my mother to get me more than one bun.

As I've been away from Malta for a while now, I haven't had this bun in ages. This year, encouraged by the idea of sharing its recipe with you in this blog, I decided to give this a go and actually do the bun myself. At first it wasn't an easy task, as the first hurdle I encountered was finding the liquorice pastels! Even though in Luxembourg they love their liquorice it was almost impossible to find these typical cylindrical shaped ones in the shops, but luckily online shopping exists! To achieve the soft light and airy bun, took me several tries but finally I managed to perfect it and can't be more proud of how these turned out!

Maltese Journal - Packed with the stuff you love

ĦBEJZA ta' San Martin (St Martin's Sweet Bun)

ĦBEJZA ta' San Martin is a sweet mildly spicy soft bun that makes the traditional bag (borża) of St. Martin complete.

Prep Time 20 mins Cook Time 15 mins Resting Time 1 hr 20 mins Total Time 1 hr 55 mins
Course: Dessert Cuisine: Maltese, Mediterranean Servings: 8

Author: apronandwhisk

INGREDIENTS

Bun

400 g bread flour

75 g butter *room temperature*

90 g sugar

250 ml milk *lukewarm*

1 sachet yeast *11g*

1 tsp whole aniseeds

1/2 tsp vanilla essence

Syrup and decoration

20 ml water

20 g sugar

sesame seeds

liquorice pastels

INSTRUCTIONS

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

In the meantime, mix the flour and the butter until you get a crumbly texture. Once ready add all the remaining ingredients together and knead the dough for about 15 minutes.

Cover the dough and let it rest for an hour in the warmest place in your kitchen until it doubles in size.

Line a baking tray with parchment paper. Set aside.

Once the dough is ready, punch it down and knead for a couple of minutes. Divide the dough into 8 equal parts and form into balls.

Place the buns on the tray keeping a good amount of space between each one. Cover and let rise for another 20 minutes.

Preheat the oven to 200°C or 390°F. Make the syrup by mixing together the water and sugar.

Before placing the buns into the oven, brush them with the syrup and sprinkle the sesame seeds on top.

Bake in the oven for about 15 minutes, until the bun have a nice golden brown colour.

As soon as you take them out of the oven, place a liquorice pastel in the middle of the bun. Let the buns rest and enjoy!

NOTES

Ideally, the buns are to be served on the same day or the day after as they dry out easily.

You can also cook them in an air fryer: 170°C or 340°F for 8 minutes. Don't forget to include these buns in your St Martin's bag of treats



Nicknames in Malta

What's in a name? In the villages of Malta and the sister island of Gozo, each family has its own nickname. Individual persons may also have separate nicknames. The Maltese word for nickname is "laqam" (from "tlaqqam" meaning "to graft"). Indeed, a nickname is grafted to the identity of a person, family or group and serves as a social label. Surnames are mainly used for official reasons. The Maltese proverb "Skond ghamilek laqmek" (your nickname reflects your behaviour) underlines the personal and social implications of the endemic use of nicknames.

In general nicknames are rather innocuous. When they refer to some weakness they are usually good-humoured. A few can be rude if not crude.

Most nicknames are preceded by the preposition

"tan-Nittien" (lecher); No wonder some Maltese become paranoid about their nicknames. And there is no way one can get rid of one's nickname. Everybody is stuck with their nickname(s) through thick and thin.

Many nicknames derive from names of animals. These nicknames provide insight in the psycho-social dimensions of language. A quarter million Maltese coexist closely with limited animal resources. Maltese prize their animals but some islanders are notorious for trapping or shooting migratory birds.

Here are a few examples of nicknames derived from animals: "ta' Gelluxa" (young bull); "tal-flieles" (chickens); "il-Kavall" (mackerel); "ta' Hanfusa" (beetle); "tas-Summienna" (quail). A priest who was nicknamed "il-Gurdien" (rat) is philosophical if not downright theological about his sobriquet! He says he endures it as a purgatorial penance.

The most prevalent nicknames are those referring to occupations, e.g. "tas- Surmast" (school principal), "tas-Saqqafi" (roofer), "tal-Melh" (salt vendor), "tar-Rizzi" (hawker of sea-urchins), "tas-Siggijiet" (man in charge of chairs in churches).

Entire towns and villages are given nicknames. These nicknames originated when villages and towns were isolated from each other. This separation led to parochialism verging on hostility. "Tar-Redus" (manure) stigmatizes the town of Tarxien. This nickname triggered a violent disturbance some years back. On the feast-day of the patron saint in the neighbouring town of Paola, the local Band Club played a tune mimicking bleating of goats. The locals baa'ed along with the march; which was just too much for Tarxienians. Violence erupted and police had to intervene.

Some village nicknames owe their origins to legends. Zeitun has a peculiar nickname. Zeituners are known "ta' saqajhom catta" (flat-footed). According to legend, the inhabitants of Zeitun were the only Maltese who rejected the religion preached by Saint Paul after his shipwreck on the island. They stamped their feet in protest to Paul's proselytizing. The man from Tarsus wasn't amused by this "barbarian" (not just in the biblical sense:-) behaviour and laid a curse on the villagers and their descendants. Do you know your family's nickname????

Even the suburbs have a nickname in Malta

IL-LAQMIJET TAL-PAJJIŻI

L-Isla tar-rixa
 Il-Birgu tat-toqba
 L-Imsida tal-ħama
 Ħaż-Żabbar tat-tut
 Tas-Sliema tal-pepè
 Ħal Tarxien tar-redus
 Il-Furjana tal-qagħqa
 Il-Ħamrun tas-sikkina
 Ħal Qormi sa nofsinhar
 Raħal Ġdid tal-midjunin
 Iż-Żejtun ta' saqajhom catta
 u Birkirkara tal-patata catta

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"ta" (of). One is referred to by first name followed by family nickname. Thus: Toni tal-Ggant (giant), Marija ta' l-Ghoqdija (knotty). A person may be specifically referred to by the definite article plus the nickname. Thus: il-Hotbi (the hunchback), il-Qanfud (the hedgehog).

Nicknames that describe a personality trait are the most expressive. Typical examples: "ta' Tontu" (stupid); "ta' Xewwiex" (troublemaker); "tal-Pupa" (doll); "tal-Patann" (chubby); "ta'l-lzdingat" (sloppy);

A world-class pianist with a spirit to match



© Tanja Draškić Savić

Charlene Farrugia is one of the most prominent performers of the younger generation. Her extensive performances took off after her debut with the National Orchestra of Malta at the age of 13. She was the youngest soloist to ever perform with the National Orchestra of Malta, and her performance, which was received by a standing ovation, is still very well remembered by critics and audience alike up to this day. Since then, she has been a regular soloist with the orchestra, being asked to open the Malta Philharmonic Orchestra season on several occasions. Her solo appearances with the Orchestra include Mendelssohn's 1st Piano Concerto, Poulenc's Concerto for 2 pianos, Grieg's Piano Concerto, the Bicentenary Celebration of Chopin's birth in 2010 performing Chopin's 2nd Piano Concerto, Rachmaninov's 4th Piano Concerto, Ravel's *Concerto pour la main gauche*... Her debut CD, recorded for NAXOS, features the 1st Piano Concerto by Maltese Prince Richard, Duke of Gloucester; national composer Charles Camilleri, played alongside the Malta Philharmonic Orchestra. Charlene is the first prize winner of 10 national and international piano competitions. She has been invited to perform solo recitals, namely in France, Ireland, Malta, Croatia, Hungary, Slovenia, Holland, Belgium, Philadelphia, Virginia, Italy, Portugal, Monaco, Romania, U.K... She has also appeared as soloist with Blackheath Halls Orchestra (London), Rotterdam Ensemble (Netherlands), WinterGreen Orchestra (Virginia, USA), Kaliningrad Philharmonic Orchestra (Russia), Arad Philharmonic Orchestra (Romania), Camerata Austriaca (Austria), Malta Philharmonic Orchestra (Malta)... She has premiered several works for solo piano and chamber music. Amongst others, one can mention the premiere of Karl Fierini's *Trois Piece pour Piano et Orchestre* with the Rotterdam Ensemble, the UK premiere of *Fur Balant Andras Varga*, by renowned Austrian composer Johannes Maria Staud and Bashkim Shehu's *Allegro Barbaro* with Kaliningrad Philharmonic Orchestra. On many occasions, she has been invited to conduct masterclasses and sit as a jury member in piano competitions in Europe. Charlene's performances have led her to several European and US tours. At the age of 14, she toured Philadelphia USA, and gave several recitals to great public acclaim. Her second USA tour in Virginia included two performances of Chopin's 2nd Piano Concerto which were both received by standing ovations. Other notable performances include piano recitals for several Heads of State on their official visit to Malta, including a piano recital at Château St. Anne in Brussels; The Story Of London series organized by the Mayor of London Boris Johnson, and many others. After finishing her musical education in Malta with Ms Amodio Chircop, Charlene was a top honours graduate from the University of Malta. She then continued her studies at the Royal Academy of Music in London, graduating with an MA in Piano Performance from the class of Diana Ketler, together with a Licentiate of the Royal Academy of Music (LRAM). She has recently been awarded a Doctorate in Piano Performance from the class of Kenneth Hamilton (University of Cardiff). Charlene currently teaches a Degree Plus piano course at the University of Malta. She has also been listed as one of the world's great women pianists and is also an EMMA for peace artist. Her mentor is Boris Petrushansky. Charlene lives with her young family in Croatia, her husband Franko Bozac's home country, and where she has been awarded a full-time post as piano professor at the Academy of Music in Pula. Franco, is also a very talented musician who is an Accordion Professor at the Pula University, who conducts master classes and seminars in Croatia and neighbouring countries, and was awarded a medal for his outstanding musical achievements in Croatia. Asked how it felt getting the Award for the Best International Achievement, she emotionally responded that it made her finally feel appreciated in her own country. She is currently on the teaching faculty at the Music Academy, Juraj Dobrila University of Pula, Croatia.



MALTESE IN MICHIGAN - USA

Joseph M. Lubig

THE MALTESE AS EARLY PATRIOTS IN AMERICA

Given the strategic location of Malta in the Mediterranean and the fact that it was tiny and overcrowded, it was natural that Maltese went with the Knights

of Malta and other nations to find a new life and opportunity in the Americas. The first governor of New France, Chevalier de Montmagny (1636–1648) was a Knight of Malta and brought associate knights with him. It was at this time that a small Maltese population began to reside in Quebec. Under Montmagny, the Knights provided financial assistance to the first Jesuit missions to the Native Americans.

Between 1651 and 1665 the...

COMING TO AMERICA PRIOR TO WORLD WAR II

Perhaps the social restrictions placed on males due to the dense population of the country combined with the desire for better paying or more consistent work led to the start of the waves of emigration. The first movement out of the country began in 1883, when seventy workers emigrated from Malta to Queensland, Australia. Political complications put this plan and additional ideas of mass emigration to Australia on hold. At the turn of the nineteenth century Maltese migrants were looking at North Africa, with a few making the journey to Australia and the United States, specifically to New Orleans.

WORLD WAR II AND IMMIGRATION The Maltese did not come to the America because of political or religious persecution, disease, or famine. The Maltese came to the United States to capture a better life for themselves and for their children. Emigration has been a release valve for the Maltese government, as evidenced

by the incentives offered to potential migrants. One of the incentives offered after World War II was the “assisted passage grant,” allowing government-sponsored passage for Maltese to emigrate to Canada, England, Australia, and the United States for a fee of \$25 (in U.S. money), with the Maltese government paying the rest of the expense.

ONE FAMILY'S JOURNEY Through written histories and personal interviews with the seven Zampa children we can see that the path from Malta to America did not always go according to plan. The plans for their journey would be completed in two phases with Michael, the father, traveling to Detroit first with daughters Rosemarie and Yvonne. Stella would stay in Malta with Victor, Henry, Margaret, Marion, and Irene. Michael Zampa was able to book a flight for him, Yvonne, and Rosemarie aboard a plane to Tunis. The three left on October 6, 1946, aboard a small plane with twelve other passengers.

CONNECTIONS TO THE CHURCH The Maltese are clearly affiliated with one religious group. It is easy to understand from their history that 98 percent of Maltese adhere to the Roman Catholic faith. The Maltese who came to America and to Michigan kept their allegiance to the Roman Catholic Church. The Catholic church of the first Maltese in Detroit was staffed by Maltese priests. Father Attard tells of the early Maltese church in Detroit:

A prominent Maltese within the community in Detroit since 1920 was the Rev. Michael Borg who had arrived in that city to work among the Maltese in December 1920. The Maltese...

THE STRUGGLE TO BECOME "AMERICAN"

Maltese priests, acting through the National Welfare Conference, advocated for Congress to relax the 1921 and 1924 laws limiting immigration. The strong Maltese connection to the Roman Catholic Church made the Maltese attentive to the pleas of other Catholics when they encouraged the Maltese to assimilate. Americanization committees

worked diligently to teach immigrants to appreciate and understand democracy.

The industrial city of Detroit had the largest Maltese colony, which by 1924 probably counted some 5,000 members. Most of the men worked in the car industry. The Americanization Committee of Detroit established a Maltese Information Bureau, which printed a circular letter...

KEEPING THE MALTESE IDENTITY One way for an ethnic group to establish itself in a community was through the media. The need for immigrants to know they were in a familiar setting could help them carry the customs, folklore, language, and customs of their home country to their new world. The Maltese in Detroit established this link between their old and new identities through media and social events that helped reinforce their identity.

The first attempt at a weekly paper for the Maltese in Detroit had its roots at the Maltese American Printing Company. This is the same company that was collecting donations for...

THE MEASURE OF SUCCESS During the first wave of immigration in the 1920s some Maltese opened up their own eateries. One place at 972 Michigan Avenue was called the So Different Restaurant, boasting that it was "The best place to eat." Other eateries followed, such as the Melita Bakery at 2511 Fifth Street, which achieved popularity because it could offer breads baked in the traditional Maltese style. Father Attard writes of several other local Maltese businesses during this period. Grech and Brincat operated the General Grocers on Howard Street; John Vella ran the School of Dancing at 1355 Howard Street; and Anthony DeGuara,

Two Maltese women talking. Malta (1950s). The ghonnella, sometimes referred to as a Faldetta, is a form of women's head dress and shawl, or hooded cloak, unique to the Mediterranean islands of Malta and Gozo. From a practical perspective, this broad bonnet captured much needed cooling breezes during the hot Maltese summer. On cooler days, the wearer could wrap the ghonnella around her face more tightly, by making a slight adjustment. The lower part of the ghonnella could be worn loosely draped around the wearer's bodice and hips, or more tightly wrapped in the case of inclement weather.



La Valette Social Centre Blacktown NSW

LA VALETTE

SUNDAY 18 DECEMBER

MUSIC ENTERTAINMENT, WORKSHOPS AND MORE!!

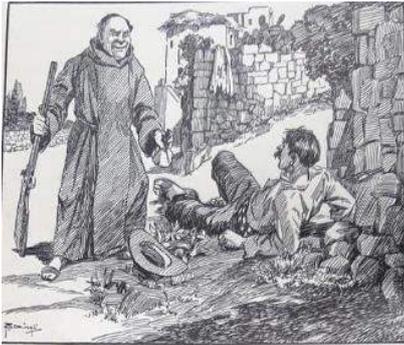
MORE INFO COMING SOON!

SUPPORTED BY NSW Multicultural NSW

We thank all our correspondents from Malta, Gozo, USA, Canada and Australia

If you have a story to tell share it with others

Send it to us Record it in HISTORY



ELB RIEQED LATQAJMUX

Fra Ċelest kullhadd kien jafu
Qsajjar, godli u mibrum
Wiċċu ħelu, dirghajh mazza
Qatt ma tarah bil-geddum.

Qalbu kellu akbar minnu
Dejjem lest biex jgħin ikun,
Issa bidwi żammlu ż-żiemel
Jew burdnar għabbieh
kantun.

Meta jilqa' kien il-ħorġa
Ħalli jgħbor għall-kunvent
Kien jixtieq li jagħti lura,
Dan kien jagħmlu wisq
kuntent.

Minn x'hin jisbaħ sa ma
jidlam
Johroġ jgħbor, sħana w'frisk
Fra Ċelest jgħidilhom,
"Grazzi,
U jkattrikom San Frangisk!"

Minn ċkunitu tifel biezel
Daqq l-inkwina kien f'idejh
Jew irewwaħ fuq il-forġa,
Għal missieru kien spallejh.

Kif mix-xogħol hu kien ilesti
Ħasla w'girja għall-kunvent
Hawnhekk kienet l-għaxxa
tiegħu
Wisq għall-qalbu dan l-
ambjent.

Meta x-xiħ mar għand Min
ħalqu
Ċelest żarma minn ħaddied

Daħal Fra, libes iċ-ċoqqa
Għamel dak li xtaq u ried.

Fra Ċelest kien wisq
ħabrieġi
Jigbor għall-kunvent w'għal
fqar
U fil-qrib waslet il-festa
U l-ħorġa imtliet sax-xfar.

Dakinhar biex jasal kmieni
Qabad trejqa bejd min-nies
Imma l-għadu jdeffes denbu
W'kien diehel f'inkwiet bla
qies.

Kif kiser għal dik it-trejqa
L-'Għażli' feġġ u kien armat
Dan Ġuże xejn ma kien
sewwa
Bniedem ħajjen u ndannat.

Kif Ġuże wasal maġenbu
B'dik il-ħarsa ta' serpent
Il-Fra qabad ħa jsellimlu
Biex fis jasal il-kunvent.

"Żomm, żomm hemm, fejn
ħsibt li sejjer
Illum lagħbt u tlifthom
kollha
Ġib il-ħorġa ħa tnewwilli
U din l-għoqda 'l għandi
nħolla!"

Din il-qagħda li giet fuqu
Mhux bis-saħħa isolviha
Għaliex l-'Għażli' kellu arma
Trid taħseb xi ħaġa għaqlija.

"Serraħ moħħok, Ġuże ħija
Dan li għart għal fqar imur
Għalhekk inti għandek
sehmek
Dan mhux xi diżunur."

Kif Ġuże ra dik il-kemxa
Ħatafielu w'ħadha għalih
Kien pront tefagħha fi
ħżiemu,
U Ċelest qal minnufiħ....

"Imma għandi dil-problema
Għax jien b'saħħti qisni sur
Ħadd ma jemmen jekk
ngħidilhom
Li serquni wara l-bur."

"Ngħidlek x'nagħmlu, hawn
il-ħorġa
Jien nifrixha fuq il-ħajt
Inti battal l-ixkubetta,
Spara fuqha, mhux biċ-ċajt!"

Ġuże ftakar f'dik il-kemxa
Li akkwista bl-inqas ħsieb,
Wiċċ il-Fra ħaseb li jigbor
Mal-Gwardjan u mal-irħieb.

Fra Ċelest firex il-ħorġa
U rringrazzja lil Mulej
L-'Għażli' tafa' ċ-ċipp ma'
wiċċu
W'fuqha ġibed bil-werrej.

Id-duħħan ma laħaqx telaq
Li Ċelest bħal-riefnu tar
Xeħet lil Ġuże min tulu,
Faqqat rasu, w'ra iċ-ċpar.

Ċelest ġabar il-flus lura
W'l-ixkubetta għall-kunvent
Kien pront geżwira fil-ħorġa
Għal Ġuże kien falliment.

Fra Ċelest taħ ħarsa mqita
Għax għal ftit ma marx
għall-frisk,
"Ejja hemm, għal l-ixkubetta
U għid talba 'l San
Frangisk!"

Lill-Ġuże ħadd ma rah iżjed
F'dak ir-raħal u l-ħariet,
L-ixkubetta l-kunvent
baqgħet
Għall-Ċelest it-tifkiriet.

Lino Gatt 29.03.2020.

**IF YOU HAVE A POEM,
ARTICLE OR A NOSTALGIC
STORY SEND IT TO US**

FRED LANGAN

ACE SPITFIRE PILOT IAN MACLENNAN**DEFENDED A BESIEGED MALTA**

Ian MacLennan is shown after he spent more than three months in Malta in 1942. The stripes on his epaulet show he has been promoted to Flight Lieutenant.

Ian MacLennan was one of the last – if not the last – of the aces who defended the island of Malta in the Siege of 1940 to 1943. He was an RCAF Spitfire pilot on loan to the Royal Air Force, the only defence against the German and Italian forces trying to overwhelm the tiny Mediterranean island from the air and sea.

Malta was key to the German and Italian occupation of North Africa. Without it, the RAF could attack convoys on their way to reinforce the German forces under the command of General Erwin Rommel, the Desert Fox.

Mr. MacLennan, who died Nov. 6 in White Rock, B.C., at 94, arrived on Malta as a Flight Sergeant on July 15, 1942. There was only one way to get there – by plane. He flew his Spitfire off the deck of the British aircraft carrier the Eagle off the coast of Algeria, using a strong wind to lift off.

"The Royal Navy had provided the Spitfire pilots with one lecture on how to take off and no information on how to land. The pilots en route to Malta were forbidden to attempt a landing back on the Eagle if their engine faltered," Wayne Ralph wrote in his book *Aces, Warriors & Wingmen*. HMS Eagle was sunk by a German U-boat the next month.

Flight Sergeant MacLennan and other Canadians, including George Beurling, the top Canadian ace of the Second World War, helped defend Malta against flight after flight of German and Italian fighters and bombers. An ace is a pilot who has shot down five aircraft; Mr. MacLennan's score was seven, with a spectacular day as recorded in the notice that went with his Distinguished Flying Medal.

"One day in October 1942, this airman destroyed two of a force of thirty Junkers 88s which attempted to attack Malta. The next day he destroyed a Messerschmitt 109. Flight Sergeant MacLennan has displayed great courage and tenacity. He has destroyed four and damaged several more enemy aircraft."

He said the defenders had many things going for them, including a code from the ground controllers to tell them where enemy aircraft were. It also helped that the enemy had the sun in their eyes.

"Our big advantage was that we had the sun behind us," Mr. MacLennan told an interviewer late in his life. His childhood in Saskatchewan had prepared him to shoot fast-moving objects in the air. "I'd shot at ducks when I was a boy. I knew about deflection."

The island of Malta had little food as few ships got through. Many on the island starved to death, and the airmen lost a lot of weight. Tours of duty in Malta were short because of the danger of malnutrition and related diseases. In a photograph of Mr. MacLennan on Malta in late 1942, his clothes are hanging from him and his hat seems too big.

After the British victory at El Alamein in November, 1942, the pressure was off Malta. Soon afterward, Flight Lieutenant MacLennan – he had been promoted – went on home leave to Canada. He was back in England by early 1943. Flying over the beaches on D-Day plus one, June 7, 1944, his Spitfire was hit and he crash-landed. He was captured and taken to Stalag Luft III prison camp near Berlin.

STORY CONTINUES BELOW ADVERTISEMENT

At the camp, he suffered from asthma, and when the war was almost over, he was lucky enough to be moved west by train instead of a cold march in January. Eventually, he escaped and hitchhiked to Paris. He arrived back in London on May 8, 1945, the day the war ended.

Mr. MacLennan was not one to romanticize the war or his part in it. Until the end of his life, he could be melancholy remembering the death of his brother, Bruce, in a daylight raid on Berlin in March, 1945. He blamed the recklessness of Arthur (Bomber) Harris, the head of RAF Bomber Command, who he felt should never have sent the Lancaster bombers on daylight raids, since they were armed with low calibre guns and were vulnerable to the new German jet, the Me 262, the type of aircraft that shot down his brother's bomber.



After the war, Mr. Maclennan went straight into civilian life, studying architecture at the University of Toronto. None of his fellow students knew he was a war hero, although many were also veterans.

"He and I attended the University of Toronto School of Architecture and graduated together in 1950," Ian Rutherford, himself a navigator in the RCAF, wrote in a letter in May, 2005. "During our time at the U of T, his exploits were completely unknown to me and most of our class although his leadership qualities were quite evident."

At the U of T, Mr. Maclennan was influenced by the dean of architecture, Eric Arthur, and shared his ideals of building affordable housing. First though, he worked for an international architectural firm in New York and then in Caracas. He returned to Canada, and in 1956 became the chief architect of the Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation.

"Our goal was to encourage things such as housing design," said Andrew Hazeland, who is 105 years old, and worked closely with Mr. Maclennan. "Ian was a man of great energy and with dynamic qualities." Moshe Safdie, the architect of Habitat 67 in Montreal, built for Expo 67, praised the work Mr. Maclennan did for the project.

"Ian Maclennan is one of those men who make Canada tick. Without him, there never would have been a Habitat. He charges into meetings with the fervour of a college debating champion. He is aggressive, frank, and unlike many civil servants, very outspoken," Mr. Safdie wrote.

Maclennan, the last 'ace' to defend Malta in WWII, died in White Rock, British Columbia at 94 on 6 November, 2013



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With Commodore Greg Yorke, AM, CSC, RAN

Senior Naval Officer Victoria

On Wednesday 23 November - 6pm to 9pm

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Commodore Yorke joined the Royal Australian Navy from Sydney in January 1974, and is a Principal Warfare Officer, specialising as a Gunnery Officer.

His many sea postings are highlighted by an exchange posting with the Royal Navy serving as Principal Warfare Officer, HMS Liverpool (Type 42 Destroyer), in the mid-1980s and two Command appointments, Commanding Officer, HMAS Gladstone (Fremantle Class Patrol Boat), 1990 to 1992; and, as the commissioning Commanding Officer, HMAS Arunta (ANZAC Frigate), from 1998 until 2000. As a Captain, Commodore Yorke served as the Chief Staff Officer (Operations), Maritime Headquarters, where he was awarded the Conspicuous Service Cross for his leadership during Operation Falconer (the War in Iraq), 2003. Commodore Yorke enjoyed a second career as a Management Consultant before being promoted to Commodore in June 2016. On 1st January 2018, he was appointed as the Senior Naval Officer Victoria, a position he retains today.

Commodore Yorke was appointed as a Member of the Order of Australia in the 2022 Queen's Birthday Honours. In a non-Navy role, early in 2022, Greg was appointed, as the Chair, Victorian Veterans Council, a State Government appointment advising on veteran matters.

Members: \$50 per person or \$90 for two (plus Eventbrite fees)

Non-Members: \$60 per person or \$110 for two (plus Eventbrite fees)

(Includes: Canapes and first drink)RSVP: By Friday 18 November. Any questions, please contact Erin Muscat at eventschair@gmail.com or 0



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METSOLA MEETS MELONI

European Parliament President Roberta Metsola welcomed Italy's new prime minister Giorgia Meloni to the European Parliament in Brussels. Meloni was elected as Italy's prime minister in the last weeks, after claiming victory in the latest general election. "Today in Brussels, I welcomed Italy's new Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni to the European Parliament for her first visit to an EU institution," Metsola wrote on social media. Italy has always had a central role in the EU. More than ever - with the Russian invasion of Ukraine, skyrocketing energy prices and rising inflation - we need to stick together. We are stronger if we are together



CATS OF MALTA is a family-friendly PBS documentary giving a voice to the island's stray cats and cat-culture, through candid interviews with charismatic local feeders, artists, and volunteers.

Yes, it's a cat movie, but one about the power of community and the strength found from the human-cat connection. After screening at festivals in Australia and the US, Nexus Production Group are thrilled to be hosting this first ever virtual screening of the PBS film 'Cats of Malta' for its fans (and future fans).

Your ticket gives you access to stream the film anytime between November 2nd 2022 to November 9th 2022. From each ticket sold NPG will donate \$2USD to Maltese Cat Sanctuary Animal Guardians Cat Cafe to cover food, housing, neutering and medical costs for the NGO's 300 cats. BUY HERE: <https://watch.showandtell.film/watch/catsofmalta>



Performance of Ms Nadine Axisa and her band at the 2022 edition of the Cairo Jazz Festival

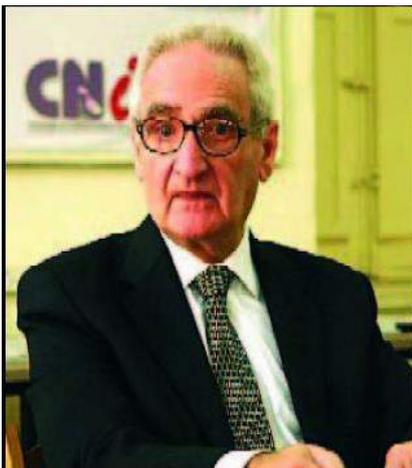
Reference Number: , Press Release Issue Date: Oct 28, 2022

Today, H.E. Mr Roberto Pace, Ambassador, was present for the performance of Ms Nadine Axisa, who became the first Maltese artist to perform at the

Cairo Jazz Festival. Ms Axisa and her band played several tracks from her albums, *Velvet* and *Il-Foss tal-Għabex*. Ms Axisa was supported by Mr Joe Debono (keyboards, piano, bass, and synth), Mr Oliver Degabriele (double bass and guitars) and Mr Manuel Pulis (drums). Ambassador Pace also hosted a lunch for the performers, their loved

ones who were present for the gig as well as Maltese resident in Egypt who are friends with and supporters of the band.

Ambassador Pace was accompanied by Ms Lina Al Nafouri, Deputy Head of Mission and Consul and their respective spouses, Ms Bojana Dimitrovska and Mr Mohamad Mamoun Al Nafouri.



André Rieu's Malta visit Postponed

World-Renowned Violinist André Rieu Postpones Malta Visit Out Of Respect For Karmenu Mifsud Bonnici National Mourning

World-renowned Dutch violinist André Rieu has postponed his upcoming [visit](#) to Malta as a sign of respect for the two-day period of national mourning for late Prime Minister Karmenu Mifsud Bonnici.

Rieu was originally scheduled to visit

Valletta and Floriana's Fosos on Monday to meet with locals and announce his upcoming shows in Malta for 2023. However, his visit has now been postponed to Tuesday 15th November.

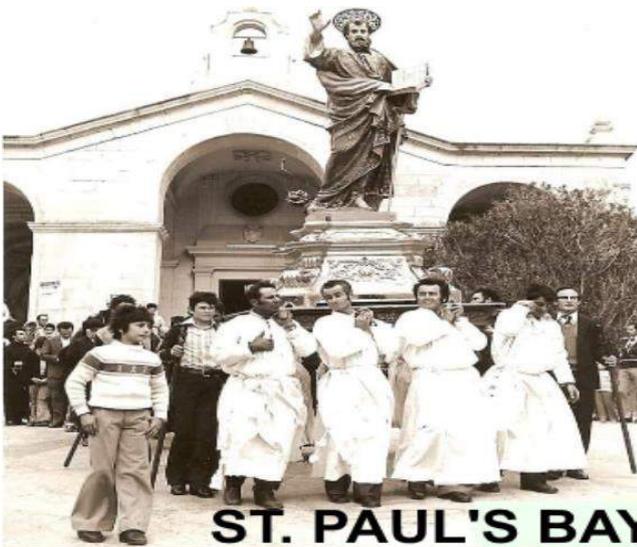
Malta is currently observing two days of national mourning for Mifsud Bonnici, who served as Prime Minister between 1984 and 1987 and who died yesterday aged 89. Flags on all public buildings are being flown at half-mast as a sign of respect.

Mifsud Bonnici was a gentleman who strongly advocated for workers' rights during his time in politics, trade unionism and his legal work.

Rieu will be coming to Malta specifically to meet with locals at around 3pm in Valletta, and he will also be announcing his upcoming shows in Malta for 2023.

He's set to visit parts of Valletta as well as Floriana's Fosos, where he will be playing next year together with 60 musicians from the Johann Strauss Orchestra.

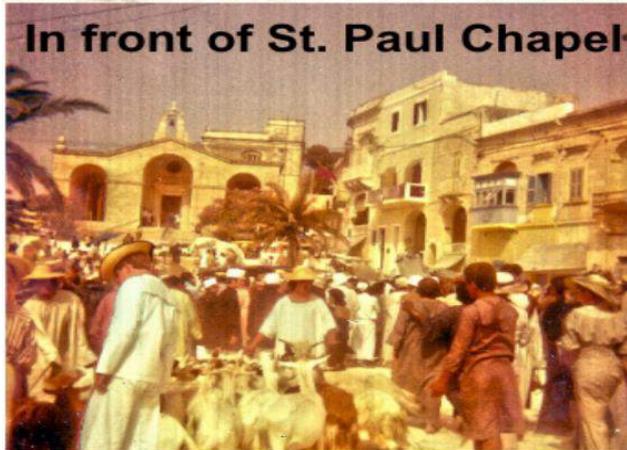
Rieu has sold over 40 million records of his music, with the largest audience he's ever performed to estimated to be around 38,000 people.



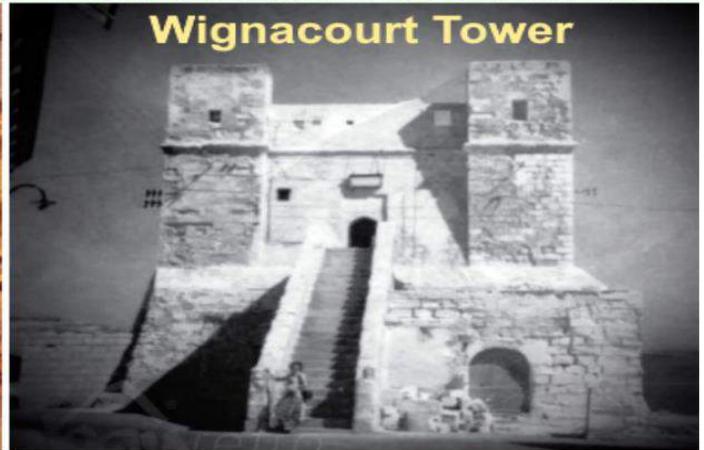
ST. PAUL'S BAY- SAN PAWL IL-BAHAR



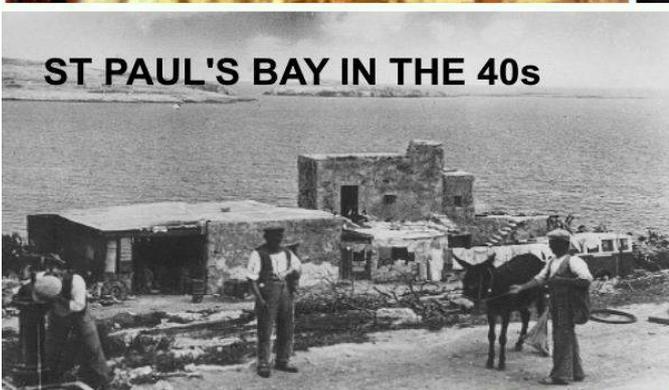
Villa Chappel



In front of St. Paul Chapel



Wignacourt Tower



ST PAUL'S BAY IN THE 40s



**SAN PAWL IL-BAħAR U ĠRAJJJIEU
BHALL-LLUM FL-ISTORJA**

***1 ta' Novembru 1961**

Il-kuġini Bertu u Tumas Gauci ta' 11 u 14 il-sena rispettivament, tilfu hajjithom meta' rifsu fuq *butterfly bomb* li thalliet mit-Tieni Gwerra Dinjija. Dan l-incident tragiku seħh hdejn it-Torri l-Abjad fil-Mellieħa meta kienu waqt passiggata ma' tal-MUSEUM. Fl-incident weġghu xi tfal oħra minn San Pawl il-Baħar.



Bertu (11) and Tumas (14)Gauci lost their lives when they stepped on a butterfly bomb a relic of World War 2. This incident happened near the White Tower at Mellieħa when they were on a walk with other members of the MUSEUM. Several other children from St. Paul's Bay were injured as well