



The Voice of the Maltese

We are for the Greater Malta



An online newspaper, with fortnightly print and digital editions



Pregnant windows are a very popular decoration, apart from serving also as a security feature in Maltese homes. Photo: "Windows; Mdina, Malta" by foxypar4 is licensed under CC BY 2.0.

Roundup of Maltese News

Developments approved, postponed or objected to

By Brian Decelis
November 19, 2023



PA photomontage of the new hotel block approved in Sliema

Another hotel will be added in Tigné in Sliema after the Planning Authority approved the development in the already very congested area. Indeed, a traffic impact study indicated an 20 per cent increase in traffic.

The 90-room 10-storey hotel to be developed alongside a 28-storey tower as part of the so-called Townsquare Project which will also include an 800-car parking area with overlying retail outlets and the restoration of the historic Villa Drago which will also be used for retail, as well as two office blocks.

In another somewhat controversial decision the Planning Authority also approved the setting up of a 3,800 square metre solar farm just inland from Għadira beach. The Superintendence of Cultural Heritage objected to the project which is not only outside the development zone but is situated near an archaeological buffer zone of Bronze Age and Punic-Roman cart-ruts.



An artistic impression of the Mellieħa solar farm supplied by the Planning Authority

But the Architect responsible for this project said that the solar farm is to help Mellieħa Holiday Centre offset its carbon footprint. Following discussions with Birdlife the panels to be used will minimise the impact on migratory birds stopping at the reserve close by and will

provide 42 per cent of the establishment, also known as the Danish Village.

But the Planning Authority sent the developers of a proposed home for the elderly on outside development zone land in Naxxar back to the drawing board, noting that replacing a one-storey farm by a three-storey building with 47 rooms was too large for the area.

The Environmental and Resource Authority described the development as “unacceptable from an environmental point of view” and that it can easily be accommodated in the urban area. The PA board asked for the overall height and massing of the proposal to be reduced.



PA photo shows how the proposed building will sprout up from the fields

Another application for houses to be built in outside development zone in Xaghra, Gozo has seen the objection by the Superintendence of Cultural Heritage, the Environment and Resources Authority and Environmental NGO Għawdix.

Permission for buildings outside the development zone are only permitted for limited extensions to existing dwellings, unlike this application, leading one to ask what does outside development zone really means?

Malta's UN resolution over Gaza approved

By Brian Decelis
November 17, 2023

Following extensive consultations led by Malta's Permanent Mission to the UN in New York together with Council members, interested parties, countries in the region, and humanitarian organisations the UN Security Council adopted Resolution 2712 with 12 votes in favour and three abstentions.

The Resolution calls for the establishment of urgent and extended humanitarian pauses and corridors throughout the Gaza Strip, enabling urgent rescue efforts for missing children in damaged and destroyed buildings and the medical evacuation of sick or injured children, and calls for the safe and unconditional release of hostages that are being held by Hamas and other groups. It further underlines the special vulnerable status of children and reiterates that international humanitarian law provides general protection of children as persons taking no part in hostilities.

Although Malta has called for a ceasefire in the region, the resolution stops short of using that word which is opposed by the US. Nor does the resolution mention the Hamas attack that provoked the conflict or Israel's counter offensive.

Indeed, both sides of this conflict were not pleased with the Palestinians saying it should have called for a ceasefire while Israel said that it was meaningless for them, saying it was Hamas that was



UN photo of Security Council members during the vote



Combination photo by Roberta Metsola via Facebook

actively making the situation in Gaza worse.

But in a Facebook post, European Parliament president Roberta Metsola said it is always the innocent who pay the ultimate price. "The human cost is incalculable. The devastation of families who have lost loved ones is heart-breaking," she wrote.

In what appears to be amends over initial criticism of her visit to Israel at the beginning of this conflict, over the past days, she met with families of people killed in Gaza and with families of hostages taken by Hamas.

"We will keep doing everything we can to get humanitarian aid in, to save lives, to bring hostages home, to end terror, to find justice and accountability and to ensure lasting peace and stability in Gaza and the West Bank, with a two-State solution that empowers legitimate Palestinian leadership," she said.

Israel's retaliation to the Hamas militant attack on October 7 which killed around 1,400 people has led to more than 10,000 Palestinians being killed, mostly civilians including thousands of children.

A letter endorsed by many organizations and key figures including President Emeritus Marie Louise Coleiro Preca called on Prime Minister Robert Abela to recall Malta's ambassador in Tel Aviv, but this was unlikely to happen since it is considered a very serious move in international quarters.

"As a neutral state, Malta believes that aggression and violence do not bring peace and respect for human rights, and that the murder of thousands of Palestinian children has nothing to do with the condemnation of terrorism," the letter reads.

MTA North America again named Best Destination – Mediterranean (Bronze Travvy)

By Joseph Cutajar

November 17, 2023

The Malta Tourism Authority (MTA) has again been named Best Destination – Mediterranean (Bronze Travvy) – at the 2023 Travvy Awards hosted by TravAlliancemedial. The event, which has earned a reputation as the Academy Awards of the USA travel industry, was held recently at the Greater Ft. Lauderdale Convention Center, Florida.

The Travvy's are awarded by those who know them best: travel advisors who recognise the top suppliers, hotels, cruise lines, airlines, tour operators, destinations, technology providers and attractions.

Michelle Buttigieg, Malta Tourism Authority Representative North America, said that receiving the Best Destination – Mediterranean Travvy Award – again is a massive honour for Malta. She added that it was significant, as with new hotel openings and new airline routes opening, Malta's five-star luxury product is expanding, and it is now easier than ever for US Travelers to get to the Maltese Islands.

Buttigieg especially thanked TravAlliance for their support and all the excellent travel advisors who continue to show tremendous confidence in selling Destination Malta, as this has enabled Malta to continue to expand and strengthen its marketing and public relations efforts in the North American market.

"Malta is safe and diverse with something of interest for everyone, culture, history, yachting, famous film locations, culinary delights, events and festivals as well as curated authentic and luxury experiences," Buttigieg said.

She also pointed out that, for the first time, under the patronage of UNESCO, from March 11 – May 31, Malta would host the Maltabiennale.art 2024.

The CEO of the Malta Tourism Authority, Carlo Micallef, added: "We are so grateful to have again, received Best Destination – Mediterranean, a coveted award in the highly competitive American market, indicating that travel advisors have appreciated and rewarded the Malta Tourism Authority's enterprise and ongoing activity. This recognition comes as Malta just experienced a sold-out summer 2023 season."

Micallef said that the Malta Tourism Authority's Marketing & PR activity in North America continues uninterrupted with new online initiatives that have helped the travel advisors learn the Maltese Islands much better while keeping Malta & Gozo on top of their minds.

He went on to say that these awards also reflect MTA's commitment to travel agent training. As the connectivity from the US becomes more accessible than ever, Malta looks with optimism to welcome more North American tourists to the Maltese Islands.

Valletta finalist for Prestigious International Awards

Meanwhile, Malta's capital, Valletta, has secured its place as one of the 451 nominated ports for the second edition of the prestigious *Cruceroadicto 2023 International Awards*. These awards represent the Spanish-speaking cruiser community's opportunity to recognise and celebrate their preferred cruise line, ship, and port of the year.

The voting process aimed at the travel community commenced on 2nd October and garnered an exceptional initial response. This exciting public voting phase will remain open until the first weeks of



Michelle Buttigieg, MTA's representative in North America receiving the award



Valletta's Grand Harbour. Photo: Joseph Cutajar

next year.

The top three finalists in each category will be announced in January, and the winners will be officially revealed during a proclamation ceremony at FITUR Madrid on 25th January.

Building upon the transparency and integrity of the inaugural edition, the *Cruceroadicto 2023* International Awards continue to uphold their commitment to ensuring the authentic voice of travellers. The voting and counting process remains subject to external audit and oversight by the esteemed consulting firm We-in, guaranteeing the authenticity of the awards.

Candidates are encouraged to actively promote their candidacy through their social networks, communication channels, and even within the port facilities themselves.

Malta Tourism Authority CEO Carlo Micallef said it was an honour for the historic port of Valletta to be a finalist in these prestigious awards. He said that the cruise industry is well aware of the beauty of Malta's Grand Harbour. When the cruise enters Malta, ship captains often recommend their passengers go out on deck to admire the spectacular scenery. The MTA is looking forward to seeing the Spanish vote's outcome.

Minister for Tourism Clayton Bartolo said that the natural glamour of the Grand Harbour makes it one of the most eye-catching ports in the Mediterranean. "This valuable asset for our country continues to cement Malta's excelling prospects in the cruising world. We are optimistic that it will continue to serve as a perfect backdrop for all who visit Malta in the months and years to come," Minister Bartolo said.

Mosta trees to stay after commotion

By Brian Decelis
November 17, 2023



BEFORE. The trees before they were pruned as seen in this photo by Google.

If you have visited Mosta over the past 50 years or so you would not have missed the large *Ficus* trees on the side of the Rotunda that provided shade for people but also refuge for many birds.

But Mosta residents walk up one morning to find that these have been pruned in preparation for these to be transplanted elsewhere thanks to the local council which wanted to replace them in order "improve the overall design" of the square.



AFTER: The trees being prepared for transportation before the protestors moved onto the site. Photo by Jonathan Shaller via Facebook

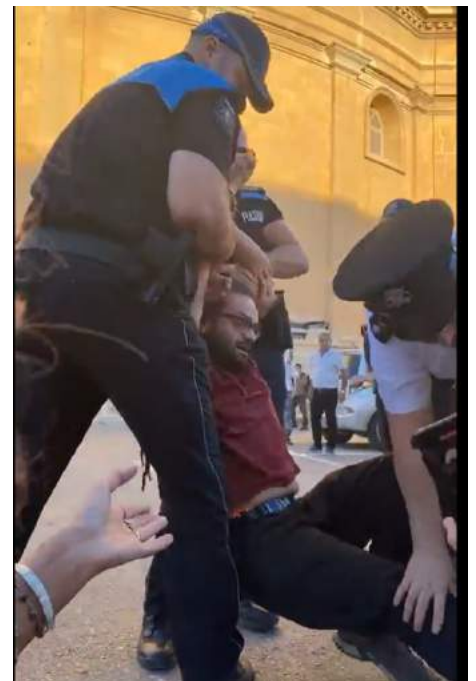
But the architectural firm that designed it told Times of Malta it totally dissociated itself from the decision to transplant the mature trees and many turned up in protest in order to stop the work to be carried out.

The protest reached a 'climax' when members of the Malta Police Force handcuffed leading Moviment Graffiti leader and Mosta resident Andre Callus in a clash between protestors and police. In scenes that are not so common to be seen in Malta, activists slept overnight in order to prevent the machinery to be used.

Pressure was brought to bear on the local council from all sides even though it had been councillors from both political parties represented in Parliament that had approved the move. Eventually reason prevailed and the Labour mayor reversed the decision and the trees are going to remain.

BirdLife Malta had also pleaded with the authorities to stop the work immediately especially at this time of the year when thousands of white wagtails (*zakkab abjad*), common starlings (*sturnell*) and Spanish sparrows (*għasfur tal-bejt*) find refuge in these *Ficus* trees during the night when they roost together in safety.

Indeed this is the only roosting site for white wagtails outside of Valletta and with the trees devoid of the canopy the birds returning at night found themselves at a loss and some ended up dying on the pavement next to the church.



Leading environmental activist Andre Callus being manhandled by police at the site. Photo by Moviment Graffiti via Facebook

A successful Walk with the President

By Brian Decelis
November 16, 2023

A successful first 'Mixja mal-President' in aid of the Malta Community Chest Fund (MCCF) brought together hundreds for this fundraising event.

The walk replaced what used to be known as the Solidarity Fun Run



in a bid to entice more people to get together.

It started from the Verdala Palace, towards Sant'Anton Palace where President George Vella joined the walkers, and ended in front of the Presidential Palace in Valletta.

In a few words at the end of the event, President Vella said that the walk proved once again that the Maltese are ready to unite and be generous to those going through a difficult time. He mentioned that the MCCF is receiving ever more requests, and the costs are always rising.

Among those participating in the 'Mixja mal-President' were Archbishop Charles Scicluna, Minister for Education, Sport, Youth, Research, and Innovation Clifton Grima, Nationalist Party leader Bernard Grech, and several other politicians from both sides of the House.

'No Woman is an Island' photography exhibition

By Joseph Cutajar

November 15, 2023

Empowering solo journeys to Malta in Milan

A photography exhibition at Via Dante, a stone's throw from the Duomo in the heart of Milano in Italy last month (October 6-26), marked the first tangible application of VisitMalta's new promotional campaign, taking advantage of its versatility. During it, Gozo, nestled within the Maltese archipelago, was depicted as a secure haven brimming with opportunities and mystical allure.

In the exhibition, the tagline "Explore More – No woman is an island" paired with different attributes, such as "calm, traditions, history, beauty, and freedom," all represented the facets of Gozo, making it the perfect destination for women embarking on solo adventures. It was simply a tribute to the second gem in the Maltese archipelago. The narrative formed the essence of the captivating photography exhibition.

Gozo exudes Mediterranean charm and has been increasingly capturing the imagination of travellers, especially those searching for an authentic destination intertwined with nature. The island is accessible by four large ferries belonging to the Gozo Channel Company from the Ċirkewwa port in northern Malta or two fast ferries



The photography exhibition about Gozo at Via Dante in Milano. Photo: VisitMalta



People stop to admire some of the photography on the boards. Photo: VisitMalta

from Valletta's Grand Harbour.

Gozo offers tranquil surroundings in harmony with the local way of life and the picturesque landscapes that envelop it, making it a haven for rejuvenation amidst mesmerising natural beauty, a history spanning over 7,000 years, and top-tier services.

The depicted woman in the photo exhibition shows Gozo as a secure haven, brimming with opportunities and mystical allure. It symbolises the strength and independence of a fearless traveller venturing alone to Malta's neighbourly island. This destination promises profound emotions, fresh discoveries, and experiences deeply rooted in the local heritage, culture, and people.

To add a digital dimension to the experience, the panels at the exhibition, meticulously curated by VisitMalta Italia, Malta's tourism promotion agency in Italy, in cooperation with VisitGozo, also featured QR codes that allowed visitors to access an online form and to receive a digital booklet containing photos from the exhibition.

In addition to the exhibition, the organisers guided three distinct tours for three specific audiences: MICE (Meetings, Incentives, Conferences and Exhibitions), which represents a lucrative part of the tourism mix across the globe (also referred to as Business Tourism or Business Events), Trade and Trade Press.

More cars, more accidents

By Brian Decelis

November 11, 2023

Malta's National Statistics Office data released literally within a couple days from each other seem to point towards a correlation between the number of cars on our roads and accidents.

During the third quarter of 2023, the stock of licensed motor vehicles increased by 3,968 over the previous quarter – resulting in average of 69 newly licensed motor vehicles per day, with a net increase of 43 per day. At the end of September 2023, the stock of licensed motor vehicles stood at 436,007 – that's almost one car for every Maltese resident, children included!

One might therefore not be so surprised by the second set of data that showed that the number of reported traffic accidents during the



Every day 69 newly licensed (new and old) motor vehicles hit the Maltese roads, with a net increase of 43 per day. This photo is taken at the San Ġiljan tunnels by Andrew Azzopardi via Facebook



Twelve people were injured in multiple accidents on a Friday last month, including this four-car crash in Zabbar. Photo by Chris Sant Fournier for timesofmalta.com

third quarter of 2023 reached 4,351, up by 7.1 per cent over the same period in 2022.

The only consolation one gleans from the data was that the number of casualties decreased by 4.9 per cent to 427 over the same period in 2022. Grievously injured persons amounted to 115, and consisted of 66 drivers, 16 passengers and 33 pedestrians/cyclists/others, with only one fatality compared to six when compared to the same period in 2022. The highest amount of casualties involved persons in the 26 to 40 years age bracket (37.2 per cent).

The highest number of road traffic casualties occurred on Fridays and the highest number of road traffic accidents occurred on Mondays. The highest incidence of road traffic accidents was registered in San Pawl il-Baħar followed by Birkirkara and Ħal Qormi. So now you know which days and places to avoid!

PA approves flats near Ġgantija

By Brian Decelis

November 11, 2023

The Planning Authority has approved a 22-apartment block of flats and 20 basement garages metres away from the world heritage site of Ġgantija Temples in Xagħra Gozo, despite a request from UNESCO for a heritage impact assessment.

An email by the Superintendent of Cultural Heritage Kurt Farrugia had led to the suspension of the application proceedings in February, after UNESCO had "insisted in accordance with the operational guidelines, a Heritage Impact Assessment should be carried out for this development."

But Planning Authority chairman Emmanuel Camilleri said that the Superintendent of Cultural Heritage (SCH) did not specifically ask the authority to require the document.

The temples, along with six other megalithic temples, were inscribed as world heritage sites in 1980. At a previous PA hearing in December 2022, campaigner Daniel Cilia had claimed that threatening the World Heritage status of Ġgantija could impact the



Planning Authority photo montage of the planned apartment block metres away from the world heritage site



The Neolithic temples dating back to the period between 3600 BC and 2500 BC are Heritage Malta's most visited archaeological site. Photo by the author

value of all six since these are inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List as one.

Ġgantija was inscribed in 1980, with Tarxien, Ħaġar Qim and Mnajdra inscribed in 1992, followed by Ta' Ħaġrat and Skorba in 2006.

"If the Maltese challenge the UNESCO-approved buffer zone and construct this huge building inside it, there is a good chance that all of the six megalithic sites could be removed from the World Heritage list," Cilia had said.

But the PA case officer said that the the proposed block of flats, named Ġgantija Heights, lies in an area of archaeological importance but outside the formal buffer zone for the temples.

Historic encounter in Belgium

By Brian Decelis

November 10, 2023

The President of Malta George Vella and the President of the European Parliament Roberta Metsola described President Vella's visit to the European Parliament in Brussels as historic because the Head of State and the President of the European Parliament are both Maltese. In this regard, they both expressed their satisfaction that the talks could be held in Maltese.

The two Presidents exchanged views on the role of the European Union in regional and international challenges including the war in Ukraine and irregular immigration. They discussed in detail the latest developments in the Middle East. In this context, President Vella expressed his serious concern as this situation is having very severe consequences on civilian lives and warned against the possible havoc created by this conflict in the entire region.

During this meeting, the European Union's internal challenges such as the enlargement of the European Union, the Conference on the Future of Europe, and the talks on the institutional reforms which also



The two Presidents: George Vella (Malta) and Roberta Metsola (European Parliament)

include reviews of the treaties were also discussed.



The Maltese President's wife, Miriam Vella, at the European School – EEB 1. Photo: George Vella via Facebook

During his visit to Belgium, President Vella also had an audience with King Philippe of Belgium at the Castle of Laeken. They primarily spoke about the progress and potential of bilateral relations between the two countries especially in the commercial, investment, tourism, and cultural sectors. Other themes that were discussed include the instability in the Mediterranean and the consequences of the war in Ukraine and COVID on the international community. King Philippe showed particular interest in the unique cultural heritage of Malta, notably the tapestries of St John's Co-Cathedral which have recently undergone extensive restoration work in Belgium.

During a lecture entitled 'Rethinking the Mediterranean' to the College of Europe students and the EU Diplomatic Academy participants in Bruges, President Vella emphasized that "peace in the Mediterranean is also a prerequisite for global stability."

Our sea, President Vella said, "is very much a reservoir for insecurity", and explained that security in the region is undermined by three main threats: conflicts and political insecurity; soft security threats such as economic disparities, irregular migration and human trafficking; and horizontal issues such as climate change, water security and crop failure, food and energy insecurity and sea pollution.

President Vella said that as the international community struggles for solutions, the humanitarian consequences of senseless war and conflict continue to mount. "The physical and psychological suffering and displacement that these threats continue to cause on innocent civilians is having its toll on our younger generations," said the President whilst emphasising that conflict resolution and mediation efforts must become our collective priority.



The young Maltese generation in Belgium and Luxembourg also have something to say! Photo: George Vella via Facebook

During his lecture, President Vella encouraged the students to actively engage in youth civil activities and urged the students to change the present narrative and course of action and not to be scared to speak of peace, even when this means going against the current. "I appeal to you not to make the failings of my generation your own. Do your level best, as diplomats, professionals, and policymakers, to be a voice for dialogue and understanding," concluded the President.



At the European School – EEB 1 in Brussels. Photo: President George Vella via Facebook

The President and Mrs Vella also met the Maltese living in Belgium and Luxembourg at Dar Malta in Brussels. They also visited the European School – EEB 1 where they met with Maltese students and their teachers.

**Photos by Francis Debono via George Vella's Facebook page*

Explosives dumped in waste bags

By Brian Decelis

November 9, 2023

It was an accident waiting to happen when explosives were found dumped in the collection of recyclables (grey or green bags) as these could have gone off in the trucks which picked them up or at the sorting facility, potentially causing a huge fire leading to injury to people and property damage.

WasteServ had to call in the Explosive Ordnance Disposal Unit of the Armed Forces of Malta to assist it in safely removing and neutralising the hazardous materials. As a precautionary measure, and in light of the danger posed by the discovered material, a total of 140 tonnes of good recyclable material had to be quarantined and then disposed of in the landfill.

WasteServ condemned this gross negligence and appealed to the



Explosives found in the recycling bags in this photo by WasteServ

public to be responsible. It emphasized that its work towards meeting the country's recycling targets is highly dependent on the cooperation of the public.



Another explosive found in this photo by WasteServ

Situations such as these not only put their employees' lives at risk but posed a serious threat to its operations and new infrastructure. This incident could have had far more serious consequences, especially considering the presence of highly flammable materials such as paper, plastic, and cardboard.

"It is essential that hazardous waste, including flares, batteries, electronic equipment, and other highly flammable or explosive materials, are disposed of properly to prevent similar incidents in the future," WasteServ said. Such materials can be safely disposed of at one of the six Civic Amenity Sites found across Malta and Gozo.

In 2021 WasteServ chief executive Richard Bilocca had told Times of Malta that a third of the waste that reaches Wasteserv's facilities is composed of non-recyclable materials and is rejected by the

sorting machines,

Dead animals, sex toys, soiled clothes, used syringes, expired flares and broken toasters, kettles and radios were among the items found in the domestic grey bags that should only be used to throw away materials to be recycled.

WasteServ had also found organic and construction waste in bags which should only contain paper, cardboard, plastic and metal.

Malta's Allure Showcased at World Travel Market in London

By Joseph Cutajar

November 9, 2023

During the 44th World Travel Market (WTM), the world's largest Tourism Expo in London, Malta's magnetic allure was on show at the Malta Tourism Authority's stand at the celebrated rendezvous for the global travel trade, which continues to play a pivotal role in reconnecting, reimagining and reinvigorating the travel industry.

This year's WTM London again attracted tens of thousands of



Minister for Tourism Clayton Bartolo (R) with former Man. Utd footballer, Dimitar Berbatov (L). Photo: MTA

senior industry professionals, government dignitaries, and international media, fostering connections, networking and catalysing growth.

From the moment the doors swung open on 6th November, the Malta Stand was abuzz with activity. Trade representatives from Malta, including Heritage Malta, Air Malta, and VisitGozo, engaged in a whirlwind of meetings with tour operators, travel agents, airline representatives, bloggers, vloggers, content creators, and forward-thinking innovators. They reinforced why, year after year, the Maltese islands offer an endless tapestry of experiences luring visitors to them.

Malta's Minister for Tourism, Clayton Bartolo, accompanied by the Chairman of the MTA, Dr Gavin Gulia, and CEO, Mr Carlo Micallef, were on the Malta stand supporting the efforts of the present hospitality industry. Attendees had the privilege of hearing from former Manchester United footballer Dimitar Berbatov, who recently explored Malta and personally uncovered the many offerings that make the Maltese Islands a preferred holiday destination.

These collective efforts showcase the unwavering dedication of the marketing teams at the Head Office in London and the VisitMalta UK Office. Together, they adopt a comprehensive approach to ensure the right message reaches the right audience.

Throughout this year, Malta has demonstrated that its tourism industry has fully recovered from the pandemic and is looking ever more strongly towards the future. Its record-breaking performances are a testament to the exceptional work of its marketing teams, both in Malta and in VisitMalta offices worldwide.

Carlo Micallef, CEO of the Malta Tourism Authority, said that their dedication has enabled them to offer attendees to the WTM a tantalising glimpse of the rich tapestry of experiences that Malta has to offer.

He said: "Even as we break records and bask in our achievements, we must remember that the key to our success lies in our unwavering commitment to progress, guided by our visionary tourism strategy extending to 2030. In a world that never stands still, our pursuit of improvement is the wind beneath our wings, propelling us to greater heights, even when we've reached the pinnacle."



Malta stand at the WTA in London. Photo: MTA

Minister for Tourism Clayton Bartolo said that the World Travel Market was an opportunity to showcase Malta's hospitality capabilities to the tourism world. "It is an ideal platform through which we can cement our vision of attracting tourists all year round to the Maltese Islands," Minister Bartolo said.

Maltese national evacuated from Gaza

By Brian Decelis

November 8, 2023

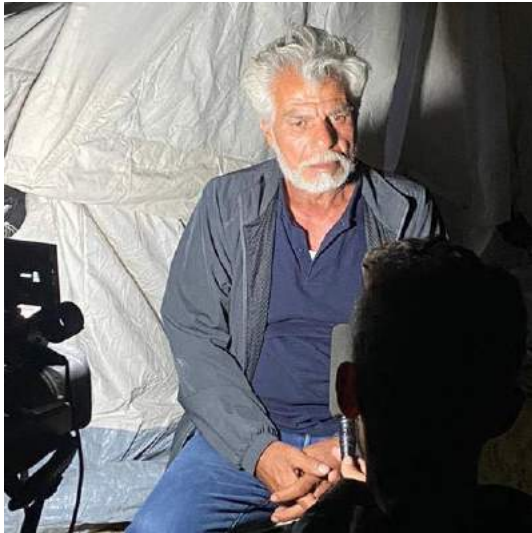


Photo by Qassem Ali being interviewed via Facebook

The Ministry for Foreign and European Affairs and Trade had been working for several weeks with the American Government, so that a man with dual nationality, Maltese and American, is evacuated from Gaza. During the night between Friday 3rd November and Saturday 4th November, the Maltese managed to arrive in Cairo,

Egypt, in the early morning hours.

Qassem Ali is the only known Maltese national who had been living in Gaza when the recent war erupted. The 65-year-old who is of Palestinian descent was among a small number of people allowed through the Rafah crossing. The crossing into Egypt is open for foreign passport holders and their dependents to be able to leave Gaza.

Ali had started this journey several hours earlier with the assistance of the Ambassador of Malta in Israel, Cecilia Attard Pirota, the Ambassador of Malta in Egypt, Roberto Pace, and the Representative of the Maltese Government in Palestine, Franklin Aquilina.

On Tuesday, he had told Times of Malta editor Herman Grech: "There's no safe zone my friend, but I am fine and strong and I will accept my fate, whatever it will be. This is why I feel I am safe, even though my house got destroyed."

The Times said that Ali – who was a war reporter having worked with ABC and as an Associated Press cameraman – was a frequent visitor to Malta, living in Rabat with family in Mqabba. He intends to travel on to Malta.



Photo by Qassem Ali being interviewed via Facebook



Photo by Moviment Graffiti via Facebook

The relatives of the Maltese man thanked the Maltese Government and the Ministry in particular for their commitment during these recent weeks in order to carry out this evacuation. Ali singled out Malta's representative to Palestine, Franklin Aquilina for his help to leave Gaza.

Yesterday saw more protestors fill Valletta to show solidarity with the Palestinian people and to call for an end to Israeli occupation. They denounced many Western leaders and politicians, singling out European Parliament President, Roberta Metsola, for their complicity in the ongoing genocide in Gaza.

Malta-China sign agreement on tuna

By Brian Decelis

November 7, 2023

Following discussions that have been ongoing for a number of months, Minister for Foreign and European Affairs and Trade Ian Borg signed an agreement on behalf of the Maltese Government with China Vice Minister Wang Lingjun so that our country can start exporting bluefin tuna to China.

Malta already exports tuna to Japan and South Korea. Indeed this agreement will now provide an opportunity for Maltese business to export directly to China whereas previously Japanese intermediaries used to make a mark-up on onforwarding such exports. Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries, and Animal Rights Anton Refalo reported earlier this year that 95% of Malta's tuna goes to Japan which is also risky in terms of having all eggs in one basket.

Refalo said the signing of this agreement with China will ensure that fishing in our country will remain economically sustainable for the time to come by curbing the dependence on one market while opening new opportunities for further expansion, both in the quantity and quality, of bluefin tuna exported as well as for other fish that Malta is so renowned for.

Parliamentary Secretary for Fisheries, Agriculture and Animal Rights Alicia Bugeja Said emphasised how the bluefin tuna that is caught, or farmed in our country, is one of the most sought after products in the international markets, mainly because the taste and quality of the product.

Dr Bugeja Said described the introduction of Maltese bluefin tuna in the Chinese market as an incredible opportunity for our country: "Such initiatives result in more income and jobs, both for our

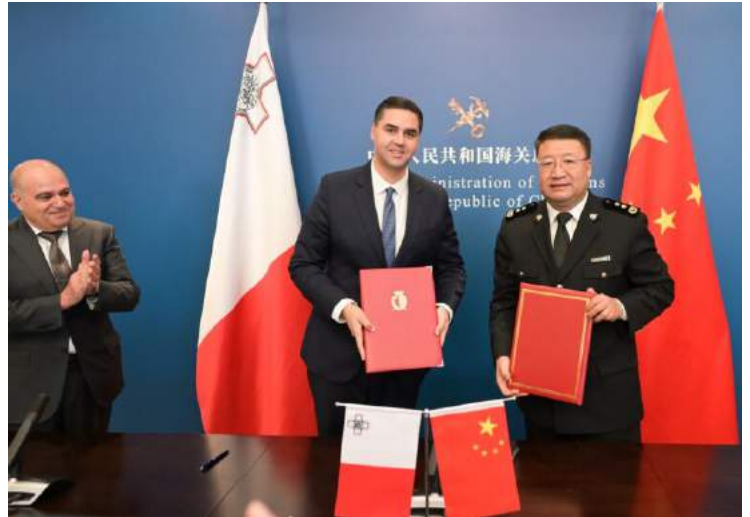


fishermen and for all those who work in the tuna farms.” Between 2020 and 2023, Malta exported between 16,000 and 20,000 tonnes of tuna to various countries.

The production of tuna in fish farms has not been without its controversies. A few years back there had been continued reports of slime generated from the mackerel or sardines fed to tuna caged in offshore pens reaching shore and popular swimming sites.

And a factory set up last year to process excess tuna into ingredients that can be exported had seen Birżebbuġa residents take to the streets protesting over foul smells and sewage leaks allegedly caused by the plant in Hal Far.

The company operating the plant is also tasked to clean up marine waste – sea cleaning crews paid for by tuna farmers collected around 500kg of trash and 45kg of fish oil every day this past summer, Aquaculture Resources Limited said in a statement.



Mill-gżira Għawdxija

Wirja ta' mudelli ta' kull daqs u qies

By Charles Spiteri
November 7, 2023

Il-Gozo Scale Modellers Club
tella' wirja fiċ-Centru Sant Antnin, Għajnsielem.

Viżitaturi ammiraw mudelli ta' ajruplani, karożzi, bastimenti tal-gwerra, vetturi militari, knejjes u diversi mudelli ohra.

Il-Gozo Scale Modellers Club twaqqaf f'April 2009 bl-għan li jqajjem kuxjenza pubblika dwar dan id-delizzju u jipprovdi għajnuna u appoġġ lill-membri tiegħu li jammontaw għal 15 fosthom żewġ membri nisa.



Din is-sena kien hemm total ta' 150 mudell għal wiri, mifruxa fuq tlettax-il mejda.

Fost dawk li żaru l-wirja kien hemm ukoll membri tal-Għaqda Maltija tal-Model Engineers li



qed tfakkar l-40 anniversarju mit-twaqqif tagħha.

Bħala tifkira ta' din iż-żjara, il-Viċi President tal-Assoċjazzjoni Maltija Derrick Sammut ipprezenta tifkira lill-President tal-Gozo Scale Modellers Club, Derek Azzopardi.

RITRATTI: CHARLES SPITERI



Jum it-tifkira (Poppy Day)

By Charles Spiteri
November 13, 2023

Ilbieraħ filgħodu f'Għawdex ġie ċelebrat Jum it-Tifkira, jew 'Poppy Day' kif nafuh illum, fi Pjazza Indipendenza (it-Tokk). Din hija ċelebrazzjoni annwali fejn pajjiżna jingħaqad mal-pajjiżi ohra tal-Commonwealth f'dan il-jum b'għieh lill-vittmi taż-żewġ gwerrer dinjija tas-seklu l-iehor.

Il-qofol ta' din l'attività ssir quddiem il-monument tal-gwerra Kristu Re li hemm f'Pjazza Indipendenza. Fost il-mistiedna kien hemm preżenti l-Ministru għal Għawdex Clint Camilleri.

Fil-bidu taċ-ċelebrazzjoni sar id-dhul tal-istakkament tal-Forzi Armati ta' Malta, introduzzjoni, u wara nqraw messaġġi, poeziji u silta mill-Evanġelju dwar dan il-jum ta' tifkira.

Mat-tokki tal-ħdax ta' filgħodu ta' l-arloġġ storiku taċ-Ċittadella indaqq il-Last Post u r-Reveille mil-Forzi Armati ta' Malta. Dan il-hin li jfakkarna dwar il-11-il siegħa u l-11-il xahar tas-sena, fejn dawn iċ-ċelebrazzjonijiet ilhom isiru sa mis-sena 1921 bħala tifkira f'għieh il-vittmi tal-gwerra.





Sar ukoll it-tqegħid ta' fjuri u kuruni quddiem il-monument tal-gwerra kemm mil-Ministru għal Għawdex u rappreżentanti ta' diversi kumitati u għaqdiet kif ukoll tal-Forzi Armati ta' Malta, il-Pulizija, is-Sindku tal-Belt Victoria, il-President tar-Reġjun Għawdex u membri tal-Victoria Scout Group fost oħrajn.

Wara t-tqegħid tal-kuruni ndaqq l-Innu Malti.

Kien hemm ukoll volontiera tal-Emergency Response Rescue Corps.

Waqf iċ-Ċerimonja tqassam ukoll ktejjeb *Il-Monument tal-Gwerra ir-Rabat, Għawdex* lil dawk kollha preżenti. Dan kien ippubblikat mit-Taqsima tal-Kultura fi hdan id-Direttorat għall-Wirt Kulturali, Ministeru għal Għawdex.

*RITRATTI: CHARLES SPITERI



Is-Supretendent għal Għawdex Joe Hersey iqiegħed kuruna mal-monument



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Maltese Spoken



Aussie news

Australian PM visits China after diplomatic tension for seven years

By Lawrence Dimech

November 8, 2023

After a diplomatic deep freeze between Canberra and Beijing, Anthony Albanese is the first Australian Prime Minister in seven years to set foot in China, taking a patient approach in its bid to stabilise the relationship between the two countries.

At the height of tensions between the two nations in 2020, China imposed punitive trade sanctions on Australian exports worth \$20 billion. Only \$2 billion now remains.

In his opening remarks, Xi Jinping, leader of China since 2012 praised the prime minister for working to stabilise and improve relations with China. "I'm heartened to see that. A healthy and stable China relationship serves the common interests of our two countries and two peoples."

"Now the China-Australia relationship has embarked on the right path of improvement and development," the Chinese leader told the Australian delegation.

The Chinese leader said Beijing and Canberra had "worked out some problems," referencing points of contention including human rights, escalation of threats against Taiwan and trade bans on Australian exports worth \$20 billion at their height.

Prime Minister Albanese said the Chinese leader had always acted according to his word. "He has never said anything to me that hasn't been done," he said. "But we deal with each other at face value."

PM Albanese reaffirmed the government's commitment to the AUKUS security pact, amid tensions in the Indo-Pacific between the US and China.

"We've been upfront about our engagement," he said.

The Prime Minister has also invited Xi to Australia. He said that he and Xi agreed that the Chinese leader would visit Australia at "a mutually beneficial time to be agreed on" and that he has also been invited on a return visit to China.

This visit coincided with the historic 50th anniversary of Gough Whitlam's visit to China.



Australian PM Anthony Albanese with Chinese President Xi Jinping.
Photo via X (previously known as Twitter)

People's protest in Parliament

By Lawrence Dimech
November 8, 2023

The Green senators in the Federal Parliament initiated a walkout to protest what they claimed is inaction by both Labor and the Liberal Coalition over Israel's continued attacks on Gaza.

Greens senator Mehreen Faruqi, wearing a keffiyeh in the chamber (a scarf that has become synonymous with support for Palestinians) did not mince her words when she declared that the Coalition is "morally bankrupt when it comes to Palestine" and Labor has shown itself to be "heartless, gutless cowards".

"You are watching the massacre of thousands of Palestinians by Israel and you are not condemning Israel," she said. "You refuse to call for an immediate ceasefire."

Faruqi said the Greens would not sit and "watch you pat yourselves on the back for doing nothing".

"Weasel words are not going to stop war crimes. Today we bring the people's protest into parliament," she said. She then raised her fist and declared "free free Palestine".

Foreign Minister Senator Penny Wong said that the fact Hamas "is a craven terrorist group" that used human shields and hid within civilian infrastructure didn't lessen Israel's need to follow international law.

"We want humanitarian supplies of food, water, medicine, and fuel to reach people in desperate need, the people of Gaza cannot wait. The international community will not accept ongoing civilian deaths," she said.

"So, when Israel's friends urge Israel to exercise restraint when Israel's friends urge Israel to protect civilian lives, it's critical that Israel listens."

Federal Opposition leader Peter Dutton has urged Prime Minister Anthony Albanese to travel to Israel to shore up support for its ally.



Senator Mehreen Faruqi wearing the keffiyeh in Australia's parliament

About Mehreen Faruqi: She was born 8 July 1963, a Pakistani-born Australian politician and former engineer who has been a Senator for New South Wales since 15 August 2018, representing the Greens. She was chosen to fill a casual vacancy caused by the resignation of Lee Rhiannon, before being elected in her own right in 2019. She had previously served in the New South Wales Legislative Council

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"A bird with hanging wings looks very much like a man dejected by a series of failures."

Aphorism 5 by Manuel Dimech
from *Aphorisms – Wisdom of a Philosopher in Exile*, SKS 2012
edited by Mark Montebello & Francis Galea

AU Happenings



Mrs Jane Vella with her daughters (L-R) Brigitte, Yvonne and Doriette at the ceremony

More names added to National Monument to Migration

By TVOTM Community Desk
November 14, 2023

Despite the miserable weather, up to 2,500 people attended across two ceremonies which were held outdoors at Pyrmont Bay, Sydney located near the National Monument to Migration to witness the unveiling of 1,040 names representing 46 countries.



Lawrence Buhagiar – Consul General for NSW (C) with Marisa Privitera (L) and Miriam Friggieri (R) respectively Secretary and President of the Maltese Community Council of NSW

The event featured representatives from Embassies and Consulates including the Kingdom of the Netherlands, the Czech Republic, Malta and India. Multicultural NSW, the Fathering Project and the Indonesia Diaspora Network NSW were also present.

It was a wonderful day for those who had their names added to the Welcome Wall in Sydney which on this occasion included Mrs Jane Vella, a 95-year-old Maltese migrant from Wentworthville.

Mr Lawrence Buhagiar, Consul General for Malta in

NSW together with the President and Secretary of the Maltese Community Council of NSW, Miriam Friggieri and Marisa Privitera respectively, were amongst the invited guests. The entertainment for the morning event was provided by Charlie Muscat, a well-known and

popular entertainer in our Maltese community.

The Welcome Wall is one of the museum's most important and visible tributes to Australia's migration heritage and is regarded as the National Monument for Migration.

The museum collects the stories of migrants to Australia, and the National Monument is one of our most important and visible ways of recognising the people behind these stories. Over 32,000 names already appear on the 92 bronze panels.

Anyone wishing to have their names added to the Wall can contact Tina Koutsogiannis, Head of Corporate Partnerships at the Australian National Maritime Museum on 02 82418375 for more information.

**Report by Marisa Privitera. All photos supplied.*



Popular Maltese entertainer Charlie Muscat

Fejn issibu tagħrif u għajnuna siewja

By Lawrence Dimech
November 14, 2023

Ma hemmx dubju li l-anzjani tan-naħat tal-Western Suburbs għandhom fejn jistgħu jsibu serħan il-moħħ u anki rikreazzjoni fejn ikunu jistgħu jiltaqgħu ma' oħrajn bħalhom matul fitt siegħat ta' ħbiberija, tagħlim, tagħrif u anke nostalgija.

Kull tieni gimgha tax-xahar, fis-sala San Ġorġ Preca tal-knisja ta' OLQP (Our Lady Queen of Peach) ta' Greystanes mill-10.30am 'l quddiem jiltaqgħu madwar 40 persuna, kultant iktar u kultant inqas, f'inizjattiva organizzata mill-Maltese Community Council of NSW.



The National Monument to Migration in Pyrmont, Sydney



Is-Sinjura Marisa Privitera tiġhaddet mal-grupp ta' Greystanes

Ikun hemm anke kelliema speċjali fejn jispjegaw suġġetti ta' importanza fil-ħajja ta' kuljum li jgħinu biex daww l-anzjani ikunu iktar informati.

Mimlija għomor, fl-aħħar laqgħa lltqajna mas-Sinjura Jane Vella li ċelebrat ma' daww prezenti l-95 sena tal-ħajja tagħha. Jane li għadha attiva u tattendi spiss dawn l-attivitajiet qaltilla li twieldet il-Marsa fl-14 ta' Novembru 1928 izda waqt il-gwerra, il-familja evakwat lejn il-Mellieha.

Hija magħrufa sewwa f'daww in-naħat bħala Miss Ciappara għax kienet għalliemna tal-iskola tal-Gvern. Jane Vella emigrat lejn Sydney wara li żżewġet lil Charlie Vella fis-sena 1955. Għandhom tlett ibniet Brigitte, Yvonne u Dorietta, kollha mwielda l-Awstralja.

Daww li jixtiequ jattendu din l-attività għandhom iċemplu lil Marisa Privitera, il-koordinatur tal-grupp fuq il-mowbajl 0414863123 jew lill-Group Leader, Frances Montesin.



Is-Sinjura Jane Vella

New Consul General of the Republic of Malta in Melbourne

By TVOTM Community Desk

November 8, 2023

The High Commission of Malta in Canberra is delighted to announce the appointment of Dr. Gioconda Schembri as Consul General of Malta in Melbourne, with jurisdiction over the state of Victoria, succeeding Ms. Chirelle Ellul Sciberras who completed her posting on 22 September 2023.

Dr. Schembri is well known among the Maltese communities in Australia and has been residing in Victoria since 2002.

Prior to her appointment, Dr. Schembri held the position of Administrative Assistant & Executive Officer at the Consulate General of Malta in Melbourne and was First Secretary and Deputy High Commissioner at the High Commission of Malta in Canberra from 1998 – 2001.

Dr. Schembri's appointment is with effect from 30th October 2023. We take this opportunity to wish Dr. Schembri the best of success in her new role.

**Press Release 9/2023 dated 6/11/2023 by the High Commission for the Republic of Malta*



Dr Gioconda Schembri, Consul General of Malta in Melbourne

Missieri salva iljunfant!

By Ron Borg

November 8, 2023

Is-Sibt 4 ta' Novembru 2023 filgħodu kienet speċjali ħafna fil-Belt ta' Adelaide, u l-kundizzjonijiet xemxijin għamluha speċjali iżjed għat-300,000 jew aktar tfal u kbar li libsu l-aqwa ħwejjeġ tal-Milied biex igawdu l-esperjenza ta' waħda mill-akbar *pageants* tal-pajjiż, The Adelaide Christmas Pageant, hekk kif karrijiet, elfi, buffi, żeffiena, u baned imxew tul ir-rotta ta' 3.7 km tat-toroq magħluqa għat-traffiku tal-Adelaide CBD.



S.A. Horse Mounted Police

Nies raqdu fis-*sleeping bags* tagħhom tul din ir-rotta biss biex ikunu fl-aqwa postijiet ta' vantaġġ biex jaraw il-parata! Karrijiet mżejna ikkuluriti ħafna, karattri minn kotba popolari tat-tfal, baned li jdoqqu melodiji tal-Milied u eluf ta' artisti għabu l-ispiritu tal-festi bikri mmexxi minn quddiem mill-famuża SA Horse Mounted Police fuq il-Greys sbieħ tagħhom, akkumpanjati mill-elite South Australia Police Band.

Naturalment, 'The Grand Finale' kienet il-wasla tal-karru bis-*sleigh* tingibed minn renni mill-isbaħ u l-*big guy* bil-libsa l-ħamra, Father Christmas jibdel it-tbissima mat-tfal ħerqana u jxerjer b'entużjażmu lil kulhadd!



Il-pageant tal-1967

Dan il-91 *pageant* annwali grandjuż twaqqaf fl-1933 fl-eqgħel tad-dipressjoni l-kbira, minn Sir Edward Hayward, li dak iż-żmien kien sid ta' wieħed mill-ħwienet kbar ta' Adelaide, John Martins, u l-*pageant* sar magħruf b'affezzjoni bħala Johnnies Christmas Pageant. Matul is-snin tat-tieni gwerra dinjija tal-1941-44, il-*pageant* ġie sospiż iżda ġie restawrat fl-1945, u mbagħad tkompla kull sena sa din id-data.

Fl-aħħar tas-snin sebgħin, il-mibki missieri Walter Borg kien impjegat fid-dipartiment tal-manutenzjoni mal-ħanut tal-belt John Martins fejn kien addattat ħafna għal xogħol ta' manutenzjoni generali. Darba waħda David, l-inġinier ewlieni tal-manutenzjoni tal-ħanut sejjahlu fl-uffiċċju tiegħu u staqsieh, "Wally, taħseb li tista' tagħti



Nellie l-iljunfant mekkaniku

harsa lejn Nellie l-Iljunfant, għax mhix sejra tajjeb wisq?"



Karru mill-pageant

Wara ftit mumentu ta' silenzju, missieri deher imħasseb u wieġeb, "David, naf li taħseb sew fuq il-kapaċitajiet tax-xogħol tiegħi, imma nibża' li nista' nittratta biss ma' problemi mekkanici, veterinarju tal-annimali m'iniex!" David infaqa' bid-dahk, u wieġeb "Le, le, le Wally, Nellie hija biss iljunfant mekkaniku li għandna fil-pageant, li bħalissa bil-hsara!"

Tabilhaqq Nellie kien annimal mekkaniku oriġinarjament magħmul fl-Ingilterra u mixtri mill-fundatur tal-pageant tal-Milied, Sir Edward Hayward għas-somma prinċipjali ta' 1,500 lira, li irduppjat il-prezz bl-ispejjeż tal-merkanzija u

tad-dwana! Nellie kienet għolja 8 piedi u 6 pulzieri, u twila 12-il pied, qafas tal-metall fil-forma ta' ljunfant b'aktar minn 9000 parti mekkanika misjuqa minn magna tal-karozza Ford Prefect moħbija mill-gilda tal-feltru tagħha.

Il-linji tat-tram u xi uċuħ irregolari tat-toroq ikkawżaw problemi bir-roti għas-swaba ta' Nellie u hafna drabi kkawżaw problemi mekkanici, u piżijiet fuq il-mutur tagħha wkoll.

Madankollu, b'hafna *flair* u ingenuwità, il-papà u oħrajn kellhom lil Nellie lura fuq saqajha għal darb'ohra, u b'kowitz għid tal-vinyl griż t'iljunfant, reġgħet għid lill-ammiraturi tagħha fil-hin għall-Golden Anniversary Pageant fl-1983. Wieħed jista' jgħid li missieri għen biex isalva l-iljunfant prezzjuż Nellie tal-Adelaide Christmas Pageant!

Minn meta gie inawgurat fl-1933, dan il-pageant spettakolari qatt ma waqaf milli jtgawda kull sena mit-tfal u mill-kbar. Din is-sena kellha total ta' 170 sett teatrali li jiċċaqilqu, aktar minn 20 grupp taż-żfin, 17-il banda jmarċjaw u l-fuq minn 300 buffi, u b'aktar minn 80 karru ikkuluriti, maġiċi u meraviljużi biex jagħtu l-pjaċir lil ta' kull età, u l-aħjar minn kollox, bil-libsa fhamra ta' Santa bis-sleigh tiegħu u t-8 renni tiegħu, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen Comet, Cupid, Donner Blitzen u naturalment b'imniehru aħmar, Rudolph.



Santa Klawns bir-renni tiegħu

Bi 300,000 ruħ jgħattu t-toroq tal-belt kull sena, u mijiet ta' eluf ta' *telev viewers*, il-National Pharmacies Christmas Pageant jingħad li huwa l-akbar parata pubblika fl-emisferu tan-nofsinar!

Money Talks



This is a monthly service offered by The Voice of the Maltese in which Marie Louise Muscat from Fiducian Financial Services helps our readers understand the complexities associated with financial planning. If you need more advice send an email to Marie Louise via editor@thevoiceofthemaltese.org.

Q&A November 2023

By Marie Louise Muscat

November 8, 2023

Q. My wife is 71 and I am 74 and we have a holiday home in the country valued around \$650,000. We are contemplating selling the property as we are not using the place much these days. If we sell, are we able to invest these funds in superannuation?

A. As both you and your wife are under 75 years of age, you may both be able to invest up to \$330,000 into super. If your total superannuation balance is above \$1.68 million, then you will not be able to contribute the full \$330,000 into super. If this is the case you

should consult with a Financial Planner to understand the maximum contribution that will apply in your case. Depending on when you purchased this holiday home, you would probably have to allow for some capital gains tax.

Q. I am 38 years old and going on an eight week tour and will be visiting a number of countries. Should I be informing anyone in particular of this trip such as banks etc?

A. Yes, when going overseas if you are planning to use your credit cards or debit cards you should let your bank know of your moves. By doing so if you actually make transactions while overseas, they will be aware that it is you doing these transactions otherwise they may freeze your account if they are unable to make contact with you.

Q. My wife and I are turning 67 years of age and applying for a part age pension. My mother-in-law has just passed away

and my wife will be inheriting around \$400,000. This inheritance may take 12 months before coming to us as my mother-in-law's house will need to be sold and there are other matters involved. Will Centrelink treat this inheritance as our asset now or when it is actually paid to us?

A. As this inheritance has not yet been given to your wife, it is not treated as your asset. You could mention to Centrelink that you are expecting this inheritance, but as it is not yours yet and you do not know the amount, this will not be treated as your asset until your wife actually receives the inheritance and the funds are in her name.

Q. We are pensioners and planning on going for a holiday in January next year. We have only been pensioners for three years and have not travelled in this period of time. Should we be informing Centrelink that we are going away and will our pension stop?

A. Before going overseas, you should let Centrelink know especially if the holiday is over six weeks. You will still continue to receive your pension while you are away, but depending on the length of the holiday, the supplements that you receive with the age pension may be suspended for a while.

Q. My brother lost his job and is going through a very rough time. He is falling behind in his mortgage repayments and he is terrified of losing his house. He needs around \$100,000 to get him out of this problem. We should both be coming into some money from an uncle's estate but this may not be for another six months. I am able to lend him the money but need to know that I will be getting it back. What should I do?

A. Coming to your brother's assistance in a difficult time is commendable. However, to protect yourself you should put this in writing with both of you signing this document and if you can have a couple of witnesses this should be better. You may also consider putting a lien over your brother's entitlement to your Uncle's inheritance to ensure when this comes due, you will be entitled to receive your borrowed funds back.

Q. I am 65 and retiring from work and will be a self-funded retiree and living on income generated from my financial assets. I have a couple of investment properties and the rental income is more than sufficient for my needs. As I do not require more income, am I able to leave all my superannuation in accumulation or do I have to commence an account based pension?

A. As you have more than sufficient income to live on you are able to leave all of your superannuation in accumulation. If you find that you need more income you could either ask to have part of your superannuation money rolled over to a Retirement Income Stream (usually an Account Based Pension or Annuity) and leave the rest in accumulation, or make small lump sum withdrawals when you actually need the money. As you are over 60 these lump sum withdrawals will be tax free. Just be aware that funds in accumulation pay 15% tax on earnings while funds in Retirement Income Streams are tax free.

The Malta Journalism Awards 2023 was awarded to The Voice of the Maltese for their long journalistic contribution to the Maltese living outside Malta

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Features

UN faces its most epic political & humanitarian failure since its creation, according to own Rapporteur

By Lawrence Dimech
November 16, 2023

The United Nations Special Rapporteur on the occupied Palestinian territories, Dr Francesca Albanese addressed the National Press Club in Canberra, and strongly accused the Western nations, including Australia, of "muttering" condemnation of Israel, or staying silent in fear of "restraining Israel's claimed right to self-defence".

She criticised the Australian media as well by stating that the media is often manipulated and had contributed to the dehumanisation of Palestinians.

"The international community is almost completely paralysed" in its response to the constant bombardment. "I am being generous when I

say almost," she continued.

"The United Nations [is] experiencing its most epic political and humanitarian failure since its creation," she said. "Individual member states, especially in [the] West — and Australia is no exception — are on the margins, muttering inaudible words of condemnation for Israel's excesses at best. "Or staying silent in fear of restraining Israel's ... claimed right to self-defence, whatever it means."

Dr Albanese likened the bombardment of Gaza to the displacement of Palestinians in 1948, known to Palestinians as the Nakba — or catastrophe. She said the Palestinians faced their most "significant existential threat" and raised the prospect of the "wholesale destruction" of Gaza.

"If in 75 years time the international community has still to realise what the 'Nakba' is: Here's what it is, televised, under our watch," she said.

"The current reality epitomises how the international community has so epically failed to promote peace and security for both Palestinians and Israelis. This is what I call amnesia and myopia and living in an alternative reality. Because again, before 7 October, there was already plenty of evidence of violations of international law by Israel."

Dr Albanese queried Israel's assertion that its response was self-defence under international law, saying it had been threatened by an armed group operating under territory it occupied, and not a stand-alone state.

She compared the situation to the 2015 Paris attack, carried out by an Islamic State cell operating from neighbouring Belgium. "Did France go and bomb entire residential areas in Belgium? No, I know we're used to thinking that the Palestinians can be bombed over and over, but it is wrong".

"This requires a re-humanisation of the discourse, and I am so happy to speak to journalists because you have a great deal of homework to do in this respect," she said in Canberra.



Dr Francesca Albanese, UN Special Rapporteur for the Palestinian Territories



Girl being extracted from rubble in Gaza. Photo: Anas Alsharif via The Black Rider/Facebook

Dr Albanese repeated similar accusations as one of the panellists on ABC TV Q&A, the Monday Night popular TV program hosted by Patricia Karvelas.

Francesca P. Albanese (born 1977) is an Italian international lawyer and academic. On 1 May 2022, she was appointed United Nations Special Rapporteur on the occupied Palestinian Territories for a three-year term.

**Compiled by Lawrence Dimech*



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Authorised by Chris Bowen MP, ALP, Fairfield West

The Voice of the Maltese is a bi-lingual (English and Maltese) online publication specifically targeting all Maltese living abroad. It is freely available online at the following address:
<https://thevoiceofthemaltese.org>

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Culture

Platt Malti

By Charmaine Tokic
 November 20, 2023

You can get a real sense of a country's culinary identity through a platter. What better way to taste the true flavours of Malta than with a *platt Malti*. With Christmas just around the corner and families catching up over the summer holidays, a Maltese platter is something you need on the menu. I thought I'd share with you what makes a Maltese platter, hoping to inspire you to make your own at home.

Very similar to other European mezze platters, *platt Malti* offers a wide selection of tasty bites;

Gbejniet (Maltese cheeselets)

You can have these fresh or dried, plain or coated in crushed black

pepper. In particular, the dried are deliciously tart and pair well with a beer and the crunch of a gallett. Such a unique cheese, it's essential to have on any Maltese platter – it wouldn't be a Maltese platter without it!

Galletti (Maltese crackers)

Unlike the crackers you buy from your local supermarket, these crackers are harder and crunchier, making a great contrast in texture to anything on your Maltese platter. Dip them in your *bigilla* or pair with a *gbejna*, these are a must-have on your platter.

Bigilla (Broad bean dip)

A Maltese classic, bigilla is made from mashed broad beans with oil and garlic, and sometimes added herbs and chilli. It's similar to hummus in a way, but would choose bigilla over hummus any day.



Zalzett Malti (Maltese sausage)

Zalzett Malti is the traditional fresh Maltese sausage made from ground pork, salt, crushed black peppercorns and coriander seeds, garlic and parsley and is considered a staple in Malta. You can eat it raw or cooked, both bursting with flavour either way you choose.

Żebbuġ (Olives) and Tadam

Imqadded (sundried tomatoes)

Malta is known for olives and they are all over the Island, being the perfect climate for them to grow. Maltese olives more traditionally come stuffed with anchovy paste or peppers. Paired up with some sun dried tomatoes made from Maltese grown tomatoes and you've got yourself two epic ingredients that will make your platter boast all there is to be Maltese.

Ħobż (Maltese bread)

Malta is famous for its bread, or *ħobż* as we all know it to be. It's unlikely to find bread like it anywhere else except for on the island, as it's very unique in a way being nicely light and bubbly inside with a big, thick crust. It's the best to soak up any leftover olive oil or tomato juices off your platter.

You can find most of the above mentioned ingredients at your local deli grocer. You could make your own *gbejniet* to make it extra special (see my recipe for *gbejniet* here). *Platt Malti* is a great appetiser for your celebrations this Christmas in Australia. It's the perfect platter to share on a hot summer's day and definitely one I'll be creating over the break. The above are just your staple components that you would likely see on a Maltese platter. You could be a little more extra and make it even more Maltese than it already is by adding *pastizzi*, *kapunata* (similar to *ratatouille*), *kappar* (capers), *tadam frisk* (fresh tomato) and/or *fażola* (beans), pair it with a platter of fresh fruit and you've got yourself an epic Maltese entertainer's spread!

If you would like to read about a particular foodie topic or would like to see a particular recipe, feel free to drop me a line via editor@thevoiceofthemaltese.org or direct message me on my Instagram @_thefoodiemama

Looking Down the Valley – review of book by Fr Carmelo Sciberras

By TVOTM Community Desk
November 19, 2023

I find it very pleasing to see books written by Maltese Australians, who decide to record their memories, both for their relatives and for posterity. This recording of memories enhances our knowledge of the Maltese settlement story.

Fr Carmelo Sciberras has recently written his autobiography, published in hard cover as a beautifully illustrated book. It tells of his journey to Sydney in 1956 as a young teenager, detailing his experiences, both in Malta prior to migrating with his family, and his studies for the priesthood in Sydney. It flows on to numerous ministries as a curate, a parish priest, a *padre* with the Australian army, a volunteer with the Marine Rescue, etc.



Most of all, as for myself, I got to know Fr Carmel as the spiritual director of the Maltese Past Pupils and Friends of Don Bosco NSW.

Despite him having a name (Carmelo) which was unfamiliar to Australians in the 1950s, he did not change it to Charles or another name easier to pronounce. He held on to his name as an anchor to his identity.

His book is written in a frank and open way, or to put it in Bishop Peter Ingham's own words "warts and all, wherein Fr Carmelo shared his very full and varied life." I observed that when he had to mention some negatives facts about persons he knew well, he always did this in a spirit of charity.

I strongly recommend his book to both Maltese and Australian readers. It is written in English and flows well.

The author used a good quality paper for his book, which has many photos and ends with a poem by Dun Karm, Malta's National poet, composed to his brother, who like Fr Carmelo himself, was Dun Karm's altar server at St Gregory's parish Sliema.

**review by Mark Caruana*

Tifkira tal-mejtin mill-Frangiskani f'Għawdex

By Charles Spiteri
November 18, 2023

Fiċ-Ċimiterju ta' Santa Marija, f'Għawdex, nhar il-Ħamis 16 ta' Novembru, il-Patrijiet Frangiskani fakkru lil ħuthom patrijiet, terzjarji u benefatturi mejtin.

Fil-Kappella, il-Provincjal tal-Ordni Frangiskana f'Malta, Patri Twanny Chircop iċċelebra quddiesa flimkien mal-Gwardjan f'Għawdex, Patri Marcello Ghirlando, Patri John Azzopardi, Patri Gabriel Micallef u Patri Walter Vassallo.

Wara sar talb u t-tberik tal-oqbra.

**Ritratti: Charles Spiteri*

Xena mill-Isbaħ tal-Pentekoste

By Charles Spiteri
November 17, 2023



Mument waqt it-talb



It-tberik tal-oqbra

Qed jaħdmu wkoll fuq dan ix-xogħol Joseph Borg mir-Rabat, Għawdex u Jorge Gilberto Vasquez Cabrera mill-Peru.

**Ritratti:*
CHARLES SPITERI



Jorge Gilberto Vasquez Cabrera waqt ix-xogħol tiegħu fuq id-dekorazzjoni finali



Dun Roberto Gauci minn Kerċem jidher jaħdem fuq dan ix-xogħol artistiku



Wara li nhar il-Ħadd, 2 ta' Lulju ta' din is-sena 2023 għe inawgurati iċ-Ċentru Pastorali ġdid f'Ta' Kerċem, li ha l-isem 'Ċentru L-Omm tas-Sokkors', mill-Kappillan Dun Brian Mejlak u mbierek mill-Eminenza Tiegħu, il-Kardinal Mario Grech, bħalissa qed isir xogħol mill-isbaħ fil-muzajk f'waħda mis-swali li tinsab fis-sular ta' fuq tal-istess binja.

Ix-xogħol jikkonsisti fix-xena tal-Pentekoste, bix-xbieha tal-Madonna li tinsab fiċ-ċentru ta' dan ix-xenarju imdawra bl-apostli bl-ilsna tan-nar fuq rashom bħala xbieha tal-inzul tal-Ispirtu s-Santu. Dan ix-xogħol huwa ta' daqs kemmxejn kbir bil-figuri li nħdmu fuq qisien *life size*, fejn bħas-soltu f'din l-arti kontemporanja jispikkaw ferm il-kuluri vivaċi minn ħafna għamliet ta' irħam u materjal ieħor, li meta mpoġġija flimkien joħolqu effetti mill-isbaħ.



Joseph Borg jaħdem il-parti tiegħu fuq uħud mill-figuri

Dan ix-xogħol qed jiġi kkoordinat miċ-Ċentru tal-Arti Eikon taħt il-gwida ta' Dun Roberto Gauci. Ħafna mix-xogħol fuq il-figuri sar fiċ-ċentru Eikon stess, sabiex fl-aħħar jiġi dawn bdew jitpoġġew f'pothom flimkien ma' xogħol ieħor

fuq ix-xenarju u dekorazzjoni finali li saret fuq il-post stess.

Dan il-progett artistiku huwa xogħol ieħor mis-sensiela ta' xogħolijiet fil-muzajk fl-istess ċentru pastorali, wara xogħol fil-faċċata u anki dekorazzjoni fit-taraġ prinċipali, li saru kollha miċ-Ċentru tal-Arti Eikon.

Akkademja Mużikali fix-Xagħra

By Charles Spiteri

November 16, 2023

Is-Socjetá Filarmonika Victory tellgħet Akkademja Mużikali, fil-Knisja Bażilika ta' Marija Bambina, fix-Xagħra, bħala parti mill-attivitajiet tal-125 sena mit-twaqqif tal-istess Socjetá.



Is-surmast Joseph Galea, (xellug) wara li dderieġa għall-aħħar darba lill-Banda Victory, irtira mill-kariga ta' Direttur Mużikali u għadda t-tmexxija tal-Banda lis-surmast Marvin Grech (lemin)

F'din l-Akkademja ħadet sehem il-Banda Victory, il-Kor Voci Angeliche u numru ta' solisti.

Waqt din is-serata wieħed seta' jara l-bidla fid-direzzjoni mużikali tal-Banda Victory, fejn is-surmast Joseph Galea, wara li dderieġa għall-aħħar darba lill-Banda, irtira mill-kariga ta' direttur mużikali u għadda t-tmexxija tal-Banda lis-surmast Marvin Grech. Is-sena 2023 kienet timmarka t-tletin sena minn meta s-Surmast Joseph Galea ha t-tmexxija tal-Banda Victory lura fis-sena 1993.



L-Akkademja Mużikali

Bix-xieraq f'din l-Akkademja, il-kumitat tal-Banda Victory ta tifikira



co-writers Ryan Cauchi (L) and Matt Ferro (R)

lis-Surmast Joseph Galea bħala rikonoxximent u gratitudni għal dawn it-30 sena ta' servizz impekkabbli lill-istess Banda.

Il-Kumitat tas-Socjetá Filarmonika Victory awgura kull suċċess lis-surmast il-gdid Marvin Grech. Il-Kumitat jinsab persważ li s-surmast Grech ser ikompli jmessi 'l quddiem lill-Banda Victory għal aktar suċċessi.

Maltese film based in Western Sydney on TikTok

By Ivan Cauchi

November 16, 2023

Although Australia hosts the highest quantity of descendants of Maltese ancestry in the world, about 200,000 people, their culture is almost non-existent in audio visual media.

"Being a Maltese-Australian, I had never seen a Maltese person in a scripted series before," said Ryan Cauchi, an AACTA-nominated writer and director of Maltese descent in Greystanes, Western Sydney. "I've also never seen any of the unique monsters or superstitions from Maltese folklore depicted on screen."

He is referring to a horror-drama series he directed called Greystanes that will be released in vertical format in 1-minute episodes on TikTok (@GreystanesSeries) in 2024. This is set in the 1990s in the eponymous suburb of Western Sydney. The series is co-written with Matt Ferro, whose credits include The Matrix and Happy Feet.



Johnnie in hiding (James Pantelis)

The cast includes

Frances Duca (Ali's Wedding) who plays the nanna, Chloe Delle-Vedove who plays Samamantha, one of the two visiting children, the other being James Pantelis (Johnnie). They discover a dark family secret, and give viewers a chance to become acquainted with Maltese folklore.

Most people of Maltese descent would have heard of the il-ħares, an ugly underworld being that has four fingers (not five). I suspect that very few would have known that il-ħares has a wife, called il-ħaddiela. This being has the quaint ability of finding you just as you are entering into your slumber, still feeling you know what's happening but being unable to talk or move, and pinning you down and stopping your every move.

If you are intrigued in finding out more,

then Greystanes on TikTok is the series for you!

*photos: Greystanes – Series on Facebook. Information from ilmiklem.com and filmink.com.au

James Bond coming to Astra Theatre in Rabat, Gozo

By Charles Spiteri

November 14, 2023



Preparations are well underway for an evening of great movie themes named 'The Best of James Bond'.

This is a concert by the La Stella Philharmonic Society to be held at Teatru Astra on Sunday November 19, at 8pm.

Dr John Galea, the conductor is seen here discussing details of interpretation with Jolene Samhan, one of the singers who will be interpreting some of the theme songs.



Exhibition by artist Michael Montebello

By Charles Spiteri

November 11, 2023

An exhibition by artist Michael Montebello is being held at the Banca Giuratale in Victoria, Gozo.

It showcases 18 paintings featuring seascapes and sunsets and some abstracts of various sizes. The paintings, some in vibrant colours, others more subtle, represent the moods of the artist seen through the momentary vision.

The medium used is acrylic on canvas except for one which is acrylic and other mediums on three-ply.

Being his first exhibition, Montebello is a self-taught artist and relatively unknown.

The exhibition is open Monday to Friday, from 7am to 2.30pm; Saturday and Sunday from 9am until 12pm, until Monday, November 20.



Works by Montebello. Photo: CHARLES SPITERI



Beatrice Portelli (right) and Sharon Vella admiring some of the works.
Photo: CHARLES SPITERI



Il-wirja ta' statwi tal-qaddisin

Wirja ta' Statwi

By Charles Spiteri

November 9, 2023

Bhala tifikira tal-Festa tal-Qaddisin Kollha, li tiġi ċelebrata fl-ewwel ta' Novembru, l-Għaqda Armar San Ġorġ Martri, fi hdan is-Socjeta Filarmonika La Stella, qed ittella' esibizzjoni ta' sett statwi *life-size* li jirraprezentaw qaddisin martri.

F'din l-ewwel edizzjoni tal-esibizzjoni Lumen Ecclesiae (Dawl tal-Knisja) wiehed jista' jara u jammira hdx-il statwa kollha xogħol l-artist Għawdx Adonai Camilleri Cauchi. Dan is-sett ta' statwi, tista' tgħid li hu wiehed mill-aktar settijiet rikki u barokki li jintramaw fil-festi Maltin. Hawn wiehed jista' jammira u jitpaxxa b'dawn l-istatwi aktar fil-qrib u jifli kull dettall, peress li armati fil-baxx mhux fuq il-pedestalli għoljin tal-festa.

Il-hdax-il qaddis huma San Ġorġ, San Pantaljun, Sant' Agata, San Lawrenz, Santa Katarina, Santa Luċija, San Genisju, Santa Margerita, San Ewstakju, Santa Ċeċila u San Sebastjan. L-Għaqda Armar haddet hsieb ukoll li tippubblika ktejjeb sabiħ bir-ritratti u informazzjoni dwar dawn il-qaddisin martri.

Il-kelma 'Martri' tfisser nies li taw hajjithom għall-dak li jemmnu fih, f'dan il-kaz, Gesu' Kristu. Bhall ma qal tajjeb il-Mons. Guzeppi Farrugia waqt l-ftuħ tal-esibizzjoni, il-martri mhumie x daww biss il-qaddisin li nafu min huma, imma hafna oħrajn li lanqas biss nafu x'jisimhom, u li għadhom jiġu ppersegwitati għal twemminhom sallum.

L-Esibizzjoni giet miftuħa uffiċjalment nhar il-Qaddisin Kollha mill-President tas-Socjeta Filarmonika La Stella, Michael Formosa, flimkien mal-Ministru ta' Għawdex, Cint Camilleri u id-Direttur Spiritwali Mons. Guzeppi Farrugia, għewwa s-sede tas-Socjeta La Stella, il-Belt Victoria.

Sadattant fl-istess post fejn qed tittella' l-wirja, nhar is-Sibt 4 ta'



Anton Galea waqt l-intervent tiegħu



Waqt il-prezentazzjoni tar-ritratti ta' tifikira tal-okkażjoni. Mil-lemin: Raymond Farrugia President tal-Għaqda, Adonai u Michael Camilleri Cauchi

Novembru 2023 saret intervista u taħdita fl-istess hin mal-artisti Michael u Adonai Camilleri Cauchi. Hawn l-artisti tkellmu dwar ix-xogħol fil-kartapesta, kif ukoll irrispondew domandi mill-pubbliku li attenda bi għaru.

Għall-domanda li staqsa l-prezentatur tal-attività, Christian Debono, Michael Camilleri Cauchi qal li l-ewwel statwa kbira li haddem għall-festi kienet dik ta' Sant' Anjeże li llum tinsab għewwa knisja f'Hal Luqa, mhux bhall ma dejjem gie miktub li kienet dik ta' San Guzepp tad-dimostrazzjoni li tinsab il-Qala.

Punt interessanti li qajjem kien dak meta gie mistoqsi xi jhoss meta jara statwa minn tiegħu, li tkun giet irrestawrata b'mod goff. Ir-risposta ta' Michael kienet waħda qasira imma b'tifsira kbira "qisu meta jkollok it-tfal u jagħtuhom xebgħa". Fl-aħħar tal-attività, il-President tal-Għaqda Armar, Raymond Farrugia, ipprezenta ritratt kbir tal-istatwa ta' San Ġorġ liż-żewġ artisti bhala tifikira.

Il-wirja qed issir bil-kollaborazzjoni tal-Direttorat tal-Kultura u Wirt Nazzjonali fi hdan il-Ministeru għal Għawdex.

*ritratti: Charles Spiteri

Ilsien pajjiżna – il-Malti

By Gużè Camilleri

November 7, 2023

Iltaqjt ma din l-intervista ma' Thomas Pace u Keith Attard fejn qasmu mal-ġurnal li kien qed intervistahom – **illum** – spunti interessanti ta' informazzjoni u anke taw xi għarfien fuq l-istorja lingwistika tal-ilsien Malti.

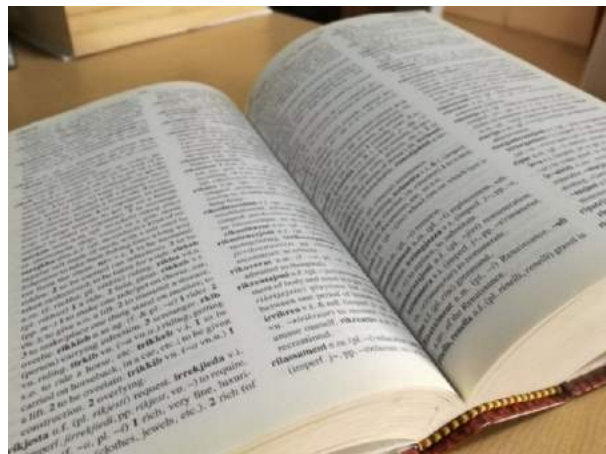
Hassejt li huwa ta' interess għall-qarrejja, speċjalment għal daww li għandhom għal qalbhom l-ilsien Malti.

L-Ilsien Malti

Insibu diversi djaletti fil-gzejjer Maltin. Pace, qal li djalett huwa varjetà tal-lingwa marbuta ma' reġjun jew lokalità partikolari. Qalb il-gzejjer Maltin insibu bosta djaletti bhall fosthom in-Naduri, il-Mosti, iż-Zurrieqi, is-Sannati u l-Qormi.

Id-djalett ma jirreferix biss għad-differenza fil-pronunzja u tlissin ta' ċertu kliem, ngħidu aħna il-kelma 'raġel', bin-Naduri tingħad '*ruġul*' u biż-Żejtuni tingħad '*ruġel*'. Iżda djalett fih differenzi fil-grammatika u l-vokabularju wkoll. Id-differenzi fost id-djaletti mhumie x daww biss fil-vokali imma anke fil-konsonanti. Hawnhekk Pace jirreferi għad-djalett tax-Xewkija, fejn il-konsonanta 'q' hafna jliissnuha 'k', bhall '*kuddies*' (quddies) u '*trik*' (triq). Hemm djaletti oħra li jliissnu l-akka u l-għajn li storikament kienet ir-rgħajn, bhall '*dahri*' (dahri) u '*deheb*' (deheb).

Pace jgħid li l-plurali ta' ċertu kliem ivarja bejn gżira u oħra, eżempju il-plural ta' karozzi u torta huwa



'karozzi' u 'torti' imma fid-djaletti Għawdxin il-plural huwa 'kroroz' u 'torot'. Il-ġens ta' nomi wkoll huwa differenti; għall-Għawdxin 'biro' huwa maskili (*biro iswed*) mentri għall-Maltin huwa femminili (*biro sewda*). In-naħa ta' fuq ta' Malta; il-Mellieħa, il-Manikata u Għawdex; il-komparattiv ta' 'aktar/iżjed baxx' huwa 'ibxex/ibaxx' (eż, l-għatba ibxex mill-oħra).

Pace spjega li minn punt lessikali nsibu kliem differenti li jirreferu għall-istess oġġett. Bhal pereżempju, l-antiporta tissejjaħ 'boxxla' f'certu rħula. It-tajra, ġugarell li intajru fis-sema, hemm min isejjilha 'manuċċa' u lokalitajiet oħra jgħidulha 'fjamma' jew 'hamiema'.

Kif żviluppa l-ilsien Malti? Qabel kien magħruf bħala l-ilsien tal-haddiem. Maż-żmien, kif spiċċa bħala lingwa nazzjonali?

Keith Attard: L-ilsien Malti għandu storja twila ħafna. Ilu mitkellem għal ħafna snin, grazzi għall-bosta ħakmiet li kkolonizzaw lil pajjiżna. L-aktar ħakmiet li influwenzaw il-Malti huma l-Għarab, in-Normanni, il-Kavallieri ta' San Gwann, u l-Ingliżi. Mingħandhom ħadna l-influwenza Semitika, Rumanza u Inġliża.

L-aktar kliem bażiku tal-lingwa ħadnieħ mill-Għarbi, iżda kliem aktar sofistikati ħadnieħ mit-Taljan u mill-Inġliż. Jekk nieħdu pereżempju l-qasam tal-ikel u x-xorb, se naraw li kliem bħal *ilma* u *ħobż* ġej mill-Għarbi – għax huwa bażiku – kliem bħal *minestra* u *froġa* ġej mit-Taljan, waqt li kliem bħal *smoothie* u *wrap* ġej mill-Inġliż. Il-lingwa Maltija hija bħal *cocktail* li xorbot minn għejun differenti u għalhekk nistgħu ngħidu li l-Malti hu isien imħallat li kellu bżonn ħafna snin biex jiżviluppa. Kif nistgħu nimmaginaw, il-Malti għadu jinbidel kuljum, bi kliem li sfortunatament jinqata' jew ma jibqax daqshekk popolari, iżda wkoll jiftaħ idu għal kliem ġdid, l-aktar mill-Inġliż, galadarba jhoss il-bżonn li għandu jagħmel dan. Dan il-fenomeni huwa vitali biex il-Malti jibqa' ħaj, aġġornat u ma jistaġnax, iżda basta jagħmel dan b'kawtela u b'moderazzjoni.

F'kuntrast mal-Inġliż, il-Malti ma jafx id-data ta' meta twieled. Nafu żgur li kien ġa twieled fl-1364 għax insibu dokumentazzjoni li kien hemm xi patrijiet fl-Italja li xtaqu jiġu Malta iżda ma setgħux għax ma kinux jafu jittkellmu l-Malti. Dan jimplika li l-Malti kien diġà jeżisti għax la ma kinux kapaci jittkellmu l-Malti sinjal li l-Malti kien diġà jeżisti!

Għalkemm hawn Malta, il-Malti għal ħafna snin kien fid-dell tat-Taljan u l-Inġliż, il-Maltin komuni dejjem kienu jithaddtu bil-Malti, iżda fil-Qrati, fil-knejjes, fil-palazzi, u f'istituzzjonijiet formali, il-lingwi dominanti kienu t-Taljan u l-Inġliż. Il-Malti kien meqjus bħala l-lingwa tal-kċina, jiġifieri l-lingwa li mhix ta' valur u ma tgawdix mir-rispett li jisthoqqilha. Tant kemm hawn Malta l-Malti ma kienu stmat, li fil-Kwistjoni tal-Lingwa, iż-żewġ lingwi li kienu se jittqiesu bħala iż-żewġ lingwi uffiċjali tal-pajjiż kienu se jkun t-Taljan u l-Inġliż, iżda grazzi għal niesna li ggieldu għalina, il-Malti fl-1934 spiċċa l-lingwa uffiċjali ta' Malta flimkien mal-Inġliż. Imbagħad fl-1964, il-Malti kompli jistagħna billi ħa l-istatus ta' Isien nazzjonali. Illum ukoll il-Malti huwa isien uffiċjali tal-Unjoni Ewropea. Araw daqsxejn kemm il-lingwa tagħna żviluppat matul is-snin!

Thomas Pace: L-ilsien Malti għandu storja twila mitkellem biss fuq livell popolari bħala l-ilsien tan-nies maħkuma. Fuq livell uffiċjali miktub, l-ilsien tal-ħakkiema ma kienu il-Malti imma t-Taljan, u aktar tard l-Inġliż, mal-ħakma tal-Inġliżi. Il-Malti standard li nafu illum xi darba kien forma djalettali mitkellma. Li jkollok lingwa standard tgħin fl-użu u t-tixrid tagħha fil-pubbliku għaliex il-kelliema tagħha jkollhom moħħhom mistrieħ li flivell formali u uffiċjali jhaddmu forma waħda ta' kitba.

Sal-1921, il-Malti kien għad m'għandux alfabet standard u ma setax jinkiteb b'mod konsistenti. Fl-1924 ġew stabbiliti r-regoli tal-kitba tiegħu mill-Għaqda tal-Kittieba tal-Malti, illum magħrufa bħala l-Akkademja tal-Malti.

Kellhom jgħaddu 10 snin, fl-1934, biex il-Malti jsir isien uffiċjali ta' Malta mal-Inġliż (l-ilsien tal-imperu) u mat-Taljan (l-ilsien tal-qrati). Fil-Kostituzzjoni ta' sentejn wara, l-ilsna uffiċjali li bdew jiġu rikonoxxuti uffiċjalment kienu l-Inġliż u l-Malti. Ladarba l-Malti f'tassallu alfabet standard u ġie kodifikat bir-regoli tal-ortografija u l-grammatika, seta' jibda jithaddem fil-ħajja pubblika u jintuża aktar fil-pubblikazzjonijiet u l-letteratura. Is-sena d-dieħla niċċelebraw il-mitt sena minn dan l-avveniment.

Mal-kisba tal-indipendenza, fil-21 ta' Settembru 1964, il-Malti beda jkun magħruf bħala l-ilsien nazzjonali ta' Malta għaliex huwa l-aktar isien li ilu m'haddem mill-Maltin f'Malta u li jiddistingwina minn popli oħra. Illum il-Malti hu wkoll isien uffiċjali ta' Malta mal-Inġliż u l-Lingwa tas-Sinjali Maltija, u wieħed mill-24 lingwa uffiċjali tal-Unjoni Ewropea.

Hemm il-lingwa standard u dik djalettali – tispjegali kif fuq għira tant żgħira nsibu daqstant verżjonijiet tal-lingwa?

Keith Attard: Bhal f'ħafna pajjiżi oħra, il-Malti għandu dik il-lingwa li tissejjaħ l-istandard u l-varjanti tagħha li jissejju djalett. Il-Malti standard huwa l-varjeta li tipikament tintuża fil-pubbliku, fl-amministrazzjoni, fl-edukazzjoni, fil-mezzi tax-xandir, u l-bqija, u li għandha dizżjunarju, grammatika, letteratura, u ortografija stabbilita. Min-naħa l-oħra, f'kuntesti informali mbagħad insibu d-djalett, li huwa varjant tal-lingwa standard u jintuża l-aktar bejn membri tal-familja, mal-ħbieb jew membri tal-istess raħal/komunità. Mikiel Anton Vassalli, meqjus bħala Missier l-Isien Malti, qasam id-djalett f'ħamsa: id-djalett tal-bliet, id-djalett tan-naħa ta' fuq, id-djalett tan-naħa t'isfel, id-djalett taċ-ċentru ta' Malta, u d-djalett ta' Għawdex. Tajjeb li wieħed jinnota li fil-kuntest lokali m'għandniex biss aċċenti, jiġifieri varjetajiet lingwistiċi li jvarjaw fuq livell fonetiku u fonoloġiku biss – jiġifieri fuq il-ħsejjes tal-kelma – iżda għandna djaletti, jiġifieri varjetajiet lingwistiċi li jvarjaw fuq il-livelli kollha tal-analiżi lingwistika. Ngħidu aħna fuq livell morfoloġiku – jiġifieri l-istudju tal-forom u kif jinbnew il-kliem – pereżempju f'Għawdex tisma' l-plural *kroroz* u fl-istandard tisma' *karozzi*, fuq livell sintattiku – jiġifieri l-mod ta' kif tinbena s-sentenza – pereżempju l-binja tal-progressiv fin-negattiv *ma qedx jiekol* fl-imġarri u *mħux qed jiekol* fl-istandard, u fuq livell lessikali – jiġifieri tal-kliem – pereżempju f'Għawdex tisma' lil min jgħid *għakruxu*, u fl-istandard tgħid *bebbuxu*.

X'inhi r-relazzjoni bejn il-Malti u l-Inġliż f'Malta? U x'inhi r-relazzjoni bejn il-Malti u lingwi oħra?

Keith Attard: Kif għedt qabel, il-Malti u l-Inġliż huma iż-żewġ lingwi uffiċjali ta' Malta. Għandna x-xorti qawwiya li Malta huwa pajjiż bilingwi, jiġifieri jaf iħaddem sew il-Malti u l-Inġliż. Pajjiżi kbar oħra li mħumiex bilingwi jixxennqu biex bħalna jkun jafu sew ukoll l-Inġliż u jispicċaw jitgħallmuh bħala lingwa barranija jew jiġu Malta biex jitgħallmu u jipprattikaw l-Inġliż. Għalhekk, la għandna dan il-lussu, ma ridux indaħħlu rasna fir-ramel u nagħżlu l-Malti biss għax se nkunu żvantagġati, f'dinja fejn nafu kemm l-Inġliż huwa universali. Min-naħa l-oħra, jekk għandna żewġ teżori, m'għandniex inwarrbu t-teżor l-ieħor u nagħżlu li niffukaw biss fuq l-Inġliż u nwarbu l-Malti. Nikkwota kliem Dun Karm Psaila mill-poeżija "*Għaliex? Jedd il-Lsien Malti*" meta jgħid li m'għandniex inwarrbu l-Isienna biex niffukaw fuq lingwi oħra: "Hobb jekk jiswewlek l-ilsna barranin / iżda le tbarri lil min hu ta' ġewwa." Li wieħed ikun jaf lingwi barranin huwa ta' fejda għalih għaliex jista' jkollu aktar opportunitajiet akbar ta' xogħol u jkun jista' jikkomunika aħjar meta jsiefer. Il-Malti u l-lingwi barranin jistgħu jintrabtu flimkien u jagħtuk il-ħobża ta' kuljum, ngħidu aħna jekk inti traduttur, interpretu, għalliem jew gwida.

Thomas Pace: Bħala Kunsill aħna naħdmu ħafna biex il-Malti, qabelxejn, jintuża mal-Inġliż. Dawn iż-żewġ lingwi mħumiex f'kompetizzjoni imma għandna nużawhom flimkien. Il-Malti hu l-ilsien li jaqdina f'artna stess u l-Inġliż jgħaqqadna mal-bqija tad-dinja li aħna parti minnha. La għandna żewġ ilsna uffiċjali li aħna kburin bihom, għandna naraw li nużawhom konsistentement fil-materjal pubbliku li noħroġu u nagħmlu, bħat-tabelli u l-fuljetti.

Irridu ngħinu lill-impjegati barranin f'pajjiżna biex jitgħallmu l-Malti. L-impjegaturi tagħhom għandhom ikunu aktar sensitivi biex jgħaddulhom il-Malti bażiku ħalli jkun jistgħu jikkomunikaw aħjar mal-klijenti tagħhom.

Taħseb li l-lingwa Maltija għad tintilef? Il-Malti huwa mhedded?

Keith Attard: Matul is-snin tisma' ħafna għajdut li l-Malti għad jintilef iżda jien din ma nemminhiex. Ma ntilifx meta matul iż-żmien l-istatus tal-Malti kien ħafna inqas inferjuri mil-lum, ngħid jien, se jintilef illum?! Huwa fundamentali li nibqgħu nħaddmuh sew u ngħadduh lil ta' warajna bl-aħjar mod possibbli biex b'hekk jibqa' jgawdi mir-rispett li jisthoqq.

Bħala għalliem tal-Malti u ċittadin Malti nħoss għafsa ta' qalb nara l-idjoma Maltija titbiċċer minn hutna stress, saħansitra minn xandara u ġurnalisti Maltin li għandhom rwol importanti ħafna f'xogħolhom. Aghar minn hekk hija wkoll stallett meta tisma' lit-tfal Maltin jittkellmu kontinwament bl-Inġliż u jittellgħu barranin f'arhom stess. Dan, iwa, hu theddid għal-lingwa tagħna imma dment li l-maġġoranza tibqa' thaddem il-Malti fit-taħdit, il-Malti jibqa' ħaj. Hawn min jgħid ukoll li l-ammont ta' barranin li qed jiġu jgħixu f'pajjiżna wkoll jista' jkun theddida għall-Malti.

Biex negħibu dawn l-oistakli, importanti li nibnu ambjent fejn iħossuhom komdi biżżejjed biex jittkellmu l-Malti. Ngħinuhom iwa, imma mhux nakkomodawhom f'kollox. La qed jgħixu Malta, xi forma ta' Malti bażiku jridu jkun jafu. Wara kollox, jekk jien immur ngħix l-Italja jew Franza, dawn lili ma jakkomodawnix u allura jridu jagħmlu ħilithom biex jitgħallmu l-Malti huma wkoll. Importanti wkoll li l-Malti jkun aktar viżibbli u jkollu aktar riżorsi *online* għal min irid jużah. Ċekkjur tal-Malti jiswa mitqulu deheb; dizżjunarju aġġornat ukoll ...

għalhekk tajjeb ngħidu li l-Gvern għandu jgħin kemm jista' jkun lill-Kunsill mingħajr ma jipprova jxekkilla l-ħidma tiegħu; haġa li bħalissa sfortunatament hija realtà qawwiya minħabba l-kwistjoni li l-Kunsill għandu mal-Ministru fuq il-kwistjoni ta' Ċentru tal-Ilsien Malti.

Thomas Pace: Il-futur ta' l-Sienna qiegħed f'idejn il-ġenituri u n-nanniet. Importanti haġna li jkellmu lil uliedhom u lin-neputijiet tagħhom bil-Malti wkoll ħalli l-Malti jkun għalihom ukoll lingwa naturali daqskemm hu għalina. It-tfal imdawrin haġna bl-Ingliż – mill-internet sal-iskola – u għalhekk huwa kruċjali li l-Malti jithaddem fid-djar tagħna f'sitwazzjonijiet differenti.

X'inhu jseħh min-naħa tal-Kunsill tal-Malti biex tiġi ppreservata l-lingwa?

Keith Attard: Il-Kunsill Nazzjonali tal-Ilsien Malti jagħmel haġna xogħol fis-skiet biex jippreserva l-lingwa tagħna. Jorganizza sensiela ta' korsijiet lil diversi entitajiet u individwi biex jaġġornahom jew jgħallimhom affarijiet ġodda. Wieħed mill-akbar korsijiet annwali li jorganizzaw huwa l-Kors tal-Qari tal-Provi fil-Malti, li hu miftuħ għal kulhadd b'mod speċjali għal min irid ikun qarrej tal-provi kkwalifikat fil-Malti. Il-Kunsill tal-Malti, bi sħab mad-Dipartiment tat-Tmexxija tal-

Kurrikulu, jorganizza sensiela oħra ta' korsijiet volontarji għall-għalliema u l-LSEs tal-primarja u s-sekondarja, għall-KGAs, għall-ġenituri u n-nanniet, u għall-pubbliku. Jorganizza wkoll korsijiet għall-barranin, u għall-impjegati tas-Servizz Pubbliku. Jieħu ħsieb ukoll biex minn żmien għal żmien jagħmel korsijiet ta' aġġornamenti.

Thomas Pace: Nagħtu sehemna wkoll biex niżviluppaw it-terminologija bil-Malti ta' oqsma differenti. Hdimna fuq it-termini tal-geografija u għadna kemm nedejna d-dizzjunarju speċjalizzat tal-ekonomija mad-Dipartiment tal-Malti u l-Prof. Lino Briguglio mid-Dipartiment tal-Ekonomija fl-Università ta' Malta.

Qed nikkollaboraw ukoll mad-Dipartiment tal-Malti fl-Università biex norganizzaw il-Kors fil-Qari tal-Provi bil-Malti (MQF 5) u korsijiet professjonali interni qosra ħalli aktar impjegati tas-servizz pubbliku u s-servizz privat iħossuhom kunfidenti jużaw il-Malti fil-post tax-xogħol tagħhom. Nemmu haġna li rridu nkomplu nżidu l-kuxjenza u t-taħriġ.

**Originarjament ippubblikat fil-gazzetta lllum 02.11.2023 07:06*

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The Voice of the Maltese

Reach deep into the Maltese community around the world

Online 24/7 and a fortnightly print edition

"A bit of bread may save a man's life, and yet there are well-to-do persons cruel enough to refuse that bit of bread!"

Aphorism 6 by Manuel Dimech, from Aphorisms – Wisdom of a Philosopher in Exile, SKS 2012, edited by Mark Montebello & Francis Galea



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Notice Board

Maltese Seniors Social Welfare Day Groups

Llandilo Maltese Seniors: meets on the first Wednesday of each month at the Llandilo Community Hall, 257 Seventh Avenue, Llandilo 11am to 1.00 pm. Group holds regular Information Sessions/Workshops & Bus Trips. Group Leader: Helen Azzopardi.

Merrylands Social Maltese Seniors: meets every second Friday of the month at the Miller Room, Memorial Avenue, Merrylands from 10.30am to 12.30 pm. Group Leader: Salvina Falzon.

Fairfield Active Maltese Seniors: meets on the last Tuesday of the month. Group meets in the Parish Hall of Our Lady of the Rosary Church, 18 Vine Street, Fairfield from 10 am to 12 noon. Group Leader Dorothy Gatt mobile 0422757829

Maltese of Bankstown Group: meets third Wednesday of the month from 10am at the Lewis Bowling Club, 14A Waterloo Rd, Greenacre. Every other Wednesday, an outing is organised. For enquiries, call Sam Galea on 0410 269 519. This Group is sponsored by the Bankstown Resource Centre.

Daceyville Maltese Seniors: meets the last Wednesday of the month in Meeting Room One, No. 3 General Bridges Crescent, Daceyville. Note: the group also arranges regular bus trips. Join us and make new friends. Group Leader: Connie De Gabriele.

The Sutherland & St George Maltese Group: meets every first Wednesday of the month, from 10:00am to 12noon at the Miranda Community Centre, 93 Karimbla Rd cnr. Kiaora Dd, Miranda. The meetings are interesting and informative. We have guest speakers. Sometimes we also show films. Monthly outings as well, travelling in modern, safe & comfortable minibuses. Membership is Free. Everyone is welcome. For more info please contact Charles N. Mifsud, coordinator, on 0421 662 298.

Greystanes Maltese Seniors: meets on the second Monday of each month at the George Preca Parish Centre Our Lady Queen of Peace (OLQP) Church, 198 Old Prospect Road, Greystanes from 10.30 am to 12.30 noon. Group holds regular Information Sessions/Workshops & Bus Trips. Group Leader: Frances Montesin.

Men's Group: meets every last Tuesday of the month at the MCC Centre at 59b Franklin Str, Parramatta WEst (next to the Primary School) from 10 to 12 noon. Discussion, information and renew

friendship. Pastizzi, Kinnie etc. available. Contact Fred on 98632550
**All groups are supported by the Maltese Community Council of NSW, with a sponsorship from Multicultural NSW. Contact the MCC Welfare Officer: Marisa Privitera JP on 0414863123. The MCC offices are at 59b Franklin St cnr. Young St, Parramatta West, NSW*

Maltese Association of Western Australia

9 December 2023: Children's Christmas party from 10am to 2pm

1 May Holman Drive Bassendean WA 6054
 Phone: +61 8 93772902, email: mawai@bigpond.com



Maltese Community Council of NSW

21 January 2024 – Maltese Heritage Day @ Marsden Park.

Seeking expressions of interest from exhibitors of Maltese traditional arts, crafts and displays. Contact Marisa on 0414863123 for more information.



Maltese Cultural Association of NSW

9 December 2023: A Dinner Dance will be organised by the Maltese Cultural Association from 6pm at Fontana Amorosa, 47-49 Balmoral St, Blacktown. There will be a 4 course meal, the Rockin XPress Band and the Cittadini Cultural and Theatrical Group. Adults Only.

Bookings: Charles N Mifsud 0421662298, Victor Fenech 0421345325, Monica Ledger 0414859386.

Immigration Exhibition moves to Brisbane until 22 December

It gives us great pride to see that our work on the immigration project that was held in Victoria in May this year between the Maltese Community Council of Victoria Inc in conjunction with the National Archives of Australia and the Maltese



Community Council is being exhibited in Brisbane.

We encourage all Maltese living in Queensland to visit this exhibition and show your support and pride in celebration 75 years anniversary of the assisted passage.

This exhibition will be open until December and the plan is to move this exhibition to New South Wales for the Maltese living there. The exhibition can be viewed 6 September 2023 to 22 December 2023, Wednesday to Friday, 9 am to 4:30 pm. Location: National Archives of Australia, Queensland Office, 16 Corporate Drive, Cannon Hill, QLD 4170.

**media release by Joseph Matina, Maltese Community Council of Victoria*

Religious services in central Sydney

Every Sunday in the chapel of St Paul in De Piro House, Stanley Street Sydney, there is a Mass in Maltese by Fr Tarcisio, which starts at 10.00 am and afterwards, there will be a cup of coffee. Come and meet together in a Maltese atmosphere.

Phone Fr. Tarcisio Micallef on 02 9380 8398



St. Mary's Cathedral, Sydney

St Nicholas Festa Committee

130-136 Hyatts Rd, Plumpton, NSW. PRO: Stella Vella 0414188226



Upcoming activities:

- Sunday 3 December – Festa
- Sunday 17 March 2024 – March Fete
- Saturday 27 April 2024 – Variety Night
- Sunday 7 July 2024 – Imnarja
- Sunday 13 October 2024 – October Fete

Maltese Community Council of Victoria

477 Royal Parade Parkville Victoria 3052. Phone 03 9387 8922, Admin@mccv.org.au

Upcoming activities:

Children's Christmas Party

Position of part time Maltese teacher vacant. Apply if interested.



Hamrun Club Association – Marsden Park

Address: 100 Jackwon St, Marsden Park, NSW.

Upcoming activities by or at the club

25 November – Jomike & Lydon Agius + Charlie Muscat @ Hamrun Club

For further information & bookings: call Joe Borg 0414429391.



Maltese Language School of NSW

Learn about the Maltese language, the culture, lifestyle, cuisine, traditions and the amazing history of the magnificent Mediterranean islands of Malta and Gozo. Classes available for beginners and those who already have a confident grasp of the Maltese language. Adult and Children's classes available. All classes are online. Positions available for people who can assist with teaching the Maltese Language.

Call Lisa for an information package on 0419 418 547 or email mls@mccnsw.org.au.



A division of the Maltese Community Council of NSW Inc. Established in 1999

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NATIONAL

SBS RADIO: 97.7 FM Tuesdays 12:00pm; Friday 12:00pm. Listen on Digital Radio or Live Streaming on www.sbs.com.au/radio/ or on TV Channel 38. On Demand and podcasts on www.sbs.com.au/maltese.

SBS TV: SBS TV news from Malta every day at 4.30 pm on Channel 35 also on demand.

VICTORIA

3ZZZ 92.3FM: Mondays 5-6pm, Fridays 5-6pm and Saturdays 10-11am. Presenters: Paul Vella, Mario Sammut, Liz Phillips. Listen live on www.3zzz.com.au.

98.9 North West FM: Mondays 7-8pm and Fridays 6-7pm. Maltese Program. Presenter: Emmanuel Brincat. Listen live on www.northwestfm.org/ethnic-radio/.

97.9 FM Melton: Tuesday 6.00pm to 8.00pm Maltese Program. Presenter: Miriam Vella. Live streaming on www.979fm.com.au.

NSW

2GLF FM 89.3 Maltese Community Council programme: Every Sunday is now two whole hours, from 10 to 12 noon. The first hour is Maltese Voices, dedicated to the best of Maltese talent. This is followed by News from Malta, the latest information, culture, interviews, community notices and topics of interest. Listen live on www.893fm.com.au/on-demand.

WOW-FM 100.7: Tuesdays 6pm to 9pm. Maltese program with Joe Borg, Emanuel Camilleri and Michael Mallia. Listen live on



www.wowfm1007.com.au.

VOX FM 106.9: Mondays 5pm to 6pm. Voice of Valletta – Illawarra Maltese programme presented by Louis Parnis. Live streaming on www.voxfm.org.au.

QUEENSLAND

4EB FM 98.1: Tuesdays 6:00am to 8:00am; Presenter: Lucy Stewart. Music, news from Malta, topics of interest, song requests, community announcements. Live streaming on www.4eb.org.au or On Demand on www.4eb.org.au/shows/program-bill-malti-global-maltese/.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

5EBI FM 103.1: Maltese Community Radio Program from Adelaide. Sunday: 7.00am; Monday: 8.00am; Monday: 6.00pm. Presenters: Bernadette Buhagiar and Ron Borg. Listen live or On Demand on www.5ebi.com.au.

La Valette Social Centre



Thursdays: Open around lunchtime for food, drinks, boċci and Holy Mass..

Saturdays: Enjoy a great Maltese menu, drinks and entertainment on Saturday nights. Għana every last Saturday of the month. Play bingo and boċci with your friends in a family environment. Holy Mass at St Francis Chapel at 5.30pm.

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Drinks & pastizzi.

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6 December: launch of book Mill-Bir ta' Qalbi by Frank Zammit @ 7pm.

<https://lavallette.com.au>. 175 Walters Road, Blacktown. Tel. 96225847.

Sports

Malta's fine performance commended despite England loss

By TVOTM SportsDesk

November 19, 2023

Malta wrapped up their commitments in the EURO 2024 Group C qualifiers on Friday at Wembley Stadium against England with their seventh loss (0-2) from as many matches to finish their participation in the competition pointless. However, they earned the satisfaction of at least having played what many believe was their best match in the campaign.

For already-qualified England, it was an unconvincing victory; they scored a goal out of nothing in the eighth minute, an own goal by Enrico Pepe and a Harry Kane tally after 75 minutes. But it boosted their hopes of being seeded for next summer's Euro 2024 in Germany.

Malta had not won in 16 successive European Championship qualifiers and lost all seven of their previous matches in Group C, only scoring two goals. They had only ever managed one goal in four competitive games against England – an own goal by goalkeeper Richard Wright in a 2-1 friendly loss in June 2000 – but nearly made a sensational start.

They played an excellent first half despite Enrico Pepe's misfortune when he diverted Phil Foden's pull-back into his net off goalkeeper Harry Bonello. Besides that, England failed to register a single shot on target in the opening hour against a nation ranked 171st in the world. Before that, within the first minute, Malta had threatened with a Teuma grounder that went agonisingly wide.

The England fans had expected the floodgates to open after the first goal, but it did not happen. Ultimately, England had 75% possession to Malta's 25%. They also had four shots on target. Malta did not have any.

Malta continued to press high through Paul Mbong, Reid and



England take the lead with Enrico Pepe's own goal (Facebook)

Yannick Yankam to help keep various potential England attacks at bay, while the defence stayed in shape throughout the first 45 minutes.

The second half followed a similar pattern to the first, while goalkeeper Bonello comfortably dealt with Trent Alexander-Arnold's volley from the edge of the area just after the hour.

However, in the 75th minute, England produced some quality to seal victory through Harry Kane. It came after a fine one and two-touch passing move involving Kyle Walker, Foden and Bukayo Saka, who set up Kane for his 62nd international goal.

A little later, England thought they had added a third goal, but Declan Rice's excellently curling low shot into the bottom corner, but the goal was ruled out by VAR as Kane, standing in the goalkeeper's line of sight, was adjudged offside.

Some of England's top players were unavailable due to injury. However, the home fans expected much more from them. They showed their discontent with the players' efforts, and they threw

several paper aeroplanes onto the pitch and surrounding areas.

At the end of the match, Malta's Italian coach Michele Marcolini was more than happy with the team's performance and claimed it was their best during the Euro 2024 qualifiers.

England had already qualified for next summer's finals with two games to spare, but only five of the 10 group winners and the hosts will be seeded when the draw is made next month. They play their final qualifier on Monday in North Macedonia. A draw would be enough to guarantee them a top seeding.

Tributes to Sir Bobby Charlton

Before the kick-off, it was an emotional evening as fans, players, and coaching staff paid tribute to Sir Bobby Charlton, who died aged 86 on 21 October. He scored 49 goals in 106 international matches and helped England win the 1966 World Cup.

Amid darkness in the stadium, a video showed some of Sir Bobby's career highlights, with all the England players wearing black armbands. The fans spelt the words 'Sir Bobby' during a minute's applause, which saw Wembley again in darkness apart from a spotlight on the players standing around the centre circle.

Melbourne Cup winning jockey of Maltese descent

By Lawrence Dimech

November 8, 2023



Mark Zahra, winning jockey of the Melbourne Cup 2023, speaking on Seven's Sunrise after the event

The Melbourne Cup is one of the most impressive events in the calendar of Australian sports. It is held annually on the first Tuesday of the month of November. It is known as the race that stops the nation.

It is a 3200m horse race with a total prize money of \$8 million. Mark Zahra the winning jockey, age 41 years has won his second successive Melbourne Cup after storming home to clinch victory on Without a Fight in front of tens of thousands of fans at Flemington Racecourse.

It was a special piece of history for the Aussie jockey, whose decision to turn down the ride on last year's winner Gold Trip paid dividends. Without a Fight crossed the line first ahead of Soulcombe and Sheraz.

The Voice of the Maltese has obtained reliable information that Mark Zahra's family emigrated to Bassendean in Perth, Western Australia, from Żejtun, Malta in 1960, therefore this famous successful jockey is of Maltese descent.

**updated 9/11/2023 @ 09:37 with provenance details of Mark's parents*



Bernadette and John Zahra in Perth, having a celebratory champagne after their son's victory. Photo: Perth Racing via Facebook

Malta's demanding final EURO qualifier vs England on Friday

By TVOTM SportsDesk

November 13, 2023

In the past weekend, the Premier Football League in Malta rested as the teams observed the international break while the national team footballers have been preparing themselves under Italian coach Michele Marcolini for this Friday's 2024 EURO Qualifying Round Group C big match against England at Wembley Stadium in London.

It will be Malta's last in the qualifiers of the current edition of the UEFA competition. Thus far, Malta have played seven times in the qualifiers and are pointless at the bottom of the group, a challenging position to improve on at the end of Friday's match.

The match at Wembley will be the return tie to the home match played at the National Stadium at Ta' Qali Malta. It follows last month's 1-3 loss at home to Ukraine, in which the locals gave a dominating display and largely controlled the proceedings, but the guests won by taking the few scoring chances that came their way.

Coach Marcolini has been getting his provisional squad of 33 players through its paces during the past ten days but is expected to bring it down to the final selection of 23 players early in the week before flying to London and the arduous task against Group leaders England, who have already qualified to next year's finals.

This initial selection included a couple of noteworthy additions, including Kemar Reid, who has recently been granted Maltese citizenship by naturalization. The Floriana player, now an official Maltese citizen, is expected even to make the final squad. After an absence of three years, Sliema's Myles Beerman, who always made it to Marcolini's provisional squad, could also find himself in the squad that travels to the UK.

However, the team to face England at Wembley is expected to look very similar to that in the last game against Ukraine and could have very few, if any, surprises.

Friday's will be the seventh time that Malta and England have played each other since February 3 1971. They also met in a B



Malta coach Michele Marcolini giving the last instructions to one of his players. Photo: Dominic Aquilina



Malta National team players training for the tough task ahead against England. Photo: Dominic Aquilina

Friendly international. That first game, a first-leg tie in the UEFA European Championship, was played at the former Empire Stadium in front of a capacity crowd, which ended in a 1-0 victory for England. The return tie was played three months later, on May 12 at Wembley Stadium. At the time, Malta were given the runaround, with England winning 5-0.

The next time the two teams representing the same countries met was on October 14 1987, in a B international friendly at the National Stadium at Ta' Qali, with England winning 2-0. The two national sides met again in a friendly international on June 3, 2000, at the National Stadium, with England edging Malta by 2-1.

Six years later, on October 8 2016, Malta were drawn to meet England once again, this time in the FIFA World Cup European Qualifiers, first in the away tie at Wembley Stadium, with England winning 2-0, and then in the return tie in Malta, on September 1 2017 with England running 4-0 winners. The two teams last met on June 16 in the current edition of the 2024 EURO Qualifying Round Group C at the Ta' Qali National Stadium. That time, England won 4-0.

Floriana again share the top billing after Hamrun's failure to win

By TVOTM SportsDesk

November 8, 2023

At the end of Matchday 7, Floriana joined champions Hamrun

Spartans at the top of the Premier League ladder thanks to an easy 3-0 victory over Sirens, while the Spartans dropped points in a 1-1 draw against a much improved Mosta side.

Hamrun Spartans 1 Mosta 1

For many followers of the Malta football scene, for Hamrun to be held to a 1-1 draw by Mosta might be a surprise. But in truth, Mosta have been improving with each game, and with this result they have extended their unbeaten run to four matches.

Mosta were helped in no small way by playing for 68 minutes with a numerical advantage following the dismissal of Joseph Mbong after just 22 minutes. However, they also finished the game with ten men when Christian Ndubuisi Nnaji was red-carded five minutes into added time at the end of the match.

Still, the Spartans were good enough to take a 38th minute goal through Uros Djuranovic, who scored following a corner kick action and a blunder by the Mosta goalkeeper David Udoh Akpan.

Mosta worked hard and eventually found an equaliser two minutes into first-half stoppage time through Kevin Tulimieri, who beat goalkeeper Bonello by finishing a pass by team-mate Nathan Agius.

Late in the game and following a balanced second half, Mosta's Christian Ndubuisi Nnaji earned the referee's displeasure and was sent off for a second yellow card after 95 minutes.

Floriana 3 Sirens 0

Floriana scored three times in the final thirty minutes against joint-bottom team Sirens in a match they dominated and pushed themselves back to share the top billing in the standings with Hamrun.

The Greens returned to winning ways after dropping four points in their previous two matches and are now back as leaders of the Premier League with the Spartans, four ahead of Marsaxlokk and Sliema Wanderers. In contrast, Sirens' disappointing run continues. They are still without a win and share the bottom spot with Santa Lucia.

Floriana were on top for long stretches in a goalless first half without looking that threatening. Then, they paved the way for victory by scoring in the 62nd minute through an Oualid El Hasni header from a corner.

The Greens stayed on top but were only convincing up front in the 81st minute when Kemar Reid doubled their lead from a solo effort, and a minute from the end, Lorenzo De Grazia sealed it with a third goal with a humdinger from outside the box.

Marsaxlokk 2 Birkirkara 0

A brace by Yuri Messias helped Marsaxlokk return to winning ways after two successive defeats to start dreaming again. Messias' brace made the difference between the two teams as the *Xlukkajri* defeated Birkirkara 2-0 to stop their recent emergence. It was a disappointing outing for the losers as they finish with only nine men.

Marsaxlokk were the first to settle and deservedly took the lead after 36 minutes when Messias beat two players before hitting the ball past goalkeeper Marcel Zapytowski.

Marsaxlokk stayed on top for the rest of the match, and six minutes from time, their task became simpler when Birkirkara were first reduced to 10 men with the sending off of Enrico Pepe for two yellow cards, and then with two minutes added on, they were awarded a penalty for an Ali Diakite handling infringement in the penalty area. The Birkirkara player was sent off. Yuri Messias converted the spot kick for a victory that gives Marsaxlokk joint ownership of the third spot in the standings.

Sliema Wanderers 1 Santa Lucia 0

Sliema Wanderers' impressive run on their return to the Premier League continued as they obtained their fourth win from seven minutes by narrowly beating Sta Lucia, wooden-spoonist with Sirens, 1-0.

The goal that decided the match was scored after 34 minutes by Brazilian Samuel Gomes da Mata. But despite having such a slender lead, for most of the game, the Wanderers were on top of their opponents.

Any hopes Santa Lucia might have entertained evaporated into thin air in the 76th minute when Sven Xerri was sent off for a second yellow card for a reckless tackle, leaving his side to toil on with only ten men.

Naxxar Lions 2 Balzan 1

Naxxar Lions' 2-1 victory over Balzan might have been unexpected. Still, in the end, it was well deserved as they extended their unbeaten run to five matches to occupy a very respectable position in the company of Valletta and the same Balzan with nine points.

Balzan were coming from a defeat against neighbours Birkirkara, and though it looked as if they could improve their fortunes, especially

towards the end of the first half, they succumbed to their fourth defeat.

Luck was not on their side early on when a Leonardo da Silva effort with the Naxxar goalkeeper beaten smashed against the crossbar. Having escaped the threat, Naxxar improved and, in the 35th minute, forged ahead from a Marcilio Wiliam Moreira da Silva headed goal.

Balzan made a strong reaction and not only levelled the score just before half-time through Leonardo Souza, who beat the Naxxar goalkeeper off the upright but also came very near to taking the lead.

The same scorer also squandered a golden opportunity to put Balzan ahead on the hour when goalkeeper Matthias Debono saved his shot from a penalty. Balzan paid dearly for the miss as in the 65th minute, Naxxar obtained the winning goal and the three points through Marcilio da Silva.

Valletta 1 Gżira United1

A late penalty converted by Federico Falcone saved the day for Valletta. They avoided defeat by the skin of their teeth against Gżira United in a match in which they shared the spoils at the end of a 1-1 draw.

With both teams smarting from a defeat in their last outing, they needed to gain something out of this meeting, so they started somewhat cautiously, more intent on safety than bravely venturing forward.

As the game wore on, Gżira proved more adventurous and were rewarded for their initiative in the 13th minute when Thaylor Adama headed them ahead from a Zach Scerri cross. They also went near to increasing the lead a little later, but for Jack Galea in the Valletta goal.

The danger awakened Valletta from their sleep, and they decided to react. They first missed a golden opportunity for the equaliser from a Garba effort that sailed over the bar and then had a Garba effort saved by Zarkov in the Gżira goal.

The second half was less timid, with Valletta enjoying more possession, but Gżira held out without less effort. Until, that is, four minutes from time when Falcone levelled the score for Valletta from a penalty awarded for a Farid Zuniga hands.

Just before the final whistle sounded, Valletta nearly snatched a winner through substitute Luka Susnara, but Zarkov saved the day for Gżira with a fine save.

Hibernians 1 Gudja United 0



Action from Hibernians (white shirts) vs Gudja. Photo: Walter Sargent

Hibernians' supporters must have breathed a sigh of relief to see their team's disappointing run halted as they returned to winning ways with a 1-0 win over lowly placed Gudja United, even though they are still far from performing to the best of their abilities.

The Paolites' winning tally, one of the few bright spots in a drab encounter that ended their poor run, was scored by Giannis Bastionos three minutes into the second half.

The goal seemed to infuse more spirit in the Hibernians players, and they stayed on top until the end, especially when, fifteen minutes from time, Gudja finished with ten men with the red carding of Karl Micallef.

Premier League ladder:

Floriana and Hamrun Spartans 17 points; Marsaxlokk and Sliema Wanderers 13; Hibernians, Mosta and Birkirkara 10; Valletta, Naxxar Lions and Balzan 9; Gżira United 8; Gudja United 4; Santa Kucia and Sirens 1.

Dr Hugh McDermott MP

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