



## Bringing World Culture *Closer to the People*

**H**eritage Malta is pleased to have concluded an agreement with the Chinese authorities through which a selection of the world famous terracotta soldiers will be exhibited in Malta at the National Museum of Archaeology for a five month period starting from March 1. This is a world class exhibition which Heritage Malta is pleased to be mounting. Thousands of tourists and locals alike are expected to visit this must see attraction which will strengthen Heritage Malta's credentials as the national agency that seeks to provide visitors with an enhanced experience.

The agency welcomes Dr. Lucio Mule Stagno as its new Chief Executive Officer. Dr. Mule Stagno holds a masters and a doctorate degree in physics from the University of Missouri. He brings with him a wealth of experience in management, innovation and creativity after having spent more than 15 years working in North America.

On the diplomacy front, Heritage Malta has continued with its policy of seeking synergies with international cultural entities. The agency will be

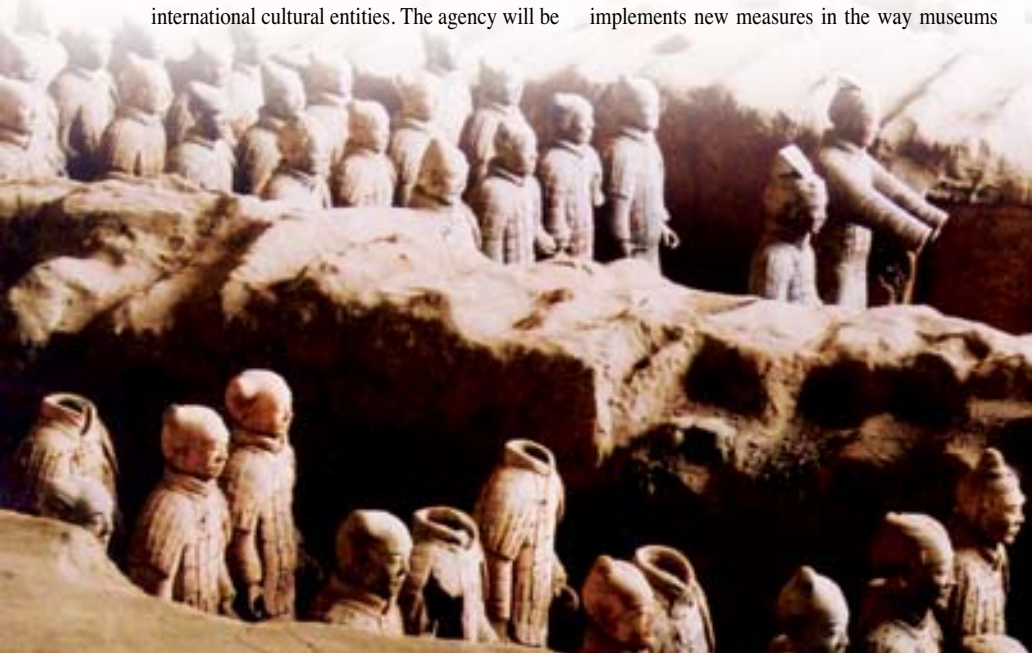
mounting an exhibition of prehistoric artefacts at the famous Marq museum in Alicante, Spain in 2008. This agreement was reached following a visit by a Heritage Malta delegation led by its Chairman Dr. Mario Tabone. Through such synergies, Heritage Malta personnel stand to gain through the provisions of exchanges of experts particularly in different areas of conservation.

Since the last issue of this newsletter, Heritage Malta has experienced a surge in the number of people who have enrolled as Heritage Malta members or who have inquired on the volunteer scheme. The agency is pleased to note that more individuals are coming forward to lend a helping hand to our priceless heritage. Our megalithic temples are the oldest freestanding structures in the world and tourists from the four corners of the globe are travelling specifically to the centre of the Mediterranean to visit these magnificent structures.

Over the coming months, works will commence on the new visitor centres at Haġar Qim and Mnajdra and Tarxien temples as Heritage Malta implements new measures in the way museums

and cultural sites are managed for the enjoyment of its different publics.

With more educational programmes being planned for different sites, the agency is ensuring that it continues to target youngsters who visit museums as part of organised school visits related to the curriculum. Ultimately these youngsters will become tomorrow's managers and guardians of this priceless legacy and they will in turn strive with Heritage Malta's mission to give a future to our past.



# Treasures from our Collection

## Two Gozitan landscapes by Joseph Briffa

A small, but very representative, number of works by the painter Joseph Briffa, deriving from the Briffa Bequest (1987) and a few purchased pieces, are in the collection of the National Museum of Fine Arts in Valletta. These were the subject of an exhibition which was held at the Museum in 2006 in tribute to the artist by Heritage Malta. The exhibition was, shortly afterwards, shown at Heritage Malta's area offices in the Citadel in Rabat, Gozo. A fully illustrated catalogue, in colour, was published and is available from the Museum and leading bookshops.

Giuseppe Briffa was born on 12 May 1901 and, as a boy, was first apprenticed at mixing colours, and other tasks, with his father who was a church decorator. He first studied art at Birkirkara Primary School under Giuseppe Duca, and drawing at the St Elmo School, besides taking lessons at the Malta Society of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce. After the 1<sup>st</sup> World War he studied colour with Edward Caruana Dingli. Briffa gave special attention to his drawing from life, and consequently was also permitted to study the drawing portfolios of the sculptor Boris Edwards.

Some of the artist's earliest commissions were at the Parish Church of Birkirkara in 1926 and 1927. Soon after he painted four pictures for the church of *Tal-Herba*, also in Birkirkara, between periods of study at the *Regia Accademia di Belle Arti* in Rome which he joined in 1926. Briffa's professors at the *Accademia* were Umberto Coromaldi and Alessandro Battaglia, Antonio Anile, Bardella and Pietro D'Acchiardi. He furthermore studied portraiture and the nude simultaneously at the British Academy of Art directed by Antonio Sciortino.

In 1932 Briffa gained his first notable success in St Augustine's convent church in Rabat, Gozo, while also working, between c.1932 and 1935, on the choir and dome decorations, inspired by episodes from the Great Siege of 1565, in the Parish church at Senglea, later destroyed during the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War. He worked considerably in Gozo over a good number of years, painting churches in Rabat, ta' Kerċem, Sta Luċija, ta' Pinu, Imġarr and Nadur. Decades later, his work there is still outstanding.

Probably in his free time between one assignment and the other, he painted these two views, made up of a very limited number of brushstrokes, for the sheer joy of working directly from nature. This 'snapshot' approach was in the Italian 19<sup>th</sup> century *Macchiaolo* tradition of making small *Macchie* landscape studies, on the spot. This is also corroborated by the artist's son, Alfred, who sometimes accompanied his father on these informal painting expeditions between church projects in Gozo. These pocket-sized sketches need not necessarily have been enlarged or developed into 'proper' pictures but kept and appreciated for their own sake. The high quality of these two small landscape studies, and others like it, hint at what esteem Briffa might have enjoyed in the field of landscape had he chosen to exhibit his views more often, further broadening his existing reputation which is largely restricted to church painting.

Joseph Briffa died on 13 January, 1987. Two months later a commemorative exhibition of his works was held at the Salon of the National Museum of Archaeology in Valletta. The Joseph Briffa Bequest was presented to the National Museum of Fine Arts in October 1987.

Dennis Vella, Curator,  
Modern and Contemporary Art,  
Heritage Malta



### *Around Gozo,*

Upper picture: oil on thick paper laid on masonite.

8.5 x 18 cms, inscribed, b. r. 'Gozo, 19'

Lower picture: oil on canvas laid on masonite.

13.5 x 18 cms, inscribed, t. r. 'Gozo. 38'

Inscribed at rear, in black ballpoint pen: 'around - Gozo, 1939', & 'The way to Sannat Gozo', in artist's frame.



### **Self portrait**

Oil on masonite, 26 x 23 cms,

In artist's frame.

Inscribed by the artist, on back of frame,

'Self portrait' and in another hand,

'Portrait of Joseph Briffa'.

Joseph Briffa Bequest, 1987. Inv. 5299.

# Cultural Diplomacy in action

*Heritage Malta has recently been the beneficiary of a donation of a sword and dagger manufactured by the Valencian community of Spain and inspired by the actual sword and dagger presented to Grand Master La Valette by King Felipe II for the Grandmaster's valour and courage during the Great Siege of 1565.*

The sword and dagger were presented to Heritage Malta's Chairman Dr. Mario Tabone during a brief ceremony held at the agency's Head Office in Valletta and attended by a large group of Spaniards from the region of Valencia who came to Malta specifically for this event.

This donation came about as a result of the efforts of the Spanish Association of Friends of Malta who commissioned this work of art in gold, silver and glass. The sword and dagger were manufactured by renowned gold and silver workers from the Piro' family whose ancestors originally hailed from Malta. The glass blade was produced by La Mediterrania company of Valencia.

Speaking at the presentation, Dr. Tabone thanked the Spanish delegation for their gift which was inspired by one of the greatest moments of Maltese history. He stressed the need for more similar initiatives which help different countries to gain an insight into the historic and cultural episodes that shape different nations.

The sword and dagger have been exhibited in various locations including Heritage Malta's Head Office. Subsequently, the replicas were transferred to the Inquisitor's Palace where hundreds of people had the opportunity to view them during the Historic Cities Festival. Gozitans also had the opportunity to admire the fine craftsmanship as the sword and dagger were exhibited at the agency's area office in the heart of the citadel.

Meanwhile, a delegation from Heritage Malta travelled to Spain to discuss the possibility of mounting an exhibition of Maltese prehistoric artefacts at the Museum of Archaeology in Alicante. The delegation, led by Chairman Dr. Mario Tabone had a number of cordial meetings with key entities involved in the management of cultural sites in the Spanish

capital and also in Alicante. A preliminary agreement has been reached for Heritage Malta to mount an exhibition of the island's prehistoric past at the Marq Museum in April 2008. This exhibition is one of the first tangible steps resulting from a collaboration agreement signed between Heritage Malta and the Jaime II The Just Foundation earlier last year.

As a result of this meeting, two Heritage Malta personnel travelled to Alicante to attend an important international conference on the making of a museum. The timing of this conference coincides strategically with Heritage Malta's plan of action for the opening of the upper floors of the National Museum of Archaeology in Valletta later this year.

Other meetings were held in Madrid with a number of key institutions entrusted with the management of Spain's most important cultural assets including the majestic Royal Palace. Throughout the meetings, the delegation was accompanied by the Maltese Ambassador to Spain, HE Geatan Naudi. Through these discussions, possibilities were explored for an exchange of personnel particularly in conservation.





Bank of Valletta

# The BOV Tarxien Temples

## Action taken to save graffiti on 5000-year old megaliths

*Heritage Malta has moved two unique megaliths at Tarxien Temples in a bid to save what could possibly be the oldest representations of sea-faring vessels ever found. The initiative forms part of a conservation project on Tarxien Temples funded by Bank of Valletta.*

**O**ther megaliths decorated with relief carvings depicting spirals, animals and other designs were moved to the National Museum of Archaeology in the 1950s.

The megaliths bearing graffiti of ships were left on site as they appeared to be in a good state of preservation. However, continuous exposure to fluctuating temperatures, wind, rainfall and rising damp were leading to the rapid deterioration of these megaliths, therefore threatening the preservation of the graffiti. Extensive studies were carried out by the Scientific Committee for the Conservation of the Megalithic Temples, set up by the Ministry for Tourism and Culture in 2004. Following these studies, the Committee

recommended that the so-called ship graffiti megaliths be moved indoors.

The megaliths were first treated by Heritage Malta conservators so that no more material was lost from their surfaces. An excavation close to the megaliths was also carried out by the Superintendent of Cultural Heritage. This excavation enabled a study of the megaliths' foundations and contributed to the design of the method that was to be used for their transportation.

The transfer of the megaliths involved a delicate operation that involved both conservation and safety issues. Conservators and other professionals from Heritage Malta oversaw the complete assignment to ascertain that all the necessary precautions were taken in the transportation of these priceless artefacts.



Heritage Malta conservators will now be able to carry out additional interventions on the megaliths to ensure their preservation. The ship graffiti megaliths have been placed within the existing visitors' building at the Tarxien Temples where they can be viewed by visitors. The megaliths will eventually be displayed within the new Visitor Centre which will be built close to the site as part of the BOV Tarxien Temples Project.

For more updates on the BOV Tarxien Temples project, visit [www.heritagemalta.org](http://www.heritagemalta.org)



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**BOV**

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*your Success, our Goal*

# PUBLIC CONSULTATION CAMPAIGN

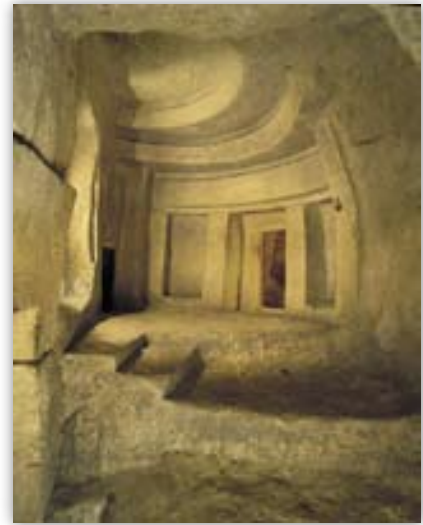
## Developing Management Plans for the Megalithic Temples and for the Hal Saflieni Hypogeum

*In July 2006, Heritage Malta launched a public consultation campaign on the preparation of two management plans for the UNESCO World Heritage Sites in its care; The Hal Saflieni Hypogeum and The Megalithic Temples of Malta.*

The latter comprise the megalithic temples of Ġgantija in Gozo, Haġar Qim and Mnajdra in the limits of Qrendi, Ta' Haġrat and Skorba in Mġarr and Tarxien Temples in Tarxien. Early this year, the public consultation will enter a second phase when a Draft For Consultation of the

Management Plan for the Megalithic Temples of Malta will be issued. The UNESCO World Heritage List contains sites that are important to all peoples of the world. Sites on the List have outstanding universal value above and beyond the values they hold for a particular nation. Malta's Megalithic Temples join other sites on this list which includes the Great Wall of China, the Pyramids of Egypt, and the Great Barrier Reef in Australia.

Malta has three sites inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List. These are the City of Valletta, the Megalithic Temples and the Hal Saflieni Hypogeum. Heritage Malta is entrusted with the management and preservation of the Megalithic Temples and the Hal Saflieni Hypogeum.



The Megalithic Temples, namely Ġgantija, Skorba, Ta' Haġrat, Tarxien, Haġar Qim and Mnajdra Temples were inscribed on the List as a group between 1980 and 1992. They represent a unique architectural tradition that flourished on the Maltese Islands between 3600 and 2500BC.

The Hal Saflieni Hypogeum is a rock-cut underground complex that was used for burial purposes by the temple builders. It was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1980. This site was extensively refurbished by the museums department and re-opened to visitors. Given the sensitive micro-climate of the environment, only a maximum of 70 visitors are allowed inside daily and these have to be staggered in groups of 10 persons every hour. Tourists from the four corners of the globe visit Malta specifically for the Hypogeum. Given the demand, pre-booking is always essential and Heritage Malta has recently introduced an on-line booking system ([www.heritagemaltashop.com](http://www.heritagemaltashop.com)) to facilitate the booking process for potential visitors.

One of the requirements for all sites inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List is that a Management Plan is drafted and implemented to safeguard the site. An important step in the preparation of these management plans is public consultation to ensure that the plans reflect the ideas and aspirations of everyone who has an interest in the sites.

The first stage of the consultation, which took place between July and September 2006, targeted a wide variety of interested parties including governmental bodies and authorities, Local Councils, NGOs, heritage organisations, scientific experts, academics, international organisations, tourists, as well as individuals interested in the management of the World Heritage Sites in their localities.

In a bid to enhance visitor services, Heritage Malta will be building a visitor centre for the Haġar Qim and Mnajdra Temples and another visitor centre at Tarxien Temples. These centres will enhance the visitor experience at these world heritage sites as they will house a permanent display and have specific areas for educational programmes and audio-visual presentations.

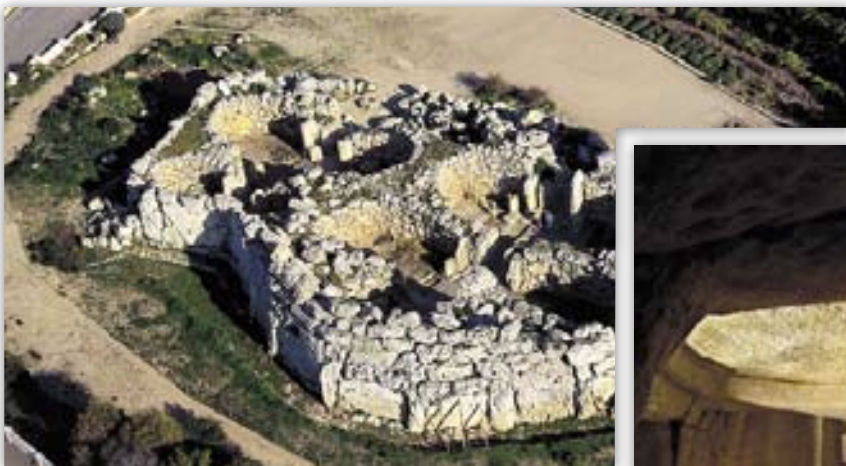
The management plans will guide the care and management of the Hal Saflieni Hypogeum and the Megalithic Temples for the coming five years. The main aim of the management plans is to balance different aspects which affect these sites, such as archaeological research, visitor facilities, nature conservation, farming, land use and other local concerns. In doing this, the management plans will guide the long-term sustainable use of these heritage sites, ensuring



their preservation and enjoyment by present and future generations. In addition, this consultation will help create channels for long-term meaningful dialogue between the site managers and the community.

Heritage Malta is therefore inviting the

public to help structure the goals, policies, and activities guided by the management plans. Those interested can find out more about the management plan process, stay updated, and give their feedback through Heritage Malta's web-site ([www.heritagemalta.org/consultation](http://www.heritagemalta.org/consultation)) or by contacting Heritage Malta's World Heritage Sites Unit (phone 21 231 236; e-mail: [worldheritagesites@heritagemalta.org](mailto:worldheritagesites@heritagemalta.org)).



# Island Fragility & Cultural Resources

Heritage Malta's third annual conference, which was held in Gozo, focused on the unique situation faced by small island territories in the management of their cultural heritage and in the evolution of sustainable cultural tourism. The event attracted a full house with participants from various sectors converging to discuss this interesting topic.

The first session, which was opened by the Hon. Giovanna Debono, Minister for Gozo highlighted the economic challenges faced by small islands. Prof. Lino Briguglio outlined the economic limitations that characterise such territories, amongst which include limited economies of scales, lack of natural resources and dependence on a narrow range of products. Paradoxically, such territories also manage to generate a relatively high GDP per capita. The challenge of small islands, Malta and Gozo in particular, remains the sheer amount of heritage there is to manage that also places a strain on available resources.

Prof. Godfrey Baldacchino, who flew from Canada specifically for this conference, presented a challenging paper on how cultural heritage can still contribute to the economic prosperity of the island if the local population could be energized to develop a better appreciation for their country and build a stronger sense of identity. This seemed to be pretty feasible in Gozo where 92% of people interviewed recently admitted that they distinctly identified themselves as primarily Gozitan rather than Maltese.

In the second session, co-Directors of the Xaghra Stone Circle, Dr. David Trump, Dr. Caroline Malone, Dr. Simon Stoddart and Prof. Anthony Bonanno, together with Dr. Reuben Grima, Senior Curator of World Heritage Sites at Heritage Malta, presented a detailed case study on the Temple Period in the Maltese islands, with special reference to the excavations made at the Xaghra Stone Circle. Dr. David Barrowclough, from the University of Cambridge also addressed the floor. New ideas regarding rituals and death and burial practices

at this site based on recent archaeological evidence were presented.

In the final session various representatives from the tourism and manufacturing industry presented their views on how cultural tourism in Gozo can be used to grow this segment as a distinct destination. These included presentations by the Malta Tourism Authority and the Gozo Business Chamber.

Heritage Malta's CEO Dr. Lucio Mule Stagno made a presentation on the work that Heritage Malta has done over the past year at its Gozo sites. This included the development of the Cittadella museum and sites as a single cultural attraction through constant rehabilitation works and enhanced visitor services. A number of projects earmarked for the archaeological sites in Xaghra, including the permanent visitor centre at Ġgantija temples were also outlined.

The Conference was brought to a close by the Hon. Dr. Francis Zammit Dimech, Minister for Tourism and Culture.



◆ UPDATE ◆

# Institute of Conservation and Management of Cultural Heritage

*Over the past academic year the Institute of Conservation and Management of Cultural Heritage (ICMCH) worked hard to achieve a number of objectives. The Institute, which is housed at Bighi and is an integral part of Heritage Malta, has recruited a number of new employees as it continues to expand its operations.*

A part from the daily running of the courses, the Institute has been working throughout the year on a new prospectus that will outline course offerings and will contain fundamental information relating to the content of ICMCH's various courses (vocational, undergraduate, postgraduate, and short courses), as well as student exchanges, the Socrates Programme and other information that students would find useful and other institutions of higher education interesting.

One of ICMCH's priorities for this academic year was to make the necessary arrangements for a complete integration of all undergraduate and postgraduate courses into the University of Malta SIMS (Student Information Management System) database. This process has now been completed and we are pleased to be able to offer our students the full benefits of being in the University's student database. Students are urged to make use of the information available in the system.

Last October saw 27 students start one of the following ICMCH's courses: the vocational level Masonry Heritage Skills Certificate Course; the Bachelor in Conservation and

Restoration Studies (Honours) and the MA in Cultural Heritage Management. Moreover, last year alone around 100 students attended short courses throughout the academic year, which marked a very successful year for this initiative.

In November 2006 ICMCH proudly saw another 11 B.Cons. (Hons) students graduate in all areas of study, bringing the complement of graduates in conservation-restoration to 41. Last year also marked a first as the first crop of the Master in Applied Conservation Studies received their postgraduate award. We would like to take this opportunity to congratulate these new graduates and wish them all the best of luck.

Meanwhile, Heritage Malta has now been accepted as a full member of the European Network of Conservation and Restoration Education (ENCoRE). The membership was confirmed at ENCoRE's 6<sup>th</sup> General Assembly held recently in Maastricht, the Netherlands. During the Assembly, Heritage Malta's Head Academic and Vocational Studies and Director

of Heritage Malta's Institute of Conservation and Management of Cultural Heritage, Dr Martina Caruana, gave a presentation focusing on the Institute and its conservation education programmes.

As a result of this membership, ICMCH, now benefits from an increase in collaboration, dialogue and exchange of information and ideas with other partners. Moreover, Heritage Malta's academic conservation courses and research activities will be well promoted at the European level.



# More Heritage Trails *planned for the coming months*

**F**ollowing the success of the thematic heritage trails introduced by the agency last year, a number of similar trails have been planned for the coming months. The first trail for the autumn/winter season focused specifically on Giuseppe Cali, one of the most dominant figures in the local art scene.

Participants in this heritage trail visited a number of places where some of the more prominent works of the painter are on display. At the Sacro Cuor Parish Church, participants admired the numerous altar pieces and vault paintings by Cali such as St. Peter and St. Paul (1881) and St. Jerome (1882).

The next stop was at the Salesian Theatre where participants had the opportunity to marvel at the artistic mastery of the painter in the central lunette painting of the theatre known as the "Virtues of Mankind".

From Sliema, the group ventured to the National Museum of Fine Arts in Valletta where a number of Cali works are on exhibit, in particular the impressive "Death of Dragut" which Cali painted at the young age of 21.



The stop at the National Museum of Fine Arts was complemented with a lecture on Guzeppi Cali's life and achievements. The next heritage trail will focus on the Inquisition in Malta. Following the success of these heritage trails, Heritage Malta has now introduced the

concept of a block ticket which will allow patrons to book their participations for a total of five heritage trails planned for 2007 and saving money in the process. For more information, call Head Office on 2295 4312.



Meanwhile, the Palace Armoury in Valletta was the first site identified for a series of historical re-enactments depicting military life in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. During these re-enactments, admission to the Palace Armoury was reduced by 50% and visitors had the opportunity to interact with re-enactors and to ask questions.

The re-enactors performed a military drill whereas members of staff from Heritage Malta conducted a hands-on display on a selection of armour display used by the Knights of Malta.

Following the success of these re-enactments, Heritage Malta will be continuing these events with similar activities in other sites starting with the Malta Maritime Museum in Vittoriosa. During these activities, admission to the museum will be at half price. Youngsters under the age of 16 enter for free as do Heritage Malta members.

These activities are primarily meant to blend entertainment and information for whole families who opt to visit Heritage Malta museums and sites on a Sunday afternoon.

# THE OLD PARISH CHURCH of Santa Marija in Birkirkara

**R**ecently, Ruben Abela, Manager Documentation, and Jevon Vella, Head Architecture Conservation, were invited to deliver two very interesting presentations on the “Documentation Survey of the old Parish Church of Sta Marija, Birkirkara”. These two presentations were the outcome of a one-year long project that the Conservation Division of Heritage Malta had been entrusted with thanks to the initiative of the Parish Priest, Fr Emmanuel Camilleri.

Its chequered history has undoubtedly captured the attention of many especially that part which was seasoned by its restoration that, for various reasons, was protracted during quite a few recent decades. Thankfully, such past restoration was documented in considerable detail. The numerous photographic and written records that this church has made sure to preserve and should by far boast of, were invaluable sources for the Conservation Division team.

It is quite likely that since its conception, a chronic defect has perpetually affected the fabric of this church. Located in an area prone to rain water flooding and standing on unstable ground, the church has inevitably been subject to the effects of these natural causes. There is also documented evidence that the walls were always unstable and part of the roof and the weakened dome came down during an earthquake in 1856, long after the church and parish of St Helen had been built. The church structure has suffered many defects that have become such an integral part of its history that they are now considered almost as inherent characteristics of this old parish church. It was abandoned until the mid-twentieth century when a committee was set up to study the needs of the church and embark with a reconstruction programme.

The main objective of this project was to document the visible structural

defects and identify and document any other structural deformations within the church building. The investigations carried out by the Conservation Division team brought to light results that reveal the behaviour and direction of possible movement of the church structure.

In order to carry out this study, members from the Documentation Section were directly involved in the survey work by means of the use of a total station. Through this survey, the deflection of parts of the church building and elements was recorded. Photographic records of this survey have been captured through digital images. Everything was documented on a series of drawings that were executed by the staff of the Documentation Section.

## HISTORY

The first reconstruction phase commenced in January 1969 and the first arch was laid in the following October. The nave took twenty months to complete after pieces from the collapsed original barrel vaults had been measured and studied. Damaged stone pieces were consolidated or most probably replaced. The construction of the ring of the drum followed the pendentives. This consists of thirty-two stone brackets equally distributed around the circle. Period photographs show very neat and accurately fitting joints. Our recent survey has shown that the four pendentives have come away from each other so that there are ample cracks where they meet. These cracks coincide with the key ridge of the four barrel vaults. In the mid seventies, the project then came to a halt for technical reasons.

Eventually works resumed in the nineties and architect (now professor) Jo Tonna was engaged to design the drum and dome. The former was indefinitely roofed over with light material, both because there were fears that any additional structure of the size of the dome would have been too great for the existing building structure to withstand the imposed loads and because funds had dried out. The church in its present state was commissioned in 1992.



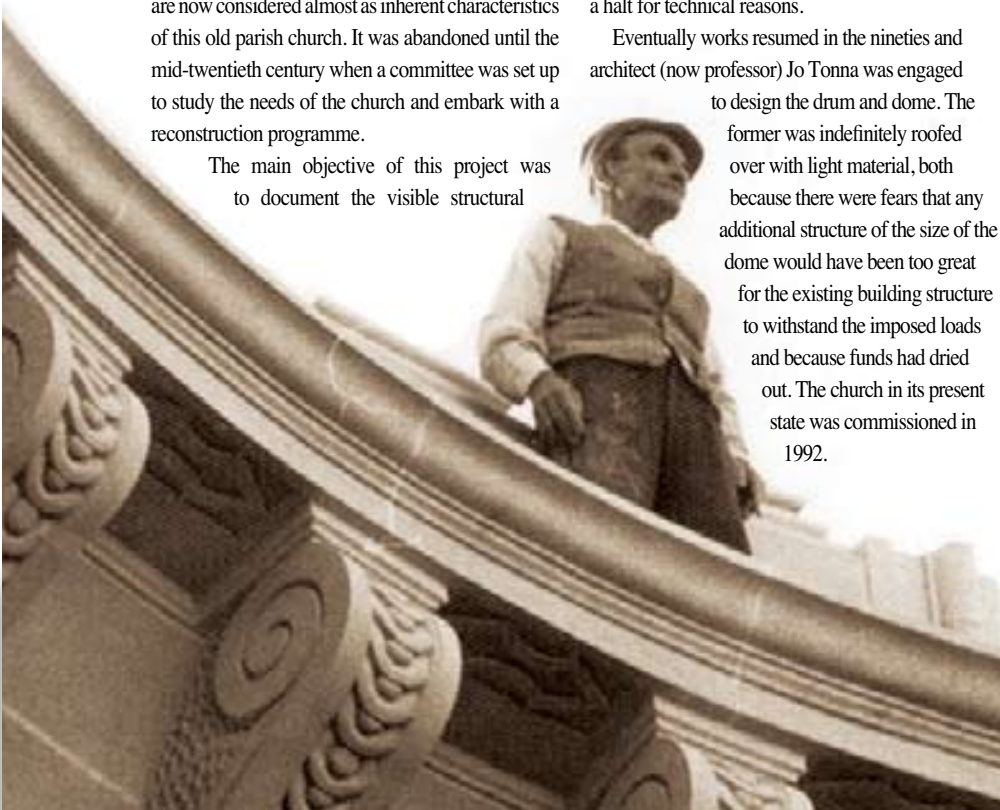
## FINDINGS

The masonry walls were found to be in a good state of preservation, when considering their age neglect. There were several cracked stones and a certain amount of fissures, found to be more numerous and pronounced in the south transept and main piers at the crossing of the nave and the transepts which formerly supported the dome. The mortar joints between the courses of the seven-foot thick wall are very thin and in some places, the mortar between the voussoirs of the barrel vaults was practically nonexistent.

The panelled voussoirs of the barrel vault between the main arches were found to be on average only 6½ inches thick and were considered to be insufficient. It was the architects’ opinion at the time that the walls were not thick enough to support another dome and it was recommended that the crossing be finished with a lightweight structure.

There is also evidence to suggest that subsidence and settlement of the terrain particularly within the church had been noted for some time. Moreover, the major problem in the very beginning seemed to centre around the issue on deciding whether to use natural stone voussoirs or reconstructed pieces particularly since tradesmen were in decline. Eventually however, natural stone was chosen.

Upon conclusion of the project, a detailed final report was submitted to Fr Camilleri. This report has now been added to the archives of the Old Parish Church of Sta Marija as an important record of the state of conservation of the church that should serve as a basis for further monitoring study in the future.



# FORTHCOMING HERITAGE MALTA EVENTS

KEEPING YOU UPDATED

## Public Lectures

Unless otherwise specified, all Heritage Malta's public lectures are sponsored by the Farsons Foundation and are held at the agency's Head Office in Merchants Street, Valletta. Admission is free of charge and lectures commence at 6.30pm.

February 27: *Manwel Magri as a writer of folklore* by Dr George Mifsud Chircop.

March 6: *The Genius of Girolamo Cassar as a Military Engineer* by Roger Vella Bonavita.

April 3: *Fr. Manuel Magri the archaeologist* by Josef Mario Briffa SJ.

April 19: *The socio-political setting for an architecture of baroque triumphalism* by Prof Mario Buhagiar.

May 2: *Interpreting Mattia Preti's St George on Horseback* by Sandro Debono – Senior Curator Ethnography and Natural History – Heritage Malta.

## Heritage Trails

Pre-booking is essential as only a limited number of tickets are available

February 18: *The Inquisition in Malta* – Visiting the Inquisitor's Palaces at Girgenti and Vittoriosa.

April 15: *Discovering our Natural Treasures* – Visiting Dingli Cliffs, Buskett Gardens and the National Museum of Natural History.

## Historical Interpretations

### Malta Maritime Museum

February 25, March 25: Malta Maritime Museum in Vittoriosa between 14.00 and 16.30hrs. Under 16 free of charge. Admission at half price for adults and senior citizens.

### Spring Equinox

March 21: Special guided tour at Mnajdra Temples at sunrise to witness the equinox phenomenon. Pre-booking essential. Limited tickets available.

## Exhibitions

Until February 18: *The Joseph Sammut Archaeological Artefacts Collection* at the Lobby of the National Museum of Archaeology. Open daily between 09.00-19.00hrs. Free admission.

Until March 4: *Outlining our Worlds* – a collective exhibition of paintings and installations by seven artists at Heritage Malta's Head Office. Open from Monday to Friday between 08.00-16.00hrs. Free admission.

Feb 14- 20 March: *Colonial Malta: Building a Romantic Landscape* – An exhibition curated by Dr. Malcolm Borg of Heritage Enterprise at the Contemporary Hall of the National Museum of Fine Arts, Valletta. Open from Monday to Sunday between 09.00-17.00hrs. Free admission.

February 22 - April 15: *Ecce Mater Tua, Ecce Filus Tuus: Good Friday Costumes in Spain and Malta*. An exhibition of images of

Good Friday processions in Spain and Malta at the Inquisitor's Palace in Vittoriosa. Open from Monday to Sunday between 09.00 and 17.00hrs.

March 1 - April 30: *Preview of the Upper Floors of the National Museum of Archaeology* – An exhibition of artist impressions highlighting the layouts of the new halls in the upper floors of this museum at the lobby of the National Museum of Archaeology, Valletta. Open Monday to Sunday between 09.00-19.00hrs. Free admission.

March 10- April 8: *Art Pieces* – An exhibition of paintings by Carmel Bonello at Heritage Malta's Head Office. Open from Monday to Friday between 08.00-16.00hrs. Free admission.

March 29- July 29: *Fr. Emanuel Grima SJ* An exhibition at the Inquisitor's Palace in Vittoriosa commemorating the centenary anniversary of the death of Fr. Grima, one of the pioneers of Maltese museums.

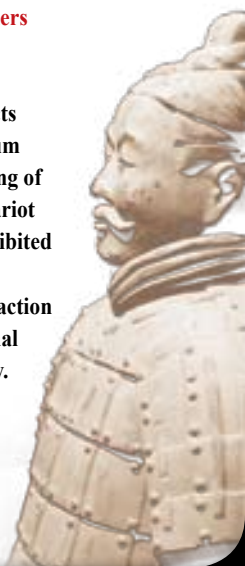
## A Must See Attraction

### Silent Warriors

**The Chinese Terracotta Soldiers**  
March 1 - July 31

A selection of original artefacts excavated from the Mausoleum zone of Emperor Qin Shihuang of China. Soldiers, horses, a chariot and other artefacts being exhibited for the first time in Malta.

Definitely a must see attraction at the Salon of the National Museum of Archaeology.



For further information on any of our forthcoming events, please visit our website: [www.heritagemalta.org](http://www.heritagemalta.org)  
Heritage Malta sites and museums are closed on Good Friday (April 6)