



MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER
THE JOURNAL OF ALL MALTESE LIVING ABROAD
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**PRESIDENT OF MALTA
ABORIGINAL WELCOME TO AUSTRALIA**

**The President of the Maltese Living Abroad
WITH THE RSL AT GRINGILA NSW**





EU rights of Maltese living abroad

Can Maltese citizens residing overseas travel and reside permanently in EU countries? Is a Maltese citizen who is

not living in Malta entitled to a health card when travelling to a EU country?

According to the **Maltese nationality law**, all Maltese nationals are EU citizens and have automatic and permanent permission to live and work in any EU or European Free Trade Association (EFTA) country. They may also vote in elections to the European Parliament ¹.

This means that Maltese citizens residing abroad, such as in Australia, Canada, USA and UK are considered EU citizens and can benefit from the rights that derive from EU citizenship. They are entitled to exercise their right of free movement within the EU, which includes traveling to, residing permanently, working or studying in any EU country of their choice without any restrictions ².

If a Maltese citizen who is not living in Malta travels to an EU country, they are entitled to a health card or EHIC (European Health Insurance Card) which entitles them to be covered by the Maltese social security system when traveling in other EU countries, notably in case of emergency treatment. They should obtain this card before traveling and may apply for it with the health authorities in Malta. To be eligible for an EHIC issued by the Maltese authorities, a person must normally be ordinarily resident in Malta and paying social security contributions in Malta. In addition to being a social security contributor in Malta, the person must be a Maltese national or a national of any other EU country and paying national insurance contributions or receiving a state pension from Malta ².

I hope this information helps!

Prayers for peace, justice, and reconciliation Statement by the Bishops of Malta and Gozo

We, the Bishops of Malta and Gozo, are joining the Patriarch of Jerusalem, Cardinal Pierbattista Pizzaballa, who, on behalf of the Ordinaries of the Holy Land, appealed for prayers for all those who are suffering in the sea of violence, destruction, and hatred in the Holy Land, a turmoil that has already claimed many victims. In response to this plea, the Patriarch of Jerusalem has designated Tuesday, 17th October 2023, as a day set aside for prayer and fasting for peace, justice, and reconciliation. Therefore, we encourage parishes, religious communities, movements and groups within the Church, as well as families and all Christians in Malta and Gozo to unite together in a special way that day through prayer and fasting. We also extend our prayers for peace, justice, and reconciliation in Ukraine and in all those places presently experiencing agony and conflict

✠ Charles Jude Scicluna Archbishop of Malta ✠ Anton Teuma Bishop of Gozo ✠ Joseph Galea-Curmi Auxiliary Bishop of Malta

Fr Jimmy Bonnici General Secretary Episcopal Conference

**DR. GEORGE VELLA – HIS MESSAGE TO US – THE MALTESE WHO LIVE ABROAD**

Despite the long distances separating you from Malta, we all consider you as an important and complete part of our Maltese and Gozitan family, President George Vella's told the Maltese community in the Australian state of Victoria.

President Vella remarked that even though a large part of the Maltese people in Melbourne are part of the third, possibly even the fourth, generation in Australia, they are still Maltese at heart. In a speech on the occasion, the President commended the work of the Maltese associations in Melbourne to keep the Maltese community united and the Maltese traditions alive, including the celebration of several Maltese feasts. He also noted the service offered by several radio stations broadcasting programmes in Maltese and the care service for the elderly provided by the Maltese Community Council in the state of Victoria and in elderly

care facilities run by Maltese nuns.

According to the latest federal census, there are more than 80,000 people of Maltese descent living in Victoria. Most of the Maltese in the City of Melbourne emigrated after the signing of an agreement for an assisted passage scheme between Malta and Australia on 31st May 1948.

In a speech, parts of which were in Maltese, President Vella encouraged the Maltese community to not only teach the Maltese language to the younger generations, but to spread knowledge about its origin and evolution and about what makes it unique.

In Melbourne, the President had meetings with members of the Maltese Community Council of Victoria, which for the last 65 years has been working for the benefit of the Maltese Australian community in this state as well as with members of the Maltese Cultural Association of Victoria.

On Saturday morning, President Vella saluted the memory of the Maltese ancestors who lost their lives during World War II, allowing us to embrace freedom and democracy during a wreath-laying ceremony at the Shelter of Peace, a monument that was erected in 1994 by the Governments of Malta and Australia, the City of Melbourne, and the Maltese Community in Melbourne in commemoration of the George Cross award to Malta.

The President also visited the Shrine of Remembrance where he laid a wreath in remembrance of all those who served and lost their lives in World War I and in other wars.

Accompanied by the Minister for Public Works and Planning, Stefan Zrinzo Azzopardi, President Vella also had a meeting with the Governor of the State of Victoria, Margaret Gardner. During the meeting, they discussed the role of the Maltese community in Victoria and the history of immigration from Malta to Australia, as well as the way the state of Victoria developed to become more multicultural.

**PRESIDENT DR. GEORGE VELLA PRAISES
THE MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER**

Dr. Vella in a conversation with the editor of the Maltese Journal Frank Scicluna said that he follows the journal and finds it really interesting and informative. He encouraged the editor and his staff to continue his mission for the Maltese living abroad.

Mr. Scicluna was a delegate of the Council for Maltese Living Abroad for six years and attended the annual meeting presided by Dr. Vella who was then the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH MR. PRESIDENT





In South Australia with the Minister of Multiculturalism



WITH THE GOVERNOR GENERAL



AT CRINGILA NSW



Canberra



AT GRINGILA NSW



WITH PRIME MINISTER



DEPIRO HOUSE NSW



St. Nicholas Festa Committee



SA



The presidential visit provides a connection to a piece of home for hundreds in Illawarra's Maltese community

Keeli Royle - Region Illawarera

Maltese President George Vella met with hundreds in the community during his visit to Cringila. Photos: Keeli Royle.

A small Illawarra suburb has received a special visit from an international leader, with hundreds turning out for their chance to meet the President of Malta during a celebration of Maltese heritage and identity. President George Vella was met with cheers and applause as he stopped by Cringila, taking a moment away from political meetings with dignitaries to connect with those from our region's vast Maltese population.

"It has been tradition for head of state to come to visit," President Vella said.

"I think it is something that they do appreciate a lot because it gives them a sense that they still belong to the Maltese community."

Held at the cultural hub of the George Cross Falcons Community Centre, the event was a little piece of home for the President, with traditional music, food, dress and many stories of personal connection.

"We believe in participating rather than just shaking hands and taking a photo," George Cross Falcons president Louis Parnis said. "We want to include the language, the folklore, our military and it's all a combination of them that make us what we are."

"It feels like Malta obviously because there are familiar faces, many of them know you and remind you that they are the nephew of Mr So-and-so and the sister of Miss So-and-so," President Vella said.

"Coming all this way, all these hundreds of miles away and landing in an area that is practically a small Malta, this is a feeling, an experience that really is very emotional."

And for the many in attendance, the visit served as a special link to their second home.

"Maltese are still homesick after 60 years and you can go to Malta on holidays but you've got to come back," Mr Parnis said.

"When the President comes here, he brings Malta to us and that's something you can't replace."

The president's meet and greet also held a great military significance, as he laid a wreath at the centre's memorial, which honours the sacrifice of the Maltese soldiers who fought for Australia during World War I and went unrecognised for many years.

"I think it's incredible recognition for all the Maltese ex-servicemen that we have who are really proud not just of their Maltese heritage but their Australian heritage, and it's something that they want to be able to represent," Maltese Ex-servicemen's RSL sub-branch president Clint Marlborough said.

Mr Marlborough said the acknowledgement of their military history helped create a sense of identity for the group, particularly for the older members.

"There have been times with our group where our numbers have really dwindled as the Maltese population has aged and we've been as low as four or five members, 20 years ago, so trying to get younger veterans like myself into the mix so that the older guys still have somewhere to march and pay their respects has been important."

"To actually have the President come down and acknowledge that is just phenomenal, it means so much for all of us and I know it means a lot for them."

But even for those without military connections, that sense of belonging and relationship to Malta continues to be a necessity and is made possible through groups like the George Cross Falcons that continue to foster togetherness in the tight-knit community.

"I'm hoping this sort of union and these clubs where Maltese come together to carry on," President Vella said. "Because they give cohesion and they bring the Maltese together so they won't feel as though they're by themselves, solitary or forgotten."



Order of Malta celebrates World Day

Association organised a pilgrimage to Ta' Pinu sanctuary

Knights and Maltese volunteers attend Mass at Ta' Pinu sanctuary where more than 200 sick, elderly and persons with special needs were present. Photo: Charles Spiteri



On the occasion of the first World Day of the Order of Malta and the feast of Blessed Gerard Mecatti, founder of the Sovereign Hospitaller Order of St John of Jerusalem, of Rhodes and of Malta, the Maltese association organised a pilgrimage to Ta' Pinu sanctuary.

Maltese association president, Daniel de Petri Testaferrata, and hospitaller Kevin Dingli, together with members and volunteers, led more than 200 sick, elderly and persons with special needs coming from various hospitals and homes to the miraculous shrine to celebrate Mass led by Bishop Emeritus of

Albania George Frendo, assisted by the principal chaplain of the order, Fr Brendan Gatt, and Canon Geoffrey G. Attard of the Gozo Volunteers.

After Mass, participants were entertained to lunch at Villa Fiorita in Marsalforn where the Knights and Maltese volunteers, together with CISOM Volunteers from Italy, assisted the sick.

The Order of Malta's first World Day (October 14) took place in various countries. Members and volunteers gave life to the numerous initiatives that the grand priories, national associations and volunteer corps organised for the day.

The aim of this celebration is to introduce the Order of Malta to a wider public, describing its main activities and attracting new volunteers.

October 14 was not chosen at random; it is the closest day to October 13, the feast of Blessed Gerard.



Times of Malta.

The diversity of the Order of Malta's projects ensures that there are opportunities for all

The Order of Malta counts on **95,000 dedicated volunteers** for the successful running of many of its projects across the world. Year-on-year they care for the homeless living in isolation in cities, assist refugees arriving on European shores, provide first-aid and organise medical and social campaigns, respond to victims of natural disasters, accompany disabled guests on pilgrimages and summer camps, support the elderly

housebound and prepare nourishing food for people living in poverty in bitter winters. Two of the biggest events of the year are the **Lourdes pilgrimage**, where over 7,000 participants travel to the Marian shrine, and the **International Summer Camp for Young Disabled**, running for over 35 years in different European countries. Volunteers from across the world join forces to care for their disabled guests and to meet friends old and new. Many national camps are also run across Europe and Lebanon. Local activities take place year-round with projects expanding and new ideas and collaborations emerging.

Spirit of volunteering

These 95,000 permanent volunteers include people of all ages, nationalities and faiths, inspired by the principles of the Order of Malta to serve the needy and the forgotten under the **eight-pointed cross**. Opening oneself up to others nourishes the spirit of new generations, encouraging their growth as people and as citizens. It is a phenomenon that the Order's volunteers experience at first hand, through the many projects and schemes where young people work alongside professionals: men and women who, thanks to their efforts, will become enriched and more socially conscious in the future.

The Order of Malta runs first-aid and ambulance corps in 33 countries that rely largely on the dedication of volunteers. The diversity of our worldwide projects ensures that there are opportunities for everyone. In addition to our permanent volunteers, there are those who are involved on a temporary basis on special projects.

If you are interested in volunteering for one of the Order's projects please contact the **Association or Volunteer Corps** in your country.

The commandment of love by Bishop Charles Gauci.

Diocese of Darwin Australia



LOVE is the foundation of who we are as Christians. God has created us because God is love. As babies and children, we thrive, not only on good food and hygiene but also on love. Without love, we do not flourish or grow properly. Our Christian spirituality is based on love. God finds us, God loves us first. God's love is unconditional.

Christian spirituality is not just about me, getting saved. Certainly, it is the love of God that saves us from

sin and all that goes with sin. Christian spirituality also sends out to all people a message of hope. All forms of Christian prayer should energise us and inspire us to love our neighbour.

Loving our neighbour is not just some vague idea. It finds meaning, it is real when we become less self-centred and more engaged with others. It is a profound respect for others. I keep reminding myself as to whether I am respectful to the person I am with. I actually ask myself the question, "Am I being respectful?" I do catch myself out at times acting out of my own agenda and keep needing to focus on respect at this moment for this person.

When Jesus said "The commandments are for people and not people for the commandments" He meant that the greatest commandment is LOVE. LOVE is not sentimentality. Love is gutsy. It is about commitment. The one who truly loves does not just follow instincts and reactions. LOVE is a decision to want good for the other.

In a very economy-driven and pleasure-seeking society, we need to be careful that we do not let ourselves be unduly influenced by the 'norms of this world'. It is in God that we find our model of how to love. It is in Jesus that we best experience God. Jesus is our teacher in love.

It-Tragedja tat-30 ta' Ottubru

1948

Għal darb'oħra erġajna ltqajna
biex infakkru din il-ġrajja
meta għadd ta' Għawdxin ħutna
minn tal-Marfa erħew il-plajja

Biex lejn arthom fis jingabru
wara ġimgħa f'Malta xogħol
'kkost ta' kollox riedu jaqsmu
jgħaddu l-btala hienja lkoll

Mal-familja ġo dil-ġzira
fejn hawnhekk raw l-ewwel dawl;
kibru, ssaħħu, tagħlim xorbu
f'dak id-Din li ġab San Pawl.

Xejn ma kienet lejla ħelwa
ta' Ottubru t-tletin
ta' ħamsa w sebgħin sena ilu -
xejn ma kien baħar ħanin.

L-Għawdxin ħutna iżda riedu
illi jaqsmu dak il-Fliegu;
daqs l-azzar kienet ir-rieda
daqshekk iehor kien ir-riefnu

illi nefaħ u dlonk għarraq
dak il-luzzu tal-Għawdxin;
l-għada wiċċ il-baħar beka
b'għadd ta' iġsma lkoll mejtin.

Xieraq illi aħna nfakkru
did-disgrazzja tassew kerha,
żgur fl-imghoddi lil dawn niesna
ftit rispettt lilhom tinwera!

Għalhekk mela ż-żmien wasal
illi nwaqqfu lilhom mafkar*
biex fil-bronż jibqa' mnaqqax
dak li ż-żmien le qatt ma jhassar.

Id-dmir l-ieħor imbagħad huwa
li ma ninsewhomx fit-talb -
l-għarbiel t'Alla hu mill-ifjen
w għalhekk ha nġhidu mill-qalb:

"Henn Mulej għal ħutna kollha
u aġġtihom fis il-Ġenna
illi ħlaqt għal min iħobbok
fejn kull ruh dejjem tithennal!"

Dit-tragedja tinsewx tfakkar
f'kemm ibatu il-Għawdxin
biex jaqilghu ħobża x'jieklu
dan hu tagħna d-destin!

28-X-1992

NB Minn mindu nkitbet dil-poeżija, sar
mafkar li jfakkar din il-ġrajja fil-bajja taż-
Żewwieqa

A Taste of Gozo showcased in Brussels by the Gozo Artisan Network



BY GOZO NEWS

Three Gozo Artisan Network members have been showcasing 'A Taste of Gozo' at the Brussels Meeting Centre in Agora Village, during the European Week of Regions and Cities event in Brussels.

Gozo Minister Clint Camilleri visited the 'A Taste of Gozo' stand which attracted a large gathering of people to taste the treats on offer.

It was the first time that Gozitan artisanal products from the Gozo Artisan Network had been exhibited in Brussels.

The trio introduced genuine Gozitan treats, such as olive oil, tomato pastes, capers, olives, an array of wines, unique liqueurs, pastizzi, lampuki pie, natural sea salts, honey, carob syrup, honey rings, and almond biscuits.

The Minister congratulated the members of the network and said that he was "proud that the Ministry for Gozo also provided support to enable Gozitan artisans could participate in the event." The Gozo Artisan Network – Association of Gozitan artisans, was set up in a pilot project in **October 2020**, aimed at encouraging local artisans to join forces to strengthen the sector and create a certified quality brand for their products.

The **Gozo Artisan Network** was established through a pilot project within the Destination SMEs Interreg Europe project which started in March 2016 and was completed in June 2021.

During the implementation of this project, the Ministry for Gozo benefited from €200,000 in European funds.

Along with the Ministry for Gozo, there were six other partners from the European Union who took part in this project – Regional Tourist Development Board of Auvergne – France, Grand Paradis Foundation – Italy, Cork County Council – Ireland, Regional Council of North Karelia – Finland, Vidzeme Planning Region – Latvia and Institute for Culture, Tourism and Sport Murska Sobota – Slovenia.

A quality label was then **launched in August 2021**, the Gozo Quality Mark, linked to the Gozitan territory in order to certify the level of quality and genuineness of the products made in Gozo.

Photos: Clint Camilleri Facebook



FROM READERS OF MALTA AND GOZO

We love to read about our sisters and brothers who live abroad especially about those associations who hold cultural and social functions for Maltese living abroad - Joseph N Attard

IF YOU HAVE AN INTERESTING STORY TO TELL SEND IT TO US FOR PUBLICATION IT WILL BE ARCHIVED FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS



THE MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER

The Malta Book Festival



The Malta Book Festival is the foremost book celebration in the country's cultural calendar. Annually, the MBF boasts an attendance rate of 50,000 visitors, the participation of some 50 exhibitors, and offers extensive networking opportunities for industry professionals.

2023 Malta Book Festival

The Malta Book Festival 2023 returns for its 39th edition and will be taking place between 18-22 October at the Malta Fairs & Conventions Centre (MFCC) in Ta' Qali.

This year's edition of the festival carries the theme **#beyondbooks**, highlighting the medium's potential to transcend the written word and manifest itself in various media – from illustration to audio, theatre to film adaptation. The programme of events includes about 100 events over five days – free of charge and held in designated halls – that range from shows and activities for the family and students, to book launches and discussions, writing workshops, performative readings, and professional meet-ups between the public and book industry stakeholders.

The concert **VII / Fidwa tal-Bdiewa** is the only ticketed event at the 2023 Malta Book Festival; attendance to the Festival and to all other events is **free of charge**. Some masterclasses and workshops require participants to register in advance, check [event pages](#) for details.

The Malta Book Festival 2023 Animation Video

Witness our four beloved characters coming to life as we unveil the animation of our festival poster thanks to the incredible talent of local illustrator Moira Scicluna Zahra and digital animator Kyle Xuereb Cunningham. ktieb.org.mt/en/malta-book-festival/

The MBF Story

The first edition of the MBF was held in 1979, then called the Malta Book Fair (1979-2012), and has since grown into a festival that celebrates the book culture in all its forms. The international dimension of the Festival is increasingly reflected in the lineup of guest authors and publishers which in previous years have included Gilbert Sinoué, Ros Barber, Shad Alshammari, Basma Abdel Aziz, Patrick McGuinness, Alek Popov, Marie Darrieussecq, Maram al-Masri, Dan Sociu, Ros Barber, Vera Duarte, Tim Parks, Philip ò Ceallaigh, Naomi Klein, Judge Rosemarie Aquilina, Sir Salman Rushdie, Irvine Welsh, Joe Sacco and John Boyne.

The Malta Book Festival 2023 Poster

The official poster for the 2023 Malta Book Festival embodies the multi-sensory spirit of this year's edition of the beloved national celebration of the written word, taking you **#beyondbooks**!

Illustrated by Moira Scicluna Zahra and designed by Sarah Cachia Falzon, the poster gives vibrant visual expression to this mission. Previously introduced through NBC's social media platforms, the mascots include Ray il-Qarrej, an imaginative fisherman whose nose is always stuck in a book; the enigmatic writer Filip il-Kittieb, whose passion lies in the performed word; Čiči l-Ispettatrici, the curious cat who purrs at the sight of a literary show; and Mia s-Semmiegħa, the music enthusiast who jams to aural stories.



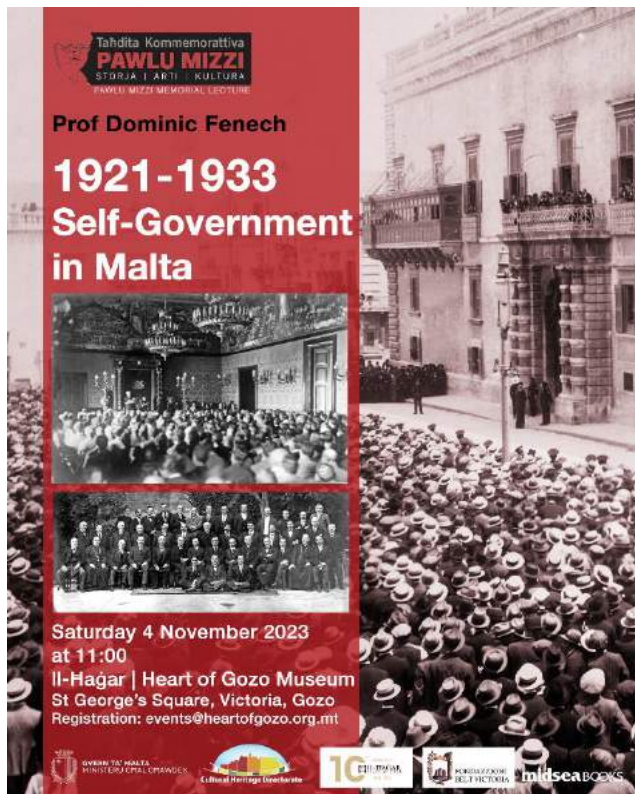
Fairyland returns to Valletta

Piazza Tritoni will once again be hosting Fairyland – Santa's City during the Christmas season. Fairyland offers a number of attractions including a Ferris wheel, an ice rink, food and drink, and an artisan market. The attraction is intended for families.

Malta Tourism Authority Chairman Gavin Gulia stated that Fairyland's return strengthens Malta's cultural calendar during the festive season and

family tourism on the islands more generally. "This event together with others that the MTA supports further strengthens performance in what are considered to be quieter months for the tourism industry," he said.

Fairyland – Santa's City will be open from the 8th of December until the 4th of January.



Malta's Self-Government @ IL-ĦAĠAR

Il-Ħaġar Museum and Community Cultural Centre in Victoria's Pjazza San Ġorġ is pleased to again host the annual Pawlu Mizzi Memorial Lecture. Professor Dominic Fenech will be discussing Self-Government in Malta, looking at the 1921 – 1933 period.

This specialist in Maltese Political History will obviously be also referring to his recent publication about the subject, described as “accessible book by one of our leading historians focuses on the seminal years of responsible government, and on the events, protagonists and social currents that defined them”. Signed copies will be available.

This lecture will be held on Saturday **4 November** at 11am. Admission is, as always at Il-Ħaġar, free of charge, but seat reservations are recommended to events@heartofgozo.org.mt. This will be a final opportunity to inspect the current CARBONARO exhibition!

Tal-Għolġa Siggiewi chapel to be restored through €1.4 million project

The chapel dates to the 15th century



The original chapel dates to the late 15th century. It underwent numerous repairs, partial reconstructions, extensions, and alterations over the past centuries. Photo: Matthew Mirabelli

A Siggiewi chapel dating to the 15th century will be undergoing restoration to the tune of €1.4 million.

Underground consolidation works on the historic Chapel of the Annunciation in the area known as tal-Għolġa have already kicked off.

During a press conference on Monday, National Heritage Minister Owen Bonnici said the chapel faces imminent risk of collapse, primarily due to the geological and geomorphological issues in its terrain. After the Siggiewi community flagged the issue, the national and ecclesiastical authorities held technical studies on the site.

Administrative Secretary for the Archdiocese of Malta Michael Pace Ross said the studies were carried out on the fault known as Miġra Ilma.

Parliamentary Secretary for Local Government Alison Zerafa Civelli and Mayor of Siggiewi Dominic Grech also addressed the press conference.

“Salib tal-Gholja” chapel in Siggiewi to be restored

Restoration and underground renovation works are due to start with immediate effect at the historic Lunzjata in the area close to is-Salib tal-Gholja in Siggiewi at an investment of around 1.5 million Euro.

This chapel has a rich history and over the years, it went through a number of repairs, partial reconstructions, extensions and alterations which make its evolution a unique example of architecture in the region.

Apart from how old it is, and the fact that it was an important landmark, there are written indications that it was a point of reference for mariners coming from the Western Mediterranean who used to see it and realise they had arrived in Malta.

The church which was built in the 15th century under the auspices of Mons Tonna by the Mdina community, used to attract tens of thousands of Maltese families because of their devotion to this site during Holy Week.

The geotechnical architect who specialises in rock and clay foundations, Dr. Adrian Mifsud said that Lunzjata Chapel is facing imminent risk of collapse.

The chapel is in a very bad state with a small part of the roof already falling down so we need to dismantle the roof so that it is not a danger to those who will be working on it. Another thing is that near the chapel there is a man-built cave, and its roof is not in a good state either, so we will need to rebuild a new one out of concrete so that machinery can pass over.

This project is a result of an agreement in collaboration with the Restoration and Preservation Division, which is within the Ministry



of National Heritage, Lands and Local Government and the Archdiocese of Malta.

The officer in charge of the project within the Restoration and Preservation Division, Architect Ivana Farrugia said that the main priority is to provide the church with a system of sound, structural underground foundations. She said that after this delicate geotechnical intervention the works will continue by addressing the restoration of the church's structure which is visible above ground.

The Administrative Secretary of the Archdiocese of Malta Michael Pace Ross, said that following a long but necessary period of geological studies around the chapel, now the time has come to start the delicate restoration work so that the chapel can start being used again.

The Minister of National Heritage, Lands and Local Government Owen Bonnici said that the Siggiewi community has asked several times for this intervention to be carried out. He said that this project marks an important moment in the preservation of Malta's cultural and historical heritage and shows the commitment of both the Government and the Archdiocese to safeguard the heritage of this beloved chapel.

The Parliamentary Secretary for Local Government Alison Zerafa Civelli said that the preservation of our cultural heritage and its sustainability help to

**L-ISKUTER****IX-XIXU****IZ-ZIBEG****IL-PASSJU****JAQBZU L-HABEL****IL-BOMBOS**

THE GAMES WE USED TO PLAY

Do you remember when we played with dolls, splashing in puddles and climbing trees when we were a children?

The simple pleasures that defined childhood for generations in Malta appear to be dying out as an increasing number of kids stay indoors and surf the internet instead.

A series of nostalgic photographs commissioned for a Bank of Valletta calendar highlight some of the traditional Maltese games that are dying out.

Photographer Joe P Smith staged the photos in narrow alleys and open fields in Zejtun, Vittoriosa, Marsascala and Gozo before traffic became a worry.

GAMES CHILDREN USED TO PLAY BEFORE THE INTERNET, THE IPAD AND THE MOBILE PHONE

Two little girls sit on the ground in a Żejtun alleyway and, with a look of concentration on their faces, flick marbles into a small depression in the road.

An old lady watches them, reminiscing about her childhood days when she played the same game, called *żibeġ*, with her friends.

This is one of the scenes captured in the 2013 Bank of Valletta calendar that focuses on past childhoods.

The calendar turns back time to those days when children played with simple toys, like marbles, dolls and wooden carts – a huge contrast to today's 'digital childhood'.

This is the third calendar in the BOV series that captures times past.

The bank, working in collaboration with JP Advertising, commissioned historian Guido Lanfranco to provide details of the toys.

"Some of the toys came from private collections or from people who had been treasuring them since their childhood. The toys were very simple – pieces of rope, wooden slats, stones and beads – but there is a lot more to toys than just the item itself. For example, hopscotch represents the nine months of pregnancy," Mr Lanfranco explained.

"In spite of the simplicity of the toys, we could not find everything we needed and had to improvise in some cases. For example, children used to blow bubbles through a length of macaroni but you don't get long pasta tubes, so we used rolled up copybooks," he added.

Photographer Joe P. Smith staged the photos in locations that could easily have come out of post-war Malta: unspoiled alleys in village cores and open air fields, all of which captured the times when children could play outdoors without the fear of traffic and without the distractions of computers.

"For me, the look on the face of the elderly people we used for the photos (see cover) say so much about the memories they had of those times," Mr Smith said.

For details about the calendar and to watch a video about its making visit BOV's YouTube channel, accessible via www.bov.com or the BOV Club Facebook page.

Past amusements

- **Żibeġ** – Various games could be played, where children would compete for beads dealt out by every player. The most common involved making a shallow depression in the ground into which beads were flicked. Sometimes the beads' colours had different values.
- **Boċċi** – Before the advent of glass marbles, children made do with hazelnuts. Pre-war Codd-Stopper ginger bottles had a plain glass marble as a stopper and children often broke bottles to get it out.
- **Passju** – The rough diagram with nine, numbered compartments scratched on the ground represented the nine months of pregnancy, with the ninth-month section drawn with a bulge. Girls cast a stone from the starting point, hop towards it, to trip it on to the next number. Completing the set results in 'having a baby'.
- **Żugraga** – To spin a wooden top, children wound a string several times around it and learned to throw it sharply while holding on to the end of the string. This made the top spin for a short while.
- **Bombos** – This popular game could be played in several styles but all involved a boy at the front, well bent forward, while the other vaults over him, using his hands, in leap frog fashion.
- **Xixu** – A small length of wood was placed on a rigid edge on the ground and with a stick or rod was hit sharply on one end to make it fly as high as possible into the air.
- **Ara gejjja L-Mewt Ghalik**: The child has to guess which of the kids touched him/her while they sing..... "Ara gejjja l-mewt ghalik, biex tixwik, biex taqlik. Ara gejjja, ara waslet, din id-daqqa min tahielek?"

Maltese Phrases for your next trip to Malta

Maltese is a pretty tough language to learn, we'll grant you that. There are tons of grammar rules to remember, the pronunciation can be somewhat hard to muster, and don't get us started about the silent letters! Last year, we had already shown you Seven Essential Maltese Phrases which could help you find your way around Malta, and we felt it was time for a little refresh. So here are very few Maltese phrases which will help you communicate with the locals, whether you're buying bread from the nearby bakery, or eating and drinking in one of the restaurants. <https://blog.shortletsmalta.com/about-us/>

Kemm jiswa dan? (kemm yis-wa dahn?) – How much does this cost? - One of the phrases you will be using the most – whether out buying coffee or drinks, or souvenirs for that matter. When something is price-less, you can now ask for how much it costs, in Maltese! **Tista tghini? (tiss-ta teyny?) Can you help me?** - The cry of lost travelers around the globe – knowing *how* to ask for help in the local lingo can be a lifesaver. From figuring out bus times, to asking directions to that great restaurant you heard about, you'll surely be needing some help at some point.

Mhux nifhem. (moosh nif-emmm) I don't understand. - When friendly Maltese people randomly come up to you and start chatting in Maltese, this is the phrase to use. It is much more productive to show that you are not in fact, conversant in Maltese; maybe the conversation will resume in a language you both can speak.

Minn fejn int? (minn feyn int?) Where are you from? - You will probably hear this phrase constantly! This phrase will also come in handy when making new friends, especially if you're in a multi-cultural environment. Your new friends will love learning this small slice of Maltese! **5. Kif tghidha bil-Malti? (keef tay-dah bill ma-lty?) How do you say that in Maltese?** Your Maltese mates will love this! Most Maltese love teaching their foreign friends new words and phrases in their native tongue, and asking this is basically a free pass for learning ALL the Maltese words! You can think of random phrases and end your sentence with 'Kif tghidha bil-Malti?' and you'll get yourself a Maltese lesson in no time



Leanne Ellul takes first prize in Doreen Micallef national poetry contest

Leanne Ellul's 'ix-xnighat ta' xmux u dwalijiet ghammiexa' was awarded the first prize in this year's Doreen Micallef National Poetry Contest with an award of €1,000

Runner-up Claudio Gauci, contest winner Leanne Ellul, and third-placed Glen Calleja

Leanne Ellul's 'ix-xnighat ta' xmux u dwalijiet ghammiexa' was awarded the first prize in this year's Doreen Micallef National Poetry Contest with an award of €1,000 by the jury made up of Irene Mangion, Justine Somerville and Caldon Mercieca.

Evaluators described Ellul's prize-winning poem as a formally innovative work which manages to find beauty in ruin and destruction, and whose structure evokes an apposite sense of fragmentation and disharmony which perfectly matches the fatalistic and cynical thrust of the work.

The winners of this year's Doreen Micallef National Poetry Contest were announced at a ceremony held at the Malta Book Festival, where over 60 poems were submitted for the contest, an important reference point for a wide variety of Maltese poets.

Ellul won first place in the national competition for theatre writing, Premju Francis Ebejer, and her play *Ma Rridx Immur* was staged at Teatru Manoel, Malta's National Theatre. She won the Novel for Youths Prize 2014 with her novel *Gamma*. In 2015 Ellul was enlisted in the Commonwealth Young Achievers Book and in 2016 she won the special prize for the Best Emerging Author by the National Book Council. *L-Inventarju tal-Kamra l-Kahla* is her debut poetry collection.

The poem 'Penthos' gained Claudia Gauci the second place, while the poem 'RSVP' granted Glen Calleja the third place. Both poems treat a similar theme — the breakdown of a romantic relationship



WW1 and Malta's contribution

Among the fallen in the Dardanelles in 1916 was a Maltese Lieutenant **Herbert Huber** of the 1st Battalion KOMRM, who was attached to 1st Bn Royal Inniskillings Fusiliers; he was killed in action at Cape Helles in the operations immediately preceding the evacuation of Gallipoli. The King and Queen sent a telegram of condolence to Joseph Huber, Herbert's father and assistant treasurer to the government of Malta: "The King and Queen regret the loss you and the Army have sustained by the death of your son in the service of his country. Their Majesties truly sympathise with you in your sorrow."

In November, 1916, **2nd Lt Edgar Huber**, Herbert's brother, was killed accidentally at Salonika. The King and Queen caused a telegram to be sent to Edgar's father: "The King and Queen are deeply grieved to hear that you have lost yet another son in the service of the country. Their Majesties offer you their heartfelt sympathy in your fresh sorrow." **Telegram sent in November 1916 to Joseph Huber**

Major George Monreal (General list) was selected for special duty on the staff of the Admiral

Superintendent and Senior Naval Officer, Malta, in connection with the Overseas Trade Division of the Admiralty War Staff. Monreal entered the army as 2nd lieutenant in the Wiltshire Regiment in 1896, became lieutenant two years later, and obtained his company in 1902. His staff service included employment in the Army Pay Department and Army Accounts Department. He was also an interpreter in Italian. He retired from the army in 1911.

Major Monreal saw some fighting in West Africa and South Nigeria, while employed with the African Frontier Force. His service gained for him the Medal with Clasp. In 1916 he attended the Allied Economic Conference in Paris.

In October 1916 the ceremony attending the conferment of academic degrees in the church of the University – the Jesuits' church – in Valletta, featured a very pleasing and unusual episode. Among the candidates for the degree of MD Surgeon, **Louis V. Gatt**, Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve, arrived towards the conclusion of the ceremony, immediately after the ship to which he was attached had entered harbour. The young

officer in his smart uniform on entering the church was loudly applauded. On approaching the dais he was greeted by Governor Methuen who shook hands with him. Then the conferment followed. It was by sheer chance that the vessel had arrived in time.

In December 1916 the local newspapers announced the death of **Captain Paolo Micallef**, MD, 2nd Battalion KOMRM, after a protracted illness. He was the son of Achilles Micallef, notary to government, took his degree at the University of Malta in 1901, and was appointed to the post of analytical chemist at the Sanitary Department. Subsequently he joined the KOMRM as second lieutenant in 1897 and was promoted lieutenant in 1900 and captain in 1907. He served with his battalion in Cyprus in 1915 where he commanded a detachment at Nicosia. The funeral of Micallef took place with military honours.

A War Office telegram informed Mrs Abela of Cospicua of the death of her son **Charles Abela**, who was killed in action. The deceased had left Malta previous to the war and was employed on a torpedo boat, having eventually joined the Cheshire Regiment.

Another Maltese subject paid the supreme sacrifice in the field of battle: **Private Edgar Sapienza**, 4th Infantry Brigade Canadian contingent. He saw some hard fighting in France. He had first emigrated to America and then proceeded to Canada where he joined the Canadian Expeditionary Force.

Also in 1916, the Australian Military Office in London stated that **Charles Bonavia**, who had been reported missing some 14 months before, was officially reported killed in action at Gallipoli. Bonavia was a land surveyor and architect. After graduating at the University of Malta he proceeded to Australia where he was employed with the Commonwealth government.

On the outbreak of the war he gave up his billet and enlisted as a private. He then joined the Australian Expeditionary Force and sailed for Europe. It was at first thought that Bonavia was killed during the landing at Gallipoli but from the announcement of his death it would appear that he fell while participating in one of the attacks which dislodged the Turco-Germans from their positions.

On the initiative of the Malta Chamber of Land Surveyors and Architects, of which Bonavia was a member, a memorial service was held at Victory

church in Valletta for the repose of his soul. The service took the form of a Low Mass de Requiem, with Holy Communion inter Missam. The sum contributed for the purpose was distributed among charitable institutions.

The last batches of the **Maltese Labour Battalion** returned to Malta in February 1916. They were employed at Mudros during the operations in the Dardanelles "under very trying conditions". The men presented a war-worn appearance but generally in good health.

In September of that year there was another call of applications for the Malta Labour Battalion. Three hundred stevedores and 500 labourers were required by the War Office for service at Salonika. The terms of service included a three-month engagement subject to renewal, if required longer. Those engaged were subject to military law and were provided free accommodation and medical attendance. Each was provided with rations, mess tin, spoon, fork, knife, blankets, boots, socks, towel, suit, great coat and underclothing. Good characters and men of good physique were wanted, and no one under 18 years of age was accepted.

As was expected the call attracted widespread attention, as was the case when men were required for the Dardanelles. The battalion was under the **command of Major C. D. Vella**. A party of six orderlies of the Malta Corps of the St John Ambulance Brigade Overseas accompanied the Maltese battalion.

Prior to departure, the battalion, consisting of 850 units, paraded in Lascaris Ditch. Governor Methuen inspected the battalion and spoke very favourably of their work at the Dardanelles; in encouraging terms he exhorted them to maintain discipline and behaviour. The Governor's remarks were repeated in the vernacular by Major Vella. Great enthusiasm prevailed among the assembled multitude.

There were several Maltese military chaplains to the forces serving in Malta or overseas. These included **Rev. Mgr Can F. Ferris**, **Mgr Can P. Muscat**, **Fr Henry Bugeja**, **Rev. Can Edgar Galea Naudi**, **Fr J. Darmanin**, **Fr Alphonus Attard**, **Fr Anthony Bajada**, **Fr A. Copperstone**, **Fr Can. Cauchi**, **Fr G. M. Consiglio**, **OSA**, **Fr J. Verzin**, **Fr G. Dimech**, **Rev. Mgr E. Calleja Schembri**, **Fr Gabriel Bezzina**, **OP**, **Fr Richard Borne**, **Fr Albert Farrugia Bugeja**, **Rev. Mgr F. Cavendish**



Il-kawlata tal-kliem Ingliz misluf fil-Malti



Il-kawlata fil-kitba tal-kliem Ingliz li daħal fil-lingwa Maltija u l-ortografija tiegħu għadha qed tħabbel moħħ il-Kunsill Nazzjonali tal-ilsien Malti li madankollu qed jaħseb li f'qasir żmien joħroġ bid-deċiżjoni tiegħu u jagħti regoli u direzzjoni kif għandhom jinkitbu bosta kliem misluf fil-Malti mill-Ingliz..

“Ir-regola prezenti li hemm tgħidlek li jekk kelma daħlet fil-Malti inti għandek tiktibha fonetikament jiġifieri kif tħossha kif tismagħha tiktibha u hawnhekk jibdwu il-problemi mbagħad.”

B’dan il-metodu mhux kollox ward u zahar, waħda mill-problemi hi li mhux kulhadd ilissen l-istess kelma bl-istess mod.

“Hemm min jgħidlek festival u *festivil* x’sse nikteb jiena liema hi t-tajba festival jew festivil u għandek kliem ieħor ngħidu aħna cupboard. *Kaberd* ha nikteb jew *kabord*.”

Id-diffikultajiet ma jiqfux hawn... għax il-kliem Ingliz fil-Malti mhux biss jinkiteb kif jinstema’ iżda jeħtieġ li jsegwi r-regoli tal-Malti. Dr Farrugia semma l-eżempju ta’ kliem bħal team (tjtm) u diesel (dijzil), li fihom tinstema l-“j” iżda skont ir-regoli tal-Malti għandhom jinkitbu mingħajrha.

“Bħalha għandek il-kelma scooter qed tisma l-ħoss ta’ w imma skont ir-regoli tal-Malti ma tistax tiktibha dik il-w.” Meta wieħed jikkonjuga l-verb... m’għandux iħallat l-Ingliz u l-Malti fl-istess kelma.

“Eżempju l-verb *tikkowċja*. Jekk ha nħalli l-verb bl-Ingliz... kif se niktibha nicoachja jiġifieri jekk se niktibha bil-Malti niktibha kollha bil-Malti ma titsax tħalli biċċa bl-Ingliz u biċċa bil-Malti.”

Il-kelma Maltija għandha dejjem tingħata preferenza u m’għandux jinħoloq kliem ġdid b’kapriċċ.

“Darba smajt lil xi hadd pereżempju jgħidlek għaliex ma nużawx il-kelma ħussab minflok kompjuter. Issa jekk jien se nmur għand tal-ħanut ha ngħidliu tini ħussab ġdid ma jifhimix qed tifhem trid tkun realistiku.”

Ħafna għandhom inċerti dwar liema kliem jiktbu bl-Ingliz jew liema kliem Ingliz jiktbu kif jisimgħu. Għaldaqstant id-diskussjoni dwar kif għandhom jinkitbu dawn il-kliem li qed jitwaħħdu fl-ilsien Malti għadha għaddejja.



F’ħafna ilsna l-isem Google sar ifisser magna tat-tiftix fuq l-internet, tkun liema tkun. U spiss dawn il-lingwi jnissu wkoll verb minnu, bit-tifsira ta’ tfittex xi tagħrif online: bl-Ingliz “to google”, bil-Ġermaniż “googeln”, bit-Taljan “googlare”, bil-Kroat “guglati”. Anki bil-Malti tista’ “tiggugilja”. U jekk trid tista’ “tittwitja” (Twitter), “tiskajpja” (Skype) u “tinstagramma” (Instagram). Jekk tiggugiljahom, kollha jtilgħulek.

pocket

Din ukoll issibha fl-Ingliz, imma tfisser but. Għalina l-Maltin (imma mhux l-Għawdxin) il-pocket hu l-*pencil case* jew il-*pencil box*. Kif minn but ta’ qalziet saret tfisser kaxxa għal-lapsijiet, il-biros u l-gomom, il-Bambin biss jaf.

The Annual Bidni Olive Harvest: Branch To Bottle!



Tiana Formosa

Emily Francis visits father and son, Joseph and Immanuel Grima and Kurt Mifsud and takes a look at some of Marsovin Wineries' wines whilst learning more about Malta's Bidni olives

The annual Bidni Olive Oil harvest has concluded for the year. The Grima family Olive Oil Orchard and the Mediterranean Culinary Academy joined forces with Marsovin winery who supplied the

wine and taught us about their different products. They created one of the best date nights around the island and it only occurs for two weeks out of the year – taking place at the end of September and early October.

WINE THAT IS PRODUCED BY MARSOVIN WINERIES

This is the opportunity to learn more about and help harvest the endemic Bidni olives from the trees. Bidni olives are native only to Malta and have exceptional health properties including high amounts of polyphenols and antioxidants. Combined with low levels of acid, they truly make a smooth and delectable oil. Immanuel and his father, Joseph Grima, along with Kurt Mifsud and the staff at the Mediterranean Culinary Academy, teamed up for an exquisite evening of harvesting the olives whilst experiencing fine dining at its best with a three course meal. They also had olive oil tasting and wine tasting to teach us more about the olive varieties and the different wines that Marsovin offers.



FATHER AND SON DUO JOSEPH GRIMA AND IMMANUEL GRIMA WITH KURT MIFSUD

Last years harvest of Bidni Olive Oil won a Platinum medal in the UK for best olive oil and hopefully this year's yield may do the same! Because of this extraordinary adventure, present, was a camera crew from UK's Channel 5, filming a documentary for the harvest as part of their Maltese Documentary Series coming

out in January.

If you missed this opportunity, fear not! You can still buy the Bidni Olive Oil from last years harvest through their online shop and once these olives have been pressed into oil, you can purchase this new harvest as well! We hope to see you next year at the next Branch to Bottle Event!

To purchase olive oil: <https://www.mcamalta.com/productsandgifts>.

To check out Marsovin Winery Malta: <https://marsovinwinery.com/>

INVITATION

The Ministry for Foreign and European Affairs
in collaboration with Aġenzija Żgħażaġh

Is proud to announce the holding of the 2nd Virtual Youth Forum
for Maltese Living Abroad
with the theme:



IMAGINE
A NEW WORLD TO DISCOVER
THE IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE
ON PRESENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS

Date: 27th October 2023

Time: 18:00hrs (ECST)

Directorate for Consular Services and Maltese Living Abroad
Email: malteselivingabroad.mfet@gov.mt

MALTESE CENTER - ASTORIA
NEW YORK USA

THE MALTESE CENTER
HALLOWEEN PARTY
SATURDAY OCTOBER 28 AT 8:00 PM
DANCE PARTY WITH DJ CHUCK
BEST COSTUME COMPETITION
DRINKS - BITES
MEMBERS \$20 NON-MEMBERS \$25
INCLUDES 1 COMPLIMENTARY DRINK
BOOK ONLINE AT WWW.THEMALTESECENTER.COM



Maltese Senior Citizens Association
of South Australia

CHRISTMAS FUNCTION

FRIDAY 24 NOVEMBER 2023
from 10.30am

AT THE COMMUNITY HALL
LeHunte Street Kilburn SA

Entertainment by
GODFATHER BAND

Booking essential by 10 Nov.
Cost \$25

Menu 3 Course Meal and dessert



Maltese Senior Citizens Association
of South Australia

ALL SOULS DAY • MASS

FRIDAY 10 NOVEMBER 2023
11.00 am

AT ST BRIGID'S CHURCH
LeHunte Street, Kilburn SA
after there will be light lunch

PLEASE. PIN ALL PHOTOS OF YOUR
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Register your name

Frank- 0431 068 642

Heritage Malta
<https://heritagemalta.mt/>

At Heritage Malta we proudly manage
over 90 museums and landmarks, national
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WE LOVE OUR
MALTESE
JOURNAL
BECAUSE IT
CONNECTS US
WITH OUR
BRETHREN AND
SISTERS - JBG

Impressive! Jordan Gusman smashes Malta's national men's marathon record by 12 minutes at Chicago Marathon

Jordan Gusman (born 30 Jan 1994) is a Maltese middle and long-distance runner who won several medals for Malta at the Games of the Small States of Europe. From Corindi Beach, Australia, he was eligible to represent Malta from 21 August 2019.

As an Australian, he won the 800 m at the 2012 Oceania Junior Athletics Championships.

Gusman won the 3000 m event establishing a Maltese national record at the 2021 European Athletics Team Championships (3rd League)

JORDAN GUSMAN

Maltese-Australian Athlete



BUILDING BRIDGES

NOT WALLS



MALTESE
OF NEW YORK

MALTESE CENTER



Malta Square,
27-20 Hoyt Ave So,
Astoria, NY,
United States, New York

THE MALTESE CENTER

HALLOWEEN PARTY

SATURDAY OCTOBER 28 AT 8:00 PM

DANCE PARTY WITH DJ CHUCK

BEST COSTUME COMPETITION

DRINKS - BITES

MEMBERS \$20 NON-MEMBERS \$25

INCLUDES 1 COMPLIMENTARY DRINK

BOOK ONLINE AT WWW.THEMALTESECENTER.COM



MORWELL DAY OUT Lunch & Museum

SUNDAY 19 NOVEMBER 2023

Join us for our next fundraiser -

Bus Trip to Morwell.

We will visit the Maltese Museum, including
a Maltese 3 course lunch

Drinks available to purchase. No BYO

TAKING
EXPRESSIONS
OF INTEREST FOR
WEEKDAY
TRIP

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AMIE 0404 894 576
TO SECURE YOUR SEAT

SEATS ARE LIMITED!!!!

COST
ADULTS - \$70 PP
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12 AND UNDER