Waldemar Beck killed on British western front WW1

Troy Cassar-Daley is a multiple-award-winning Maltese-Australian & Aboriginal country musician with his father Tony from Grafton, New South Wales.

significantly fatter than most others apart from the Maltese - Boris
The Malta Book Festival 2020 – release of the official poster

The National Book Council is pleased to release the official poster of the Malta Book Festival 2020, which is going to be held between Wednesday 11 and Sunday 15 November at the Mediterranean Conference Centre, Valletta.

The illustrations of this year’s poster are by Moira Scicluna Zahra and Mark Scicluna, while the graphic design is by Steven Scicluna. Moira, Mark and Steven are household names when it comes to book illustrations among other work, and have illustrated and designed many book covers in Malta and abroad. This year’s poster features famous book characters, like Sherlock Holmes, Little Red Riding Hood and a dog dressed up as the cat in one of Dr. Seuss’s books.

The NBC will also be retaining an extended exhibition space for this year’s MBF, which will include a hall dedicated to booksellers and NGOs, and various activity areas for the many book presentations, discussions, launches and cultural activities that will be taking place. The programme of activities will be released in September and will be posted in print form to all households in Malta and Gozo. In the coming weeks the NBC will also be revealing the name of all foreign guests, including a renowned author as this year’s special guest.

The Malta Book Festival will be inaugurated with a private ceremony on Tuesday 10 November, when the winners of the Terramaxka Prize for children and adolescents’ books published in 2019 will be announced. The evening activities will open on Wednesday 11 November with the main conference of the Festival, which this year will focus on the experience of being translated abroad. School children will be able to visit the Festival every weekday morning. They will be treated to a special programme of cultural and fun activities that is being prepared for them, including theatre pieces, readings and meetings with writers.

The NBC is following closely all latest Covid-19 measures by the Government so as to provide a safe experience for everyone visiting the Festival.

Prospective exhibitors that have not yet applied for their stand, can do so from here. Deadline for applications is Friday 14 August at noon (12 pm). Members of the public are urged to follow updates on the festival on the Facebook page of the National Book Council and the 2020 Malta Book Festival FB event page and on our website, https://ktieb.org.mt/

DON’T MISS THE NEXT EDITION – WE HAVE SOME EXCITING NEWS
Malta’s Got Talent to Replace X Factor

Malta’s Got Talent will be replacing X Factor Malta’s spot on our TVs throughout the coming months. “The world’s number one tv show has landed and the search for Malta’s Number 1 talent has begun! This is your chance to show all of Malta and the world YOUR talent, this is your chance to walk away with €25,000, in a few words – this is your time to shine!” the show said upon its launch.

The winner will be awarded a €25,000 prize and applications are open now. Looking to apply? Send Malta’s Got Talent a message via WhatsApp on 79202021 with your name, surname, age, and email. You can also choose to include a short clip of yourself performing.

NEW CASH-FOR-PASSPORTS SCHEME RESIDENCY PROGRAM

Malta’s Individual Investor Program will be abolished in September, to be replaced by a program which will require applicants to live in Malta for at least a year before being allowed to apply for citizenship. The government’s plans were made public in a media briefing by Citizenship Parliamentary Secretary Alex Muscat, who said that the IIP would be scrapped irrespective of whether the cap of 1,800 applications is reached or not.

New programme capped at 1,500 applications
Under the new system, only individuals who first manage to obtain a Maltese residence permit will be allowed to apply for citizenship. There are two ways to do this. Individuals can apply after a one-year residency period if they invest €750,000 or more. Applicants would have to pay €600,000 if they apply after a three-year residency period.

Presently, IIP applicants pay €650,000 for their Maltese citizenship. Under the new system, €50,000 must be paid for each dependent of the main applicant. The minimum value of the property purchased is increasing from €350,000 to €700,000. If a property is rented, the minimum value is increasing from €16,000 to €18,000 annually.

Applicants must also make a mandatory €10,000 philanthropic donation.
A new agency will be set up to oversee all forms of citizenship, including those obtaining their Maltese passport through investment.
The money generated from this investment will be split up in the same way that applies with the current system, with 70% going into the National Development and Social Fund. There will be a limit of 1,500 applications.
Through virtual reality, the general public can now visit underwater cultural heritage sites

“Our civic duty in these times” – Heritage Malta CEO

https://heritagemalta.org/virtual-viewing-heritage-malta-sites-go-online/

A visit to a Heritage Malta site or museum can still be on the cards despite the necessary social distancing measures imposed – thanks to Heritage Malta’s website, which now offers virtual experiences of over 35 sites and a vast database of interactive content.

The national Agency’s website – www.heritagemalta.org – has just been redesigned to offer tailor-made experiences for the current circumstances. From exclusive virtual exhibitions to archaeological lectures, Heritage Malta’s website has something to pique everyone’s interest.

“Most families are currently self-isolating, or in quarantine, with very little to do,” explained Noel Zammit, Heritage Malta’s CEO. “Offering a virtual trip to our sites is simply our Agency’s civic duty in these troubling times.” Visiting the website, the Museums & Sites section offers virtual tours, information, and photos of the selected site. From roaming the Grandmaster’s Palace in Valletta to exploring the Ta’ Bistra Catacombs in Mosta, viewers can experience a variety of areas around the islands, complete with helpful facts and photos. Younger audiences can also find entertainment, with the Kids section bringing together weekly competitions, social media content, and tailormade educational material.

The Videos and Lectures section provides access to Heritage Malta productions and conferences, while the Downloads section opens the doors to the Agency’s vast resources.

“Until the day when we can re-open our doors arrives, we are doing our best to still ensure access to our national heritage,” stated José Herrera, Minister for the National Heritage, the Arts and Local Government. “I encourage parents and educators to use our online services as much as they can, and keep our country’s story alive.”

New appointment for Bishop Grech

Pope Francis has appointed Bishop Mario Grech on the Pontifical Council for the Promotion of Christian Unity.

Bishop Grech was appointed member together with Cardinal Joseph William Tobin, Archbishop of Newark, Mgr. Paulo Cezar Costa, Bishop of San Carlos, Mgr. Paul Rauhana, Titular Bishop of Antardo and Auxiliary Bishop of Joubbé, Sarba and Jounieh dei Maroniti and Mgr. Richard Kuuia Baawobr, Bishop of Wa. Mgr. Giacomo Morandi, Titular Bishop of Cerveteri and Secretary of the Congregation for the Doctrine of Faith, and Mgr. Giorgio Demetrio Gallaro, Archbishop Emeritus of Piana degli Albanesi and Secretary of the Congregation for the Oriental Churches, were appointed as Consulters. Bishop Mario Grech is Bishop Emeritus of Gozo, and in the coming months he is expected to be appointed Secretary General of the Synod of Bishops.
HERITAGE MALTA currently has 25 sites available to virtually tour and travel to Malta. This includes various museums, temples, forts, and archaeological sites. Malta is also home to three UNESCO Heritage sites that can be explored virtually: the city of Valletta, the Ħal Saflieni Hypogeum and the Megalithic Temples.

GRANDMASTER’S PALACE

In the city of Valletta, one can view the Grandmaster’s Palace where today it seat’s the Office of the President of Malta. The Palace itself was one of the first buildings in the new city of Valletta founded by Grand Master Jean de Valette in 1566 a few months after the successful outcome of the Great Siege of Malta in 1565. The Palace Armoury is one of the world’s largest collections of arms and armor that is still housed in its original building. The website offers four online exhibits one can look through, photo galleries and two museum views as if one were standing inside the museum.

FORT ST ELMO

Also in Valletta, one can virtually visit Fort St. Elmo National War Museum. Artifacts are displayed in chronological order, commencing from the early phases of the Bronze Age around 2,500 B.C. Two halls are dedicated to Malta’s important role in WWI, the Inter-War Period and Malta’s historical role in the Second World War where the Gloster Sea Gladiator N5520 FAITH, Roosevelt’s Jeep ‘Husky’ and Malta award for gallantry, the George Cross are displayed. This site includes one online exhibit, a photo gallery and 10 museum views that viewers can explore.

ĦAL SAFLIENI HYPOGEUM

Ħal Saflieni Hypogeum is located in Raḥal Ġdid. This Hypogeum is a rock-cut underground complex that was used both as a sanctuary as well as for burial purposes by the temple builders. It was discovered during construction in 1902. There are three underground levels that date from around 3600 to 2400 BC. There is one online exhibit unveiling an underground prehistoric cemetery, a photo gallery and one museum view.

ĠGANTIJA TEMPLES

There are seven Megalithic Temples found on the islands of Gozo and Malta, each a result of individual development. Five out of the seven can be virtually visited. The Ġgantija Temples in Xaghra, Gozo are the oldest, free-standing monuments in the world and are a testament to the Island’s inhabitation for at least 1,000 years before the famous Egyptian pyramids of Giza were constructed. On the website viewers can look at one online exhibit, a photo gallery and three museum views.

JOSEPH CALLEJA VIDEO

Musicians and singers in Malta are following suit in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic and sharing their performances online for all to appreciate. Malta’s tenor, Joseph Calleja asked his fans to request songs and arias they would like to hear him sing on his Facebook page.
Ball of the August Moon scheduled for 1st. August

Report: Glen Falzon

The Ball of the August Moon is going to be held. The appointment is scheduled for 1 August at Verdala Palace in Buskett. President George Vella has stated that this activity will give some breathing space to the Malta Community Chest Fund, with income from ticket sales going to the Foundation, which has fared badly in recent months because of the pandemic.

The pandemic had a bad effect on the Malta Community Chest Fund, as funds started to dry up because fund-raising activities had stopped. President Vella pointed out that more people in Malta were suffering from cancer, and new medicines for treatment were very costly. “Last year we raised six million euro. This sum only suffices for six months, and I have to admit that we often have to resort to the Government to make up the difference.”

When launching another edition of the Ball of the August Moon, President Vella stressed on the need for such activities to pick up again, for donations to come in. “I pray to God and augur we do not arrive at a state when we say funds have dried up. God forbid,” the President stated.

Marquis Daniel De Petri Testaferrata said the Ball of the August Moon would be held at Verdala Palace on Saturday 1 August. The Marquis reiterated that all directives by the health authority, including social distancing and hand washing, would be observed during the ball. The ball had started being organised in the sixties, and is considered one of the highlights of the summer calendar.
‘Not a Maltese breed’: Miss World Malta contestant faces racist abuse

Beauty pageant contender Martha Attard hits back at social media comments

Martha Attard. Photo: Facebook

A beauty pageant contestant is facing racist abuse on social media after one user said she was not a “Maltese breed”. Martha Attard, who is a hopeful in this year’s Miss World Malta, was accused of not being Maltese, ostensibly because she is a black woman. She is one of 25 women competing in this year’s edition Miss World Malta, which was launched back in January.

The racist comments were sparked by one user who posted a screenshot of one of Attard’s promotional photos with a caption that said she should not be representing Malta as she is not of “Maltese breed”. Further comments accused her of not being Maltese at all. The Facebook post attracted nearly 300 comments. Attard reacted by saying she is, in fact, Maltese and eligible to participate in the beauty pageant. “I will say it again: I am Maltese and I’m honoured to represent this country in this years Miss World Malta,” she subsequently wrote on Facebook. Attempts to contact Attard for comment were unsuccessful by the time of writing.

Rising racial tensions.

Earlier this month, Times of Malta reported how the number of reports to Malta’s Hate Crime and Speech Unit has spiked amid a global anti-racism movement and increased local tensions over migration. In the first week of June, the number of hate crime reports were double the total filed during the entire month of May, according to data provided by the unit. The colour of this woman's skin should be of no more significance than the colour of her eyes.

Watch: ‘Re George V’ Mqabba band pays tribute to Our Lady of Lourdes

For the occasion of the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, which was celebrated on Sunday, the ‘Re George V’ band of Mqabba recorded the ‘Ave Maria’ and uploaded it on internet. Normally, the band visits Qrendi where it performs a number of band marches during the celebration of Our Lady of Lourdes feast. Due to the current pandemic situation, all the activities were this year cancelled. However, musicians of the Re George V band recorded the ‘Ave Maria’ and uploaded it on internet. https://www.tvm.com.mt/en/news/watch-re-george-v-mqabba-band-pays-tribute-to-our-lady-of-lourdes/
Who do you think you are?
Troy Cassar Daley opens up on the moments that have defined his life and music

Troy Cassar-Daley has a dual family history marked by displacement and dispossession on both sides. In Malta lie the secrets to his grandmother’s moribund expression, and way upriver from his childhood home in Grafton, NSW, is a hidden pocket of Australia’s Indigenous past. The singer’s country music is the soundtrack to much of this enlightening journey, with a song especially crafted to mark his arrival in his true ancestral home an especially touching moment.

He is the country music legend that so many know and love, with a career spanning 26 years, a slew of awards including over 30 Golden Guitars, and a tenth studio album which has just been released. And now, in an honest and revealing autobiography, Troy Cassar-Daley shares the most intimate and poignant moments that have shaped his career and life. A ‘living treasure’ of Australian country music, the truly gifted musician and storyteller, Troy Cassar-Daley has always had a fierce connection to family and his culture and in his autobiography which was released last week, Cassar-Daley shares the stories that have made him who he is today.

Discussing his childhood, Cassar-Daley told Radio National that music was an escape for him. Growing up with a Maltese Australian father who lived in Sydney city and an Aboriginal mother in Grafton, music helped him make sense of living in two different worlds. "I had some dysfunction in my family, living between Mum and Dad. I found that a hard tightrope to walk for a while."

Cassar-Daley describes how his father would help to ease him with music when he came to visit during school holidays. "Dad would play music to me when I was crying for Mum, I would get down here for school holidays (Sydney) and would be upset wanting to go back to Grafton, and he would bring out the guitar and make up songs with my name in them and it made me feel like I belonged. And that is what music has been since that day."

Known for baring his heart on stage, fans will be interested to hear the stories that have shaped his life, the good the bad and in between. Cassar-Daley has shared what he believes are the moments that define your path, such as a time that he wanted to shoot his stepfather.

"I was reasonably good with a gun and it was encouraged because rabbit and kangaroo shooting was a big part of our life. Being indigenous, we liked surviving off what we could get ... it was a rite of passage as kids," Cassar-Daley told AAP. "But I was at that pivotal point in life where I hated someone as much as I did that I was prepared to do something like that, like hold a gun and not even be scared. I wasn't even shaken by the whole thought about it."

"A lot of people tend to write autobiographies later in life, but I thought at 47, my memory is still okay and I can still remember plenty of stuff" Troy joked with the hosts of NITV's League Nation Live last Tuesday night ahead of his performance on the show. "There's a lot of stories from my childhood, right from day dot. There's some confronting stuff in there too, not everyone's life is a walk in the park, but i find it's nice to be able to come through the other end, look back and think of it fondly."

Troy says that felt the book was timely and has posted on his Facebook page a message to his supporters.

Writing my story was quite a journey emotionally and made me remember things I had tucked away thinking they were gone for good. Revisiting those memories were a trial at times. I know it's honest and may make you laugh and cry at some of the things I did or went through, but most of all its my story, through my eyes, told the only way I know best.

“Troy’s a true gentleman, warm and genuine, always a pleasure to be around. He sings straight from his heart and straight from the heart of his country.” ~ Paul Kelly
Cassar-Daley has also released an album which was inspired by the writing of the book. In the opening of the title track to Things I Carry Around Cassar-Daley alludes to the reflective nature of the album: *That Old Timer knife my grandpa gave to me, has worn a hole in a hundred pairs of jeans / And this old keychain, I should have thrown away by now / Are some of the things I carry around*

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**Prime Minister thanks Neil Agius for raising awareness through his wave of change initiative**

This morning, Prime Minister Robert Abela welcomed Neil Agius at the Auberge de Castille, the swimmer who last Friday managed to swim from Sicily to Malta. During the meeting, Prime Minister Abela expressed his gratitude for the initiative taken by Neil Agius to keep on raising awareness for cleaner sea and for making the public more aware of the consequences of plastic disposal in the sea. Mr Agius explained the challenges he faced during the swim and expressed his gratitude for the support he found for the Waveofchange initiative against the dumping of plastic at sea.

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**The National Archives of Malta**

**Arthur (Turu) Rizzo**

We congratulate Neil Agius for his achievement in swimming between Sicily and Malta. Turu Rizzo (photo) is a legendary swimmer. He swam between Gozo and Malta in 11 hours in September 1926 (photo) and three years later he spent 68 hours and 18 minutes in water. In Aug 1933 he attempted to swim between Sicily and Malta but had to quit because of the rough seas after covering 34 kms in 24 hours.

https://www.facebook.com/NationalArchivesMalta
Maltese Community Centre
PARKVILLE VICTORIA

The old and present Maltese Community Centre at Parkville – Victoria

The MCCV continued to grow and at the General Meeting held in Parkville on 9 April 1978, the President reported that whereas at the time of the first General Meeting there were only five associations present, now there were 22 affiliated with the council, of which 20 were present. By 1986 the number of associations affiliated with the MCCV had increased to 27.

The building of the Centru Malti in Parkville was the next most important project for the MCCV and its opening in December 1983 constitutes one of the most important landmarks in the annals of Maltese settlement in Victoria. It galvanised the various organisations forming the Maltese community and gave them a focal point and a sense of community bonding, which may have been lacking before. It gave them a stronger sense of purpose.

The building of a cultural and recreational centre for the community of Victoria was one of the agenda items for the first meeting of the Maltese Community Council of Victoria held on Sunday 6 July 1958 at St. Mary's Mission House. This dream was discussed on various other occasions.

On 13 December 1968 the President informed the committee that the first appeal for a building fund would be launched on the 20th December on the occasion of the Xmas party organised by the Community Christmas Committee. A plan for loans of $500-$800 by the affiliated associations would be proposed. An Open Forum between the MCCV and the Maltese associations in Victoria was held at the N.O.W. Ethnic Centre in Coburg on 24 October 1976. There was a substantial response to the call made through public announcements in The Maltese Herald and on the Maltese radio programme.

Mr Victor Borg, President of the MCCV, who chaired the forum appealed for greater unity among the community. He invited suggestions on how to improve things as well as criticism in an open discussion with any fear.

It was at this forum that Fr. George Scerri, the Provincial of the Missionary Society of St. Paul, announced that the leaders of the MSSP had decided to make its property in Parkville available to the Maltese community. He said that the project contemplated that the priests would keep a small part of the land on which to build a chapel and for their use in the delivery of spiritual service. The rest of the land would be used for the construction of a Maltese Centre with facilities to cater for the needs of the Maltese community in the fields of education, social welfare, sports and so on.

The late Fr George Scerri seen addressing an MCCV Council Meeting with (from left) Victor Borg, George Saliba and Paul Borg looking on.
Bishop Kelly blesses the foundation stone which had been shipped from Malta with (from left) Fr Tarcisio Micallef MSSP, Richard Curmi, Paul Borg, Joe Bartolo and Victor Borg proudly looking on.

Fund-raising activities were organised in earnest in every corner of the Maltese community as the treasurer’s report adopted at the Annual General Meeting of 19 July 1987 shows. By 30 June 1987, the donations by the affiliated associations had risen to $44,965 and from individuals to $11,452. The Quest had rendered $228,461, the Fete $72,434, raffles $75,577, social activities $13,713, bingo $33,000 and the hire of hall rendered $21,780. The Tini Jdejk project raised $16,094 and Fr David’s concerts raised $53,941 while bank interest (1975-1983) rendered $142,422.

The foundation stone for the community centre was presented at the council meeting held on 4 February 1981. It is the work of the Maltese sculptor Mr. Marco Montebello. It was laid in September 1983.

The foundation stone which originated from Malta. The official opening of the new Maltese Centre in Nov 1983.

The Victorian Premier, Mr. John Cain officially opened the Maltese community’s new Centre at Parkville on 20 November 1983. He unveiled a commemorative plaque to mark the occasion saying that he “was delighted to be associated with the opening of this very impressive new community centre. This is a very special event for the Maltese community in Melbourne, and for the community as a whole.”

Mr. Cain said that he believed “the community at large will see in this new facility the great achievement of an important ethnic community in this State. This is a proud occasion for all of you, and it’s a pride in which my Government is delighted to join in sharing… I want to put on record, too, my government’s appreciation for the very valued contribution the Maltese community makes to our State. Like other ethnic communities in Victoria, the Maltese community has added a rich dimension to our cultural heritage.

The Centre houses a library, with about a thousand books, that became open to all in early 1985. Books and tapes can be borrowed except rare books and reference books. Dr. Maurice Cauchi looked after its establishment and Mr. Edwin Baldacchino helped with setting up the necessary facilities.

UNITED WE STAND
BUT SOME PEOPLE NEVER LEARN

MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER 328
July 2020

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The MALTESE COMMUNITY COUNCIL OF VICTORIA

MCCV has recently expanded their services to provide additional assistance to the Maltese Community members who are over 65 and reside in the Western Suburbs of Melbourne.

Domestic Assistance  This program is here to assist you with daily tasks that you might find difficult to keep up with. The MCCV can send a Maltese speaking person to your home to help out with:

- Cleaning  Dish washing  Ironing  Clothes washing
- Shopping for food or other items
- Other household tasks

These services are very flexible and can be adapted as your needs change. We will discuss which day or days you prefer to have someone come to your home to assist you. You can also have short term assistance if you are not feeling well or come home from hospital and need some time to get back on your feet.

Fees  There is a fee involved with provision of these services and this depends on which service you require and how often these services are delivered. All fees will be discussed with you before you start our programs.

How to access services  If you wish to access any of our services, you will need to be referred via My Aged Care and have an assessment by the Regional Assessment Service by calling on 1800 200 422 or by going to myagedcare.gov.au.

You can call My Aged Care or if you prefer, a referral can be made by your Doctor, someone who already provides a home care services to you, or a family member or carer. When you contact My Aged Care, you can let them know that you wish to use Maltese Community Council of Victoria services.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, some services will be modified to adhere social distancing laws and Government restrictions. Please note that this is a temporary arrangement and as soon as restrictions are eased or lifted, services will progressively return to normal.

MALTESE CANADIAN ASSOCIATION IN GOZO

Our Story starts back in 1995 when Alfred and Lily Camilleri hosted a Canada Day BBQ at their Farmouse called IR-RAZZETT by the Xaghra Windmill called also Ta' Kola. It was a wonderful evening, music and lots of food. All present had showed interest to form some kind of a club, an organisation to organise the many returning emigrants to Gozo. There was already an association in Malta, but there was a strong feeling that the Gozitan returning emigrants should be an identity and have their own association.
« ĠORĠI TAGĦNA reġa’ magħna »

Is-sajf reġa’ jinsab magħna u mieghu tant festi sbieħ illi niesna dlunq tistenna għaliex dawn tgħożżhom qatigh!

Nghid għaliija, jiena nhobbhom, na nittix żgur waħda minnhom, mill-bidu sat-tmiem joghġobni dak kollu li nara fihom.

Prominenza jiena naghti tal-Knisja l-funzionijiet illi jduru mal-istatwa li ma thalliniex bi kwiet

u quddiemha erhilna nċapċpu u nkantawilha bla waqfiien – din għalina tiġi l-ewwel u hekk se tibqa’ tul iż-żmien.

In-noti tal-qniepen helwa illi jdoqqu bla mistrieh iferrhuni, jallegrwni, tismaghhom mal-erba’ rjiem.

It-tiżjin fit-toroq taghna ukoll johloq spirtu kbir; atmosfera mhix komuni u bih qalbna trid ittir.

U xi nghidu mbagħad għall-baned illi jkasskru lil tant nies biex jisimgħu dawk il-marċi b’hlewwa u benna ta’ bla qies!

Żgur li l-festa itkun nieqsa ’k ma jkollhiex xi ftit sparar, qisek ħawwart borma prima u hallejhta minghajr bżar!

Dawna l-ingredjenti kollha żgur li ssibhom fil-Belt taghna għaliex tul ix-xahar ta’ Lulju arah jasa Ġorġi magħna!

Minn kull naha n-nies tisfronda u timla lit-Tempju tiegħu, titolbu b’heggja mill-akbar, ilkoll hienja mdawra mieghu.

Din il-knisja hekk tal-għaqeb għandha seher fuq kullhadd, għadew fuqha għadd ta’ sekli – għadha hemm, ma tharrket qatt!

Ta’ kull sena ma’ nofs Lulju jingħaqad dlunq mal-Ghawdexin ferhan kollu l-poplu Malti, u ma’ dawn salt barranin.

U kif jista’ jkun mod iehor la San Ġorġ hu ta’ kulħadd, u li żgur qatt ma nstema’ li qatt nesa lil xi hadd!

O Tribun qawwi, setgħani, meta l-Hadd toħrog iddur fost il-ferh u l-ghors tal-folla waqt li qalbna bil-ferh tfur, itfa’ harsteq fuq dal-poプlu illi bik jagħmel ir-riħ; int fuq fommu l-hin kollu għax ihobbok wisq, qatigh!

Qabel nagħlaq, xtaqt nitolbok, o Patrun tal-gżira tagħna: biebna beraħ se nberħulek sabiex tghix ghal dejjem magħna.

Ehlisa minn din l-imxija illi nikket lil kulħadd, mill-ġidid ohloq it-tbissima u barrax la thallli ’l hadd!

Meta mbagħad in-numru jagħlaq, tafdaniex minn taħt għajnejk iżda aqbadna minn idejna biex fil-Ġenna niġu ħdejk!

Kav. Joe M. Attard
Il-Belt Victoria, Ghawdex Lulju 2020

festa fit-tielet ħadd ta’ Lulju
Consulate General of the Republic of Malta to Canada

110 YEARS AGO TODAY THE MISSIONARY SOCIETY OF ST PAUL (MSSP) WAS ESTABLISHED

A Special Day for all Maltese Canadians

Mgr Joseph De Piro established the MSSP in Malta on June 30, 1910, and today the Superior General is Fr Mark Grima MSSP. MSSP became a Pontifical Society and granted ‘decretum laudis’ in 1973 by today Pope Saint Paul VI. 2020 is also marks the 90th Anniversary since the establishment of the St. Paul The Apostle Maltese Canadian Parish in Malta Village in The Junction, Toronto, today has Fr Mario Micallef MSSP as its Pastor assisted by Fr Ivano Burdian MSSP. The MSSP was or is present in Ethiopia (1927), Australia (1948), Canada (1959), Peru (1968), USA (1973), Pakistan (1982), The Philippine (1999) and Cuba (2017). Vocations, volunteers and donations can help in the strengthening of your only Maltese Canadian Parish in all of Canada, the welcoming place you or your ancestors encountered when you or ancestors arrived in Canada. It is part of your family, its history and rich heritage in Canada. Treasure it for present and future generations of Maltese Canadians.

Dar tal-Providenza launches ‘Sabiħ li Tagħti’ campaign as pandemic creates funding shortfall

The Dar tal-Providenza has launched a new fundraising campaign dubbed “Sabiħ Li Tagħti” – the joy of giving – in the wake of a Covid-19 pandemic which has seen donations dry up while expenditures increased. The home for persons with disability in the limits of Siġġiewi has had to implement a number of measures to protect its staff and residents alike, as home administrator Nadine Camilleri Cassano explained.

“Despite all the difficulties, we worked together and did everything possible in order to protect our residents in the best way possible, while ensuring that they enjoy a good quality of life and in an environment which promoted their wellbeing,” Camilleri Cassano said. However, she pointed out, these measures require a substantial investment of more than €60,000

Around €500,000 lost through volleyball marathon cancellation

At the same time, as Manwel Zammit explained, donations have fallen drastically, including through the cancellation of fundraising activities. One notable example is the annual volleyball marathon usually held at this time of year: the Dar tal-Providenza would have expected some €500,000 in donations from this event alone. The home also had to close its Valletta office, which provided a central location for benefactors wishing to make donations. However, Zammit also expressed his gratitude towards a number of organisations and commercial entities which have provided their assistance during this difficult period.

Fellow Dar tal-Providenza board member Jesmond Saliba explained that the Sabiħ Li Tagħti initiative sought to bring together all the fundraising efforts that will be required to keep the home afloat. He reminded that the Dar tal-Providenza needed some €5 million a year to continue providing its services, and that it largely depended on the generosity of the Maltese public.

The home’s name itself highlights its reliance on public generosity: it was famously founded after its founder Mgr Mikiel Azzopardi outlined his dream to establish it in 1965, prompting a young woman to generously donate Lm100 she had saved up for a vacation.

Pandemic forces stop to visits and excursions

The pandemic forced a stop to visits, while residents could no longer leave the premises, including on excursions organised by the home.

To help make up for this unwelcome change, a team of ability promoters led by Margaret Vella made sure to organise frequent activities, including street music and crafts session, and residents were frequently taken to the home’s gardens to enjoy some fresh air.
With the help of MITA, the home also provided WiFi and smartphones to residents so that they could continue keeping in touch with their loved ones. Staff were also provided with personal protective equipment and training, and a specialised transport service was provided to those relying on public transport to ensure they could reach the home safely. The home also improved its IT systems to enable administrative work to be carried out remotely.

And as the home announced its latest fundraising initiative, Superintendent for Public Health Charmaine Gauci paid a visit to thank them for the dedication they had shown during the pandemic, and to express her appreciation for the measures taken to safeguard the health of residents and workers alike.

**Illness forces home’s director to go on long leave**

In his address, Saliba also announced the sad news that the home’s director since 2008, Fr Martin Micallef, will be withdrawing from his responsibilities for a long period for health reasons: he will be receiving treatment for a curable form of cancer.

“Fr Martin will be embarking on a different, more arduous marathon. This is a difficult period for us who work so closely with Fr Martin, as well as his family and the family represented by the Home,” Saliba said, whilst pledging that the home’s administrative team would do its utmost in his absence.

As he appealed for donations, Saliba said that the public’s generosity would not only provide invaluable help to the home’s residents, but would also help encourage and sustain Fr Martin as he undergoes his treatment, while the home eagerly awaits his return.

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**The Lost Chapel of Bones in Malta**

Charlie Hintz

Somewhere beneath the ruins of the Nibbia Chapel in Malta is an ossuary decorated in human bones exhumed from a nearby cemetery. Crypt beneath the Nibbia Chapel of Bones in Valletta, Malta

For nearly a hundred years a small church in Malta’s capital of Valletta served as a place of powerful religious devotion, as well as a macabre tourist destination.

Known as the Chapel of Bones, the vaulted crypt beneath the church was elaborately decorated with human skulls and bones exhumed from a nearby cemetery in the mid-1800s. Bombs dropped on the city during the second World War, on February 14, 1941, left the chapel damaged. What remained was later demolished sometime in the 1970s. Only the sarcophagus of the chapel’s builder Fra Giorgia Nibbia, along with remnants of the foundation, were left standing.

The Nibbia Chapel was built in the year 1612. Nibbia, a member of the Knights of the Order of St. John (who controlled the island at that time) funded the construction of the Roman Catholic chapel beside a cemetery where deceased patients of the nearby Sacra Infermeria hospital were laid to rest. It was dedicated to the Madonna della Misericordia, or Our Lady of Mercy, and was originally called Taz-Zuntier, a Maltese word for “cemetery.” The altar had a Latin inscription that, according to the Times of Malta, “lamented the ephemerity of life and requested prayers for the dead.” When Nibbia died in 1619, he was entombed in a stone sarcophagus within the chapel.

The chapel was dismantled in 1730 to make room for expansion of the hospital. At that time, Nibbia’s tomb was opened, and his corpse was said to appear untouched by death. The church was rebuilt the following year in the Baroque style with architecture attributed to Romano Caraccechia. This new structure, as described by the Times of Malta, “consisted of a large portal panel having the main door set within two clustered sets of Doric pilasters on each side. The door’s architrave was adorned with a marble plaque at the centre and topped by a broken rounded pediment. A thin cornice separated the upper section which was made up of a central light arched window set between two smaller clusters of pilasters and running scrolls. Above the whole was a triangular pediment.”

In 1776, the decision was made to relocate the cemetery. The remains were exhumed and reinterred underground in a large ossuary beneath the chapel. Then, in 1852, hospital chaplain Rev. Sacco decided to
use the bones as decoration, adorning the walls and ceiling of the crypt with elaborate shapes and patterns made entirely of human skeletal remains. He created intricate patterns with crossed long bones, scapulae were used for floral shapes, skulls lined the walls, and smaller bones were used as trim.

In the 1914 book *Six and One Abroad*, author Sidney J. Thomas wrote about the Church of St. John in Valetta, where a relic said to be the mummified right hand of John the Baptist was kept (after Napoleon stole the diamond ring from its finger), before moving on to describe the city’s other macabre destination.

“But yet a more startling apartment in this remarkable edifice is a chapel whose walls and ceiling are lined with grinning human skulls,” Thomas wrote. “This gruesome decoration of bones is not disposed at random and in sparse bits here and there, but is arranged with artistic skill into all sorts of designs, shaped into full framed skeletons that STARE at you with ghastly smiles, into the curves of arm bones and arches of clavicles and windows and wainscotting of ribs. In the world, civilized and savage, there is not another such a gruesome and appalling spectacle. It was a clever artist who assembled these, the relics of the sturdy Knights of Malta, into such extraordinary schemes of drapery and friezes and ornaments – here and arm bone finished off with finger joints and meeting another of the same kind and together holding a grinning skull as the keystone of an arch; yonder a row of columns with their tops decorated with skulls.”

Though little remains of the Nibbia Chapel, the underground crypt is believed to still exist, and may one day be found.

**Karl Doenitz held as prisoner-of-war in Malta**

Karl Doenitz was to become commander of the German U-Boat forces during World War II.

Probably, one of the most prominent prisoners-of-war (POW) in Malta was Karl Doenitz who, at the end of World War II briefly succeeded Adolf Hitler as Chancellor of the Third Reich after the dictator’s suicide.

In 1910, Doenitz had enlisted in the Kaiserliche Marine (Imperial German Navy). After the outbreak of World War I, he was serving on the light cruiser SMS Breslau in the Mediterranean Sea.

In August 1914, SMS Breslau and the battle-cruiser SMS Goeben arrived in Constantinople, which formed part of the Ottoman Empire; the ships were renamed the Midilli and the Yavuz Sultan Selim, respectively. They began operating under Rear Admiral Wilhelm Souchon, engaging Russian forces in the Black Sea.

On March 22, 1916, Doenitz was promoted to Navy First Lieutenant. When the Midilli put into dock for repairs, he was temporarily assigned as airfield commander at the Dardanelles. From there, he requested a transfer to the submarine forces, which became effective in October 1916. He served as watch officer on U-39, and from February 1918 onward as commander of UC-25.

On September 5, 1918, he became commander of UB-68. On October 4, his U-boat was sunk by the sloop HMS Snapdragon off Gozo. One of the submarine crew members died but 33 were rescued by the boats of the Snapdragon. Doenitz was among the survivors who were taken as a POWs who were captured and interned in Malta.

On November 4, 1918, exactly one week before the armistice that ended the conflict in Europe, Doenitz was taken to the waterfront in Grand Harbour and transferred to Britain aboard a British cruiser.

**Imaginative children’s guide to the pandemic**

A Special Spring Festival, written and illustrated by Gao Jing

The China Cultural Centre in Malta, in collaboration with the philanthropic website of Life Tree Books, is publishing nine colourfully-illustrated children’s books, freely accessible to the public. The aim of this project is to help children to have a better
understanding of COVID-19 and how to protect themselves against contracting the virus.

A Special Spring Festival, written and illustrated by Gao Jing

According to UNESCO, almost three-quarters of the world’s schoolchildren were impacted due to the closure of educational institutions in the attempt to contain the spread of COVID-19. Barred from schools and not able to meet friends as freely as before, many young children around the world have a lot of questions about this change in their lives.

To date, 200 volunteers have translated this set of books into 13 languages, including French, Russian and Italian. It continues to be a great source of answers and consolation to children of different nationalities. The China Cultural Centre in Malta, commonly abbreviated to the CCC, is issuing an open call to Maltese speakers who would be interested in volunteering to translate the books from English to Maltese. Their skills would benefit a good cause and contribute to the fight against the virus by providing children with science-based knowledge through books.

2,700-year-old Phoenician Shipwreck Discovered in Maltese Waters

The Phoenician shipwreck was found one mile off the coast of Gozo in Malta

A group of divers have discovered a Phoenician shipwreck dating back to 700 BC off the coast of Gozo island in Malta, according to a news report in the Times of Malta. It is a unique and immensely important finding as it is the oldest known shipwreck in the central Mediterranean, it is among the oldest and most complete Phoenician ships ever recovered, and it will serve to shed light on inter-regional trade and exchange in antiquity.

The announcement was made by Malta’s Minister for Justice, Culture and Local Government, Owen Bonnici, who said the wreck was found in Maltese waters at a depth of 120 metres.

“This discovery is considered to be unique not only here but internationally as well because it is the oldest, or considered to be the oldest shipwreck in the central Mediterranean and it is in a fantastic state of preservation,” Project Co-Director Dr Timmy Gambin told the Times of Malta.

To date, researchers from France, the United States, and Malta have recovered 20 lava grinding stones, weighing some 35kg each, and 50 amphorae of seven different types, which suggests the ship had visited different harbours. Based on the cargo, scientists believe the ship was sailing from Sicily to Malta to sell its cargo when it sank.
The whole operation, which is being supervised by the Superintendence of National Heritage and explored by GROplan Project, is currently focused on piecing together over 8,000 photographs to create a very high resolution and detailed 3D model of the site. Following this, the results will be published and the international team will be working out how the site can be enjoyed by the general public. It has already been added to the National Inventory of Cultural Property and steps are being taken to protect the site for its future preservation.

One of the project's researchers explained that the shipwreck is a typical Phoenician vessel which would have measured some 50 feet long. Phoenician ship carved on the face of a sarcophagus. 2nd century AD. Image source: Wikipedia

The Phoenician civilization, which lasted from 1550 BC to 300 BC, was based in present-day Tyre in Lebanon. They travelled across most of the Mediterranean, not as conquerors but as traders. The strategic location of the Malta in the Mediterranean made the islands a safe refuge for the Phoenicians during their long sea voyages. By the 7th Century BC the Phoenician presence was part of the identity of the Maltese islands. They are also widely believed to have set the origins of the Maltese language. The Phoenician civilization was eventually conquered by the Persians and then by the Greeks.

Featured image: Top Left: Phoenician boat marble mosaic art (contemporary). Remaining images: Screen captures of newly-discovered shipwreck taken from video released by the Times of Malta.

By April Holloway

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EXITING NEWS – RESET-RESTART-REOPENING

Dear Members, Many things have changed since our last newsletter. We have exciting news. The Maltese Center will reopen July 5th for outdoor seating. All snacks and drinks must be taken to your designated table. In advance there are a number of new rules that the city and state has mandated but the good news we are open! Starting July 5th - The Maltese Center outdoor area will have a soft reopen with limited capacity for members only who are up to date and in good standing.

WE THANK OUR READERS FOR THE GREAT SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGEMENT IN PRODUCING THIS JOURNAL OF MALTESE LIVING IN MALTA AND ABROAD

WE HAVE A VERY IMPORTANT PROJECT TO PRESERVE THIS JOURNAL FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS. DETAILS NEXT EDITION. WE NEED YOUR HELP!!!!
Fat-fighter Boris Johnson declares war on obesity in UK

“We are significantly fatter than most others – apart from the Maltese.” Boris said.

UK has one of the highest rates of obesity in the world: nearly one in three adults are obese. Coronavirus crisis has persuaded prime minister that obesity is a major health issue

Boris Johnson drinks a beer in 2016. He proclaimed that he was now ‘as fit as a butcher’s dog’ after a recent bout of Covid-19. File photo: Reuters

Boris Johnson made an uncharacteristic apology on Monday; he confessed that in the past he had taken a too “libertarian” attitude to obesity and the government’s role in preventing it and vowed to wage a national war on fat.

The prime minister’s nutritional epiphany comes after a dangerous bout of Covid-19 that led him close to death.

Weighing more than 110kg when he was admitted to hospital two months ago, Johnson blamed his susceptibility to the virus on his own poor body mass index score.

In an interview with The Daily Mail the former journalist gave a photo opportunity by doing a press-ups, to show he was “as fit as a butcher’s dog” and personally serious about getting in shape.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson is determined to tackle obesity in Britain to better prepare the country for future health crises. Photo: Reuters

“Everybody knows that this is a tough one, but I think it’s something we all need to address,” he said in a radio interview Monday. “I think that we certainly must have a care for the health of our population and we will be happier and fitter and more resistant to diseases like Covid if we can tackle obesity.”

Obesity is seen as a major risk factor for severe Covid-19, and the chances of recovery from intensive care are greatly reduced, especially with a common comorbidity of diabetes. Johnson says he wants action now to get the nation in better shape in case of a second wave of the pandemic later this year.

According to the World Health Organisation, in 2018 the only European Union country with a bigger obesity problem than the UK was Malta. A 2017 report by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, found obesity to be growing at an epidemic rate with the rate almost doubling since the early 1990s.

Malta’s superintendent of public health was asked to weigh in on the subject and acknowledged the need to expand Malta’s own efforts to fight the widespread problem.

In 2015, 26.9 per cent of the UK population were considered obese. A government survey found 28.7 per cent of adults in the country were clinically obese with a further 35.6 per cent classified as overweight.
2020 is a historic year for the Society of St Mary and King George V Band of Mqabba where it will celebrate its 75th anniversary since the formation of the St Mary Orchestra, today known as the King George V Band. This Society has been on the forefront of cultural advancements on the Maltese islands, with innovations in the fireworks industry in the early 1900s, thereafter, post the end of the Second World War, it developed the musical culture in Mqabba.

The art of music within the village and the Society of St Mary had its origins way before the official formation. It was Guzeppi Galea, a local musician, who in 1939 took the initiative and started teaching music at the King George V Club. The club was established back in 1910 with the principle aim being the celebrations of the St Mary feast. Less than a year after starting this project, WWII hit our islands and music teaching was forced to stop due to heavy bombardments. It wasn't until early 1944 when Galea commenced teaching music once again. Soon after Galea, together with Profs Pawlu Carabott, Charles Schembri, Antonio Mamo, Espedito Deguara and Francesco Azzopardi, established the St Mary Orchestra in June 1944 as publicised in the Maltese newspaper *Il-Berqa* dated 16 February 1945, showing the official photo of the orchestra. The St Mary Orchestra made its debut in public on Sunday, 12 August 1945 on the second day of the Triduum of the feast of St Mary of Mqabba. During this debut, set in the parish square, various music themes, produced by Ketèlbey and Von Suppé were displayed. This was the first ever concert by a local music formation in the village.

The transformation from orchestra to a band took place shortly after, in October 1946, bearing the name of the club, that of King George V Band led by Mro Joseph M. Barbara. This band kept on progressing, as invites from other village feasts started to pour in, with the band establishing performances also in events held on a national level. During the 1990s international relations were established with bands from the United Kingdom, Italy, Israel and Greece, among others. A notable performance was delivered during 1998, where the association with the Corpo Bandistico Santa Vittoria di Matenano bore fruit, with this twinning awarded the highly regarded honour *Les Etoiles d’or du jumelage* by the European Commission. During 2007, the band also played live performances in Rome and the Vatican City enhancing its relationship with other Italian bands. Nowadays the school of music, within the King George V Band, has more than 33 students, developing their studies in music and instrumental techniques utilizing modern technologies made available to them through investments by the band club. Through the progress and milestones achieved throughout the years, the band has evolved, thereby keeping the aim of promoting music in the local community and the organisation of the feast of St Mary at heart.
WORLD WAR 1 1914-18 Last Maltese to die in action, perhaps

During the final drive of hostilities in France, the young Maltese Lance Corporal Fortunato Borda paid the supreme sacrifice on the field. He was probably the last Maltese of World War I to die in action. He was serving in a British regiment. Educated at St Aloysius' College, Birżebbuġa, and at the University of Edinburgh, he joined the Scottish Borderers as a volunteer.

The Military Cross

Lt William Parnis awarded the Military Cross

Among the gallant band of Maltese officers who were serving at the various fronts with credit to themselves, early in 1918, 2nd Lt William Parnis was awarded the Military Cross “for conspicuous bravery in the field”. Lt Parnis had proceeded to England where he volunteered for active service. Having obtained a commission, he was posted to the Buffs, and afterwards transferred to the Machine Gun Corps. He was active on the Western Front for a considerable time. Lt Parnis participated in an extensive move which resulted in the biggest capture of the war. His brother, Lt H. Parnis, was serving on the Western Front with the Royal Army Medical Corps and was mentioned in despatches.

Public prayers for peace with victory

As there were prospects of cessation of hostilities in the air, the Church in Malta ordained public prayers for peace with victory. The circular issued by Archbishop Maurus Caruana, OSB, ordained three days – a triduum – of War Intercession Services in all the church of the island. Mgr Caruana further announced that the Cathedral Chapter had made the vow of a solemn procession to be held once only from the Cathedral to the church of Our Lady of the Grotto at Rabat, in the event of the island being spared the horrors of war till the conclusion of hostilities.

Waldemar Beck killed on British western front

Waldemar Beck, who was serving on the British western front, died of wounds received on the field. He had left Malta for Western Australia in 1912 after having successfully completed his studies at the University of Malta, obtaining the degree of Bachelor of Engineering and Architecture, and the warrant of land surveyor and architect. He filled an important billet but in 1916 he gave it up, and enlisted in the Australian Imperial Force, being attached to a Battalion Fourth Brigade. He died of wounds from a gunshot wound to the head on 6 July 1918 in France, aged 29.
I WOULD LIKE TO SINCERELY THANK THE CONSUL GENERAL, DR. XERRI AND THE MEMBERS OF THE MALTESE CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF TORONTO AND SEVERAL FRIENDS WHO SUPPORT THIS JOURNAL

The number of Maltese living abroad is reaching one million.

This journal is distributed to so many countries where Maltese reside. – including USA, Canada, all over Europe, South America, Africa, Russia, Middle East and in Malta and Gozo
George Cross of WWII Heroine Violette Szabo Sold for a Record Breaking £312,000

Photo Credit: Dix Noonan Webb Website/Facebook Page

Lord Ashcroft adds another George Cross Medal to his collection – that of WWII heroine Violette Szabo – which he bought for a record breaking £312,000. The George Cross was part of the several medals the WWII heroine received for her work as a spy and that went under the auction gavel recently. The sale surpassed the highest current record of £93,000.

Knowing the WWII Heroine

Violette Szabo was one of the the only four women who were given the George Cross. Odette Sansom, a fellow British SOE spy and a recipient of the George Cross, even acknowledged that the WWII heroine was the “bravest of them all”. Beautiful and brave Violette Szabo was a British spy who worked on several highly-dangerous missions in Nazi-occupied France during the Second World War. The WWII heroine was captured by the enemy when she chose to let a comrade escape while she face them head on. She was violently tortured before the Germans decided to end her life by shooting her at the Ravensbruck Concentration Camp in Germany early 1945.

The 23-year-old WWII heroine joined the Land Army first after the outbreak of WWII working as a strawberry picker and later on, at an anti-aircraft battery. Then, the death of husband at the hands of the Germans at El Alamein in 1942 happened. Deciding to avenge his death, Violette got herself involved with the Special Operations Executive.

Her first solo mission – two months before D-Day [April of 1944] – took her to Cherbourg on a parachute. She was tasked to assess the condition of a network of SOE agents. The WWII heroine also had to gather as much information as she could about the factories that were producing war materials for the Nazis so that the Allies could bomb them. The WWII heroine got arrested twice by the Germans during that time but as they believed her cover story, they also let her go on both occasions. And before she was picked up for home, Violette dared to go shopping in Paris where she bought her daughter back home, Tania, an expensive dress.

Two days after the Normandy Landings, Violette embarked on her second mission. The WWII heroine parachuted to southwest France reportedly kissing the whole crew of the Liberator aircraft before she jumped off to her destination. Tasked with sabotaging Nazi communication lines, she, along with French resistance fighter Jacques Dufour and several others, drove to Dordogne in haste. But then, they were stopped by a German checkpoint located near Limoges. Realizing that their cover was blown, Violette and Jacques ran into a nearby wheat field all the while fighting against their pursuers with their Sten guns. They crawled through the field for sometime until the WWII heroine, exhausted and suffering from an injured ankle, urged her companion to make his escape as she engage the enemy.

“She insisted she wanted me to try and get away, that there was no point in my staying with her. So I went on while she kept firing,” Dufour said later on. December the following year, the WWII heroine was posthumously awarded the George Cross by King George VI. Her daughter, Tania, was the one who took it on her behalf during a private ceremony in Buckingham Palace. She was only four years old then.
Tarxien  Time flies; Not many changes
https://annevisitsmalta.com/tag/tarxien/

ANNE VISITS MALTA

(PHOTOS) around 1947, my sister, Mary, my nana and I on our roof
Myself, on one of my trips, on my roof
These two photos are taken 69 years apart. Both were taken on the roof of my house, when I lived in Malta. The first has myself, my sister and my nana and was taken in 1947; the other, is of myself and was taken in 2016. About the only change is me, quite a bit older. Houses in Malta seem to go on forever. Not much changes!

Old Tiles  Really old tiles still look great today.
In the living room of my home in Tarxien, we saw beautiful tiles that had been installed by my grandmother over 75 years ago. They were still lustrous, shiny and in terrific shape. I was surprised to see them, still looking great after all this time.

Memories of a WW II Shelter
My sister standing on the exact spot where she was born, down in a shelter during a bombing during WW II.
Across the street from our home (see previous blog) is a patched up area enclosing a World war II shelter. This was the entrance to a catacomb-like construction, underground, with hollowed out rooms for the families to live in, during bombing. My sister chose to be born on one of these occasions. It was eerie to come back, so many years later and still see the remnants of the shelter.

The Temples in Tarxien  Megalithic Temple
This temple, dating from around c.4,000 to 2,500 BC is located close to the place where I lived in Tarxien. In fact, my friends and I used to play among the now protected and untouched rocks when we were young children. This was before they became tourist attractions. I still remember seeing blood stains, from sacrifices on the altar rocks. If you enjoyed this, much more information is available in my published book: Return to Malta which can be purchased from Amazon.com
We're Back with more museums and sites! What's On - July 2020

1st July  The National Museum of Archaeology, MUŻA, Fort St Elmo and the National War Museum will be open to visitors from Wednesdays till Sundays (10:00 – 18:00hrs). Admission is free of charge for all visitors until further notice.

6th July  Ħal Saflieni Hypogeum will re-open from Monday, 6th July. Tickets, including the last minute tickets, will be available online in the coming days. The tickets for the audiovisual will be suspended until further notice. From 6th to 19th July, all tickets for the Hypogeum will be at half price. From 20th July onwards, ticket fees will be at a normal price.

7th July  As from 7th July, the Inquisitor’s Palace, Domvs Romana, Ta’ Ħaġrat, Skorba, Ċittadella Museums and Visitor Centre will be open to visitors on Tuesdays and Saturdays (10:00- 17:00hrs). Normal admission fees apply.

8th July  As from 8th July, the Tarxien Temples, Ġgantija Temples, Ħaġar Qim and Mnajdra Temples, St. Paul’s Catacombs, and Fort St. Angelo will be open to visitors from Wednesdays till Sundays (10:00 – 18:00hrs). Normal admission fees apply.

Feast of Corpus Christi
Rabat - Malta

Keeping Maltese Communities Connected