



# Maltese eNewsletter

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NOSTALGIA

**Migrants  
in Malta**

**STABILITÀ  
MHUX  
INCERTEZZA**

استقرار وليس  
عدم يقين

**STABILITY NOT  
UNCERTAINTY**

**STABILITÉ PAS  
L'INCERTITUDE**



**'We are part of Malta's  
economic success'**

**THE ONLY MALTESE JOURNAL IN AUSTRALIA**



**Rock & Pop Classis of the 80's & 90's - Gozo**

# MALTESE COMMUNITY IN AUSTRALIA IS FAST DISAPPEARING

As the first-generation Maltese in Australia is ageing and shrinking rapidly in size, and institutions, associations, clubs and journals are closing down the younger generations have shown little or no interest in continuing the Maltese language, culture and traditions. This crisis is also evolving in other countries like Canada, USA and UK. The challenge that Maltese community organisations in Australia have been and are still facing in engendering the interest and involvement of the younger Maltese-Australian generations in the Maltese language, culture and traditions as well as their Maltese heritage. We must ensure that the Maltese communities in Australia do not become extinct in a matter of a decade or two.

With the ageing of the Maltese-born first generation, the Maltese community in Australia appears to be facing a crisis: There are no young people coming up to take over the leadership of the Maltese organisations. While we may console ourselves that this is not a problem only within the Maltese community and, in fact, it goes right across other ethnic groups in Australia, in the case of the Maltese community, the problem is more pressing due to the smaller size of the community, which has shrunk by nearly 50% in the past 25 years. Most importantly, the Maltese language uptake in Australia seems to be declining as can be seen from the difficulty in getting the minimum of 15 students selecting Maltese language at VCE, HCS or SACE level on a national level to ensure its continued the Maltese language to retain its place in the Australian schools' curriculum.

This contrasts with the language uptake in other ethnic

groups, which starts very early as it is compulsory, not just within their school system but also through their parents. For instance, every Greek child goes to Greek language school every Saturday. It is the same with the Italians. The Italian government also funds Catholic schools in Australia to teach Italian. For these other ethnic groups, this early start in the language ensures an equally early identification on the part of the younger generation with the relevant culture.

There is no simple answer to the often-raised question as to why parents, who have chosen to identify themselves with their Maltese background and have been involved with the Maltese community in Australia for many years, have been unable to convince their children that they should also be involved in the life of the Maltese community.

Without the engagement of youth, the future of the Maltese culture, IDENTITY and language in Australia is at great risk. If the first generation accepts responsibility for not keeping up with the younger generations and is able to come up with better ideas "thinking outside the square" to engage them, the hope is that there would be enough of them, given their numbers, who would be interested in gradually taking over leadership. If people are proud of their background, the last thing they would want to see happen is to see the Maltese culture disappear completely.

In fact, it's already happening now. Act before it is too late. Even in my personal experience many times I found obstacles instead of support from those who claim they love the Maltese living abroad and the community.

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AND SUPPORT THE MALTESE ASSOCIATIONS, CLUBS AND RADIOS**

**UNITE TO SURVIVE**

**'MALTESE LIVING ABROAD' MATTERS**





# A Stateless Family's Fight for Belonging in Malta: The Enu's Story [Nimrah Khatoon](#)



## [Khatoon](#)

Discover the struggle of families like the Enus in Malta, who despite long-term residency, find themselves stateless and devoid of basic rights, prompting a

call for policy changes to ensure recognition and equality.

### *A Stateless Family's Fight for Belonging in Malta: The Enu's Story*

Imagine spending nearly two decades contributing to a society, working diligently, and raising a family there, only to find that you and your children are considered invisible in the eyes of the state. This is the reality for Vincent Enu and his wife Omoyena, a couple from Nigeria and Cameroon, who have called Malta their home since 2006. Despite Vincent's long-standing employment and tax contributions, their youngest daughter's birth in 2020 laid bare the precariousness of their situation when they were slapped with a hospital bill exceeding €800 due to a lapse in Vincent's social contributions. Their four children, all born and nurtured on Maltese soil, find themselves stateless, devoid of the basic rights many take for granted: free education, healthcare benefits, and a future pension.

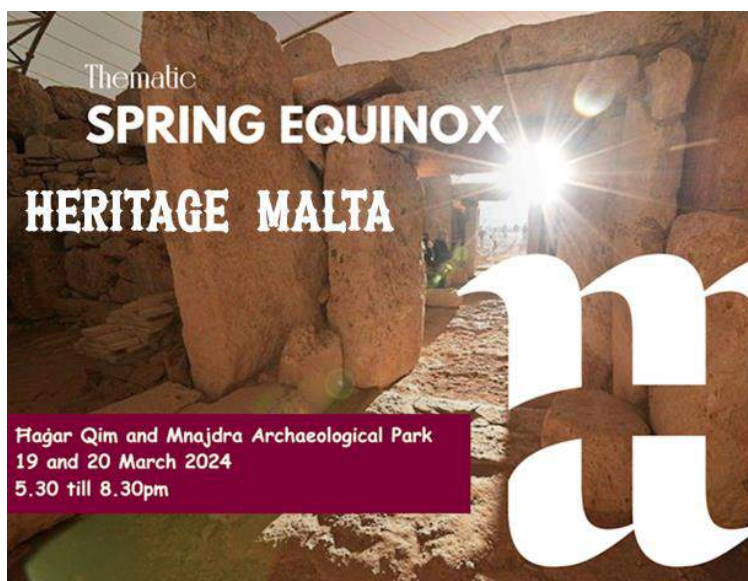
**A March for Change** In the face of such adversity, Vincent joined forces with other migrants in a [protest](#) stretching from Hamrun to Valletta, demanding policy reforms that would grant residency and social rights to long-term workers and their Malta-born children. This movement is not just about a few isolated cases; it's a clarion call for dignity, fairness, and recognition from a community that, despite

living in the shadows, contributes significantly to the Maltese economy and society. The march, which saw participation from individuals like Kusi Dismark, who has himself lived, studied, and worked in Malta for 13 years, underscores a deep-seated yearning for stability and equality.

**The Impact on Children** The plight of the Enu family and others in similar situations doesn't just affect the parents; it casts a long shadow over their children's futures. Born and raised in Malta, these children identify with the country they call home, yet they are denied the rights and privileges afforded to their peers. The [anguish](#) of being stateless in the only place they know as home is a heavy burden, one that impedes their access to education, healthcare, and eventually, employment opportunities. It's a stark reminder of the disparities that exist within our societies, often hidden in plain sight.

**A Call for Policy Revisions** The Enu family's story is a poignant illustration of the broader issue facing many migrants and asylum seekers in Malta. Despite contributing to the societal fabric, they remain unrecognized and unsupported by the state's bureaucratic machinery. This systemic oversight not only undermines the principles of fairness and equality but also squanders the potential contributions of individuals who are willing and able to enrich the community. The protests and the voices of those like Vincent and Omoyena are not just seeking sympathy; they are demanding action and policy revisions that recognize the humanity and contributions of all residents, irrespective of their origin.

The struggle of the Enu family and others in their position serves as a powerful reminder of the work that remains to be done in ensuring that all members of our society are treated with dignity and respect. As Malta continues to navigate its multicultural identity, the stories of these long-term residents and their Malta-born children must lead the way in shaping a more inclusive and equitable future for all.



Spring back to life at the UNESCO site of Mnajdra!

[Heritagemalta.com](http://Heritagemalta.com)

On Tuesday 19th and Wednesday 20th March, Heritage Malta is inviting you for an early start. A very early start in fact, but it will surely be worth your while!

At the start of the amiable season of spring, heralding a return to warmer longer days, with the buzzing of bees and the cheerful melodies of birds returning from their winter retreats filling the air, a very unique event happens at the ancient site of Mnajdra.

The first rays of the rising sun illuminate the central passage in the South building of the site, as they have done for over 5000 years. This millenia-old phenomenon takes place thanks to the astounding engineering feat of its builders, who skilfully aligned it with the rising sun at the start of the seasons which, for an agrarian community, were probably important milestones in the annual calendar.

Witness the mesmerizing spectacle yourself and let the sun's golden strands renew you. Discover more with a guided tour of the site, whilst also enjoying idyllic views of the islet of Filfla. Afterwards, indulge in the experience with complimentary coffee and snacks.

Seize the opportunity by securing your spot now! Tickets are priced at €30 per person, with a special rate of €20 for Heritage Malta members. Grab yours from all Heritage Malta sites and museums, or online at Store – Heritage Malta.

The adventure kicks off at 05:30 outside the Hagar Qim and Mnajdra Archaeological Park Visitor Centre. Lace up your best walking shoes, and let the excitement begin!



Avveniment sabiħ ħafna fis-16 ta' Frar għal dawk kollha li jhobbu l-poeżija u speċjalment lil Rużar Briffa: il-familja tal-poeta, bil-għajnuna tal-awtur magħruf Paul P. Borg, għadha kemm ipprezentat dokumenti u ritratti tal-poeta lil-Librerija tal-Università ta' Malta.

Dan l-arkivju diġà gie kkatalogat mit-Taqsima

tal-Arkivji u tnizzel fis-sit tal-Librerija. Is-Sur Borg ippubblika r-riċerka tiegħu fuq Rużar Briffa fil-ktieb, Fejjaqtni Int: Rużar Briffa - U Jien, xogħol li ngħata l-fondi mill-Kunsill Nazzjonali tal-Ktieb. Waqt il-prezentazzjoni tkellmu s-Sur Kevin J. Ellul, Direttur tal-Librerija; is-Sur Paul P. Borg; ir-Rettur, il-Prof. Alfred Vella; u Dr Dino Vella Briffa, neputi tal-poeta.





## FORT ST ELMO TOUR: THE GREAT SIEGE

On Saturday 16th March, Heritage Malta is inviting you to join a journey through one of the most epic battles ever fought on Maltese ground, the Great Siege of Malta.

Immerse yourself in the gripping tale of this polarised fight to the death between the two rival Mediterranean superpowers of the time, with a curator's tour in one of the battles' protagonists; Fort St Elmo, running from 10:00 to 11:30.

This captivating guided tour explores the epic stories that transpired between 25 May and 23 June of 1565, revealing the fort's resilience against gruesome Ottoman attacks until its eventual capture. The narrated story will illuminate various spaces within the stronghold, some dating back to the time of the siege.

This tour is in English and is open to all ages. Prices are as follows: Adults €15, Seniors & Students €12, and Children €10.

Tickets will be available for purchase from any Heritage Malta museum and site, and online on [heritagemalta.mt/store](https://heritagemalta.mt/store) nearer to the date of the event.



Intimate Żfin is where music meets dance in unexpected spaces. It is an opportunity to see the company's

extraordinary dancers up close in a series of choreographic miniatures alongside Alexandra Alden and band performing live music.

Intimate Żfin unfolds through a series of dance sketches, creating a dialogue between the choreography, music, and architecture. Performing live in the space, Alexandra Alden and her band focus on belonging, home and braving the unknown. Songs are from Alden's discography, albums 'Wild Honey' (2018) and 'Leads to Love' (2021), with a preview of her upcoming album. The band is made up of both Maltese and Dutch musicians whom Alden has collaborated with closely over the years. Presented as part of maltabiennale.art 2024. Website: [www.visitmalta.com/](https://www.visitmalta.com/)



## ***Żjara oħra ta' suċċess għall-Inter Supporters Club ta' Għawdex f'Milan***

Dan l-aħħar l-Inter Supporters Club ta' Għawdex organizzaw il-mawra annwali tagħhom bħala klubb lejn Milan biex jassistu għal logħba oħra miċ-Champions League, din is-sena kontra l-iSpanjoli ta' l-Atletico Madrid.

Għal darb'oħra din kienet parti minn sperjenza oħra memorabbli u ta' suċċess għall-klubb tal-Partitarji Interisti Għawdxin fejn mhux biss taw is-sapport lil benjamini tagħhom kontra l-Madrileni, iżda ukoll tliet membri Joseph Xerri, James Vella u Alan Joe Mifsud kellhom ix-xorti u l-esperjenza sabiha li jkunu fost l-isbandieratori qabel l-partita li t-tim għażiż tagħhom l-Inter lagħbu din il-partita mill-faži tal-aħħar sittax u li huma rebħu 1-0 b'gowl fis-79 minuta minn Marko Arnautovic.

Apparti l-preżenza tagħhom fi Stadio San Siro, il-grupp kollu ta' iktar minn 25 partitarju, ħadu l-okkażjoni biex iżuru postijiet oħra ta' interess mhux biss f'Milan, iżda wkoll f'Lecco u Bergamo. Matul is-sena l-klubb ikun attiv biex jakkwista bosta biljetti għal partitarji membri tiegħu għal logħbiet li jilgħabu l-Inter u dan jagħmlu mingħajr l-ebda spejjeż addizzjonali u b'hekk jibqgħu l-uniċi f'dan ir-rigward.

F'kumment li għamel Joe Bajada, l-President tal-Inter Club Gozo (Malta), huwa qal li f'isem il-Kumitat jixtieq irodd ħajr lil kulħadd għal suċċess ieħor ta' Tour għal partita tal-Inter miċ-Champions League. Iżda fuq kollox ikun qed jonqos ferm jekk ma jgħidx grazzi kbira lil Alvin Grech u Shaun Attard, Segretarju u Teżorier rispettivament tal-istess klubb għax-xogħol kbir u mprezzabli tagħhom.

Huwa qal prosi lil kull min attenda tal-kumpanija u s-sapport kontinwu, kif ukoll tal-apprezzamenti tagħkom lil Kumitat ta' din l-opportunità. Bajada żied jgħid li, "Konna familja magħquda ta' Interista ta' vera. L-Inter Club Gozo huwa klubb Club żgħir iżda b'Qalb ferm kbira li naħdmu għal gid tal-membri tagħna". Filwaqt li wiegħed li bħala klubb ser ikompli jaħdmu għal iktar esperjenzi simili, huwa hegġeġ lil partitarji Interisti Għawdxin biex jaslu sal-Klubb li kif ilkoll jafu jkun dejjem miftuħ biex flimkien isegwu lil Inter waqt kull logħba tagħhom, issa b'mod speċjali għal logħba ta' ritorn nhar l-Erbgħa 13 ta' Marzu fejn ser jorganizzaw attivita' interessanti bħala rijunjoni.

**WE INVITE ALL THE MALTESE IN MALTA AND OVERSEAS, ASSOCIATIONS, CLUBS AND INSTITUTIONS TO ADVERTISE ON OUR JOURBUSINESS VENTURE BUT IT IS PUBLISHED BY VOLUNTEERS. You maNAL FREE OF CHARGE. OUR JOURNAL IS NOT A y reach Maltese expatriates around the world.**





## Is Malta the movie set of the world?

By our correspondent  
**Sean Richardson**

Whether visiting Fort Ricasoli, used as a movie lot for producing many movies, or simply walking through the streets in Malta's cities and towns,

you can find yourself on a location in any number of films or TV shows. But Malta is rarely itself in these movies. One of the few major films was the *Malta Story*, released in 1953, which was partially shot in Malta but used mainly archival footage of WW2 aerial combat over the island.

I visited Popeye Village with my children and despite knowing it was built for making the "*Popeye*" movie starring Robin Williams, I had no idea that Malta was used as a filming location for other movies. That was until I watched the movie "*Munich*" and recognised the Sliema promenade. The 2005 movie, a thriller concerning the attack on athletes at the 1972 Munich Olympics stars Eric Bana and Daniel Craig. The action takes place in Israel and Lebanon amongst other locations, except many scenes were shot in Malta. The Sliema promenade became the boulevard in Tel Aviv, while the Cospicua docks became Beirut and many other parts of Malta served as cities across Europe and the middle east.

A visit to Fort Ricasoli is a great experience, we stood on the grand square and streets of Troy recreated for the movie of the same name. The latest blockbuster filmed on the old British military compound is *Gladiator 2*, scheduled for release in 2024.

The Maltese archipelago is a movie set. When exploring Malta, be aware you could be standing on the same site as film stars.

Stand on the sands of Ghajn Tuiffieha and imagine being with Brad Pitt as the Greeks and Trojans battle it for control of Troy.

Valletta has impersonated all manner of numerous sites. Walk through the streets of Valletta to Fort St Elmo and you could be hearing the screams of the zombie apocalypse in "*World War Z*". You could be inside the walls of a Turkish prison and escaping Istanbul in "*Midnight Express*", as the film-makers captured Malta everywhere from the opening scenes at Luqa airport, to running through the streets of Valletta and Rabat, which deceived the viewer into thinking they witnessed the story in Turkey.

Valletta has also imitated Jerusalem. Whether it is musing about unravelling a murder outside Custom House in Valletta, where Kenneth Branagh filmed scenes for "*Murder on the Orient Express*" or being in the middle of the action in the film "*Assassin's Creed*", Valletta was made into Jerusalem.

Visit Gozo and you can be transported to southern France. Stand at the water's edge of Mgarr ix-Xini, one of the best beaches in Gozo, where Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt shot *By the Sea*. The Azure Window featured in the marriage scenes in the "*Game of Thrones*" (GoT). While Malta was not the primary filming location for the entire GoT series, it did serve as a backdrop for iconic scenes, in particular Mdina became the city of King's Landing.

### **Many factors make Malta a favourite country for filming movies:**

**Scenic Locations:** Malta offers a diverse range of scenic locations, from historic cities to stunning coastlines, medieval fortresses, and unique architecture. This versatility allows filmmakers to create a wide variety of settings without needing to travel to multiple countries.

**Production Infrastructure:** Malta has a well-developed film industry with experienced local crews, production companies, and equipment rental services. This infrastructure makes it easier for filmmakers to set up and efficiently execute their projects.

**Historic Sites:** The country's rich history is reflected in its well-preserved historic sites and ancient architecture. Filmmakers often utilize these locations to create period pieces or scenes requiring an authentic historical backdrop.

**Accessibility:** Malta's small size makes it easy to access different locations quickly, which is a practical advantage for filming. Filmmakers can shoot in various settings without dealing with extensive travel.

English is one of Malta's official languages, which simplifies communication between international filmmakers and local crews.

**Supportive Government:** The Maltese government offers incentives, grants, and tax breaks to attract foreign filmmakers. These incentives help reduce production costs and make filming in Malta more attractive. Malta has film friendly regulations in place that facilitate the film production process

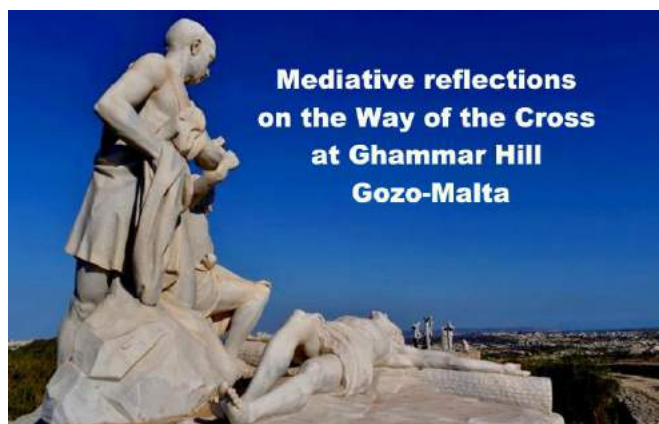
**Mediterranean Climate:** The Mediterranean climate provides filmmakers with consistent weather conditions, including ample sunlight. This predictability is essential for maintaining shooting schedules and achieving desired lighting conditions.

All these factors combined make Malta a favourable destination for filmmakers seeking diverse locations, skilled crews, and a supportive environment to bring their creative visions to life. Even when it is rare that Malta, appears as itself.

Here is a short list of major movies that have been filmed in Malta:

1. "Gladiator" (2000) 2. "Troy" (2004) 3. "Captain Phillips" (2013) 4. "Popeye" (1980)
5. "The Count of Monte Cristo" (2002) 6. "World War Z" (2013) 7. "Assassin's Creed" (2016)
8. "Munich" (2005) 9. "The Da Vinci Code" (2006) 10. "Midnight Express" (1978) 11. "Alexander" (2004)
12. "The Spy Who Loved Me" (1977) 13. "Waterloo" (1970) 14. "The Devil's Double" (2011)
15. "U-571" (2000)

Add to this list, TV shows that use Malta. Sometimes as a backdrop to reality melodrama such as in "Below the Deck Mediterranean" or used as a substitute for other European locations in "The Good Ship Murder". When next in Malta, are you really there or have you been transported to another place through the magic of cinema? Find more of Sean's stories about Malta at [seanrichardson.com.au](http://seanrichardson.com.au) and his novel *The Maltese Web* is available on [Amazon](http://Amazon).



Mediative reflections on the Way of the Cross – The Diocesan Via Sagra – will take place on Ghammar Hill, opposite Ta' Pinu National Sanctuary in Gozo next month and broadcast live on Radju Marija 102.3/107.8FM.

Bishop of Gozo Mgr Anton Teuma will lead mediative reflections, together with the participation of the chaplain, a priest and the faithful from the Diocese of Gozo and from Malta. At the conclusion the Bishop will give a short message, followed by the Eucharistic Benediction. Everyone is invited to participate in this special event, taking place on Sunday, the 17th of March at 4.30pm and to take with them a red candle.

#### *History of the Via Crucis Ta' Ghammar Hill*

The Blessed Virgin of Ta' Pinu had asked Frangisk Portelli to advocate devotion towards the hidden wound on Christ's shoulder caused by the heavy wooden cross. Because of this, after the end of World War II, a small number of devotees began to make a repentance walk up the steep path to the top of Ghammar Hill, situated opposite Ta' Pinu Sanctuary.

A proposal was made for the transformation of the hillside into a Via Crucis thus making it possible to pilgrim, to walk uphill and meditate the passion, death and resurrection of the Lord. The original models of the statues were wrought by Alfred Camilleri Cauchi and were commissioned by the rector Mgr. Lawrence Portelli in 1970, to the Italian Firm Tiemistocle Sarti, under the direction of the artist Gualtiero Luisi.

Mgr. Benedict Camilleri who succeeded Mgr. Portelli as rector of the Basilica on 15 June 1970, took a keen interest in the setting up of the Via Crucis, widening the path leading from Ta' Pinu Parvis to the hilltop of Ghammar, the plantation of trees alongside the way and the open-air amphitheatre on the summit of the hill.





**Rock & Pop Classis of the 80's & 90's - Gozo**

**Stellar Cast for this year's edition of rock orchestral concert Rock & Pop Classis of the 80's & 90's by the Gozo Youth Orchestra in collaboration with 7SPP and Festivals Malta.**

Preparations are well underway for this year's yet another spectacular rock orchestral titled **Rock & POP Classics of the 80s and 90s** at the Teatru Aurora on the 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2024. It will be for one night only. **The**

**Gozo Youth Orchestra** and **7SPP**, with the support of Festivals Malta, will present their latest collaboration. On this occasion we will feature, not only some of the best Rock numbers but also some of the most popular numbers from that period.

The line-up will be familiar to our many loyal supporters by now. It features **The Gozo Youth Orchestra** – a 60-piece orchestra under the direction of its Founder and Musical Director, **Maestro Joseph Grech** plus **CASH & BAND**, led by **John 'Cash' Cassar**. Once again a very talented line up of local guest vocalists will be included. **Dorothy Bezzina**, **Jolene Samhan** together with guest singers **Rachel Grech**, **Dorothy Borg Bonnici**, **Natassja Chapman**, **Jessica Magro** and X Factor contestant **Amelia Kalabic**, will be joined by **Klinsmann**, **Neville Refalo**, and **Chris Grech**. They are recognised as being among some of the best talent available on these islands and all have featured in some of the biggest events held in Malta and Gozo. The backing vocals will be provided by The 7SPP Choir, under the direction of Dorothy Bezzina.

The show will feature over, **27 classic numbers** selected from the works of some of Rock & Pop's greatest legends. Prepare to hear amazing renditions from the works of **Guns n Roses**, **Depeche Mode**, **QUEEN**, **R.E.M.**, **Aerosmith**, **The Pet Shop Boys**, **Journey**, **Europe**, **Van Halen**, **The Scorpions**, **Bon Jovi**, **The Cranberries**, **Foreigner**, **Tina Turner**, **Madonna**, **Berlin**, **U2**, **Bruce Springsteen**, **The Verve**, **Phil Collins**, and **many others**. A full setlist will be displayed soon on the social media pages of 7SPP and The Gozo Wind Band and Youth Orchestra

Deciding on which numbers to cover is never an easy task. The producers are confident that there will be something there for every fan in the wide fanbase that attend these concerts on a regular basis. The music scores for this show have once again been prepared by **Mr. Daryl McKenzie**, the scores which he prepared for our previous shows have been very positively received and are highly regarded.

The producers once more would like to show their appreciation for the support given by the loyal patrons who fill up the concert halls every year. The producers believe that Live Audiences guarantee the continuation of live events for future generations.

This spectacular show could not be possible without the continuing support of **Festivals Malta**, **Visit Malta**, **Cultural Heritage Directorate** within the **Ministry for Gozo**, **Ministry for Gozo and Planning**, **Arts Council Malta**, **Malta International Airport**, **Aurora Bistro Café** and our sponsors **The General Soft Drinks Co.**, **Paul Stellini Design Studio**, **The Duke Boutique Hotel** and **HOG**.

Booking hotline: <https://teatruaurora.com/event/rock-pop-classics-2024/> or +356 7904 5779 and further info can be found on [www.gozowindbandorchestra.com](http://www.gozowindbandorchestra.com), and fb/Instagram pages of The Gozo Youth Wind Band & Orchestra and 7 Star Pyramid Productions.

**IRRIDU L-BARRANIN LI JGHIXU HAWN JITKELLMU BIL-MALTI  
U AHNA NKELLMU LIT-TFAL TAGHNA BL-INGLIZ**



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### Media release

**Saturday 9 March 2024**

**Military Units in Gozo in**

**World War II**

**Public Lecture**

To the delight of history aficionados, Il-Ħaġar Museum will be presenting another public lecture on Saturday 9 March 2024 at 11:00 titled Military Units in Gozo in World War II. Gozitan military historian and poet, Charles Bezzina, leads us into the past of this island which is relatively less well-known to that of its sister island. Mr Bezzina will present factual stories about the foreign soldiers stationed in Gozo, the reason why they were sent to Gozo in the first place, any retaliation from their side when Gozo was under attack in 1942, and the reaction of the locals as well as of Maltese refugees to their presence. In other words, how did the military integrate into the fabric of Gozitan society at the time?

As always, entrance to the Museum is free but seat reservations are recommended by emailing: [events@heartofgozo.org.mt](mailto:events@heartofgozo.org.mt).

After the lecture, those attending might wish to take a look at the current exhibitions being hosted at the Museum. Unknown Prescription reveals works by Mario Abela, Charles Balzan, and Justin Falzon. The exhibition explores ideas of transition, fragmentation, and the flesh, where paintings and photography dialogue with artefacts from the Museum's permanent collection. This exhibition will remain open until 14 April 2024.

The documentary exhibition What's in a bequest? The Archive of Mro Joseph Vella displays material from the Vella Music Archive and remains open until 24 March 2024. The exhibition can be viewed at Levels 1 & -1.

From 29 February 2024 until 8 April 2024 at Level -1, Il-Ħaġar Museum will also exhibit a variety of stamps portraying scenes ranging from Lent processions to Easter celebrations. This exhibition is organised by the Gozo Philatelic Society and is titled Lent to Easter. The Museum's opening hours are Monday to Sunday, 9:00-17:00. Entrance is free.



## Carers and nurses at St Vincent de Paule learn Maltese



### TVM NEWS

A programme which until now has been voluntary, will become mandatory for all foreign workers St Vincent de Paule, so that they will be better able to communicate with elderly patients by learning general terms dealing with anatomy, medical vocabulary and more in Maltese.

Minister for Health, Jo Etienne Abela, said that this course should help to give the elderly in this residence a better level of care.

This course introduces students to conversational medical Maltese that focuses on the areas of basic anatomical terminology, communication between health care professionals and the patient, understanding the symptoms of patients, and the interaction in a Maltese medical environment.

During a conference at St Vincent de Paule it was explained how there are currently 60 students who are already doing this course. TVMnews spoke to two of them. Although they are still new to Maltese, they are still taking the first steps to communicate in this language.

Usually we say, for example, we're going to greet them, we say 'il-waranofsinhar it-tajjeb, jiena Loini Chan, jiena carer. I'm going to stay with you all the day, kemm trid xi ħaġa tell me.' At first quite difficult. When times goes by, you will learn.

Carer

'Ilma' and 'x'jismek?' There are so many words like 'Kif inti? Kif inti? Kollox sew?'

Nurse

At the end of the course these students are expected to have the ability to communicate with the patient, answer simple questions used in the medical sector, become more familiar with the medical vocabulary, as well as enter into a basic conversation with patients and colleagues.

When announcing this initiative, Minister for Health Jo Etienne Abela said that this should help the elderly at St Vincent de Paule to be given a better service. He also pointed out that no one is expecting the workers to get a high certification in the language, but simply to be able to improve their experience with the elderly by communicating better.

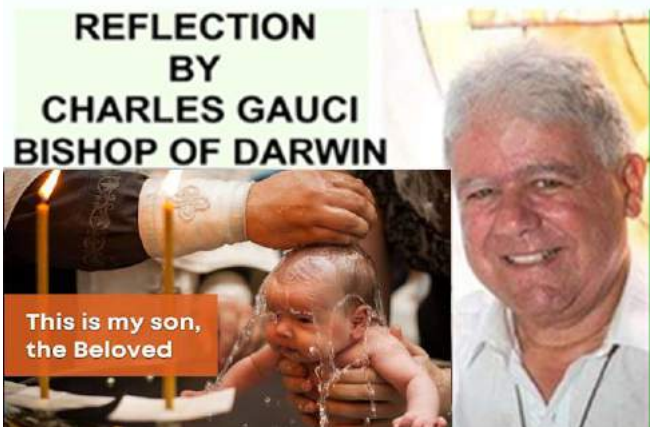
The number of persons learning basic Maltese with this initiatives needs to increase fourfold. We are committed to keep working with the university. Learning does not happen on its own, the university must have individuals available who offer these lessons.

Health Minister Jo Etienne Abela

The Minister said that this course will be compulsory, as it is in other countries.

Parliamentary Secretary for Active Aging, Malcolm Paul Agius Galea, said that when one provides a care service, communication with the patient is crucial.

**Now that your Electronic Newsletter is the ONLY journal left to keep the Maltese living abroad updated of what's going on in Malta and Gozo, I urge you to keep on publishing this newsletter. You are the only one who is keeping us together and link us with Malta and with each other. You have a mission. So please, don't give up, we are all ready to help you. All you need is to ask. May God be with you and keep you healthy. Your dedication is admired by everyone. J. Micallef NSW**



In this second Sunday of Lent as we journey towards Holy Week Jesus is transfigured on the mountain.

Moses representing the Tora (the Law) and Elija representing the prophets appear and converse with Jesus. He is the one who fulfils the Law and the prophets.

As at Jesus's baptism, the Father speaks and says 'This is my son the Beloved.'

The Father also tells us to listen to him.

The three apostles present are terrified by the spectacle! In their confusion they only have Jesus to reassure them.

He is the Way, the Truth, and the life. Jesus is truly human as well as truly Divine. As a human, he is reassured by the Father in anticipation of his passion and death. The apostles also are being strengthened for the coming traumatic challenge. However, they did not properly understand and know how to deal with it. They then needed to be reminded after the resurrection. We also encounter challenges that we do not fully know how to understand and properly deal with. We are also reminded to keep our gaze on Jesus always... in good times and in bad times...

## We are part of Malta's economic success'



We, as long-term migrants living and working in Malta, are uniting to demand stability, not uncertainty, in our lives. In light of recent events and ongoing struggles faced by the migrant community, we are asserting our rights and calling for urgent action from authorities. We arrived in Malta years ago, leaving behind critical situations in our countries of origin, and now call Malta home. Although we were neither given protection nor a residence card, we were

given the right to work legitimately and in turn to pay tax and national insurance for decades.

We have worked for years, side-by-side with our Maltese colleagues, made friends, set up family and had children in Malta. We are part of Malta's economic success, we have filled labour gaps, and we have contributed to a welfare system that we can never be beneficiaries of. Our children know no other country, no other society but the Maltese one. They are, in fact, though not in law, Maltese.

And yet we continue to face discrimination, marginalisation and uncertainty. We live in constant fear of having our already precarious documents withdrawn for no valid reason, leaving us vulnerable to deportation, exploitation and unpredictability about our future.

We are requesting the government to introduce a residence permit for anyone who has been working and living in Malta for a substantial amount of time. This could be the reintroduction of a scheme similar to the Specific Residence Authorisation, which was abruptly withdrawn, or the possibility to apply for a Single Work Permit.

This measure is essential to provide stability and legal recognition to those who have long been integral parts of Malta's society and economy. Regularisation also serves the Maltese economy by allowing us migrants, who are already in the country, to work and to continue to drive industry in a long-term and stable manner.

It also allows us to better take care of ourselves and our children, to further our education and be effectively part of society.

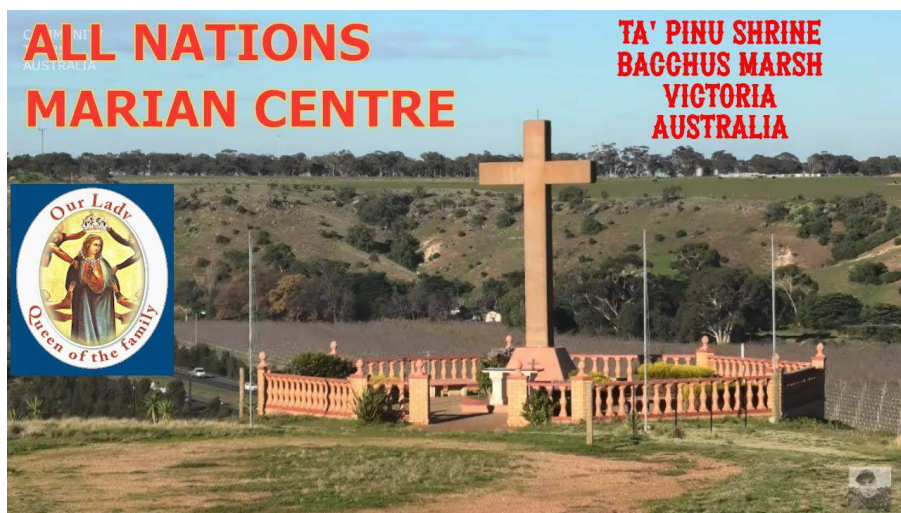
Our children have not lived in or visited any other country besides Malta. Malta is their home, and Maltese is their language of friendship, education, culture and eventually working life. They



deserve citizenship rights and denying them such creates unnecessary barriers and uncertainties in their lives, jeopardising their access to education, healthcare, and other essential services.

We finally call for comprehensive social support for individuals in our community with disabilities or those unable to work due to various reasons, such as old age or sickness. Although they may have contributed for years by paying tax and national insurance, they are not entitled to any disability or unemployment benefit. Access to adequate support is crucial to ensuring the well-being of all and the dignity of all.

As long-term undocumented migrants in Malta we are not asking for special treatment; we are simply demanding stability: the recognition of years of hard work, integration efforts, and contribution to Maltese society. There is nothing fair or just in leaving us and our children in this state of uncertainty and fear. There is no equality without equity!



## **TA' PINU SHRINE IN AUSTRALIA**

The oversize Concrete Cross overlooking the Western Highway was once described by an Australian Legal Counsel as the LANDMARK of Bacchus Marsh. It attracts

many visitors and pilgrims from all walks of life giving them the opportunity to 'stand still' and be in the presence of God or simply to catch a glimpse of the aerial view around the Hill.. The Vietnamese-Australian community gratefully donated the granite altar erected at the base of the Cross. The impressive statue of Our Lady facing the entrance to the Shrine embrace each visitor or pilgrim who chooses to set foot on this Sacred Oasis of Peace. The Çall to Prayer"- "Come, Ejja. Come" can instantly be felt as soon as you enter the place, at least by the faithfuls.

## **TA' PINU SHRINE - From Humble Beginnings**

After Our Lady's Call to Carmela Grima, the first foreign country that received an Icon of Our Lady Ta' Pinu was Tunisia, where some Gozitan people emigrated in the early years of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. These immigrants, besides personal devotion in their hearts, had carried to that country, an Icon of Our Lady Ta' Pinu and installed it in one of the local Churches. To date, devotions to Our Lady Ta' Pinu has spread all around the world, namely India, Guatemala, Toronto, Albania, Brazil, Rome, and the latest oratory was installed at the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, Washington D.C in 2006. In 1957, for some reasons, this Icon from La Goulette, Tunisia was removed from Tunisia and was brought to a Church in Kensington, Melbourne. First mass in Wollongong in 1991.

After remaining for some years in that Church, it was transferred again to St. Bernadette Church, in Sunshine Victoria. In 1989, a group of devotees of Our Lady decided to have some celebrations in honour of Our Lady Ta' Pinu at St. Bernadette Church. In 1990, this group, wishing to have an icon of Our Lady for processions, commissioned a new Icon to artist, Chev. Paul Camilleri Cauchi. The painting was finished early 1991 and Msgr Benedict Camilleri, then Rector of Ta Pinu Shrine in Gozo, Malta was invited to come to Australia and conduct a few Marian Celebrations.

Devotions to Our Lady Ta' Pinu were introduced in Horsley Park and Blacktown (Sydney) and She is also venerated in the Marian Centre of Berrima( NSW)

While Msgr Benedict Camilleri was in Sydney, some friends suggested that he could build a church here in Australia dedicated to Our Lady Ta' Pinu. On his return to Melbourne, meeting the group that had invited him, he revealed this idea which they were ready to support. He then made the necessary requests to both Ecclesiastical Authorities, in Malta and in Melbourne, and began looking for a suitable place for such a devotion. After consultations, the Hill overlooking the Western Highway was selected, a loan to support the project was obtained and an application for a planning permit was lodged.

In 1992, a Low Mass was celebrated on the land. The first official Mass in the presence of a beautiful number of Pilgrims was celebrated on **27rd March 1993**.

Archbishop OF Melbourne Francis Thomas Little also gave permission for Mass to be said each first Saturday of the month. This began on the 26 March 1994 and Each month hundreds of people gather in front o the statue of the blessed Virgin Mary, duly built on the hillside and blessed by Bishop Nicholas Cauchi of Gozo, to pray the Rosary and attend Holy Mass.

The majestic concrete Cross overlooking the Western Freeway was erected, marking the site of the proposed church. was blessed by His Lordship Dr. Francis Thomas Little, Archbishop of Melbourne on Saturday, 24<sup>th</sup> February 1996. He also placed a solid brass cross which had been previously blessed by His Holiness Pope John Paul II, at the foot of the cross. The growing number of pilgrims, as in earlier times, demands that a suitable church to accommodate them be built.

Accordingly, it has been decided to commence construction, by building a replica of the ancient chapel. This too will be surrounded by fields, but one day, with God's help, a beautiful church will also stand out, a sign of the Australian People's wish to honour the Mother of God.

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## **Chadwick Lakes: A Countryside Walk in Malta**

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The region known as 'Chadwick Lakes' in Malta takes its name from the British engineer who built the water-management dam in this area in 1890: Mr. Osbert Chadwick.

Situated between Rabat and Mtarfa this oasis of serene fresh water presents a perfect day of **walking and trekking**. The lakes form a miniature ecosystem which cradle a delicate habitat for various flora and fauna. Water constantly flows eastwards towards Mosta through a series of man-made structures.

When visiting the lakes it's common to see families setting up picnics or teams organizing incentive activities. Weekends are particularly busy with the Spring and Winter seasons being particularly active as the weather is more clement and the lakes increasingly active (unfortunately the warm Summer months tend to dry-up the lakes).

A popular countryside-walking trek to be considered in the area is one which departs from Rabat and ends in Mosta with Chadwick Lakes being the central part of the walk. The curved walking path is around eight kilometers

in length and is a beautiful meditative walk when the Willow and Water Cress are in full bloom.





## Insellmu lil Marija Addolorata

Kav. Joe M Attard – Gozo - Malta

Illum iltqajna f'dan il-misraħ  
Biex insellmu lil Marija  
Magħha nimxu t-triq kollha  
Imżewqa b'hemm u tbatija!

Min qatt jasal biex ifisser  
Kemm batiet dina l-Omm tagħna  
Miexja mnikkta wara binha  
Biex mifdija fis tarana!

Bdiet issofri sa mill-bidu  
Tara l-Binha ġo maxtura  
Imfisqi ġewwa ftit ħrieqi -  
Hienja l-aṅgli dlonk tadura!

Tletin sena tgerbu, taru –  
U binha telaq mid-dar,  
Mat-toroq jigrì u jterraq  
Sa mal-hin wasal u sar

Li waqa' f'idejn l-għedewwa  
Li għall-mewt ikkundannawh  
U ġarrab l-eħrex passjoni  
Fuqu beżqu, ittorturawh!

Li waqa' f'idejn l-għedewwa  
Li għall-mewt ikkundannawh  
U ġarrab l-eħrex passjoni  
Fuqu beżqu, ittorturawh!

Lilu wasslu fuq il-Golgota  
Fuq salib sammruħ, sallbuh,  
Wara tlett sigħat imdendel,  
B'lanza kiefra dlonk nifduh!

Hemm kienet din l-omm mnikkta  
B'qalbha mniffda bid-dulur  
Tibki, tolfoq, dmugħ ixxerred  
Lejn minn se taqbad idddur!

Sallum għadha din l-Omm tbatì  
Meta lil Binha nonqsuh  
Hekk kif aħna fid-dnub naqgħu  
U mill-ġdid aħna nsallbuh!

Inwiegħduk ħelwa Marija  
Li m'aħniex sejrì nonqsuk -  
Għad-dell t'ibnek sejrì ngħixu  
U m'habbtina lkoll nuruk!

**I THANK ALL THOSE WHO SENT A DONATION  
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**According to the Encyclopaedia Britannica the Burka** is a loose outer garment worn primarily in public spaces by some Muslim women. It covers the body and face, usually incorporating a mesh panel through which the wearer can see. The burka comes in a variety of colours, but blue is the most common choice, and it often features embroidery on the cap and throughout the front. In addition, the garment is usually pleated in the back.

The term *burka* refers only to the types of body coverings worn in southern Central Asia. However, even within that geographic region, the styles of burkas and names for the article of clothing have varied over time. Indeed, *burka* is often used interchangeably with *chadari*, but the *chadari* is a slightly different garment that is primarily worn in Afghanistan. The use of the burka and its counterparts depends on religious interpretation, geographic location, civil law, or personal choice.

Wearing the burka and other garments such as the hijab, niqab, and chador is often mistaken as required Islamic convention. Yet the practice of so-called veiling is not one of the five pillars of Islam, and both the Qur'ān (the holy book of Islam) and Hadith (the traditions or sayings of the Prophet Muhammad) are somewhat ambiguous on proper attire. There is a consensus among Muslim scholars that both men and women should dress modestly, but they continue to debate the extent of women's covering and whether it includes their head, face, or entire body. Some advocate the practice of veiling, while others argue that Shari'ah—Islamic law—requires nothing more than conservative clothing.

The practice of veiling long preceded the rise of Islam in the 7th century, and it continues to be observed by some Christians and Jews in the 21st century. Islam thus did not invent the convention of veiling but probably incorporated local customs as it spread throughout the Arabian Peninsula and to southeastern Asia, northern Africa, and southern Europe over the centuries. Some women are required by law to wear the burka, as was the case during the Taliban's regime in Afghanistan in 1996–2001. Conversely, some women are prohibited by law from wearing the burka or any article of clothing that covers the face, as in France and Belgium, where governments implemented laws against such clothing in public spaces (2011). Opponents of these "burka bans," however, argued that the laws violate a woman's right to express her piety, cultural heritage, or her privacy.



**YOUR STORY  
MATTERS**

**KNOW IN ORDER TO UNDERSTAND**

Knowing the stories of migrants, helps us to understand their struggles, achievements, joys, hopes and aspirations. Share your story too.



The Friends of Providence House N.S.W. , the official Ambassadors in Australia for Id-Dar tal-Providenza in Malta would like to thank all those present at the Fund Raising Concert on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2024 at the La Vallette Social Centre for their great generosity. The Committee would like to thank all the major sponsors Breakaway Travel of Blacktown, La Vallette Social Centre, as well as Sistu and Maryanne Zammit and all the other minor sponsors.



Our sincere thanks also go to the excellent performers Mr. Joe Apap, Mr. Charlie Muscat, Mr. Martin Vella, Ms. Katelyn Vella, Ms. Natasha Tatarinoff, and the two young guitarists Noah and Jason, as well as Mr. Ivan Cauchi, the sound technician for the afternoon, who all gave up their time for this wonderful cause. A special thank you goes to Fr. Martin Micallef, Director of Dar tal-Providenza for his supporting video message as well as to the Committee of La Vallette Social Centre and kitchen staff for providing the catering for such a large crowd. Furthermore, I would like to sincerely thank the other Committee members, Secretary Ms. Rita O'Dwyer, and Treasurer Ms. Miriam Friggieri for their hard work and support.

Anyone who is interested in donating can do so directly by depositing the money to the following account: **Friends of Providence House N.S.W. at Commonwealth Bank, Greystanes BSB 062416 Account No: 10199448** (Please add your name as a reference, and for acknowledgement of your donation, send an email to: [foph@bigpond.com](mailto:foph@bigpond.com)). A special Cheque presentation of donations collected in Australia will be made to id-Dar tal-Providenza at this year's Maratona which will be held in Malta in July.

Once again thank you all for your support and generosity. Jim Borg, Co-Ordinator

## Fertility Awareness Conferences held in Malta and Gozo



BY [GOZO NEWS](#)

*Photo: UM (left to right): Prof. Francisco Güell Pelayo, University of Navarra, Spain; Ms Maria Attard, Director of Dar Guzeppa Debono; Prof. Jean Calleja-Agius, Department of Anatomy*

According to a recent EUROSTAT report Malta is among the lowest ranking in term of fertility, with 1.13 live births per woman, the University of Malta said.

It highlighted that in spite of the advances in access to information in this internet era, there is still a lack of knowledge and misinformation on basic reproductive health

in the general population.

In view of this, Prof. Jean Calleja Agius from the Department of Anatomy at the Faculty of Medicine and Surgery organised two back to back conferences on Fertility Awareness in collaboration with the Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector and Dar Guzeppa Debono Foundation of Gozo. One took place in Malta and the other in Gozo.

The first conference was held at Mater Dei Hospital. Prof. Francisco Güell Pelayo, Coordinator of the Mind-Brain Group of the Institute for Culture and Society, University of Navarra, Spain was one of the main guest speakers. Prof. Güell Pelayo has recently completed a 1.2 million Horizon 2020 project: Be Better Informed About Fertility. The other speakers were Mrs Simone Attard, Chief Executive Officer of the Embryo Protection Authority (EPA), Prof. JosAnn Cutajar from the Faculty for Social Wellbeing, University of Malta, and Dr Georgette Spiteri from the Department of Midwifery, University of Malta.

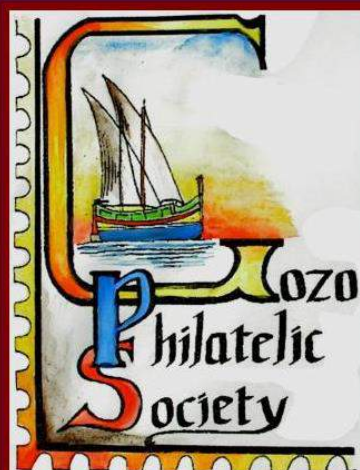
The topics covered included: the law regarding ART in Malta, surrogacy and preconception parenthood preparation.

This conference was attended by medical students, student midwives, and health care professionals from the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology and the Assisted Reproductive Technologies (ART) Clinic, as well as policy makers and administrative staff.

The second conference was held at the Nadur Youth Centre in Nadur, Gozo and was geared at professionals who work with youth and the general public.

These two events were funded by the Voluntary Organisations Project Scheme (VOPS).

## LENT TO EASTER



**IL-HAĠAR  
HEART OF GOZO  
MUSEUM**  
Pjazza San Ġorġ,  
Victoria, Gozo, Malta  
29 February - 8 April  
2024  
Monday to Sunday,  
09:00 - 17:00  
Level -1

The Gozo Philatelic Society has changed the exhibit on Level -1 at Il-Haġar Museum. Various cards and stamps related to the Lent and Easter celebrations are now being exhibited in conjunction with the initiative Easter in Gozo organised by the Ministry for

Gozo and Planning.

Postcards from the early twentieth century show classical paintings of Christ's passion as well as other aspects of Lent and Easter festivities. Stamps with these themes include issuers such as the Sovereign Military Order of Malta and the Caribbean islands.

A range of philatelic covers from Gozo also form part of this interesting collection. Visitors can pick up copies of the full-colour Gozo Philatelic Society periodical whose content is not limited to just stamps.

At the moment the Museum is offering other varied temporary exhibits. These include a collective art exhibition Unknown Prescription by Mario Abela, Charles Balzan, and Justin Falzon, the documentary exhibit extracted from the Joseph Vella Music Archive featuring twelve woodwind compositions, and also handcrafted miniature statuettes (pasturi style) representing a traditional Good Friday procession. Il-Haġar Museum is open seven days a week, 9:00-17:00. Admission is free.



ANTHONY  
VASSALLOGEORGE  
AQUILINAGEORGE  
XUEREBMARTIN  
HALESPAUL  
SEGUNACHARLES  
CALLUSGINO  
SCIBERRASSIMON  
MIFSUDSIMON  
PISANI

## the *Um el Faroud* tragedy

During the night of 3 February 1995 an explosion occurred in No.3 centre tank, killing nine shipyard workers.

This tragedy happened 29 years ago, on small Libyan tanker in the Drydocks, Malta. On that day, the Malta Financial Services Centre building at Mriehel was being inaugurated, but all of a sudden the top authorities were hurriedly called out and rushed to the Dockyard.

The victims were all working on the Libyan state-owned Um El Faroud tanker in Dock No. 3 when, at around 10:15pm, an explosion on board ripped the tanker's central section.

Seven of the workers- George Aquilina, 24, of Qormi, Charles Callus, 46, of Valletta, Mario Hales, 39, of Mqabba, Simon Mifsud, 26, of Birgu, Simon Pisani, 22, of Msida, Gino Sciberras, 51, of Zabbar, and Anthony Vassallo, 29 of Dingli- died instantly.

The other two- Paul Seguna, 37, of Zebbug and George Xuereb, 58, of Qormi suffered grievous injuries, and later died at St Luke's Hospital.

While in the ambulance, Xuereb reportedly asked the medical staff what had happened to his co-workers. In 1998, when the inquiry was concluded, the ship was towed out to sea by Wied iz-Zurrieq for usage as an artificial shipwreck and a diving attraction. A brass plaque was stuck to the ship as a memorial to the nine workers.

**WITH YOUR HELP, SUPPORT AND PATRONAGE WE WILL CONTINUE TO  
PUBLISH THIS FREE AND NON-POLITICAL JOURNAL FOR ALL MALTESE  
LIVING IN MALTA AND GOZO AND THOSE LIVING ABROAD**



# 84.3% Agree Foreigners In Malta Should Learn Maltese Language

A majority of respondents in a new survey agree with the idea that foreigners living in Malta should learn the Maltese language.

In a new survey by Vincent Marmara on the State of the Maltese language and commissioned by the 'Ċentru tal-Ilsien Malti'

headed by Norma Saliba, it was found that, out of 600 interviewed persons, 84.3% should learn the Maltese language. Only 6% voted for no, whereas 9.8% said it does not matter.

The older age groups were most likely to vote that, yes, foreigners in Malta should learn the Maltese language. 95.5% of those aged over 66 voted for yes, with the lowest amounts of 'yes' registered in the 26 to 35 age group.

Meanwhile, more women voted for yes at 86.9%, whereas 81.5% men voted for yes. 12.1% of men said it does not make a difference, with 7.5% of women responding the same. #MaltaDaily

**PS: Ahna rridu li l-barranin jtkellmu bil-Malti meta jkun Malta u ssib hafna genituri jkellmu lill-ulied bl-Ingiliz**