# THE MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER

## Journal for Maltese Living Abroad

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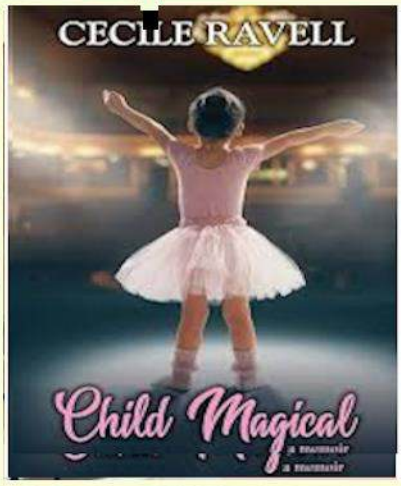
Maltese Kannoli - Recipe




**CHILD MAGICAL**
a memoir
by
Cecile Ravell

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the girl-child
of Maltese
immigrants
Australia

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**CONNECTING THE MEMBERS OF THE MALTESE DIASPORA**

# PROMINENT MALTESE AUSTRALIAN PLAYERS

**DYLAN SCICLUNA** (Maltese) born 10 June 2004) is a footballer who plays as a central midfielder for Western Sydney Wanderers. Born in Australia, he is a Malta youth international. Scicluna moved to England at the age of nine.

**Club career** As a youth player, Scicluna joined the youth academy of English side Wolverhampton Wanderers.

**Western Sydney Wanderers** On 3 September 2023, Scicluna signed for the Western Sydney Wanderers. He made his debut in the A-League Men against Western United on 28 October 2023. In his first season he made 16 appearances, with 3 starts. The second, the 2024/25 season he played 9 games and scored his first A-League goal against the Wellington Phoenix in Round 9, then suffered an unfortunate Anterior Cruciate Ligament injury 5 days later against Adelaide United on the 27th of December 2024.

**Style of play** Scicluna mainly operates as a midfielder.[5] He has also been used in the fullback role due to his stamina and pace when pressing without the ball and making overlapping runs when the Wanderers are on attack. Marko Rudan has praised the young defender for his ability to become versatile and play different roles and positions to support his team.

**Personal life** Scicluna is the older brother of Australian soccer player Lucas Scicluna.

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## LUCAS SCICLUNA

(born 7 November 2005) is a Maltese-Australian professional Football player who plays as a Midfielder for the Newcastle Jets. He is the younger brother of Dylan Scicluna.

**Youth career** Lucas moved to England from Australia at the age of eight, first joining the Aston Villa academy at under-8s.[1] After a season with Aston Villa, he moved to the academy of Wolverhampton Wanderers.

Scicluna earned a scholarship deal with Wolverhampton,[2] spending the 2022–23 season with their Under-18s side before departing at the end of the season.

Lucas returned to Australia, signing with the Central Coast Mariners Academy.

**Central Coast Mariners** After returning from England, Lucas featured heavily for the Central Coast Mariners reserve team in the National Premier Leagues NSW[4]

Lucas featured in the Central Coast Mariners senior squad for the first time in the 2024–25 AFC Champions League Elite, as he was on the bench against Shanghai Shenhua F.C. He made his professional debut against Western United FC on January 29, 2025.[5] Lucas departed the Mariners at the conclusion of the 2024–25 A-League season.

**Newcastle Jets** After initially playing for the Newcastle Jets Youth team in the Football NSW League One competition,[6] Scicluna debuted for the senior team against Adelaide United in the Australia Cup.[7] On the 23rd of September 2025, the Newcastle Jets would announce that Scicluna had signed a one-year scholarship deal with the club.[8] Lucas would not feature for the senior team again until the 2025 Australia Cup final, coming off of the bench to help the Jets win the cup.

## THOMAS AQUILINA

born 2 February 2001 is an Australian professional soccer player who plays as a right-back for the Newcastle Jets. Aquilina attended Bossley Park High School where he was enrolled into the selective Talented Football Program.

Aquilina is of Maltese descent.

**Western Sydney Wanderers** Aquilina's professional football career began at the Western Sydney Wanderers, having come through their youth program, starting in the U15 squad in 2015.[3] Aquilina

made his A-League debut in the first round of the 2020-21 season, and had reportedly attracted interest from European clubs by the end of his first season.[4] Aquilina spent a second season at the Wanderers, before departing after 42 appearances at the end of the 2021-22 season.

**Central Coast Mariners** Having departed Western Sydney Wanderers, Aquilina joined the Central Coast Mariners for the 2022-23 season.[6] Aquilina cited his reason for his move as an opportunity to build his career with the Mariners towards a move to a European club, given the Mariners had a strong recent track record of sending their talented players to play in Europe.[7]

Aquilina made 13 appearances for the Mariners across all competitions, before departing mid-way through his first season with the club.[8]

**Newcastle Jets** Aquilina's departure from the Mariners came via a swap deal with the Newcastle Jets, which saw Aquilina join the Jets in exchange for James McGarry heading to the Central Coast.[9] The Mariners and Jets share a fierce rivalry, the F3 Derby, making this a controversial move for both players involved.

***"It's that old story of how you can know where you're going to if you don't know where you've come from."***

## Welcome Walls Display at the Western Australian Maritime Museum

**Victoria Quay Road, Walyalup / Fremantle, WA, 6160**

More than one third of the population of Western Australia emigrated here from overseas. Coming from countries far and wide, migrants were keen to start a new life in this lucky country. Perhaps your family was among them? The Welcome Walls projects pay tribute to those migrants who arrived by sea, landing at Fremantle or Albany, and to the many benefits they gave to their new home, enriching the lives of all Western Australians. In Fremantle, over 400 panels commemorating the names of migrants who arrived through this area have been erected at the WA Maritime Museum at Victoria Quay.

The Welcome Walls began in Fremantle as a one-off project in 2004 as part of the commemoration of the 175th anniversary of the founding of the Swan River Colony. It was originally planned to display about 2,000 inscriptions.

The first Welcome Walls project is located adjacent to the Western Australian Museum – Maritime at Victoria Quay, Fremantle. The Walls bear more than 21,000 inscriptions, paying tribute to some 45,000 Western Australian migrants.

# 'The Malta Spitfire'

Ordered 23/8/41, EP122 was one of the fourth batch of Spitfires, numbering 904 aircraft, to be built at the Castle Bromwich Aeroplane Factory. Final assembly in tropical spec complete with the large chin-mounted air filter.

Once accepted onto the RAF strength, the aircraft was then disassembled and crated on 8 June 1942 for shipment to the North African theatre of operations.

Shipped to Gibraltar and assigned to Malta where it was repainted into Temperate Sea Scheme (extra dark sea grey and slate grey over sky)

**Claude Weaver, the youngest Allied WW2 ace**:

Claude Weaver enlisted in the Royal Canadian Air Force on 13th February 1941. After earning his wings and briefly flying in the UK, he joined No.185 Sqn at Malta, from July to September 1942. With 10.5 victories and 3 probables, he was shot down on 9th September 1942 and taken prisoner. After a year, he escaped from his PoW camp, walked 300 miles to freedom and began flying again, this time with No.403 Sqn RCAF. He scored another two victories before being shot down once more.

On 28th January 1944, he was shot down by Gerhard Vogt of JG26, who watched as Weaver escaped from his aircraft. His parachute became entangled in the tail of the stricken aircraft and Weaver was dragged down to the crash site, where he lay, still alive, just metres from his aircraft. He was taken to hospital by the Germans, but died a few hours later.

# HISTORY OF THE "Ġ-GĦAJN TAL-ĦASSELIN"

In the sun-drenched landscapes of the Maltese archipelago, water has always been more than a mere resource—it was a catalyst for community. Long before the advent of modern plumbing, the Għajn tal-Ħasselin (The Washers' Spring) stood as a vital landmark in local life. These communal wash houses, particularly in Gozo and rural Malta, served as the primary laundry hubs where natural spring water was harnessed for domestic toil.

**The Heart of Fontana, Gozo** Perhaps the most celebrated of these sites is found in Fontana, a village on the outskirts of Victoria. The town's very name—the Italian word for "fountain"—is a testament to the spring's importance.

**Ancient Origins:** While the current structure dates largely to the 16th century, records indicate that a wash house existed on this spot as early as 1373.

**The Knights' Influence:** Under the rule of the Knights of St John, the site was formalised with the iconic stone arches seen today. These provided essential shade for the women who spent hours scrubbing heavy linens.

**The Social Fabric:** The wash house was far more than a utility; it was the "social media" of the pre-industrial era. It was here that news was broken, gossip was shared, and communal bonds were forged over stone troughs and running water.

**The Hidden Gem of Dingli, Malta**

Across the channel in Malta, the village of Dingli hosts its own historic Għajn tal-Ħasselin near the chapel of St Domenica.

Commissioned in 1669 by the noble Inguanez family, this site was a marvel of local engineering. To ensure a steady flow, builders excavated directly into the rock face to tap into the natural spring. Reached by a flight of weathered stone steps, the Dingli wash house remains a quiet, verdant sanctuary that reflects the island's deep-rooted connection to its "perched aquifer"—the rainwater trapped between layers of limestone.

**Għajnsielem: A Legacy Reclaimed**

The village of Għajnsielem (meaning "Peaceful Spring") owes its identity to a similar water source. In 1710, a grand public spring was commissioned to serve the growing population.

Though the original structure was tragically demolished in the 1950s during a period of urban redevelopment, its cultural weight was never forgotten. In 2012, the local council reconstructed a faithful replica of the wash house, ensuring that the origins of the village's name remained visible for future generations.

**Architectural and Cultural Significance**

The Għajn tal-Ħasselin are masterpieces of functional architecture. Built from local globigerina limestone, they feature deep basins—or ħwat—where water flowed continuously, ensuring the "clean" water was always available for rinsing.

Today, these sites stand as monuments to a bygone era of manual labour. They remind us of a time when the rhythm of life was dictated by the seasons and the flow of the earth's natural springs, and when the simple act of washing clothes was a shared, communal experience.

# AIDEN TAKES 'BELLA' (SABIHA) TO AUSTRALIA

Maltese artist AIDAN will be taking his Eurovision journey to Australia, becoming the first Eurovision artist ever to visit the country as part of an official promotional tour. In the lead-up to the contest, AIDAN has already performed across a number of countries including Sweden, Lithuania, Greece, Bulgaria and San Marino, with his next stop set for Oslo this weekend.

As part of his upcoming visit to Australia, AIDAN will perform in Melbourne on Friday 27th March at the Maltese Community Council of Victoria in Parkville, followed by an appearance at the OGAE Preview Party at Harvey's Sports Bar. He will then travel to Sydney on Saturday 28th March, where he is set to perform at La Valette Social Club in Blacktown, as well as at the OGAE Preview Party in Paddington.

Commenting on the tour, AIDAN said he is delighted to be bringing his music to Australia and connecting with both Eurovision fans and the Maltese community abroad.
The Australian shows form part of AIDAN's wider Eurovision tour, connecting with international audiences and Maltese communities abroad. Following these performances, he is also scheduled to appear at the London Eurovision Party.
AIDAN will represent Malta with his song "Bella" at the 70th edition of the Eurovision Song Contest in Vienna, where Malta will perform in the second half of the second semi-final. Maltese people around the world can support AIDAN by voting on the official website of the contest on the day of the show.

## Lejl Imkebbes Easter edition: Fesitval of lights at the Citadel

by Gozo News

Next Saturday, a magical evening of candlelight will once again welcome visitors to one of Gozo's most beautiful settings for a festival of lights, this time for a special Easter edition.
More than 30,000 thousand of different types of candles will be illuminating the narrow streets of the old city within the Citadel, creating a wonderful magical atmosphere for – Lejl Imkebbes.
Visitors will also be able to take in the breathtaking 360-degree panorama of Gozo's hills, valleys, villages and churches, as well as the view across to Malta.
There will be numerous activities planned during the evening, including historic reenactments, the fee opening of public venues of interest, live entertainment and children's activities and open museums and encouraged everyone to attend the festival which attracts Gozitans, Maltese and tourists alike.
While you are there, why not try some different specialities, with food stalls offering both Maltese and other food, with something to suit all tastes and ages.
Lejl Imkebbes is taking place on Saturday, the 28th of March, from 6pm onwards. Entrance is free.
This event is organised in collaboration with the Cultural Heritage Directorate within the Ministry for Gozo.

## 'A MALTESE ACHIEVER - EDDIE CAMILLERI' S STORY

### By Godwin Gauci

Eddie Camilleri is from Naxxar, Malta who lives in Elizabeth Vale, South Australia, and has been a Soccer Enthusiast all his life. So much so that He joined the local sports club, The Elizabeth Vale Sports Club' and has been a member for many years, infect over Twenty-Seven (27) years and a devoted volunteer.

During those years, Eddie was awarded 'The Clubman of the Year at the 'Elizabeth Vale Sports Club' the first in 1980 and a few more times later in 1989, 1996 and 1999. On 29. October 1983, Eddie was awarded a Trophy seen here in the photo with his name inscribed on it, which was presented by the President of the club. He also received a honourer certificate as a Life Member of the club.

After a few years with the club, he joined the Committee and served for Two (2) years as the clubs Secretary. He watch the club going forward and help improving it. Eddie is well liked and fitted in perfectly, making lots of friends and mates. He became a Manager and also a sports Organizer and pushed the soccer team forward. Sometime later, Eddie became the Chairperson of the Social side of the Club and served for Two (2) years. He is also an excellent Barman who likes a drop or two, and to his friends nick named 'The Maltese Falcon'

**MALTESE SENIOR CITIZENS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA INC. 2005**

**From Left - Eddie Camilleri, Lucy Camilleri, Tom Borg, John Mangion, Jane Grima Frank Grima and Carmen Degabriele**

Eddie's much loved dedication to soccer, spent Nine (9) years as an Assistant Coach, and later The Coach to 'The Juniors Soccer Team'. They are also members of 'The South Australian Amatuer Soccer League Inc'. With soccer in his heart, but not no young he changed to Refereeing the soccer games for a few years and loved watching his team play. In the New Millennium Year, on the 8. October 2000, Eddie was Awarded 'The Meritorious Service Award' for his dedication and long service. Here presenting the award is the President of S.A.A.S.L. 'The South Australian Amateur League Inc' Mr. W. Bailey. with a big smile by Eddie receiving the award. The Elizabeth Vale Sports Club is celebrating Sixty (60) years anniversary of its existence this year and Eddie is so proud to have been part of it.

Time went by and Eddie is now in his senior years and has moved on. He has put his talent elsewhere and joined 'The Maltese Senior Citizens Assoc of South Australia Inc' as a member at first and after some time, he joined the committee and is the Vice President of club.

# Malta_UK_the_people's_link

Meet Joanna Alamango, a Maltese entrepreneur who's brought warmth, heritage, and homemade goodness to the heart of Shropshire. The Postcard Cafe in Clun is her labour of love—a charming riverside space in a historic 1870s building where she serves Italian lemon cake, fresh scones, and genuine hospitality rooted in Maltese values. If you're passing through South Shropshire, do stop by and support a fellow Maltese business owner. You'll find excellent coffee, beautiful views over the River Clun, and a real sense of community. This is what we're building together—Maltese talent, Maltese enterprise, Maltese pride. Find Joanna on Facebook or check out the rave reviews on TripAdvisor. #MaltaUKlink

Curious about new ways to connect? Imagine discovering opportunities that bring the Maltese community in the UK even closer. Whether you're interested in education, culture, or business, there are exciting pathways linking you back to Malta. Ready to explore what's possible? Join the conversation and share what opportunities matter most to you! 🌝

Maltese people in the Netherlands are a small, tight-knit community of expats and residents who often move for career opportunities, education, or to experience a different culture. They are attracted by the efficient Dutch infrastructure, biking culture, and career prospects, while often navigating significant cultural contrasts in weather, social atmosphere, and bureaucracy compared to Malta.
Reddit +4

- Community and Support: There is a dedicated "Maltese in The Netherlands Facebook group" for networking, advice, and social connection.
- Motivations for Moving: Common reasons include the pursuit of better work opportunities, reduced bureaucracy compared to Malta, and the desire to live in a "functional" society.
- Key Differences: Maltese residents frequently note the contrast between the sunny, sociable, but high-traffic/busy lifestyle of Malta and the clean, organized, biking-friendly, but quieter social atmosphere of the Netherlands.
- Integration: Many Maltese people living in the Netherlands maintain connections to Malta, with some staying for a few years and others settling long-term.
- Consular Services: The Embassy of Malta in The Hague serves the community and holds events, such as celebrations for Republic Day.

## MALTESE LIVING IN THE UK

Hi everyone,
The Maltese Diaspora project spans across ethnography, social sciences and cultural heritage. I am a community and multidisciplinary artist, and my art practice is rooted in my Maltese heritage.
I have been busy gathering stories through conversations about the Maltese Diaspora. I have had the pleasure of speaking to some wonderful fellow Maltese people living abroad. It is steadily growing and will remain ongoing for a long time. So you still have time to join! We discuss culture, traditions, heritage, identity, migration and resilience in rebuilding a life to adapt to new cultures/traditions, landscapes, way of life, language, food, systems, politics, social behaviour and perspectives/opinions.
It is also a wonderful way for us to connect with other Maltese people living abroad. Would you like to be a part of it? Do you know anyone who does? Please contact me (DM) and bring a (rough) recipe of a Maltese dish that evokes memories. I would love to hear from you. Thank you. ANGELE LAUTIER – UNITED KINGDOM www.angelelautier.com

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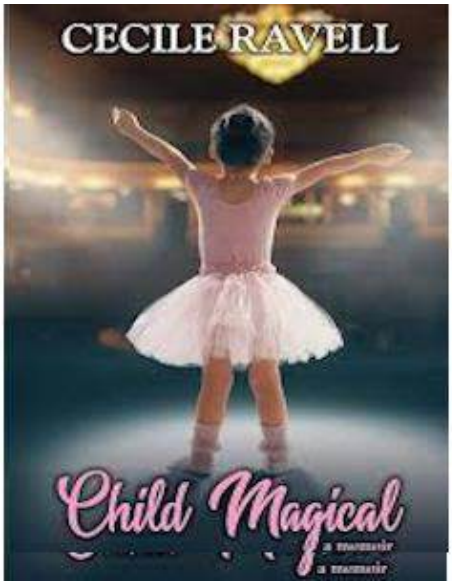


**Child Magical**
**a memoir**
**by**
**Cecile Ravell**

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**the girl-child of Maltese immigrants**

Born in "Hell's Kitchen", New York City, the girl-child of Maltese immigrants, Cecile moves to Brooklyn with her parents and older brother.

In her early years, she is immersed in a culture of hero worship of her brother, and a currency of marbles.

The feisty young girl tells her tale in the language of a child who travels halfway around the world to arrive in Australia on her fifth birthday.

She relates the wonders she experiences on the journey by ship to Malta, then on the airplane to Australia.

In Malta, she meets her parents' families for the first time. Cecile strives to engage with her cultural heritage, but she and her brother are seen as outsiders by their cousins.

Once in Australia, Cecile is on a quest to find her place in a community that sees olive-skinned people as interlopers. She re-lives the agony of her first day at Catholic school, where she is treated as "lesser than" the blue- eyed, fair-haired students, by the "rickety old nun".

Her family moves from living in one room, to a bungalow at the back of a milk bar, to a boarding house shared with her newly acquired surrogate Maltese uncles. After three years in rented rat-holes, her family are offered a house on the outskirts of Melbourne. There she is embraced by a flourishing community of immigrants of various nationalities.

Initially shunted between primary schools, she finally finds her place at Broadmeadows East PS. There she is encouraged by her teachers to aim high.

Growing up in the 1960s, Cecile thrives in a culture where respect for elders and family are a "given". She relates the highs of going to the drive-in, Myer's cafeteria, Geelong beach, and having the rellos over for Sunday feasts.

Despite obstacles of immigration, multiple housing relocations, and disruption to her education, Cecile excels at primary school and sees her early childhood as a magical time. The story ends with her looking forward to a world, and a life, of adventure.

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I have written a memoir of my arrival in Australia at the age of five and my first six years of school. It is a humorous account written in vignettes, as if by a child in her diary, but it has two voices so is equally appreciated by adults. It has been described as a valuable contribution to the understanding of the Maltese diaspora in Melbourne. Purchase your autographed copy direct from author and a donation will be made to UNHCR.

If you purchase from Amazon, Bezos gets 80% of the profits!

I think it's an important historical account of what Maltese experienced, as newly arrived immigrants, and I believe many will relate to the events. You can read a synopsis here: https://ravellc.wixsite.com/ravell-the-writer/single-post/child-magical

**Cecile Riddle** MHSc. Fellow, CDAA Author

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# 'WE KNEW THEY MIGHT NEVER COME BACK' WORLD WAR II PLOTTER WHO SAW MALTA BURN

## Kay Xuereb, aged 101, is the last known Maltese World War II plotter

Paul McDonald - Times of Malta

*Kay Xuereb and fellow plotters from D Watch on a rooftop above the Lascaris War Rooms during the war in 1942. From left: Kay, Christina Ratcliffe, Martha and Jane Hayston, Gladys Aitken and Sue Price.*

From deep beneath Valletta's Upper Barrakka Gardens, in the underground operations rooms at Lascaris, Kay Xuereb helped track enemy aircraft and coordinate Malta's air defences during one of the most heavily bombed campaigns of the war.

Today, more than eight decades later, she still remembers the fear, the exhaustion and the young men who never returned. "We knew them," says Kay, who lives in the UK.

"They would come down to the plotting room to look at the plot... and look at the girls. Then they would go flying. And sometimes they never came back."

When Italy declared war on Britain and France on June 10, 1940, Malta immediately became one of the most strategically important – and vulnerable – Allied positions in the Mediterranean.

The bombing began the next day. And for the next two-and-a- half years, the island endured relentless air attacks from Italian and German forces.

*Eight of the Xuerebs' nine children in 1932. From left: Charles, Mary, Paul, Nina, Kay, Romeo, Juliette and Adelina. Benny was born a year later.*

Civilians and servicemen alike heard the near-constant wail of air-raid sirens, and Kay experienced it all first-hand.

"We heard Mussolini declare war on the Rediffusion. And the bombing started the next day."

At the time, she was still a teenager.

From shop assistant to war plotter Kay Xuereb was born on September 28, 1924, in St Ursula Street, Valletta, one of 10 children. Her father, Emmanuel, worked in the dockyards in Grand Harbour. Her mother Jessie ran a small lace business from home, selling handcrafted Maltese lace to naval officers' families and visitors to the island. As a teenager, Kay helped in her mother's lace shop near Tigné Barracks in Sliema. "I didn't like it," she says bluntly. "My mother put me in the shop, but I didn't get paid."

When war disrupted Malta's economy and many naval families left the island, the business struggled. Kay took work with the NAAFI, where she met sisters Jane and Martha Hayston, who would become close friends.

In the summer of 1941, Jane mentioned something that would change Kay's life. Jane had begun work in the underground RAF headquarters at Lascaris as a civilian aircraft plotter.

Kay in late 1941, age 17. She bought the material for the dress, which she made herself, from her very first RAF pay packet.
Kay also applied and was accepted. She was still only 16.
Officially, the underground complex beneath Valletta was known as No. 8 Sector Operations Room. Unofficially, those who worked there called it “the ditch” or “the hole”.
From here, teams of RAF personnel and civilian women monitored radar reports, tracked enemy aircraft and coordinated fighter interceptions.
Kay joined D Watch, one of the rotating teams that operated around the clock. Her job was to work at the large plotting table in the centre of the operations room.
“The girl on the table was called the ‘Stooge’,” she explains.
Using coloured arrows – red, blue and yellow – plotters tracked aircraft movements across a map of the central Mediterranean. The colours corresponded with the sectors marked on the large operations clock.
'Remove that bloody plotter off the table'
New plotters were assigned the quieter western side of the table.
As they became more experienced, they moved to the east side – that included Malta.
From April to November 1942, the watch controller was RAF fighter ace Bill Farnes.
“I was terrified of him,” Kay recalls.
“If we made a mistake on the table, he would shout: ‘Remove that bloody plotter off the table. Get her out’.”

The work was relentless. The women worked seven days a week, with just a week’s leave every three months.
D Watch, 1944. Back: Not known, Sarah Demajo, Win Turk, Kay Xuereb, Carmen Borg. Middle: Stella Vella, Julie Xuereb, Mary Aitken, Lily Turk, not known. Front: Three men, not known.
Despite the pressure, friendships formed quickly. Among those on D Watch were Christina Ratcliffe – later captain of the Watch – the Hayston sisters, Gladys Aitken, the Tomlin sisters and Sue Price. Nearly 80 years later, Kay still remembers with affection Ratcliffe, who was also a British singer and dancer.
“She was nice to everybody. She was bossy – in a nice way. If one of us wasn’t doing our work right, she was firm. Christina looked after us. Everybody loved her.”
Above the Lascaris tunnels, Malta was being devastated as families moved constantly and homes were destroyed by bombing.
The Xuereb family evacuated to Birkirkara and lived temporarily in a school before returning to Sliema, where they eventually squatted in a roofless house with two usable rooms.
'He would hide in a cupboard'
Kay’s eldest brother Charles, served in an anti-aircraft gun crew in the dockyards.
During the *Illustrious* blitz in January 1941, his gun position took a direct hit. He was the only survivor. The blast left him suffering severe shell shock. “From that point, he behaved like a child,” Kay says. “When the siren went, he would hide in a cupboard, then run to the shelter and sit on his own.”
The family endured constant displacement as bombing destroyed one home after another. Eventually they moved to Msida and later Gżira.
Even getting to work could be dangerous. When she lived in Sliema, Kay sometimes took the ferry across Marsamxett Harbour to Valletta.
But bombing made the crossing terrifying. The ferry cost a shilling. And one day it took a direct hit. Instead, she often walked the four miles to Lascaris.

The plotters had to report for duty regardless of the air-raid state.
“We realised we could not be late for our shift,” she says.
Sometimes the journey itself was deadly. “One day I was running to work, and one of the anti-aircraft guns got a direct hit... What did I see? Bodies. All those men from the gun.” She ran past the devastation and kept going. “I ran and ran to my work. I remember it to this day.”
Tragedy at home - One bombing raid struck even closer. After finishing a night shift, Kay was asleep at home when the air-raid siren sounded. She and her sister reached the bottom of the stairs. Their brother Charles managed to reach the basement when a bomb struck the house.
“One of six bombs hit the house and went down to the basement, where it exploded.”
Kay and her sister survived. Charles was killed. The family moved yet again, first to Savoy Hill in Gżira, then to another house from which they were bombed out before eventually returning to Tigné Terrace.
Like many Maltese civilians during the siege, Kay remembers constant hunger.
“I remember looking in people’s dustbins to find a piece of bread. We used to go to the Victory Kitchens with a big pot.”
Yet even during the darkest months of the siege, the Lascaris girls found moments of normality.
Between shifts, they went dancing. Tea dances were held at clubs like the ERA Club and the Vernon, just across the road from Lascaris. “We were a happy lot,” Kay says.
Airmen often teased them: “They used to say we would never dance with a lowly airman – only someone with stripes on their arms.”
“We were thrilled. One day, a sailor came up to me with the picture from the newspaper.”
Hearing the last calls Not all memories are happy. Kay says there are three things she remembers from the war that she rarely speaks about.
One was the bombing. Another was the sight of dead servicemen after raids. The third was hearing the final radio calls from doomed aircraft. One plotter handled Mayday transmissions from pilots in distress. Their position was located by plotting radio bearings with long pieces of string across a circular table. Where the strings crossed showed the aircraft’s location.
Rescue launches from Kalafrana could then be sent. “But sometimes we knew they were going down. We could hear them.” One moment in particular has never left her.
In August 1942, Malta was on the brink of starvation. An Allied convoy known as ‘Operation Pedestal’ attempted to deliver desperately needed supplies to the island.
German and Italian aircraft sank most of the ships. But one tanker – the *Ohio* – struggled towards Malta, badly damaged. Kay Cussins and Paul McDonald pictured in 2023. Kay watched the drama unfold in the operations room.“We knew they were coming. We plotted them on the board.”
After finishing a night shift, she went to Valletta’s Lower Barrakka to watch.
“I saw the *Ohio* coming in, slowly, slowly. Two destroyers were holding it up.” What she saw on the deck has stayed with her ever since.
“All along that ship, all I could see were dead sailors.”
But the tanker made it into Grand Harbour.“And that’s what saved us. That saved Malta.”
‘Dead boys... young boys’ Looking back, it is the human cost of the war that stays with her most strongly. “So many soldiers, sailors and airmen died. Dead boys. Young boys.”
Yet despite everything – the bombing, the hunger, the loss – she reported for duty day after day. “That was our job. The job had to be done.”

The Voice of Malta

LEADER'S WORD

THIS BRAVE LITTLE PAPER

EDITORIAL

GREETINGS

ALL MALTESE PATRIOTS WISH THE VOICE OF MALTA A HAPPY BIRTHDAY AND MANY OTHER RETURNS OF THE DAY. FOR ALTHOUGH ONLY ONE YEAR OLD THE VOICE IS ALREADY A VETERAN IN OUR STRUGGLE FOR INDEPENDENCE.

DOM MINTOFF

## THE VOICE OF MALTA

The Voice of Malta was an organ of the Malta Labour Party. This newspaper, written in English was published on the 31 January 1960, prior to the 1962 elections (held on the 17th, 18th and 19th February 1962) when eventually, reading Labour newspapers or attending Labour meetings were declared by the Church to be a mortal sin, as was the act of voting Labour in the 1962 elections. Between 1961 and 1963 seven Labour activists who died, including former Minister and prolific writer Guze' Ellul Mercer were buried in the mizbla; the non-Catholic cemetery. Other actions were carried out against the Malta Labour Party. For example, members of the Catholic lay organisation would blow whistles with all their might during Labour meetings; church bells would be rung during such activities. This rare and interesting newspaper is full of political history and photos during these turbulent times. It is complete and consists of 12 pages full of news and political propaganda including photographs.

## REFLECTION

I was reflecting on Tuesday's Gospel at Mass Jesus is very clear about the need for forgiveness. He himself forgave sinners. He also forgave those who hurt, shamed, insulted, and murdered him. Forgiveness is deeply rooted in Christian practice.

When we do not forgive, we harm ourselves. We are not truly free. Even without realising it, we carry excess baggage. Forgiveness sets us free. At times, for many different reasons, we find it difficult to forgive. Jesus invites us to bring these struggles to him. He is the one best placed to set us free.

**Donate - Please, help us to keep this Journal alive**

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# THE LEGEND OF "ĠAĦAN": MALTA'S LOVABLE FOOL

In the rich tapestry of Maltese folklore, few characters are as enduring or as misunderstood as Ġaħan. A staple of oral tradition for centuries, Ġaħan is the quintessential "wise fool"—a character whose literal-mindedness and bumbling antics serve as a source of both comedy and subtle social commentary.

**The Man Who Took Everything Literally** The most iconic story associated with him, and the source of the nickname Ġaħan il-Bieb, involves a simple misunderstanding of language.

The tale begins with Ġaħan's mother preparing to leave for Sunday Mass. She instructs her son to stay behind for a moment but warns him: "Qis li tiġbed il-bieb warajk"—a common Maltese idiom that translates to "Make sure to pull the door after you" (meaning, simply, to close it).

True to his nature, Ġaħan interprets the command with absolute literalness. Rather than shutting the house, he unhinges the heavy wooden door, lifts it onto his back, and literally pulls it behind him all the way to the village square. His arrival at the church, door in tow, remains the most famous image in Maltese folk literature.

**The Legacy of the "Wise Fool"** In contemporary Malta, the name "Ġaħan" has taken on a double meaning. In casual conversation, it is often used as a derogatory term for someone who is foolish or gullible. However, folklorists argue that Ġaħan is far from simple.

By taking the world at face value, Ġaħan exposes the complexities and contradictions of human language and social expectations. He is a reminder of a simpler time, embodying the Maltese spirit of irony and self-deprecating humour.

## SAINT GEORGE'S TOWER

Saint George's Tower (Maltese: Torri ta' San Ġorġ) is a small watchtower in St. Julian's, Malta. It was built in 1638 and is one of the 10 Lascaris towers built between 1637 and 1652. Today, it is located in the grounds of a hotel.

Saint George's Tower is located at St. George's Bay, St. Julian's. Its site was originally occupied by a medieval watch post. It appears in maps of the period of the Knights at Cala S. Giorgio (St George's Point). The tower remained in use during the British period but was converted to a Fire Control Station once Fort Pembroke was built. The tower served as a radio communications post in World War II. The tower appears in a 1916 painting with the British additions. t was listed by MEPA as a Grade I National Monument in 1995, and in 1997, the fire control tower added by the British was demolished, which restored the tower to its original state. Saint George's tower is now incorporated within the grounds of the Corinthia Hotel St George's Bay, affording visitors an "enchanting glimpse into Malta's medieval past" as noted by a local tour operator. No independent sources currently state whether access is freely available to the general public or restricted to hotel guests or tour participants.

# Kannoli

**with Fresh Strawberries, White Chocolate & Pistachio**

**From Ainsley's Taste of Malta, ITV**

Kannoli (or Cannoli in Italian) are a Sicilian treat of sweetened ricotta filled pastry rolls and they're one of the most popular desserts in Malta. They're sold in cafes and bakeries across the archipelago with a variety of fillings – including chocolate, nuts, candied peel and fresh fruit. I've taken the delicious fresh strawberries of the island (a fruit so popular it has its own festival – the Festa Frawli and paired them with white chocolate, pistachios and zesty lemon. I've also added mascarpone to the ricotta filling to add a little tang and richness to the cream, but you can stick with the more traditional ricotta if you prefer. While cannoli shells are best when fried you can bake the tubes in a hot oven for 15-20 minutes until golden brown.

**Method**

Put the flour, sugar, salt and cinnamon in a large bowl. Add the butter and rub it in with your fingertips until it resembles breadcrumbs. Add the egg yolk and the wine, mixing everything together using your hands until thoroughly combined and adding enough water to be able to hold together in a ball. Knead the dough on a lightly floured surface for a few minutes until you get an elastic dough. Wrap the dough and leave to rest at room temperature for 30 minutes or chill for longer.

Meanwhile, make the filling. Put the drained ricotta, mascarpone and icing sugar in a bowl. Beat using an electric whisk or wooden spoon until well combined and smooth. Beat in the lemon zest and then gently fold in the chocolate chips and diced strawberries, cover and chill. Heat the oil in a heavy based pan or deep-fat fryer to 170°-180C.

Unwrap the dough and knead for a further 4-5 minutes. On a floured surface and using a lightly floured rolling pin, roll out the dough thinly to approx. 3mm thickness. Use a 10cm biscuit cutter to cut out circles. Lightly brush your cannoli tubes with oil and roll the dough circles around the tubes, using a little egg white to seal the edges together. Depending on how many tubes you have you may need to do cook them in batches.

Carefully lower the kannoli on their tubes into the hot oil, 3 or 4 at a time, and fry for 1-2 minutes or until golden brown and lightly blistered all over, carefully turning to allow for even cooking. Remove and drain on kitchen paper.

Once cool enough to handle, carefully remove the tubes from the pastry and set the kannoli aside to cool on a wire rack. If needed, wipe the tubes and repeat until you have finished cooking all the pastry circles.

Just before serving, fill the kannoli tubes with the ricotta cream using a piping bag with a wide nozzle/opening. To make it easier – fill from the centre to one end, then repeat on the other side. Dip one end in the pistachios and top the other end with chopped strawberries. Dust with icing sugar to serve. Best eaten on the same day once filled. Makes about 20

**NOSTALGIA**

# REDIFFUSION IN MALTA

In 1935, radio broadcasting began in Malta by a company called Rediffusion (Malta) Limited, which had been given the power and authority by the Government of Malta to operate sponsored radio programmes as well as ordinary commercial radio programmes.

L-Awtorità tax-Xandir
MALTA
Broadcasting Authority

The station: Rediffusion Radio was initially launched, with the aim of countering Fascist propaganda from Italy. It had been given a complete monopoly of broadcasting of news, features, music and entertainment to about 50,000 subscribers. In February 1960 the Government of Malta issued a statement on the future of television and sound broadcasting, saying that Malta should have its own television service as soon as it could be introduced.

Since not all the people had the Rediffusion service at home, loud speakers were placed in public squares to transmit the news to the public. During World War II, whenever Malta was under enemy fire, Rediffusion radio served as a source to inform the people when an air raid was possible, and after it has ended.

The Governor of Malta entered into discussions with Rediffusion Malta, Ltd., with a view to negotiating an agreement with them for the provision of a television service and the continuation of sound broadcasting in Malta and Gozo. This meant the Government decided that the firm which already had a monopoly of sound broadcasting was also to be given a monopoly for television broadcasting. Rediffusion Malta was to have the sole right of presenting news, views, entertainment, either on sound radio or television to the people of Malta. Rediffusion Malta made available for sponsorship a wide variety of transcribed programmes, featuring top line stars, from the finest production houses in Britain, America, Canada, and Australia.

They were available to British advertisers from approximately £2 15s. 0d. (£2 . 75) net per quarter hour and pro rata and clearly enjoyed the benefits of radio sponsorship and made a lot of money out of it. Television sets were a very expensive luxury to the Maltese and radio was still the dominant form of entertainment well into the 1970's. In 1975 broadcasting services passed under the control of the State after decades of being a monopoly in the hands of Rediffusion.

Public Broadcasting Services Limited (PBS) subsequently acquired a controlling interest in both Radio and Television broadcasting in Malta.

IL-LUZZU

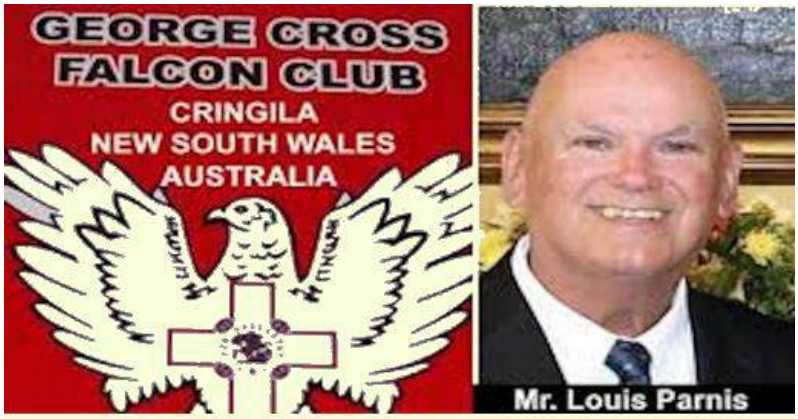
NOSTALGIA
MALTA BUS
VALLETTA - ZABBAR

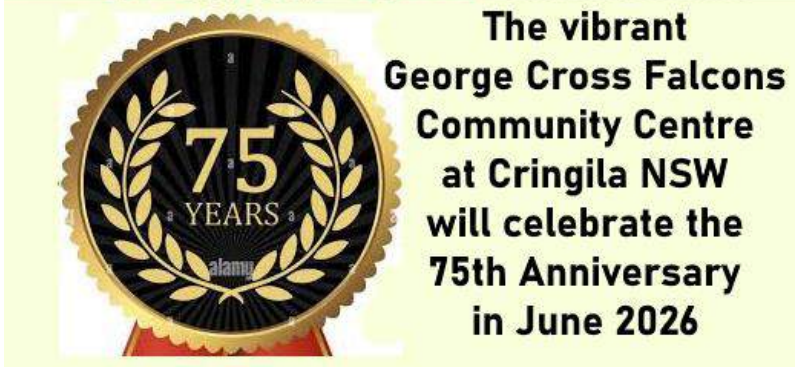
Niftakar Meta...
kont nidħol taħt il-magna tal-ħjata u nibda' ndawwar r-rota taparsi kont qed insuq xi karozza, bin-Nanna tgħajjat miegħi li ser nispiċċa nkissirha jew ngħaqqad il-ħajt kollu!

Niftakar Meta...
in-Nanniet kienu spiss jirrakuntaw kif meta kienu tfal marru ma' tal-iskola bil-bnadar ta' Malta u tar-Renju Unit, sabiex isellmu lir-Reġina hi u għaddejja minn Strada Rjali!
facebook.com/niftakarmeta/

niftakar meta...
kont tieħu pjaċir fil-klassi għax illum kien imiss lilek li tnaddaf il-blackboard u tqassam il-pitazzi!

# EASTER FIGOLLI



**IMAGINE**

**If we live**

**Together**

**Peacefully**

**In this**

**Troubled**

**World**

YOU ARE
INVITED
MALTESE IN SCOTLAND
GET TOGETHER
Bring a dish to share, enjoy relaxed time together, and celebrate our community.
Saturday 11th April
at Linlithgow Bowling Club
1:00pm – 6:00pm
NUMBERS TO BE CONFIRMED BY
20TH MARCH 2026
GET IN TOUCH ASAP. LIMITED PLACES
MADE IN MALTA
PUTTINU CARES

War damage in front
of St John's Co-Cathedral.
.Valletta
Date 1941.

MALTESE COMMUNITY IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

# Maltese Culture Movement

## Pre - Easter Function

*Celebrating 28 years of Maltese Culture In the UK*

**Saturday 28th March 2026**
**at Roland Philipps Scouts Centre**
**65 Copley Street** (off Stepney Way) **London E1 3DF**
**From 12.00pm till about 4.00pm**
Nearest Station: Stepney Green or Limehouse Underground

## Maltese Fair

**Selling Many Maltese traditional products!**
Kinnie ✦ Cisk Lager
Maltese Wines ✦ Maltese Liqueurs
Figolli ✦ Honey Rings ✦ Imqaret *(date slices)*
Almond Tarts ✦ Krustini & Biskuttelli ✦ Helwa
Galletti ✦ Gbejniet ✦ Pastizzi
Twistees and much more...

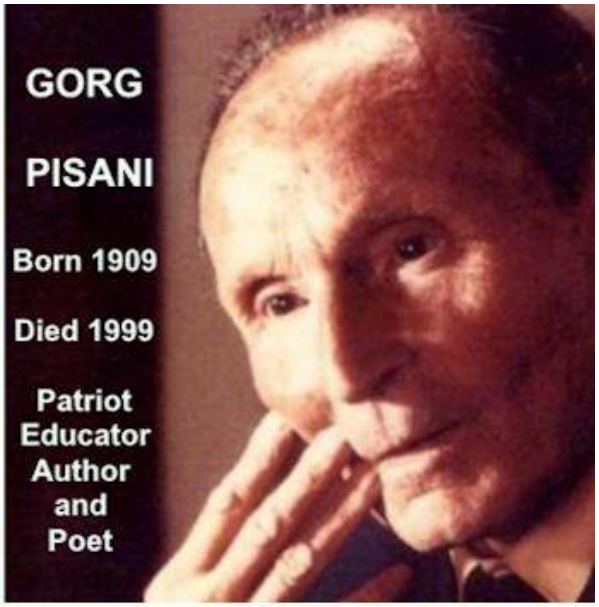
**Pre-Easter Function:** This function is being organised to give you the opportunity to come and purchase all your traditional and favourite Maltese Products - Including **Figolli** *(traditional Maltese Easter cake)* and **Kwarezimal** *(traditional Maltese Lent sweet)*.

The Fair will open at 12.00 with all the Maltese Product. We will also be running a licensed bar and serving hot food.

So come and join us in this celebration together with your family and friends and soak up the atmosphere enjoying Pastizzi, Timpana and refreshing Kinnie and Cisk lager and much more...

**Entrance is *FREE.*** **Everyone is Welcome!**

Tel: 020 7272 9000 *Email: Maltese_Culture@Hotmail.com* Fax: 020 7272 7787
groups/maltesecultureMovement




## INNU LIL GHAWDEX

Insellmulek Ghawdex taghna,
Art sabiha, l-ohla gnien
Art hanina, art mahbuba
Art imbierka mill-holqien

Art tal-ghasel, tal-bizzilla,
Art l-eghejjel l-iktar bnini
Art tal-bdiewa, tal-bahhara
Art id-dghajjes tal-Latini

Fejn hemm wiehed minn uliede
Jahdem fl-ibghad artijiet
Tixghel kewkba kollha dija
Jiddi l-gmiel tat-Tliet Ghaljiet

**Gianluca Caruana presents a Maltese Flag to Pope Leo**